

**CABINET**  
**12 December 2017**

**COUNCILLOR MARTIN TENNANT**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICE DELIVERY**  
**PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**COUNCILLOR MAURICE SHEEHAN**  
**LEISURE AND YOUTH PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

**KEY DECISION? YES**

**REPORT NO. COMM 1721**  
**REPORT NO. PLN1739**

**SOUTHWOOD GOLF COURSE - CONSULTATION ON THE OPTION TO  
CREATE A MAJOR NEW PARKLAND AND DELIVER SUITABLE  
ALTERNATIVE NATURAL GREENSPACE (SANG)**

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In the absence of the Council being able to identify adequate deliverable SANG to support the delivery of new homes in the Borough, there is a significant risk to the Council's ability to secure an up to date Local Plan. This will in turn put at risk the ongoing regeneration of the town centres and delivery of affordable and other housing.

Securing SANG is difficult due to the predominantly urban nature of the Borough. Existing SANG capacity in Rushmoor (excluding the Wellesley bespoke SANG) is exhausted, so the Council is working with neighbouring authorities and other landowners to try to secure additional SANG.

At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Cabinet agreed to consult on the option to close the Southwood Golf Course and create a major new parkland to deliver SANG. The consultation ran during August and September 2017.

From the consultation, 61% of respondents supported keeping the Golf Course open. Comments included that it is the best public course in the area, affordable, well used, provides health and social benefits, and being flat it is easy to play.

For "known" residents, 50.6% of respondents supported closing the Golf Course and turning it into natural parkland. Comments included the need for more parkland, which will benefit more people and allow more housing in the Borough.

Access has recently been offered to SANG in Hart through a written exchange with Hart District Council to enable mitigation for 3,600 people (around 1,500 dwellings) in Rushmoor. In addition, a planning application has been received for the creation of a SANG on land at Blandford House. However, the Council still requires SANG to mitigate around a further 900 dwellings, in particular with enough reach to support the regeneration of Aldershot Town Centre.

A joint meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Policy Review Panels on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (minutes attached Appendix 1), received feedback from the recent consultation (report attached Appendix 2), on the option of converting the Southwood Golf Course into natural open parkland, which would deliver SANG for around 2,500 dwellings across the Borough. Representations from individuals and groups in favour of keeping the Southwood Golf Course open were also considered.

At the time of the Panel meeting, a petition had also been received from the Save Our Southwood Campaign Team, which will be presented at Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, and feedback from Full Council will be considered at this Cabinet meeting.

A number of options were considered at the Joint Panel meeting, including:

- Close the Southwood Golf Course to provide guaranteed SANG to support the regeneration of the town centres particularly Aldershot, additional Borough wide housing and provide open parkland available for everyone to use for walking, cycling and informal recreation.
- Explore the feasibility of providing a self-funding nine hole Golf Course and the release of sufficient SANG to enable the regeneration of the Aldershot Town Centre and housing development to the south of the Borough.
- Retain the Southwood Golf Course and continue to look for alternative SANG, recognising this could either, prevent, limit or slow the regeneration of Aldershot Town Centre and housing development to the south of the Borough.

As a result of the debate at the Panel meeting, the following proposal was agreed by the Joint Panel for recommendation to Cabinet:

“That the decision regarding the future of the Southwood Golf Course be deferred for twelve months while all other options be pursued to include:

- Lobbying Government
- Seeking special dispensation for the area of Rushmoor in the way it is treated for SANG land: and
- Examination of alternative SANG provision to provide the necessary mitigation for housing development in Rushmoor.”

## **Recommendation**

Cabinet is recommended to consider the following in determining what action is to be taken for the future of the Southwood Golf Course:

- The Council's ability to secure an up to date Local Plan and the ongoing regeneration of the town centres and affordable and other housing, which is reliant on securing sufficient SANG
- The deliberations and recommendation from the Joint meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Policy Review Panels
- The feedback from the consultation
- The Full Council debate and consideration of the petition.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This paper provides feedback from the consultation on the option to close the Southwood Golf Course and create major new parkland to deliver Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (report attached) and an update on the current position regarding SANG. Feedback is also provided on the joint meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Policy Review Panels held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (minutes attached) where they considered the background to the issue, and the recent consultation. They also received representations from individuals and groups in favour of keeping the Southwood Golf Course open.
- 1.2 One of the Council's key priorities is to help deliver the regeneration of the Borough's town centres, whilst at the same time providing much needed new housing to meet existing and future needs. The new Local Plan<sup>1</sup> is the framework that will guide the scale, type and location of such development in the Borough.
- 1.3 However, to deliver the housing target in the Local Plan, mitigation must be provided to offset the potential recreational impact on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area arising from new homes in the Borough.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 One element of the "mitigation" required to enable net new residential development in the Borough is the delivery of SANG which must be newly accessible areas of open space where the public can pursue informal

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<sup>1</sup> The Draft Submission Rushmoor Local Plan is available to view at:  
[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

recreational activities that are free of charge. The aim of SANG is to dissuade residents from using the heathland with its protected plants and wildlife which falls within and around the Borough.

- 2.2 The Council has used its own SANG at Southwood Woodland and Rowhill Nature Reserve, and is working with its neighbouring local authorities and other landowners to try to secure additional SANG capacity. However, this is proving difficult due to the predominantly urban nature of the Borough, compounded by the fact that nearly all of the undeveloped land in the Borough is either Special Protection Areas, Sites of Important Nature Conservation Value, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, MoD estate, or within Farnborough Airport's operational boundary.
- 2.3 Natural England has raised objection to the Draft Submission Local Plan on the basis that it is concerned that adequate SANG land has not been identified in the Local Plan to deliver the housing target. Without this provision, Natural England is of the opinion that the Local Plan would struggle to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. This in turn affects the delivery of the Plan and thus the soundness of this Plan when it gets to Examination.
- 2.4 The Council has not used the absence of suitable SANG to constrain its housing target, as this is not deemed to be an appropriate approach by Planning Inspectors. Moreover, the Council has worked tirelessly for the last 10 years to identify and deliver SANG opportunities in and around the Borough, and it continues to do so.
- 2.5 As SANG opportunities take time to identify and implement, the Council is of the view that it is unreasonable to expect it to have identified all SANG solutions at the outset of the Plan period. However, in the absence of it being able to demonstrate adequate, deliverable SANG, there is still a significant risk that Natural England will maintain its objection to the Local Plan through the Examination. As this objection does go to the heart of the soundness of the Local Plan, without adequate progress on identifying suitable and deliverable SANG opportunities, this could put the Local Plan at risk. The knock on effect of this would potentially be the failure to secure an up to date Plan to guide future development in the Borough, putting at risk the strategy therein, including the ongoing regeneration of the Borough's town centres and the delivery of affordable and other housing.
- 2.6 The housing need for the Borough to 2032 is at least 7,850 dwellings, although up to date completions data suggests capacity could be around 9,032 units by 2032. In delivering these new homes, there are already 836 completions and 4,978 permissions with SANG allocation, as well as around 300 dwellings awaiting planning permission, with specific SANG allocations. There is also mitigation from the shared SANGs in Hart District, for up to 3,600 people (around 1,500 dwellings).
- 2.7 A planning application has been received for the creation of 13.7 hectares of SANG at Blandford House. Accounting for the accompanying

residential development proposed on the site, this could enable mitigation for up to 547 dwellings in and around Aldershot. However, this SANG would again be outside the Council's control. Even if the surplus SANG was made available to schemes in and around Aldershot, based on existing estimates of the scale and location of new residential development in Aldershot over the Plan period, there would still be a shortfall in SANG mitigation for Aldershot sites equivalent to around 740 dwellings.

