



Comhairle Ceantair **Lár Uladh Mid Ulster** District Council



# **Sports Club Survey 2019**









A Headline Report for Mid Ulster District Council

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### Introduction

This is a headline report drawn from the Sports Club Survey 2019. Commissioned by Sport NI it is the largest survey ever undertaken of Northern Ireland's sports clubs, with responses from 837 clubs representing 60 governing bodies. The purpose of the survey is to provide a comprehensive picture of the 'health' of grassroots sports clubs, helping to inform how best to support clubs in the coming years.

Alongside the survey clubs were invited to attend a focus group. The series of 12 focus groups was attended by 114 clubs across 41 sports. Headline comments from the focus groups are included in this report.

This report relates to sport clubs located in the Mid Ulster District Council area which responded to the survey and/or attended a focus group. Eighty eight clubs are represented in this report - a full list of the clubs is contained in section 12. In summary, the responding clubs are categorised by sport as below.

Sport	No. of Clubs	%	Sport	No. of Clubs	%
Gaelic Games	35	40%	Basketball/Badminton		1%
Cycling	8	9%	Angling	1	1%
Association Football	7	8%	Archery	1	1%
Motorsport	4	5%	Bowling	1	1%
Athletics	3	3%	Equestrian	1	1%
Rugby Football	3	3%	Boxing	1	1%
Hockey	3	3%	Kickboxing		1%
Golf	2	2%	Motorcycle	1	1%
Netball	2	2%	Table Tennis	1	1%
Ju Jitsu	2	2%	Taekwon-Do		1%
Special Olympics	2	2%	Tennis		1%
Swimming	2	2%	Triathlon		1%
Shooting	2	2%	Rambling		1%

#### Note

These headline results are displayed primarily as the **percentage** of clubs which answered the survey question; where appropriate the results are also presented as the **number** of clubs which answered the question. Where percentages are used, the number of clubs is noted as (*Num Respd= X*).

# **1. Club Overview**

### **Facility ownership**



Over half of the clubs own or lease facilities for their activities:

44% of clubs own their facilities

16% of clubs lease their facility

41% of clubs hire facilities

Num Respd=80 \*clubs could answer more than one option in this question

### **Club View**



### How clubs are organised

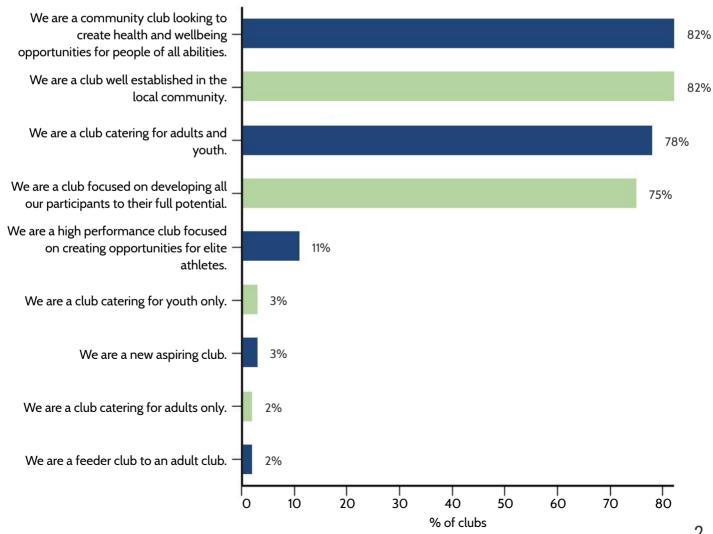


89% of clubs are non-profit run by members with a constitution and committee 21% of clubs are registered as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) 5% of clubs are registered as a Charity

Num Respd=87

\*clubs could answer more than one option in this question

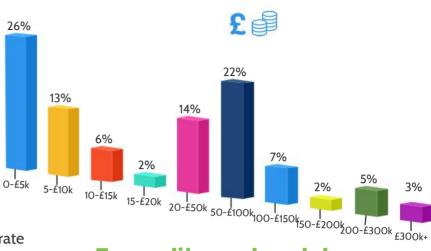
Clubs are asked to consider and choose which statements (see below) best describe and sum up what they 'are about'. Sports clubs clearly see their focus is to create health and wellbeing opportunities for people of all abilities and are also well established in the local community. (Num Respd=88).



