



Willingham MUGA Survey – June 2019

Back in 2009 initial plans for a MUGA on Willingham recreation ground were drawn up by the Willingham Sports Council but shortly afterwards the Sports Council was disbanded and the plans shelved. So when ring-fenced S106 money for public open spaces from the new developments became available, the Parish Council agreed that resurrecting the MUGA plans was a priority. The aim would be to provide a fenced all-weather surface with floodlights to allow year-round use.

Initial indications were that there was strong support from the football, tennis and netball players. The next step was to consult the residents more widely on what their views were, and the sports that should be catered for. We also took the opportunity to get a snapshot of current sporting activity of residents and where they currently play. Throughout June 2019 the survey was made widely available – hard copies in Willingham News, the Post Office, library, bakers, surgery and community café, and an online version on the PC website. The survey was also advertised on the Willingham Life website, the Willingham Village facebook page and the primary school parent mail. A total of 196 responses were received, 167 (85%) of which were online. A copy of the survey questions is appended.

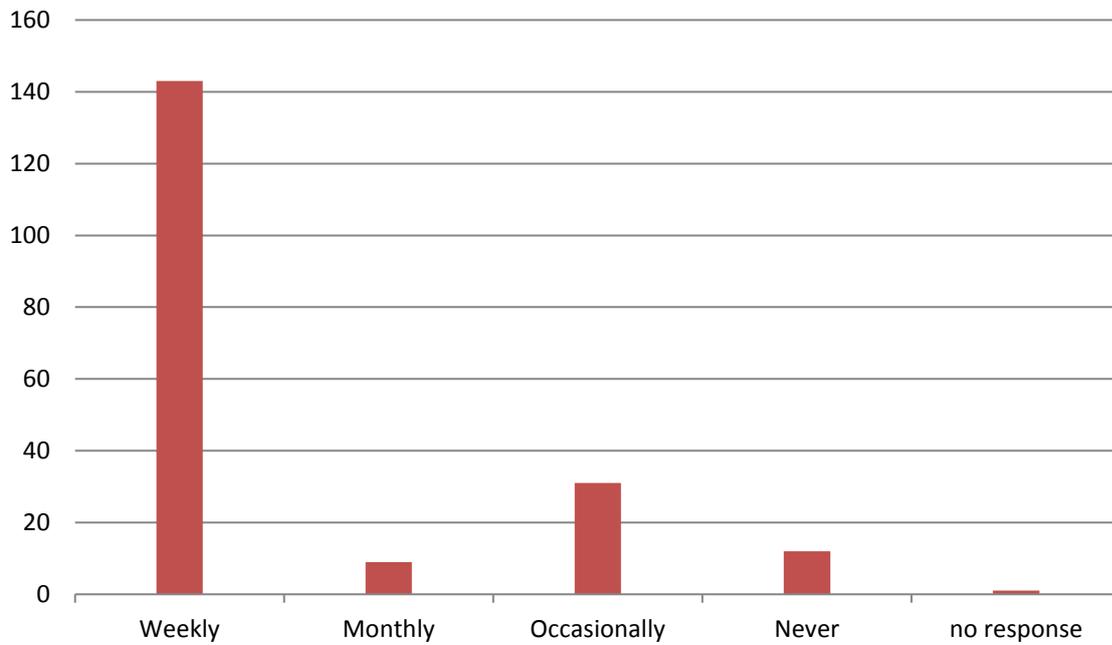
The information below is a summary. An excel document showing the full response is available from the Parish Office.

The responses have been analysed accurately but it is possible that multiple or spurious returns have been included. However, we believe that the results fairly represent the overall views of the village.

Question 1. Do you currently participate in a sport?

Given that it was likely that the survey would be completed by residents who were interested in sport, it is not surprising that, as shown by figure 1, the majority did already participate in a sport, mainly weekly.

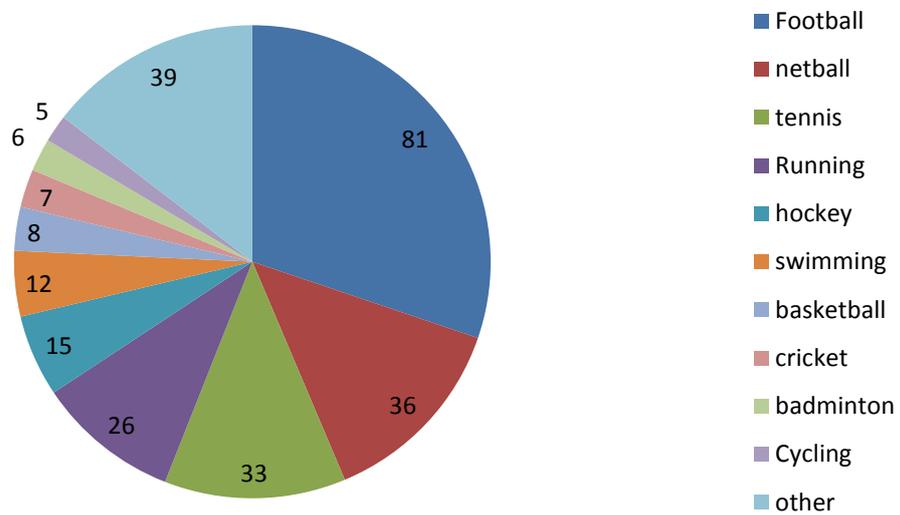
Figure 1. Current Participation in Sport



