



Great Somerford/Startley Recreation Survey 2025

Results – September 3rd, 2025

Councillors Tim Phillips and David Todd

Background

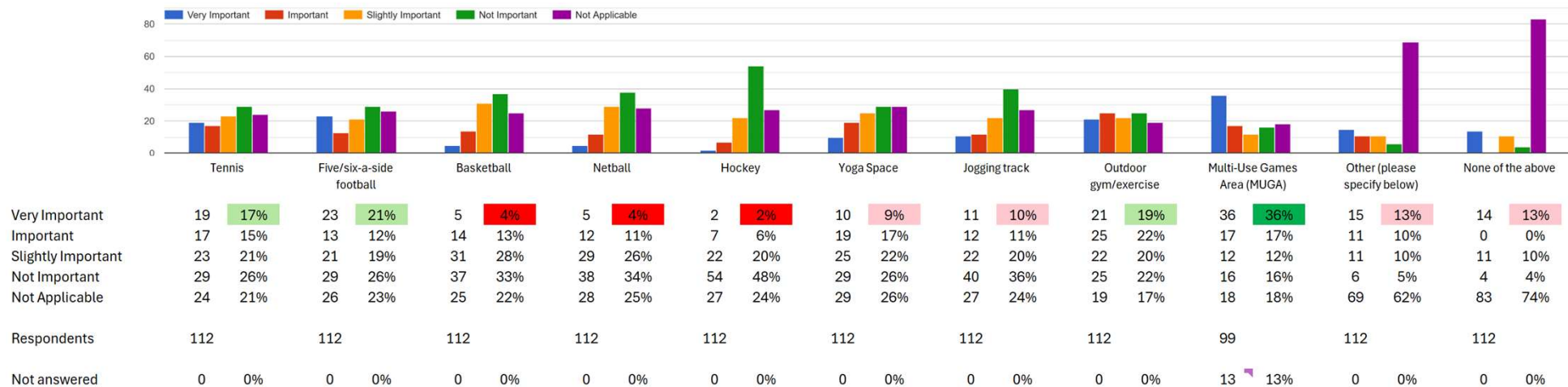
- The current made Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Great Somerford/Startley indicates the need to spend CIL funding from the added homes on recreational facilities

11.4 Housing developments permitted within the parish will pay Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to Wiltshire Council upon commencement of development. Following adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council receives 25 per cent of receipts from Wiltshire Council. With the help of CIL monies the parish will consider as a priority the provision of a new recreation ground.

- The recent NDP questionnaire responses indicated a strong desire for recreational facilities to be added to the village, but not precisely what or where
- Councillors Tim Phillips and David Todd were asked to create and issue a survey to answer the what and where
- This survey is now complete, and the result is an overwhelming request for a Multi-Use Gaming Area (also covers 5-a-side football and tennis) plus outdoor gym equipment

Data summary from survey on what

Q1: Please rate the facilities listed below according to their importance to you. Space for comments is also provided. If you would rather see no changes or facilities added, please select "None of the above" as Very Important. (Please select only one answer in each row)



- The survey made it clear how to indicate that you want the village not to change, yet only 14 respondents chose to tell us that
- Meanwhile, 36 respondents told us that adding a MUGA is “very important”.
- A total of 11 respondents told us that either tennis and/or five-a-side was “very important” yet did not select MUGA as “very important”. This adds further weight (~ 47%) to the need for a MUGA which would deliver those activities too.
- Respondents saying outdoor gym equipment is “very important” is also significant at 21

Note: The selection for MUGA was missing from the online version for the first 13 respondents

Sound bytes

We need recreation facilities....

A MUGA is valuable to all villagers, it takes teenagers off the streets!

I would like to have a gym equipment trail, where I walk to the next piece of equipment

The free gardens location could offer the village so much more in addition to the current setup

Multi use would allow a much broader range of usage. A village hall would also bring the community together for a variety of social events i.e. BBQ, NYE, etc.

In the Free Gardens as it is a central location and it belongs to the village.

We don't need change....

All these are quite inappropriate for this village particularly given the restricted land options

Space is already at a premium in the village. Development of this type would further erode its unique character.

We have a kickabout area already. Informal space for yoga only, not dedicated.

I strongly feel that the allotments should be kept as they are. It's a well-established area that benefits many.

We think it would be a shame to take down trees in the free gardens to make room for a MUGA

Locations

- It is clear from the written responses that the potential for the use of the Free Gardens for anything other than allotments or trees is polarizing
 - We had 28 respondents advocating its use for a MUGA (slightly more if we consider other things like gym equipment)
 - And we had 29 asking for the Free Gardens to be untouched regarding spaces for recreation, especially not a MUGA
 - This potentially represents a problem for the FGCIIO given their charter to provide recreation beyond simply allotments
- Meanwhile we had 30 respondents advocating the use of the Glebe field for a MUGA, a village hall, etc.
- There were other suggestions
 - The school field (previously unfeasible)
 - The land where the builders were most recently (too close to homes and the road)
 - The field in front of the church
- In the past it has been proven that we are unable to secure space anywhere else in the village

Next steps

- Hire a consultant to carry out a feasibility study for putting a MUGA in the Free Gardens and in the Glebe Field
- Begin discussion in earnest with the Diocese of Bristol regarding their willingness to consider a long-lease of the Glebe field for a MUGA
- Due to the significant number of people asking for a village hall (15), despite it being specifically excluded from this survey, we should consider a separate activity for this. It has been made clear that the existence of Goss Croft Hall does not satisfy the need, due to its distance away.