# 2. Finances

#### **Total annual running cost**

Annual running cost is the total needed to be raised each year to cover all expenses e.g. facility hire, competition fees, training equipment etc. (Num Respd=87)



#### Income - breakdown

We asked clubs to indicate how they generate income (Num Respd=88):

1. Membership fees	<b>91%</b>
2. Fundraising events	74%
3. Grants	63%
4. Business sponsorship	44%
5. Donations	42%
6. Training fees	26%
7. Club lottery	26%
8. Hire of club facilities	14%
9. Planned Giving/Friends of	13%
10. Social club/bar	10%

Membership fees and fundraising events are the top two income generators.

#### How Clubs describe their **Financial Health (Now)**

Comfortable - income UJust about manage more than expenses." generate enough with 26% little left over." 64% "Struggling - we find it difficult to cover all expenses." 10%

### **Expenditure - breakdown**

We asked clubs to select their largest annual expenditures (Num Respd=88):

· ·	
1. Participant insurance	55%
2. Competition fees	44%
3. Facility hire	43%
4. Facility maintenance	35%
5. Public liability insurance	34%
6. Training equipment	26%
7. Transport and accomodation	<b>19%</b>
8. Utilities - water, electricity, gas etc	<b>19%</b>
9. Playing kit	9%

Participant insurance and competition fees are the top two expenses.

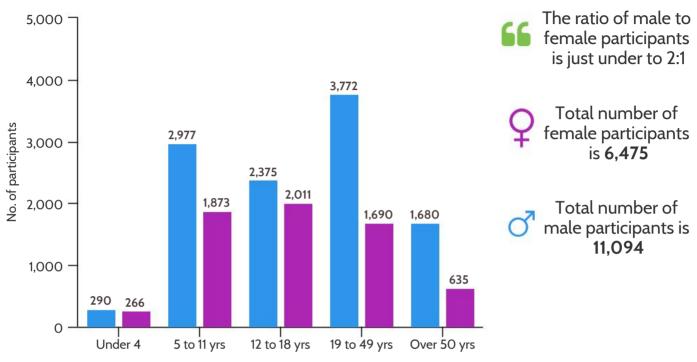
#### How Clubs describe their **Financial Health (Future)**



Num Respd=88

# **3.** Membership

**Total Membership Profile** 



Num Respd=87

Membership Change in the LAST 5 Years

**17%** average increase in male participants

**Q 18%** average increase in female participants

Num Respd=74

Membership Change in the NEXT 5 Years



**Q20%** average increase in female participants

# **3. Membership**

#### **Reasons for joining**

The top two reasons clubs reckon new members join are :-

1. 'We are a welcoming, well run and recognised club'



2. 'Enjoy the sport'



The full list of reasons for people joining is:

<ul> <li>We are a welcoming, well run and recognised club</li> </ul>	85%
Enjoy the sport	64%
Want to be more active	44%
<ul> <li>Want to train and take part in competitive opportunities</li> </ul>	38%
<ul> <li>Want to be part of a community</li> </ul>	37%
<ul> <li>It's good for mental health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	35%
A friend is a participant	33%
<ul> <li>The sport/activity is popular at the moment</li> </ul>	29%
Want to make new friends	28%
<ul> <li>Want to try a new activity or something different</li> </ul>	24%
Num Respd=78	

#### **Reasons for leaving**

A 'change to personal circumstances' and 'other family commitments' are the two main reasons clubs reckon members leave:

- Change to personal circumstances (e.g move house or job)
- Other family commitments
- Work commitments
- Too busy
- Cost of participating (gear, fees, transport etc)
- Training times and matches don't suit
- Poor club facilities e.g no indoor winter facilities closeby
- Sport just didn't suit
- Didn't have enough members in a category to field a team
- Disagreement with the team/coach/club
- Went to another club with better facilities
- Not enough coaches and/or equipment to keep participants
- Went to a club with better coaches and competitive opportunities
- Club environment too competitive

