



Sports Hall Feasibility Study 'Planning For Real ©' Report



**Port Seton Centre Advisory Committee
'Sports Hall for All' Steering Group
June 2010**



Background

The Port Seton Centre Advisory Committee has identified the need for a new Sports Hall for Cockenzie & Port Seton. Following receipt of funding from Association of East Lothian Community Councils LEADER Grant to conduct a feasibility study the aim is to find out the views from the community. The 'Sports Hall for All Steering Group' representing community groups progressed this study.

This need was identified as Port Seton Centre has limited space for a full programme of sports and leisure activities to take place. The Gymnastics Club has outgrown the centre and needs a designated sports hall to progress young gymnasts to competition level. Exercises classes had previously met in the café area, which was not fit for purpose. The Café flooring has been replaced and it has been stipulated that sports and dance classes can no longer take place in this space. This has impacted on many of the groups currently using the centre. Dance Classes are utilising all the spaces available in the centre some of which are inadequate to meet the growing demand from young people. The Seton Boys Club would like to play indoor football in their community. Young people attending the youth clubs are restricted by the space available for indoor balls games, which can't be played in the centre e.g. badminton, basketball, volleyball etc.

A community based sports hall would provide a diversionary facility to help combat anti-social behaviour. The increased number of opportunities would provide early intervention lifestyle changes for children and young people to reduce health inequalities and increase health and wellbeing.

This study brought different people and groups together to develop activities for the community, although the primary focus was to seek views about the need for a Sports Hall, the 'Planning for Real' community planning tool also helped identify other local issues. Two members of the community had completed training in 'Planning for Real' organised by East Lothian Council's Community Learning & Development (Capacity Building) team. The aim was to contribute to East Lothian Council Corporate Plan objectives to promote safer, healthier communities with increased opportunities for people to be physically active, through access to sport, leisure and recreation.

The Steering Group had already sought the views of local people who attended the Open Day at Port Seton Centre, people were asked to respond to key questions on a graffiti wall and the overall view was that there was a need for a Sports Hall.

As part of the initial consultation process local people were invited to a public meeting at Port Seton Centre to explore ideas and encourage more people to join the Steering Group. The group agreed to use the 'World Café' discussion format, which proved to be a useful tool to engage everyone in the process (see report appendix 1).

Aim

The aim was to take the feasibility study further with the local community using a creative community engagement technique and action research method - 'Planning for Real'© to ensure involvement from the start by local people of all ages in their community. The Steering Group discussed the findings from the Café consultation and agreed that the three most feasible sites were Port Seton Harbour, Cockenzie Primary and George V Park.

The aim was to invite young people to make the initial model (s) of these areas (highlighting the sites identified). The models were then showcased at a series of 'Planning For Real'© community consultation events.

Model making

The local primary and secondary school were approached to help build three models of the areas identified as potential sites for a new sports hall. Members of the Steering group together with the Community Development Officer worked with teachers and pupils from Preston Lodge High School (6th year pupils) and Cockenzie Primary (P6/7 and P5 classes). Each class worked on the model for 6 sessions using Google maps to look closer at the type of housing/buildings to be constructed. Children from Cockenzie Primary used this as part of their community mapping exercise, which was already part of the school curriculum. The primary fives visited the harbour and took photographs as part of their class project. Children learned more about their community and enthusiastically gave their ideas for the sports hall.

At the time the Community Development Officer was also working with the Coastal Regeneration Forum and the school agreed to make a further model of Cockenzie Harbour for a consultation event during the Three Harbours Festival. The teachers who took part agreed that the process added value to the children's learning as it was based on their doorstep and focused on a real issue. Children were included and participating in the process. It increased their knowledge and skills in community mapping, IT skills, math and literacy.



Each child was presented with a Certificate from the Steering Group to acknowledge and value their contribution to the consultation and to thank them for all their hard work.

Planning for Real © Events

The models were used at a series of events the first being the Family Fun Morning at Port Seton Centre on Saturday 20 March 2010.

This event attracted 106 people from the local community.

