

As a long term skateboarder myself, I'd like to suggest that the park not be built near the reading road end of sheeptcot. Many times I've found that skateparks are built near a main road (ie. Newbury skatepark, etc.) and I think this is a mistake. Skateboarding is very physically intensive and whilst this is great exercise, pollution from the cars travelling in and out of the village in proximity is really not ideal.

It would be important also to put a maintenance plan in place - either through a contract or through some local committee and rota (I'm sure passionate local folks will help if asked) as the park / track will need sweeping and occasional repair. Some skateparks have storage for brooms etc. so the skaters can take care of the area when using the facility. Worth considering in the plans and budget.

I've ridden many parks in London and around the south and I'm happy to give feedback as needed.

With regards to Sheeptcote, I would vote for option 4. Although I have never been a "football fan" as such, I now spend most Saturdays on Sheeptcote [redacted] and have two children who play with the Robins. The number of girls and boys who benefit from being outside, being part of a team and having fun with the Robins is enormous. However, the condition of the pitches in extremes of weather means frequent cancellations, the pavilion is an embarrassment and the parking situation ridiculous and dangerous. Although the 3G pitch seems a very expensive option, there would be significant financial support from the FA and then savings for the club each year as they would no longer have to pay to hire facilities elsewhere. Many parents currently have to drive to and wait around in Woodcote, Moulsoford or central Reading for training and matches, which is time consuming and highly un-environmentally friendly.

I like the idea of a pump track, and I think having it at the pavillion end is important for access and observation. Increased areas of "natural play" in various parts of the village including Sheeptcote is a lovely idea. It doesn't take much to keep a younger sibling amusing while having to hang around.

I read with interest the proposal for the Pump Track or Skate Park and the 600 online signatures from people I imagine who do not live in Goring. I made a very cursory look at Google and was horrified to see the amount of reports of drug dealing and child grooming at skate parks, including the areas surrounding Goring.

Whilst on the surface this seems a fun idea, I cannot object strongly enough to this proposal. If people want the facilities of a major town, like Reading or Bracknell, maybe they should move there and not ruin the lives of people living in Goring. I suggest the committee make an in-depth assessment of drug dealing in Skate Parks and conclude that it would not be appropriate for Goring.

I think that we should ho ahead with Sheeptcot option 4 but football should also remain at Gardinerr Field. There wont be enough pitches for all the Goring Robins teams to play on.

I have read through the strategy and I am very much in favour of Option 4 for Sheeptcot and embracing moving forward with football in the village as I know so many children and adults are involved in the Football Clubs in Goring. Have a 3G pitch will massively improve the environment as all those players within the village will not have to travel out of the village to train.

Love the new open spaces plans , especially for gardener and sheeptcot , especially option 4.

my support is with Option 2. I feel this provides the right balance. It should be noticed that since the production of the report, the jubilee gardens now seems to have suffered from lack of care and would need additional support. I don't feel this is the right forum, but I would like it noted that I feel the jubilee gardens was an enormous waste of money and provides absolutely no benefit to village whatsoever.

I would like to register my vote for option 2 for the sheeptcot

I would welcome the pump track

'- I support option 4 more than the current recommendation. As pointed out in the report, during the winter months (when football is played) all the children who play for Goring Robins (which is a large number) have to travel far and wide to astro floodlit pitches. It feels such a shame that we have this incredible space available at Sheeptcot but it just can't be used for half of the year and sits there idle. Children often miss out on their training as parents are unable to get them to and from pitches far and wide.

- I support the increased car parking recommendation and skate park

- If option 2 was more widely supported I would really like the council to consider floodlights for use during the dark winter months too.

Back in spring and summer of last year, I let Goring Parish Council know of my thoughts on the Jubilee gardens. An incredible amount of money, that has created even more chaos when parking at Sheeptcot along with an unsightly welcome to the park with weeds and dying plants.

With this in mind, I would like to let you know that I fully support all additional parking options, with a view to increasing from 50-60 cars as per one of your options. There is no other football team within Berkshire & Oxfordshire, that myself and my family visit, that has such terrible parking and refreshment facilities as Goring. Therefore, we welcome your suggestions on this site and hope that it can be greatly improved with designated funding.

option 4. At the moment I drive my 7 year old to Wallingford and my 9year old to Woodcote for winter training. It would be amazing to think that we could cycle to training during the winter too. Ideally the grass pitches need to be improved further as they become really muddy due to poor drainage and if possible it would be great to make the pitches more level.

We hugely support the option 4 of the Thirlwall Associates Goring-on-Thames Open Space Strategy Report Dec 22.

- Car parking is difficult at best, both at training and game times. It is unsafe for children and cyclists due to small bays and car park under capacity and vehicles over flowing into neighbouring side streets.
- Lack of pitch space often causes issues with allowing all teams to play at home, fitting in around other teams. Improved pitch space will allow Goring Robins to grow, encouraging more young people to exercise and be part of a thriving local community.
- A new 3G pitch would allow winter month training & games. Currently all teams train at alternative winter facilities. This requires all players to commute to surrounding towns having an environmental impact.

I have read through the review document and wish to show my overwhelming support for maximising playing pitch space at Sheeptcot.

I also consider it a priority to deal with the pressing parking issue, compounded by the baffling decision to create the Jubilee Gardens in the access to Sheeptcot.

As for the Jubilee Gardens themselves, not only are they an eyesore, they also create an increased hazard for pedestrians accessing Sheeptcot. They should be removed and the access road widened to provide safe passing for cars and pedestrians.

We walk our dog there, its a great place for socialisation - important to help dogs avoid developing bad / dangerous behaviour. We do let our dog off the lead and we are meticulous about picking up and disposing of his dog mess. Im sad to say I almost always need to pick up other dog poos as I walk around or across Sheeptcote. The site needs larger clearer signage aimed at dog owners. I know the local dog owners would be disappointed if a decision was made to ban dogs on Sheeptcote.

We also have 3 children involved in different Goring Robins teams. I hate to think that children (and adult players) might fall in dog poo. So let's make it clear that it has to be picked up or risk losing the access for dogs.

The clubhouse used by Goring Robins is now too small for the number of players and visitors. Its facilities are old and basic. This is highlighted when playing away matches and visiting other clubhouses in the area. Many of the teams are performing really well - enjoying the benefits of team sport and receiving outstanding levels of coaching (from dedicated volunteers devoting significant amount to time to their own training, planning and delivering of coaching sessions and match play). They deserve better more appropriate facilities - including a floodlit 3G pitch for training and also bad-weather day matches.

We are also members of the tennis club. This is a very well organised club, benefiting from the talents of Jon Howey a professional tennis coach who provides excellent children camps in holidays as well as adult coaching sessions. I play in the summer and winter leagues. In peak season it can be problematic booking a court. In winter it can be difficult to finish a league match due to poor light. The club would benefit from more floodlit tennis courts and a clubhouse with a flushing toilet and changing rooms (men and women). At the moment a porta-loo is situated behind the little clubhouse which has sadly been vandalised and pushed over.

The installation of CCTV would provide better security and hopefully discourage those intent on damage.

I also think that the siting of carpark/clubhouses does not optimise the surface area of the site.

Goring Robins has been part of the village community since the 1970s and has enjoyed great popularity and support in the wider area, with the club aiming to increase the number of teams to 36 within the next few years (from 28 now), by increasing the number of team for girls. This could mean as many as 515 players from age 6-18.

Clearly a new and larger pavilion is needed, also parking must be increased, but more pitch space is needed too. I believe the club would like 2 additional 9v9 pitches and a 3rd 11v11 pitch. Some of this could be on gardiner rec and Streatley rec. Are there any other locations that could be considered within Goring? One option might be to add additional land to the sheeptcot site by buying the agriculture land to the south perhaps.

Goring provides no all weather floodlit training facilities for football (unlike tennis) and winter training (September- April) currently takes place in other venues. (Wallingford, Bradfield and woodcote.) This is both a huge cost to Goring Robins, (£25000)parents and the environment, and if the club expands it's girls teams will only get worse. A new all weather, floodlit facility would get a huge amount of use and also mean some matches could be played in cold weather (all matches were cancelled 21-22 of January).

I must admit putting the all weather pitch in the position shown as option 4 for sheeptcot, is crazy, it either needs to be fully behind the tennis courts, going up the site or smaller and in the bottom of the field behind the pavilion.

Parking is a major issue, would welcome any measured to improve this

Pavilion facilities very poor & it would make sense for space & money to combine with the tennis club

I am writing regarding the proposals for a new football pavilion and additional parking capacity at Sheeptcot.

Whilst both would be most welcome improvements, with so many young people playing football, I am concerned that the proposals will reduce the amount of pitches available for our teams to use.

I would strongly support improving the parking and Pavilion, but would hope this could be achieved without compromising the current space available for the young people to play football.

Any options (probably option 1/2 over option 3) - we really feel that the most important thing here is to create a pavilion that is fit for our village. Ideally it would provide a community, social aspect so players from all sports can meet after play in a comfortable environment with facilities such as changing rooms and a cafe. Parking is definitely an issue so whilst the car park does need to be extended we believe this needs doing alongside a environmental strategy that sees villagers cycle or walk to sheeptcot wherever possible - bike racks for bikes therefore would be ideal. A fenced dog walk path could go up one side of the field also to prevent dog litter on playing areas. We are dog owners ourselves but am afraid no matter how much the council have tried, owners are still not being responsible and we often have to pick up dog poo before playing on the field.

Option 3 would mitigate need for football teams to travel to winter training but I think that would need to be considered against the environmental impact of the 3G pitch itself. 3G pitch should be looked at carefully due to potential health issues caused by rubber infill. There are alternatives but this would need looking into and verifying as 100% safe.

With regards to the Sheeptcot, option 4 looks the best for the long term future of the village - although how feasible the expense for the 3G is I don't know. Certainly the greater space for parking would be helpful and the option for night training with the floodlit pitches (for a small fee for use in the evening it is possible that the huge cost could be recouped over time).

Since the installation of the Jubilee Garden (and, indeed, before) there has been a need for more parking at the Sheeptcote field, and plans to extend this are to be applauded. I note the replacement of the two current pavilions, and, whilst this shows vision on the part of the Parish Council, do you envisage how this is to be paid for, along with the other proposed changes?

Priority Two - maximise / do not reduce pitch space for Goring Robins. Improve vehicle safety at Sheeptcote.

I am involved with Goring Robins - I coach the [] and another daughter plays in the []. This is a thriving club and offers active sport for c. 350 children in the village. It is a very accessible and inclusive club. The greatest priority is playing space and I would not support any proposal that materially diminished this (at least as a net position across the village). I would encourage the PC to continue to work with the club to make sure that the overall solution for the village aligns with the ongoing needs of Goring Robins. If this can include a 3G pitch that would be great and reduce travel outside of the village for the many teams that do this every week.

Parking is a considerable problem at Sheeptcote. In my view the priority is to make access / exit for pedestrians and vehicles and the car park itself much safer - not necessarily to make it bigger.

The pavillion clearly needs work - however to be clear the Goring Robins does not need a particularly large pavillion - it does need male / female and accessible toilets and storage. It would benefit from continued use of a kitchen for a tea hut. This is much less than the £0.8 - £1.5M contained in the report and it is difficult to see how the tennis club could need that level of investment either. Please invest in pitches first - then pavillions.

The review notes that safe pedestrian access is required for Sheeptcot. There was a wide verge to walk along to access the foot gate. Why then, has this been obliterated with a poorly conceived, poorly maintained planting strip that the community did not ask for when the £10,000 (plus never-ending maintenance costs) could have gone towards improving the parking area, the skate park or clubhouse? The footpath (wide enough for a parent to walk along next to a child) should be re-instated and better parking provided before an accident happen.

I am writing to you to share my views on the above strategy for open space in Goring. Of particular interest to me is the proposed plans for Sheeptcot. Having lived in the village for many years and having three children that have grown up in the village, it is obvious to families the facilities in Goring for children is generally lacking and not fit for purpose. In an age where parents are battling with getting their children off screens and out in the fresh air, I feel some support from our local Parish Council to provide quality open spaces for our young people is essential and integral to this. Goring Robins Football club has been growing yearly since my son started over seven years ago and with the Women England Football Teams win in the Euros, girls' football is exploding. This is inspiring young girls within our communities to get involved with football at grass roots level, to get outside and get active. Girls and Women's football in Goring is growing and having a massive positive impact on mental and physical health. I would love to see our local Parish Council supporting this.

Goring Robins now has 350 children involved in competitive football and more space and parking is essential. There is a more widespread need for three G pitches across the county. The beauty of these pitches is it provides training all year round – no matter what the weather. It also reduces the amount of money Goring Robins spends on outdoor winter training. At present these teams are hiring other facilities to train in the winter. I am writing to support option four for sheeptcot.

I hope you take mine and other parents' opinions into account when deciding on the future for Goring and hear my plea for better provisions for our children within the village. Option four is a great option for greater provision – it is so greatly needed.

Is there demand for a basketball/netball court – there doesn't seem to be much for girls other than tennis and a bit of football. Do they use pump tracks – would an outdoor gym be better? Streatley has one – does it attract teenagers?

The 3G pitch looks great but a bit extravagant since we don't have a secondary school to make use of it. How much would it be used by locals – if it is going to be mostly used by outside people it would be better in Woodcote where the school can use it. Would a smaller one be adequate for winter football training and other sports and more suitable for this village?

The value given to the village through its use by the Goring Robins is substantial. I think it reasonable to assume that the expansion of girls' football within the club will continue and all that can be done to encourage this should be done. This will put further pressure on the availability of pitches. This would argue against any option (e.g. Option Three) which reduced the number available. Many of the Goring Robins teams have mid-week practice, but have to travel away in the week to do this - sometimes Langtree if lucky, though often Wallingford or Tilehurst etc.. Having the option of a 4G pitch would be of huge value (while noting the substantial cost). (As a 'Sheeptcot resident, I would still strongly support the ability for this to be used during the week for such training purposes in the evenings etc. - and indeed increased flexibility of when football can occur.)

[] with regards a pump track are that it would actually provide very little unless it was a substantial construction significantly beyond what would be feasible within the bounds of Sheeptcot without reducing the number of football pitches and being of a very different character to the rest of the field. This argues against this, unless a separate and different location was found.

Regarding Sheeptcot option four would be my favoured option. As the report highlights this site gets wide attention from other villages and towns locally and is painfully well equipped. The football and tennis that is played there is a credit to the village. Bussing with life and happy, healthy people. Option four allows this to be developed further and supported and will be a real asset to the village.

My family has enjoyed living in the Gap since [] and benefitted massively from Goring's recreational space. Our three children aged [] have been active players with Goring Robins FC through our time here. I would like to express my support for GRFC's requirements that the Open space strategy should provide;

- increased playing space for GRFC
- all-year round training facilities (astro pitch at sheeptcote)
- improved car parking for supporters.

I am a Goring resident and brought up [] boys in the village, [] whom played for the Robins, I was also a coach and committee member for many years. Goring Robins and United provide a huge benefit to the village and need all the support they can get. The plan for an illuminated all weather pitch and associated improvements is a good one and the council should support it.

An all illuminated all weather pitch would in the long term save the club money by reducing the number of venues that needed to be hired in the winter months. It would reduce the number of car journeys undertaken in the area. It would help protect the existing pitches from over use during spells of inclement weather

The new illuminated all weather pitch and changing rooms would be a source of pride for the village.

It is in this area that the most changes are contemplated and the most money spent – up to a total of almost £4 million. Four Options are considered, all of which envisage a new pavilion for use by all sports as well as an administrative office for Goring Parish Council; a refurbished tennis area; an enlarged car park; and a “pump track” for scooters and bicycles. The most ambitious proposal, Option Four, also contains provision of a new all-weather 3G pitch with lighting and fencing.

Fleeting reference is made to croquet being made available somewhere but there are no details and that indicates that it has not been given serious consideration. A workable bowls/croquet lawn needs to be laser-level, with a proper drainage and irrigation system and a fence all round to prevent dog fouling and unauthorised use.