Num Respd=83



73%

57%

55%

36%

20% 17%

17%

16%

11%

7%

7%

6%

5%

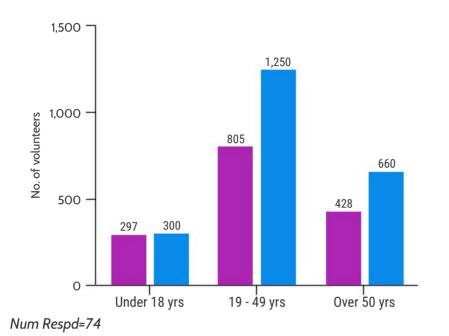
1%

**61%** 

5

### **4. Volunteers**

### Volunteer profile



**1,530** female volunteers in total

**2,210** male volunteers in total

**51** average number of volunteers per club

#### How do clubs recruit volunteers?

Clubs use a number of methods to recruit volunteers; '*personally ask face to face*' and '*social media platforms*' are the **top two** methods. The full list of methods used is :

- Personally ask people face to face 95%
- Social media platforms both club and community 80%
- Noticeboards in own facility 29%
- Noticeboards in shops, schools, community **24%**
- Hand out leaflets 23%
- Use organisations such as Volunteer Now 4%





# 4. Volunteers

#### What motivates volunteers?

- Love the sport 71%
- Have a child involved in the club 68%
- Want to give something back 62%
- Stopped playing for the club and want to remain involved 36%
- Have family or friends already volunteering in the club **30%**
- It's a good social opportunity **24%**
- Feel valued and appreciated 14%
- Want to stay involved in something in retirement 13%
- Good for an individual's CV 12%
- Valuable experience for people not in employment 4%

The top two reasons for volunteering are - 'Love the sport' AND 'Have a child involved in the club'.

# \*\*\*\*

Num Respd=76

# Just over half (57%) of clubs said they ask why volunteers no longer help.

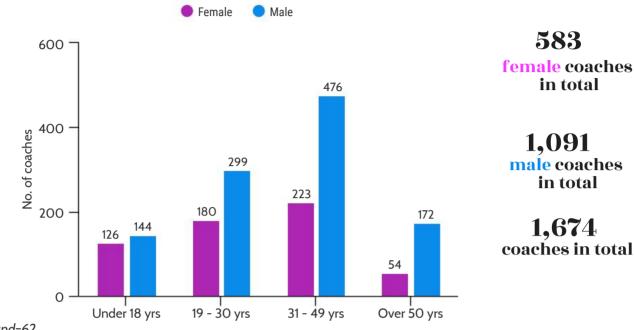
### Why do volunteers no longer help?

- No longer has the time due to personal circumstances 96%
- Child or family member no longer participating 64%
- Felt they had too much to do 29%
- Role did not suit their skill level 8%
- Didn't get on with the other volunteers
   8%
- Role not clearly defined and therefore not sure what they were to do 7%
- Did not feel needed and valued by the club 7%
- Felt the club didn't need them 5%



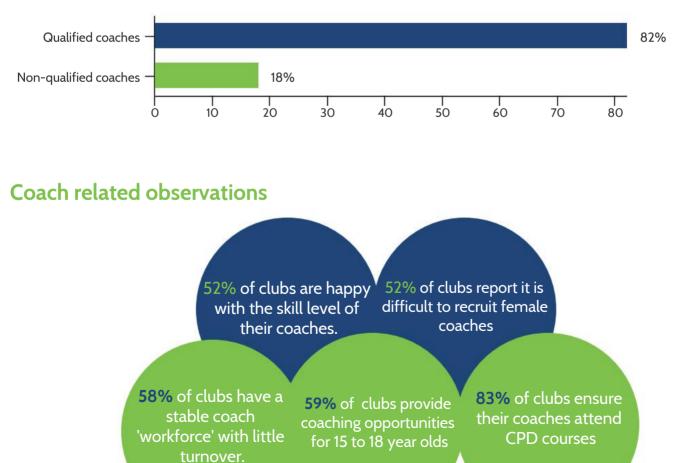
### **5.** Coaches

#### **Profile of coaches across the clubs**



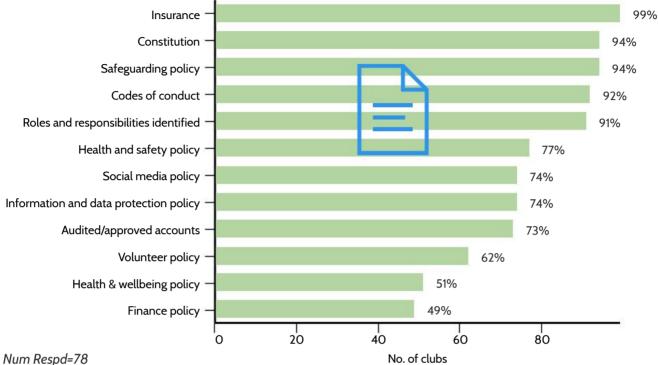
Num Respd=62

#### Comparison of qualified to non-qualified coaches



### 6. Governance

### **Policies**



Num Respa=78

#### **Remarks on policies**

- Not all clubs appear to have insurance
- 94% of clubs have a safeguarding policy
- Almost two thirds of the clubs have a volunteer policy
- Just over half of clubs have a health & wellbeing policy