Children discussed their ideas for a new sports a hall with local MSP Iain Gray.

The programme for the day proved popular with families and included children's entertainer 'Stone the Crow,' and an arts and crafts sessions where children could paint and draw their ideas for the sports hall. Their efforts are now displayed in the Port Seton Centre.



The group hired the 'Cozy bike,' for the morning which proved to be a great method to attract attention and bring more people into the event.

The group also started the 'Buy a Brick' campaign to encourage local people to support the ongoing work of the group and fundraising for the hall.



Stats from the day

Participants from	
Longniddry	2
Tranent	3
Cockenzie	5
Port Seton	88
Haddington	2
Prestonpans	6
	106
Male	41
Females	65
Age Range (as given)	
Under 5	3
6 to 10	13
11 to 16	25
16 to 21	7
22-30	2
31-40	15
41 to 50	18
51 to 60	4
61+	5

Planning For Real Responses -			
			Number
Issue	Where	Suggestion	Requested
Leisure & Recreation	King George V Park - Grass Area	Sports Hall	58
	Attached to Port Seton Centre		37
	Cockenzie Primary School grounds		29
	Goolwa Park		8
	Floating Island off the harbour		1
	At the Tennis Courts		2
	Attached on stilts to Youth Hall		1
	At entrance to Park - NS Park Right		2
	Bowling Club Building		1
	Use Bowling Club for Changing rooms		1
	Keep changing rooms in centre		1
	Bowling Green	6-12 Adventure Playground	1
	Port Seton & Cockenzie Harbours	Fishing, Water sports	3
	Cockenzie Primary School grounds	Encourage children to cycle to school	10
	Five-aside Pitches	Fix wire Fences (health & Safety risk)	6
	Port Seton Centre	Adventure Playground	3
	George IV Park	Table Tennis table Outside	1
	Sports Hall when built	Badminton	2
		Basket Ball pitch	5
		Basketball hoop	2
		Tennis Court	4
		Step Aerobics	1
		Ropes for climbing	1
		Volleyball	1
		Dance Studio	1
		Music Room/Studio	1
		Swimming Pool/Spa	3
		7/10 Bicycle fixed	1
		Outdoor Fitness Trail	3
		Fitness Class	3
		Floodlights	1
		Goal Posts for Football	1
		Local Football Team	1
		Gymnastics Hall Arena	2
		6-12 Adventure Playground	3
		Multi Gym	1
		Martial Arts	1
		Trampolines	1
		Yoga & Alternative Therapies	1
		Indoor Bowls	1

Health	Community Centre	Cooking for the Family	2
	Cockenzie Primary	Physical activity to be encouraged	3
	Diabetic Clinic	Local Support Group	1
	Port Seton Centre	Stop Smoking Group	1
	Cockenzie Primary	Healthy Cooking for pupils	1
	George V Park	Walking area with Obstacles over 50s	1
		Playpark for the Over 50s	1
		Walking machine in concrete over 50s	1
		Jogging machine in concrete over 50s	1
		Double Swings for Adults	1
		Exercise classes - light weight for	1
		people with health problems	
	Port Seton Centre	Community Food Shop	1
Community Safety	Skate Park/Community Centre	Young People Hanging Around	3
	Bowling Club	Railings needed o/s bowling club	1
	Port Seton Centre	One Way sign needed	1
	Park Road	Night noise	1
		Police Patrols	1
		Dog Mess	2
		Poop Scoop Bins	1
		Young People Hanging Around	1
	Skate Park	Drinking problem	1
	School Grounds	Cycle Racks for school children	10
	Car Park at Co-op	Drinking problem	4
	All around	Police Patrols	4
	Bowling Club	Vandalism Problem	1
	Play Park at Port Seton Centre	Drinking problem	3
Community Services	Port Seton Area	Meals on Wheels	1
	Port Seton Centre	Arts & Crafts for Children	6
		Youth Shelter	1
	Next to Bowling Green	Youth Club	2
	Port Seton Centre	Older People's Meeting Place	7
		Summer Club	5
		Arts & crafts for Children	3
		Film show night & Tuck shop	2
		Elderly meeting place	1
		Youth Theatre	3
		Craft Group for Women	2