Regarding Sheeptcot, the proposed option 2 does not seem to be the best solution to address the lack of sufficient football pitches in Goring. It would in actuality lessen the area available for playing and practising football.

Surely it is the time to undertake an ambitious project that will give improved opportunities for sport in the village. Option 4 appears to have many advantages. A full-size all-weather pitch would allow maximum use of the available space. Ground conditions would not limit the number of matches that could be played during the course of a weekend and floodlights would also extend the hours available during the week.

This would also alleviate the problem of hundreds of car journeys from the village being taken each week to venues such as Abingdon, Wallingford and Reading to allow evening training sessions to take place. This would be hugely advantageous for the environment.

Whilst this option is expensive there are large grants available which would cover the majority of the costs. The pitch should also be self-financing as it would generate considerable revenue from the hiring fees. Other sports that are currently not available in the village would also be able to benefit from the facility.

[Continued From Above]

With that being said, option 4 offers many advantages i.e. a full sized all-weather pitch would help to utilise this space and there is no (or significantly less risk) of training / games being postponed due to adverse weather conditions. Floodlights would also help massively as would allow the pitches to be used more and increase availability – currently, we have to train in Tilehurst as we cannot train in Goring during winter months due to daylight hours. This also means that many players socialise locally after training which, if in Goring, would be of benefit to local businesses i.e. pubs, not to mention reducing carbon footprint..

Whilst this may be a more costly option there are huge advantages to this, as outlined above – are there grants available that would cover the bulk of these costs? The artificial / all-weather pitch would surely pay for itself very quickly as it would be hired out for a fee i.e. to teams using it for training that the players, like myself, then pay for?

Both my [] have played football for Goring Robins at Sheeptcot for [] years and we are members of the tennis club. Additional car parking at Sheeptcot I would say needs to be the highest priority of all the village open spaces plans. We feel enormous sympathy for the poor residents of both Gatehampton and Whitehills Green where every weekend they have their drives blocked by inconsiderate car drivers (mostly visitors from the opposition teams but still incredibly annoying and frustrating).

However sport in this village especially for kids should be actively encouraged and the football club has grown to a wonderful size and encourages a fabulous community spirit and we have met and made many friends as have our kids through the club. However the existing clubhouse and car parking are no longer fit for purpose and we strongly feel it is now time to put some significant investment into the improvement of both of these facilities whilst being mindful of not reducing the pitches available on Sheeptcot.

The Cricket club has received HUGE investment from the GPC in recent years and has nowhere near the amount of members the tennis, Goring United and Goring Robins Football clubs have. It is time for them to take a backwards step with their demands and GPC to share the love around!

I would therefore welcome Option 3 for Sheeptcot which would improve the club house for both tennis and football clubs and only reduce the football pitch by one pitch which is a very small area anyway. As a side note on the use of the pitches, all the smaller ages insist on training at 9am onwards on Saturday mornings leading to the chaos that arises on Saturday morning, if these teams were encouraged to train at different times or even just a bit later, there would not be so much congestion and fight for the pitches – this just needs to be managed better by the Club I feel.

[Continued From Above]

I would also love to see the creation of the pump track. This would be a very welcome addition to our village for older kids that are not really catered for at all. However the location of the track needs to be very carefully thought about and in my opinion the only real feasible site for this is in the top corner of Sheeptcot away from the neighbouring residents (that suffer enough already!) Having two teenage kids myself I would strongly encourage they are directed far away from residents, club houses, car parks – they will be noisy, they will play music and they tend to take up a lot of unnecessary space without realising it! The majority of teenagers in this village though are courteous, respectful and would be very grateful that you have thought of them.

Regarding Sheeptcot, the proposed option 2 does not seem to be the best solution to the lack of sufficient football pitches in Goring. It would in actuality lessen the area available for playing and practising football.

Surely it is the time to undertake an ambitious project that will give improved opportunities for sport in the village. Option 4 appears to have many advantages. A full-size all-weather pitch would allow maximum use of the available space. Ground conditions would not limit the number of matches that could be played during the course of a weekend and floodlights would also extend the hours available during the week.

This would also alleviate the problem of hundreds of car journeys from the village being taken each week to venues such as Abingdon, Wallingford and Reading to allow evening training sessions to take place. This would be hugely advantageous for the environment.

Whilst this option is expensive I believe that there are large grants available which would cover the vast majority of the costs. The pitch should also be self-financing as it would generate considerable revenue from the hiring fees. Other sports that are currently not available in the village would also be able to benefit from the facility.

Thanks for all you hard work - after reviewing in more detail - I think its vital that Sheeptcot gets all weather playing surfaces so the kids can stay in Goring to train in the winter.

Tonight we have to go to Wallingford and wait in the cold for an hour while my [] trains!!

A new pavilion is essential but so is having as many all weather / year round pitches as possible.

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

We strongly support the need for a new pavilion and also additional parking capacity. The pavilion is no longer fit for purpose and not reflective of our wonderful village and parking is a real issue for football participants and the local residents. Out of the 4 pitches we prefer option 4 with the 3G pitch as there is a real issue with winter training venues so this will really help.

The tennis club also needs a new pavilion with its own area specific for tennis, preferably with toilet facilities, the current building is not really fit for purpose and needs a significant upgrade.

Sheeptcot and other provision for community football

As with many others in the village I'm proud of the level of participation in football within the community. Its particularly gratifying seeing the growth of girls and women's football that the club have facilitated.

I'm glad to see the recognition of the wholly inadequate parking and pavilion at Sheeptcot. When looking at the facilities of other local communities, it highlights just how far behind we are and the development of the pavilion and parking must be the priority.

What isn't recognised within the report is chronic lack of playing and training space for the football teams. The Goring Robins currently has 28 teams and is likely to grow to 36 teams. Currently there isn't enough playing and training space for all those teams. The options within the plan all show a reduction in playing space, when the need is for additional space within the village. This is the biggest flaw within the plan and any proposal must include adequate space to cater for this vibrant club.

The other important point on Sheeptcot is how the 3G pitch is represented. A 3G pitch would bring huge benefits to the community and football club. Not only would it resolve a large part of the space issue, because of the amount of playing time a 3G pitch can support; it would also allow training within the community rather than spending large amounts of money to train elsewhere. This money could then be reinvested in facilities, with the additional benefit of supporting climate action objectives by significantly reducing the need for travel by car. My understanding from the football club and FA who would support funding the development, is that a 3G pitch would not be located as outlined in the plan and any options would be more sympathetic to the site.

To summarise, I support option 4, with a realistic provision and orientation of a 3G facility. I support an increase in provision of space for football within the village and would be strongly opposed to any reduction in football space.

This venue is too far from the centre of the village to be suitable for croquet and bowls, because not all older people have their own transport. Also, to maintain provision of sporting opportunities for all age groups, a new lawn (at very considerable expense and with concomitant effects on climate change) would need to be constructed here before the lawn at the Gardiner was destroyed to make way for cricket nets.

Any increase in lighting at this venue would need to be considered in terms of wildlife (see Bourdillon above), as well as local householders.

I would like to comment that the strategy has many good ideas but in particular the kayak launching at Ferry Lane and pump track at Sheeptcote have my support.

The pump track would be an excellent facility for older children and younger teenagers who, although have no shortage of structured activities in the village, need spaces of their own to develop independence and creativity.

Options 4 at sheeptcot but with the pump track moved to the left hand side the pavilion would be needed close to a pitch/3g to allow a path walk way to and from carpark and pavilion also would leave more area for the carpark.

The 2 full size pitches actually wouldn't be like it is in the report so instead of going across the field they both would run up and down

[]Oxfordshire FA development officer said at a meeting with [Cllr] said that the 3g it would be better placed behind the tennis courts then this way it would be less on the eye and run up and away from the courts so more or less in line with the tennis courts looking up the field.

[] also mentioned we would get more funding with a pavilion and 3g built together then just on or other built

Pavilion requirement:

4 changing rooms football

Referee's changing room

Cubicle showers

lockers for clothes and valuables for players storage for equipment

Garage to house tractor and equipment so double the size we have now.

Tea hut/bar facilities seating area/hall space

Viewing area for spectators up stairs Viewing area for tennis club

Dry area for tennis club changing room

Out side access for toilets ladies men disabled 1 each Helps restricted the footfall inside.

Cctv cameras in each corner of pavilion.

Bike storage area

Water fountain access for out side

[Continued From Above]

With this each plan we loose 2 training areas we would need that space back somewhere?

We already have 1 of these spaces at gardeners?

Goring Primary school will able to use 3g pitch for various activities

Streatley Primary school could do the same as both have lack of space out side

I would like to support Option 4 for Sheepecote.

Thank you

Option 2 for Sheeptcot (so wonderful to see a pump track included in this!)

And option 4 for sheeptcot

I wish to rise my objection to the proposed pump track/skate area at Sheeptcot. I and many fellow residents fear that this space will be a site for antisocial behaviour.

I am fully supportive of the proposed improvements to the football and tennis facilities, which have a proven positive track record within our community.

I am writing to confirm my support for a 4G pitch at Sheeptcote fields. I think this would be an incredible asset to the village, bringing accessible sport to the village - all year round.

I am also supportive of upgrading the pavilion at sheeptcote which is clearly in real need of updating.

I hope that the plans for the 4G pitch, pavilion and play equipment go ahead - the benefits to the village will be seen for years to come.

I prefer option 4 for Sheeptcot or option 2 if money is an issue.

I would like to see more picnic benches – for large family groups and or BBQ places in sheeptcot maybe at the top end of the site.

We live [] and wanted to give our support to the refurb to the parking and football pavilion. We use sheeptcot for football and tennis all the time and would love to see it upgraded for all the community, and for years to come.

My [child] has been a member of Goring Robins FC for [] years. We live outside outside of the village. The consultation about the use of the Sheeptcote is welcome and the documentation provided is comprehensive and highly-informative. I agree with the focus on upgrading the existing facilities and improving the parking facilities. I can understand the frustrations of local residents and the safety implications of the current arrangements. I am concerned that all 4 proposals result in the loss of the two small training areas. These are used every week for the most junior members of the club, and there is no indication of the alternative arrangements for their training. It is wonderful to see so many youngsters attending training and these are the future of the club. I understand the membership of the club is growing. Certainly the number of female members of the club has increased during our involvement. It is imperative that all age-groups have space to train on a Saturday and I would hope that there is an option to increase parking and maintaining the facilities for training.

Provision of a 3G pitch, particularly the lighting, would have a severe adverse impact on the rural nature of the village. Light pollution has been generally avoided in Goring and this should remain a priority.

There has been a suggestion that bowls and croquet could be relocated from Gardiner, but Sheeptcot is more remote from the village centre and would lead to increased use of cars rather than walking.

Refurbishment and upgrading of existing buildings almost always has a lower carbon footprint than demolition and rebuilding, and should be the preferred option for the two pavilions if feasible. Providing offices for the Parish Council should be a low priority when considering how best to make use of existing public open spaces in the village.

After viewing the open space strategy, I believe option 4 for Sheeptcot is the best option.

For context, I was previously involved with Goring Robins, [] I no longer have any direct involvement in the club as my son is now too old. Iso, I should mention that I live in Streatley, so although I am not a Goring resident, I consider the open spaces that you oversee as 'communal' resources for both villages given our proximity and close relationship.

I strongly support the proposals for improving Sheeptcot, in particular Option 4.

Whilst I acknowledge that Option 4 is the most ambitious and hence expensive, the provision of an artificial pitch would be revolutionary for the village(s). This was something that we discussed much during my tenure. The artificial pitch will provide all weather training (and match playing) facilities that will make a significant difference to the football club but can be a multi-purpose. This will help to alleviate any complaints that the Rec is too focused on football.

On that subject, whilst I appreciate that not everyone is interested in football, it has to be recognised that Goring Robins enables hundreds of children to enjoy what is undeniably the number sport in the UK.

This is very much to the credit of Goring as it attracts children and families from many surrounding villages that are too small to run their own clubs. The success of the club reflects well on the village and you as a Council.

But what does not reflect well is the quality of facilities at the Rec, namely parking, the pavilion, the toilets, the waste bins, etc. The club is successful despite the facilities, not because of the facilities. Many visiting clubs commented on this - it needs to be addressed with urgency.

Another important factor about supporting the club is that football is the fastest growing sport in the country in terms of female participation. We noticed this trend during my tenure at the club and it has continued since. The club and the sport is having a significant impact on diversity and inclusion. Along with the well recognised benefits of physical activity and being part of a team, these positive impacts on the wider community and society cannot be overlooked.

Thank you for your work on this important subject and I look forward to further news and development.

I am writing in support of Sheeptcot recommended Option Two.

This increases parking spaces, and provides for a wide age range of users.

I would also suggest more benches, especially on the southern/eastern periphery, for walkers and spectators, but away from neighbouring homes.

Thanks for the already greatly improved access to Whitehills Green, much appreciated.

Questions to Goring Parish Council.

1. When was consultation done by Thirlwall Associates and why were adjacent home owners to the facilities and car park not contacted?

2. Analysis of expected usage of facilities 12 months /year, 16 hours/day.

It would be helpful to see this analysis as the objective of the development is to encourage more extensive use of the four facilities (Pavilion, football, tennis and new pump track) including floodlit winter evenings. This would raise natural questions about noise and light pollution for adjacent properties. Is remedial work planned to minimise the impact?

3. Position of pump track. Option 4. places the pump track adjacent to the tennis courts. This would provide improved natural surveillance and evening lighting when the tennis courts are in use. It also moves a major source of summer evening noise away from properties. Why not do this?

4. Toilet facilities.. Proposed increase in human traffic and extended hours will demand adequate and well maintained toilet facilities and discourage the current random urinating along hedges. Will toilet facilities be available when the pavilion is closed?

5. Car park.

A. Is any structure planned (fencing , wall,) between the extended carpark and adjacent properties, some of which are less than 10 metre from and below the height of the carpark?

B. Are speed bumps planned to discourage improper use and noise?

[Continued from Above]

C. The car park will become an alternative for skateboarding and sport biking when the pump track is busy. How will this be managed?

D There is a much simpler, cheaper and more environmentally way to provide extra car parking. The 'not to scale' drawing suggests at least a doubling in capacity.

6. Natural surveillance. Is there a definition for this term? Will any security cameras be installed to encourage reasonable behaviour? Currently the less visible areas of the fields are used for loud music, barbecuing, throwing food, tree climbing, littering and urinating. Signage and Bin facilities will need to increase to cope with this.

7. Dog fouling. It is understood that dogs should be kept on leads in public spaces which is not the case at Sheeptcot. Fouling on pitches happens regularly. Is a PSPO (Public space protection order) planned for the new development? Option 4 would help with this.

Most of the above points aim to allow the enjoyment of the extended facilities while minimising the impact on adjacent homes and of poor behaviour by the minority of visitors which unfortunately cannot be ignored. Could volunteer park wardens be appointed?

As a parent of a child who plays for Goring Robins, I have considered the open spaces strategy document. Overall I would support any option that maintains or increases the pitch capacity at Sheeptcot or elsewhere as I understand that every week the club struggles to find enough space for its matches and training. I understand that a 3G pitch would save the club substantial sums every year spent on renting alternative facilities in the winter.

In addition I would support a pump track as I feel the village lacks facilities for older children / young teens.

I support the idea of slightly better dog facilities but think it would be good to put these at sheeptcot. Some villages have a dog washing facility which is helpful for some (although may attract travellers as easy/free water supply).

I'm concerned that no account has been taken of the use of sheeptcot field by dog walkers. This is the only safe space to walk dogs off lead without traffic in the village and it is heavily used and enjoyed by dog walkers. I do not think a skate park sits well alongside this current use of the field. A noisy skate park will also be disruptive to wildlife and ruin the countryside aesthetic if located at the top of the field.

I agree that the car park could be enlarged and if the pavilion as to be rebuilt the 2 go well together as a significant improvement. I think to add anything else to the field will disrupt current usage, potentially moving it elsewhere in the village to have further disruptive effects.