#### **Sports Development Plan**

22% of clubs have a Sports Development Plan (SDP), 26% of clubs
say they are in the process of developing one (Num Respd=73).

**69%** Agree they find the process of developing a SDP very useful.

69% Agree their SDP allows the club to focus on key areas to improve.

### 41%

Agree their SDP allows the club to come together and be more effective. **57%** Agree their SDP helps the club to 'keep on track.'

### 6. Governance

#### **Clubmark accreditation award**

**24%** of clubs have a Clubmark accreditation award and a further **15%** are working towards an award. (*Num Respd=67*)

Reasons why clubs do not have Clubmark are:

- Don't know what it is 40%
- We don't have anyone in the club who will coordinate it 23%
- We don't have the time to do it 12%
- We've heard it is difficult to achieve 9%
- It seems too complicated to do **7%**

Num Respd=43

#### Who do clubs turn to for assistance? $\frac{24}{44}$

Clubs are asked to rank, their Governing Body (GB), their local Council, and Sport NI in terms of who they turn to **FIRST** when looking for **assistance** (*Num Respd=69*).

- 69% of clubs turn to their GB FIRST for assistance.
- 24% of clubs turn to MUDC **FIRST** for assistance.
- 7% of clubs turn to Sport NI FIRST for assistance.

### **Partnerships**

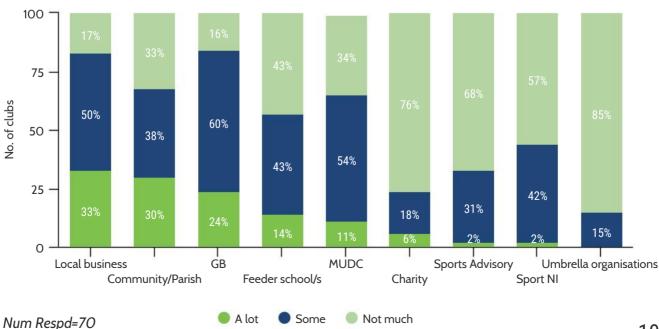


Increasingly, sports clubs create links and partnerships to support and assist with delivery of club activities; examples reported as part of this survey are:

- Thirty two clubs have links with primary schools and twenty clubs with post primary schools. Links include coaching and use of facilities.
- Clubs have links with Churches, youth and community groups such as Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce, Moneymore Womens Group and Milltown Community Group..
- Fundraise for a range of charities.

#### How much support?

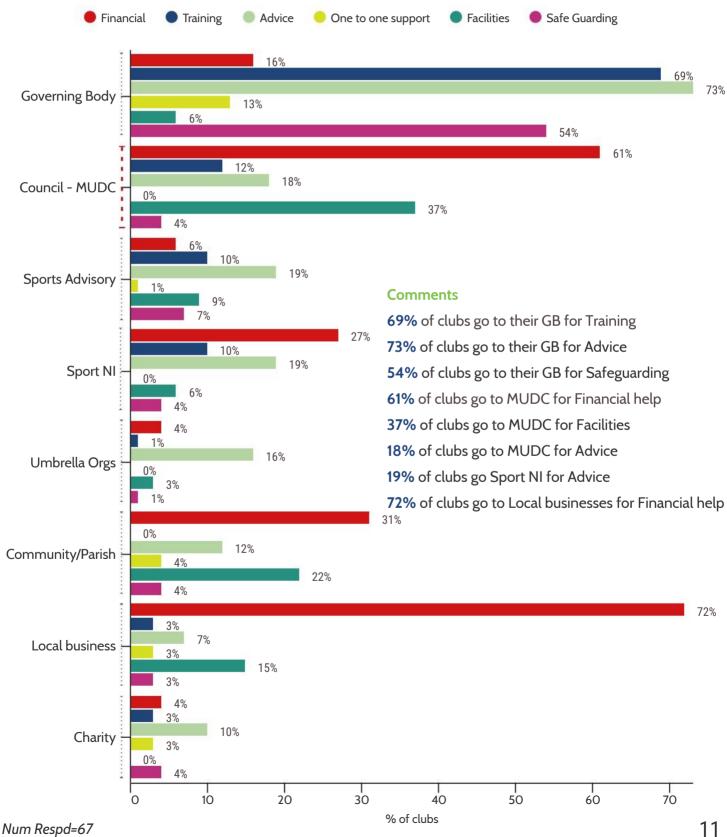
An analysis of how much support (*a lot, some, not much*) clubs receive from a range of organisations, demonstrates most support from local business, Community/Parish and GB's as presented below:



### 6. Governance

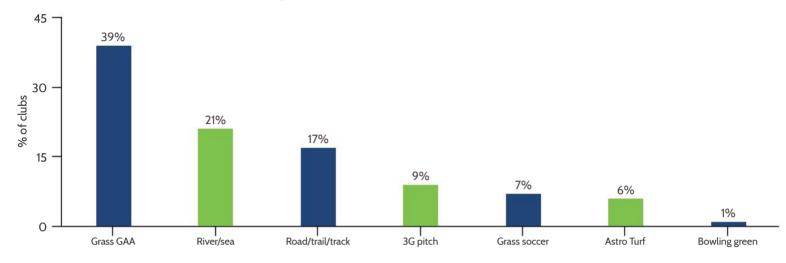
### What type of support?

Clubs are asked to indicate the nature of support they may receive from a range of organisations as presented below -

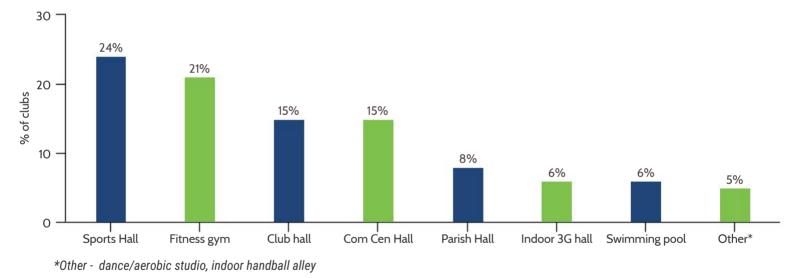


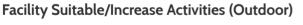
# 7. Facilities

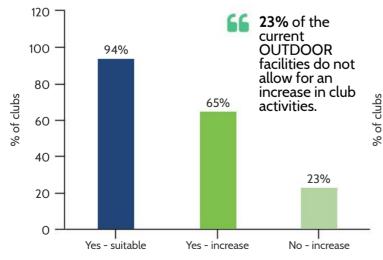
#### Facility Type Outdoor (as percentage of the total number of facilities cited)



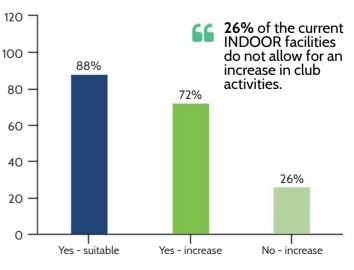
#### Facility Type Indoor (as percentage of the total number of facilities cited)







Facility Suitable/Increase Activities (Indoor)



# 8. Challenges

#### Barriers to indoor facilities

- Hire cost too expensive for club 57%
- Finding venues of suitable size 43%
- Can't get suitable booking slot 43%
- Finding venues with suitable training surface 33%
- Location too distant from club base 19%
- Access not suitable for people with a disability **7%**

Num Respd=42

#### Barriers to outdoor facilities

- Finding venues with suitable training surface **59%**
- Availability of floodlit venues 56%
- Hire cost too expensive for club 50%
- Can't get suitable booking slot 47%
- Location too distant from club base 26%
- Access not suitable for people with a disability 6%

Num Respd=34

### Challenges



Clubs reported the following challenges:

- Lack of external funding (parish, Council, governing bodies etc). 64%
- Issues with cash flow (e.g. inability to raise sufficient cash from subs/ fund-raising etc). 48%

**Cash Flow** 

- Lack of volunteers (i.e. committee members/ coaches etc) 44%
- Lack of appropriate local facilities. 41%
- Lack of suitable/available time slots at facility. 36%
- Lack of capacity of the volunteers to carry out jobs/roles 31%
- Membership recruitment/ retention 28%
- Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport etc).
   19%
- Lack of Sports Development Plan 16%
- Priority of facilities given to recreational activities over sports clubs e.g. 5-aside. 13%
- Lack of information about local facilities/ services. 8%
- Poor/ No relationship with local clubs (facility usage/ support of events / workshops) 2%

Num Respd=64





The top two barriers to outdoor facilities are 'venues with suitable training surface'. AND Availability of floodlit venues'

\*\*\*\*



## 9. Support/Resources

#### Support/Resources



Clubs were asked to consider support and resources needed to help them continue what they are doing and further develop. The following were graded either as **CRITICAL** or **HIGH** level of need:

- Help to draw down funding 78%
- Equipment for your sport 62%
- Better links with the Council's Sports Development Team 58%
- Recruitment and retention of volunteers 58%
- Additional indoor facilities for training 54%
- Better clubhouse facilities 53%
- More support from your Governing Body 49%
- Additional outdoor facilities for training **46%**
- Workshops for club volunteer development
   45%
- Help creating a club sports development plan 42%
- Additional outdoor facilities for competitions 42%
- Online courses for club volunteers 34%
- Online coaching resources for your sport **28%**
- Additional indoor facilities for competitions 26%
- Online toolkit for club development 26%
- More paid staff to help develop the club 26%

### **10. Survey Comments**

The following comments (unaltered) are made by clubs in the Mid Ulster District Council area in relation to **need/demand** for additional facilities

- Bigger Size Changing rooms Additional Car Parking Additional Storage rooms Committee room
- Further training pitch Ladies changing facilities Hall for indoor activities and fundraising
- New changing facilities
- Our club has a need for the provision of an indoor facility in the locality, an indoor 3G pitch would be very beneficial for use for training for both our senior and junior members. We also require improvements to be made to our current leased facility which is due to the wetter winters is getting less and less use. A sand based pitch installation would allow users to meet the demand required for facilities without having to have the large cost of hiring premises from external organisations.
- Clubhouse
- We only have changing rooms, we need a Clubhouse which we would run as a community hub.
- Additional changing rooms Spectator stand Floodlights
- Need second full size grass pitch
- Improved toilet facilities, Improved parking area, fencing and posts for the track, paddock and events, additional and replacements huts, updated PA System, new machines. New radio set up. Could look at improving Medical hut and facilities for our marshalls
- Improvement of existing facilities stand for Paddy Cullen Park
- Indoor facility Spectator area -covered
- 50m pool
- Indoor hall at MUSA is always booked and can never get a slot. So more indoor halls
- Better female changing facilities, wall ball alley and access to a second pitch
- Another pitch- either grass or 4G spec. Training area. Fitness trail outdoor
- Floodlit courts. There are 2 at Mid Ulster Sports Arena but the hire costs are laughably high so they sit unused.
- Our Sports hall is now 40 years old and would need a major revamp to bring it up to the standard required today. improved heating and insulation, the addition of ancillary facilities, toilets, and stores.
- Currently, we are a Fermanagh Club but have to travel outside of our county to access training and playing facilities. negotiations are ongoing with the local council on the development of a new surface however this is in conjunction with the Education Authority and is not sure if it will be viable. The need for a pitch in our county is imperative to the future of our club!!!!
- We would like to add fitness and well being centre with suitable indoor training space available all year round as well as upgrading some of our existing facilities.
- Urgent need for changing facilities and new gym
- Somewhere suitable to engage younger members into the sport
- We need a new building which we're putting in place because of civic society's total failure to do anything for 000 our community.

### **10. Survey Comments**

The following comments (unaltered) are made by clubs in the Mid Ulster District Council area in relation to **need/demand** for additional facilities

- Access to the Davagh Forest complex for motorsport events
- increasing team numbers so greater demand for training / match pitches
- Additional netball court. It is difficult to access a suitable sized netball court outside our training times for matches, therefore if we start a 2nd team we would have difficulty securing court time locally for matches.
- We need a health suite, an indoor multi sports training area and function room additional grass training pitch and walking/running track
- Changing rooms for both male and female (4 No in total) Gym Ball wall (currently being developed)
- Electronic targets to meet international standards
- Ball wall, additional changing rooms for ladies, upgrade current first aid room, meeting room, improvements to pitches including goalmouths, match and training refreshment area
- The club shall be starting new changing facilities next year due to an increase in membership. We also require a non training field floodlit due to our numbers and participation.
- With the introduction of female sport changing rooms, pitch space, ref room
- We are now in a situation (and its growing year on year with numbers) where 1/2 the youth train at the small MUGA based in Benburb and the others including our Firsts use Full Size 3G in Dungannon. We are now in need of developing our own larger 3G facility full size facility with lights to ensure all our youth teams and firsts team train together and this would meet our demands plus other local sports clubs who also have to travel to their nearest town ie Dungannon, Armagh to train plus we could better usage of the facility as a club and offer more sessions per team. At present we can only afford one session per week per team (training).
- Area, such as a forest or unused council land that can be developed for off-road cycling.
- We are restricted to one club session a week and occasional usage for events. This limits training opportunities and progression
- Floodlights
- Floodlit walking/ running trail
- Indoor / winter facilities with floodlights
- Suitable outdoor areas
- we would like to create a track at the local Termoneeny Centre that is floodlit and safe for our members to train on during the winter.
- There currently is no running track available across Cookstown/Dungannon.
- We are expanding the number of our new clubs at the rate of approximately three each year (New clubs include separate classes for Little Tiger Cubs, Active Tigers and Adult Taekwon-Do)

### **10. Survey Comments**

The following comments (unaltered) are made by clubs in the Mid Ulster District Council area in relation to any **final** comments.

- Due to the massive influx of female players in last couple of years, we have a critical need for an additional full size grass pitch for training.
- Please note there is sections of this survey not answered as we are a club within a governing body and they would have the details of overall membership to our sport. Training is very important in our sport and recently we along with others have been meet with a brick wall in getting our young riders trained. Our governing body need to be working on this instead we seem to have people working against each other, some for their own gain or out of spite. Too much bickering among the clubs within the governing bodies and not enough people working for the good of the sport and the competitors. Training should be throughout the various disciplines and at various venues
- We are putting together a sport and facility development plan this year. Our development will be tied in closely with the development and rebuild of Holy Trinity College. We have the opportunity to improve our own facilities but also help financially towards the school development so that we may use the sports facilities of the new school. However, the funds have to be there to do that. It's ok for rural clubs that get big grants for rural development, not so easy for us town clubs.
- In question 53 about volunteers and time spent i have listed each individuals time and not total time spent
- We will be seeking funding in the near future to upgrade our facilities as club facilities have not been upgraded from 1970s but we have good governance in place now and hope to apply for funding to meet the growing population of Moneymore and help address the crime and disorder and mental health issues in the community.
- This represents my views and may not reflect all those of committee members
- We really need the local council to relay a better surface in the indoor sports hall this is an ongoing issue but council staff are aware
- We share our facilities with the ladies football club. that is a separate club. We do not charge them for use of club rooms or pitches.
- The Pony Club is difficult to fit into survey questions. We are very active in Northern Ireland and are not supported or helped in any way by Sport NI Surely with so many active members in such wide ranging activities for young people in Northern Ireland we should be. Many members get selected to represent N.I. in Scotland, England, Wales and Internationally too.
- All plans to be sustainable must live in their communities with committed and interested bodies I have seen too
  much money wasted over short term projects with no community link or sustainability plans must be linked to
  local clubs I am involved in basketball badminton both of which originated) hockey athletics girls football cricket
  they must be linked to schools too and their sports but there is a real opportunity for developing volunteers
  through schools with joint on thinking and collaborative projects competition should also be local and
  developed within councils to ease transport costs for kids and parents with cross-community teams developed
  and opportunities to do so.
- Triathlon is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world at the moment and there is little to no support for clubs in Northern Ireland, no joint up thinking across disciplines, and real lack of facilities in the Mid Ulster area.
   No running track in Cookstown/Dungannon is a huge barrier to developing our club.

### **11. Focus Groups**

### **Focus Group Insight**

Complementing the survey, focus group discussion confirms a range of challenges and concerns, ideas and aspirations across all sports and all Council areas.

**Membership**: Clubs recognise that healthy membership is an outcome of getting everything else right. They also recognise that people are more likely to join a club where they will be supported and encouraged by enthusiastic volunteers and qualified coaches, where they feel safe and where they will be happy and have fun.

**Coaches**: Clubs have concerns around coaches taking on too much which may point to the need for more skilled coaches. It also points to the need for a coaches management policy in the same way as there is a need for a volunteers management policy.

**Volunteers**: Sports club volunteers are often in short supply so it's essential their role and the extent of their commitment is realistic, reflecting their personal circumstances and skill set. The focus groups highlighted the need for support in all aspects of volunteering including recruitment, training, recognising achievement and succession planning.

**Development & Support**: The views on Clubmark and on Sports Development Plans expressed by those clubs that have them in place evidence a high degree of positivity both towards the process of creating them and the benefits of using them as management tools. Clubs speak of the need for support around funding, including preparing applications, .

**Governance**: The challenge presented by governance and administration in sports clubs is a significant issue. Some clubs view governance and administration as a bureaucratic imposition that gets in the way of the sporting activity. Clubs realise that better management will help remove the stress of governance and administration.

**Finances**: Despite a picture of general confidence for financial health clubs are finding it more difficult to bring money in and they see this as a continuing challenge. Some clubs feel grant-giving organisations have to better understand the needs of sports clubs - 'minority' sports sometimes find it difficult to access funding programmes.

**Facilities**: Clubs operating their own facilities are often constrained by the scale/scope of their resources whilst clubs hiring or renting facilities can also be challenged by pricing and limited availability at peak times. Sports clubs want their contribution to local communities to be recognised in the strategic development of sports facilities.

# 12. List of Clubs

Acorns AC	Cookstown Fr Rock's GAC	Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon	Moneymore GAC	St Anne's Table Tennis Club, Dungannon
An Clochar Éire Óg's	Cookstown Hockey Club	Erins Own Lavey	Moortown St Malachys GAC	St Macartan's GFC
An Mhaigh Tir na nOg GAC	Cookstown Motor Club	Fivemiletown United	Moy Tir na nOg GAC	St Malachy's Edendork, Camogie
Aodh Ruadh DunGeanainn	Cookstown Mugendo Karate Kickboxing Club	Galbally Pearses GAA club	Moyola Park Golf Club	St Patrick's Camogie Club Loup
Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa GFC	Cookstown Swimming Club	Harps Cycling Club	Northern Ireland Motor Club	St Trea's Ballymaguigan
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	Cookstown Youth Football Club	Island Wheelers Cycling Club	Northern Ireland Regional Shooting Club	St MaCartan's Ladies
Caledon Rovers Football Club	Doiretreasc Calini an Chnoic	Kildress Wolfe Tones GAA	O'Donovan Rossa GAC, Magherafelt	St Michael's GAC Lissan
Carn Wheelers	Donaghmore Ladies GFC	Killeeshil St Mary's ( Cill íseal )	Pomeroy Plunketts GAC	Stewartstown GAC
Castlecaulfield Youth FC	Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club	Killyman St Mary's GAC	Rainey OB RFC	Take A Bow Cookstown Archery Club
Castledawson GAC	Dungannon Motor Club	Logue's Hill CPC	Riverdale Football Club	Termoneeny Running Club
Castledawson Cycle Club	Dungannon Rugby Football Club	Loup Boxing Club	Sean O'Leary's GAC Newbridge	The Killymoon Golf Club
Clogher Valley RFC	Dungannon Special Olympics Swim Club	Lower Bann Coarse Angling Association	Sean O'Leary's Camogie Club Newbridge	The Pony Club Area 17
Clogher Valley Wheelers	Dungannon Swimming Club	Maghera Jiu-Jitsu	Sperrin Harriers	Titans Basketball & Kestrels Badminton
Clonoe O'Rahillys	Dungannon Tennis Club	Magherafelt and District Motor Club Limited	Sperrins Hillwalking Club	Torrent Cycling Club
Coagh United Football Club	Dungannon Thomas Clarke GFC	Magherafelt Marvels Special Olympics Club	Spires CC	Tri Limits Triathlon Club
Coalisland Na Fianna GFC	Eglish Camogie Club	Mid Ulster Ladies Football Club	Spires Netball Club	United Kingdom Taekwon-Do Council (NI)
Cookstown & District Motocycle Club	Eglish GAC	Mid Ulster Netball Club	Square Wheels CC	19 Wolfe Tones Bellaghy Camogie Club