

I have played croquet at club level in [Locally - Not Goring] for many years including match play. I was delighted when Goring Croquet Club was formed and have played regularly since its inception. I think it is important to encourage a diversity of opportunities for sport within the village – opportunities which are inclusive and have offerings for all ages.

The use of the bowls green presented a wonderful opportunity for addition of croquet at club and match level. It allows a purpose-built facility to be repurposed. Croquet, like bowls, requires a bespoke surface – completely flat, irrigated and superbly fine unlike garden croquet which, whilst fun, does not allow for match play at a high level.

I feel it would be a retrograde step to dismantle the bowls green in favour of cricket nets which can be improved in their current location. Creation of a bespoke croquet lawn, like the current bowls facility, would cost in the region of £250,000 should the decision be taken to site it elsewhere. It makes no sense to incur such costs when both cricket and croquet facilities can be provided on the Gardiner.

I fully support Option 1 and am pleased to see that this is the option recommended by Claire Thirlwall. I sincerely hope that this will be endorsed by the PC and residents of Goring.

While I looked through the entire document, the bit I was most interested in is the Gardiner playing field - as a resident of Elmhurst Walk for over 35 years, I walk past or through the field virtually on a daily basis. It is a pleasure to see the cricket and bowls in the summer, and the football in the winter. In the middle of the village, a large number of Goring residents experience the Gardiner field as passers-by, going to and from the village shops, if not spectators or players. This is far more so than is the case with the Sheepcot field.

The point I am making is that the Gardiner field is part of the pulsing heart of Goring as a traditional English village, all year round. So I think it would be a step backwards to conceive the field as first and foremost a cricket pitch - which seems to be implicit in the option which sacrifices the bowling green for new cricket nets. What desecration! It is such a pleasure to see people out there in their whites. How many villages would give so much to have such a facility. Please leave the nets where they are!

The authors of the report seem to have the impression that the nets would have more use than the bowling green. Is that based on any data? Other than on the day of cricket matches, and even then not always, I see far less use of the nets than I do of the bowling green. With encouragement and active support from the council, the bowls and croquet clubs (I am not a member, and so unbiassed) could grow in the future. Once the green is gone, this option is history - re-establishing the bowling green elsewhere would be eye-wateringly costly.

Please keep the bowling green where it is!

I think that we should go ahead with Sheepcot option 4 but football should also remain at Gardiner Field. There won't be enough pitches for all the Goring Robins teams to play on.

I was also very pleased to see that in both Gardiner options, Football is to remain there. Goring United has been around since 1901 and in all historic photos, they are taken at Gardiner Rec.

Love the new open spaces plans , especially for gardener option2. The number of children playing cricket from under 9, to adult cricket is massive . So we really need the bigger nets in the new location.

My support is with Option 1. The area serves well as a mixed provision site and I feel this gives a good mix.

This is a short note to highlight the merits and benefits of Goring Cricket Club taking up the vacated space of the bowls club. The cricket club has for sometime been growing with more junior teams, a ladies team as well as 2 or 3 mens sides. The club doesn't have adequate practice facilities to keep growing as true current facilities are old and outdated and frankly not fit for any purpose other than junior practice.

Utilising the Bowls lawns would be perfectly located and encourage more kids as we could run more academy practices and matches at the same time. I've been playing at the club for 15 years and our sons have grown through the academy to now play for the senior teams.

I'd like to register my support for the plan to put a cricket net facility on the existing bowling club green at the Gardiner recreation ground in Goring.

I've been involved in the local cricket community for 40 years, including a considerable period at Goring CC. I also have two daughters who play age group cricket.

The current location by the road presents a few factors the proposed bowling Green location will resolve:

Distance and Safety. The existing location is a long way distant from the club house and it is hard to manage multiple players including children between the club house and the nets facility. The waiting location is also right on the road and there are frequent occasions children are on the road retrieving balls and entering an area of traffic. I am an ECB qualified coach and have direct experience of the issues this presents.

Community. The new proposed location will enable parents and supporters to spectate from close to the pavilion facilities - a natural place to view from and this would lead to closer social interaction amongst players, club members, juniors and their parents and family members. Goring has a long tradition as a socially forward club and this will enhance this reputation and ability to deliver on it.

Sporting Facility. The proposed space on the bowling green will present a discrete area that can accommodate more players during training and coaching. Goring Academy has a great reputation and a growing player base that this will help accommodate. The men's cricket teams will also be able to take advantage of a new and designed for purpose facility at this location which will enhance their training regimen and prospects in the county league and against the many friendly teams who visit this beautiful ground.

Please accept this as a vote of support for the development of the bowling Green location as a nets training facility.

I was disappointed to see that the public spaces report recommends replacing the cricket practice nets in the same place as the current ones. This solution falls short in a number of ways, in my opinion:

- distance from pavilion
- capacity limitation (the Goring Cricket Club Academy has a thriving membership of hundreds of kids and the adult teams also use the practice nets)
- an eyesore when looking across the Gardiner Rec
- too close to the road and houses on Cleeve Road.

The preferred solution for me is the proposal to build the new practice net facility on the bowling green. This alleviates all of the above concerns.

I do not support the current recommendation. I would support putting new nets on the bowling green.

I would welcome in particular the plan to replace the bowling green with cricket nets. Would be so much better to have the nets close to the pavilion and an extra lane that would be possible if the site was moved would be brilliant. My son spends much of his summer holiday in the nets, something we want to encourage as it's a great way for them to have fun and practise their skills.

We would like to provide our support to utilise the bowling green for new cricket nets for both children, teens & adults. It seems an ideal location as it is close to the pavilion, and as it could be fully enclosed would result in greater safety for users and others around them. It would also result in users of the nets (and stray balls!) being further away from the main road. Our son has been using the existing nets since he was 9. He is now 16 and already been to use them this year. There is so little for teens to do in Goring, and the nets are something him and his friends love to use. It is something that allows them to get outside, exercise and I'm sure also helps with well-being. It was invaluable during the pandemic too. Due to successful expansion of the younger cricket academy for both boys and girls, there have been many times when there has been a queue for the now very scruffy nets. Another example of the need to move and develop the existing facility.

Regarding the Gardiner Field we would recommend the option one which retains the bowling/croquet green and gives the cricket club four practise nets in the north west corner.

We have been enjoying the croquet for over a year and would hate for this to be taken away from us in favour of unsightly cricket nets which could easily be positioned elsewhere.

This option seems to be a good compromise for all concerned.

I am writing to express my support for the installation of a new cricket nets facility on the existing and currently unused bowling green.

The ever expanding Goring cricket club would be positively impacted from this decision and many residents, old and young, male and female would be hugely benefit. We are all aware of the mental, social and physical health benefits of exercise, as well as providing a safe place for young cricketers to spend time.

I think Option 2 is preferable to Option 1 in terms of relocating the nets. This is a very popular facility and is crucial to the development of skills for Goring's cricketers, and I think would be much better placed from a visual and space point of view if it were closer to the pavilion and away from Cleeve Road. I understand that the bowling club has disbanded so this seems a good opportunity to relocate the nets to a more suitable location.

- I feel option 2 would be a much better long term option for the village and the cricket club. The school is under pressure on numbers and having great facilities in place for children in the community I feel is a great way to support the school and allow Goring to continue to thrive.

- Having the new enclosed cricket nets on the current bowls site will draw more children and adults to use the facilities and ensure safety for all. A croquet facility, I feel, would be used by far fewer people and only the older members of the community.

Option1

Bowles and croquets is nice to have so that all ages can enjoy this field together.

My son and many of his friends regularly use the cricket nets at Gardiners recreation ground. During lockdown it was a lifeline for many of them to be able to come together in a safe outdoors environment and spend time together. My son also uses the nets as part of his on-going training with Cricket Club Academy.

The nets are used by many children (boys and girls alike) and adults and are now in desperate need of repair.

I understand that the Bowls Club has sadly ceased to be creating an ideal opportunity for the Council and Goring CC to use this redundant space to build a new fully enclosed, which would significantly enhance the safety of nets practice for both participants and the community in general and allowing the use of the nets at all times.

My children play cricket at county level thanks to the time & dedication of the members of Goring Cricket club & having travelled with them all over the country playing cricket I can only confirm how poor our facilities are compared to other village clubs of similar size.

I believe there to be misleading information provided concerning the bowls club, which I believe has disbanded? I know there are many adults & children (the children's cricket academy has over 250 members, the adults around 75) who make heavy use of the facilities.

The cricket nets are in a very poor state & would ideally be moved to the current location of the bowls pitch for a much safer enclosed facility. As the dedicated first aider for the academy for many games I can't emphasise enough how dangerous it is to have open nets next to the cricket pitch, I have personally dealt with several head injuries & it is not currently safe to let members use the open nets when matches are in play. Due to the demands on the pitch & nets this is not ideal.

Having visited many other cricket grounds I do believe Goring is really missing a trick in not making the cricket pitch & pavilion a more welcoming & community focused space.

Croquet would be better suited to Rectory Gardens,

My son [] has enjoyed playing since a youngster on the Gardiner Rec for the junior Goring cricket club teams and now aged [] has progressed to the men's seniors. He has very much enjoyed the use of the nets during his cricket seasons to help prepare him ahead/during the season as an invaluable community provision.

I read with interest the possibility that with the Bowls Club having left their current position there might be an opportunity for new nets to be positioned in this area, closer to the club house with a new 3 lane enclosed net, which would be a fabulous addition to the cricket club.

There are so few amenities for the youth in the village and the Goring cricket club are really thriving across all age groups that this would be such a welcome addition to the club for the future!

I would urge you to consider this proposition instead of providing replacement nets. This opportunity would be hugely appreciated and I thank you for your consideration in this matter.

[] I am lucky enough to have a view of the Gardiner recreational ground and I am also a frequent user of the open space. Additionally, my son plays cricket for Goring U[]s (he was lucky enough to get in as there is a waiting list given the high demand).

I would like to express my hope that the now unused bowling green can be used for a modern, three lane bowling nets for the cricket club. The current nets are often fully used, especially on a Saturday morning in the summer when there are c.100 kids learning cricket, improved nets will be much appreciated.

I personally feel it is a great sport to promote and the more we can do to encourage it the better. It can be played by both boys and girls, it is non contact and so size isn't an issue and it is always played in good spirit at all age groups. The more we can do to encourage it the better.

My children regularly use the facilities and have played cricket for Goring Cricket club some years. The Club been exploring the options to install a new cricket nets practice facility at the Gardiner Recreation Ground. The current facility has been in place for a long time and given the huge usage and number of people that use the nets it is clear that it needs to be replaced in the near future.

When it was announced in 2021 that the Bowls Club were leaving Goring to move to Goring Heath, this created a unique opportunity to build a new state of the art 3-lane enclosed nets facility on the bowling green. A bowling green is a perfect location for the building of a new nets' facility and for the cricket club it would be perfect due to the proximity to the pavilion and would allow the Club to make a real difference for the whole Community – great for the kids and also for the adults of the village.

The space on the bowling green would also allow the club to fully enclose the facility – significantly enhancing the safety of nets practice for participants and the Community in general, and allowing use of the nets at all times.

Many thanks for providing a very thorough and readable report on the Goring Open Space Strategy. I just wanted to write in to feed back our family's strong preference for Option 2 (page 44) of the Gardiner strategy, where new cricket nets would be built on the bowling green.

We have two (soon to be three) children in the cricket club and would love to be able to use the nets more, and in closer proximity to the pavilion where experienced players give coaching tips when they are around. It would also be great if we could get fully enclosed nets, as that would save a lot of ball chasing for the bowlers (speaking from experience) and would make for a much more effective practice session whenever we use the facility.

The cricket club is absolutely fantastic - our children love playing the game and we all love being part of the club. The standard of coaching is really good, and anything we can do to improve the facilities will have massive benefits for everyone involved and the wider community.

I would like to voice my approval of the recommended plan for the Gardiner field showing new nets for the cricket club and retaining the bowling green for the use of bowls and croquet. I think this is a fair use of the field bearing in mind that cricket uses the field in the summer months, football in the winter months and croquet and bowls are played all year round. If the bowling green is removed there would never be enough money to replace it elsewhere.

Option 2 - we feel meets the need of a large swathe of people in the village across all age groups. There is a huge demand for cricket across generations and therefore ongoing development of the cricket club is very positive. The creation of nets at the top of the field will definitely make the cricket club more of a 'club' and mean that equipment can be easily brought out and put back. Whilst I do like bowls as a sport, I just can't see this facility being used anywhere near enough to warrant it staying as a bowls or croquet area and would only provide a facility for a small group of people unrepresentative of the demographic. The play area definitely needs a revamp too as it is no good in its current form and doesn't attract anyone to visit.

I would be hugely supportive of the Cricket Club being able to develop the bowling green site into new, enclosed cricket nets for the players (old and young) to use. This would have many practical benefits. Enclosed nets could be discretely sited at this location, with minimal visual impact, especially of the views out to the Ridgeway, and crucially there is space for an additional net -GCC juniors are such a popular and successful club that the additional capacity is very much needed. The location next to the clubhouse would also make it much easier and safer for the children to use these nets, closer to supervising adults, the club's facilities and further away from the traffic of Cleeve Road which presents additional risks.

I do hope the Council will be able to look favourably on the Cricket Club's proposal.