As a village we don't need to provide every facility going and certainly don't need something that attracts teens from outside the village to loiter and find themselves at a loose end!

I would like to express my views as a resident of Whitehills Green, next to Sheeptcot, in relation to the proposed public spaces development.

First of all, I would like to say that Sheeptcot is a great facility for the village, and I am not against any appropriate development to improve life for young people in the village, or that ameliorates existing issues.

However, currently, it must be recognised that there are certain issues for residents of Whitehills Green, and I'm sure other surrounding areas, in terms of car parking and occasional noise.

Most weekends during the football season, Whitehills Green is completely inundated with vehicles, very often parked inappropriately, and certainly in a way that would block access for any larger emergency vehicles should they be needed.

Therefore, any plan to extend the car parking in Sheeptcot would be welcome, especially if it was combined with tighter parking restrictions on Whitehills Green so as to reduce inappropriate levels of traffic.

The idea to upgrade and combine the tennis and football pavilions also seems like a great idea.

[Continued From Above]

I would like to question the sizing of the pump track proposed. For the size of funds suggested to build it, it would appear a pump track of much larger size than drawn is envisaged. This would have a significant visual impact, and with the nearby train station, would inevitably attract people from surrounding villages, and Reading.

Already, Sheeptcot, during the warmer months, attracts teenagers on a regular basis, playing loud music and other antisocial activity well into the early hours.

Just a cursory Google search on news surrounding pump tracks finds many articles suggesting they can become magnets for 'negative' aspects beyond their original purpose - especially the sort of antisocial behaviour mentioned above. This is particularly true in unsupervised facilities, such as the one proposed.

If a pump track is decided to be a good idea, a small-scale pump track, perhaps towards the tennis courts would be more appropriate. This would still be an attraction, and of benefit for the youth of our village, but not so much of an attraction to those outside of our village.

Locating a pump track at the top of the field, would remove any sort of surveillance, and would not be appropriate in my view. This is already the location of the antisocial behaviour mentioned above, and could only exasperate the situation.

[Continued From Above]

In regards to the football expansion, a large floodlit pitch in the middle of Sheeptcot is surely completely inappropriate for a village the size of Goring, located in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

While I love the hubbub of the football, and obvious benefit to youth in the village provided by the football team, this type of facility is surely more suited to larger conurbations, and in locations where it doesn't negatively impact the natural surroundings so obviously. For example, the Wallingford Hithercroft facility, only 15 minutes away, is primarily located within a business park environment.

Such a pitch, in order to be economically viable, would also require a much more businesslike approach, turning it from a village team facility into a commercial operation of some scale.

Many thanks for this opportunity to comment.

In general agree that this area is in need of improvement with the focus on football and tennis.

Improved parking is a good idea.

New pavilions are a good idea.

Pump track seems a good idea but not sure how much it would really be used?

3G pitch is incredibly expensive and I would question this unless there is a detailed plan showing how it would be utilised to achieve a return on the investment

Tennis courts seem to be used regularly and do need to be maintained.

Having read the Open Spaces report, I would like to endorse the plan to develop and improve Sheepcoe Recreation ground. Goring Robins provides such an important opportunity for young people in our villages to play football at Sheepcote It is important that facilities here are improved and the number of pitches maximised so to optimise the club's capacity to provide sports opportunities for our young people. The improvements to pitches will provide badly needed drainage. Our young people have been badly impacted by the pandemic and football so important for both physical and mental wellbeing.

Having often witnessed the fantastic work Goring Robins do to promote and to provide football for girls and boys throughout the age groups Option 3 is not viable.
All other options 1, 2 and 4 would be welcomed subject to funding.

Priority 1. Sheeptcot

This area attracts the biggest footfall to Goring and therefore should take priority. The current facility offering is an embarrassment (awful pavilion/nasty loo/no parking for all those 4x4s) and definitely not a great reflection of Goring village and all it has to offer.

Option 4 with the 3G pitch would maximise pitch capacity and provide the opportunity for all-year-round training, allowing the significant money currently spent on winter ground hire (by Goring Robins) to be put back into actual resources for the club. It would also reduce the number of cars and therefore carbon footprint by those leaving Goring on weekday evenings for football training at The Oratory, Pangbourne College and Langtree.

Pump track/Skate park - about time! Also great for all the siblings that are dragged along and don't play football.

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

Sheeptcot – option 1

I support Option 2. Comments:

I support the refurbishment (and/or extension) of the current pavilion to make a combined facility for football and tennis (and extension for a parish office if required). The structure seems sound, the heating system looks reasonably new, improved insulation would be good. A total redevelopment would result in a large loss of embodied carbon, something the Council, if it has really made a "strong commitment to sustainability" (P7), must avoid. As the review suggests, the pavilion needs smartening up externally while internally it seems functional.

I strongly disagree with the proposal to extend the car park. It will never be big enough for everyone who wants to drive their car! Encouraging car use (with more parking space) is obviously never going to address global warming and people need persuading to change their behaviour. Car use needs to be reduced, particularly for local journeys. I believe its time GPC stood up and made a public commitment to sustainability and took some practical steps towards zero carbon. Behavioural change can be brought about by incentives. For example, GPC could establish a 'Greening Goring' initiative, so that sports users arriving at Sheeptcot on foot, by bike or scooter, could be rewarded with perhaps 'GG' credits/awards certificates or 'GG' lollipops or 'GG' badges etc, etc. Incentives could be tailored to youngsters or their driver parents, but we do know that youngsters are likely to be the most effective agents for climate change, and that parents respond to demands from their children. Perhaps all the sports clubs (and school) could adopt a "Greening Goring" initiative with GPC's encouragement?

I believe that existing parking spaces should be managed to ensure that:

- visiting teams share vehicles where possible (more incentives??)
- visiting teams are allocated reserved car parking spaces booked in advance
- spaces for disabled users are available
- local children/parents/sports users are encouraged/incentivised to walk, cycle, scoot etc

[Continued From Above]

I believe that parking on the access road should be banned - it is obviously unsafe. People should be prepared to walk! We know that nationally, sports clubs, and football clubs in particular, have led the way in changing behaviour for the better, for example, encouraging school and college drop outs to value education by relating learning to something they find exciting and fun ie football, so the chances are that our local clubs/teams can make a big difference with a bit of encouragement!

And here's an example of what Dale Vince, founder of Ecotricity has achieved with his village football team, now described as the most sustainable football team in the world: <https://www.fifa.com/fifaplus/en/articles/forest-green-rovers-environment-green-league-one-dale-vince>

I would prefer option 4 in relation to Sheeptcot.

This is in order for training to be carried out in the village at evenings, so that people do not have to drive to wallingford, woodcote or pangbourn.

Football is growing in the village and there is demand for a 3G pitch.

Parking

I'm pleased to see there are plans to enlarge the car park that serves Sheeptcot but I do wonder if the plans will make this large enough. On Saturday I counted the cars parked on the road in Whitehills Green due to there being junior football on the field. I could see just over 40 vehicles not belonging to residents parked on the road, and this is in addition to those already parked in Sheeptcot and any others parked on Gatehampton Road. As a consequence it appears the need for an enlarged car park in Sheeptcot field is a major requirement and I fully support it. I do however hope that sufficient area is given to a new car park to eliminate the periodic parking issues that blight the neighbouring roads.

Pump Track

I am not in favour of a pump track at all. Such a facility seems out of place in a village of our size, and is likely to promote elements intent on anti-social behaviour, some examples of which already take place on Sheeptcot field. In the summer months in particular we get disturbances at night from youths who congregate on the field in the evening and night. So anything that may increase this I am totally opposed to.

Floodlit Soccer Pitch

I am not in favour of a floodlit soccer pitch on the field due to the increased noise and disturbance in the evenings. I am happy about there being more soccer pitches on the field, since this seems an appropriate use, but not if they are floodlit.

[Continued From Above]

New pavilion

The pavilion clearly needs redeveloping so I am in favour of that and if the tennis clubhouse needs the same then I'm in favour of that.

Field maintenance

Maintenance of the grass and hedges bordering the field is important and mainly carried out by tractor based machinery. But some of the plans could be interpreted to show that insufficient room has been allowed around the edge of the field for this to be carried out. So when the detailed plans are developed please ensure maintenance is not compromised by possibilities such as the new car park being laid too close to any of the boundaries.

Please see below for our family comments on the Open Spaces Review:

For us, we would like the Bourdillon and Sheeptcote to be the prioritised areas for development as there is little in the village for young, primary school aged children compared to other villages in the the same district.

With Sheeptcote, option 4 would be a great investment for the village and really support Goring Robins FC which is a massive community group that supports the development and health of our children at very little cost thanks to all the amazing volunteers. The cost of the 3G pitch is huge but perhaps an investment as could be rented out for training purposes and option 4 has the biggest car park which is essential too.

If a pump track were to be put in, this should be near the car park or tennis courts for safety reasons. The pump track is a good idea but not over the development of the play area in our opinion.

we think a shared and much improved larger pavilion between the tennis club and football club should be built, with facilities that suit both groups, including a space that can be used for sports and community events (perhaps also with a bar and TV screen to show sports events for families). There is a desperate need for more parking too. The 3G pitch would be an excellent addition to the site too as currently the teams are needing to travel outside of the village for training during the Winter months at considerable cost. We are not sure where the best place for the 3G pitch would be and would leave that to the football club to advise. Although we think the skate park/pump track would be a welcome addition to the site and would provide a play area for older children, it would be great if this could be positioned in a way that doesn't reduce the number of football pitches. We also agree some natural/wild play equipment around the edges of the site would be a good idea and believe younger children would enjoy this while watching older siblings play football. We think these proposals should be prioritised.

Any plan for Sheeptcot must ensure the existing privacy of those living around the site. For [example] any alteration being made to the hedge[s]. This hedge affords us both privacy and is a thriving habitat for the local bird population.

A floodlit 3G pitch as proposed in Option 4 would be an unwelcome additional contributor to light pollution. The area already suffers from light pollution as a result of the tennis courts and railway station being within close proximity so any addition to this as a local resident would be concerning.

Sheeptcot is frequented heavily by kids using it as a meeting place, in particular in the A71summer. I am fully in support of the council creating safe outdoor spaces for U18's to meet and hang out, it is important for creating an inclusive community. However, it is an unfortunate reality that on occasion the current behavior of a minority of these kids using Sheeptcot drifts towards the antisocial with loud music, drinking, and weed smoking not uncommon. Often, they do this in the north-west corner []. This is a nuisance in summer as it puts them within close proximity of [] back gardens. My concern is proposed changes inadvertently exacerbating this problem, in particular if the pump track or skate park were to be located close to houses, as in Option 2. I believe it is important that any future plans for Sheeptcot acknowledge this behavior and are shaped in a way to limit and discourage antisocial behaviour.

All the options for Sheeptcot entail extending the car park. This will add cost and reduce the green space which seems to run contrary to the proposal's ethos. Given this would it not be better to utilise the Railway Station's existing car park? The only time the Sheeptcot car park is full is during the weekend mornings when youth and adult football matches are being played. The rest of the time the current car park is adequate and often mostly empty. The peak times for Sheeptcot coincide with when the Railway Station car park is at its emptiest. The issue here in my opinion is signage directing people back to the station car park, and parking enforcement to prevent people parking where they shouldn't on Gatehampton Road.

My son plays football for the Goring Robins in the Under[]s. I have read and considered the open spaces strategy document. I completely support any option that would improve pitch capacity at Sheeptcot as I know it's a constant juggle for the management and coaching staff and at present there isn't sufficient capacity. All the kids throughout the years get so much benefit from the club, both physically and mentally and increasing the pitch capacity will enable the net to be cast wider to benefit the local community and its kids. I understand the 3G pitch will also be a huge financial benefit to the club and divert the needs for substantial sums to be spent on renting alternative facilities.

In addition, I would support the development of a pump track which would be enormously beneficial to the town.

As a resident of [adjacent to Sheeptcot], I am in favour of any future development which creates more activities for the young people of our village, but not to the extent of building a pump track or a floodlit football pitch. I think that if money is available to be spent it should be used to improve the pavilions and extend the car park. [Roads adjacent to Sheeptcot are] awash with cars at weekends, frequently making it difficult to get out of drive.

Local residents should certainly be given the chance to review any concrete plans that are made.

For Sheeptcot, we support the enlargement of the car park, as the current situation cannot continue! As well as 3G pitches to help with winter training (Option 4)

We are very pleased to see the parish council are addressing the issue of parking at Sheeptcote. This is perhaps by far the most important issue to address.

With the number of teams, the Robins FC now have in action at the weekend, along with the tennis matches taking place, an extra 30 (larger) parking spaces would massively ease congestion along Gatehampton Road and Whitehills Green.

We are a sporty family with all of us either active at the tennis club and/or playing football. I would strongly agree with the plans to build a new clubhouse/pavillion. The current building is extremely tired and not big enough for the amount of people using it.

The toilet in the current clubhouse is a disgrace and is always rather embarrassing sending opposition teams to use the facility. It is quite clear that the tennis club needs separate changing and toilet facilities from the football club so the idea of a joint clubhouse with each sport having it's own area is an idea we fully support. The proposed location of the new clubhouse is ideally situated to suit all sports.

The expensive one. Go slowly with commitments, however important to get facilities in for teenagers, so proposed Pump track perhaps to be put in before all else, once layout decided. Rebuilding to be done in stages. The all weather pitch seems a huge outlay and commitment, so probably a step too far.

I would like to express my concern about the possible use of Astro turf. I appreciate it could provide all weather use of the pitch but that would be at great environment cost.

I support the idea of some kind of pump track /bike / skate track. This was suggested for the Sheeptcot Field about 25 years when the then Parish Council suggested our young people should go to Wallingford if they wanted to participate in such activities ! I trust our current Councillors will not be of the same opinion.

Option 4 puts the track quite close to Gatehampton Road neighbours , but supervision would be easier from this position especially when there is lighting.

If the track is positioned at the top of the hill I imagine any noise would travel further.

Whichever position is given further consideration there will surely be objections again from the neighbours but my earlier comment applies.

Never buy a property next to a facility unless you understand people will be using it .

Pump track great idea for our children but does need regular maintenance.
Signage is needed for access to the field along with more parking.

The football club has a HUGE presence in the village and provides sport & outdoor activity for literally hundreds of young (& maybe older) people of our village every weekend and regularly during the week. This in itself means we should be investing in the facilities for the future of Goring Robins /FC. All [] of our children play for the club.
The parking at Sheepecote & environs needs to be improved urgently; I don't know what the solution is here - but the volume of cars arriving on a Saturday (& maybe Sunday?) and needing to park needs to be resolved. I think it would also be beneficial to have floodlights at Sheepecote if that was possible.
The pavilion at Sheepecote needs modernising and upgrading.

The football facilities in the village are poor at present and as a parent of a member of goring robins u[] girls team I am keen to see investment for future children to benefit. Having travelled to many away matches over the years where facilities are way more than adequate it is somewhat embarrassing to then host back at Sheepecot with no changing facilities, appropriate parking, refreshment, or any other amenities for those travelling with younger family members.

I am full supportive of developing the facilities in Sheepecot and I say this as someone who lives within 100m of the park. The space is an incredible resource for the village and community and more can be made of it. I have no concerns around noise generate in the park. It is clear that more parking is required, that the existing pavilion is not fit for purpose, that more can be offered with the space, but that there must be no reduction in football pitch capacity across the village given that is already an issue today. I would welcome the addition of a skate or pump track as mentioned in a few of the options – I have no concerns this would attract “a bad crowd” – we should share our good fortune in having this space with those around us and I don't see any issue at the Cholsey skate park which is a good comparison. Adding a 3G pitch would be a fantastic resource for the village, would extend the number of sports that could use the park (e.g. hockey) and save local residents having to trapse to other villages with their children for winter training facilities (e.g. at Langtree School). Given all of this I would say Option 4 is the most appropriate, although the exact size and location of the 3G pitch is debateable. Whilst the cost of this development is significant, I can think of few better ways to support the village at this time.

