

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION 2011
2026 Ealing LDF Core Strategy

MATTER 9. 11

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Rep. No: 54

‘Whether a spatial policy for the safeguarding of outdoor, community sport facilities is necessary and if so, whether or not this is adequately provided for in the policies in chapter 5’.

1. I do think that a spatial policy for the safeguarding of outdoor, community sports facilities is necessary, but I question whether Ealing Council’s policies are adequate.

2. LDF CS Proposal 5.6: Outdoor Sports and Active Recreation states:

‘The Council will seek:

- (a) To protect and promote a network of sports grounds and other recreation areas in the borough. Sites identified as being of strategic and local importance for outdoor sports will be protected and promoted primarily for this function.’

10 sites are listed as strategic.

3. The following sites are however not listed as ‘strategic’, and in fact are not listed at all:

Ealing Cricket Club
Ealing Lawn Tennis Club
West Middlesex Lawn Tennis Club
Old Actonians
Will To Win, West Ealing
Brentham Sports Club
Ealing Golf Club
Brent Valley Golf Club
Twyford Avenue Sports Ground
The Park Club

I question the criteria used to select the 10 strategic sites and even given these criteria I question why some sites on my list are not on the protected list.

The Council’s criteria are:

- number of pitches
- accommodate a range of sports
- use by a significant number of organisations and clubs

These criteria would exclude major single sport community sports clubs. Ealing Cricket Club is excluded yet it boasts 500 junior members, is over 100 years old, and is probably

the most important cricket development centre in the west of London.
www.ealingcc.co.uk

Ealing Lawn Tennis Club, a Community Amateur Sports Club, is excluded from the strategic list yet it was used by 55 other tennis Clubs in competitive matches throughout 2011. It has over 100 junior members two of which are world ranked juniors. It is the leading tennis club in Middlesex for women's tennis and its women members - going back to 1882 – have won more Wimbledon Singles Championships than any other tennis club in the world. It is currently also the only lawn tennis club in Ealing with an indoor tennis facility. www.ealingtennis.com.

In terms of multi-sports clubs, Old Actonians – not on the Council's strategic list – probably offers a greater range of sports than any other sports site in Ealing. It offers cycling, badminton, cricket, football, netball, tennis, table tennis, squash and rugby.
www.oldactonians.co.uk

Brentham, also not on the strategic list, offers tennis, cricket, bowls and football.
www.brenthamclub.co.uk

4. In EB25 on page 6 when discussing Facilities it states:

‘The focus should be on small community estates and park based projects’.

This statement is a distortion of the regional planning guidance which is correctly presented immediately below. Please note the punctuation used below as well as the use and significance of the word ‘or’. Please also note that The London Plan states that community projects are a focus and this quite clearly includes projects at Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

Planning Guidance Context

The London Plan

Policy 3.9

3.112

‘The focus will principally be on small, community, park or estate-based projects’.

Planning Policy Guidance 17

11.

‘Open space and sports and recreational facilities which are of high quality, or of particular value to a local community, should be recognised and given protection by local authorities through appropriate policies in plans’.

The London Plan

Policy 3.19 Sports Facilities

Strategic: LDF Preparation

D.

'Within LDFs Boroughs should assess the need for sports and recreation facilities in line with PPG 17 at local and sub-regional levels regularly, and secure sites for a range of sports facilities'.