I think it's really important for the village to be aware that the bowls club has disbanded (having already left for Goring Heath – and then tried to come back). The report and recommendations do not take that into account. People are being shown a recommendation that bowls continues on the bowling green site – which it will not do.

The bowls green is neither big enough for bowls or croquet – as both clubs have stated.

The cricket club must have over 300 members – from AllStars, Academy and Senior squads. The Academy (juniors) comprises 12 teams and has produced 20 Oxfordshire county players in recent years. We already have to play certain “home games” at other locations due to volume of time needed at nets and on the pitch by other Goring teams.

The current nets are becoming unsafe structurally and the open ends mean we cannot safety net whilst a game is going on (balls hit onto pitch and balls from pitch hit into nets area, a cricket shot/style that is becoming far more frequent). This causes challenges with the sheer volume of players we have. Nets must be at the same location as the pitch (nets at Sheepcot is not an option) – and even better if location next to the pavilion facilities. Dog walkers and passers-by are in danger every time they walk past the current nets. The entrance at the bottom is positioned such that it “directs” people to walk right in line.

Extending nets in the current situation is not feasible (size, with closed end) and would not look attractive (poking out into the field). Nets need to be constructed in certain directions to avoid sunset vision issues. The report states “four lanes in the current position” – this is simply not possible (nets planners have visited I believe) yet people are being shown this as a recommendation. I don't think that is fair either.

The croquet club has been existence for a few months and literally has a handful of players. It is not a growth sport/pastime. There are many other options for their location. Whilst I accept the “covenant” argument re: the Rectory Gardens – these things can be discussed. Croquet on the (vastly underused) Rectory Gardens would present a beautiful/tranquil village image. The cricket club will be 150 years old in 2 years' time – what a great opportunity we have to show a commitment to such longevity and a bright future!!

I believe further development in the Gardiner recreation ground will help bring the club up to modern standards and therefore I fully support the proposal to turn the bowling green into a safe and unrestricted area for the youth teams to develop their skills and attract new club members. The proposal of the net being fully enclosed is an important feature from a safety perspective but also allowing full utilisation.

With space so limited I feel this is a once in a generation opportunity to make Goring a showpiece club that we can all be proud of.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to have input into the plans. I look forward to seeing what develops from here.

Sorry to hear that the Goring Bowling club is now deband.

But this is a wonderful opportunity for the Goring Cricket club to build some new cricket nets

for the children and adults playing cricket.

I have concerns over the recommended option (option 1) for the Gardiner, I can't understand why the perfectly reasonable suggestion to move the cricket nets to the bowls green (option 2) has been ignored. The cricket club has a huge number of people using its facilities, from the vast majority of age ranges from across the village - regularly with over 50 children using its facilities in for training in the summer. In addition to this the current net position is far from ideal, they aren't useable during matches and balls regularly go onto the road, causing a safety issue for both road users, passers by and cricketers. Having the nets beside the pavillion would also allow easier transfer of equipment. I hope that the council will see the benefit to a wider population of the village in opting for option 2. With regards to the "Naturalistic Planting" has any thought been given to the cricket equipment stored in this location (sight screens) and balls hit into this are (a fence inside the hedge perhaps)?

I am writing in support of a new cricket nets practice facility at the Gardiner Recreation Ground.

Both my children play for Goring CC and have benefited hugely from the club, the team, the coaches and of course the facilities. If there is any way of ensuring GCC success for the next generation(s) .. then upgrading the nets facilities would be a great way to future proof the club, and ensure its ongoing success.

If it is true that the Bowls Club are leaving Goring to move to Goring Heath (or disbanding), then potentially there is the opportunity to to build a new nets facility on the bowling green.

We fully support the upgrade of the net facilities, and more importantly using the bowling green as the ideal location.

The proposal looks great with one disappointing (and very surprising) point. That the recommended option is to improve the cricket nets in the north-west corner as opposed to moving them to the bowls green.

My thoughts:

SAFETY #1: The current location of the nets means they open out into the playing area of the main cricket pitch. This means that children need to run onto the outfield to fetch any balls that have been hit there. In their excitement they don't check to see if it's safe to do so and risk injury. With the incredible popularity of cricket in the village there is a game almost every evening so this is a constant issue which I've witnessed many times.

SAFETY #2: If a bowler has a long run up they have to start on the outfield of the main cricket pitch - this causes the same safety issues as above

CONVENIENCE: The current location couldn't be further from the main pavilion. This means that access to kit, toilets, water, medical supplies, changing facilities, shelter is a long way away.

[Continued from Above]

FUTURE PROOF: With the high-volume of children playing cricket we need a significant upgrade to attract players, train players and retain players. The nets in the current location just look apologetic whereas a site on the bowls green would look premium. It would get kids off their screens, get them playing (365 days a year - and they would!) and really put the village on the map as a premium cricket venue. This in turn attracts players and increases money being spent in the village (especially to local pubs who are in desperate need of support)

PROFITABLE: Locals clubs are desperate for good cricket facilities. We can rent a premium nets facilities out to local clubs and schools.

FEASIBILITY: You propose a 4-lane nets facility in the north-west corner. I don't even think this is possible with the space available.

COMMON SENSE: If the alternative to using the bowls green is to provide a croquet facility instead then I think that's borderline laughable considering the low membership of the croquet team. I love a bit of croquet myself but I couldn't sleep at night knowing I've deprived literally 100s of boys and girls (and seniors) the golden opportunity of state of the art nets in favour of 10-20 croquet players having an informal session every so often.

The report highlights the need for signs in the Gardiner Recreation Ground as the access points are not welcoming. After the travellers left, local people donated money to improve the security of the site. My understanding is that Grundon donated the two green gates which were installed. Is this correct? Can the PC tell us what has happened to the money that was donated? Is it possible to make the site more welcoming whilst ensuring that we do not have a repeat, unwanted visit?

If there is to be an informal path along the southern boundary of the site, it is important to highlight that in windy conditions we do get branches, not twigs, falling from the lime tree which is at the bottom of our garden. What consideration has been given to the safety aspect of placing a path in that position?

I would just like to share how fantastic an opportunity I believe the village has ahead of it to further continue the impressive and vital growth of the cricket club, in particular that of the academy serving local children.

Having played for the club for >[] years, I know crucially how well used and enjoyed a new net facility would be. I understand that the bowling green space may become vacant to use, I can think of no better space for such fantastic facility.

Goring cricket club is unique in my experience, it does such a brilliant job of providing for cricket lovers both young and old. Nothing beats a Saturday afternoon with a young lad coming through the academy taking the field with his dad, and family on the sideline. Something I'd love to achieve now I enter such a phase!

Hopefully the sheer volume of support for the club and the potential for such a new facility will be heard. It really would be something to behold.

I'm writing some short notes to voice support for the intended use of the bowling green on Gardiner Rec as a future cricket net facility.

This would undoubtedly provide huge support to the cricket club who (along with the Robins football) have a large academy, several adult teams and the ever continuing development of girls and women's cricket.

The location of the cricket nets on the bowling green is clearly the most suitable and ideal position and allows for proximity to equipment from the pavilion. The current position is already unsuitable for the numbers of people now playing cricket and the club's development is showing no sign of slowing - which requires the relocation of the nets to the optimum position on the bowling green, where practice can take place in safety whilst others can play on the ground- something that is unable to happen with considered safety now.

I am aware the bowling club are moving on, but I am surprised a "sudden" appearance of a croquet club has added doubt to this proposal. The council must surely act to support the cricket club as it clearly has a significant amount of members, adult players and young players alike, who would benefit so much from what would be a fantastic facility and one which all of Goring could be proud of.

We live in South Stoke and already use the cricket nets with our 3 boys but would love some improvements and extra facilities there. What a lovely way to get children off their screens and outside, using the community facilities and not having to drive to and pay to use private ones.

I would support Option 1. However, I would like to point out the following;

The path being followed from the south east corner (where we currently duck under the barrier) is not generally used to follow the hedge line, but cross the field diagonally to the north west exit. Obviously this could not be paved, and I wonder how much use would be made of a path running parallel to the High Street.

The proposed flower bed, which is illustrated by a picture of an open flower meadow, will be difficult to plant and maintain, being under a high hedge and receiving limited light, and nutrition, given the closeness of the large trees. What is planting to consist of? I would be interested to know, having similar spaces myself, and failed to find anything that thrived after 40 years of trying! There is the added problem of clearing the leaves, which is not done at all at present, and footballs and cricket balls would be chased into the area, causing damage.

Whilst the points about the clock and grilles, barriers and gates are accepted, and are not things of beauty, they are there for a purpose. This is to stop small boys from pulling the hands off the clock and smashing the windows, and to stop the travelling fraternity from making an illegal entry and trashing the place. Any replacements must be fit for purpose, which usually means something along the current lines. Despite the utilitarian design, I note that a large vehicle still managed to knock down a post and rail last week.

Does there need to be a football pitch here, given the number at the Sheepcote Field? If the cricket club had the whole area, there would be plenty of space for nets, and practice, and allow the continuation of the bowling green, which I feel is most important, being one of the few things catering for the age group which can no longer use the majority of the sports facilities.

I believe everyone at the club could benefit from the now free bowling green which could be used to its full potential by allowing a new set of cricket nets to be constructed. The cricket nets we have now are old, unsightly and a bit tattered, and they are always fully booked. The new nets would allow a lot more adults and children to use the facilities more and encourage people to spend time outdoors. The position they would be allows easy access to the pavilion but also makes our pitch appear nicer as they are not in the view from the pavilion. Thank you for taking the time to view my opinion, and I hope you consider it.

Priority One - play area at Gardiner
Priority Three - cricket nets (pref. on bowling green)

I think that when the playground equipment is chosen the selection should be available for comment. The under 4s enjoy quite simple play activities – little slopes, stepping stones and paths through low bushes which could be to the north of the play area if fenced. They like a climbing structure that includes scope for playing shop/café. They like musical playground toys. Local families will have useful knowledge and ideas about the most enjoyed equipment.

I am convinced that the greatest benefit would be had from having the cricket nets where the current bowling green is. Not only has the club been thriving with substantial numbers of children and teenagers within the village playing, but we must hope that this will expand as a result of the very positive expansion of girls' cricket.

I would like to register my 100% support for the plan to create a cricket net facility on the existing bowling club green at the Gardiner Recreation Ground in Goring.

I have been very fortunate to live in Goring all my life and have been involved with Goring Cricket Club for over [] years as a junior player, senior player, Captain, Chairman, Club Officer, Coach and I am currently the President.

When it was announced in 2021 that the Bowls Club were leaving Goring to move to Goring Heath, it created a never to be repeated opportunity to build a new state of the art 3-lane enclosed nets facility on the bowling green site. Our research has indicated that a bowling green is the perfect location for the building of a new nets facility and for the cricket club it would be ideal due to its proximity to the existing pavilion. Furthermore it would create a fantastic facility which would help us to maintain and grow what is already a very successful and thriving club within the community. A club that will soon be celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Over recent years the junior sections of the Club particularly have grown rapidly with the huge success of All Stars Cricket and Goring Cricket Academy providing an opportunity for boys and girls of all ages to play. A modern 3-lane net facility on the bowling club green site would further add to the Club's ability to help young players to enjoy the game and be part of the community.

I hope very much that the Council will look favourably on our club's hopes for a new net facility on the existing bowling club green.

Having heard about the sad demise of the Bowls Club, I feel that GCC would put the vacant space to very good use by installing modern cricket nets next to the pavilion.

The current nets are clearly not fit for purpose and are not ideally located for practise during matches - given the distance from the pavilion changing rooms. In addition, I've always felt that it has not been safe for people walking round the boundary (with balls flying out of the nets!) and the view of the flower beds are obscured by the unsightly structures currently in place.

I am sure that new enclosed nets on this site would be a great asset to the Club and the village, hopefully bringing more people to play the game - especially younger players. I appreciate that croquet is another option but I would not expect as many people to participate and enjoy the benefit of the Cricket Club's proposed investment.

Gardiner Rec it would be wonderful to have an improved space for all sports and children's play therefore my support would be for option one

There are two suggested Options for future usage of Gardiners Field. The one that is RECOMMENDED is that the bowls and croquet green be retained where it is, the existing children's play area be extended, and the new cricket nets be placed where the existing ones stand. This is the cheapest of all the options, the quickest to achieve, and the only one that could satisfy a cross section of Goring residents, many of whom are aged over 65. We WHOLLY ENDORSE this recommendation.

If bowls and croquet are not allowed to stay where they are, there is NO serious alternative site in Goring mentioned in the Report. At 31.7% of the population, Goring's over 65s represent double the national average. They are more active than previous generations, but not active enough to play cricket and football. As the United Nations suggests (see Introduction on page 4 of the Report), access and facilities need to be provided for older persons and persons with disabilities. The Goring Gap Croquet Club has already offered usage of the green, under supervision, to dementia patients from nearby Care Homes. In addition, they have plans to open a Junior section. Within a year the existing facilities will not only be used every single day if the weather permits, but for a cross section of all the residents of Goring.