I would go for Option Four a state of the art 3G pitch (with sand crumb or rubber crumb with a low concentration of PAH) with appropriate amount of parking and a shared club house with wet and dry areas (separation is crucial) for tennis and football. Think of the revenue that is wasted with all the teams in Goring Robins having to source training grounds in the surrounding area often as far afield as Wallingford and Reading. 11 cars or more heading out and back probably every night of the week and fees lining the pockets of private schools and businesses outside the community. If we had our own facility it would be used so widely across the community, not just for football. The primary schools will have somewhere to finally play sports in all weather.

We also love the idea of a pump track which would add much needed recreation for kids of all ages - teenagers alone and younger children with parents.

We are very in favour of a refurb of the tennis courts and padel courts. We all have tennis lessons with [] and our children do his tennis camps each holiday. We are also keen padel players which has become a very fashionable sport especially for older players as the need to move around the court and power to hit shots is less compared to tennis. It is extremely fun and accessible for all ages and children also enjoy it very much. It is huge in Spain and even Andy Murray has been getting behind padel in a big way across the UK.

It is good to see that ample parking has also been considered for Option 4 as currently it is dangerous chaos on a Saturday.

If Option 4 is not viable due to lack of funding for the 3G pitch then Option 3 would be satisfactory. Taking any other option would be a wasted opportunity.

Car Parking - Due to the shortage of car parking spaces and problems with overflow parking in Gatehampton Road all users ofsheeptcot should be encouraged to walk or cycle to the site and where this is not possible to car share.

Pump Track and Skate Board facility - This is a useful facility to add to Sheeptcot, but great care should be taken on where it is sited. These are very noisy activities so need to be sited away from the housing that backs onto Sheeptcot and away from the tennis courts. The North East corner of the site is therefore the only suitable option. I was very surprised that Option 4 has the Pump Track and Skate Board Facility immediately behind the tennis courts.

Similarly, are toilets an option at Sheeptcote (if you're not there playing with access to one of the clubs pavilions) or the Rec, whilst there are toilets in the centre of the village that's actually quite a long way for either little legs or older legs.

Very in favour of the pump track being close to the pavilion and car park for accessibility for those coming from across the village with those with little legs who won't be able to walk/cycle / pushchair to the site (the one in the far top corner is far too inaccessible for the majority).

If possible, please provide an area for teenagers to also skate, or at least be active without risk of colliding with a wobbly 5 year old. They deserve to have a fun and appropriate area to be active too.

I was one of the 'young' people supporting the skate park proposed in the 1990's, and it's such a shame that that has still not happened. People of all ages need to be accommodated in this village. I am now 38, I spoke at a GPC meeting when I was 17-18, so it would be great if this original ambition could be realised 20+ years later.

Very in favour of improved parking – I hear this is a real bug bear for many users. Not sure how many spaces are needed however, how big is 50-60? Is that larger than the Wheel Orchard? That seems a lot, context would help here! Need to balance parking with the inevitability that the car park location would mean a big tarmac area where most people come onto the site. Who is able to use the Pavillion, and what will be added to it inside if it is over double the size? More of the same, or will there be more rooms wider usage? How in desperate need is the current pavilion of upgrade?

3G football pitch seems a good idea for weather proofing, but not at the expense of everything else (if it comes to cost)

Perhaps this could be a future upgrade? Also, not enough information in here to explain the benefits, I have just assumed it's better for all-weather play, but is it? Do we need flood lighting? How much will people play in all weather in the dark nights?

Keen to ensure natural wildlife is considered for lighting, making sure it turns off and isn't on all night etc.

Agree with Recommended Option 2.

Our family are supporters of and involved with both tennis and football. We also use Sheeptcot to regularly walk our dog, as do many families with dogs.

Keeping the field as grass means there is more space for dogs to be off the lead during the week when the pitches aren't being used. This, in my view makes the field more accessible to more of the community through out the week than if a 3G pitch was added. But I do understand the football communities wish for the 3G pitch and the benefits it could bring them.

Pump track being closer to the car park is safer than up by the exit to the main Reading Rd. Think the pump track should definitely include a skate ramp as this has been requested for the village for a very long time.

Increasing the car parking is essential for this area for all users.

Will the tennis courts remain as the existing tennis court surface? This would seem sensible as the tennis club is so popular and as much needed as the football pitches. I'm not sure if the padel court is different..? Are padel courts an addition to the 5 tennis courts.

Drainage across the whole field needs much improvement.

There appears to be errors or inconsistencies within the report. For instance, page 77 presents Option Two as the 'recommended option'. This locates the 'pump track' to the westly corner adjacent the extended car parking, yet page 81 conveys a voted on principle during the earlier consultation to have the 'pump track or skate park area' at the 'top of the hill' (by 'top of the hill', I assume this refers the north eastly corner?). Page 82 concludes that the principle was sound and that 'the location on the field seemed most appropriate'. What are the reasons for this change in principle and location?

The existing levels of natural light and privacy enjoyed by those residents living adjacent to Sheeptcot should be respected, maintained and not diminished. The properties forming Kings Mews and Queens Court are the closest to Sheeptcot given their somewhat smaller rear gardens. Extending the car parking in this direction will likely diminish current levels of privacy with running car engines creating noise and fumes which will undoubtedly affect those resident's whose dwelling are awfully close to this position.

Notwithstanding the above, extending the car parking provisions appears somewhat contrary to maximising Goring's open spaces in that, in this instance, it sacrifices the two training pitches extensively used by some of Goring's youngest budding footballers. Further, peek times at Sheeptcot exactly correlate with quite times at Goring Railway Station car park. Efforts to utilise existing feasible facilities should be thoroughly explored before extending the car parking within Sheeptcot. It should also be acknowledged that a fair percentage of those using Sheeptcot do walk. An over provision in car parking may well encourage those current walkers to drive in the future.

[Continued From Above]

The 'pavilion' shouldn't be unnecessarily tall (unlike the current building).
Any additional/relocated floodlighting should not spill or reflect light onto/into local resident's properties.
Any floodlighting, and timing of operation, should respect wildlife.

The 3G pitch, complete with fencing and lighting, presented in Option Four is not in keeping with the general open appearance and character of Sheeptcot. The pitch is indicated centrally on Sheeptcot occupying the whole width of the space. Once fenced, with the typical 4.5mtr high fencing 3G pitches are provided with, views out from Sheeptcot toward Great Chalk Wood will be obscured/diminished.

Can The PC confirm the proposals align with, and do not contravene, any land covenants or AONB responsibilities?

vote for option 4 - use of year round pitch needed and will be utilised

Option 4 would mean we would be able to use it all year for training. Rather than having to drive to nearby villages/towns for football training (Wallingford and Woodcote).

The improved pavilion is desperately needed as is improved parking due to the impact on local residents.

I am now involved with Goring Robins. I run my sons under [] team, I have done since he was []! The team is massive in this village, so many people involved boys and girls it's really remarkable. Our facilities again are in decay, we all travel out to various villages to train and pay for their state of the art facilities. The kids deserve better this winter so far sheeptcot has hardly been playable, option 4 with the all weather pitch would be a no brainer for everyone financially and environmentally. So please option 4 is the best going forward for the whole village, an all weather sports facilities would benefit so many people.

If a new multipurpose pavilion is built on Sheeptcot can there be toilets accessible to all , not just Club members

A 3G pitch would be most welcome (although perhaps not in the orientation on the drawings) and additional parking is a must-have.

Sheeptcot is clearly a contentious area with the money wasted on seemingly ill considered Jubilee planting and the need for more parking. I think it is also important that this consultation considers the needs of teenagers in the area. Teenagers get a bad name when there are no facilities for them. I think the skate park idea is a great idea (look at Cholsey), but perhaps a pump track might not address the need to cater for teenagers too. I support option 2 the recommended option. A new pavillion with bike racks is a great idea too.

The plan of including toilets are Sheeptcot for those who do not have access to the club pavilion would be great, and I think the idea of extending the car park would be amazing and is very much needed.

Sheeptcot, in my opinion, is a close second. Such a big space with sadly regular traffic disputes and such potential to really use it for all ages. The Summer of Play in particular highlighted just how lucky we are to have such a big, open and beautiful space to enjoy. Having things like the pump track, additional parking and toilets would really help make the most of this space - as well as having football nets that are open to all outside of the club usage.

Water fountains/drinking water refill stations would be beneficial in at least the three areas where there is active and physical activity (Bourdillon, Sheeptcot and Gardiners Rec). I also agree there needs to be more public toilets in the village as one is not enough. Maybe somewhere in Sheeptcot?

I agree with the Sheeptcot plans in principle. I think upgrading the pavilion, football pitches and including a pump park is a great idea but to me I think the priority is to extend the car park. I was not in favour of the Jubilee garden as I believe the positioning was impractical and I think there must have been a better place for it within the village. It means there is no pavement up to the field and pedestrians have to walk down the drive which can be dangerous during busy times.

Sheeptcot is total carnage at the weekends. Option 2 looks fantastic. A new combined pavilion and larger car park is definitely a priority but a pump track would also be great. There is nothing to do at Sheeptcot if you are not playing football or tennis. (I know this as only 1 child plays football and the other gets very bored waiting!) As much as the 3g pitch would be amazing and the cherry on the top I'm not sure how this is done without being unneighbourly. Most important is to make sure we don't lose a football pitch as space is already difficult, Could one pitch move to Gardinar? This seems like a very large space just for cricket? Or could the pump track move to Gardinar?

I am pleased that all options support the creation of a new combined clubhouse/pavilion for use by both the football club and the tennis club. I see this as a definite need and a better use of the existing space.

I would like to see the pavilion include toilets with external access so it could be utilised by dog walkers and users of the pump track outside of times when the football club and tennis club are using the area

I am also pleased to see that all options extend the car parking space available at Sheeptcot. Whilst this will not be sufficient to fully address the parking issues it will help to alleviate some of the parking pain on Gatehampton Road and Whitehills Green. Perhaps a small area of the car park could be reserved for and controlled by a barrier (with access code) for use by the Goring Robins football managers/coaches. This would only need to be active on a Saturday morning. It is imperative that they have the ability to park at Sheeptcot as they have balls, training kit etc to take to games.

I am broadly supportive of a pump track at Sheeptcot provided that it does not impact on the number of available football pitches

In general I am supportive of the 3 pitch option on the basis that I believe it would a) increase the amount of football that could be played without requiring additional space, b) from an environmental perspective it would allow a significant reduction in car journeys as all Robins teams could train at the pitch in winter (currently teams are travelling to other pitches at Langtree, Pangbourne College and Hithercroft and c) it would mean games could continue through the winter months (frozen / waterlogged pitches) thus reducing the number of cancelled games and reducing the strain this causes on the existing pitches. However, the cost of a 3G pitch is significant and even with supported funding from the football club through grants I am concerned as to how this option could be funded. I think it would also be necessary to understand the ongoing costs associated with such a plan (maintenance, administration etc) before a true consideration could be made.

Given all options support a new pavilion and additional car parking I would hope that the parish council could proceed with these areas as a priority and not allow them to be caught up and delayed by what I suspect will be a highly emotional and prolonged debate throughout the village on the suitability of a 3G pitch

The report provided a very acute view of the problems of Sheeptcot and the areas of urgent and vital improvements. This should be the top most priority for the village in order to provide the best facilities to Goring and the wider community. Not only should the parking and pavilion be significantly improved, the playing capacity needs to be improved to support the number of teams playing and training. It should be noted that Reading Community Trust use Sheeptcot in the summer as a community venue to support and train young people, and enhancing the playing and training facilities would only enhance that relationship. It would also give us an opportunity to be supported as well by Oxfordshire RTC (Regional Talent Centre), who are also looking for an area in South Oxfordshire to set up a football training base. So the possibilities of what this could do for Goring and the wider football community are vast. I urge Goring Parish Council to support and collaborate with Goring Robins to make this the priority in terms of funding and speed to deliver for the village.

My family are active members of Goring Tennis Club and we are pleased to see that the Open Spaces Strategy report is addressing the need for more parking and that it includes options for GTC to be part of a new pavilion on Sheeptcot which would also house Council offices and have space for 'community use'. We believe there are two factors that must be addressed if we are to use a combined facility:

GTC should have its own space; in addition to the challenges with the toilet in the footballers' pavilion, we see at other clubs (e.g. North Oxford) how detrimental combining wet and dry sports can be.

The facility must be located near or next to the courts. Any further and we introduce safety issues with juniors moving between the clubhouse (e.g. for toilet trips) and the courts. Also, for the clubhouse to feel like it is ours, it needs to physically close.

The main issues with Sheeptcot are identified in the report with the two pavilions being in need of repair and parking being a serious problem. The Football Club is now a leading club in the area which supports a huge number of boys' and girls' teams across all ages leading up to the senior teams. However, the Club's successful expansion has inadvertently introduced logistical problems with parking being seriously inadequate for the sheer number of teams (home and away teams) playing at Sheeptcot every weekend. The football pavilion is substandard for housing equipment and for serving refreshments. The tennis pavilion appears to be in better condition but I gather is in need of upgrading as well. As long as wet and dry areas are segregated from one another, a combined football and tennis pavilion would seem to make a lot of sense for financial reasons and also to free up much-needed space in what is a congested area particularly in and around the car parking area. I would be supportive of the introduction of a pump track, as long as space allows for this.

However, the most critical improvement for the Football Club would be the introduction of a 3G pitch, ensuring that it has a low concentration of PAH given the headlines about 3G pitches being potentially carcinogenic. A 3G surface would allow football practice all year round and thereby reduce strain on the heavily used grass pitches. Moreover, it would offer a much-needed training facility for the Club and, in addition, local primary schools and the use does not need to be limited to football as 3G pitches can be used for all sorts of sports.

At present, the situation is verging on the ludicrous with coaches of teams across every age group at the Club scrambling around for practice facilities in the area, many of which are situated miles away from the village and are expensive to hire; in this age of increased environmental awareness, it is quite depressing seeing chains of cars full of children making countless journeys to facilities in the area and money being paid to other clubs, schools and businesses, when those funds could be utilised by the local community. Surely it makes sense to have a facility within the village.

Finally, I would be very supportive of a refurbishment of the tennis courts and, particularly the introduction of padel courts; padel is one of the fastest growing sports in the world and, having played it, I can understand why. It is a very accessible racket sport in the sense that it is perhaps easier for people of all ages to play when compared with tennis – albeit our boys are also very keen tennis players who have weekly lessons with Jon Howey and also take part in Jon's tennis camps during the holidays along with many other children.

For these reasons I would strongly support Option Four for Sheeptcot.

As a village resident and a football coach for Goring Robins, who are the largest sports club in the village, I would like to make the following comments regarding the Public Spaces Review as we desperately need better facilities for a club of our size.

- Better clubhouse to be shared amongst all the local sports clubs and schools.
- Football training facilities within the village to be shared with Goring United and the local schools.
- Increased parking for away teams.
- No loss of pitches.

We have around 350 children playing weekly and this includes a large percentage of girls teams, which is absolutely fantastic to see. I ask that some of the Parish Council come down and watch one Saturday morning.

We regularly have pitch congestion, so maintaining the pitches to a decent state is difficult as they are also used for training during the summer months. As an FA regulated club we have minimum standards to uphold.

We all have to train outside of the village in the winter in places such as Moulsoford, Wallingford and Woodcote. The carbon footprint being caused by this is massive and unnecessary. Also as a club we also have to pay tens of thousands of pounds to be able to train over the winter - this money could be put to maintaining a local facility.

An all weather pitch on Sheeptcot would be ideal, though the placement on the plan is not right. We do not need one in the middle of the field but towards the far side, next to the tennis courts.

I am also very much in agreement that the village needs further facilities for our children outside of football, a pump track would go in some way to help.

A village the size of ours deserves better for our children.

We live on Gatehampton Road and my [] plays for the Goring Robins []s. For our family maximising car park space at Sheeptcot is priority, especially given the unused space available the other side of the current pavilion. There is a huge appetite for football from both boys and girls in the village, attracting many players from neighbouring areas too, so I would very much like to see the 3G pitch installed for all weather football and therefore put forward my recommendation for Sheeptcot Option 4.

