



Serving the Communities of Castleton & Marshfield

2016

Public Consultation Report
Multi Use Games Area
(MUGA)

Introduction

Marshfield Community Council has engaged in a public consultation about creating a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) as a new leisure facility for the Community. Provision of facilities for sport and exercise is becoming ever more important to attaining a healthy lifestyle for all ages and they can play a part in increasing community wellbeing.

This report will give you an outline of the history leading up to this point, what the facility could look like and where it would be located.

The report will also respond to public concern regarding such a facility.

The 2016 consultation took place to establish:

- Whether the community would use it, and if so the choice of sports.
- The proposed location.
- Irrespective of intended use whether the Community Council should spend its funds on such a facility.
- Suggestions on design or other associated items.
- Seek views on community concerns and give an opportunity to make suggestions.

What is A MUGA ?

MUGA is short for Multi-Use Games Area i.e. several sports facilities in the same court. There are many sorts of MUGA. Most are about the size of a tennis court but some are smaller, aimed at younger children, and some have areas for more than one sport within them. Some have high all-round fencing forming a cage, but some are open having low fencing 1m tall at the sides with 2m high end panels and backboards. Some are suitable for wheelchair sports.

Sport and exercise are universally considered to be essential to a healthy lifestyle. The Welsh Government web site for Culture and Sport says on the subject:

- “Sport and physical activity are vital in promoting health and making people feel good about themselves and as a nation”.
- “Sport and physical activity can bring people together, binding and regenerating communities”.

Our proposal is aimed at addressing these goals. At the moment our Community only has outdoor leisure facilities for football, and indoor for yoga, martial art etc and indoor bowls. A MUGA could increase these by five more sports aimed at all ages from five years upwards. As a free and open access facility it would provide an anytime area for children to run around and use the sport skills that they have been shown in school. And it will benefit adults as well. Tennis is a sport that many people participate in, right into old age!

Hopefully tennis and netball clubs might emerge or maybe even a Walking Football group. The facility would also provide an all-weather training location for some of the existing user groups such as junior football.

History

In 2011 the Council received £54,000 from Newport City Council as a retrospective grant for the children's playgrounds at Marshfield Village Hall. As this replaced money already expended, it was immediately set aside for further leisure facility improvements. In November 2013 the Council received a further Section 106 grant for leisure facilities of £25,000 bringing the total sum available to £80,000. The Council was then in a position to look at providing a major project for a new leisure facility.

At the AGM in March 2012 the Council formed a new Leisure Committee to consider what leisure facility should be provided with the available money.

Between 2012 and 2016 numerous consultations with the community have been undertaken to establish the preferred leisure options.

The public presentation/consultation in March 2015 meeting revealed that some of the near neighbours of the proposed MUGA had some concerns about its need, location and the potential for bringing anti-social activities. This led us to consider other sites, including adjacent to Marshfield School, or other sports such as cricket. Whilst locating a MUGA at the school looked very promising at first, the location had to be abandoned when it was rejected by Newport City Council, as placing it within the school would also mean it would not be eligible for use of the grant funding we held.

The Council resolved to return to the MUGA proposal in the existing leisure field and to seek advice from the Gwent Police Crime Prevention Officer. Although he suggested a need for some access improvements and n for a ball protection net and also better visibility for surveillance from St Mellons Road, he thought the proposed site was suitable for a MUGA. He felt its creation would very likely reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour from young people, providing that it was an open facility, not locked. He also recommended low level solar lighting to provide visibility and deter night use.

Design and Location

A general purpose play area can be any size that's available but our aim is to provide sports facilities for both young people and adults. Hence the MUGA needs to accommodate markings for Netball, Tennis and 5-a-side football. The chosen site is in the non-play grass area below the junior football pitches.



Because the Police were concerned about balls leaving the MUGA area and going onto the road we are putting a ball containment fence on that side of it, but on the field side it will 1m high only. Self closing gates will ensure that dogs do not get into the court. The court will be surfaced in a special mix of bitumen macadam for endurance and versatility.

We have been working with a national specialist in MUGA design and construction to help us arrive at a realistic design. The cost of the MUGA would be around £75,000.