- 2.8 In addition, even with the recently written exchange to enable access to SANG capacity in Hart, it is estimated that there could be a shortfall in SANG mitigation for Farnborough schemes of around 150 units. In total, accounting for the shared SANG with Hart and the delivery of the Blandford House SANG, there would still be a shortfall of suitable SANG to mitigate the impact of around a further 900 dwellings.
- 2.9 There are currently 1,200 people on the Council's housing allocation scheme, of which 75% are likely to have income below £20k pa and therefore require some form of affordable housing. In 2016/17, 140 people presented as homeless and the Council supported over 400 homelessness prevention cases. There is a net affordable housing need of around 160 dwellings pa.
- 2.10 The indicative timetable for the Aldershot Town Centre allocations up to 2021 is 300 dwellings for The Galleries, 60 dwellings for Union Street East, 30 dwellings for the Aldershot Railway Station and surrounds and 70 dwellings for Hippodrome House. A further 200 dwellings are required for The Galleries and 70 dwellings for Union Street East up to 2026.
- 2.11 In terms of other SANG opportunities, the Council has explored options at Ball Hill in Farnborough, and at Farnham Quarry. However, neither of these are viable at present due to landowner aspirations and the requirements set by Natural England regarding the characteristics and capacity of SANG land. In addition, efforts to secure SANG at Tongham Pools have been ongoing for the last 10 years, although likely mitigation would only be for around 150 dwellings, and due to land ownership constraints, the delivery of this SANG looks very unlikely. The Council is also exploring with Natural England whether there is any surplus SANG capacity at the bespoke Wellesley Woodlands SANG, however, initial indications from Natural England have been that this would only be feasible if the existing SANG were to be supplemented by additional land. It should be noted that none of these SANG options are within the Council's ownership or control.

### **3. Southwood Golf Course Option**

- 3.1 Natural England has indicated that if the Southwood Golf Course were to be closed and used instead as parkland, this would provide enough SANG for around 2,500 new homes to be built on other land in the Borough. At the same time, it would deliver a major new parkland available to all the Borough's residents. The cost of developing and maintaining in perpetuity this SANG would be met through contributions from developers.

- 3.2 Natural England will require a proposal document and management plan to identify both the capital and revenue costs associated with looking after the Southwood Golf Course as a SANG. This will include a survey to identify current levels of informal use and a flood risk assessment. This will enable Natural England to determine how much of the current 50 hectares could be included as SANG. This would link to the adjoining Southwood Woodland to create a large public parkland serving the immediate community of Southwood and the wider community of Rushmoor. The future use of the buildings on the Golf Course would also be considered as part of this project.
- 3.3 The SANG would be used for, informal leisure activities such as walking dogs, cycling, fitness and nature trails, green gym, natural play structures, orienteering, community orchard, a small allotment garden and a local educational resource. The provision of some of these may affect the size of available SANG. It would also provide a local educational resource.
- 3.4 Southwood provides an 18 hole public golf course with clubhouse and is operated by a contractor on behalf of the Council. The tender is due for renewal in early 2019. The Council recognises the social, sporting and health benefits that the Golf Course provides for its casual players, season ticket holders, club members and societies. At its peak, the Course attracted around 40,000 rounds of golf but this has reduced significantly to around 25,000 rounds and costs the Council £40,000 pa.
- 3.5 There are a number of alternative golf courses within a 10-mile radius, which generally accept new members and casual play, but these are more expensive (table attached Appendix 3).

### **Alternative Options**

- 3.6 As a constrained urban authority, options to create SANG are finite. The Council has already used both its main woodlands at Rowhill and Southwood for SANG. The Council is also working with neighbouring authorities to share the mitigation offered by new SANG sites in their areas.
- 3.7 The Council could lobby the Government and try to seek special dispensation for the area of Rushmoor in the way it is treated for SANG land.
- 3.8 The Council could explore the feasibility of providing a self-funding nine hole golf course at the Southwood Golf Course and release sufficient SANG to enable the regeneration of the Aldershot Town Centre and housing development in the south of the Borough.
- 3.9 The Council could retain the Southwood Golf Course and continue to look for alternative SANG, recognising this could either, prevent, limit or slow the regeneration of Aldershot Town Centre and housing development to the south of the Borough.

## Consultation

- 3.10 Consultation, which was widely promoted, took place throughout August and September 2017 using an online survey with paper copies available as required. Considerable interest was shown from golfers, local residents and the media. The Council received 2,413 responses, the details of which are shown in the attached report.
- 3.11 From the consultation, 61% (1,472 respondents) supported keeping the Golf Course open. Comments from those wanting to keep the Golf Course included:
- it is affordable (321 respondents);
  - there is plenty of other open space (173 respondents);
  - it provides health benefits (171 respondents);
  - is the best public course in the area (162 respondents);
  - is well used (161 respondents);
  - that no more housing wanted and concern about infrastructure (143 respondents);
  - it provides social benefits (141 respondents);
  - being flat it is easy to play (128 respondents).
- 3.12 For known residents, 50.6% (766 respondents) supported closing the Golf Course and turning it into natural parkland. Comments from those wanting to close the Golf Course included:
- the need for more parkland (262 respondents);
  - parkland will benefit more people than the golf course (207 respondents);
  - issues with the subsidy for the golf course (83 respondents);
  - would allow more housing in the Borough (80 respondents);
  - there are plenty of other places around for golf (57 respondents).
- 3.13 If the Golf Course were to close 41.7%, (554 respondents) indicated they would give up playing golf, 29.4% (391 respondents) would play on another course less often and 28.9% (385 respondents) would play at another course about the same number of times or more. The majority of golfers played a few times a week to once or twice a year.
- 3.14 If new natural parkland was created at the Southwood Golf Course the most popular uses were open space for walking and dog walking (54.1%), natural trails (51.4%), cycle paths (44.4%), natural play structures (40.1%) and fitness trails (36.9%). "Other" accounted for 47.2% with 944 comments which were primarily to keep the Golf Course (414 respondents) and would not use the parkland (170 respondents).

## **Petition**

- 3.15 A petition (2,366 petitioners) was received from the Save Our Southwood Campaign Team, which will be considered at Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the feedback from which will also be considered at this Cabinet meeting.
- 3.16 The petitioners accepted the need for additional housing but believe there are other ways of achieving the housing targets. They believe the Council has enough SANG provisioned or targeted to meet requirements up to 2032.
- 3.17 Their view is that the Golf Course is vital for the health and wellbeing of its users, through physical activity and social benefits. It is also accessible for all ages and abilities. There are 25,000 rounds played by members and non-members and closure does not guarantee it would be maintained and enjoyed by as many people. It is a beautiful 40-year-old course, which is provided at an affordable price and supports many local charities.

## **4. Implications of Decision**

### **Legal Implications**

- 4.1 If the Council chooses to close the Golf Course and use it for SANG, the existing Golf Course contract should be terminated in 2019. There are no issues arising from an equality impact assessment. Other legal matters that will require attention relate to land ownership issues, including a strip of land on the site, which is in Hampshire County Council's ownership and would benefit from being included in the SANG. The Council may need to seek clarification on Public Rights of Way that cross the site particularly where these do not follow the official route. It will also be necessary to ensure that the SANG does not interfere with the clearance required for the oil pipeline that crosses the site.
- 4.2 Whilst a planning application would not be required to secure permission for change of use of land to public open space, it may be that some associated works, including access and parking, landscaping, walkways, bunding and boundary works to facilitate the SANG, are deemed operational development, and would therefore require planning permission. This may also apply when considering the future use of any buildings.
- 4.3 If, as recommended by the Joint Panel meeting, any decision is delayed, the Council may if the Golf Course is to continue, need to consider an extension to the existing contract to provide sufficient time for retendering.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 4.4 The Council has previously converted both the Southwood Woodland and Rowhill Nature Reserve into SANG. The financial implications associated with the creation of a SANG at Southwood Golf Course will be clarified



through the preparation of a “SANG” proposal document and management plan. The set up and maintenance costs will be covered through the collection of developer contributions associated with net new residential development in the Borough.

- 4.5 The closure of the Golf Course would provide a saving of £40k pa in relation to existing yearly operating costs, assuming the development commences as soon as the existing golf contract ends. As well as facilitating the delivery of new homes in the Borough, there are a number of associated financial benefits. These include around £6m from developers towards the value of the SANG. Consideration could be given to varying charges to incentivise development linked to regeneration and delivery of affordable housing. Under current Government grant funding arrangements, generation of New Homes Bonus could provide a significant sum over a 4 year period, in excess of current projections.
- 4.6 The new homes would also provide for an increased Council Tax yield to the Council of around £350k per annum. There are inevitable costs to be incurred by the Council in relation to its provision of services to these new dwellings that would substantially absorb the additional income raised. However, with careful management of these costs the Council could generate a favourable revenue financial outcome for the future in relation to this development.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 To continue to help enable the delivery of the regeneration of the Borough’s town centres, particularly Aldershot, and to be able to meet its housing needs as identified in the emerging Rushmoor Local Plan, the Council must identify additional SANG for around a further 900 dwellings, which is proving difficult. In the absence of suitable SANG, Natural England’s objection to the Draft Submission Local Plan will remain in place, and will therefore be heard by the Inspector at the forthcoming Local Plan Examination (scheduled for May 2018). This puts at risk the “soundness” of the Plan, and may leave the Council vulnerable in terms of an up to date planning strategy to guide development, including the ongoing regeneration of the town centres and delivery of affordable and other housing.
- 5.2 The closure of the Southwood Golf Course and its conversion to a major new parkland, available for all residents, provides an opportunity to deliver up to 50 hectares of SANG to enable around 2,500 new homes to be built elsewhere in the Borough. From the results of the consultation, 61% of all respondents supported keeping the Golf Course open, with 50.6% of all “known” residents supporting turning it into natural parkland.
- 5.3 The joint meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panels on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 recommended the decision on the future of the Golf Course be deferred for a year to enable the Government to be lobbied, to seek special dispensation in the way the Borough is treated in respect of SANG, and to examine alternative SANG provision.