Further in the Report it is stated that any decision about Gardiners should take into account the number of users or potential users. This is a totally spurious suggestion. Bowls and croquet use 3% of Gardiners Field, despite their numbers representing 31.7 of Goring's population. Cricket and football are the largest users of the remaining 97%. Furthermore, whereas the vast majority of bowls and croquet players reside in Goring, large numbers of users of the cricket facilities are from outside Goring – including outlying villages and even schools. We believe that the unique facilities at Gardiners should be made available to as wide a range as possible of Goring residents. Visitors also need to be welcomed and there are plans to bring the gardens around the green to the highest standards elsewhere in Goring (thanks to Goring Gap in Bloom) and new benches so that anyone passing by can enjoy the beautiful setting of this iconic part of Goring.

[Continued From Above]

It would be sacrilege to destroy the existing bowls/croquet green with its essential built-in irrigation system and exceedingly expensive to replace. The latest estimate of a replacement cost elsewhere is £250,000.

The pie chart purporting to disclose the results of a consultation on Gardiner is likewise completely spurious because it was an amateurish consultation with inadequate warning and a non-representative sample size. It is grossly misleading to say that 74% of Goring residents agree that Gardiner should be cricket-focused. The question was not even asked about bowls and croquet.

I am sure that you will appreciate that there is a huge demand for football in the local community for both children and adults. I therefore welcome the proposal that drainage and levelling improvements take place at the Gardiner. This will hopefully increase the resilience of the pitch and allow more matches to take place which would partly address the problem of there being insufficient football pitches in the village.

I have read the report and fully welcome the idea to improve both the drainage and levelling at the Gardiner – this will hugely improve the pitch and allow more football matches to take place. As I am sure you are aware, currently, the pitch is susceptible to flooding and we have had several games called off over the years at times where other local games proceeded due to flatter / better draining pitches.

I do however feel obliged to contact you regarding this. to express my concerns with the proposed option – option 2. There is already a lack of sufficient football pitches within Goring and this proposal would significantly reduce what is already a scarce amount of resource, which would have significant knock-on effects to the local community i.e. the inability to field training and matches which, in turn, is likely to discourage involvement in football in the local area. My thoughts are that the focus should be on identifying opportunities to increase sport within the area and the village, not to reduce it?

I am sure that you will appreciate that there is a huge demand for football in the local community for both children and adults. I therefore welcome the proposal that drainage and levelling improvements take place at the Gardiner. This will hopefully increase the resilience of the pitch and allow more matches to take place which would partly address the problem of there being insufficient football pitches in the village.

My [] children play football for goring robins, play tennis weekly at the tennis club at Sheepcot and they play cricket for goring cricket this summer so we have views on all three.

We strongly support the proposal to build a new cricket nets practice facility and think the best place is the bowling green site. Replacement cricket nets at the existing location is not great as it's not possible to get 3 full nets in there (so capacity issues still remain) plus it would significantly impact the footprint of the Gardiner.

Given the success of the cricket club, with great number of young boys, girls and adults playing and watching the game, facilities need to be brought up to date. It is one of the most successful clubs in the area, with by far the worst training facilities. I strongly support the development of an up-to-date cricket training facility where the current bowling green is. My understanding is that it would be hard to develop net's facilities to the right standard and capacity on the existing location. To reiterate the point earlier, there is no equivalence between the participation in cricket and the participation in bowls or croquet. If the bowls or croquet club could demonstrate even a modicum of use of that area, I may take a different view. It is impossible to justify the provision of such valuable piece of space for activities that hardly use that space, where as a cricket facility would be used for many hours every day from spring to late summer.

I endorse the Report's favoured Option 1, retaining the bowls and croquet lawn. To unnecessarily destroy a long-established (since 1934) facility when an alternative position for new cricket nets has been identified, would be vandalism. Being central in the village maximises the number of people living within walking distance. Goring Gap Croquet and Bowls Club is not exclusive: it extends the opportunity to play to members of the local u3a for less than the cost of a cup of coffee, and is now offering a session each week to dementia sufferers and their carers from a local care home. Croquet taster sessions are offered to adults and children as part of the Summer of Play scheme and always prove very popular with all age groups.

A lot of hard work and thought has obviously gone into the review; it is very good to see all these open spaces being thought about pro actively.

I saw that there was a discussion of building new cricket nets on Gardiner (rather than repairing the existing nets). My family and I (my [children]) regularly play cricket over at Goring CC and make a lot of use of the existing nets, tired though they are. New nets on the site of the bowling green (which doesn't seem to have been used for many years?) would be an excellent improvement to Gardiner in my view - not least because it would keep hard cricket balls up by the pavilion and not down by the southern boundary where families often gather to watch / play during cricket season. There have been a few near misses in my time particularly as the children get a bit older in the nets and people aren't paying attention to what's behind them at that end of the ground.

Option 2

With this option would have to make sure of play area does not encroach onto the football pitch at the moment it's about 5-6 metres away and you need a run off for safety

The cricket nets

Where the bank to the bowls green is very close to the football pitch and if you go the other side of the football pitch it's right by the cricket square and no room for play this will have to be looked at if we can move the cricket square over to then give football pitch space to move over to if needed make room for the new nets on the bowls green.

When thinking about levelling the pitch area and installing drainage what would be the time factor on this as this could effect both cricket and football season.

so how long would it take when would the work take place who does it effect.

Option 1 or 2 for Gardiner (depending on expected usage of the Bowls ground)

Option 2 for the gardener field

I also support new and modern park and play equipment in Goring. Goring has always had a poor standard of play equipment compared to neighbouring villages of South Stoke and Streatley. This play equipment will be of great benefit to children in Goring.

I prefer option 1 for the Gardiner field.

The excellent bowls and croquet lawn sited at the Gardiner is one of the few (only?) sports facilities suitable for the older people who form an above average proportion of Goring's population. Such a facility needs to be centrally located in the village to allow walking and cycling to be the preferred forms of transport. The Report recommends retaining the bowls and croquet lawn and I fully support this. The Report correctly states that cricket nets can be accommodated elsewhere on the Gardiner. Destruction of an existing facility, and replacement elsewhere, even if a suitable site existed, would have an increased carbon footprint as well as being an unnecessary expense .

Overall, one of the key observations of the Report was the lack of facilities for young people of all ages in Goring, and this was reflected in the facilities noted, indeed Goring compared negatively against other local villages in this respect. This can be compared to the provision for adults and retirees in the village; Goring is extremely lucky to have a huge number of clubs and societies but assessing these, 78% are primarily or exclusively for adults and retirees. However, the one club that has attracted a huge amount of interest from younger and older children is Goring Cricket Club, with its growing Academy. This has swelled to over 250 young members, which is an amazing achievement, and the Goring Cricket Academy has been very successful in local and County championships in recent years.

With this success brings the challenge of having sufficient facilities, and as the Thirlwall Associates report highlights the "existing nets are in a poor state of repair and need replacing", and there are only 2 nets so restricting the availability. Despite this facility being heavily used by the Cricket Club, the report highlights that the nets "are open for public use when not booked" so these are a community facility in the same way as one of the courts at the tennis club. This is shown when you often see parents bowling to their children in the nets from spring to autumn, with children waiting for their turn. To relocate the cricket nets would increase capacity by 50%, move them to a central location next to the cricket pavilion rather than a far corner, and provide much higher quality nets. There is also a overwhelming indication based on the responses received during the consultation when 74% of all respondents indicated that the Gardiner Recreation area should be focussed on cricket.

[Continued From Above]

As the Thirlwall Associates Report notes, if the cricket nets were expanded on their existing site, this would require a Planning Application process. This could easily be challenged by the residential properties that are located in close proximity to the current nets if they are expanded, whereas locating them on the former bowling area is next to the railway line so less of a concern from a planning perspective.

With the formal winding up of the Goring Bowling Club, this only leaves croquet as the only other potential sport for the former bowling lawn. The playing of croquet on the bowling lawn is a very recent addition in 2022, and the number of playing members is in the low teens, if not often less, on a few evenings. Indeed, there is no official Goring Croquet Club website or official club structure. Croquet is a very niche sport in England with only a fraction of active participants compared to cricket, and even less representation at younger ages. The Thirlwall Associates report notes that by using the space for croquet would mean that “proportionally the area is used by a small number of people and only used by club members”. If designated for croquet, this space would not have a wider availability to the community: most people have access to a cricket bat and ball, very few have a croquet mallet available.

[Continued from Above]

For those few people in Goring who would be keen to play croquet, there are two clubs locally that are both actively looking for members in Blewbury and Caversham. Blewbury is a mature croquet club, but still struggles to get 50 members, with no formal junior section.

Based on the facts above, I would petition you that the best and equitable option would be to locate the new cricket nets on the former bowling lawn to provide further encouragement to the young people of Goring in the huge success that is Goring Cricket Club. It is a wonderful sight on a mid-week evening or Saturday morning to see so many youngsters of all ages gathering at the cricket club for practise and matches, or to read of another success for a young team in Oxfordshire tournaments in the Goring Gap magazine.

I write this as a Goring resident who has no links to Goring Cricket Club, or none of my family have a link to Goring Cricket Club so I am not pursuing this out of personal gain.

Excellent suggestion to have drinking water provision. Can we add toilets?

Is it possible for anyone to play cricket and use the nets e.g. not members of the club? The pitch is fenced off, is this exclusively for club members?

One observation is that this is a huge site and the majority of the space is reserved for cricket (and apparently football), and no one else can really benefit with the playground and bowls/croquet pitches squeezed into the corner. It feels a shame that this site hasn't had a broader use applied as it is so central.

Please can you clarify what this means: “Ensure 20m 20m minimum separation between activity zone and the habitable room façade of dwellings - leave clear area along north edge of play area” What is the habitable façade? The wall of a house? What does this mean in real terms, does the playground boundary need to stay where it is, go closer to the edge of the field or, further away from the edge?

I strongly support the expansion of cricket facilities at gardener. The club has a long history of supporting grass roots cricket and is one of the friendliest and most active in the county. my children have found playing cricket at Goring more enjoyable and rewarding than school or county cricket. The pitch quality and club ethos are outstanding and everything that can, should be done to maintain this.

Expanding the provision for cricket with more nets and easier access facilities, on the bowling green site, will give the club the ability to thrive - better serving existing and potential new members and supporting this wonderful and inclusive sport to flourish locally. It is the most inclusive sport we have - actively engaging hundreds of people each week during the season from the age of 5 - 95! Matches and training sessions bring custom to the village more than any other sport offered here given the pitch location, timing and long hours involved.

Girls cricket is really picking up and goring is one of a small handful of girls clubs contributing to building the sport locally. Only 5 years ago my daughter had to go to Oxford if she wanted to play in a girls team - now primary age girls can play here - on the rec!

It would be wonderful for goring to become a hub for girls cricket in south oxfordshire and expanded facilities will help achieve this.

Hundreds of children enjoy the cricket club and it brings together communities beyond Goring creating comadery and friendship across the locality - so important for our youngsters in this age of toxic social media.

[Continued from Above]

Goring cricket club need to expand facilities to sustain their flourishing activity and expand it. They provide a superb community service and set serve the opportunity to do more.

I think putting exercise equipment around the boundary of a cricket pitch is a health and safety risk - especially as we now attract county matches and high quality players who can easily hit the boundary. It simply is not needed, and will take away from the aesthetic and ambience of the traditional cricket green making it less attractive for players and spectators. Note the custom point above - you get bigger crowds at attractive, well served grounds! So improving the overall look of the pavilion is a great idea. Historically this is a cricket pitch and we should do all we can to not lose this - there are plenty of other areas in Goring that can accommodate the equipment if it is deemed necessary.

Further more on aesthetics - please don't use coloured access points etc as suggested - the space needs to remain as natural as possible for widest appeal.

I would like to add my support to moving the cricket nets to where the bowling green is. My []yr old son has played for GCC for a number of years and now is part of the adult set-up. I think the cricket club does a great job of being inclusive to all villagers young and old - from those that want to play to those that want to watch.

I believe the club has done a great job of coaching their youth team and it would be great if they could have a proper training facility. The existing nets are on the edge of the cricket field and often have balls hit into them during matches which obviously creates safety concerns.

Having new nets would encourage even more players to join the club and ensure that the cricket club survives for years to come. Too many clubs collapse and never return due to poor facilities. Please don't let Goring CC go the same way.

I am writing to express my views on the proposed options with respect to the Gardiner recreation ground and specifically the situation regarding the cricket nets. As has been observed these are in bad repair and need replacing. It is my firm view that the best option for this is construction of crickets nets at the current bowling green site. My reasons are as follows:

Expansion of two lanes to at least three lanes - necessary given the high demand for access during both Academy training evenings and at other times during the summer. The growth of the Academy, particularly over the last few years, has been a stand out success for the cricket club, but there needs to be an appropriate provision of facilities to meet this demand. The current site is just not suitable expansion without intruding on the flower beds in that corner of the ground.

Proximity to the pavilion - and access to the cricket equipment for set up of training sessions as well as creating more of a centralised "hub" and sense of community rather than current situation where individuals are spread across the ground during matches/ training sessions.

Current unsuitability of the location of the current site -

lack of access to electric power point to facilitate use of "bowling machines" during training sessions; and safety issue - where shots from the current location can interfere with matches being played and the risk of members of the public being hit, it being a common passage way across from that corner of the recreation ground.

I understand that the Goring bowls club has recently disbanded and therefore there is now a opportunity for the nets to be sited at this location.