I am also in full support of having a combined pavilion (to support all sports) and a flood lit 3G/4G pitch on sheeptcote to support the football academy (option 4)

I personally feel priority should be extra parking at sheeptcot, a new pavilion and a 3G pitch.

The football club needs a 3G pitch either at Sheeptcot or elsewhere, which would have far greater use than any other idea combined (I'm afraid), for all ages of the community 5 years and up. As well as getting the most use, every use actually brings money back in for the Council, who should easily end up making the money back on renting it out.

The biggest thing is PLAYING CAPACITY, there aren't enough pitches in the villages as it is to support the number of teams we have, and some options show less capacity. A 3G would offer much more capacity, simply because the amount of football they can take. Not to mention saving the club £26K per year in training costs away from Sheeptcot.

A pump track at sheeptcot would also be great for teens and youngsters alike, who could cycle or scoot on it whilst watching siblings play football or tennis.

I am writing to offer my feedback on the new proposals for Sheeptcot Recreation ground. As a parent of a child who plays for Goring Robins and regularly uses the facilities option 4 would offer the best all round use of the space, however moving the Astro pitch behind the tennis courts running up the hill would minimise the visual impact from the carpark. Having an Astro pitch would allow all year round play and training for not only football but other sports as well.

I love the idea at sheeptcot of having a bike circuit track with humps etc and hope this is agreed and built quickly enough for my children aged [] to enjoy.

I would also like to register my vote for Option 2 on the Sheeptcot Recreation ground. I can only say it is a shame the money spent on the jubilee garden is not still in the pot for this work.

Hi i am mother of [] children in the village and would like to say the investment in sheeptcot is a brilliant idea for all generations in Goring Thx

As an optimistic I think the larger plan for sheeptcote would be the best option, providing more longer term benefits as well as better scope for development in the years to come - addressing the needs of many different age groups rather than just one or two.

Regarding Sheeptcot, the proposed option 2 does not seem to be the best solution to the lack of sufficient football pitches in Goring. It would in actuality lessen the area available for playing and practising football.

Surely it is the time to undertake an ambitious project that will give improved opportunities for sport in the village. Option 4 appears to have many advantages. A full-size all-weather pitch would allow maximum use of the available space. Ground conditions would not limit the number of matches that could be played during the course of a weekend and floodlights would also extend the hours available during the week.

This would also alleviate the problem of hundreds of car journeys from the village being taken each week to venues such as Abingdon, Wallingford and Reading to allow evening training sessions to take place. This would be hugely advantageous for the environment.

Whilst this option is expensive I believe that there are large grants available which would cover the vast majority of the costs. The pitch should also be self-financing as it would generate considerable revenue from the hiring fees. Other sports that are currently not available in the village would also be able to benefit from the facility.

We agree with the proposals presented and in fact would even advocate for the 3G field at Sheeptcot. A skatepark would be also immensely valuable (note how much positive has come from the Chelsey facility - it is a regular topic of conversation amongst parents.) That said a pump track would have similar impact, I'm sure.

We've lived in the village for [] years and absolutely think that these proposals should be adopted and a plan, moving forward as quickly as possible to implement would be the best for the local community.

I for one would support the proposed which includes the rebuild of the clubhouse and installation of a 3G/all weather pitch. It would be a fantastic facility and would enhance the training needs of the Goring Robins teams across all age groups. The current arrangement is frankly abysmal and embarrassing. One toilet for 350 children? You'd think the Council doesn't care for its children. This is without considering the need for better car parking and developing the ground to cater for sport for literally hundreds of people in the Goring area. A 3G pitch would provide a superb facility which can be used across the year and schools can use during the week - it's a no brainer for me. The growth in grassroots sports, football just being one, has been exponential in the last 6-7 years.

I am hearing rumours of opposition to spending money on facilities to children. From what I can see of current facilities in this village - I'm not surprised. There is no investment in the future of the young generation in Goring and currently most make do and put up with poor quality facilities when they could be excellent and being an example to all. It's not difficult to look in neighbouring villages and small towns to compare with much better.

I can only hope the Council will choose to look forward and invest in its children, the communities that are active in numbers in the village and develop facilities that will leave a lasting legacy. Not to do so will leave Goring behind and be so much poorer for not looking into the future of sports in area and the development of children, youth and outdoor pursuits in the area.

My family and I moved to Goring in [], just before the pandemic hit. The importance of great public space was never more highted than in lockdown, when limited exercise what permitted.

To have the ability to wonder around the great spaces on offer in Goring, was a privilege.

We have [children] aged [] and having moved here pre-lockdown, had very few local friends. Once lockdown lifted and the [children] could get out to join local clubs, we discovered Goring Robins. They have not looked back. The club has given the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and bonded us to the community.

I therefore would like to show my support for your schemes at Sheeptcote. You have shown real understanding of what the club currently lacks in facilities, especially in scheme No.4.

They really lack pitch numbers to accommodate the demand for matches, for the many thriving teams of all ages. They also lack training facilities and currently have to pay local provides to use their astroturf pitches for mid-week training. If a 4G pitch could be provided, not only would it provide a weather-proof solution for match days, it would provide training facilities for all the teams, all year long.

The other benefits of the scheme are to provide additional parking and an updated pavilion, but the most important need of the club is pitch space and training facilities.

I have reviewed the Open Spaces Strategy regarding the provision for Sheeptcot and would make the following comments:

- it's really important for there to be better provision for football in winter as currently it's not possible to train at Sheeptcot during the winter. This is a real shame considering how strong the Goring football teams are and the number of people participating in football activities.

- the parking situation at Sheeptcot is really difficult. The access is often clogged up, destroying the planting and then there is not enough provision in the car park itself. For those reasons, it's really important that parking is improved.

- the pavilion needs huge improvement considering the amount of use it gets, not just by football participants but also by other sports users.

- the village in general has a remarkable lack of space for children anything older than pre-school and early junior school years, with the only playground being in Bourdillon and even that is basic provision only. Therefore, I think the addition of a pump track is really important.

Given these reasons, I strongly support Option 4, with my second choice being Option 2.

I support option 4 please. All my grandchildren belong to Goring Robins and an all weather pitch would really help the club.

For me the pump track / skate park would be the most important.

SUPPORT Option 4 of the Sheeptcote proposal.

My [child] has played for the Goring Robins for the past [] years and currently has to play games and train outside of the village! So the proposed changes to Sheeptcot would be beneficial for Goring's vibrant football club.

the proposals here are really exciting and would contribute a significant asset to the village. We are especially supportive of the pump track or skate park proposal as it will be so welcome for families with children of all ages. If you visit Didcot skate park (Ladygrove Park) on a weekend morning you will see small children on scooters enjoying the space alongside older children and adults on skateboards. Designed and delivered thoughtfully, such a space would be really valuable for residents of all ages.

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

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.

Thank you for actioning such a detailed report on our open spaces, to date, play/sporting facilities are the one area which lets the village down compared with others locally.

I'm a member of the tennis club as are my [children] and they also play for Goring Robins So my interests are in the future development of Sheeptcot. Having read the report, I would strongly advocate option 4, particularly the 3G pitch. Having a decent pavilion and improved parking are also key and would have my support.

Unfortunately, the recommended option does not seem to allow for optimal use of this area. We understand that Goring Robins have a waiting list and regularly have to turn children away. We have had a number of children who have moved into the village and are desperate to join a local football club, however they have not been able to do so and this has denied them the opportunity to integrate into the community and mix with their peers outside of school hours.

A 3g pitch would allow far higher use of the area as it could be in use during the day and evening without damaging the surface. Grass pitches are very limited as only a small number of games can be played on them. Also, many of our children have to regularly travel by car to other venues in order to train and play matches. This would remove that problem.

If this could be incorporated with an adjacent pump track we feel that this would be a fantastic facility that would put Goring in a similar position to many other villages and small towns in Oxfordshire.

An all weather pitch with lighting and the pump track, please. Option 4

This again is a very well known space to us – for walking our dog across and when our [child] played football. Its used mainly by dog walkers and young footballers. The tennis courts are quite adequate and often not totally utilized and the tennis pavilion is attractive and quite new. What does probably need addressing is the car parking area – since the Jubilee planting has removed the ability for overflow parking along the verge each side of the entrance the problem has worsened. The football pavilion whilst not the most attractive building from outside presumably serves its purpose. I would enlarge the car park along behind it (planning permitted) paint the railings (which look very tatty) and probably move the Jubilee planting to either Rectory Garden or Gardiner. Then the verge can go back to grass for overflow cars and dog walkers. The view either side in any case is not particularly attractive with a low ugly wall and washing displayed on the line in the summer. The dog waste bins need regularly emptying and the gate into Whitehills Green seems to have been partially removed which is a shame as it was a nice gate previously.

This area does occasionally attract teenage incomers (the station is close) so a skate park absolutely not, nor anything floodlit due to light pollution – Hithercroft at Wallingford is only a short distance away. Logically children at private schools (Cranford, Oratory, Pangbourne, Abingdon etc) use their sport facilities and children at state school use Goring Primary's facilities or Langtree's so investigate if those schools need better improved facilities and spend the money there. For example Goring Primary School had a swimming pool - what has happened to that? Is it utilized – it would be a nice resource for the village

Sheeptcot Options 2 or 3 would work well with the pump track and new pavilion facilities since the existing one is not fit for purpose. Increased parking is essential and would be safer for all where current lack of parking causes chaos at weekends/match and training days.

I absolutely agree parking needs to be addressed and is a priority. With away teams for several year groups there needs to be better parking. It is incredibly dangerous at present. Even for villagers walking can be tricky not least because of the very dangerous crossing at the railway bridge as the high street joins Wallingford Road.

It seems to be generally accepted that football should dominate at Sheeptcot and again the sheer numbers of children and adults involved in this club makes this seem reasonable. I absolutely agree that a new pavilion should be a priority. As noted elsewhere in the report, facilities such as loos etc are especially important to girls and we should be doing all we can to encourage our teenage girls to continue their sporting activities (see the excellent proposals to update the changing facilities at the sailing club for this very reason). It seems sensible for the pavilion to be shared with tennis but there are obvious concerns re muddy boots which need to be thought through, and the proximity of the pavilion to the courts for safeguarding issues is also key.

[Continued From Above]

I do feel however that whilst noting football's priority at Sheeptcot the space should be shared and useable by as many residents as possible. The proposal for a skate park/pump track is excellent and we should have had one years ago. I also would tend towards option 3 though with the overflow extension to the carpark. A 3G pitch would have advantages but would make a large part of the field unusable by other activities. For example over summer we have run there, played hockey there etc with our kids and presumably the 3G pitch would be cordoned off and be unusable for other ad hoc activities which is a shame.

I don't see the pump track being away from the car park as an issue as parents can walk up there to supervise their children.

Finally on Sheeptcot, I think it is important that tennis isn't overlooked. This sport appeals to all age groups and again the club is very popular. I would support as a priority any upgrades to the courts and the lighting. The tennis club is clearly enjoyed by many and the holiday tennis camps are invaluable for working parents, allowing for children to get outside and get exercise locally whilst parents work.

I think Sheeptcot could provide a real focus for sports and activity for many villagers if done right and really hope the momentum on this isn't lost. Overall children's facilities have been left to decay in the village and it is time that they were improved. Following the years of Covid sacrifices our children have made with their activities cancelled, it is only right that we do all we can to encourage their activities. The popularity of these clubs speak for themselves and I think based on numbers alone it would be hard to continue to justify inactivity by the council.

Option 4. I would be in favour of an area for skateboarding. This is a fantastic sport for children and adults.

I generally agree with all the ideas for the various spaces - being aimed at specific age groups. I like the idea of skate park / pump track at Sheeptcot. Not sure the 3G pitch would be worth the money here unless some of the money came from elsewhere.

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

I agree with Point V5.3 - A much overdue skate Park and or Pump track is required to fulfil the recreational needs of local teenagers.

I would favour option four but NOT with a 3G pitch which I think would represent overdevelopment. I think the overflow parking design is essential and the pump track should be by the lower end of sheeptcot to prevent it being used for any anti social behaviour. Parents with small children will also favour parking nearby rather than heading to the top of the field. Development of the pavilions is essential and could be an excellent source of income.

I would support option 4, the 3g pitch would be a significant asset to the village. If funding is not available the option two is the next best options.

Please do not loose a pitch as they are already very busy on weekends, extending car parking by a bit is welcome, building a new combined tea hut/pavilion with toilet facilities is a very good idea and a must have as the one we have is embarrassing. A pump track is a very nice to have, a 3G pitch with lighting is a must-have if the village is keen to support the successful football club promoting the good name of Goring into the shire's. I opt for an improved Option Two - with moving the pump track to along the hedgerow or up the field next to the 9v9. Where the pump track was planned, next to tea hut/pavilion and car parking, erect a smaller 3G training pitch, size possibly like a 7v7 which the option to sub-divide into 2 5v5. This will improve the club's training facilities massively

When I moved here [] Years ago [Whitehills Green] was to a pleasant road with an adjacent field and the cars werer all parked in the car park. I under stand that the [Football] teams numbered around 10..

A couple of weeks ago there were nearly 40 [cars] some parked very badly.I believ they are in breach of the regulation regarding access for Emergency vehicle.

I am also concerned about the possible location of a skate board park as I believe that it can attract undesirables and extra litter

I was particularly impressed with the plans for the pump track at Sheeptcot, and the overhaul of Bourdillion. I think these would make a real difference.

We fully support the proposal to establish a combined pavilion for the football and tennis clubs. It can be designed to meet the needs of both parties and create efficiencies in management and operation.

Also, a teen space with a bounce track and enhanced parking are much needed and appeal to a broader group of users.

I don't feel that there is a need for 3G pitches and we are used to using local 3G facilities at the nearby Langtree school and Wallingford Sports ground.

(Receved 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 the clubs' popularity continues to grow, we strongly believe that investment should be made to support their objectives. As such we 100% back the clubs' recommendations - Sheeptcot Option 4 and Gardiner Option 2.

Ref option 4 at Sheeptcot - we don't believe the cost of pavilion improvement should be anything like £800k to £1.5m. There will be a way to deliver what the club needs for much less.

We don't know what a 3G pitch would cost but it would be an AMAZING addition to the village. As a football coach I found getting access to evening training facilities a big problem as they're in such demand.

Sheeptcot

3.1 I strongly support the floodlit artificial pitch. Again this should be energy neutral with solar generation and battery storage to drive the lights.

3.2 The estimated cost of the necessary clubhouse seems very high.

3.3 Option 4 would be my choice.

Keep the number of existing football pitches - don't do anything that reduces this -they are all fully used

Add a bump track -if you can find an appropriate area

Refurb/ upgrade the 'pavilion' but spend no more than (say) £100K

I'm delighted to see the plans for developing and improving facilities within the village. Having worked at Goring TC for approximately [] years developing the Club and promoting tennis in the community, I am particularly pleased that there is the prospect of some facilities at Sheeptcot that will be fit for purpose and that will help enable us to grow.

From my perspective the key factors that I would like to be considered are...

New Club house should be located in close proximity to the tennis courts - to enable coaching equipment (nets, balls, rackets etc) to be easily transported between the courts and Clubhouse and for safeguarding of juniors moving between the courts and the Clubhouse. The Clubhouse should allow the courts and play to be viewed by spectators from the Clubhouse - this will help it to become a space where players/parents are more likely to stay and socialise.

Separate changing/toilet facilities for the footballers and tennis players due to issues relating to combining wet and dry sports. Office/workspace with electrical points and WiFi access to allow management of the coaching programme and for Club administration.

Lockable storage within the Clubhouse, separate from football, to store coaching equipment - we have a significant amount of equipment needed to operate our existing programme and this space needs to allow for further expansion of the Club.

Communal area needed for meeting/socialising with storage for tables/chairs.

Area for a wall mounted TV monitor for information on events/activities etc

Upgrading existing court lighting to more efficient LED lighting and to add additional floodlighting to courts 3&4 to allow the Club to expand.