**Background documents:**

The new Local Plan and supporting documents can be viewed at:

[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

Southwood Golf Course – Consultation on the option to create major new parkland and deliver Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace. - Cabinet report No COMM 1714 & PLN 1720

Provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space and Southwood Golf Course Consultation Feedback PowerPoint presentation to the joint meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Panels

Further information on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area can be viewed at: [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/spa](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/spa)

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# JOINT MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE AND YOUTH POLICY AND REVIEW PANELS

Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th November, 2017 at the Council Offices,  
Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

## Voting Members

Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Chairman)  
Cllr D.S. Gladstone (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr T.D. Bridgeman  
Cllr J.B. Canty  
Cllr Sue Carter  
Cllr Liz Corps  
Cllr P.I.C. Crerar  
Cllr K. Dibble  
Cllr Sue Dibble  
Cllr C.P. Grattan  
Cllr A. Jackman  
Cllr J.H. Marsh  
Cllr Marina Munro  
Cllr J.J. Preece  
Cllr L.A. Taylor

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Sophia Choudhary.

### 1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford be appointed Chairman for the joint meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panels.

### 2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr. D.S. Gladstone be appointed Vice-Chairman for the joint meeting of the Environment and Leisure and Youth Policy and Review Panels.

### 3. **SOUTHWOOD GOLF COURSE - CONSULTATION**

The Joint Panel meeting considered the options for the future of Southwood Golf Course following the completion of the recent consultation. The Joint Panel was asked to make a recommendation to the Cabinet which was scheduled to consider the issue on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. The Cabinet Members for

Leisure and Youth (Cllr M.L. Sheehan) and Environment and Service Delivery (Cllr M.J. Tennant) were in attendance.

The consultation had been carried out due to a requirement for the Council to identify additional Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) to continue to deliver the regeneration of the Borough's town centres and meet housing needs. The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the option of converting Southwood Golf Course into new natural open parkland which would become SANG and allow for around 2,500 new homes to be built in the Borough.

The Joint Panel received a presentation from the Head of Community and Environmental Services which provided information on the SANG requirement and options in Rushmoor, the background to Southwood Golf Course, results of the consultation process and options for the way forward.

SANG was required as the whole of Rushmoor Borough was located within 5km of the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area (SPA). European law required housing developers to provide or contribute towards SANG as an alternative for recreational activities to encourage visitors away from the SPA. Current SANG had diminished with only 23 dwellings left in Rushmoor at the end August 2017. The housing need in Rushmoor from 2014-2032 required a minimum of 7,850 new dwellings. To date 836 had been completed with a further 4,897 permissions granted with SANG allocation. The Wellesley Woodland SANG had been ringfenced for the 3,850 properties in the Wellesley development. To deliver the housing numbers identified in the Local Plan, SANG was required for up to 3,000 new homes.

The Council had already explored alternative options for the provision of SANG for the Borough including Ball Hill in Farnborough and Farnham Quarry but neither were viable due to landowner aspirations and Natural England requirements. There were emerging options at Bramshot and Hawley Park Farm, Blandford House and Tongham Pools and the Council was also exploring with Natural England whether there was any residual surplus SANG at Wellesley. None of these sites were within Council ownership and therefore could not be guaranteed.

Due to the difficulties in identifying other potential SANG in Rushmoor the Cabinet had considered the possibility of converting the Southwood Golf Course into natural open parkland to include walking, cycling, fitness trails and natural play structures. The tender for the Golf Course was due for renewal in Spring 2019 and it currently cost the Council £40,000 per annum. The Council recognised the social, sporting and health benefits the Golf Course provided and that 25,000 rounds per annum rounds of golf were played by casual players, season ticket holders, club members and societies. There were alternative golf courses within a ten mile radius which generally accepted new members and casual players but it was noted that these were more expensive. Southwood Golf Course had the benefit of being flat and easy to get around for those with mobility health issues.

The consultation was carried out to help inform any decision made on the future of the Golf Course and the provision of SANG. The consultation had taken place throughout August and September and had been widely promoted through the

web, social media, leaflet drops, press releases, static displays and meetings. The consultation had generated 2,413 responses. Overall, 39% were in favour of closing the Golf Course to provide natural parkland and 61% in favour of keeping it open. However, from known Rushmoor residents, 50.6% were in favour of closing the Golf Course and turning it into parkland and 49.4% wanted to keep the Golf Course open. If the Golf Course was to close, of 1,330 respondents, 42% indicated they would give up playing golf, 29% would play less often and 29% would play at another course. Details were provided on what respondents would like to see if a new natural parkland was created which included walking and dog walking, cycle paths and natural trails as well as keeping a Golf Course. Comments from those wanting to close the Golf Course included the need for more parkland, parkland would benefit more people than the Golf Course and that it would allow more housing. Comments from respondents wanting to keep the course open included that it was affordable, there was already plenty of open space, health benefits and it was the best public course in the area.

A petition has also been received signed by 2,366 petitioners from Save Our Southwood Campaign Team. The petition accepted the need for additional housing but believed there were other ways of achieving the housing targets and the Council had enough SANG provision to meet requirements up to 2032 in the absence of Southwood Golf Course. The petition would be presented to the Council on 7th December, 2017.

The options proposed for consideration by the Joint Panel to recommend to Cabinet were:

- Close Southwood Golf Course to provide guaranteed SANG to support the regeneration of the town centres particularly Aldershot, provide additional Borough wide housing and provide open parkland available for everyone to use for walking, cycling and informal recreation.
- Explore the feasibility of providing a self-funding nine hole golf course and the release of sufficient SANG to enable the regeneration of the Aldershot Town Centre and housing development to the south of the Borough.
- Retain Southwood Golf Course and continue to look for alternative SANG, recognising this could either prevent, limit or slow the regeneration of Aldershot Town Centre and housing development to the south of the Borough.

The Joint Panel requested that the Cabinet Members in attendance were available to answer questions only and should not be invited to make any representation.

The Joint Panel received representation from Helen Perry who was in favour of keeping Southwood Golf Course open primarily from an educational improvement perspective. Ms. Perry was of the opinion that the Golf Course should stay open in its full capacity. However, if it needed to be a smaller course to enable some housing there were some viable options. Ms. Perry suggested that the whole area should be a sports/leisure area which could include the Golf Course, cricket club and football club and provide space for sports science and health and well-being facilities in line with higher and further education. The Council could work

with local colleges to develop a sports academy to provide sport and environmental facilities for young people. Local schools could also make use of the Golf Course facilities for sports education and environmental studies. The Council needed to consider the needs of young people and ensure there was future provision of facilities.

In response to questions, Ms. Perry confirmed that the proposal was for access to facilities for the two further education colleges and three secondary schools to be able to provide outdoor education. It was also suggested that there could be a compromise to enable some of the Golf Course to remain open and use the rest for educational purposes. The Golf Course needed ambition to promote facilities to youths in the area and smart, creative and ambitious people needed to be employed to achieve success. There was also the opportunity to provide the educational facilities as open parkland. Ms. Perry asked if the Council had considered using some of the football stadium land in the Borough for SANG as there was a lot of provision for football in the area.

The Joint Panel received representation from Mike Bartley on behalf of David Scott who had been unable to attend the meeting in person. Mr. Scott was a wounded military veteran who had taken up golf as part of his rehabilitation. Southwood Golf Course had been the only course in the area willing to provide support through coaching, reduced green fees and a golf buggy, which ultimately enabled Mr. Scott to take part in the Invictus Games and go on to win a gold medal in golf. Southwood Golf Course was a well-suited course for disabled people. The Golf Course had also played a significant role in building Mr. Scott's confidence through the social aspect and interaction with other players.