Community Consultations

In September 2012 it undertook a well-publicised online survey. The most important question was “What facilities would you like to see in Marshfield?”

There were 70 responses to this question with 30 different suggestions ranging from an internet café to archery. A MUGA got the highest vote (15%) and football, basketball, tennis – all activities that could be provided by a MUGA – got a further 15%.

In summer 2015 we carried out another Community Consultation using Marshfield Mail as a distributor, similar to 2012, only 72 returns, but it did confirm that a MUGA remained the most wanted facility – 40 votes, comfortably above just tennis courts at 20 votes. At the end of 2015 we consulted with young people in the community to find out their views on youth provision within the village. From this consultation we found that a ball court provision would be used, a MUGA fits this bill.

The engagement exercise in 2016 confirmed the support for such a facility with 121 out of 142 people consulted supporting the development.

Comments From Consultation Cards

- I support a MUGA because this community needs it, it has been promised for too long!
- Let’s keep Marshfield green, there are so many houses being built. The village hall should remain untouched.
- There is nothing in Marshfield for children to do. There are plenty of activities for adults, exercise classes, bingo and bowls. It’s about time the children had something for themselves!!
- The Traffic on football days is bad enough, a MUGA would make this even worse.

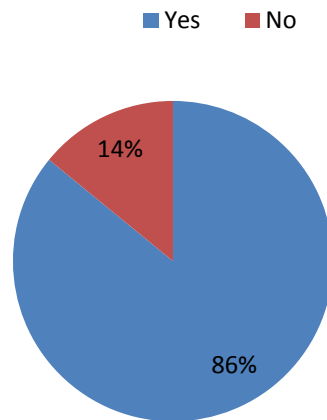
- I have to drive my son to Risca to play football on a similar facility. This type is definitely needed in our village. This would provide an all weather surface for a range of different sports.
- I am concerned about misuse of facility due to free for all concept, would be better if it was controlled access for team games.
- There is not enough sporting equipment in our village, this is a great idea. What better way to encourage our children to stay active in all weathers.
- I am concerned that an unmanaged and uncontrolled MUGA could become a site for antisocial behaviour. I would support a building capable of hosting indoor sporting activities. Such a building would need to be managed.
- This would be great for children and teenagers, it would be good if they appreciated it and looked after the facility. Our neighbourhood needs looking after, that's all we ask.
- Anti-social behaviour will increase around the Village Hall area. Committee members who support a MUGA do not appear to live in close proximity.
- It will be nice to see something for the children at long last. My grandchildren travel to use the site in Afon Village. It seems stupid for local children to have to go out of area to use a facility that we could provide at home.
- Litter including cigarette ends and cans will increase.
- I have lived in this village 30yrs and strongly believe this proposal is well overdue. This was first proposed 6 years ago, what has happened since? Please let this happen ASAP, the generations are quickly growing up. £110 Council Tax, please give me something back.
- I have a big concern about parking! The surrounding roads are often blocked when the field is being used. This is especially concerning when there are big events on at the Hall. This may impact on locals.
- My son plays basketball for Wales, there is nowhere in the local area for him to practice. This facility would be ideal and would save us travelling to use a site in Bridgend.

- Litter Levels are already unacceptable. With more people using the MUGA there will be more litter. People choose not to use the bins already provided.

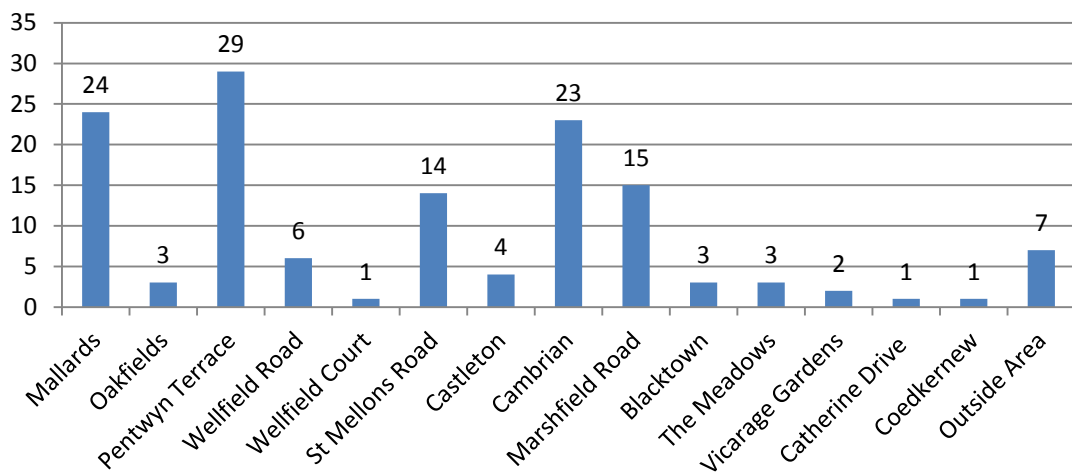
There were concerns from a small number of those who responded around the following areas:

Concern	Solution
Congregation of youths	We accept there may be an increase in youth visiting the site in the short term. Evidence from other areas suggests this will then reduce. Residents are encouraged to contact the police if behaviour is considered to be antisocial.
Noise	The facility will be manufactured and built in a way that offers maximum noise suppression. The MUGA is placed in an area away from residential properties. Neighbouring would need to contact the police if they considered noise levels from users of the site to be antisocial.
Parking	We envisage most users to access the site by foot or pushbike. Parking is available at Marshfield Village Hall. A bike rack will be provided close to the MUGA.
Litter	Additional bins will be provided around the site to cater for any additional litter. Signs will be erected to encourage use of these facilities.
Access	Public access would be discouraged from St Mellon's Road. Signs would be erected to state access from Wellfield road only. Footpaths will be improved to encourage this.

Percentage Of 142 Residents Consulted Who Would Support A MUGA

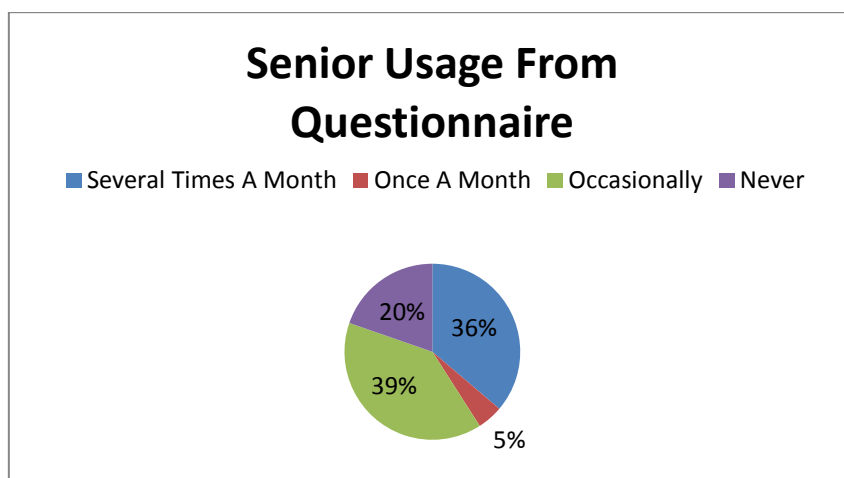
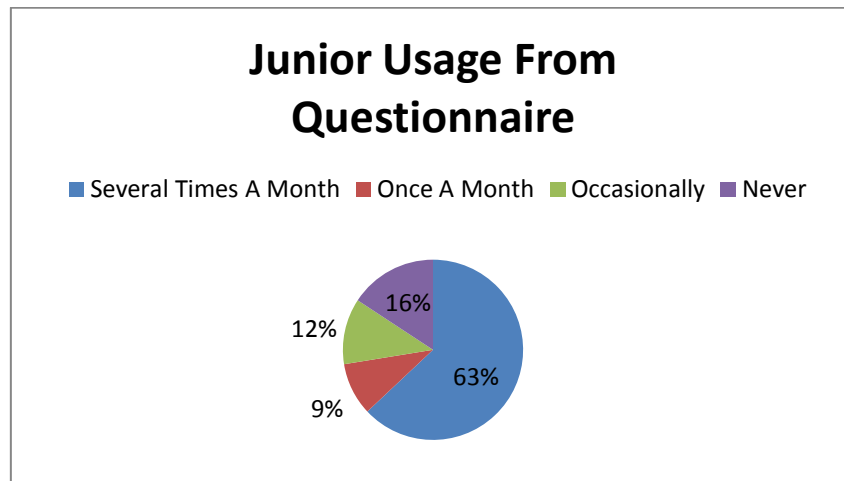