[Continued From Above]

I moved to Goring area [] years ago and [] my children have benefitted hugely from the cricket club. From participation in the younger age groups they are both now part of the men's Sunday, Wednesday and, occasionally, Saturday teams. They are currently aged [] and I cannot stress enough how important it has been for the boys to have had cricket and the cricket club as they navigate through their teenage years. They use the cricket nets year round (they were both using the nets yesterday – on a damp, miserable day in January !) and on an almost daily basis during the summer holidays. In my view, this focus on cricket and availability of nets to practice / meet their friends on is far better than other teenage options of being "on screens" or just "hanging about" in the village.

I do appreciate you have a range of views to consider - however, given the high demand for the cricket nets, the obvious benefit to our young people, coupled with the fact that there is now an opportunity with the bowls club being disbanded – I think this is the option which makes the most sense.

We would favour the improved drainage and access points. The movement of the cricket nets seems to have no benefit unless there is no longer a requirement for a bowls? Can they not be refurbished in the current location? We would defer to those who use the facilities regularly.

Any updates to children's play facilities in Gardiner should be carried out in tandem with those on the Bourdillon field to ensure they provide an equivalent experience.

The proposed option 2 for Gardiner is something I would agree with. Cricket is a vital component that makes up Goring, however the current nets are quite disappointing. I've grown up in Goring playing cricket my whole life and the nets is something that passes the long days by in summer. The current nets situated there are of poor condition with irritating uneven bounces combined with the actual protective nets regularly breaking. A new 4 lane cricket nets seems a perfect way to give opportunity to all those who want to play cricket. Cricket is a sport on the decline especially with the younger generations. These new nets could breathe life into cricket in Goring that for recent years hasn't been there. The attendance for the nets for the summer of 2022 were still strong despite the conditions, bringing in new nets would only increase those playing cricket.

Priority 2. Gardiner

This is the village's main park and it is beautiful, so let's make the play area update a priority too. Save our villagers from travelling to Streatley, South Stoke, Cholsey (skate park), Blewbury and Checkendon and why not attract some new crowds too, who will then spend money in our village shops.

I like the repositioning of the cricket nets as that current corner used to make a nice cut through for pedestrians heading home from the station.

Would the bowls and croquet pitch be used now there's no longer a bowls club?

If it isn't broken, don't fix it – which is rather how I feel about the Gardiner Recreation Ground!

I walk nearly every day in the Gardiner Recreation Ground in all weathers. This open space in the middle of the Village is much used and very much appreciated by all ages: mothers with prams and push chairs and toddlers, older people with their newspaper (not in the winter!), dog walkers, people cutting across to the Station, together with those who are just taking the air, relaxing and passing the time of day with fellow Goring residents.

However, I appreciate that the cricket nets and equipment in the play area are in need of replacement. Notices are surely not necessary and would only detract from a village atmosphere. Regarding the 'informal footpath' – planting would require money and maintenance.

Residents go to the Gardiner Recreation Ground to relax in a much appreciated community space, and I would not support significant change.

With the confirmation that the bowling club has disbanded, I am very keen for the cricket club to benefit from the once-in-a-generation opportunity to build the new enclosed artificial nets facility on the bowling green footprint.

This will enable the club to finally have a fit-for purpose and much safer nets practice facility for the hundreds of children, young people and adults who play for Goring-on-Thames Cricket Club every summer. This is a vital facility for the future of the cricket club – a club with a much bigger membership than many other cricket clubs in the region who have the very facility we would love to build! Our current nets facility is an embarrassment for a club of our size. A state of the art enclosed artificial nets facility on the bowling green would create a legacy which would literally benefit tens of thousands of cricketers of all ages and sexes over the coming decades.

There is absolutely not sufficient space to build the artificial facility on the current nets site without making the cricket ground itself unplayable from a playing and safety perspective. Simply upgrading the current nets will not enable the club to satisfy the current high demands from the hundreds of kids and adults who want to use them. It is also important that the council understands how dangerous the existing site is in comparison to an enclosed facility on the bowling green, in terms of the risk of members of the public being hit by cricket balls.

With the greatest of respect to the small handful of people who wish to use the bowling green for croquet, it would defy all logic to allow a croquet club with a handful of members of a certain age set up last year to deprive the 150 year old village cricket club and its hundreds of players of this incredible opportunity.

I had also understood that [Cllr] and the council had previously confirmed that the cricket club should benefit from the bowling green site if it became available.

This email is to inform you that both my husband and I approve of the options as follows:

Gardiner Field – option 1

I support Option 1. Comments:

I strongly support retention of the bowling green for croquet (and maybe the return of bowls in future). This is a historic, well-made, quality engineered facility that would be very expensive to replace.

I strongly support the idea of improving pedestrian access to Gardiner.

I strongly support the retention of (new) cricket nets in or near their existing position. Moving them to the bowling green area would bring their length into full public view at the top of the field and cause a major visual intrusion in the Conservation Area.

I strongly support the removal of all football to Sheepcot. Reasons:

- Sheepcot pitches have already been improved for football (ongoing) so why not concentrate the sport in one place?
- Football teams will make more effective use of potentially less equipment, reducing the need for storage.
- Football can't be played anyway when gardener is waterlogged in winter.
- Less winter damage to the grass surface of Gardiner will allow for quicker recovery by summer for cricket. This could also probably eliminate the need for extensive (and expensive) drainage/levelling proposed in the report.

Gardiner - of the parks, we think this needs the least development. At some point the play area could be improved but think it would be good to keep this one for younger children as it is now. The bowls and croquet lawn should be left in and maintained and crickets nets as are. A path is practical idea but not essential if there is limited money.

we agree it would be interesting to know how well utilised adult exercise equipment is in other comparable villages. Given the area in which we live readily supports walking, running and cycling, perhaps this is better in more built up areas.

We support the idea of creating new enclosed cricket nets in places of the bowls and croquet lawn on Gardiner's green (Option 2). Enclosed nets provide much better safety, especially when there are adults or teenagers bowling alongside younger children (those fast balls have a tendency to slip through the nets currently!)

Consider carefully the destruction of existing facilities (very expensive to replicate). Playground to be enlarged and improved. Important to encourage all sorts of sports which go in and out of favour! Agree with recommended proposals to increase cricket nets, level pitches. Football to continue as before. Bowls/croquet area to remain and not destroyed.

I do not agree that the current bowls/croquet area should be used for additional cricket practice nets. Minorities and all age groups should be catered for.

This recreation ground is the most suitable for increased play areas and facilities for pre school and primary age children . My own grandchildren – aged from [] - are all great fans of the playground in Crowmarsh. This is an amazing facility and if Goring had something similar it would surely be used frequently by preschool children at all times , and older children after school and particularly during the school holidays. At Crowmarsh families take picnics and spend hours there . I highly recommend that the Councillors make a visit to view the Crowmarsh facilities. I understand +66a number of grants would be available to fund such a project (maybe those involved in the development of the Crowmarsh site could advise.)

Please keep the bowls green although not used for bowls at present Goring is an ageing village and maybe needed in the future. Use it for croquet for now, it would be extremely expensive to replace.

Extend cricket nets in current area as it works well. Footpath under the trees is very unnecessary and any planting would not survive. Railings do not need to be removed they act as a deterrent for travellers.

I don't believe there's a real need for a croquet club to be set up at all with a designated space. I also understood that the Bowling Club had folded or merged with another local club already - so I don't think there should be a focus on the needs of that club.

Again the cricket club has hundreds of young players in the village, so it is vital that the spaces at Gardiner rec are invested in. The 2 dated cricket nets need replacing. The proposal to have enclosed, modern nets near the cricket pavilion seems the most sensible option to me. Again all [] of our children play cricket in the village.

Given the size of the local cricket community and the value that brings with it, I would support Option 2 – to move the cricket nets to where the current bowling green is sited.

We desperately need better, safer (and more) cricket nets at Gardiner's field. Our [] use them whenever they can and even in winter for example they played this year on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, such is their fervour for the sport! I would like to see Option 2 come to fruition. I do not see the need for a space at Gardiner's field for a newly established croquet club replacing a defunct bowls club. The area is far better devoted to several cricket nets for children and adults alike to use and really building on the huge success at Goring Cricket Club with opportunities for children to eventually make it to the highest levels in cricket. It is also a wonderful sport to spectate and is emblematic of English summers and picnicking in a friendly environment. Gardiner's field is a beautiful place and its use for cricket is the perfect complement. I have no experience of its use for football but as long as it does not ruin the grass I can't see why it wouldn't be a good winter use for the area.

I'd really like more information on the play area; very much in favour of this being extended and keen to ensure it is extended as much as possible.

I feel the site is hugely dominated by the cricket pitch which is roped off all year, and football – it feels like you're almost 'not allowed' to really use the whole space and children and families are crammed into one small corner. We have enough children that we could probably fill a playground that was a quarter of the entire site, whilst I know that would be ridiculous, I want to stress how unimpressed I will be by the playground just growing a little bit – the fact that the bowls green is proposed to stay, whilst I think good in theory for the bowls green, worries me significantly on that being an existing boundary that would inhibit the growth of the play area.

Even the fact there is a play where the green is removed, but doesn't have the option of that space being given to a playground to make the area larger is a concern for me to the small scale that I think is in mind for this area.

I wholeheartedly feel we need a significantly larger area here. It's the centre of the village and we are a village full of children. Let's make sure we build fun and exciting spaces for them, that don't feel squeezed into a corner and minimal in size.

[Continued from Above]

Crowmarsh Playground is a really great example of a fantastic playground and also Benson. We need something of similar size and variety in this space. Anything that just extends the play space by a few metres in width and depth will be highly disappointing when it is so desperately needed and was one of the original requests of this project before it became a wider open spaces review.

In favour of keeping the bowling green, but would like it to be open to play for all – in many other countries boules are very popular, it would be a great family activity addition as well as for adults of all ages to be able to play without being a member of the bowls or croquet.

How many cricket nets are needed? Could they just be upgraded vs also extended if the extension of size is increasing the costs?

I agree with the recommended Option 1.

The extended play equipment area should include equipment for older children so that families with children across the age ranges up to end of Primary school can all play together.

Not really able to comment on bowling/croquet green as I hear the bowling club is closing but I don't know anything about the demand for croquet.

Path along the edge is a very good idea as is putting a proper entrance in where most people come under the fence at Upper red cross rd.

Keeping the main focus as Cricket seems sensible.

Vote for option 2 - use of year round nets will be utilised

Option 1

In this time all the above playgrounds have been upgraded but Goring still has nothing, infact the Gardner park slide is exactly the same!

Regarding the Gardiner rec - I agree that this should be mainly used focused on cricket, I don't really understand why you would want to remove the Bowls area. The play area could have so much potential for smaller children, and those with mobility needs as there is quite a lot of parking around, and it is not far from the toilets in Goring car park. I prefer option 1.

As there is a need for more space for local football teams, if this space could be used for this purpose too, that would be a huge win.

In terms of priority, updating the main Gardner Rec is a top priority, as the provisions there are part used, tatty and actually trip hazards in places. As this area is so central to the village, with such a beautiful backdrop to the hills in the background, it would be great to use this space to its full potential.

I do not support the recommended option one within the report for the following reasons

I do not believe that the proposed provision of cricket nets is suitable given the location of the cricket pitch. My children are regular users of the cricket nets but the current location (with only two nets) is in my opinion not satisfactory as it is dangerous when there is a cricket match in progress. Given the location of the wicket and the natural slope of the ground it is a regular occurrence that the cricket ball is hit into the nets area and risks hitting one of the children. This would be further exacerbated by increasing the number of nets in that area. This would not be a problem with the relocation of the cricket nets to the bowling green area as it is a) further away from the wicket and b) uphill from the wicket. I also understand that the proposal for the relocation of the cricket nets to the bowling green area would result in fully enclosed nets which again would be far safer for those using the nets.

The existing location and open nature of the cricket nets is a danger to non-cricket users of the Gardiner. I regularly see people or dog walkers entering the field from the entrance next to the nets and cutting across the line of where the nets are. This is a risk to safety which I believe would be addressed by the proposal to relocate to a fully enclosed space on the existing bowling green area.

The cricket club is long established within the village and has many members including a thriving academy which caters for children from the ages of 5-15. I would estimate that the club has in excess of 300 members (including the academy). Therefore the size of the cricket club currently far exceeds that of the relatively newly formed croquet club (and realistically will always have a significantly larger membership). On that basis I believe that the repurposing of the bowling green for cricket nets satisfies the needs of the village to a greater extent than use as a croquet pitch.

[Continued From Above]

Could the parish council give thought to potentially using the Rectory Gardens as a possible site for the Croquet Club?

I support the ongoing use of the Gardiner for football. Whilst I do see some sense in relocating all football activity to Sheepcot it would put extra strain on the limited amount of pitch space and would result in more damage to the Sheepcot pitches during the winter likely resulting in greater levels of fixture cancellation and more permanent damage to the ground. I believe that it would make sense however to transfer the Goring United football to Sheepcot with a reciprocal transfer of some of the younger Goring Robins age groups (e.g. 7x7 teams) to the Gardiner Rec. This would potentially resolve some of the parking issues at Sheepcot as the children's games are in a morning and the adult games are in an afternoon. there is also a reasonable amount of parking available across the top of Gardiner and along Cleeve Road.