The Joint Panel then received representations from Mike Bartley, Keith Ledgerwood and Barry Gilmore who spoke on behalf of the Golf Course users, families and local residents who wished to see the course remain open. The closure of the Golf Course to provide SANG to protect three types of bird was believed to be unnecessary as it was felt there was no evidence to demonstrate the effectiveness of the mitigation. The provision of SANG to dissuade people from walking on the SPAs was felt to be inadequate. There was already lots of natural green spaces in the Borough but only one accessible, affordable pay and play golf course. The Golf Course provided a social hub for people of all ages but in particular provided a healthy social community environment for senior citizens. Young people could also play at a very reasonable cost and without the limitations associated with private clubs. Southwood Golf Course also provided a good quality course that was virtually level and accessible by golfers who would otherwise struggle on a hilly course.

The statements made by the Council were questioned relating to a number of issues. The £40,000 subsidy was felt to be a false saving as it was believed that most of the subsidy was for rates, which would not be generated if the land was converted to SANG. The figures for rounds of golf played was believed to be 30,000 in the year to September 2017, which benefited more than just the 175 members. The fact that the course was not economically viable was disputed as annual revenue was estimated at between £400,000 and £500,000; it was highlighted that this was a speculative figure, as Mack Trading figures had not been accessed. There was disagreement that golf was in decline with a recent

England Golf Impact Report showing that there was a significant demand for golf in Rushmoor. The purpose and priority to improve the quality of local people's lives would be achieved by keeping the Golf Course open for those people that played golf.

The housing figures required for SANG and the SANG already available were raised. It was suggested that the SANG required for 7,848 dwellings to 2032 could be met from the 5,531 already allocated and identified and from SANG that would become available from the Blandford House development and Bramshot Farm. It was proposed that the standard occupancy rate applied by Natural England of 2.4 people per home was high as the planned homes were predominantly one or two bedroom homes and a lower occupancy rate of 2 could be proposed. If the occupancy rate was lowered the mitigation would be for 2,645 homes which would be sufficient to exceed the requirement by 328 homes. In addition, recent Government consultation could reduce the overall housing requirement by more than 2,500 homes. It was proposed that the Council should wait until after the outcome of the Government consultation in April 2018 before making any decision to close the Golf Course.

The parameters used to set out the catchment areas for SANG were then questioned. It was requested that the Council discussed with Natural England some flexibility in the application of the SANG catchment area and the formula applied to hectares per person.

There was disagreement with the statement about there being a number of alternative courses where golfers could turn up and play without being members. The other courses in the area either: would not let non-members play at a weekend; were prohibitively expensive in comparison to Southwood; had limited or zero availability for membership; or, were hilly and long and not suitable for those with a disability or more senior, less mobile golfers. In the survey 42% of respondents said they would give up golf if the course closed which would not fit with the Council's corporate policy to improve the quality of local people's lives and promote health and wellbeing.

Those representing the users of the Golf Course read out two letters of support from charities that had benefited from fund raising through society matches and other fund raising events. Southwood golfers had raised approaching £500,000 for charities. The Golf Course was seen as a valuable local recreational asset by the charities and societies which brought revenue not only to the course but also to the local area and many were repeat visitors.

The Joint Panel raised a number of questions in response to the representations made. It was asked whether a 9-hole course would be a viable solution and would be accepted by the golfers. It was felt that a 9-hole course was not a viable solution and would be far less patronised by members. Those representing the users were of the view that there was no requirement to make the course into a 9-hole course as there was sufficient SANG elsewhere in the Borough and the Council should influence Natural England to apply some flexibility in the SANG requirement. It was also suggested that there could be a way of providing SANG and retaining the Golf Course in its current form by sharing the land and providing a public right of way.

Some members of the Joint Panel questioned the need to rush to make the decision. There were a number of issues that still needed to be considered before making a final decision on closing the Golf Course. It was suggested that the time should be used to lobby Government to amend the SANG legislation take into account urban areas such as Rushmoor. Government assistance could also be sought to combine Hart, Surrey Heath and Rushmoor as one housing market area.

The Cabinet Member for Environment highlighted that there had been a number of SANG options explored before looking at Southwood Golf Course. The closure of the Golf Course was not an easy option to consider but there were no other options available. There was an urgent need to secure housing for the Borough, and he explained that there were currently 1,200 families on the waiting list for affordable housing and 100 families in temporary accommodation. Assurance was given that every effort would be made to lobby Government over the coming years to make SANG legislation more appropriate. Discussions had already been held with the local MP, Leo Docherty, to show that the SANG provisions were not suitable for an area like Rushmoor.

The Joint Panel acknowledged the requirement for affordable housing in the Borough and was keen to ensure any developments provided an appropriate amount of affordable and social housing. The Joint Panel was advised that the Council was able to influence the amount of social housing built as this was set out in the Local Plan and that local residents were offered accommodation in the social housing available. However, the Council had no influence over properties sold on the open market. Developers would have to provide a strong case to show that a development was not viable to provide social housing, and the case would be independently audited. If the independent audit showed the development to be viable the developer would be required to provide social housing.

Following a debate on the options open to the Council, it was proposed:

“That the decision regarding the future of the Southwood Golf Course be deferred for twelve months while all other options be pursued to include:

- Lobbying Government
- Seeking special dispensation for the area of Rushmoor in the way it is treated for SANG land, and;
- Examination of alternative SANG provision to provide the necessary mitigation for housing development in Rushmoor.”

After further discussion, the vote was taken with 8 voting for the proposal and 6 voting against. Therefore the proposal set out above was agreed for recommendation to Cabinet.

The meeting closed at 10.02 pm.

CLLR MRS. D.B. BEDFORD (CHAIRMAN)



Option to convert Southwood Golf  
Course into new natural open  
parkland

# Consultation report by Strategy, Performance and Partnerships

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## Summary

There were 2,413 responses to the survey from people living in and out of the borough, which was to be expected as the golf course is also used by people living outside the borough. In total 1,514 respondents (62.7%) had postcodes or addresses in the borough.

From those answering the related questions the respondents tended to be male (63.0%), white British (86.6%), not have any health conditions or disabilities, which limited daily activities (81.6%) and be heterosexual/straight (80.6%). The largest age group of respondents was 45-54 years (19.7%).

Of those who play golf, 281 respondents (16.9%) indicated that they were members of Southwood golf course, 1,151 respondents (72.9%) indicated that they have used the golf course and 554 respondents (41.7%) indicated that they would give up playing golf if Southwood was to close.

Overall, 61.% of respondents indicated that they wanted to 'Keep Southwood Golf Course open, and as it is' compared to 39.0% who wanted to 'Close Southwood Golf Course and turn it into natural parkland, which in turn, would allow around 2,500 homes to be built elsewhere in the borough'. Of those with postcodes or addresses in the borough, 50.6% of respondents indicated that wanted to 'Close Southwood Golf Course and turn it into natural parkland, which in turn, would allow around 2,500 homes to be built elsewhere in the borough' compared to 49.4% who wanted to 'Keep Southwood Golf Course open, and as it is'.

The main themes of responses to the open questions asking why they wanted to keep the golf course are affordability, plenty of other green spaces around, course is well used, provides a sense of community and the course is fantastic.

The main themes of responses to the open question asking why they wanted to close the golf course are, it is a great idea, need more parkland, more people will benefit than do from golf, issues with the running costs and it will allow more housing.

The most popular thing respondents wanted to see at Southwood Golf Course if we were to create new natural parkland was 'open space for walking and dog walking', followed by 'natural trails'. The least popular was 'small allotment'. The main theme of the last question asking for any other comments were, don't want the golf course closed and leave it as it is.

## Introduction

The council is considering the possibility of converting Southwood Golf Course into new natural open parkland.

This would mean that the area would be opened up to become around 50 hectares of green space for all our residents to enjoy, replacing the golf course use.

Together with Southwood Woodland and other green open space nearby, this would create a large country park area, offering activities such as walking, cycling, trim trails, natural play structures and a community orchard. The natural parkland would become what is known as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). This means the area would become a permanently protected public open space that could never be built on.

Converting the golf course would allow for around 2,500 new homes to be built in the borough under the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area mitigation requirements. In turn, new town centre homes, particularly flats, would provide funding to help support the much-needed regeneration of Aldershot and Farnborough town centres, as well as bringing new footfall to the areas.

In recent years, overall use of the golf course has reduced from 40,000 to 25,000 rounds a year. This is made up of casual users, societies, season ticket holders and golf club members. There are approximately 175 golf club members, of which around half live in Rushmoor.