Movement between the Clubhouse and courts should be suitable for disabled access and for transport of equipment in coaching carts.

Catering area to serve snacks/drinks etc

Priority should be replacing Pavilion and extending car parking spaces above all else. It's not clear: 1) who is funding 2) any conditions of funding 3) how much funding is available

As we have seen over the last few years, football has become even more popular among all age groups and genders and I am so proud to be part of Goring with the opportunities it provides to everyone.

Sheeptcot option 4 is by far the most favourable option and would give the football in Goring a real boost. A full sized all weather pitch would actually open up the possibilities for other sports such as hockey and would save all these teams traveling far and wide for training, which would in turn reduce the emissions and money spent travelling to Wallingford, Tilehurst and Abingdon. This is obviously an expensive option but being connected with football myself I know that there are grants available to help pay for such facilities, not to mention the revenue it would generate from all the teams paying to use it.

We would also encourage you to move forward with Option 4 for Sheeptcot. The club is thriving and both boys and girls teams are getting bigger meaning the site needs developed to meet the demand. We are delighted they have a space to play football and be with friends outside (and not on screens!).

Sheeptcot is visited by hundreds of people when the football season is in full swing and there is a need to maximise the number of pitches available. However with creative planning and design the proposed (and much needed) improvements to the carpark and the combining of the two existing pavilions into one would still allow this.

A 3G pitch is a wonderful facility but careful consideration is required before installing something like this. From my own experience the use (and misuse) and management of the space combined with the ongoing up-keep and maintenance are factors which can become an issue. If it can be done - brilliant- it could even generate some revenue.

Tweens and teenagers are almost completely ignored at the moment so it would also be great to see the proposed pump track (or skate park) and shelter (s) are realised too so that this unfairly marginalised group at least have the option of something to do and somewhere to go rather than just hanging about the arcade (which is not a complaint - in my younger days we all used to hang around too !)

I would also strongly support the development of Sheeptcot recreation ground All four proposals would provide a new football pavilion and additional parking capacity, both of which are most welcome. However it would be most beneficial to also maximise the number of pitches available for teams to use, and to improve the training facilities available to the club all year round. I would therefore strongly support Option 4.

Main things I feel the village needs:

Skate park for teens with a variety of areas for beginners and more able skaters. A pump park would not be adequate for skateboards and will likely be full of smaller children on bikes or scooters. Therefore a separate skate park is also needed/instead of a pump park to allow an area more suitable for older children as there will be facilities for younger children in other areas such as Gardiner and Bourdillon.

I agree that we need a larger car park and addition of a skate park (not just a pump park). I would say option 3 might be the better option (although with the larger car park proposed in option 4). I think having the skate park up at the top of the field may make it better for teens and less accessible to younger children messing about on it. There is also better access to shade of trees up here for shelter when it's warm. I think this should be made an area for older children, so a separate skate park is needed with a variety of areas for beginner and more advanced.

In my opinion this is the most critical part of the review and is where any investment should be largely focussed.

Issues are:

- Pitch capacity issues due to the number of teams at Goring Robins
- very sorry looking football pavilion that is an embaressment to the village and the club
- lack of parking which results in overspill on gatehampton road and whitehills green, which is far from ideal should emergency services need access for example
- lack of any all weather or winter training facilities, leading to significant costs for booking facilites and travel outside the village, as well as environmental impact of journeys to and from these facilites.

In my opinion option 4 would be ideal since it provides all weather training, parking, a better clubhouse which solves most of the above issues and also improves the tennis club and provides facilites for non football or racket orientated children as well. It was rather dispiriting to read about the conflicting views on the garden created on the entrance to Sheeptcot last year, money which, whilst I'm sure was spent with good intentions, could have been used to improve parking or access to the benefit of the local residents and the club.

With regards to Sheeptcot I would very much like to see the addition of a pump track, but again I would like to see some detail and designs as to what this will look like.

We are parents of [] school-age [] who between them regularly use Sheeptcot 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:

Sheeptcot - 'Option 4'

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

A 3G pitch would be very helpful to keep the teams going specially during the winter season.

Also more parking is required in Sheeptcote for the visiting football teams who often struggle to park and use roads near by.

I'm writing as a member of Goring Tennis Club to express my support for the options in the above report that relate to Sheeptcot recreation ground.

There has long been an issue with the two clubhouses; as the tennis club has no toilet facilities visiting teams have to use the football pavilion which is in a sorry state of repair. The elements of the plan I support are as follows;

Replacement pavilion with wet and dry sports separated

Improved car parking for football match days

Pump track but not adjacent to the tennis courts as attendant noise could be disruptive and distracting during tennis matches/coaching

The recommended option, Option Two, appears to suit most current and future needs for sports facilities and would solve many of the current problems.

I would suggest that the recreation ground has much more signage for dog walkers, reinforcing the importance of using bins as we do see dog owners not taking responsibility for picking up dog mess. This seems especially negligent on a ground where many children, as well as adults, are playing sport. I would go as far as to suggest that dogs should only be walked here on a lead to ensure owners can easily monitor their behaviour.

I am writing following the recent review into the public spaces. I have looked at the proposals for Sheeptcot and would like to support option 2. As a parent with [] children who use the area I feel it important that the football and tennis areas are given a priority. The pitches give access to sport for so many children (I am always impressed how many teams Goring have). The lack of sport provision is regularly reported in the press and any changes should embrace the hard work and commitment of the football and tennis club. Improved parking and a pavilion would also make this area much more useable and a better environment for the local residents. I also believe that a skatepark area (rather than pumptack) would be a great benefit to the community. There is a facility in Cholsey which is well used but is difficult to access by teenagers from Goring.

Sheeptcot needs a shared pavilion and facilities (toilet and catering) for tennis football and skate park/pump track. Option 4.

My [children] have, and are growing up playing football with Goring Robins and continue to do so. [ages]. One of the [children] now plays with Oxford United FC Academy, & is unable to play with Goring Robins. Goring village is lucky, to have such a thriving community football club for girls and boys, in the parish. Along with senior teams for ladies and men.

The children need pitches for matches, & training facilities. (With the number of children & teenagers, multiple teams in each year group - require significant number of pitches, of different size. Saturdays & Sundays through out the season - children are happily playing.) Losing any pitches, would impact the children.

In the dark night/winter, travelling to Wallingford, Woodcote, and wider to use all weather pitches with lights - the impact of many car journeys (& now the costs of travel for families, which have increased reliance on public transport following Covid impacts on employment & now don't have cars.) Yes Wallingford, with multiple all weather pitches with lights - is close, unfortunately to meet training, no public transport options.

We tend to cycle or walk, to Sheeptcot many unfortunately local drive, visiting teams, tennis players & dog walkers. A larger car park, would make parking safer, easier & not impact the residents of close roads.

The club house, could be an asset to both the Tennis club & Football clubs - a refresh, would be welcome. Number of children and adults, playing or watching football/tennis - there are insufficient toilets.

(The costs, of an artificial/3g pitch might seem out-of-reach for a small village. We would be significantly helped with grants from district council, FA, Oxfordshire FA & other grant giving organisations. The football club, would save significant monies paid out for training & also provide facilities for both local schools to use. Becoming an asset to the village, similar to all weather tennis courts)

(Received twice)

I believe it is essential for young people's development into responsible adults that they have every opportunity to participate in sports in their local community.

I support Sheeptcot Option 4 and the suggested improvements to drainage and ground levelling at Gardiner Recreation Field.

I have grandchildren who play football for Goring Robins and they love their sport.

We also agree with Sheeptcot Option 2

Please please can you really consider goring robins FB open space

With growth of the club and huge success please as we have to have more pitches and car parking. There is very little room there and with so many people using the grounds we really need to make it work for everyone. Please please can you consider option 4

Our priorities would be that the number of football pitches is optimised. If possible, with a 3G pitch and lights so that evening training sessions can be carried out in the village during the winter months. The number of teams fielded by Goring and, in particular, girls teams is a real source of pride for the village. Parking around Sheepcote needs to be improved, ideally more spaces but it certainly needs to be made safer.

The possibility of an improved hoop area for netball/basketball practice instead of the one at Bourdillon would be great.

I'd like to share my views regarding plans for improvements to the sporting facilities at Sheepcote. This is such an important community space for children in the area, and is in dire need of investment. It currently offers very poor provision for our youngsters, for whom it is really important to have access to outdoor activities, outside of school.

The proposal for a new football pavillion, better football pitches and more parking would be very much appreciated in the local community. Not just for the many children and families involved in the football club. Investment in other areas such as a pump track/skate park would appeal to an even wider audience of children - who desperately need outside spaces to play and relax. In addition, investment in a 3G all-weather football pitch would not only mean that our children can safely continue their training throughout the winter, but could also bring in additional revenue from other clubs wanting to book and use the facilities.

I hope that my comments are useful in your planning process, and hope that they may lead to a successful outcome for our children's health and well-being.

There has long been an issue with the two clubhouses; as the tennis club has no toilet facilities visiting teams have to use the football pavilion which is in a sorry state of repair. The elements of the plan I support are as follows;

- Replacement pavilion with wet and dry sports separated - This is a priority and a joint facility, to include additional recreational facilities (a hall/bar etc..) would be a great addition. Have the Social Club been asked whether they would consider moving location?
- Improved car parking for football match days
- Pump track but not adjacent to the tennis courts as attendant noise could be disruptive and distracting during tennis matches/coaching

The recommended option, Option Two, appears to suit most current and future needs for sports facilities and would solve many of the current problems.

The Millennium planting at the entrance already looks a mess and appears to have been a waste of money. A separate footpath at the entrance would improve safety.

As a radical suggestion, how about selling off the Shepcot for housing and rehoming the recreation ground further south along Gatehamton Road, possibly in the flood plain? The money raised from the Shepcot sale would more than cover the cost of building a new pavilion with superior facilities.

I am very much in support of Sheeptcot option 4 within the document, as it makes best use of the space and takes into account the demand we have for football and tennis facilities, whilst at the same time increasing park at Sheeptcot (reducing the need to park on Whitehalls) and it provides the 3G pitch which would result in a fantastic reduction of the number of miles (and CO2 emissions) that Goring residents need to drive, which they currently have to do in order to train at facilities in Wallingford, Woodcote and Cholsey for similar facilities.

I also like that there is provision for a pump track located near the entrance to Sheeptcote, and not at the top of the hill as it is in option 3 as I it would be under utilised in this position, and more likely to be vandalised since it is not in clear view from the other facilities.

Regarding Sheeptcot, the proposed option 2 does not seem to be the best solution to the lack of sufficient football pitches in Goring. It would in actuality lessen the area available for playing and practising football.

Surely it is the time to undertake an ambitious project that will give improved opportunities for sport in the village. Option 4 appears to have many advantages. A full-size all-weather pitch would allow maximum use of the available space. Ground conditions would not limit the number of matches that could be played during the course of a weekend and floodlights would also extend the hours available during the week.

This would also alleviate the problem of hundreds of car journeys from the village being taken each week to venues such as Abingdon, Wallingford and Reading to allow evening training sessions to take place. This would be hugely advantageous for the environment.

Whilst this option is expensive I believe that there are large grants available which would cover the vast majority of the costs. The pitch should also be self-financing as it would generate considerable revenue from the hiring fees. Other sports that are currently not available in the village would also be able to benefit from the facility.

Regarding Sheeptcot, I back the football club's recommendations for OPTION FOUR although I don't believe the cost of pavilion improvement should be anything like £800k to £1.5m. There will be a way to deliver what the club needs for much less. We are a family with [] children (aged []) who have benefitted 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 valuable life skills.

As the clubs' popularity continues to grow, we strongly believe that investment should be made to support their objectives.

I don't know what a 3G pitch would cost but it would be a fantastic addition to the village. As a football coach, getting to local training facilities in the evenings is a big problem as they're in such demand.

I don't support any material investment in planting. I don't know anyone who thinks the Jubilee Gardens at Sheeptcot were good use of local funds. I don't support exercise equipment - it rarely gets used and doesn't offer anything that bodyweight exercises can't deliver. When they are used, it tends to be by kids playing on them, so our strong preference would be to invest in dedicated play equipment at Gardiner instead.

No synthetic pitch with or without fences and lighting.
 Extend the car park if space and covenants allow.
 Pump track for bikes and scooters.

(Received Twice)

Option 4 agreed

Regardless of which final option is chosen the current 'pavilion' should be replaced as is not fit for purpose. Option 4 deals with this.

Adult exercise equipment if any, to be located at Sheeptcot. This would have suitable parking for adult users. In my visits to nearby parks with grandchildren e.g. at Streatley & Benson I rarely see this adult equipment being used to any large extent.

option 2 looks good. It definitely needs a larger parking area and updated facilities.

Option 4 would be fantastic if it could be afforded. If not, Option 2. The pump track really should include a skateboard facility. The facility in the park in Victoria Park Newbury (attached) is the kind of set-up that attracts kids of all ages, and a few daring adults as well.

I think if there is a larger car park there should be a charge to park there to stop locals driving very short distances when they can walk [and create revenue] Please provide a sturdy cycle rack.
 I think it would great to have option 4 with astroturf as there are numerous teams who would use it. I also think there should be a skate park too as the pump track is really for young children, and ideally closer to the car park where there is less likely to be a problem with litter etc. [but the tennis club may prefer it to be at the other end]

I agree with the Thirlwall recommended proposals for Option 2 (Sheeptcot field).

Strongly favour Option 1. In particular I think a pump track is a really bad idea. It is unsightly, expensive, and liable to attract vandalism and graffiti. Strongly agree with the addition of padel courts, but definitely not an all weather sports pitch which would be unsightly, expensive to maintain, and entirely unnecessary.

Strongly favour Option 1, in particular the addition of Padel courts

OPTION 4 if budget allows

desperately needs more parking to stop parking on the gardens. the spaces are very tight so the whole car park needs to be re thought out. The tea hut needs updating with a serving hatch for ease. I personally wouldn't spend money on a skate park. I think the car park is priority.

Vote for option 2.

Do not reduce number of football pitches. These are already unable to contain the number of teams at Goring Robins and this will only get worse over time as more girls teams come through at all ages. It has already forced teams to play at Streatley Rec. We must maintain at least 7 pitches at Sheeptcot, ideally with training space around as well.

Agree to a new combined pavillion as neither current are good enough.

Agree to a pump track as this would be almost the only option for teenagers in Goring apart from playing football. This should be down at the bottom of the field near the pavillion to ensure we maintain the current number of football pitches and so that parents/ car park can oversee any kids.

As we have the space, it makes sense to use it for an extended car park. But I worry that it will always be full on Saturday mornings, so I think this is a lower priority than the pavillion and pump track. And why don't we make permanent extra car parking spaces where the current Jubilee Garden is?

I am in two minds about the 3G pitch. On the one hand, it might affect the views and sense of nature in the Sheeptcot area, and we will need to ensure we have annual budgets for ongoing maintenance and upkeep as well as the one-off costs. On the otherhand, it will ensure some football is possible even when the ground is very wet, and will allow kids to play other sports as well.

Please do not add more signage about the gates. Let's just allow the gates to look good amongst a natural site.

Option four and two for Sheeptcot look equally impressive, having a larger parking provision for the well used football and tennis club would be great and help those coming into the village an opportunity to park. The pump park would be fantastic for younger children and really act as a hub for them to enjoy in the village.

This is a brilliant open space. One I love to visit with family or on my own (tennis etc)

All the facilities need to be updates and extended

A bike pump track and/or skate park are essential to the development of the local children's social and physical development Not everyone wants to be a football or tennis player, so these other amenities will help to bring more children out of their homes, off their screens and off their sofas!

Parking is a very important area to improve - it's a terrible situation made worse by the questionable, expensive jubilee development (I feel calling it a garden is a stretch!!)

Locals are rightly annoyed by the parking so I like all the options put forward that help to solve this

I would also look for more secure bike storage units here (and at the other spaces, to encourage riding vs driving - maybe some bike lanes at entry points too?)