I am supportive of the plans to improve the playground equipment at the Gardiner including accessible play equipment
I am supportive of the plans in respect of new paths, drainage and planting albeit with the caveat that I believe these are less vital use of funds and therefore should only be undertaken as a lower priority

We live on [] and have been in Goring for ten years. [] my children are keen cricket players and enjoy being part of the cricket academy. When we travel to away matches I realise how below par the facilities are in the village. The cricket nets are now so old they are dangerous and with at least 250 youngsters trying to use them it's difficult to get a slot.

It's also devastating that there is nowhere for our young teenagers to go after a match. There's no club house, no bar, no TV to watch international matches and nowhere for them to go to feel a part of a community.

The local community get cross when young people are hanging around on benches etc but there's nowhere else to go.

I see from the Report that the Recommended option for the Gardiner Recreation Ground is Option One which retains the status quo of the Recreation Ground as it is now with the bowls green being retained and the cricket nets being extended to four lanes and kept in the north west corner of the ground as well as other refurbishment work to enhance drainage and the look of the ground.

I do hope that you put your full weight behind this option rather than going with Option 2 which removes the bowling green to allow the cricket nets to be moved closer to the pavilion and the play area. Should the nets be moved this position, with the best will in the world, cricket nets are not entirely fallible and cricket balls do, from time to time fly out of them, thus endangering both the play area, the path beside the pavilion, spectators and pavilion users and road users in Upper Red Cross Road.

My other comments for going with the recommended option (one) is that:

[Continued From Above]

Bowls has been established on the Recreation Ground for many decades and to bulldoze this facility, which is used for both bowls and croquet, without giving both those activities somewhere else to play their sports, thus disbanding two clubs for the benefit of a third, when there is already a perfectly viable and already established area for their nets would result in a loss of facilities for the village.

While the original Bowls Club has disbanded there are still members who did not wish to join Pangbourne Bowls Club and who wish to continue to play on the Green in Goring. To this end they have joined forces with the Croquet Group with whom they will share the green.

Croquet and bowls can be played by all ages, although, at present, the majority of those playing are of retirement age. Both are sports which allow more elderly people and those with mobility issues to have a regular, outdoor activity. If the Green is removed there are no other outdoor activities which allow such benefits in Goring.

The Bowling Green takes up a small amount of land on the Gardiner Recreation Ground but supports two sports, certainly one of which, unlike cricket, can, subject to weather, be played all year round. Removing this facility (Option 2) would immediately remove two sports from Goring.

The Croquet Club may not have been in existence for many years but it not only supports its own members which are increasing in number but also opens up the green for use by the U3A Croquet Group and to non-members.

A modern, four lane, netted cricket practice area is taller and wider than the existing two lane one. Putting this netting by the Pavilion would detract visually from the Pavilion and surrounding area and the view, although I know no-one has a right to that, across the Recreation Ground to the Goring Gap from Red Cross Road. The Goring Gap is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and this is one of the most beautiful views in it.

The Cricket Club makes full use of the remainder of the Ground and are well supported and have a large Junior section. I can understand their need for further practice nets. They already have a suitable area which would cost far less to extend and refurbish than bulldozing what is already a well maintained, purpose built Bowls and Croquet Green.

Please take my comments into consideration when you are discussing this and go with the recommend option of Option One.

From the review, I believe option 1 would be the recommended way forwards for Gardiners Rec, although the bowls club has not been able to run effectively, I don't believe we should not remove these facilities altogether, but allow them to be retained so that in the future, this area could be used for again. Having it as a multi purpose area for bowls and croquet, is also a good idea. As per Bourdillon field, Gardiners also requires a priority overhaul of the childrens play facilities, which sub standard. I have a mixed view on the priority projects for this area and don't feel as though footpath and access points need as much priority as the improved play equipment and cricket facilities. My worry is the footpath/access points may end up being worked over the upgraded facilities in this open space, and that wouldn't be the point of having done the review of this area of Goring

I would like to show my support for the proposed cricket net relocation to the bowling green at Gardiner Recreation Ground. This would make a huge difference to the well used cricket nets and allowing the green to be made use of significantly enhancing the safety of nets practice for both participants and the community in general, allowing use of the nets at all times. I do hope you can take my view and others view into consideration when agreeing a way forward for the regeneration of the cricket nets.

My [] also is an active member of the Goring Cricket Academy. The open spaces report presents two options for the Gardiner – one being cricket nets on the bowling green, and the other being replacement nets at the existing location. The latter being the recommended option by the consultant but I personally believe that replacement cricket nets at the existing location is a massively sub-optimal outcome. They would not be able to be enclosed without significantly impacting the footprint of the Gardiner and the visual attractiveness, and it is not possible to get 3 full nets in the current location, so a capacity issue for the Academy will remain. In my view the option that is by far the best for both the cricket club and the local community is the new nets facility on the bowling green.

As noted in the Report, the Cricket nets are substandard and have been for some time. Moreover they are of insufficient capacity for the number of adults and children regularly using them. I have used the nets both with my children and when training other children regularly for years and have come to the conclusion that their current location, condition and size is less than ideal for several reasons.

First, the nets are positioned virtually next to the entrance gate off Cleeve Road. The nets face almost directly towards the natural walking path after walkers come through the entrance gate and, because the nets are not enclosed or in any way protected with netting to the rear, I regularly see hard balls being hit directly towards walkers and their dogs. As someone who played a lot of cricket in his youth and had his eye socket shattered by the impact of a cricket ball I am particularly sensitive to the damage that can be caused by a hard cricket ball hit at pace and I genuinely cringe at times because this set-up is an accident waiting to happen. Increasing the size and scale of the nets, as mentioned in the Report, will only make this problem worse.

Second, the nets themselves are almost at the end of their natural life. This occurs not only when the surrounding netting has deteriorated (as it has), but equally when the bounce in a cricket net becomes inconsistent. I have seen cricket balls bowled in the exact same spot, at the same pace, bounce two feet high and then six feet high. This makes batting against a hard ball coming at you at pace very uncomfortable; it also encourages bad batting habits and leads to a lack of confidence for the batter – precisely the opposite of what cricket net practice is supposed to achieve. The substandard of the netting itself means that balls regularly escape through the netting sometimes into the adjoining net or, worse still, into the gardens of the houses to the rear of the nets leading to young children dashing out to search for their lost ball onto Lyndhurst Road situated directly behind the nets. Lyndhurst Road is regularly used by cars, particularly coming off Cleeve Road where the visibility splay is poor such that children often do not realise a car is turning in towards them.

Third, the nets should be capable of being used at weekends during the summer – indeed this is the very time they should have their optimum use. However, because there are normally matches taking place almost every Saturday and Sunday on the main cricket square, this makes use of the nets extremely difficult because balls are constantly hit onto the pitch where the match is taking place and space for the nets is also curtailed because the boundaries of the match pitch encroach into the netting area.

[Continued From Above]

This is again a health and safety issue particularly for the fielders in the match (who are facing away from the nets) with hard balls being hit in their direction. Again, increasing the size and scale of the nets, as mentioned in the Report, would only exacerbate this issue.

Fourth, the nets are located at the opposite end of the field to the pavilion. This does not make any sense. The nets should be located as close as possible to the pavilion, where all the practice equipment is housed, particularly so that young children do not need to be shepherded in big groups, with all their cricket kit, from one end of the field to the other. This would also help the coaching staff provide a better experience for the children. Generally we have tight one hour slots within which to coach and it only adds to the pressure if, within those slots, time has to be dedicated to moving heavy equipment whilst supervising young children at the same time. It would be far better if the pavilion area became the "hub" of the training area, rather than being segregated as far away as possible from it as it currently is. It would allow players to safely use the toilet within the clubhouse right next to the practice facility and enable people to change in a safe environment. It would be safer and would enhance the "Clubhouse" feel of the Cricket Club.

Fifth, two small sets are simply insufficient for the number of children and adults who are active members of the Club using them regularly. As a result, the coaching and learning experience is diminished because there are too many participants and insufficient facilities for them meaning that upwards of 10 participants are trying to use a net at the same time.

[Continued From Above]

I understand that the Bowls Club has recently disbanded and, if this is correct, the clear and obvious solution is to use the former Bowls Club lawn area for the location of new nets. The flat surface is an absolutely perfect base for cricket nets which, coupled with improved matting, would help eradicate inconsistent bounce. The nets should be enclosed in order to avoid any health and safety issues. I also understand that a recently formed croquet club has emerged as a contender for use of the former Bowls Club. I have played croquet in the past and can certainly advocate that it is an enjoyable sport particularly for older age groups. However, based on any utilitarian principle, the Council must surely consider that the benefits of enabling at least 250 children to practice and play cricket daily in a safe environment outweigh occasional use for croquet of the former Bowls Club by a handful of people. I also wondered whether Rectory Garden had been considered for use by the Croquet Club.

In short I would strongly support Option Two for Gardiner's Field. Cricket is a fabulous sport which can be played by people of all ages. Over the years I have been involved with the Club I have lost count of the number of times a passer-by has commented on how wonderful the scene is of cricket matches being played in the summer, especially where children are involved, in such a lovely location. This is a once in a generation opportunity for the Club to develop its facilities to a standard that matches that of the players representing the Club. I would also be supporting of improving the play area, which I often see being used by young children. Although I must admit I have rarely seen football matches being played there, I would have no objection to football continuing to be played on Gardiner's Field provided it did not unduly churn up the surface.

I am writing to support option 2 of the Gardiner site plan.

I have two young children ([]). They are both active cricketers and are thriving in the outstanding environment of Goring Cricket Club.

GCC is breeding an incredible amount of talent (a large proportion of the junior section represent the county) and it is crucial that we don't lose this talent to other clubs as they progress through tiger age groups.

Having nets close the club house is by far the best option for running training sessions and developing talent.

This option has my full backing.

After [Sheepcot Option 4], the play equipment at Bourdillon and Gardiner's would definitely benefit from a good revamp, making them accessible and appealing to younger members of the community.

Last year I joined the croquet club and I can honestly say it's brilliant. Everyone enjoys it so much and it is a wonderful new asset to the village. It is so good that we have something for older people to participate in that is accessible within the village, and it's really something to look forward to each week. It's become quite a community hub and with cricket in the field and the play area next door it shows off Goring's diverse outdoor activities.

I know there is growing enthusiasm for the club in various ways ranging from juniors to more elderly residents, from beginners to advanced so I think it has a great future in Goring. Our lovely village would not be the same without it. I see nothing in option 2 for croquet - and to create a green when we already have one doesn't make sense to me.

I therefore very much support option 1.

In the plans for the Bourdillon field and Gardiner rec there needs to be zip wires as these are very popular with the children along with climbing walls catering for different age groups and levels.

GARDINER Option 1 please

We are residents in Streatley.

We write to give strong support to Option 1 of the Gardiner Recreation ground proposals, particularly the retention of the valuable and long-established bowls/croquet lawn. We also fully endorse the persuasive comments submitted by [], the founder of the new Croquet Club.

It would clearly be a retrograde step to destroy a decent lawn in favour of cricket nets, particularly when there is already an established area for such nets. Whilst the bowls club membership may currently be in decline, the croquet club membership is increasing and there is obvious scope to continue both activities in the same area.

Option 1 is the recommended way forward and should be adopted by the Parish Council in the interests of promoting multi-sports in the village.

I am sure that you will appreciate that there is a huge demand for football in the local community for both children and adults. I therefore welcome the proposal that drainage and levelling improvements take place at the Gardiner. This will hopefully increase the resilience of the pitch and allow more matches to take place which would partly address the problem of there being insufficient football pitches in the village.

I would like to confirm my support for the plans in Public Spaces Review for all improvements for Children's recreational spaces, particularly Gardiners.

Our house [is near] to the park and we have [] children ([]) and the current space is adequate for the little one, if a little run down, but only aimed at very small children.

Having a safe place for children to play and develop is vital. With very young children you are massively limited to what you can do - without local parks and play areas we would not have got out the house. I am unable to carry him in a sling, therefore I rely on a buggy. Goring is incredibly inaccessible for new parents with buggies - foot paths are too narrow, there are endless gates along the river and so many tree stumps that it is impossible to take a little one to get fresh air anywhere other than the parks - so I'm fully supportive that the childrens areas get the funding required.

I wanted to write in to provide my support for Goring cricket club to have new nets erected on the building bowling green. Goring cricket club is a growing club and has been the spring board for many children, both boys and girls to learn the sport of cricket. One of these is my [] year old []. The current nets are not fit for purpose and the new position will allow 3 nets and be such a positive for the local community.

What a great community opportunity to create new state of the art cricket nets for so many.

As a member of the Goring Croquet and Bowls Club , I wish to express my opinion regarding the open spaces report.

I endorse the letter sent to you from [], the founder of the Club.

Sport for all should be the basis for provision of facilities around the village. The membership numbers have grown steadily, and we know there is considerable interest for the season ahead.

I strongly support OPTION 1 for the Gardiner, which retains the croquet /bowling green , and at the same time replaces the cricket nets in their existing position.

SUPPORT Option 1 for the Gardiner recreation ground

The suggestion of increased naturalistic planting would be welcome in creating a more relaxing green space, whilst remaining practical for sports uses in the centre of the village. I believe the suggestion regarding outdoor exercise equipment is a good one - this has added significant value in the Streatley Recreation Ground and, along with bench seating and other play equipment, creates a really sociable family-oriented space (for all generations).