## Methodology

To understand people's views on the options to convert the golf course, an online survey was designed and public meetings organised. Paper versions of the surveys (appendix A) were also available at the Council Offices and were taken to public meetings.

The public meetings were held at:

- Southwood Community Centre on Tuesday 15 August
- Southwood Golf Course on Tuesday 19 September

In total 2,072 households around the golf course received a leaflet (appendix B) informing them of the survey and the consultation events.

Due to public interest, the original deadline was extended by one week, from 22 September to the 29 September. An additional public meeting on Monday 18 September at Southwood Community Centre was also added.

The households around the golf course received a postcard (appendix C) informing them of the extension and the extra meeting.

The consultation ran from Friday 8 August until Friday 29 of September 2017.

## Responses

There were 2,255 online responses and 158 paper responses, giving a total of 2,413 responses. The table below shows the location of respondents; 62.7% (1514 respondents) had postcodes within the borough.

Location of respondents	Number	Percentage
Postcode or address in the borough*	1,514	62.7%
Postcode or address out of the borough	533	22.1%
Location not given	366	15.2%

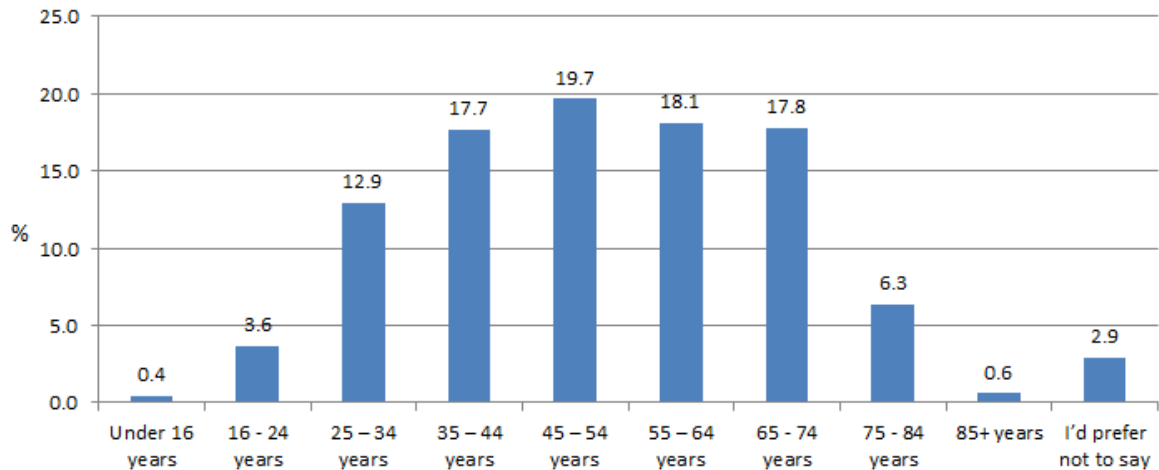
\*We have included those who responded with part of the postcode GU14

## Characteristics of the respondents

### Age

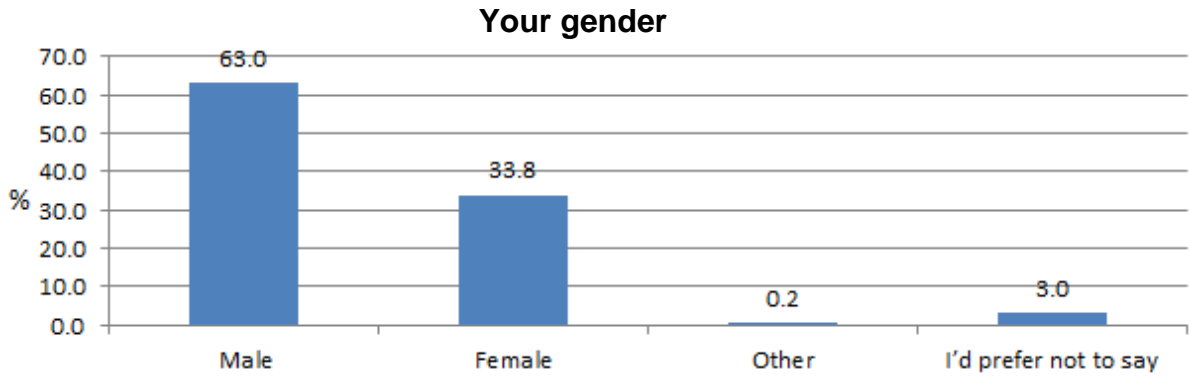
In total 2,248 respondents filled in the question about their age. The age of respondents ranged from under 16 years to 85+ years, with the largest age group being 45-54 year olds (442 respondents).

### Which one of the following age bands do you belong to?



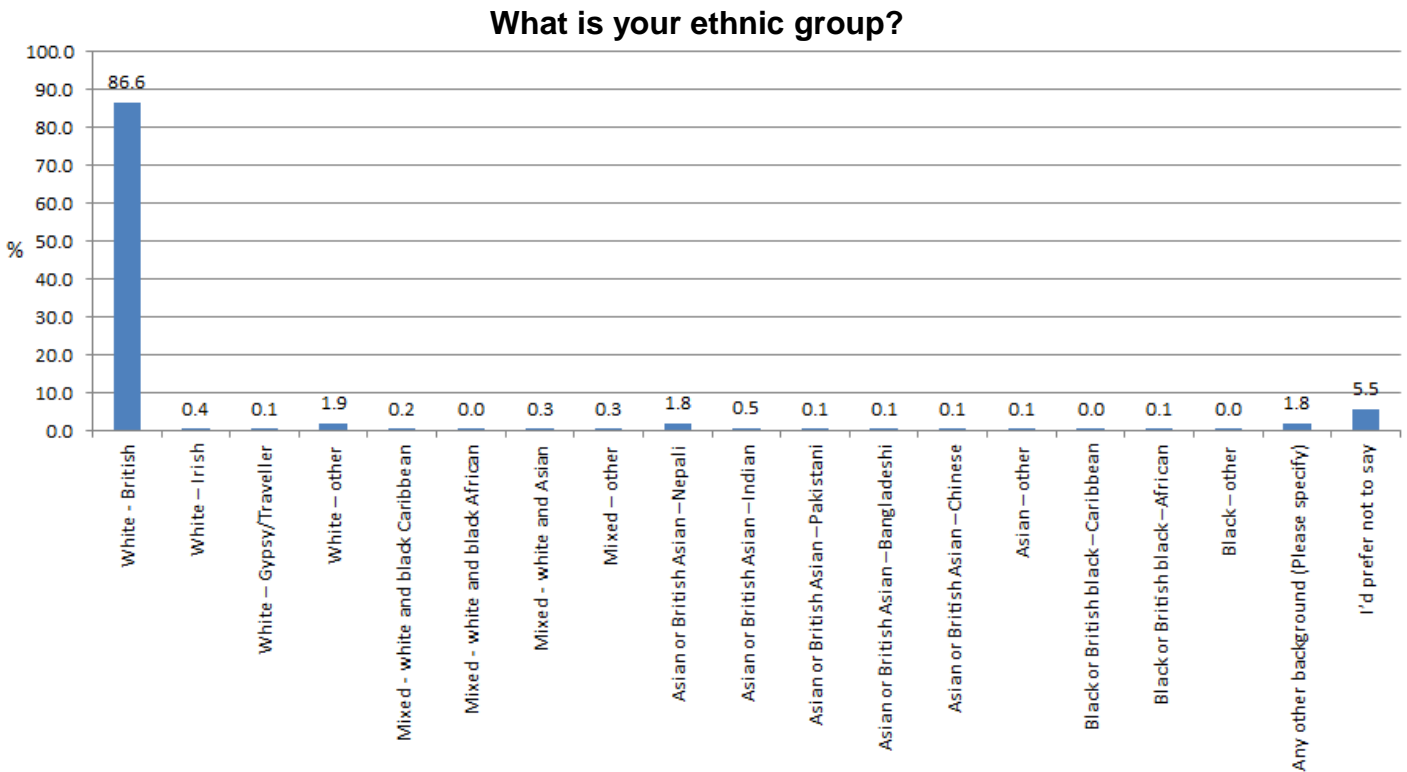
## Gender

In total 2,245 respondents filled in the question about their gender. The majority of respondent were male; 63.0% (1,415 respondents). Of the four respondents that filled in the other comment box, there was no commonality in response.