I would 'love' a 3G pitch - but appreciate that it is expensive. However, the benefits to all year round sport and less driving to other out of villages for their facilities would be great

Being able to use it for local school sports would maybe make it more viable too - as would government grants etc

So I am all for option 4 if this is affordable

Upgrading the clubhouse would be great too

I'm strongly in favour of the development and improvement at Sheeptcot and believe that with the high number of people (children and adults) that use this space it's an area worth focus, time and budget to help support the local community. With regards to the four options laid out, all would be an improvement, however I would suggest option 4 is the preferred choice.

We don't need two separate pavilions for tennis and football, they can and should be combined into one, but we certainly need a new one. Wouldn't it be great if we could have a social space too, somewhere to be after the games from the weekend. Car parking is a nightmare, so a better arrangement of the space would improve this (as an aside, why we planted a jubilee garden where we did outside the gates was very daft. It doesn't look great and just takes out more possible parking spaces). A pump track and skate ramp is a great idea and always popular with children. I would suggest that this is towards the car park, as with more visibility it reduces the chances of any untoward behaviour, which I fear it may encourage if placed at the top of the field.

Lastly, if possible I would love to see a 4G pitch. We have so few of these in the area it would greatly improve our facilities. It would allow more teams to train in the winter, and allow games to go ahead in the winter that would otherwise have been cancelled, and also take some of the strain away from smaller size pitches. I think we could better arrange the pitches from the arrangement within option 4, but there we are.

The village is also crying out for sports/leisure provision for teenagers - there is nothing for them to do here. A skate park/pump track is an excellent idea. This would be used by a wide age range of children (primary to teenagers) and provide safe and focused activity. I understand people's concerns regarding antisocial behaviour, but doing nothing will not resolve this (during the summer there were many posts on Facebook about teenage antics at the riverside - perhaps if they had somewhere to go this would be less?) Sheeptcote seems to be the obvious option for this given its space and uses already. Perhaps if it was situated closer to the tennis courts as proposed this would reduce the likelihood of antisocial behaviour as they would be nearer the car park/people. The comment from the 1990s about skating being a fad was hilarious - I think given it's popularity 30+ years on it's clear its not!

It is necessary to do something about the car parking issue, especially with regard to the safety of pedestrians on the entrance road to the field. Either Option 2 or 4 would work. My radical suggestion is to relocate the controversial Jubilee Garden to inside the Sheeptcot. There seems to be an area of ground in the north western corner beyond the proposed car park which would be suitable as it is not earmarked for anything else. I have not looked to see if it overhung with trees so this would have to be checked. A seat or two could be incorporated. If all the innovations to the site are incorporated, the Sheeptcot will be very well used for much of the time and some sustainable planting in a quiet corner would enhance the facilities.

I think the pump track is a great idea. As a frequent visitor to Blewbury to walk up on the downs, I see the popularity of the facilities in the park there with youngsters. But there is a good car park which is adjacent. As this is well used by adults, it ensures that any antisocial behaviour would be noticed. The siting of the proposed pump track at Sheeptcot is critical in this respect, so have it by the new pavilion or tennis courts, as suggested, not up at the top of the field.

History of the Belgian Gates. Again details are available from the Local History Society any time.

Parish/Village Page 111. V26.1.

I agree completely with the comments in this section. There is nothing on the Parish Council website about heritage, whereas they could at least provide a link to the Local History Society website: www.goringgaphistory.org.uk

Regarding road safety, is the most sensible option to construct a pump track/skate ramp on Sheepecote? All young people using the pump track will have to cycle through the narrow, busy, fast and blind stretch of road between the main railway bridge T-junction at the top of High Street and the railway station/Tesco junction. There is no alternative route. It would be helpful if the forecast usage of the pump track is modelled along with the additional number of young people on bicycles using this stretch of road. Also, an estimate made of whether the facility is likely to be more heavily used if it was located on Bourdillon.

The area identified in the diagrams for the pump track looks too small. There are no details sizing this development. Is it drawn to scale or is it just an indicative placement? If it is in fact significantly larger than in the diagram, then is it reasonable that it is so close to residents back gardens bordering Sheepecote when a larger and more ambitious facility could be built at the top of Sheepecote in the South West corner (if indeed Sheepecote is the right place for it given the road safety issues raised above). The idea of a floodlit training area on the Sheepecote was evaluated 12 years ago and was debated and analysed in detail at the time and rejected by GPC. It was economically non-viable and undesirable on several grounds. These reports should be referenced in this strategic overview and the reasons for rejection included. No evidence is presented to support any change to these conclusions or why the option is raised again in this report.

The expansion of the car parking facilities and safe and easy access to Sheepecote are a priority. The recently constructed Jubilee Garden doesn't help this situation.

Is it cost effective to erect a new building on the Sheepecote or could the existing changing-room building be extended/refurbished as a cheaper option. If the tennis club building is going to be demolished as part of this plan, how is that space going to be utilised?

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 Sheepecot 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.

We are strongly in support of increasing the carparking to ensure this is adequate and avoids impact on local residents (and the jubilee garden!) Strongly support the proposed pump track rather than just a skate park. This will have much wider use (toddlers on bikes and scooters too!) Tennis Courts are currently only accessible by club members so any costs involved in the enhancing these should be covered by the club as this would not be accessible to all.

This is the space we use the most often and in my mind must be the most used across the whole community. Massively thriving football club in the robins that is running out of space to cater for all teams, including the growing number of girls football teams which is fantastic to see. The pavillion is totally inadequate, games are being moved to Streatley which does not have the facilities needed really or a satisfactory pitch. The parking at Sheeptcot is a nightmare... and dangerously over-crowded on football days. To me this is where the focus should be first... it will have the biggest impact across the whole local community - both young and old. With the tennis club - maybe adding a Paddle Court could do even more for older generation too to make tennis style recreation more accessible.) Looking at the options there my vote would be for OPTION 4 - having an all-weather pitch would be amazing, teams currently have to travel to find training facilities in the dark nights and an all weather option would wear well in the winter weather.. it will wear better in good weather too - meaning more games could be played on it than grass pitches which need time to recover etc. whereas simply adding floodlights on grass pitches wouldnt. I think the goring adults football could then also use it more readily. It also has the overflow parking - a big challenge at the moment. As i say i would also look for a paddle court for the tennis too. And somewhere for teens like a skate park..

In summary - Sheeptcot should be the priority as it's the area that gets used the most and has the most impact across different demographic groups. And would love to see Option 4

As a mother of (children) who have played for Goring Robins Football Club for the last five years, I have seen the many benefits of this amazing club on our doorstep. Being able to play a team sport, supported by a community of incredible volunteer coaches has not only given them the opportunity to partake in regular outdoor activity but also developed their confidence and social skills. They also enjoy weekly tennis lessons at Goring Tennis Club, again with a wonderful coach.

Looking at the proposals, any development of current facilities at Sheeptcot would be very welcome but ensuring a sufficient number of football pitches for the growing number of teams is key. A completely new combined pavilion would be a real asset to the village and create a community focal point. As we currently have to regularly drive to Cholsey and Oxford for skateboarding, I would definitely support the installation of a skate park and separate pump track. The latter being necessarily different to the skate park for the safety of the users. Both would be popular and a great facility for our local children. I would agree that these should be nearer the pavilion for visibility.

As such, my preferred option would be option 2 to meet the needs of the majority although I also recognise the tremendous benefits of a 3G pitch.

Whilst I appreciate there may be local residents who are resistant to change or fear attracting more young people to the area, facilities that provide structured, outdoor activities for our children are vital for the health and well being of our young. There are many who will complain about young people aimlessly hanging around on the streets or spending too much time online and playing video games. However, when given the opportunity, the majority will enjoy and reap the benefits of outdoor sports.

I think the priority over anything else has to be sorting out the parking situation given its significant encroachment on the neighbouring area. It is great that the Football club has been so successful in recruiting members (both my children play for the club) and I think it is great for the community, however, I do have concerns over how football is spilling over into the weekday evenings and Sundays and the football season is getting longer every year. Putting in a 3G pitch will only exacerbate this further. Furthermore, Sheeptcote is used for many other activities not just football and this should be preserved. Having a 3G pitch in the centre foreground will ruin the feel of the space and reduce the available space for other activities.

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

Sheepcote – option 4 appears to be the ambitious but correct course of action to follow – a 3G pitch would be a game changer for the football clubs and potentially other clubs as well. This would be a real asset for the whole community to be aware of. I understand that the expectation is that the majority of the cost of a 3G pitch can be provided by external funding bodies – if that is the case then this is a great opportunity as that level of investment in the village would be unprecedented. It would also pay back significantly as well over time given the large external pitch hire costs that the football teams are currently having to spend at present (money leaving the village)

A Pump track is unlikely to be well used after the first few months. Might be wrong but the ones I've seen are empty. They are fun the first time, but then you've done it, and there's not as much scope as on a half pipe, etc. I appreciate the desire to do something for teenagers who are always under-served, but this is largely because it is difficult to meet their needs. Money may be better spent on an indoor youth club offering (utilising existing community indoor spaces) – again, would want this to be based on something that has worked well elsewhere.

For maximum usage, by far the most popular offering would be 3G football pitch. The other ideas proposed will not come anywhere near this usage, combined.

My daughters both play for Goring Robins (twice a week). By far the most thriving outdoor space in Goring is Sheepcot on a Saturday morning and it is truly joyous to see so many boys and girls outside, being active, having a great time, and building the community. It is the most popular pastime in the village, with 350 members of Robins, and a very high proportion of school-age children being members. Actually this proportion would be higher as the club cannot meet demand, due to pitch constraints, and has waiting lists for many teams. The rapid growth of the girls' game means a significant % increase in demand in coming years is likely.

3G pitch enables much more flexible use of the Sheepcot land area as it would be marked out for different sized pitches to be used as needed, enabling more children to play. Also protects the health of the pitches / Rec as matches could move on to 3G in bad weather, protecting pitch and allowing children to play safely.

[Continued From Above]

Floodlit 3G Football pitch would be used all evening, from 5-9 every night, by children and adults in the village, and some from outside, all of whom paying the Council for the use. The other ideas proposed will not come anywhere near this usage, combined. Re point V5.5 saying girls do not use football pitches, at Robins the ratio is roughly 2:1 Boys to Girls, including teenage years, so this is of significant value to girls and can be encouraged further.

I note that, for example, this could see the Goring United Veterans teams move training and matches back into Goring, and provide people of this age with the opportunity to play football, whereas today the team consists mainly of people outside Goring because home matches are played 12 miles away in Milton.

3G could serve different uses, not necessarily just football

3G pitch also highly likely to be most popular offering with teenagers (boys and increasingly girls), who are under-served as noted in the report and above

Proposals for Sheeptcot recreation ground – all of the proposals represent a significant step in the right direction. My preferred option is the recommended 'Option 2'. This retains maximum pitches for Goring Robins FC, noting the slight loss of the training area – albeit hopefully Gardiner's rec can alleviate this. I also believe the pump track should be close to the new pavilion, for ease of use and to prevent anti-social behaviour. One comment I would make is that the football pavilion as it currently stands is bordering on a disgrace, and is frankly embarrassing for the village when compared to the facilities we see when travelling to away grounds – the replacement of the pavilion and additional parking spaces are critical. Recommended Option Two achieves a lot for everyone – football, tennis and the youth of the village – I am strongly behind the plan.

At Sheeptcot, I believe the skate/pump track would offer something different for older children. In my view, this could be positioned at the north east end of Sheeptcot so as not to distract from the tennis. My [child] and I regularly play tennis at the club and we have seen the need for increased parking at the weekends.

As a parent of a [] year old I think we will start using this open space more in the near future. I think my preference would be option 2. I remember seeing this park for the first time and being impacted by the views to the surrounding hills, and so although option 4 would possibly increase usage throughout the year I feel the fences and lighting would negatively impact the enjoyment of these views.

- Only thing I'd add is more cycle friendly areas as well as the pump track, possibly cycling proficiency training areas, as there is nowhere to go to practice if you're a beginner on a skateboard/scooter/cycle/roller skates.

(I would support option 4 or if not: option 1 or 2)

- the absolute priority is maintaining the number of football pitches. This generation of young people missed out on nearly three years of sport during COVID and something to redress this would be excellent. I saw comments that 'other sports exist' but that is a bit of a red herring because we have a club where there is more demand for spaces in the teams than there is capacity and we do not have other clubs in the village in the same position- it might be lovely to have a rugby or hockey club in Goring but that's hypothetical so let's deal first with the challenge we face first
- I see the comment from Make Space for girls. I have two teenage girls who play football with Goring Robins and would note they have done a great job in growing girls participation, we should support this
- option four would be ideal because it would provide year round training and playing through the 3G pitch (we've lost several weeks to frost this year) but I guess it is expensive and not as high priority as maintaining or increasing the pitch capacity
- a three G pitch would also allow for other sports like hockey should demand arise and it could provide an income stream and create enough footfall to make sure the club house is viable as I suspect other clubs would want to hire it
- a better club house would be good but not the highest priority
- much more car parking would be good, I do feel sorry for people living on Whitehills green where most cars end up parking on Saturday. Previous policies of restricting car use by restricting car parking in new developments are increasingly less relevant as we transition to an electric vehicle economy and we should start planning the infrastructure for that now.

A major project on Gardiner and Sheeptcot ground

Sheeptcot Field is the area that would be appropriate for more intensive improvement. It has the space and has car parking. Preferred design option is OPTION 3

There is a potential issue however with footballers sharing the same pavilion space with Tennis. Football is muddy, tennis is not.

Sheeptcot and the Goring Robins football club is also at the very centre of village life for families. When we moved back here our eldest [child] played in the [] group, which had about 10 participants across three year groups. The football club provided us with (and remains) an excellent opportunity to meet other villagers and integrate into village life, as well as providing the village's children with a fantastic opportunity to exercise and develop many life skills.

Since we first joined the club, there has been an explosion of interest in the girls game and now there is a full girls team at every age group (as well as the two boys teams there has always been). Therefore, it is largely as a result of this growth in the girls game that the club needs additional support in provision of reliable training space. The village should support and encourage the football club, as it provides this fantastic opportunity for girls in the village to play team sports from a young age. It also continues to be a hub for village life more generally.

The recent run of very wet and very cold weather meant the kids went without the opportunity to exercise at weekends for over a month due to the cancelled training and fixtures. So we are very much in favour of option 4 for Sheeptcot, with the 3G pitch so matches/training can continue irrespective of the weather.

I am happy with Options 1 to 3 but I am very much against Option 4 as it features a floodlit synthetic football pitch. I do not know the actual measurements of this pitch but it looks very much like the previous 2006 proposal for a similar Astroturf pitch, which was enclosed by tall fencing and featured 12 x 33 feet high masts with floodlights. The construction of that synthetic pitch would have involved the removal of 2400 sq. metres of grass, together with topsoil, and the laying down of 4 layers of chemical and other material. [], I have a huge file containing a large number of villagers' objections to that scheme. The reasons for these objections were many, including environmental issues demonstrating how 10 policies of the South Oxfordshire Plan would be contravened, residents' amenity and traffic, questionable need for this facility, operational concerns eg long term management by a responsible body, maintenance and insurance costs, whether costs would be fully recoverable from users, security costs, the fact that the Football Association grant would be conditional on the pitch being used for 85 hours/week. This last condition would mean that the facility would have to be run as a commercial concern involving coaches, minibuses and cars entering the village via Streatley and Goring High Streets, Reading Road and Wallingford Road and then driving along Gatehampton Road which is a narrow, rural, no through road with a variety of double and single yellow lines controlling parking. The driveway off Gatehampton Road which is the access to Sheeptcot Field is even more narrow. The proposers of this scheme produced a petition aiming to represent 10% of Goring villagers but only signatures and first lines of addresses were required which made it difficult to validate. When inspected in January 2006, there were 257 signatures including those of very young children judging by the handwriting. 116 of the signatures covered non-Goring addresses ranging from London to Bath, including one from Mickey Mouse and half a dozen or so where Goring only was given as the address with an illegible signature. There were also duplications and one case where a person had signed three times. Since then, a floodlit Astroturf multisports pitch, said to measure 60m by 40m has been built on land behind Langtree School, Woodcote for use by local schools, youth groups, sports teams and businesses.

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I would point out to the landscape architects that Sheeptcot Field is used for purposes other than football and tennis. It has always been used as a large green open space for the benefit of all the people of Goring. Families and young people use it for picnics, birthday parties, kite flying, for rounders and other ball games. Teenagers use it for get togethers, dogwalkers and joggers use the field at all times of the day; villagers from all age groups enjoy walking in this beautiful area or just sitting quietly on one of the amenity benches, admiring the wonderful views from the field. Whenever I return from holiday, I walk up to Sheeptcot Field, look at the views and feel so grateful to live in this village.

Regarding dogwalking, Sheeptcot Field is the one village public space where dogs can be safely exercised without being required to be on leads. Dogs do benefit from this type of exercise and with the increase in dog ownership since lockdown and the smaller gardens accompanying new builds, this 12 acre field has plenty of room for dogs to have a good run around. As in all parts of the village, there is some dog fouling by irresponsible owners but more often I find poo bags that are left on the field for others to pick up.

On a different issue, as a dog owner myself, I would hope that as a result of the Council's action, those responsible for spraying parts of the field with weedkiller, could ensure that heavy A boards or similar notices that won't get blown over are placed at all entrances to Sheeptcot Field to warn dog owners and parents of young children that spraying is taking place. My dog and several others were poorly that day and I had to phone the Vet. I knew nothing about the spraying – a dog owner had put a warning on Facebook but I don't use social media. Young toddlers playing on the field could have come into direct contact with weedkiller if parents had not been properly warned.

(Purchase of the field by the Council (Goring Parish Council))

On 2 December 1969, Sheeptcot Field was sold to the Council to be used solely as a public open space and for recreation. The vendors, Francis John Fullbrook and Elsie Maud Fullbrook, would not sell the land for use as a playing field which is what the Council of the time had requested. The covenant in the conveyance therefore requires that the land must not be used for any purpose other than as a public space and for recreation. I am not a lawyer but this covenant according to the Clerk at that time, was a negative covenant which exists in perpetuity. The Council obtained a grant from the then Ministry of Housing and Local Government to purchase Sheeptcot Field as a public open space under the provisions of the Open Spaces Act 1906. This Act defines an open space as a site where 'there are no buildings or of which not more than one twentieth part is covered with buildings and the whole of the remainder of which is laid out as a garden or is used solely for recreation'. This needs to be taken into account when making decisions on future development of the field. So far, the field has been subject to the construction of a tarmac car park and tennis courts, together with two pavilions.

Statements made by a relative of the vendors

The late Mr David Watts, []. David was also a longstanding parish councillor for most of his adult life and he was married to the daughter of the Fullbrooks, the vendors of Sheeptcot Field. In January 2006, he wrote that 'as the village developed in the 60s, the Gardiner was not large enough to accommodate all the football teams and allow pitches to be rested. It was then that the Council bought the land (ie Sheeptcot Field) and, it was NEVER the intention of the vendors or the PC that this land should be used other than during daylight hours on Wednesdays, Saturdays and perhaps Sundays. The land was sold and bought by the village for use by the village'. He went on to say that 'It was NOT the intention for Sheeptcot to become a sports field for day and night use by all and sundry throughout the season. In my view, the proposal (ie the enclosed floodlit Astroturf pitch to be open through the day and at nighttime) is a breach of the implied Covenant in the conveyance'.

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In February 2006, he went on to write that the 'Council permits various teams to use the facility in return for a fee, conversely we don't have to let it solely to football teams, what if a rugby, hockey team or indeed the cricket club required a pitch? The Council should be wary of implied exclusivity for football, etc. and conversely, footballers should be wary of the assumption that they have a right to play and the licence is automatically renewable. What would be the Council's reaction if there was an application for a hockey pitch for the 07/08 season? We and the licensees of the field should be aware that the occupiers adjacent to the Sheeptcot also have a right to peaceable and quiet enjoyment of their property and the licensees should accept they have an implied duty to be "reasonable" in their conduct on and off the pitch. Likewise the Council have a duty to ensure the increase in user does not become a "nuisance" to the adjoining owners or affect the maintenance programme.'

David also stated that 'It is a difficult balancing act; overuse of the Sheeptcot increases the maintenance requirement and damages the surface. It makes one wonder whether we should seek additional land to use as a sports field, or make more use of the BourdillonAt one time the Robins used to play on the Gardiner, why not now? Meetings have been most useful and should continue regularly, there is no reason why with goodwill on all sides, harmony cannot prevail'.

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On 16 August 2007 followed by an addendum dated 23 October 2007, the Conditions of Usage of Sheeptcot Field, designated Sheeptcot Public Open Space, was an agreement made between Goring Parish Council of the one part and Goring Robins Football Club, Goring Tennis Club and Goring United Football Club (The Clubs) of the other part. All parties were requested to honour these Conditions of Usage. I will send a copy of this document as an attachment tomorrow. With the change in clerks and councillors, these conditions are not being adhered to, for instance, clubs had agreed with the Council that 'in the event of the official Sheeptcot parking area being full, all users of Sheeptcot Field are requested to park in the station car park. Parking on the grass verges leading up to the field is not permitted at any time. All clubs using Sheeptcot Field should communicate these parking requirement to all of their members and to visiting guests, clubs and officials'.

Instead the managers often appear to arrange for matches involving visiting teams to all be played on Sheeptcot Field on the same day resulting in chaotic parking in Whitehills Green and Gatehampton Road including illegal parking on double yellow lines, and on the verges of the access driveway. This Saturday it is likely to be more chaotic as the borders of the Jubilee Garden have been weeded and edged and vehicles are less likely to park there. If I am not going in and out of my driveway when matches are played, I have offered my driveway to visitors as they have no idea where to park and are driving down towards Gatehampton Farmhouse trying to find a parking spot. One person actually hugged me for letting him park in my drive. I prefer this to cars parking on double yellow lines which then encourages commuters to do the same.

Other Conditions stated that 'During July, Goring United will train on the Gardiner Field (which has been agreed with the Cricket Club). The Goring Robins Under 12s will train on the Bourdillon. During the season, Goring United's Thursday evening training will take place on Sheeptcot Field and the

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Robin's Friday evening training will take place on the Sheeptcot Field from the start of the season until daylight saving (approximately eight weeks commencing September). All Clubs will notify Goring Parish Council of fixtures planned for Sheeptcot and Gardiner Fields as soon as they are available. It is noted that fixtures are displayed on team websites when the dates become available'.

Following the introduction of the Conditions of Usage, quarterly meetings between the Council, the Clubs and residents' representatives took place and it was reported that these were conducted in a helpful and constructive way. The Conditions were said to have brought about a notable improvement in the control of noise and bad language during matches and the potential for Council control over when matches were played. The residents association continued to press for minimal use of the field for matches on Saturday and Sunday afternoons which enabled this public open space to be used by all villagers.

I support Option two, though can understand adaptations to it. I strongly support the idea of a Pump Track (it is about time to have some sort of a teen activity area!). The Pavilion is in serious need of expansion and refurbishment. Additional car parking seems an excellent idea, but please ensure people are encouraged to bike or walk (maybe some bike parking facility would add to this). I have mixed views of a 3G pitch for environmental concerns, though can appreciate an all-weather pitch would be beneficial, with appropriate lighting that would have minimal impact on those who live nearby (I don't know a solution, but hope that the idea is at least explored). I love the Jubilee Garden and feel, in time, it will be an appreciated recognition for QEII's reign. Ways to better manage the access should be considered. The gate - which has an important history - should be protected and made a feature.

The ideas presented deserve careful consideration and many should be implemented. The continuation of the Summer of Play also has my strong support as it is good to focus on families/households with young people.

Sometimes the attention and focus on older residents seems to over-ride the support of families/households with young people. Though older residents deserve support, there are others in the village that seem to be too often ignored.

Well done Parish Council for commissioning such a detailed, comprehensive review.

For Sheeptcot, Option Four would be amazing and having a 3G pitch would take Goring Robins to the next level and provide more and better training facilities for the club.

The only thing I would say about the 3G pitch is that ideally this would be situated just outside the village on land that is not being used to gain another pitch and also not take away the aesthetics of Sheeptcot.

A new club house to combine both tennis, football etc would be the best way forward, this could also be used by teenagers to hangout (like a youth club).

As a minimum we need to maintain the amount of pitches there are currently and ideally have an additional pitch at Bourdillon as Sheeptcot is getting quite full on a Saturday, we need to have a better clubhouse and more car parking.

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

Sheeptcot - The car parking most definitely should and could be extended and the pavilions should also be combined to make best use of the available space. It would be great to have floodlit pitches for all year round training, but if that is not an option then it would also be great to have some other facilities for older kids and those that don't play football ie pump track.

The plans for Sheeptcot are really exciting. My children both play football for Goring Robins and it's a great club let down by its facilities. This is very apparent when comparing to other clubs for away matches. As a minimum the pavilion should be replaced with a modern one and the parking increased to enable the use of Sheeptcot to be more neighbourly and safe for pedestrians and other road users alike.

The bike racks are a great idea to promote cycling to the site by local people. The number of bikes recently stolen in the village is an issue for cycling to the site without the racks. Additional benches would also be a great addition for the community as a whole as the space is not just used by those playing sport but to walk round or to go onto the footpath up towards Whitehills burial ground.

A note just on the Jubilee gardens, they were almost a dangerous addition as they provided no safe pedestrian access to the site from Gatehampton Road. Rectory gardens in the centre of the village, for all to enjoy young and old with seating, would've been a more fitting location to mark such an important milestone in our history.

It would be fantastic to also have the 3G all weather/floodlit facility too. The teams travel outside of the village to use facilities like this for training and it would be an amazing asset for the village to have. Though I wonder if it should be located more behind the tennis courts going up the field thinking in terms of the lighting be considerate neighbours. This 3G pitch could open up opportunities for other sports locally such as netball and hockey broadening the appeal.

There is also a need to balance between retaining as many football pitches whilst adding improvements to the site. Any grass pitches lost to improvements should be relocated, probably Gardiners as this is where football has been played for many years.

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The pump track with a skate park would be an amazing and welcomed asset to the village appealing to a wide age range of children and even adults. We currently travel by car outside of the village to use such facilities. The area given to this on the proposed plans looks quite small so that may need further thought. It should be located near the parking/pavilion would make the most sense for safety, security and football pitch retention.

Fitness equipment round the edges I think would be good and further broaden the community's use of the site. It's location would need to ensure it doesn't interfere with other uses at the site such as the Hairy legs race and school school country running.

So Option 2, or if money and other considerations allow Option 4, gets my vote. Presumably the overflow car parking area shown in Option 4 could be added to Option 2.

I was pleased to see that the Open Spaces Strategy report is addressing the need for more parking and that it includes options for Goring Tennis Club to be part of a new pavilion on Sheeptcot, which would also house Council offices and have space for 'community use'. For me there are 5 points/factors that should be incorporated in the planning, including how to get the best out of a combined facility:

As a parent and active player/supporter of both Goring Tennis Club and Goring Robins, It is essential that Goring Tennis Club and the Goring Robins have their own separate spaces (including changing facilities and toilets) noting that "wet" and "dry" sports do not mix very well and in my experience of both sports, separate facilities operate well at other clubs that I visit. The tennis section of the combined facility should ensure that this faces the tennis courts to encourage and support the viewing of the tennis being played.

The facility need to be located near or next to the courts. Any further away and we risk introducing safety issues with juniors moving between the clubhouse (e.g. for toilet trips) and the courts. Additionally, for the clubhouse to feel like it is also part of the tennis club, it needs to physically close to the tennis courts.

Whilst I fully understand the rationale behind the Pump Track, locating it next to the tennis courts (as shown in option 4) would prove to be hugely distracting for those playing tennis and accordingly does not carry my personal support. Should a Pump Track receive approval, this should be located away from the tennis courts.

Goring tennis Club is severely restricted by having only 2 tennis courts with floodlights, which effectively means that for half the year, it becomes very difficult to secure a court and I would therefore fully recommend the budgetary support to improve lighting on all 5 courts.

S2.1 I agree with Thirlwell that the present traffic versus pedestrian situation is very dangerous. This must be resolved quickly before a child is injured. I suggest that for a start the planting is moved and a proper footpath is installed on the verge on the south side of the entrance road.

The impact on the neighbours of Sheeptcot of these many proposals will be addressed by those who are in a position to understand it best. It is to be hoped that the council will now take action as soon as possible to get the best value out of this Strategy review and get the work done.

Option two is my preference. Item S19.1 in the Review states 'Use of open spaces to increase biodiversity and provide habitats'.

I agree with this and below are two projects which will achieve this aim. Figure 1 on page 4 shows a graphic with the two main projects where new and improved habitats could be established, without any loss of recreation space: Rejuvenated the existing hedges on the long SE boundary and the top NE hedge and also creating a new 'traditional orchard' at the NE end of the space. This latter feature would provide not only a gain for nature but also become a community asset and improve the visual and recreational amenities for people and families to sit and enjoy all year round.

If implemented, these two projects would create about an acre of dedicated space for nature without any detrimental impact on the space available for sport and exercise in any of the options put forward.

Hedge rejuvenation

The aim is to improve and deepen the existing 2 hedges to approximately 4-5m deep, fill the long gaps, underplant to provide vegetation for protection at ground level for small mammals and introduce new hedge species. Hedgerows are a 'Habitat of Principal Importance', a pollinator-friendly habitat and carbon sequester, but the current state of these two under-managed hedges need significant restoration work to fill the large gaps (see Photo 1) and increase the plant species along some stretches to make certain improvements to the structure of the these important wildlife corridors.

[Continued From Above]

Photo 1 - Need for hedge rejuvenation to fill the gaps

There is a large body of evidence on the importance of healthy hedges for wildlife, for birds and for many small mammals, eg the rare Hazel Dormouse, to mention a few. Below are some initial suggestions, but a detailed plan could be provided as to how and when to do the work:

- Suggested species based on soil conditions, year-round interest and benefits to wildlife: Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), Wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)
- Planting in late autumn to late winter (avoiding periods when the ground is frozen or waterlogged)
- Plants spaced in a zig-zag double row approx. 40 cm apart
- Planting whips would be a cost-effective approach given the likely number required. When planted in late autumn/winter there should be minimal watering requirements unless there is a prolonged dry spell
- Trimming recommended within first few years to encourage bushy growth- Use biodegradable tree guards and there are various suppliers, eg: Treebio Biodegradable Spiral Guard - Treebio Biodegradable Tree Planting Products | Green-tech

[Continued From above]

Creation of a 'Traditional Orchard'

Photo 2 below shows part of the available space which is currently not used for sports pitches. However, an orchard can be any size and shape, so the dimensions can be made to fit, according to how far up any new pitch plan which may be adopted.

Again, the primary aim is to benefit wildlife, but it will also create a community space and project, free food, increase visual amenity, providing a pleasant space for people to sit on the existing seats and enjoy. (An Interpretation Board nearby would explain the purpose and environmental benefits of the orchard). Orchards, like hedgerows, are also a Habitat of Principal Importance, a pollinator-friendly habitat and sequester of carbon. Fruit trees are particularly good habitats for wildlife because they display 'early senescence', meaning that they get old relatively quickly and develop veteran features such as hollow trunks, rot holes, dead wood and sap runs. These features are of particular value for a huge range of invertebrates, bats such as the noctule, and hole nesting bird species such as lesser spotted woodpeckers.

Fruit tree blossom is an important source of nectar for pollinating insects including bees, hoverflies and butterflies. As orchard trees are more widely spaced than trees in a dense woodland, they let in more sunlight which allows a diverse range of wildflowers to thrive. This is particularly good for flying insects, such as bees and butterflies.

- One year old maiden trees offer a good balance between cost and the increased survival rate over using whips.
- Planting in late autumn to late winter, avoiding periods when the ground is frozen or too cold.
- Bare-root trees should be well watered before planting by soaking in half a bucket of water for a few hours.