Question 2. Please state which sport(s) you currently play

The responses to this question covered a total of 33 sporting activities, with many respondents playing more than one. As shown by the piechart, figure 2, football is currently the most popular, at 30%, followed by netball, 13%, and tennis, 12%, with running not far behind, 10%, and hockey on 6%.

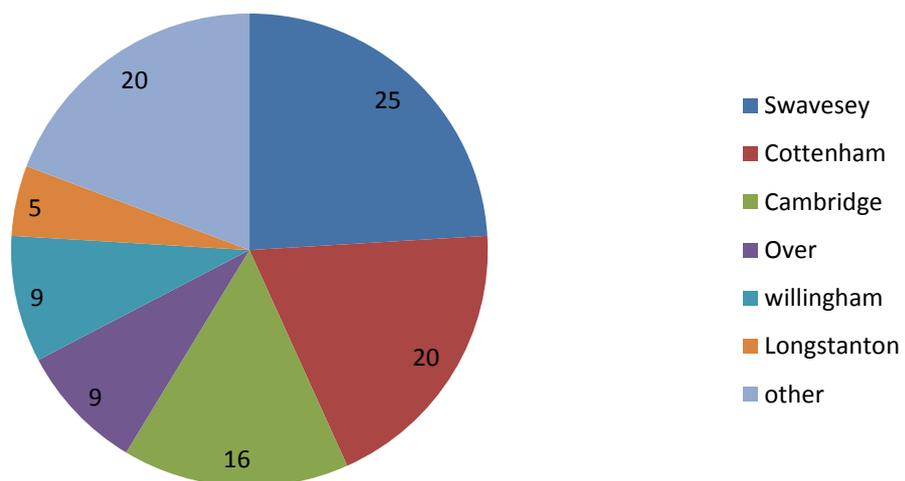
Figure 2. Sports Played Currently



Question 3. Do you use a MUGA or similar all-weather surface (e.g. hard tennis court) and if so where?

Exactly half of respondents (98) currently used some sort of all-weather surface, for a wide variety of sports but with football, tennis and netball dominating. The location varied, and some respondents named more than one. A few used locations close to their place of work, so not necessarily local, but of the local ones figure 3 shows that Swavesey Village College was the most often visited location (netball, plus football and tennis), followed by Cottenham (mainly football). Next most popular were various locations in Cambridge for a wide variety of sports, but tennis was mentioned most often, then Over (mainly football), Willingham Primary school (mainly netball), and Longstanton (mainly tennis). Also mentioned were Bar Hill, Cambourne, Comberton, Histon, Impington, Milton, Oakington, Orchard Park, St Ives, Waterbeach, plus further afield Bedford, Ely, Huntingdon. It is clear from this that many Willingham residents currently need to travel to pursue their sport, and given the poor provision of public transport (non-existent at night) and lack of convenient cycleways these journeys have to be made by car.

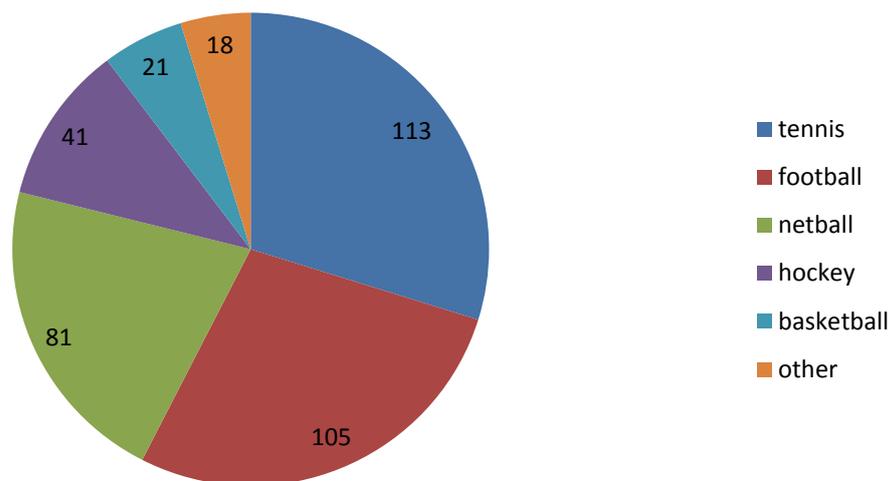
Figure 3. Location used Currently



Question 4. If there was a MUGA in Willingham, which of the following sports might you want to use it for (tick all that apply): football, tennis, hockey, netball, other?