## Ethnic group

In total 2,233 respondents filled in the question about their ethnic group. The majority of respondents were white - British; 86.6% (1,933 respondents).

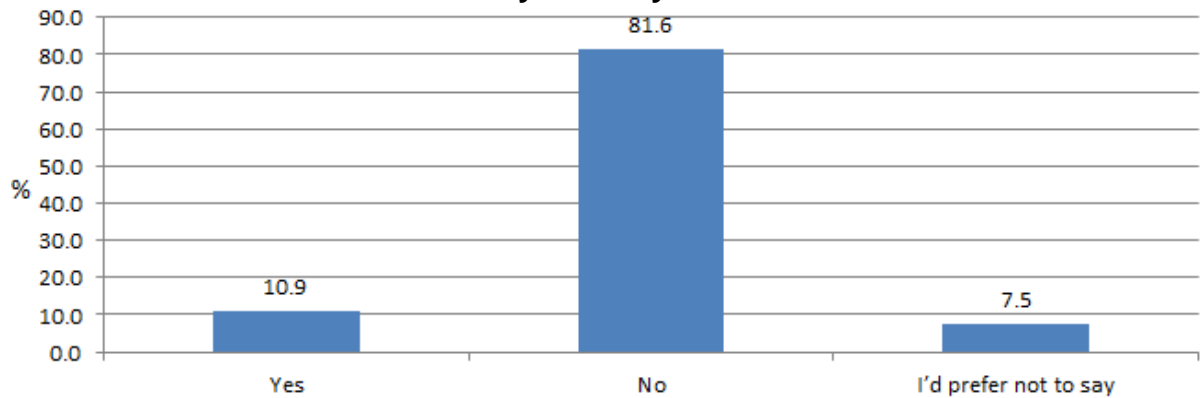


Of the 40 respondents that filled in the other comment box, the most common responses were 14 indicating they were English and nine indicating that the question was irrelevant.

## Health conditions or disabilities

In total 2,223 respondents filled in the question about their health. The majority of respondents (81.6%) indicated that they did not have a health condition or disabilities, which limited their daily activities.

### Do you consider yourself to have any health conditions or disabilities, which limit your daily activities?



## Sexual orientation

In total 2,177 respondents filled in the question about their sexual orientation. The majority of respondents (80.6%) indicated that they were heterosexual/straight.

### What is your sexual orientation?



Of the 80 respondents that filled in the other comment box, 62 of the comments were about the relevance of the question to the survey.

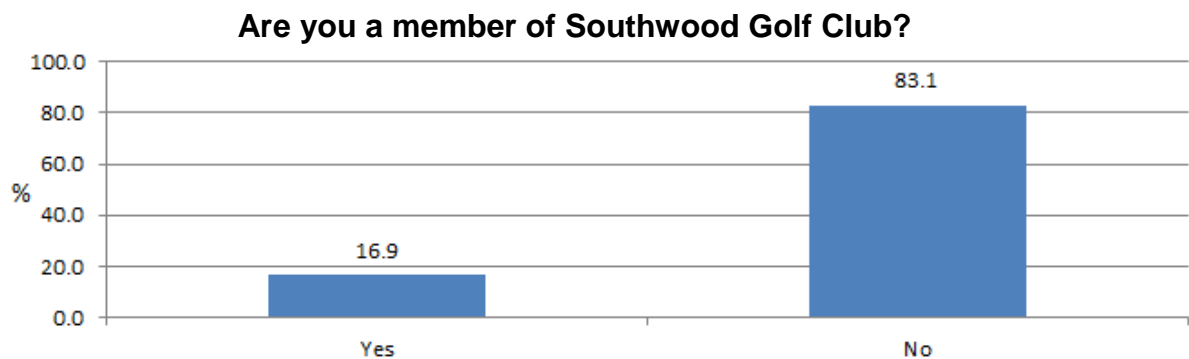
# Results

## SECTION ONE – Golfers

**Note as this section was available to all to answer and first in the survey, some non-golfers may have filled in some of the questions.**

### Question 1: Are you a member of Southwood Golf Club?

In total 1,660 respondents filled in this question; 16.9% (281 respondents) indicated that they were members of Southwood Golf Course and 83.1% (1,379 respondents) indicated that they were not members.



### Question 2: How often have you played at Southwood Golf Course in the last 12 months?

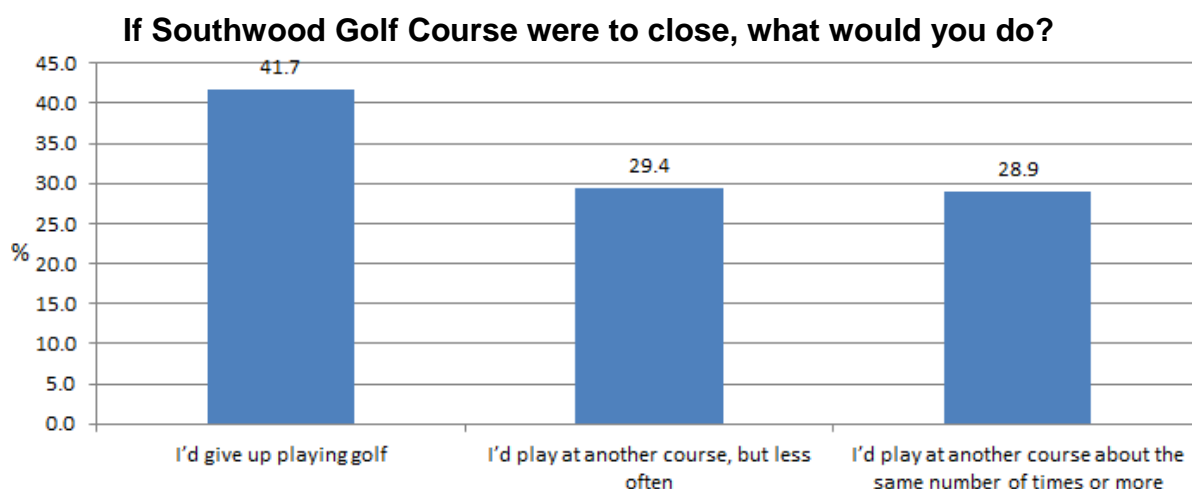
In total 1,578 respondents filled in this question. 72.9% (1,151 respondents) indicated that they had used the Southwood Golf Course and 27.1% (427 respondents) indicated that they had never used it. Of those who had used the golf course, the most frequent use was weekly; 14.8% (234 respondents).





### Question 3: If Southwood Golf Course were to close, what would you do?

In total 1,330 respondents filled in this question; 41.7% (554 respondents) indicated that they would give up playing golf, 29.4% (391 respondents) would play on another course but less often and 28.9% (385 respondents) would play at another course about the same number of times or more.