I wanted to commend option 1 for Gardiner and option 4 for sheepcot.

The key thing here is just how profoundly you will improve the life of residents and most importantly children in Goring. The extension and improvements of playgrounds is just wonderful.

Many of the girls and boys at school are members of the Goring Cricket Academy and benefit greatly from this. It is our understanding that membership is at full capacity. A modern 3 lane net, particularly if located unobtrusively on the no longer used bowling green, would be a huge asset to the village and allow greater participation in both children's and adult sport with the associated mental and physical health benefits.

Option 2 in its entirety. The informal path is especially welcome. More seating around the perimeter please.

I am writing to express my concern at the possibility that the croquet lawn at the Gardiner field may be replaced with cricket nets.

This is not just a piece of turf that can be easily replicated, it will cost a vast amount of money to relocate it, as it will need drainage, etc, and I feel this would be an enormous waste of public funds, just to enable the cricket nets to be moved across the field.

The croquet and bowls facility, which is well used by a wide range of local residents, should be retained, as the existing nets area could be cheaply and easily refurbished to provide a better facility, and the not inconsiderable amount of money saved be better spent on other things.

I therefore support option 1 of your Open Spaces Strategy.

Again, I absolutely support the key proposal here for the playpark to be modernised and improved.

I also would support any of the improvements that could be made to allow the cricket club to flourish. My understanding is that this club has bloomed in numbers and popularity and I write with the general view that anything that can be done to encourage children to be active should be a priority. I also understand that the bowling club is no longer existing, so my views are based upon that. My support would be for improvements to be made to the cricket facilities, in particular for new nets. Given the bowling club is no more, I would support the movement of the nets to that spot. Whilst not an expert in cricket, I would have thought the surface would be excellent for this and can foresee obvious issues of wayward balls flying around if the nets were to be at the side of the field. I wonder whether the croquet club may find another home - I suspect it has rather fewer members than the 200 cricket club members which would make it rather easier to find a new home, rather than cricket. Perhaps Sheepcot or the Bourdillon?

Again, I would generally support the adult exercise equipment as activity for all should be encouraged, but wonder whether some research needs to be done into how much it would be used, as this has obviously not been tested (as opposed to the evidence of paying membership of the football, cricket and tennis clubs).

Option 1.

I would say Bourdillon and Gardiner playgrounds are in desperate need of updating as a priority before any of the other nice-to-haves elsewhere.

Replace / refurbish playground equipment at Bourdillon and Gardiner

A major project on Gardiner and Sheepcot Recreation grounds – these need to run together as decisions on one are likely to impact the other

Having looked at the options being considered for the Gardiner Recreation Ground, I strongly support Option 1 because it preserves the diversity of opportunity for outdoor activities beyond those whose primary interest is in cricket. It defies all logic to destroy a valuable resource like the bowling green to build new cricket nets that could equally well be developed in the area of the field where nets are already situated. Why would you want to deprive those who wish to play croquet and bowls of their only opportunity in the village to do so?

I find it hard to comprehend why anyone would consider any other option but to preserve the bowling green in its rightful place in the centre of village life.

Action point G5.1. As in the case of Bourdillon, this again should be in consultation with local parents who have a very good understanding of what play equipment is available in other areas and what works best for a mix of ages. Enough Council funds have already been spent on Consultants with no tangible outcomes to date. It is about time that local parents are given a chance to decide the type of new play equipment that would meet the various needs of their children.

option 2, this would really enhance the cricket club and enable both children and adults to make best use of facilities. Nets in the existing location would be sub optimal.

I would strongly support option 2. the croquet club is only new with no plans on membership numbers or funding. There is no guarantee the croquet lawn would be put to good use. The cricket club is a large and growing club support men, women, boys and girls of all ages. New nets adjacent to the pavillion would be a significant benefit to the club to enhance safe training and make better use of the space. closed nets can be used while a match is taking place, the current nets can't be used.

Gardiner is in the heart of the village and should have something for (nearly) everyone. Option One has it - extend the play area to the max as this is the most used facility on Gardiner, the pitches are only used on weekends. Save the money for the Naturalistic Footpath and spend it on the facilities. Being an architect, this footpath is planned wrong, it does not run where people want to walk, they want to cross Gardiner rather diagonal to get to the play area from the village for example. Along the existing hedge only a few dog owners walk as their dogs can do their business in the hedge, we should not encourage and even spend money for this to become more, maybe instead of the money for the footpath think about a few more seating areas, especially on the East side, where the evening sun can be enjoyed more than on the West side under the Conker trees. Making the Cricket Hut a bit more pretty is a nice to have, but the essential is to improve the facilities for everyone

This is one of the most important spaces in the village. I have seen first hand the positive use in the summer by the thriving village cricket club in a wonderful natural setting. The cricket should be recognised as a huge success in promoting cricket to a new generation of children, including a growing girls team. Cricket is a national sport that has been modernising itself to remain relevant and clearly well enjoyed by all generations in Goring. The summer evenings bring out parents, grandparents and locals to the cricket ground, creating a village and community atmosphere. Unfortunately the cricket facilities (pavilion, nets and ground) are below par and under capacity when compared to other villages and local teams.

The proposals provide a perfect opportunity to enhance the space and community feeling through supporting the local cricket club. In contrast, the bowling green is largely empty and very infrequently used.

With this in mind, there should be strong support for establishing a set of enclosed cricket nets near the pavilion, at the site of the existing bowling green. This would be a modern and safe area for all generations of cricketers to practice. It not only promotes the game, but also allows the club to continue thriving and being a focal point for the community.

Also an update/modernisation of the pavilion would be important to create a hub for the players. This could be in the style of a village cricket pavilion and additive to the character of the village.

I don't feel there is a need for adult exercise equipment. In other parts of the village, such as Streatley Rec, this equipment is largely idle.

(Received twice) We are a family with [] kids (ages []) who have all benefitted enormously from the opportunities provided by both the football and cricket clubs.

The clubs' importance to the community is huge and extends well beyond the many 100s players - 100s of parents are connected through volunteering, grandparents and other family through supporting and in football, older children get the chance to referee matches, giving them amazing life skills.

As such we 100% back the clubs' recommendations - Sheepcot Option 4 and Gardiner Option 2.

Gardiner Recreation Ground

2.1 I think the removal of the bowling green to provide cricket nets would be an act of vandalism.

2.2 I prefer option 1 which seems to work for all parties.

I would like it to be put on record that my preference is for Gardiner Option 1.

Do not add adult gym equipment -these are an eye sore and are never used (They don't actually provide any form of good resistance) -The ones in Streatley or only every used by kids

Re-site the cricket nets to the bowling green (this is very very rarely used)

Refurbish / upgrade the existing younger child play area in its current location

I would like to support Option 1 for the Gardiner Recreation Ground.

The bowls and croquet area, which is used throughout the year, gives opportunities to those not able to play cricket or football. It is a valuable facility, which would be extremely expensive to rebuild elsewhere. The Recreation Ground should continue to support activities suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities.

The Cricket Club makes good use of its existing facilities and would clearly benefit from improved nets based on the existing location.

GARDINER- Option One definitely

I write concerning the discussions about the future of the Bowling Green at the top end of Gardiner recreation ground. I wish to add my voice to theirs in the croquet club who very much want to continue our use of the green for croquet. I joined the U3A croquet group (within the umbrella of the main croquet club) as soon as it was formed about three years ago and have under the leadership of [], enjoyed many sessions on the existing Bowling Green. I am aware of the proposals to remove it now that the Bowls club have no further use for it that's for numbers playing croquet have grown substantially and for them it is a wonderful facility perfectly flat well trained in central village with easy access by vehicle or on foot. I have learnt of suggestions to require the croquet players to go and play at sheepecot recreation area but the ground there is rough and uneven and the installation of a new green ,flat and with special drainage would be prohibitively expensive not a good use of Parish Council funds moreover that is not a central site so more difficult for croquet players, predominantly older people to access, especially those who do not drive. I appeal to you counsellors to consider your decision with greater emphasis on concern for older members of the community and a wiser use of money. Why change what is perfectly good. I suspect it's just change the changes sake which is never a good thing like the reorganisation and renaming of counties some decades ago. Eventually it all returned to the original names and boundaries, but our village situation is rather different once ripped up the wonderful Bowling Green is gone for good and those who want that might not even be local residents, but sports people from beyond

Agree with recommendations

The proposed improvements to the Gardiner Recreation field would be a massive boost to both the football and the cricket club. This pitch has such a great atmosphere and a huge amount of history for Goring football. Adding drainage and flattening the ground would make significant improvements to the ground and playing conditions. Football and Cricket should continue to be played here as it always has.

I am a regular croquet player and enjoy it very much. I wish to support option 1 on the options offered and would be devastated if our croquet was moved.

[22 Versions of this received, including copies from academy/youth players]

I am a cricket player and wanted to express my strong support for a new cricket nets facility being built on the bowling green site – i.e. Option Two within the Open Spaces report

Following the disbanding of Goring Bowls Club, this has resulted in a once in a generation opportunity for the cricket club to invest in state of the art practice facilities for the club and the community to be proud of.

The key benefits of option two are:

Improved safety for users of the nets and the general public

Increased capacity to allow academy waiting lists to be reduced and allow greater access to cricket for local children

Significant increase of quality of training facilities – providing long term benefits to cricketers of all ages

Ability to invest further in Women's and Girls cricket in Goring

Self-contained site that will be sympathetically landscaped to fit in with the surroundings

Self-funded by the cricket club and benefit for the whole community – public use of the nets will be free of charge

Creation of a community hub – providing social benefits due to proximity to the cricket pavilion

Benefit will be felt by thousands of children due to the continued high demand for joining the academy at Under 9 entry level each year.

In respect of option one within the Open Spaces report - installation of a new nets facility at the current location – the location is not feasible due to the size of the footprint needed for the required 3-lane enclosed facility. This would result in a significantly reduced usable area of the recreation ground for both cricketers and general users, as well as a facility with a greater visual impact than the option two alternative.

I am writing to express my support for option 1 concerning the Gardiner recreation ground. I believe that the bowling and croquet players should be supported.

The Gardiner Recreation Ground is in the centre of the village commanding precious rural views of the Thames Valley.

Moving the cricket nets to the Bowling green on the East side would not only spoil the appearance, but could cause a serious hazard being placed next to the Children's playground - stray cricket balls! The present position of the nets is well shielded and safely used.

My second concern is the proposed additional planting on the South periphery.

Point 1 - the trees as well as the boundary hedges of the adjoining properties will soak up a lot of water so that regular watering will be required.

Point 2 - As it is at the moment it provides precious shade during the summer - maybe additional benches would be appreciated. The planting on the East boundary is hiding a utility substation and is well kept by volunteers and without any cost to the Council. Stray cricket and footballs will end up in the planting and have to be retrieved.

Point 3 - it is not necessary to create another footpath and opening into Red Cross Road - the one by the side of the Cricket Pavilion is perfectly adequate.

I am a local resident and parent of [Children] (] current cricket player and] past player and I occasionally play myself). I wanted to express my strong support for a new cricket nets facility being built on the bowling green site – i.e. Option Two within the Open Spaces report.

I agree with option 2 with cricket nets near the pavillion. I believe that this is the only sensible place for enclosed, safe nets from the information I have been given from the cricket club. Cricket is played by a large proportion of the children in our village with some still on waiting lists to play so increasing capacity will help this. The croquet club could have access to space to play at the tennis courts

I have been ploughing through the Thirlwall Associates report - an awful lot to try to take in!
The only aspect that I feel deeply moved to comment on is that we should definitely go for Option 1 for the Gardiner Recreation ground.
I feel it would be terrible to get rid of the long and well established croquet and bowls area, especially as I expect to retire this summer and hope to join in with these activities!
I enjoy sitting on the bench (next to the beautifully kept natural garden area under the tree, thank you for that!) near the existing cricket nets, which are not used much (if at all) when I am there. Perhaps I go at the wrong times or days. I really feel it would be a total waste of money to move the nets. I find it hard to believe that there are many more people using the cricket nets than the bowls and croquet area, and there are a lot more sports facilities available for the young and agile than for those more mature residents who cannot cope with balls moving towards them at speed. Not that I was much good at tennis or cricket when I was younger and more agile, probably lacking good hand eye co-ordination, and not wanting to inflict my poor skills on others! I hope for better performance with balls that are stationary until I make them move.
I do occasionally use the play area with visiting grandchildren, they are quite young and happy with those facilities, although we live nearer the Bourdillon Field which is probably also more convenient for families with older children who might want to play there on their own, so more in need of improvement.

The existing play area is tired, similar to Bourdillon so would benefit from a refresh. I do not believe the cricket pavillion or nets require any urgent action, they seem quite functional. So option 1 is the maximum in my opinion, I believe a refresh of the fencing which is becoming dilapidated and the play area only would be a preferred lower cost option.

I am a parent who has lived in the village for [] years with my husband and [] children. My [] youngest [children], aged [], have been playing cricket for Goring for the past few years. It is a wonderful club with fantastic volunteers. The club continues to grow and the talent is really strong. They had a record number of players being selected for County last season and the girls U13 team played their first ever hard ball match and did exceptionally well in the league despite being a very young team. The only thing that lets the club down is the provision of nets for the children (and adults) and I wanted to express my strong support for a new cricket nets facility being built on the bowling green site (option 2 in the proposal).