Four specific sports were named, as preliminary investigation suggested that these would be the most popular. And this proved to be the case – see figure 4. As is clear from the actual numbers, many respondents named more than one sport. The split among the different sports was interesting: unlike for current sporting activity, tennis was now the most popular, with 30%, followed closely by football, 28%, then netball 21%, hockey 11% and basketball 6%. (For 5-15 age group football was most popular (37%), followed by tennis (25%), netball and hockey, both 16%, and basketball 5%). Other sports were also mentioned: gym/keep fit/bootcamp (4), cycling, cricket and roller skating (3), running (2), archery, badminton, volley ball (1).

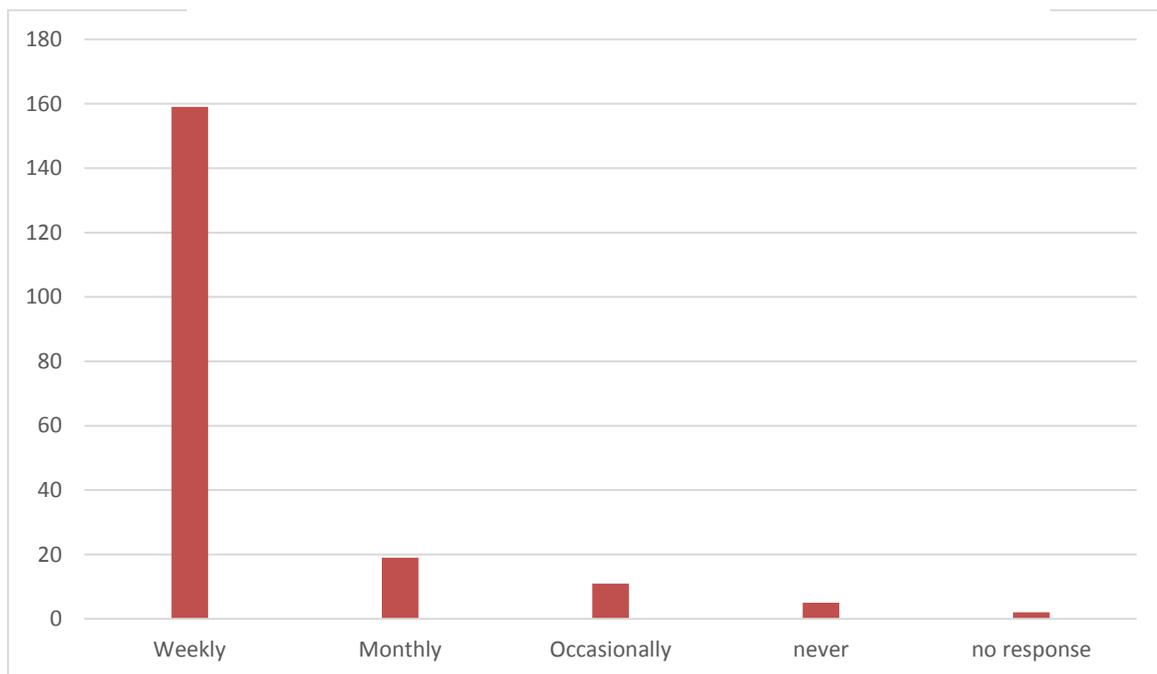
Figure 4. Which sports might respondents play



Question 5. How often would you anticipate using it?

It is clear from figure 5 that most respondents think they would use the MUGA weekly