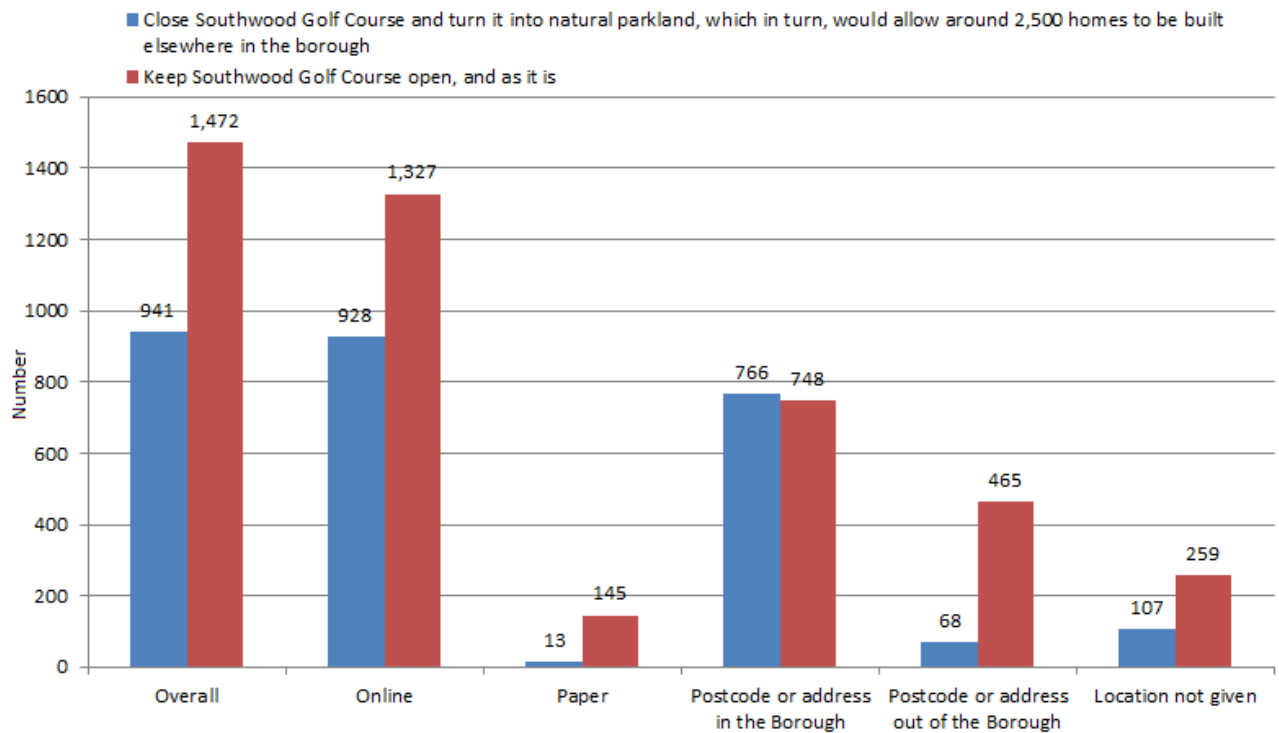
## SECTION 2 – For everyone to complete

### Question 4: Given what you've read about the option to convert Southwood Golf Club into natural parkland, which of the following would you most support?

This was the only mandatory question in the survey so all 2,413 respondents filled in this question. Overall, 61.0% (1,472 respondents) wanted to keep the Southwood Golf Course as it is and 39.0% (941 respondents) wanted the golf course closed and turned into natural parkland. However, the respondents are more even from those who identified themselves as living in the borough, where 50.6% (766 respondents) wanted the golf course closed and 49.4% (748 respondents) wanted to keep the golf course. A high percentage (91.8%) of those who returned paper copies of the form wanted to keep the golf course.

	Close Southwood Golf Course and turn it into natural parkland, which in turn, would allow around 2,500 homes to be built elsewhere in the borough	Keep Southwood Golf Course open, and as it is
Overall	941 (39.0%)	1,472 (61.0%)
Online	928 (41.2%)	1,327 (58.8%)
Paper	13 (8.2%)	145 (91.8%)
Postcode or address in the borough	766 (50.6%)	748 (49.4%)
Postcode or address out of the borough	68 (12.8%)	465 (87.2 %)
Location not given	107 (29.2%)	259 (70.8%)

## Split of results by method of response and location of responder



In total, there were 1,833 comments for why respondents chose either to keep or close the golf course.

There were 609 comments from those who wanted to close Southwood Golf Course.

The main themes of the comments (those mentioned over 20 times) were:

- Great idea/agree with the idea/need more park land/great for the area/like park land (mentioned 262 times)
- Parkland will be used more than the golf course/more people will benefit/better use for the community (mentioned 207 times)
- Issues with the running costs/subsidies of the golf course and value for money (mentioned 83 times)
- It will allow housing/we need more housing/housing more important than golf (mentioned 80 times)
- There are plenty of other places for golf around (mentioned 57 times)
- The land will be protected (mentioned 46 times)
- Concern about extra housing/don't want housing/location of extra housing/infrastructure (mentioned 37 times)
- Good for wildlife/biodiversity/nature (mentioned 29 times)
- Want the housing to be affordable housing (mentioned 26 times)
- It will allow regeneration/development (mentioned 24 times)
- Exercise and fresh air benefits/well-being (mentioned 24 times)

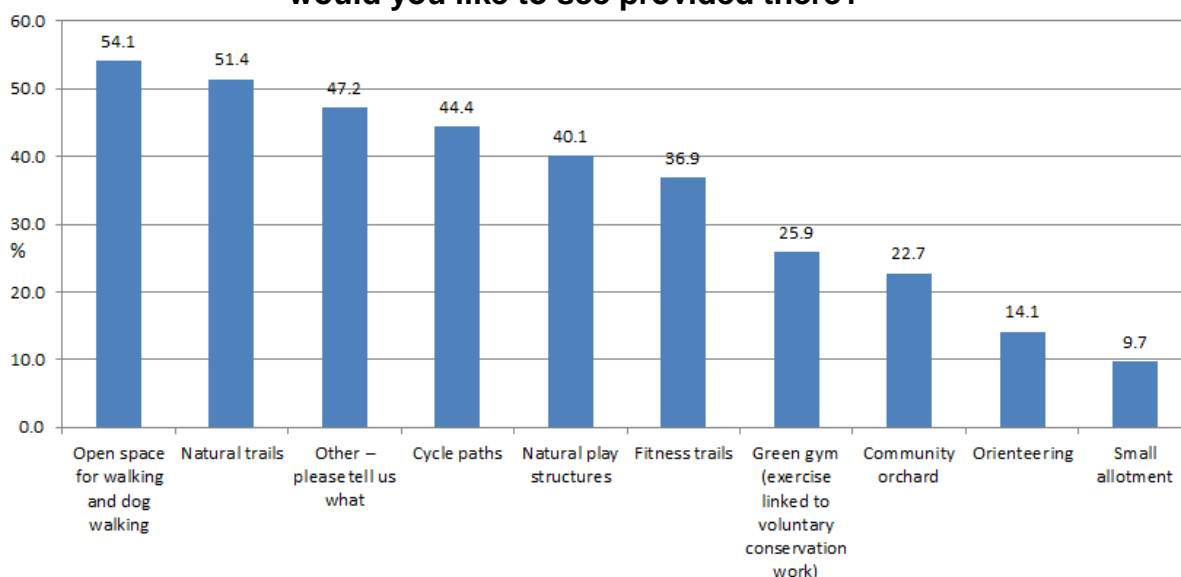
There were 1,224 comments from those who wanted to keep the Southwood Golf Course, the main themes of the comments (those mentioned over 20 times):

- Affordability/ the reasonable price of the course/the cost of using other courses/affordable for pensioners (mentioned 321 times)
- There are already plenty of other open/green spaces around (mentioned 173 times)
- Health and fitness benefits (mentioned 171 times)
- The course is well used/busy/I play there (mentioned 161 times)
- Social/friendship and sense of community benefits of the course/club (mentioned 141 times)
- The course is great/lovely/good/fantastic/well maintained (mentioned 113 times)
- Concern about current/future infrastructure if more homes are built (mentioned 85 times)
- Benefits for the older population/less able with the course being accessible/flat/option to play less holes (mentioned 72 times)
- The location of the golf course/on doorstep (mentioned 66 times)
- No more housing/development isn't wanted (mentioned 58 times)
- The course is good for young people/beginners/learners (mentioned 56 times)
- Cost of maintaining the natural parkland/will it be maintained (mentioned 56 times)
- The club supports charities/raises money for good causes (mentioned 53 times)
- The course is the only/best pay and play/public course in the area (mentioned 49 times)
- The course is already a green space/full of wildlife/natural parkland (mentioned 45 times)
- Course attracts people to the area/an asset to the area/community asset (mentioned 38 times)
- Southwood woodland not maintained/well used (mentioned 33 times)
- I think/concern that it will be turned in to housing/airport expansion in the future (mentioned 32 times)
- Concern about antisocial behaviour if the course wasn't there (mentioned 30 times)
- Market /invest/promote the golf course (mentioned 28 times)
- Compromise with a 9 hole course(mentioned 21 times)

## Question 5: If we were to create new natural parkland at Southwood Golf Course, what would you like to see provided there?

In total 2,045 respondents filled in the question. The 'open space for walking and dog walking' was the most popular option with 54.1% (1,106) of respondents wanting to see this provided. This was followed by 'Natural trails' with 51.4% (1,051) of respondents wanting to see this provided. The least popular option was for 'small allotment', with only 9.7% (199) of respondents wanting to see this provided.