Location Of Residents Who Completed Questionnaire



The new facility is being promoted to provide additional facilities for all ages. Of special concern for MCC has been the absence of facilities for the teenage years, as was highlighted by the Young Persons Consultation. We hope that the youth of our community will assume "Ownership" of the facility and therefore look after it.

The MUGA in its design is a “turn up and play” concept, however there may be a need in the future for some arrangement for “booking” e.g. if netball teams had seasonal requirements for fixtures, or a tennis club formed and wanted to meet regularly.



Junior	
Several Times A Month	80
Once A Month	12
Occasionally	15
Never	20

Senior	
Several Times A Month	46
Once A Month	6
Occasionally	50
Never	25

Conclusion

Marshfield Community Council wish to build a Multi-Use Games Area, (MUGA), on one of the recreation grounds attached to the Village Hall in order to offer a wider range of play provision for the community. Line markings on a hard surface would facilitate a number of different sports to be played within a fenced enclosure.

| The Site

The site is currently a large grassed area, maintained by Newport City Council. St. Mellons Road runs alongside the north-west boundary behind an established hedge. A few metres within this boundary is a well-used footpath, used for walks and dog-walking, which continues close to the outer edges of the south-west and south-east sides of the playing fields. Large, mature trees exist to the southwest and north-east sides of the intended site for the MUGA.

| Design

Use

The MUGA will be inherently versatile and be able to host a variety of popular outdoor sports including Football, Tennis and Netball to name a few. Critically, it provides a more formal all weather arena than what is currently available locally, to encourage participation of sports in the safety of an enclosed pitch.

Amount & Appearance

The proposed MUGA will comprise a modular system of vertical round section steel posts interlinked by steel panels with goal sections forming either end of the enclosed area.

Scale

The proposed size is 34 x 19m in accordance with relevant guidance from Sport England.

Layout

The location has been carefully positioned to not affect the function of the existing footpath, nor to affect the canopies or root zones of the existing trees to either side.

| Access

Access would be via the Village Hall grounds and playing fields using footpaths for pedestrians and cyclists. People arriving by car would use the existing, large car park adjoining the Hall. Public access would be discouraged from St Mellons Road. Signs would be erected to state access from Wellfield road only. In the event of any emergency, an ambulance or police vehicle could use the existing field gate on St Mellons Road, very close to the MUGA.

| Environmental Sustainability

The site is not within an area of flood risk and drainage from the hard surface of the MUGA would run into a French drain. It is not located within a conservation area or is on land of any significant ecological value, (being mown grass). Careful consideration has been given to the MUGA's exact siting in order to ensure it has a negligible ecological impact. No existing trees or hedges would be affected by the construction. Litter bins would be erected to provide for any extra litter resulting from the facility.

| Community Safety

The MUGA would be visible from the adjacent footpath, playing fields and also from houses to the south-east. It could additionally be viewed from St. Mellon's road, via the existing field gate. The proposed MUGA's location aims to provide a safe and meaningful environment for young people whilst ensuring neighbours are not unduly disturbed by additional activity. In short, the MUGA will be an asset to the local community.

Facility Management

Marshfield Community Council and the Marshfield Village Hall Management Committee are both volunteer community groups therefore the principle for management of a new facility is minimalist and therefore light in touch.

In partnership with MVHMC it is our intention to identify and resolve problems at the earliest opportunity.

Litter is likely to be an ever present problem if we as a community are not prepared to deal with it. We will be putting in place arrangements to manage this.

Health and Safety is of paramount concern. This will entail the existing provision for access by emergency services and also periodic inspection of the site. It is also vital that defects, damage and any other potentially dangerous circumstances are reported. The Community and Users will effectively be “Monitors” in this respect.

MCC will have a continuing maintenance responsibility. We expect a considerable lifetime of use if we take care of our Assets for future generations.