		Art Exhibition Centre	1
		Art Club	1
		Art Studio	1
		Art Centre	1
Environment	Grounds Opposite School	Dog Walking - dog poop bins	3
		Nature Trail	3
		Planting to encourage wildlife	3
		Muck about area	3
	Oswald Terrace	Dog Free Area	4
	Goolwa Park	Dog Mess	8
	Whin Park	Dog problem	1
	Cockenzie School grounds	Community garden	7
		landscaped area	6
		Scheme for growing veg/selling	10
Traffic & Transport	Park Road, Edinburgh road junction	Traffic Lights	1
	Junction Road - new harbour	Traffic Calming	1
	Pathway to Bowling Club	Ban HGV Vehicles	1
	Edinburgh Road	Zebra or pelican crossing	1
	Cockenzie High Street	Zebra crossing	2
		Residents Parking	2
	Osborne Terrace	Traffic Calming	3
		Speed limits need lowering	2
	Cockenzie Primary	Dropping off zone	3
	Waterfront	Pedestrian Crossing	1
Work, training &	Port Seton Centre	Internet Cyber Café	6
Local Economy	Cockenzie Primary	Childcare needed - must be affordable	3
		After School Club	2
		Childcare Training Needed	2
	Port Seton Centre	University of Life Group	1

Planning for Real © Consultation at Parents Night Cockenzie Primary

Stats

65 parents took part in the 'Planning for Real' consultation at the school on Thursday 25 March 2010.

Issue Category	Where	Suggestion	Number
Leisure & Recreation	Attached to Port Seton Centre	Sports Hall	54
	Cockenzie Primary School grounds	Sports Hall	11
	New Sports Hall Facilities	Swimming Pool	4
		Badminton	1
		5-a-side Football	4
		Dance Studio	3
		Trampolines	2
		Indoor Tennis	1
		Gymnastics	2
		Decent Hall for Shows	2
		Rock Climbing	1
		Rugby	2
		Hockey	1
		Squash	1
		Climbing Wall	3
		Judo	1
		Cricket	1
		Café	1
		Soft Play	2
		Storage Space for equipment	2
Viewing Gallery and Deck seasonal		1	
Mats for Gymnastics/Karate etc	1		
Port Seton Centre	Theatre/Drama	2	
George V Park	Pitch n' Put	2	
George V Park	Crazy Golf	1	
Environment	South Seton Park	Dog Poop Bins	1

Planning for Real Consultation at Port Seton Resource Centre Open Night

Stats - Around 30 people with learning disabilities, their families and carers took part in the 'Planning for Real' consultation in April 2010. The models were placed in the café area during the late afternoon before the Resource Centre Open Night which also attracted around 10 parents who were using the café at the time.

Issue Category	Where	Suggestion	Number
Sports Hall	Attached to Port Seton Centre	Sports Hall	3
	At Astro Turf George V Park		1
	Royal British Legion		1
	Goolwa Park		3
	Football Pitch George V Park		2
	Behind Bowling Club George V Park		2
	Port Seton Harbour Area		3
	Cockenzie School Grounds		10
	Beside Bowling Green		2
	Beside Resource Centre		1
	In Car Park at Port Seton Centre		12
	Football Pitch George V Park		3
Sports Hall	Ideas in Hall		
Activities	Rave Room		1
	Recording Studio		8
	Waterslide		1
	Theme Park		1
	Ballet Studio		2
	Basketball Court		1
	Indoor Football		2
	Gym		1
	Swimming Pool		2
	Gym Hall		2
	Training Room		2
	Indoor Golf Range		1
	Keep-fit for the Disabled		1
	Dance Studio		1
	Nice light building lots of glass		1
	Big enough for squash		1
	Badminton		1
	Climbing wall		1
	Street Dance		1
	Gymnastics - high roof		1
	Trampoline		1
	Gymnastics Bars		1
	Music Rooms		1
	All sports		1
	Rock Wall		1
	State of the art disabled access		1
	Beauty treatment rooms		1
	Boxing Room		2
	Hydrotherapy Suite		1
	Jacuzzi/Spa/Steam		1

Findings - Where to locate a Sports Hall?