[] my [children] were selected for County last year and constantly ask to go to the nets to practice. A lot of the time we travel to Harpsden CC and hire their net facilities which is a real shame. I love the fact that they are part of our village club and want to see them continue to develop here in Goring. There are many benefits to option two:

Improved safety for users

Increased capacity – allowing more children to play cricket.

Ensuring we keep local talent local – we don't want to lose our talented players to other cricket clubs with better facilities

Improved training and development

Opportunity to develop girls cricket further

I know there is an option to develop the nets at the existing site but the location is not big enough for the required 3 lane enclosed facility. It would be such a shame to miss this opportunity

We are parents of [] school-age [] who between them regularly use Sheepcot playing fields and Gardiner. We have reviewed your Open Spaces Strategy document dated December 2022 and we believe that the best use of council funding would be applied to the following:

Gardiner – 'Option 1'

We also feel that both Sheepcot and Gardiner should have better signage, facilities, parking, seating, dog waste and litter bins.

We personally would agree that both playgrounds need an update and more playing equipments for a variety of ages.

Gardiner needs to be for all, cricket nets and a pavilion are key and another play space for our children, perhaps a bit more for older children 10-15. I don't think the boules/ bowling is a priority, the space needs to be shared. The young teens have no where to go in the village, the plot is ideal to enable teens to hang out play sport and access local facilities. Skate park or bmx track would be great for a focus for them.

Gardiner Option 1 is our preference. It is most important to keep the bowling green!!!!

I understand there are plans to change the use of an area of Gardiner Recreation Ground.

Please note that I favour option 1

Would you kindly record that for the Green Spaces Plan I support Gardiner Option 1. Thank you.

Finally, although no longer relevant to our family, the village really needs better play areas – with the one at Gardner probably being the priority.

Could you please register my choice of Option 1 for the Gardiner recreation ground - I strongly believe that the bowling / croquet Green should be retained.

I also don't consider it makes sense to put cricket nets next to a children's playground!

Option 2 at Gardiner's make most sense to me and would have my support. The Bowls clubs is not used, the club only has 2 members I believe and the 100's of young cricketers there in the village, and particularly the growing girls teams, would benefit greatly from the facilities and ensure the space it utilised regularly, which the current bowls are most definitely isn't

I am sure that you will appreciate that there is a huge demand for football in the local community for both children and adults. I therefore welcome the proposal that drainage and levelling improvements take place at the Gardiner. This will hopefully increase the resilience of the pitch and allow more matches to take place which would partly address the problem of there being insufficient football pitches in the village.

Regarding Gardiner, I back the cricket club's recommendations for OPTION TWO. I know we are faced with a choice between bowls / croquet vs cricket nets, but I rarely see this area being used, while the existing cricket nets are used extensively in the warmer months.

Most important:

Please fix or refurbish the children's play equipment in the Gardiner and Bourdillon without delay – this has long been needed.

In tandem with revamping the playground incorporate some exercise equipment for older children and adults in the corner alongside. This has been very successfully done at Streatley rec. and is well used by all ages.

Retain the existing bowling green for use for bowling /croquet.

Site the new cricket nets where the existing ones are.

(Received Twice)

Option 1 agreed

Option 2 reduces the current facilities!!

Agreed improve fencing & access throughout

Improve village signage to this central green area

This ground has never been considered the cricket ground by villagers. It has always been the recreation ground (The Rec) to imply otherwise is a falsehood & misleading. It has always catered for as many villagers interests in equal measure, as is possible.

option 1 looks good and definitely include adult exercise equipment (not all of us like indoor gyms!)

Option 1. Expand the cricket nets by all means, but preserve the bowling/croquet green.

Please keep the bowls / croquet pitch so there is recreation for older people too.

I strongly support OPTION 1 for the Gardiner, which retains the bowls and croquet green at the Gardiner.

Croquet and Bowls are sports for all ages, but unlike Cricket and Football, are suitable for Goring's older generation. Without the Bowls and Croquet lawn, there would be no sporting provision in Goring for older people, or those with mobility issues. Additionally, Croquet Club founder, Jim Bartlett, is leading sterling work to provide sessions for dementia sufferers and their carers.

It takes many years to create such a lawn, with its quality of surface. Even if it were to be replaced (which would be expensive), to rip it up for Cricket nets would leave Goring's bowls and croquet players with no adequate facilities for years. Far more fair and efficient is to retain Croquet and Bowls where it is, and accommodate extended Cricket nets in their current position, as noted in OPTION 1

I appreciate from Page 3 of the Thirlwell report that a 2017 report commissioned by South Oxfordshire District Council had a focus on LEAPs, NEAPs, MUGAs, and Additional Teenage Provision. But also on page 3, it cites UN Goal 11 - also concerning older persons and persons with disabilities. Little was said elsewhere in the Thirlwell report about the needs of older persons and those with disabilities (other than some points concerning young people with disabilities). Given the demographic of Goring, I find this somewhat surprising. Our open Spaces should be for all Goring residents. I think any further report should identify the different demographic groups of Goring, identify the Open Space needs of those different groups, and then include an assessment of how the proposed use of our spaces meets those needs.

I agree with the Thirlwall recommended proposals for Option 1 (Gardiner field)

In particular, the Gardiner field, with its centre of village location, should retain its excellent green for croquet and bowls, thus providing outdoor sport activity for ALL age groups. The recent introduction of croquet to the village was a very positive step, and greatly enhances the lives of many older residents.

I'm in favour of and support the Option One for the Gardiner.

It makes complete sense to me to keep croquet and bowls where they are on the green that is already set up with the well kept lawn etc. Realistically, there's no other suitable place in Goring and to remove it would be such a waste. There is not another club for miles and it fits in really nicely there. I'm hoping to join myself - there is no other activity suitable for me in the village and each time I walk by they all seem to be having a lot of fun. Really nice that we have something new that is so positive in the village and especially that includes older people.

We recently moved to the area from [] and Goring cricket club has been something of a focal point in helping us to settle in. Both my [children] trained and played for the club last season and I helped out with the Under [] coaching. I also played a couple of Goring parent's cricket matches on the rec. So we spent a lot of Monday nights, Friday nights and weekends in the nets and on the rec last summer. As a family, we wanted to write to express our support for the building of new cricket nets on the bowling green site (Option Two of the Open Spaces report).

With Goring Bowls Club moving on, this seems like a great opportunity for Goring cricket club to upgrade its practice facilities to benefit players of all ages at the club, including the rapidly developing women and girls teams. Not only that, but the nets, whilst funded by Goring cricket club, will be available for public use and therefore create a benefit for the wider local community.

In respect of option one within the Open Spaces report (installation of a new nets facility at the current location) this does not feel like a practical option as the new three lane net would need a larger area than that currently used for the existing two lanes. In my opinion, this would significantly cut into the open space of the rec and impact the use of the space for cricketers and general users.

(Received Four Times)

My preference is for Gardiner Option 1.

Strongly support Option 1, although I would not favour spending a six figure sum on a new path on what is already an open grass area and perfectly navigable on foot. Likewise would not favour spending money on new planting. Strongly support the bowls area being maintained.

From a Couple.

Option 1 for the Gardiner, which retains the bowls and croquet green at the Gardiner.

This is because in this day and age we are all encouraged to be inclusive. Using the bowls green for some bowling and also croquet makes perfect sense, supporting a varied number of sports instead of only one. The most use should be made of the existing facilities available to include all games, abilities and preferences. To use the whole area solely for cricket is denying other people access to a much needed different pastime.

We also support Option 1 regarding the improved children's play area, which is popular but in need of extension. Also the cricket nets are perfectly positioned exactly where they are but refurbished.

Strongly support option1.

OPTION 2

I think the GARDINER field play area could be extended with area for older children and the cricket nets updated. Would be good in the hall was more in use.

Gardiner Option 1 preference

Agree with the general proposals:

Improved play area

Improved sports area

Open space retained

Improved pathways

I do not have confidence in our ability to keep the toilet open and clean/ working. So am concerned about building something that falls into disrepair. I therefore would want commitments from the parish council that costs would be put aside for ongoing maintenance, cleaning, etc. of the toilets. I also think that the new planting proposed only makes sense if it is properly maintained. I am also concerned about the quality of this considering it is facing North.

I would prioritise the play areas and pathways over anything else.

Top priority: please do not put any adult gym equipment on the site. It is a beautiful, green location. Equipment limits the space available, is not used very much, and ruins the natural space.

Next priority: build better quality cricket nets, ideally next to the pavillion to replace bowls lawn (as extremely rarely used today/ no demand). This area is already flat and well landscaped and has great access to the cricket pavillion, so allows parents to easily watch their kids playing.

Finally, agree to upgrade the play area. It is already quite big - if better use were made of it, not sure if it needs to be extended. I take for granted that it will continue to be used for football and cricket as there is a lot of demand for both, and not enough space at Sheepcot to house another pitch.

Overall, let's build to support the sports which are heavily in demand and being played, i.e. cricket and football, not bowls or crocquet.

Please register my support for Option 1, bowling and croquet court to remain. It would be a travesty if so many village people were denied these sports and just a few people using cricket nets.

With regard to the gardener field, I would strongly support Option 1 to retain the bowling green for use of the croquet club.

Having read the proposals for Gardiner Recreation Field, I cannot agree to the suggestion that the bowling green is replaced by cricket nets.

Cricket is for younger people and nets already exist for use in a safe location. The older village inhabitants should have recreational facilities available for their use.

This is a ridiculous suggestion and has no merit.

I support the use of the existing bowling green for conversion to cricket nets. The fact that a large number of children will use these nets in the future is a compelling reason to favour the cricket club in this campaign.

Option one in Gardiner looks great, increasing the size and improving the play area is so well needed and it's great to have a boules club for those who enjoy the experience.

This is one of the most wonderful spaces in the village and should be the focal point of Goring Village - with a little TLC this could be the envy of many a village in the UK

Cricket is a wonderful sport which is enjoyed by all ages and increasingly all genders - It is a game a village should celebrate - I am all for the development of the ground for the cricket.

My [child] plays here, and enjoyed All Stars Cricket here and I enjoyed coaching All Stars too

The outdoor cinema and other events are a great addition and long may they continue

The debate over the bowls and nets is one I'm not 100% sure about. However, if both can continue then I think that would be my preference. Assuming the bowls is used of course

The play area is extremely dated - it is a sad reflection of Goring that we have allowed the play areas of our wonderful young children to deteriorate to the state they are today.

From my experience - adult exercise equipment is never used. However, if that is not correct I'm all for anything that will get our adult population exercising more (although I think we are a very active village anyway)

My preference would be for this 'main' park to be placed in Gardiner as it is more central to the village and therefore more accessible to parking (Wheel Orchard) for visitors as well as locals. It would also ensure access to toilets and cafe facilities - supporting local businesses too. Often parents come into the village for play groups or classes at the village hall, or a visit to the library and easy access to a good quality play area would keep them here longer.

It would also mean people could easily access by bus and train as well. Bourdillon is very hidden away and with limitations on parking I can only really see it being used by locals in the surrounding roads.

I would like to see the children's play area at Gardiner extended and expanded. A range of equipment would be good here - to encourage risk taking (nets, balance, bridges), slides, swings, trampoline, roundabout, themed climbing frame for imaginative play (e.g. tractor), steering wheel, etc. Benson is the gold standard for parks locally.

I'd also love to see an all weather track/path round the park for access and bikes, or at a minimum the path you have designated up the side of Gardiner. It would be great to have a safe space for kids to ride their bikes and scooters. The pavements in Goring and Streatley are so uneven and narrow its not safe for young children.

The bowls green seems rarely used. Whenever we have visited no one has been there. Given space is at a premium I think you should consider if this is the best use of the space for the majority of residents.

Gardiner should continue to prioritise cricket - its a community sport and something that involves many.

Page 44. Gardiner Field. I deplore the suggestion in Option 2 that the bowling green is removed and replaced by cricket nets. Although the bowling club has ceased to exist since the report was written, a thriving croquet club under the auspices of the Goring Gap U3A now uses the site very regularly. It would be sacrilege to tear up this beautifully kept lawn which has existed since the 1940s. The current site of the cricket nets is fine. There is no mention in the report of what the flooring of the new nets will consist of. Will this be astro-turf? In which case how does it fit within the Parish Council's Sustainability Policy to rip up grassland and cover it in plastic?

Page 45. Gardiner Field. Naturalistic planting is proposed along the southern boundary of the Gardiner Field. The concept is great, but due to the trees and the existing hedge, that area is in shade most of the day. A photo is shown of a wild flower meadow. This would not flourish in such shade. Planting tailored to shade would be needed for this area, which is feasible. I have such an area at the bottom of my own garden which has a southern boundary shaded by trees. Just don't waste money buying plants that will not thrive.

We would urge that workstream 1 (Gardiner and Bourdillion, playground equipment) be a priority both in terms of timing and investment. Followed by workstream 3 (Gardiner and Sheepcot Recreation grounds) and then workstream 2 (Rectory Garden and Ferry Lane). This we feel is in the priority order of the % of people that will benefit from these changes and will have the greatest impact on the community.

If the cricket nets are only available to the cricket club we would argue the club should pay and maintain these, as they aren't accessible to all. We need diversity of accessible sports for all ages, the croquet and bowls provide this and it doesn't take up a huge amount of space so I'd encourage this to stay.

Definitely needs an upgraded play area. Not sure anyone really uses the bowls or croquet facilities these days. I do love seeing it full of hundreds of kids playing cricket in the summer so priority should be given to that too.

Since living in Goring I have witnessed very little, if any, change/improvement to the public spaces during this time. A priority needs to be the replacement of the outdated childrens equipment at the Gardiner site. When my children were young we found ourselves travelling to all the neighbouring villages to use their play areas where the equipment was much more extensive, modern and child-friendly.

We need more toilet and drinking water facilities around all the playground/park/sports ground areas.

I favour option 1 and would like this to remain as a central base in the village for both football and cricket alongside bowls and croquet and a playground. There is a small space where the children's playground used to be on the right of the cricket pavilion and I wonder if this could be used again in some way.

Bourdillon and Gardiner playgrounds are in urgent need of updating and enhancing – they are some of the poorest in the area in terms of condition and extent of facilities – and it is therefore great to see these set out as clear priorities.

Returning to cricket, there is a clear and urgent need for a new nets facility to replace the current aged and deteriorating facility that is not up to modern standards. The disbanding of the bowls club (on the basis of dwindling numbers and barely adequate facilities as they have publicly stated) allows us to return to the exciting option of a new 3-lane nets facility being built on the bowling green. One point to note is that the open spaces report refers to a 4-lane nets facility – this was looked at earlier in 2022, but we have subsequently decided that a 3-lane facility is most appropriate – as this will provide sufficient capacity and allow us to ensure the development is sympathetic to the local environment and enhances the wider community benefit.

A quick summary of the why new cricket nets are needed and why option 2 is the clear preference of the cricket club are:

Why net nets are required:

Improved safety for users of the nets and the general public

Increased capacity to allow academy waiting lists to be reduced and allow greater access to cricket for local children

Significant increase of quality of training facilities – providing long term benefits to cricketers of all ages

Ability to invest further in Women's and Girls cricket in Goring

Self-funded by the cricket club and benefit for the whole community – public use of the nets will be free of charge

[Continued From Above]

Why option 2 (nets on bowling green) is clearly preferably to option 1 (replacement nets on existing site):

Once in a generation opportunity – to obtain the site with the best location and also best technical basis for building a nets facility (as confirmed by the industry experts)

Self-contained site that will be sympathetically landscaped to fit in with the surroundings

Safety enhanced for children with their training facility being located next to the pavilion

Creation of a community hub – providing social benefits due to proximity to the cricket pavilion

Benefit will be felt by thousands of children due to the continued high demand for joining the academy at Under 9 entry level each year.

The previous users of the bowling green (Goring Bowls Club) have made it clear the facilities were barely adequate for them and we also know that the site is not large enough to be a full size croquet pitch. Therefore, to replace an inadequate bowls green with a best in class cricket nets facility for the community seems an attractive proposition.

Option 1 is not feasible due to the size of the footprint needed, resulting in significantly reduced usable area of the recreation ground for both cricketers and general users, as well as a facility with a greater visual impact than the option two alternative.

Proposals for Gardiner's rec – I am strongly in favour of Option Two. In particular, the 4 lane cricket net is much needed by what is a vibrant cricket club, this compared to the fact that the Goring bowls club has recently disbanded, and I understand that the recently formed Goring croquet club has a negligible number of members. Moving the nets to where the bowling green currently is extremely sensible – both from an aesthetic perspective, and a functional one – it moves the nets further away from residential dwellings, which has to be the right approach. They will also get a tremendous amount of use, which will represent value for money. I am also strongly in favour of play area being improved – this is long overdue for what is a beautiful spot to play and look out over the Chilterns. I also support the continued playing of football on Gardiner's rec, and believe it is an ideal location for both Goring United FC (who have a longstanding tradition of playing on the field) and for the foundation and year 1 age groups of Goring Robins FC to alleviate congestion at Sheepcot on Saturday mornings.

I am strongly in favour of refurbishing the two playgrounds at Bourdillon and the Gardiner. As already noted, the play equipment is either solely for very young children (Gardiner) or very old and tired (Bourdillon). I agree that there is a need for more swings and climbing apparatus - also, would a zip wire work on the Bourdillon site? While we live in the village, we travel to playgrounds at Pangbourne, South Stoke and Crowmarsh Gifford which have far more to offer. I would like to see the Gardiner playground enlarged as it could be a central meeting point for families with young children in the village. I have no objection to cricket nets being positioned at the Gardiner, as this would seem like the most appropriate location, and Sheepcot then being more football focused.

This is the space we use the least, and so no strong feelings towards this, although I would say I've never seen the bowls and croquet lawn in use.

- My only suggestion here is more seating for spectators when sports are being played

Replace / refurbish playground Bourdillon and Gardiner

This seems sensible for the younger children. I urge sensitivity re Gardiner developments as that play ground was gifted by the Moses family of Goring whose young son tragically died on Christmas Day some years ago.

A major project on Gardiner and Sheepcot ground

The preferred option for Gardiner recreation is OPTION 1.

The bowls and croquet green is important for older people.

Cricket and football can and does co-exist. The nets should be renewed but kept in the same place.

The field is multi use, for walking, picnics, spontaneous games of cricket and football, rugby ball practice, lunchtime time breaks, dog walking, children playing kick around, space to run. It is used from daybreak until dark by various small groups of people including teenagers. I know because my house faces the field and I see a lot of activity.

We also support option 2 for Gardiner rec as the cricket club also provides a hub for village life as well as sporting opportunities for the village's children. We have never seen the bowling green used and outdoor exercise equipment is rarely used (even in London). Our strong preference would be to invest in dedicated play equipment at Gardiner instead.

I agree that there is a long heritage of playing football on that field and football should be shared between this field and Sheepcot Field to avoid undue wear and tear on either field. At the moment the whole of Sheepcot Field is reduced to mud because it would seem that football is not being played on the Gardiner Field.

Although the Council had previously agreed to allow the Cricket Club to use the bowling green site for cricket nets as the Bowling Club was intending to move to Goring Heath, now that the situation has changed and the green is being used both for bowls and croquet it seems a complete waste of money and a dreadful pity for a beautiful bowling green to be dug up and possibly relocated elsewhere at great expense. The cricket nets have always been located at the bottom of the field and these can be replaced without the need for relocation. There is also room for the net area to be expanded subject to planning consent.

I understand that there needs to be an adequate demand to justify continued support from the Council but the Croquet Club is likely to expand as its existence becomes more widely known. In my opinion, the Council should be encouraging outdoor activities for all age groups in the village including older people otherwise it could be accused of ageism.

I strongly support the idea of re-grading/levelling and improving the drainage of the field, with a footpath and natural planting at the southern end. This will benefit cricket and football. I strongly support expansion of the play area for very young children. I strongly support converting the Bowls green to Cricket nets. The space would get far better use, it would support young cricketers, and be an even greater asset of the community.

Since the former Bowls club has closed down, it makes sense to provide a facility that would get great use. Croquet could play elsewhere (isn't it often played on lawns?), and possibly even make an arrangement with the facilities in Blewbury - especially since the current Bowls green is too small to be an official rink. If it is too small to that official matches can't be played, why not utilise some of the sports fields to mark out some space. Certainly they could use Gardiner, Sheepcot or Bourdillon for lawn croquet? Also, improving the access at the south eastern end would help - currently the informal use of ducking under the rail is creating a muddy path and it looks unsightly. The priorities make sense.

I feel the pump track should be positioned at Gardiner so this is more central and better lit at night.

I looked at the options with my [children] and these are our comments:

Gardiner - we live opposite the site and have rarely visited the play area as the facilities are not much better than we can provide in our own back garden. We instead visit playgrounds in neighbouring villages like Moulsoford, South Stoke, Checkendon or Cholsey. It would be great to see an improved play area here as it is very limited in appeal and age range. It would also be good to have a few picnic benches or seating areas closeby. My son is now playing cricket and it would be great to have the batting nets closer to the training ground/pavilion. If the bowls club has now closed, why would this be kept?!

The proposed upgraded playground is much overdue and would be very welcomed. The proposed improvements to the cricket/football pitches are sensible. I'm aware the bowling club has recently disbanded since this report so there's now a question of the future use of the green. New cricket nets are a must given their condition but wonder if expansion in their current location is preferable to retain the possibility of the return of bowling or use for croquet or even mini golf? Benches and picnic benches for the whole community to enjoy sound like important improvements to make.

My [child] plays for the Goring Cricket club and I wanted to express my personal support for Option 2. Following the disbanding of Goring Bowls Club, this has resulted in a once in a generation opportunity for the cricket club to invest in state of the art practice facilities for the club and the community to be proud of and wanted to express my strong support for a new cricket nets facility being built on the bowling green site, for the following reasons:

- Improved safety for users of the nets and the general public
- Increased capacity to allow academy waiting lists to be reduced and allow greater access to cricket for local children
- Significant increase of quality of training facilities – providing long term benefits to cricketers of all ages
- Ability to invest further in Women's and Girls cricket in Goring
- Self-contained site that will be sympathetically landscaped to fit in with the surroundings
- Self-funded by the cricket club and benefit for the whole community – public use of the nets will be free of charge
- Creation of a community hub – providing social benefits due to proximity to the cricket pavilion
- Benefit will be felt by thousands of children due to the continued high demand for joining the academy at Under 9 entry level each year.

In respect of option one within the Open Spaces report - installation of a new nets facility at the current location – the location is not feasible due to the size of the footprint needed for the required 3-lane enclosed facility. This would result in a significantly reduced usable area of the recreation ground for both cricketers and general users, as well as a facility with a greater visual impact than the option two alternative.

I would also like to add my support for the upgrade of current play equipment to be inviting to a greater age range of children. More seats for parents. The equipment currently is I feel an embarrassment to the village for such a central location. I have overheard many people commenting that it falls woefully short and is not 'fit for purpose' ;"Is this the best that Goring can do to showcase its village

I was pleased to see the Landscape Architect's proposed plan to retain the bowling green in the Open Spaces strategy (preferred Option 1). It has come as a relief to all those who hope to continue playing croquet and bowls in the village. To destroy such a valuable facility on the grounds that the cricket club needs the space for practice nets, when it already has adequate space, could never be justified.

So in this covering email I am re-iterating my view that the council's decision last year to destroy our long established and beautiful village bowling green, and erect 4 lanes of cricket nets in its place, was nothing short of vandalism. As much as I love the game of cricket it felt greedy to allow the cricket club to monopolise the Gardiner field. The bowling green takes up the smallest amount of space of any competitive village sport while offering the only sporting facilities suitable for the most senior sporting cohort who are too old or infirm to play tennis, cricket or football. It also welcomes players of all ages. Even cricketers will grow old and when they do if the green is removed one wonders what sport will they play in their retirement, because it is very clear from the review that there is no space or money for your commitment to a replacement green on the Sheepcot at the potential cost of £250,000.

I trust that the council will set aside their original discriminatory decision and now endorse Option One in line with the recommendation of Thirlwall associates so we can all look forward to enjoying many more years of croquet and bowls in Goring.

I support Option One – to retain the bowling green - with the following provisos:

- Every summer I collect a bucket full of cricket balls []. Some of them have been found 10-15 metres from the nets. They have usually been thrown over the top of the nets by the less experienced bowlers. In my view it would be very dangerous to erect nets next to a children's playground..
- I support the current location of the nets because it is the most appropriate location for them. I live behind the existing nets and the proposed position for the new nets. There isn't space to put 4 lane nets in the NW corner of the field. From my observations over many years 3 lane nets would be more than sufficient even in the summer. In the winter they will be mostly standing empty so should be dismantled and stored. Three nets will fit in without impacting on the large trees in the vicinity. A fourth will require to be separated from the rest due to overhang and tree roots.
In the Summer the current two nets are used on weekdays in the late afternoon and early evenings, occasionally at lunchtimes and at weekends. With three nets there will be ample provision for current use. I understand that the cricket club has a booking service which allows players to plan their time and prevents the possibility of queuing. If in future years a fourth net is considered necessary additional funds can be raised to install it separately.
- The levelling and drainage of the Gardiner Field at a potential cost of up to £150,000 seem to be a disproportionate expense for a country village playing field which currently drains reasonably well. Proper maintenance in the way of weeding, solid tining (2 x per annum), scarifying and seeding as necessary could be carried out by sports clubs members. This is village sport, not Wembley or Lords. How many matches have been cancelled due to a flooded pitch? I do not support this strategy.
- My house overlooks the Gardiner field and I have lived []. I do not believe a new path is needed along its southern border. People walking from Cleeve Road to Upper Red Cross road walk diagonally from the NW corner to the Eastern boundary if they wish to reach Red Cross Road. If they wish to travel from West to East up to Upper Red Cross Road they will naturally walk up the High Street. If they wish to walk to the pavilion they wont use the path. The creation of a naturalistic planting bed, while aesthetically pleasing initially, will require a lot of maintenance and will deteriorate very quickly as it will be heavily shaded. Fielders will inevitable run over it. I do not support this strategy as it is unnecessary and expensive.