



Waterfront Action

Working for a friendly, thriving and vibrant community

**Responses from a Community Consultation on the
Usage of Land on Orwell Quay as an Outside Sports Facility**



Report prepared for
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1. Introduction

- a. Professor Bill Tancred representing University Campus Suffolk (UCS) met with Jay Harvey as Co-Ordinator of Ipswich Waterfront Action Partnership Group (WA) concerning the development of the land owned by designated for housing on Orwell Quay and owned by UCS.
- b. Due to the economic conditions, UCS proposed to apply for planning permission to change the use of this to an Outside Sports Facility for both students and members of the general public.
- c. UCS requested if WA could approach residents of the Waterfront to seek their views on firstly the proposal, and secondly for their input on what facilities they would like to see.
- d. Whilst there were no firm plans as to what this area would include, a sports track would be advantageous for Sports Science Students and interest had been shown in outside gym equipment.
- e. For the proposal to proceed there would need to be funding applications made together with support from partners.
- f. Ipswich Borough Council planning department have said in principle this would be something they would consider.
- g. With 'Goals Soccer Centre' being located very near the Campus, UCS confirmed there would be no plans for a Football Area.
- h. UCS are currently carrying out a consultation with staff members and the Students Union with students.
- i. Jay Harvey agreed on behalf of WA to carry out this consultation.

2. Methodology

- a. Discussion with a representative of the Orwell Quay Management Company – the nearest development to the land – took place on best ways of contacting residents.
- b. Details of the request were produced in poster format with a photograph showing the piece of land in question for clarity.
- c. Survey questions were considered with the decision to include a number of suggestions for activities as well as providing opportunities for residents to add their own ideas.
- d. An on-line survey was set up on a new domain of www.IpswichWaterfrontSurveys.co.uk which linked to part of the Ipswich Waterfront Action website.
- e. A paper copy survey was produced and gave a local address for forms to be returned to, whilst encouraging on-line completion.
- f. Properties bordering to the site where visited by WA and where possible the consultation explained to the occupier, but where no response was received the poster and paper survey posted through the letterbox.
- g. All apartment blocks on Orwell Quay had posters put up both on the communal noticeboards and prominently by main entrance doors. In addition a number of forms were left by the post-boxes.

- h. All Waterfront residents on the WA mailing list received emails.
- i. Information provided to the Ipswich Star who promoted the survey on two occasions.

3. Results

- a. 88 surveys were completed on-line and 2 surveys were delivered to the local address.
- b. A summary of the results is attached in the appendix.
- c. 97% of those who responded would like to see the area utilised rather than left as it is.
- d. 75% are in favour of the development of a sports area.
- e. The most popular uses of the area were for;
 - i. Tennis / Badminton
 - ii. Area with Tables & Benches
 - iii. Gym / Fitness Equipment
 - iv. Running Track
 - v. Netball / Basketball
- f. Whilst the majority would like to see the area floodlit, 87% would like to see the area locked at night time
- g. Whilst in favour of the proposal, there were a number of concerns raised which related as to how the site will be managed, and in particular many comments addressed the following areas;
 - i. Groups / Alcohol – Ensuring that there is some system to ensure it does not become an area to attract groups as an area to bring alcohol in to drink and hang around in each evening.
 - ii. Noise / Security – Ensuring the area is well managed and to ensure that the lights are turned off and area secure at a reasonable time.
 - iii. Space for Events – Ensuring that events including the Maritime Festival can still utilise the space as well as seeing if this type of usage could be extended during the summer.
- h. Many favourable comments were received as to how well this would fit in with the area once Orwell Quay has had the street refurbishments carried out and the gate removed by Neptune Marina opening the area up as a place to visit.

4. Conclusion

- a. A large number of people responded to the survey.
- b. There was a very positive response to the area being used for sports
- c. There are some issues which have arisen which with good management should be able to be addressed to ensure that problems do not arise.

Appendix

Question	Yes	No	Not Sure
Would you like to see this area utilised rather than leaving it as it is?	97%	3%	-
Do you support the use of this area as an outdoor sports area?	75%	5%	20%
Would you like to see the following:			
• Badminton / Tennis	75%	14%	11%
• Tables and Chairs	64%	27%	9%
• Gym / Fitness Equipment	59%	29%	12%
• Running Track	59%	27%	14%
• Netball / Basketball	56%	28%	16%
• Children's Play Area	50%	40%	10%
• Beach Volleyball	47%	42%	11%
• Petanque	46%	27%	27%
• Hockey	35%	45%	20%
• Skateboarding	8%	89%	3%
Would you like to see the area floodlit so it could be used in the evening?	78%	13%	9%
Would you like to see the area locked at night?	87%	7%	6%