- **George V Park near or attached to Port Seton Centre**

This proved to be the most popular choice with the community due to its central location, accessibility and existing facilities.

- **The Harbour (Port Seton or Cockenzie)**

Land availability was an issue here but there were ideas to develop water sports activities in the area. Ideas have been taken to the Coastal Regeneration Forum and Cockenzie & Port Seton Committee Council. Recent boat building activity at the harbour is helping to generate interest.

- **Cockenzie Primary School**

Whilst this was recognised as a possibility there were concerns about access during the day and storage facilities for equipment.

Outcomes and Recommendations

- The study has found that there is a need for a Sports Hall located in George V Park attached to the existing Port Seton Centre or in the grassed area at the side of the bowling green.
- There is not enough space at Port Seton Centre to meet the needs of the community. Space for community groups could be greatly improved if the current sports/leisure activities were housed elsewhere. The hall could take more functions resulting in less cancellations to groups.
- The Sports Hall would help support existing clubs e.g. gymnastics to expand and develop
- It was clear that people wanted their children to access facilities locally and were concerned about their children walking to facilities at Meadowmill Sports Centre as there is no direct bus link to Meadowmill from Cockenzie & Port Seton.
- The hall would help to combat anti social behaviour and improve the health of young people.
- There is a growing population of young families in the area.
- Cockenzie & Port Seton is a thriving community with a long history of community involvement.
- There is also a need to improve access to existing facilities.

The Steering Group looked at existing facilities and made the following recommendation:

- Strengthen links with Cockenzie Primary School and Active Schools to utilise hall and gym hall, school grounds for use by the community.
- Chalmers Church Hall – strengthen links to promote hall to wider community.
- British Legion – large hall not suitable for sports activities but could be better used in the community.
- Bowling Club – encourage more young people to taking up bowling

- Harbours – could be improved through Coastal Regeneration Forum for more water sports. Prestonpans Sailing & Yachting Club aim to develop activities for young people.
- Land identified for football pitch at Cockenzie Power Station – explore potential for development with Scottish Power.
- The Steering group recognise that they need to further develop links and plan a funding strategy including the following:

Establish a Fundraising Group -
 Joint bid to Sports Council with East Lothian Council
 Lottery Funding – Sports for All /Lotto
 Fundraising – buy a brick
 Coalfields Regeneration Trust
 Postcode Lottery

- Strengthen links with Scottish Sports Council.
- Continue to work with local community groups to take ideas forward.
- Look at ideas for facilities requested from the community in a Sports Hall consider size required e.g. how many courts?
- Take planning application forward.
- The Steering Group now need to strengthen its expertise on funding, planning and sports development with a view to increasing their capacity.

Future Issues for Steering Group

- Operational costs of a new Sports Hall, gather data from nearby facilities re usage, income and expenditure.
- Consider maintenance and staffing of a Sports Hall.
- Plan for long term sustainability
- Expand knowledge of planning process, work with Planning Aid Scotland.

Summary

The ‘Sports Hall for All ‘Planning for real’ consultations went well and local people enthusiastically embraced the idea of a new sports hall in their community. The community have been actively involved in the consultation process. The evidence gathered from the study has enabled the group to take ideas forward and discuss future steps towards their goal.

Wendy Edmond, chair of the Sports Hall for All Steering Group said “

“The models are superb, it was a great way to get more people involved. We are moving forward, the community really got behind the idea choosing their preferred location and giving their views on what type of facility is needed.”

The feasibility study increased community involvement and social inclusion by offering community groups and individuals the opportunity to have a greater say in planning local facilities and improving their area. The process was as important as the outcome as it brought many people together to help build a strong resilient and supportive community where people had a real say in the process.

Sports Hall for All Steering Group
 June 2010