### If we were to create new natural parkland at Southwood Golf Course, what would you like to see provided there?



There were 944 comments for the 'other' option. The main themes of the comments (those mentioned over 20 times) were:

- Golf course/keep golf course/as it is/disagree with plans (mentioned 414 times)
- None/nothing/wouldn't use (mentioned 170 times)
- These things are already available in the local area (mentioned 70 times)
- Café/restaurant/pub/refreshment kiosk (mentioned 52 times)
- 9 hole golf course (mentioned 32 times)
- Pond/Wildlife pond/lake (mentioned 31 times)
- Water play/splash park/swimming pool (mentioned 26 times)
- Play park/adventure park (mentioned 26 times)

**Question 6: If you have any other comments, please let us know in the box below.**

There were 869 comments for this question. The main themes of the comments (those mentioned over 20 times) were:

- Generally negative about closing the golf course/ don't want the golf course closed/ leave it as it is/ disgusted (mentioned 196 times)
- Generally positive about the golf course changing to natural parkland/ fantastic idea (mentioned 96 times)
- Plenty of open/green spaces / the suggested activities are in the area already (mentioned 58 times)
- Infrastructure concerns if housing is built (mentioned 46 times)
- Change management of the course/promote the course/increase fees (mentioned 44 times)
- Maintenance concerns/maintenance costs of the natural parkland (mentioned 43 times)
- Closing the course would deprive people of health and fitness, social interaction and enjoyment (mentioned 42 times)
- Consultation issues/the Council have already made minds up/issues with the £40,000 the Council have said is costs to run the course/bias and misleading information (mentioned 40 times)
- Only affordable course/can't afford other courses/course is reasonably priced (mentioned 37 times)
- Change to 9 holes/shorter course (mentioned 24 times)
- No to new houses (mentioned 21 times)

## Appendix A. Copy of paper survey

# Option to convert **Southwood Golf Course** into new natural open parkland



You can read more about this on our website  
[www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodsurvey](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodsurvey)

Please complete our survey to tell us what you think about this idea

**The closing date for giving your views is Friday 22 September**

**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Section 1 - Golfers - please complete this section if you are a golfer

- 1. Are you a member of Southwood Golf Club?** (Please tick one box)
- Yes       No
- 2. How often have you played at Southwood Golf Course in the last 12 months?**  
(Please tick one box)
- Daily                                       Once or twice a year  
 A few times a week                       Annually  
 Weekly                                         Less often  
 Monthly                                        Never  
 Every couple of months
- 3. If Southwood Golf Course were to close, what would you do?** (Please tick one box)
- I'd give up playing golf  
 I'd play at another course, but less often  
 I'd play at another course about the same number of times or more

## Section 2 - For everyone to complete

- 4. Given what you've read about the option to convert Southwood Golf Club into natural parkland, which of the following would you MOST support?** (Please tick one box)

- Close Southwood Golf Course and turn it into natural parkland, which in turn, would allow around 2,500 homes to be built elsewhere in the borough
- Keep Southwood Golf Course open, and as it is

Please tell us why you say this.

- 5. If we were to create new natural parkland at Southwood Golf Course, what would you like to see provided there?** (Please tick all that apply)

- Open space for walking and dog walking  
 Cycle paths  
 Fitness trails  
 Natural trails  
 Green gym (exercise linked to voluntary conservation work)  
 Natural play structures  
 Orienteering  
 Community orchard  
 Small allotment  
 Other - (Please tell us what)

**6. If you have any other comments, please let us know in the box below.**

### Section 3 - About you

As part of the Equality Act 2010, we must make sure our services are open and accessible to everyone, that we treat people fairly and appropriately and in consultations, we hear all views.

The following questions will help us to check that we are doing this and will also help us to understand better the answers we receive. We will treat this information as anonymous and confidential and will not identify individuals.

You do not have to answer these questions if you would prefer not to.

**7. Your age**

Which one of the following age bands do you belong to? (Please tick one box)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 - 64 years         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 - 24 years  | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 - 74 years         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 - 34 years  | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 - 84 years         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 - 44 years  | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 and over           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45 - 54 years  | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd prefer not to say |

**8. Your gender** (Please tick one box)

- Male  
 Female  
 Other (Please specify)

- I'd prefer not to say

**9. What is your ethnic group?** (Please tick one box)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - British                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or British Asian - Pakistani    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Irish                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or British Asian - Bangladeshi  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Gypsy/Traveller           | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or British Asian - Chinese      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - other                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian - other                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - white and black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or British black - Caribbean    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - white and black African   | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or British black - African      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - white and Asian           | <input type="checkbox"/> Black - other                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed - other                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other background (Please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or British Asian - Nepali   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or British Asian - Indian   |  |

- I'd prefer not to say



**10. Do you consider yourself to have any health conditions or disabilities, which limit your daily activities?** (Please tick one box)

Yes       No       I'd prefer not to say

**11. What is your sexual orientation?** (Please tick one box)

- Heterosexual/straight  
 Gay or lesbian  
 Bisexual  
 Other (Please specify)

I'd prefer not to say

**12. Your address**

So that we can identify where responses come from, we would like your house number or name and postcode.

Your house name or number

Your postcode

**13. Keeping you informed**

If you would like to be kept informed about the outcome of this consultation and our decision, please give us your email address.

**14. Sign up for email news from the council**

Occasionally, we'd like to send our residents information about the council and our services by email. You can also find out about council consultations. In addition, our council Leader, Councillor David Clifford has his own email newsletter that you can sign up to receive.

- I'd like to receive news from the council  
 I'd like to receive news about consultations  
 I'd like to receive news from the Leader

Your email address (if not given, or different to, above)

**Thank you for taking part in our survey.**

Our councillors will use your responses to help them make a decision.  
We will publish updates on our website, [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodsury](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodsury)

Data protection notice: We will only use the information you give us for the purposes stated in this survey.

Council Offices,  
Farnborough Road,  
Farnborough,  
Hants, GU14 7JU

[www.rushmoor.gov.uk](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk)  
01252 398 399  
[customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk)

 @rushmoorcouncil  
 Rushmoor Borough Council  
August 2017

Appendix B. Copy of postcard

Option to convert  
**Southwood Golf Course**  
into new  
natural open parkland



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**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Before our councillors make a decision on this option, we would like your views.**

You can read more about our consultation and complete our survey on our website, [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodsurvey](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodssurvey)



## **Drop-in consultation sessions at:**

Southwood Community Centre  
**Tuesday 15 August** - 3.30pm-7.30pm

Southwood Golf Clubhouse  
**Tuesday 19 September** - 3.30pm-7.30pm

**The closing date for giving your views is**  
**Friday 22 September**

Council Offices,  
Farnborough Road,  
Farnborough,  
Hants, GU14 7JU

[www.rushmoor.gov.uk](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk)  
01252 398 399  
[customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk)

[@rushmoorcouncil](https://twitter.com/rushmoorcouncil)  
[Rushmoor Borough Council](https://www.facebook.com/RushmoorBoroughCouncil)  
August 2017

Appendix C. Copy of the extension postcard

Option to convert  
**Southwood Golf Course**  
into new  
natural open parkland



Have  
your  
say!

Due to public interest we have  
**EXTENDED** the consultation deadline  
and **ADDED** an open meeting

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**RUSHMOOR**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Before our councillors make a decision on this option, we would like your views.**

You can read more about our consultation and complete our survey on our website, [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodsurvey](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/southwoodssurvey)



**An ADDED open meeting at:**

Southwood Community Centre  
**Monday 18 September** - 6.30pm-8.30pm

**Drop-in consultation session at:**

Southwood Golf Clubhouse  
**Tuesday 19 September** - 3.30pm-7.30pm

**The closing date for giving your views has been EXTENDED to**

**Friday 29 September**

Council Offices,  
Farnborough Road,  
Farnborough,  
Hants, GU14 7JU

[www.rushmoor.gov.uk](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk)  
01252 398 399  
[customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@rushmoor.gov.uk)

[@rushmoorcouncil](https://twitter.com/rushmoorcouncil)  
[Rushmoor Borough Council](https://www.facebook.com/RushmoorBoroughCouncil)  
August 2017



# Southwood Golf Course - Background

Golf Club Green Fees and Memberships	
Southwood GC	Adult midweek - £20, weekend - £25, Senior - £15
	Season tickets – Adult 5 day £550 7 day £725, Senior/Concession 5 day £385
Oak Park GC	Adult midweek - £30, weekend - £35
Pine Ridge GC	Adult midweek - £29, weekend- £38, Senior – midweek £21, weekend £32
	Crown Golf memberships (Oak Park & Pine Ridge) 5 day membership - £899 7 day membership - £1133
Army GC	Adult midweek - £60 , weekend with a member or by arrangement
	Membership – Joining fee £500 annual subscription £1365 No waiting list, no senior membership rates
Hartley Witney	Adult midweek - £40, weekend £42 to £47.50 5 day membership - £1020 7 day membership- £1210