Figure 5. Anticipated Frequency of Use



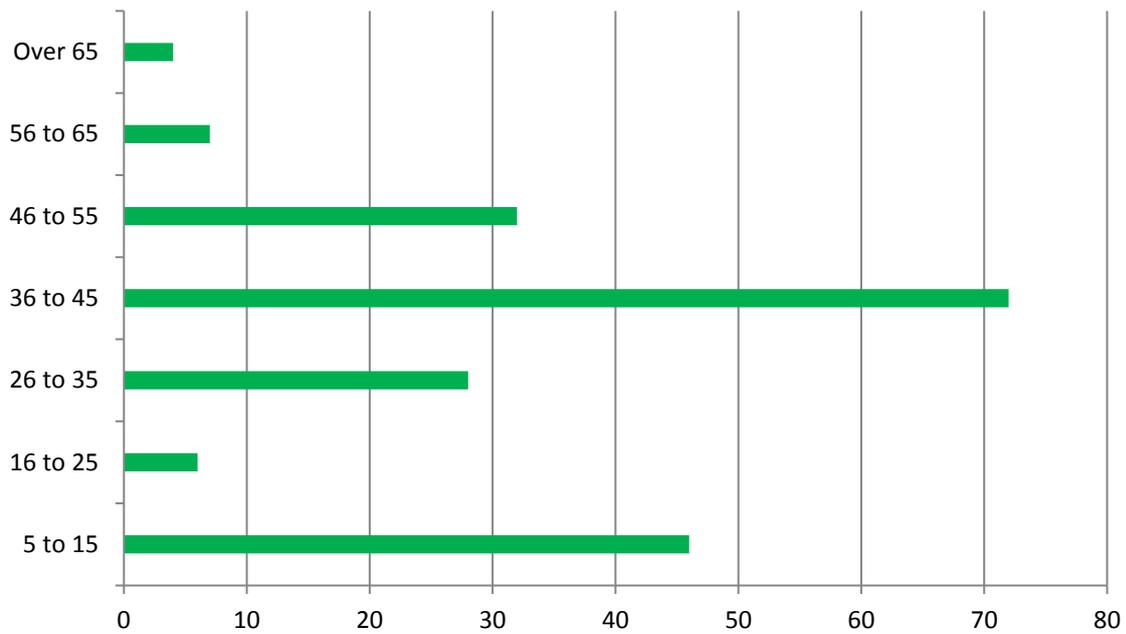
Question 6. If you currently do not participate in a sport, would a MUGA in Willingham encourage you to play?

87% of respondents answered 'yes' to this question which is a clear indication that sports would be much more widely played and residents would be encouraged to take up different sports.

Question 7. Please indicate your age bracket

The age profile of respondents was as shown in figure 6. It is very encouraging to see that almost a quarter (23%) were in the 5 to 15 age bracket and a small but significant number were over 55. These numbers need to be interpreted with some caution however, as shown in the ‘comments’ section: in eight instances parents said that they had included their children in the response and that it would be used by the whole family, and in one case the 26-25 age respondent would not use it themselves but their two children would.

Figure 6. Age Range of Respondents



Question 8. We would welcome further comments

83 of the respondents added further comments, plus one expression of strong support from an elderly couple who did not complete the survey as they were unlikely to use the MUGA. One said that it was a waste of money, five said that they would prefer a dog-walking facility (though one of those also thought a MUGA also a good idea), and all the rest were very positive. The view was widespread that it would be an excellent addition to the village sports facilities, especially for families, and as the village was growing. The current need to travel to other villages limits participation, especially in the winter. There was strong support from the footballing community (and some of their parents) who currently during the winter months have to go to neighbouring villages to train. ('I could walk myself to training rather than getting mum to drive'). The need to address the lack of tennis courts in Willingham was mentioned many times, and their value in encouraging more children to play. There was also strong support from Willingham Diamonds netball team who currently train at Willingham Primary School in the summer and Swavesey during the winter, but neither venue is considered completely suitable.

The need for adequate security and floodlighting was mentioned a number of times, to deter vandalism and keep the facility safe. A good booking system was also important, as was the need for good maintenance.

The scouts have expressed an interest in using the MUGA, and from other villages, interest has been expressed by Oakington Air Cadet Squadron and the Over netball club.

Offers of help have been received, and we will follow these up as and when needed.

Willingham Sports Facilities Survey - Have Your Say

The Parish Council is considering installing an all-weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the recreation ground, to provide a wider variety of sports facilities. It would be available all year round and be floodlit. So that we best meet the needs/desires of the village, we would be grateful if you would complete this questionnaire (one for each member of the family if appropriate). Please deliver the completed survey to the Parish Office, Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, by **30 June**. Or complete it online on the Parish Council website at www.willingham-pc.org.uk or email clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

1. Do you currently participate in a sport?

- a) Weekly
- b) Monthly
- c) Occasionally
- d) Never

2.

If a, b or c, please state which sport(s) you currently play

3. Do you use a MUGA or similar all-weather surface (e.g. hard tennis court)?

- a) Yes
 - b) No
- If (a), where

4. If there was a MUGA in Willingham, which of the following sports might you want to use it for (tick all that apply)?

- a) Football
- b) Tennis
- c) Hockey
- d) Netball
- e) Other (please specify)

5. How often would you anticipate using it?

- (a) Weekly
- (b) Monthly
- (c) Occasionally

6. If you currently do not participate in a sport, would a MUGA encourage you to play?

- a) Yes
- b) No

7. Please indicate your age bracket

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 5-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46-55 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 56-65 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 65+ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 36-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

8. We would welcome further comments, which can be attached to this form or emailed to clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk.