



# RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION MARLBOROUGH COMMON

Conducted 11 February to 25 March 2021

## PROCESS

The consultation was launched using an online survey tool within the Town Council's website. Paper copies were also available on request. The consultation form was also reproduced in full in Marlborough Town & Country Magazine as a page people could tear out and complete.

A copy of the consultation is attached at page 57

## SUMMARY

There were 1,584 replies to the consultation, of which 1,525 were completed online and 59 returned as hard copy responses.

In total 66% support the proposal. When you filter the responses for people who live in the parish the support figure is 58%.

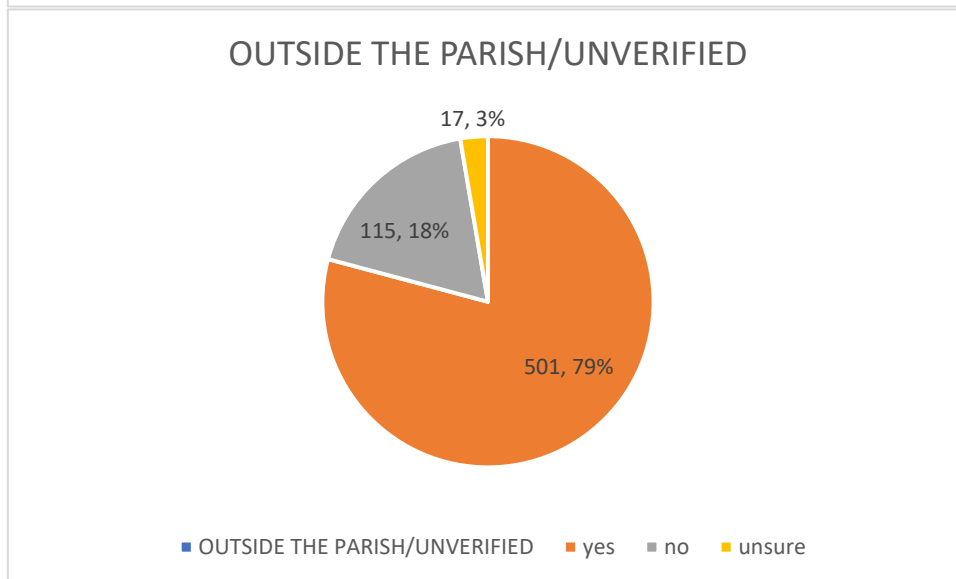
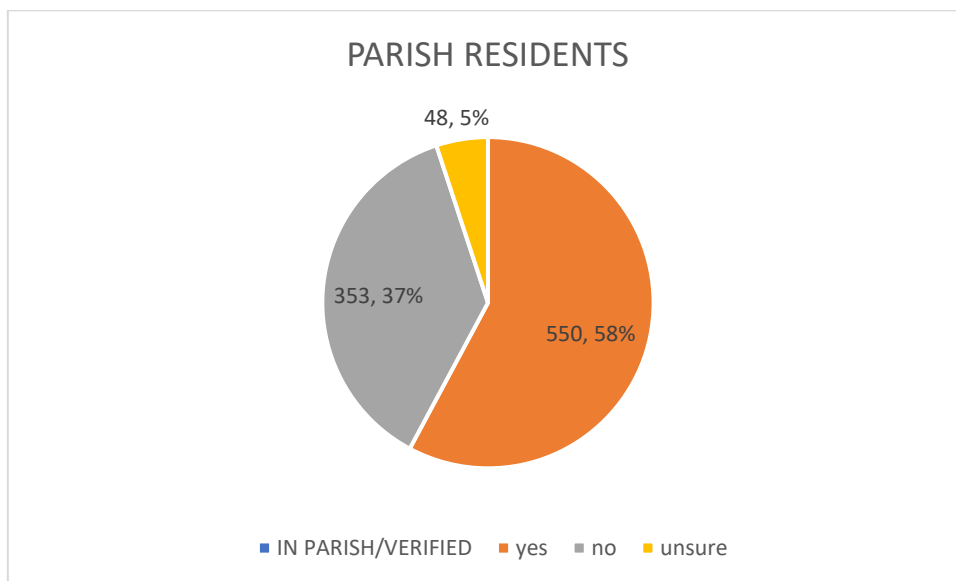
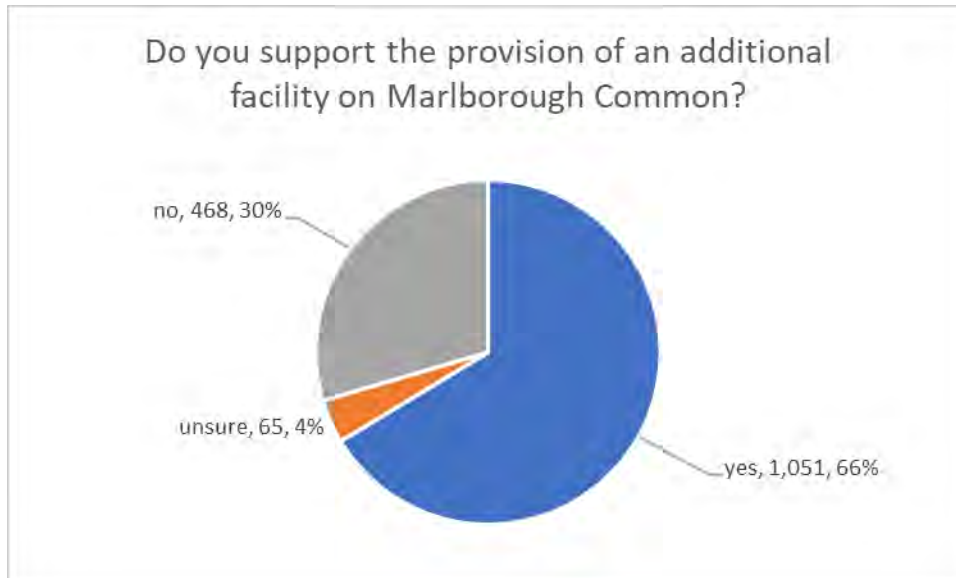
While the data provides very clear results there were many passionate comments. These are included as:

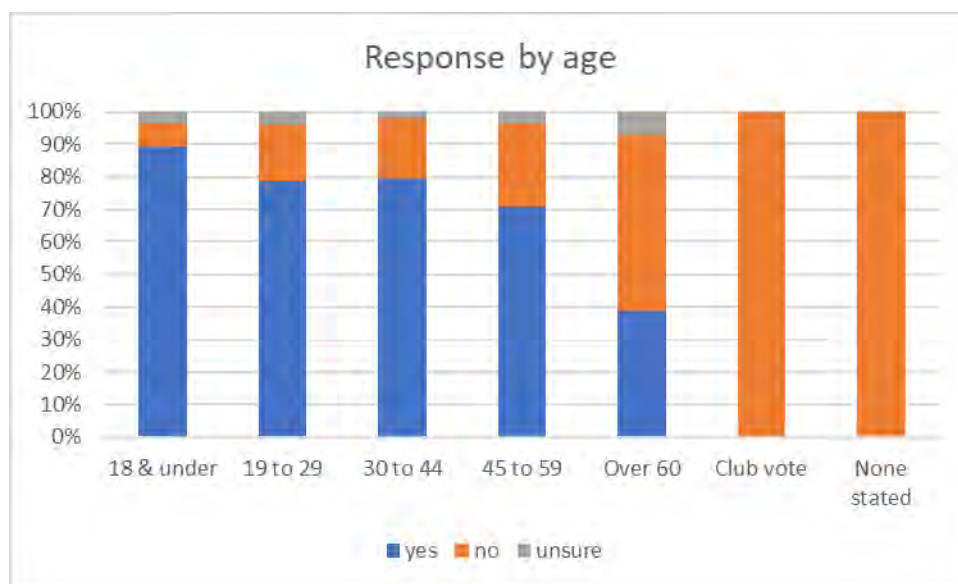
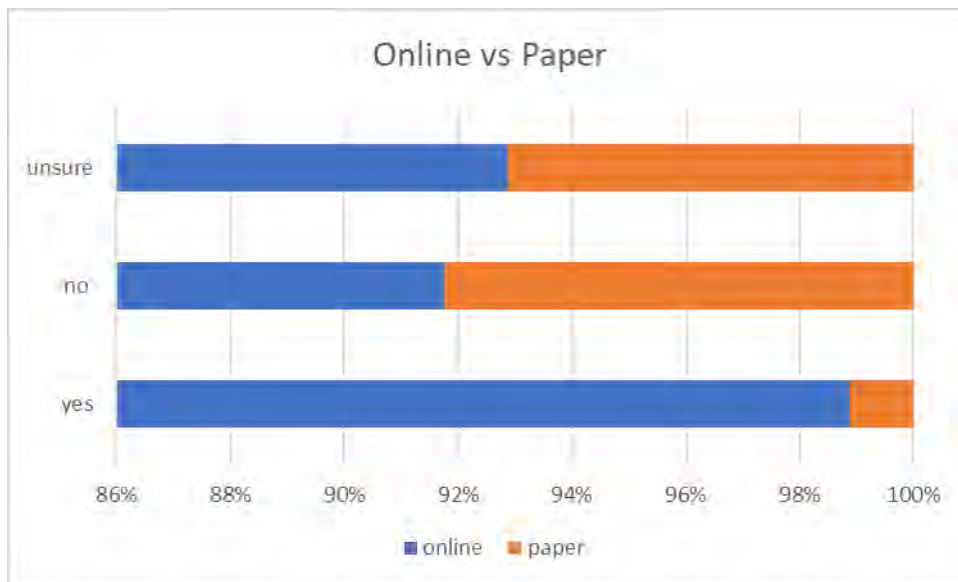
- People who support the proposal – go to page 4
- People who do not support the proposal – go to page 23
- People who are unsure about the proposal – go to page 53

## MARLBOROUGH PARISHONERS

Of the 1,584 responses, 951 live (have postcodes) within the Parish boundary and included on the electoral roll (including Marlborough College addresses and Business Park addresses).

## GRAPHS





## COMMENTS – PEOPLE WHO SAID ‘YES’

<p>Marlborough Rugby Club has struggled for years to provide training and space for matches for all age groups up to and including U16s. There is no better sight than seeing upwards of 100 boys and girls playing rugby. By doing so they are learning important life skills and improving their health. We must do what we can for our future generations, especially when so many will be bouncing back from the impact of the pandemic.</p>
<p>The area needs to be the area that was first proposed by MRFC and not the area proposed by councilor Fogg, right next to the road with a 60mph speed limit, the crest of a hill and hedgerow obscuring the view on the approach.</p>
<p>With an ever growing town, it is important that we add more facilities for youth and sport. This should also include facilities for to ensure year round training and matches on 3G/4G pitches.</p>
<p>I have been up at the club for 16 years now and I always see lots of happy faces of people up at the club on Sunday morning's. This would be really good for the club going forward to help them develop as a club and be able to look after more young players.</p>
<p>Rugby is an all inclusive sport, ability and size does not matter. Of course the club need the space to facilitate the growth. There is enough space for all users.</p>
<p>Support this provided it does NOT affect the running of Marlborough Common parkrun in any way. For the hour or so a week it operates, parkrun is essential in promoting physical and mental well-being for a wide range of people, and must not be disrupted from operating in any way.</p>
<p>I would like Park Run to be able to continue as well</p>
<p>The sporting facilities in Marlborough are very poor. The rugby/football clubs provide an excellent service to Marlborough and surrounding villages.</p>
<p>The rugby club and football club at both youth and senior level really need this development to go ahead</p>
<p>Very supportive, this town desperately needs sports pitches and facilities for our younger population.</p>
<p>I think it would be a great addition to the common supporting young people both physically and mentally, the small town can only progress with change and I believe it has minimal impact on other non users as it will only be used Saturday and Sunday's</p>
<p>Absolutely needed for all the mini groups that the rugby and soccer teams have in addition it is only for a short time of year and it still remains common land and rugby club is paying for the development</p>
<p>I very much believe that a designated 3rd training area to be used for both MRFC and Marlborough Youth Football so that there is more space available allowing the youngsters to hone their skills in a safe area where they can learn to be part of a team, improve their fitness and mental well being especially after what they have had to endure this last year. The times that this area will be used is predominantly when the weather is not so good and only for a few hours each weekend. After this time all training areas can be used by anyone for their own enjoyment. The town needs to support the youth which lives here if we want to have youngsters who are respectful and want to be part of something, then the town needs to help to support this or else if we don't then there is higher chance of kids becoming disengaged with society, and start to look for other ways to spend their time such as hanging around in groups, exhibiting anti- social behavior and generally being disruptive. It would be criminal and morally wrong not to support this and not to support our youngsters. There is also another benefit to the town as parents will visit the shops and cafe's spending money and helping the local economy.</p>
<p>An additional training area in Marlborough could prove to be an essential path in increasing the participation in sport within the town. With the limited current training area, sport teams such as football have been forced to turn young players away, which will almost definitely be damaging for the confidence and mentality of the younger generation. The additional training area would only be used on few days of the week at allocated times by sport teams, and will still be classed as common ground for the public, so it's not being taken away from anyone.</p>
<p>The Common is a wonderful place which is enjoyed by so many, but it is vital that we enable as many people as possible to participate in sport - especially given the devastating effects on physical and mental health of young and old, over the last year. I would urge the Town Council and the Rugby Club to work together to find a solution which meets the needs of as many groups as possible.</p>
<p>Poor Sporting facilities in Marlborough so we batter and more space that the kids and youth can enjoy training every Sunday</p>
<p>I believe it is very important for the young people of Marlborough to be able to take part in organised team sports, as it improves mental wellbeing, general health and fitness and social skills. The training</p>

pitch would allow for more young people to access these sports creating a better environment for the youth, and bringing more people and therefore more income to the town as a whole.
I think any thing to encourage outdoor activities for the youth of the town is a bonus
Would be fabulous for all the active young and old in marlborough and surrounding areas
Exercise for the youth of our arts, whatever form, should be embraced Those involved in the recreational space should also show where they could also enhance the fauna and floors by other methods in order to offset any loss
Perfect use for an important area of COMMON land, allowing the youth a chance to use it for sport and health
What is the Town Council's alternative for provision of sports facilities in Marlborough if not this?
I would like the provision to remain under the control of the town council with an agreement for use but it should be available for other groups like park run. It should not be exclusive to these two groups.
This would brilliant for the town and the kids
Extra sporting facilities are essential for Marlborough. We ideally need a floodlit area. Our community is so far behind other similar towns it is criminal. Our children have no wear to train at night apart from Marlborough college who we can not and should not rely on.
I'm not against another ruby pitch on the common but my concerns are what comes next a bigger club house ??? The common is for everyone and should stay that way we cannot lose are green space
With the ever growing size of Marlborough it is imperative that we make as much open space available for recreation.Fully support this move
I am a parent of two boys that play for Marlborough Youth FC. There are constant issues around pitches and on Saturday morning we have too many children squashed into the pitches on the rugby club side of the common. More pitches are desperately needed for the young players of both clubs.
Sport is an essential use of any public space.. the more space, the higher the participation
This is unbelievable that something so many people want that this has had to come to a public consultation. There is enough room for dog walkers, Running and flowers.just more wasting of money due to personal feelings rather than what is right
This would be very much welcome and the common has so much space it can easily share the space for all.
As you have said, outdoor recreation is so important for our children. Extra facilities would be very welcome.
Really good facilities, definitely needs to be encouraged!
Sport is of vital importance to children and currently the pitch provision in Marlborough does not meet demand. This is especially true in the winter when other pitches become waterlogged. Allowing more space for kids to play will open up the common to more people and will support their development and mental health
I think this is a great idea. I think in a time where computers are taking over, we must use every opportunity to encourage our kids to get involved in sport and outdoor activities. Development of a new pitch could be enough to encourage plenty more kids to get out from behind those computers.
Fantastic to offer more opportunity to the youth of marlborough and the surrounding areas
I play for Marlborough U13s and have been at the club for 7 years and we definitely need more space to train. Please help us to have a bit more space
This is greatly needed
Both my children have played some kind of sport for the last 12 years and Marlborough is so short of decent pitches fir them to play on. The common is a large area and even with another pitch up there there is still plenty of room for the dog walkers ( who by the way don't often pick up behind their dogs! ) These children need places to go to play their sport and the rugby and football clubs have hundreds of children already being active which can only be a good thing in my view.
I am a daily dog Walker on the common but also keen on sport and keeping youngsters fit. I would hope that the existing pathways remain and that access to the pitch area is available to all during summer months.
The town desperately needs more sporting facilities. We have fallen way behind other areas and still have no plan for how we solve the issue. The children of the town can use the area for organised, volunteer run sports on the weekend mornings. The rest of the time it'll be available for all to walk on, play on and picnic on. I walk the common a lot and the majority of people I see are either walking the perimeter of the common as the other ground is rough or they're playing sport and that involves the area that are training areas. In the summer and during the last lockdown, lots more people used the common and they sat and had picnics, but all sat where it was clear grass. This is a great idea, not only to go

<p>some small way to help with the sporting facilities in the town - which still need more than just this idea - but will also give a bigger area for everyone to use at every other time of the week. Great idea - totally in support.</p>
<p>The youth of Marlborough need as many sporting facilities as possible .</p>
<p>The popularity of the rugby and football club in Marlborough is something that should be celebrated and supported fully. If we have the ability to enhance the both the physical and mental wellbeing of future generations through sport then of course we should.</p>
<p>My son is a member of MYFC and I feel especially in the current times that training and outdoor sports facilities for kids is hugely important for our kids physical and mental health.</p>
<p>I think that it's important that the facilities are available to the young players. As a town our size, it is embarrassing the lack of organised space we have. Ramsbury puts Marlborough to shame!</p>
<p>On Saturdays and Sundays the rugby club has 200 kids and adults all using the Common as it should be used. Please support this application</p>
<p>I fully support this application. It is so needed in Marlborough.</p>
<p>My 3 boys both play rugby and football at the Marlborough clubs. The clubs are well run but desperately short of pitch space which impacts their ability to train. More space is desperately needed.</p>
<p>I gre up in marlborough and moved to a Marlborough Village in 2017, my daughter attends Marlborough school and Marlborough youth Football club as well as other marlborough activities. The only thing that must be considered is parking as the long stretch of parked cars on freed avenue is already difficult.</p>
<p>Grassroots sport is critical for all sports bringing new children through the system and teaching them vital life skills and lessons The more children we can get into sports the better. It will bring more people to marlborough as well spending more money in coffee shops and clothes shops alike</p>
<p>Fully supportive of this.</p>
<p>Marlborough is in desperate need of 1st class sports and recreation areas. Level land is in short supply. Both the football and rugby clubs provided fantastic support to the community and the children really benefit. All the more remarkable given the output provided by an army of volunteers in both clubs.</p>
<p>These organisations provide brilliant sport opportunities for boys and girls from all the local schools at a really affordable price due to the wonderful commitment of volunteers. We fully support this expansion which will only further the wonderful offering for local children.</p>
<p>This would be a fantastic facility that would promote sport, health, community spirit, family activities and financial support to the rugby club.</p>
<p>Extra space for exercise and sport is important. Park run needs to continue, but the level ground could be used for exercise classes, as the current climate, outdoor space will be needed</p>
<p>Do it.</p>
<p>This is additional space is imperative for the rugby club and still leaves acres of space for dog walkers etc to utilise.</p>
<p>I believe the Town Council should also consider the economic effect of drawing wider community members into the town to watch, support or bring children to their game. I have personally, and witnessed many trips to get coffe or stop off. It wouldn't make an economic case by itself but is a valuable (£100?) per week contribution to the high street.</p>
<p>I have two stepsons that are very keen on rugby, and play at Marlborough RFC. IT is vital that the club has more space on The Common. There is plenty of space, particularly if some was taken back from the greedy golf club!</p>
<p>Sport for the children is the essential part of their upbringing. The town the size of Marlborough requires facilities dedicated to the different types of sports. In addition the benefits of Marlborough rugby club to the community, especially the youth of the town, has been significant, bringing children and parents closer together in sport.</p>
<p>The growth of youth sports should be encouraged by the Town Council supporting the provision of sporting facilities.</p>
<p>There is no better way to maintain and enhance the mental and physical well-being of children than sport - and these sports clubs need more space!</p>
<p>The new pitch will be hugely valuable to the Marlborough community. We should be actively encouraging team sport on the Common to keep our community healthy.</p>
<p>Sport is a wonderful way of keeping fit. The older generation should encourage young people in sporting activities. An extra training area would make no difference to the general populace. The Common is always open to everybody and should be respected by all who use it. Often I find dog walkers leave their</p>

dog mess in black bags thrown in the hedges, and not placed in bins! The Golf Club were allowed to expand with ease why should the Rugby Club not be encouraged to do the same thing.
The town is so lucky to have many dedicated volunteers to inspire the children to be active, social and passionate about their football and rugby, both are great clubs and it would be an asset to the town.
I think this is an excellent idea. Children and teenagers should be encouraged to exercise and this is a great opportunity. Children from all ages attend training and the town council should be supporting this. The common is a very large space and can accommodate this. The golf club has plenty of space so why not for this.
I wholeheartedly support the addition of another rugby / football pitch because it will bring significant benefits to a generation already being severely disadvantaged by The impact of Covid. Having worked within community sport development for over 10years, the evidence of how powerful sport is in building resilience, physical/ mental health and aspiration amongst young people is compelling. The area being considered would be available for use by residents/ model aircraft club etc when the clubs are not playing which would presumably only be on weekends as the existing pitches will be used for the majority of activity - the new area mainly only being needed for children on Sundays. Whilst it is important to maintain access to the common for all clubs, dog walkers etc (being a dog owner myself), the rugby/ football clubs reach and support far more people than all of the other users combined and therefore provides a far greater local amenity. The other users should be provided access outside of club use times and this could be achieved through an access agreement / conditions of the planning approval.
If the council turn this down what will be done to give Marlborough more sporting facilities
The kids need somewhere to enjoy the outside safely
Marlborough Youth Football Club is one of the largest youth football clubs in Wiltshire, and for example int the under 14 age group has 30 players and 2 full squads alone. Marlborough desperately needs a place for them to train and play, its such an asset to the area and something that keeps the children fit and part of the community. Grassroot sport provides such an important part of young people's lives and for some it is something they might be part of their life and career.
I play for MYFC and we do not have enough pitches to train at weekends and so end up having to play on rubbish bits between the older teams. More space would be good as all of us younger players could get more space to play and have fun.
Ideally we would have 3G training facilities for the hundreds of adults and children who play sport. Compared with similarly sized neighbouring towns, the council provision of outdoor sporting facilities is under resourced
In favour of increasing sports facilities, yes. In favour of restricting it to young people, no. I am happy with the proposal as worded in question 1, but would welcome greater opportunity for the common to be host to more adult exercise as well.
I completely support additional training facilities at Marlborough Common for use by the Rugby and Football Club. The children of Marlborough need space to develop their skills, exercise, let off steam. I appreciate that the common is for use by all, and there will still be plenty of space for lots of other groups, and let's be honest, the dog walkers have plenty other places to walk their dogs! My only point for consideration is the traffic measures and parking at the site. The Road going through the Common is extremely dangerous. There are hundreds of children using the space and crossing the road already and some sort of crossing needs to be installed. The speed also needs to be reduced to 20 all the way to the cemetery at least.
There is a real need for additional sporting facilities for junior sport.
Unfortunately the decision to sell off green space to home builders has had this knock on impact. I have lived in British Columbia in the past and the ability to mix recreational and sports activities into their 'parks' is unbelievable. Everyone mixes and it works. We need more outdoor space to exercise in the town and this is an idea place. I wonder how many people as a percentage of the town have ever walked on the common more than twice a year (expect for fairs and carboots). We should be encouraging a mix of recreational use and this can be done. The Rec Ground always has it's complaints but that is because we need places for the younger generation to go and get involved in exercise. We cannot complain that they stay in and play on their phones all day and then complain when they are playing in the open. We have a wonderful countryside on our doorsteps, people need to get out more and celebrate the teams that we have in the town - not complain.
The rugby club has been a staple of my life for many years. However to continue their growth additional provision for facilities is clearly required. Whilst concerns raised by others are both valid and noted, surely it is the councils duty to allow sport to take place. The key point is that whilst a new training area would be implemented it would still be common land, and remain useable for others.

I think it would make sense to use as much of the common as possible for multi sports that need flat grass areas. There is no reason these spaces can't be used by everyone and every event in the way many parks are and would overcome the problem many sports clubs have, notably the rugby and football clubs.
Having another training area on the common will not prevent access for anybody. Its still common land.
MRFC is the largest sports club in Marlborough with limited space a facilities. The great work at the club helps with the physical and mental wellbeing of children, something that should be important to us all.
There are not enough facilities for sports in Marlborough.
There can be nothing more important, particularly after the restrictions of the pandemic, than ensuring the health and wellbeing of our children. If facilities are as restricted as suggested, this seems like an incredibly straightforward and non-invasive way of improving them and it is clear that both Clubs have considered the requirements of other users when submitting their application.
Marlborough are so far behind with sports facilities for everyone. We should have something like other towns such as Pewsey.
Additional space for youth sports is so important
My children both play sport at the Rugby club
We travel from Shalbourne to use the rugby facilities on Sundays for our child who plays U9's. I think extending the pitches won't be detrimental to the ethos of "access for all". The rugby club is vital for our rural youth.
A football pitch is hardly an ugly sight and as its use is intermittent it does not prevent others walking there when football matches are not on. Its lovely to see all the people up on the Common playing their various sports as well.
My son has plays rugby for Marlborough RFC Minis and tge additional training space would be a great help for the children of both clubs
Two of my sons play rugby at Marlborough Rugby club and I feel the provision at an additional pitch would provide the clip with a superb opportunity to improve their training provision.
There is a sever lack of quality sport facilities I. Marlborough any opportunity should be used to grow them.
I believe that Marlborough as a town would benefit from the new training facility on the common, not only the rugby and football players using it every weekend but for all children to use to play sports on at all times. It will still allow local residents and visitors to walk on the common and it will not harm the environment around it. But more importantly but adding this facility it will boost the sporting reputation of the town, the rugby and football clubs will be able to training more productively, host more games, bring new players in, perform better. Surely Marlborough council wants the sporting clubs to do well while also adding more life to the common for all to enjoy.
This is a very important need in order to progress the big success and future aspirations of Marlborough Rugby Club in particular
The available pitch space for both rugby and football in Marlborough is very limited. Any improvement to this should be welcomed
We desperately need more facilities for youth Rugby and Football, and as you say the only time it will not be available to everyone is for 250 days a year (although mid week training would be useful too). There are some 800 members of the Rugby and Football youth who need our encouragement and support, all run by massively enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. Not sure tennis is on the common as I believe that land is owned by the golf club. The current common is not a biodiverse area and that should be (and have already been) part of the consultation, there is almost no hedging, low level bushes such as thorn, bramble etc and as the open land is used by dog walkers there will be no ground nesting birds and probably not many rodents! It would be great if the creation of a biodiverse environment was included as part of any 'repurposing' and possibly link up with areas on the golf course that provide these habitats. Perhaps use hedging to break the common up a little rather than all of it totally open from end to end, side to side
The football club in particular suffers from lack of facilities, having neither a club house or enough pitches to host home matches properly, which is extraordinary for a town of Marlborough's size which otherwise has excellent amenities. It desperately needs another pitch. It is a well supported and popular club within the town and provides a vital opportunity for children of all ages to get together and enjoy exercise and fresh air and the social benefits of being part of a team , vital for the mental and physical health of our children. It can sit quite happily alongside the dog walking etc areas of the common.
More sporting facilities needed in Marlborough. The town council need to address this to support young people in the area and one of the oldest rugby clubs in the country.
This is a complete no-brainer and I can see no legitimate arguments against it, given all the evidence.



Using the common for this purpose, especially for the limited amount of time pre week which is proposed, makes perfect sense. This supports both physics and mental health, grassroots sport and the sense of Town Community in Marlborough. I strongly support this proposal.
Sports is so important for the well being of young people in this area.
It is wonderful to have The Common here for all uses of residents i. Town. However, we do need more parking facilities and cannot understand why more parking is not made available there. If there was a school at one point surely an area near the road would not take away from the wonderful area to be available for everyone.
We have seen over the last 12 months how important sport is for everyone, most especially children and youths. It would be great to have further space for organised sport to take place.
The two youth clubs provide for both young and older age groups to access fitness/training and social opportunities which is vital this can be offered to others too
As the mother of 3 teenagers I am very aware of the need to support improvements to provision for the young in Marlborough. In particular those that encourage young people to be active. I am also a dog owner and enjoy local walks on the common, alongside the numerous other local walks on offer.
250 hours is a tiny fraction of the year to give over to the health fitness and wellbeing of our young population
Really support this, for the better and building of youths and Marlborough community
I feel this is an extremely important project for both community sports clubs, both have been very successful over the years! This would also support youth activities and the development of both clubs for all ages.
I would also like the maximum speed limit on Free's Avenue to be 20/30mph particularly if there are to be more children crossing it. I requested this in 2019 following an accident to my granddaughter on that road. Its' still a staggering 60mph
It's essential we ensure kids can have adequate football facilities. Lockdown or no lockdown - kids sports are a key part of being a healthy community. Fully and totally support this proposal which will benefit the current and future generations of local kids.
I fully support the proposal by Marlborough to turn unused scrubland into a grassed area. The newly grassed area will be there for all to enjoy as Marlborough Rugby Club are only intending to use it (Sat 09:00-12:00; Sun 09:00-13:00 during September to May). This will not stop any of the current events on the common from continuing as usual, in fact it will give these events more space NOT less. If this does not go ahead then it will stay as unused scrubland infested with ragwort.
My view is if Marlborough Rugby Club is not allowed a third pitch, what is going to happen to the 300 children plus that they have now training at the club and where will they go. I believe the ages range from 6 onwards. Do we not think that a sporting activity is essential for our children's well being (boys and girls) especially in the present circumstances. Please bear in mind all the coaches and volunteers give their time for free.
I live in Cirencester now but captained Marlborough rugby club for many years. The fantastic growth and support for junior rugby in Marlborough has in itself created a massive asset for the town and its younger inhabitants. Its not about the club but its about the youngsters. With a general decline of organised school team sports and the loss of school playing field makes the provision of community sports fields more important than ever before. To create a space which benefits different types of sports and individuals is so important and is a benefit to everyone. I understand history and common rights but looking at the list of uses of land over the years there has been quite an evolution to suit circumstances and change with the times. Marlborough rugby club
If this doesn't go ahead then MTC will be responsible for extinguishing teh development and growth of sport, particularly junior and mini's, and this helps improve their physical and mental health. This is about real people, real families and real children and NOT about votes at an election
Additional space to allow youngsters to enjoy the benefits of outdoor team sports is an excellent use of common land
The survey introduction implies that this pitch will be permanent and restrict access to others. This is not the case. The proposal as i understand from MRFC is to level the grass to facilitate a playing pitch as required. There is no restriction or significant impact on the use of the common to the public in my view. Currently the club has a significant problem providing enough playing areas for the junior and youth training on a Sunday morning for the 250+ children that participate. It is critical that we provide the right facilities in the town for our children to safely play sport. The town already has too few. I therefore completely support the improvement of the pitch and see no permanent restriction for the general public in doing so.

I am a strong supporter for facilities to be in place to allow youth the benefit of physical exercise and team sports. I think a rugby/football pitch in use for 2 days of the week is a far better use of the common than the golf course which takes up a much larger space and is always in use making walking across it difficult
My children's lives have been greatly enriched by the the facilities offered by the rugby/football clubs on the common. They are happy, healthy, confident in their peer group and I have no doubt the sports have been a large factor in this. It is clear to see the training space is substandard for a town of Marlborough's size and struggles to accommodate the many hundreds of children that use it each weekend. I therefore strongly support the use of this land for the children to train on so they can continue to benefit form all that team sports has to offer
Marlborough needs more areas for sport. The extra playing field will particularly youth and mini rugby
Let's do all we can in this town to support the development of young people through organised sport .
I would support the additional use of the common by these sports clubs, however the roadside parking on Free's Avenue needs to be addressed. The clubs do put some 'no parking' bollards out near the club house, but this just pushes parents who don't want to park on the common further up the road nearer the cemetery thus elongating the amount of road that gets congested. Could all parking be banned on Free's Ave North of the club house on these days to prevent congestion and a potential accident?
My sons play rugby which is the only sport they play. Marlborough Rugby Club have got a well structured set up on Sunday mornings providing a lot of fun for many kids and if this was not available it reduces the options for kids to have exercise and enjoyment. All usable space seems to be used up to accommodate all ages groups, so I believe a 3rd pitch would be really beneficial and help grow the rugby club in both junior & senior sections and enhances our great town even more Thank you
The land should be used for as diverse activities as possible and all ages and abilities. Young people should be supported and encouraged to take up sports and other recreational activities. Vital for good mental health in addition to physical. The sport isn't all week long. They only need it for a short time and then everyone else can enjoy. Wild flower areas can be creatively planted on other areas of the common too. Please approve and support the Rugby youngsters.
I am planning to live in Marlborough where my children already live. My son has played football for MYFC for some years now, with my daughter having now started. With the current situation, there are limits to training facilities and an additional facility would be very welcomed and allow the children to train amd develop there sport which benefits their help.
The Rugby Club is of true value to the local community and beyond. It instills good core values in the lives of young children and any chance to extend and deliver better training to the local youth should be supported.
Lack of sporting space for sports teams to train in Marlborough
Demand is very high for space for our children to train and we need to cherish the opportunity for them to play team sports. The last 12 months has taught us the value of being able to play team sports and so any opportunity to facilitate this should be encouraged
SN8 4BB
The clubs a using the facility do such a great job on the common. Every weekend there are dozens and dozens of kids and young adults playing sport and learning team spirit, discipline and many other vital skills whilst exercising. There is plenty my of space up there and it isn't as though and extra pitch will remove space from other people when the pitches are being used. A wonderful idea that should be agreed! How many other towns of our size have the ability to provide such facilities? We should maximise our good fortune and provide as much space as we can for sports and excercise.
It's very much needed for future generations
As a parent of a junior rugby member, I've spent many Sundays over 10 years let down as the boys group didn't have anywhere to play. He's in the biggest age group. Sometimes, the college let us play there which meant climbing the fence due to no key left for us! We have so many hurdles to jump through to get a game of rugby, and it's embarrassing we don't have the facilities to entertain clubs from smaller towns with fixtures. Without rugby, my son wouldn't have the friends he does, the memories created with tours and days out organised by his team, and so, so many medals and awards. Please encourage more children to play team sports, and not turn this into another battle they've spent years fighting for, simply just somewhere to play. Safely.
Loads of room for everyone, youngster should be encouraged and given the facilities
Youth Sport in Marlborough is very important to not only Marlborough residents but villages located around the town. These clubs promote health, fitness & team sports - what else do you g people have? Extra training facilities are a fantastic idea.

There is plenty of space for dog walkers - the most common other users. Kids playing outside, additional space and facility for them to do so, we should all absolutely support this great initiative.
Diversify its use so more people use but please dont ever concrete over any of it
Good use of space to keep young kids active in outdoor spaces
It's a hugely important resource and we should encourage young people to use it to its full potential - it need not detract from the many dog walkers / runners / walkers! Let's go for 100% use!!
There are too few open spaces available for young people in Marlborough. I suspect most people that live in the town only use the common on a very irregular basis. The clubs involved have a regular need for this type of amenity.
I am a young person that plays rugby and I don't play for Marlborough. Twice a week I use these areas for sprint training and kicking practice. Especially under the circumstances we are faced with today exercising is such a great escape and so important for everyone
No
Sport is good for everyone, it encourages healthy habits, teamwork and believe it or not essential life skills. I know that personally without rugby my life would be nowhere near as good as it is now because it taught me how to be confident and social
Any additional space given to sports must not encroach on other activities including dog walking. Like you've said, the common is for all to enjoy
Hope it will be approved
It's a great facility for all especially youth football and rugby.
It is so important to support grassroots sport, allowing children the opportunity to develop physical skills, teamwork and furthermore the mental health benefits for all involved.
It is important to provide excellent facilities for our children to enjoy. It is a large space which can be enjoyed by all. We have the reputation of being an older persons town because of lack of facilities for our youth. Some people just love to object.
As a family who have been a rugby club and football club member, children need freedom to play team sports and have fresh air. The only thing that needs looking at is the parking.
Sports facilities for young people benefit everyone. The proposed area leaves plenty of space for walkers. As a dog walker and parent, I firmly support the creation of more space for sport on the Common.
My son plays up there he loves seeing his friends, playing rugby, staying fit and healthy amongst his community
We love the rugby club it brings a whole community together
Going to play rugby at the club seriously helps my mental health. I have found out how much the club helps me recently with being in lockdown, I have really suffered without it.
Love watching the game and then going to the club after with some friends
The club could really put Marlborough on the map. It's a club that should be celebrated people work extremely hard to make it what it is now. To improve it even further would be amazing
All the club is doing is asking to create a flat surface to allow more children to train. The pitch will still be available for everyone to use.
Providing facilities for our youth is very important- it gives them a sense of purpose & well-being both away from the classroom & screens. We should be encouraging our young to keep active, motivated and focussed- ultimately this will also ensure they aren't at a loose end & causing trouble :)
Wonderful to see the young children learning new skills and having so much fun and exercise
The young people deserve something after the sacrifices they've made for us oldies during the pandemic.
Any use of land that encourages team sport and fitness (both mental and physical) for any age bracket is for the good of the community as a whole. There is sufficient space on the common to allow all to enjoy.
I was a minis coach at the Marlborough RFC for 6 years. All coaches are volunteers. We never had enough space and used to get pushed into tiny corners making it difficult for everyone to make the most of what a rugby club should be. Fantastic if we can have more space allocated.
My son has been a member of MRFC for over 5 years. Space is very tight on Sundays for training. The club is so successful and attracts a large number of members. An additional pitch would be really beneficial. It is so encouraging to see so many youngsters getting fit and playing rugby / football at the weekend. We must encourage them to play sport, keep fit, keep healthy. Any opportunity to get children outside playing sport will help the nation in terms of mental health and obesity. I am very much in favour of additional sports facilities. The Common is large enough to provide another pitch and there is still plenty of open space for town people to enjoy for other recreational purposes.

Young people need our support
Any defined area should also permit occasional users when the organised teams aren't using it
Ensure provision of adequately managed parking on the common for users of the pitches and safe traffic management for all traffic using Frees Avenue when pitches are being used.
Yes please help bring this to fruition for the people of the town.
This is a great opportunity for the club moving forward, and putting Marlborough on the Map in one of the UK's biggest sports! This also gives a better opportunity for the younger generation going forward. Thank you :)
Although I live in Calne, I am a coach at Marlborough Athletics club and if were not for the well kept areas of the common the athletics club will have had no else to train last summer.
Marlborough is a town of a substantial size, home to many families. In comparison to a much smaller town like Ramsbury, our grass sports facilities are poor. Yes, there are a number of pitches that exist in Marlborough but they are scattered and often privately owned and therefore sports clubs are reliant on those organisations being willing to let out their facilities e.g. the schools and college and the adult Marlborough Football club. A decent community facility is well needed in Marlborough.
Allow two superb local clubs to enable and have a positive impact on young people and team sports.
This is an excellent use of the Common, supposing healthy activities for our young people. It also causes very limited disruption to access for other users
I'd like to know more about the proposals - is it just a pitch or will there be fencing/sponsorship boards which don't look great and detract from the natural setting
Will the pitches be off limits to other users outside of training times.
The area is a real asset to everyone in Marlborough. I would encourage better upkeep by improving walk ways and planting areas of natural growth incl wild flowers to attract wildlife etc. There's plenty of space to included youth football and rugby where I think every effort to improve these facilities should be made, especial for youth football as the Rugby club seem to have a nice set up there already.
It's a great idea, let's boost the area for our youth and town to go and exercise, socialise and become healthy as one
This town is becoming too much for the elderly, we need to encourage our children to take part in sports.
Happy to support it if the land is available to all when not being used for sport.
I would very much like to see the areas of wild flowers retained as now.
I've been with the club for more than 10years now and the growing number of players(Snrs & Kids) is remarkable and we need more training facilities. Thank You.
Yes because I feel we don't have these facilities in our village but we have an excellent rugby club in Marlborough for the use of everyone in the area and this should be encouraged.
I think the town needs good sports facilities as it gives a reason for people to come to Marlborough.
N/A
Good to see so many children taking up a sport
Spirit for our young people should be a priority as we help them to rebuild lost opportunities over the COVID lockdown period.
I use Marlborough Common for regular walks and runs
I think the common should be used for all activities from sports to picnics dog walking fairs festivals. People should understand it is common land and that the council is being fair accommodating all.
Please make use of the land for a positive contribution to young people in Marlborough
It is really important to provide opportunities for children to participate in football and make physical activity a part of their everyday life.
I feel that outdoor activities available to our younger generation is essential. Marlborough is very limiting, especially now indoor activities have been closed or restricted
Sporting facilities in Marlborough are very poor. This should be supported!
Sports facilities are poor in Marlborough. And this project us something the town council should support.
This needs approval, badly lacking in sports space
The sports facilities in Marlborough are very limited. The football and rugby clubs should be supported with this.
The youth should be involved with Marlborough town football club. That's their future
Marlborough is in desperate need of additional capacity for sports and recreation. This mirrors the national picture and is particularly timely coming out of national isolation when sport can both provide a physical health and a mental health benefit. The plans for a third training area I don't see impacting on any additional use by the community, the rugby and football club will only be using the facility for a

fraction of the year and week. The football and rugby clubs are of community benefit and not in conflict with the local residents use, in contarary they should be seen as assets to be proud of. Marlborough rugby club in particular is so historically important in rugby as it can boast being one of the original members who met to create the game. It's time the council shows investment in physical recreation and young people in particular
I completely support this 100%. When young people need and want to be active, playing sport and developing their ability to work in a team rather than playing on a Xbox or hanging about on streets, the community should be supportive of this.
It seems like a very good idea good for everyone to enjoy.
This would make a huge difference to our children's lives
The town needs to support the rugby club as they move up leagues, ultimatly a new site will be needed for proper pitch and stand, i would like the council aquire this for the future
Having the available space for children to train and play sports year round is essential and should be protected
I think it is a good idea to provide an extra pitch for Marlborough Rugby club.
The land will still be able to be used as common land save for the very small time in the week that the pitch is being used for training. Mental wellbeing is incredibly important at the moment.
I fully support this as there is a clear need for more facilities for the youth sports in this town and growing population with the new developments, I also support some hard standing parking 9n the common
Having been fortunate to have gone to school in Marlborough and played at the rugby club I would like to see it's presence in the town continue. Creating good outdoor spaces that generate interest in sports and recreation can only be good for physical and mental health of the local area. Having a vibrant and successful rugby club is huge positive for the town and local area, and it's contribution to youth facilities should not be overlooked.
As a long term resident near Marlborough with children at ST John's I feel the extra facilities are needed so more activities available for all, especially children.
My children and I were involved in the Rugby club for many years and we still value those days. An extension will increase the numbers of young people and adults that can benefit from this invaluable experience
It is so important to provide adequate and good opportunities and places for youngsters to play sport and enjoy the outdoors. We are fortunate in Marlborough to have lots of fabulous places around the town for walks. If we can have this new space for the sports and keep our other Common activities (Giffords, Civik War, Fairs etc) let's not lose the lifeblood of our town, the young.
At this time we should encourage sport. Recent events only underscore the need to get kids out to exercise and build social skills.
You are already planning extra parking on the common, I support that and feel it's location won't impinge on the use for all criteria. An additional rugby pitch size chunk could well impinge on daily use and more particularly event use but because its use is limited to 250 hours Saturday and Sunday during playing season I'm happy for it to go ahead.
i would hope that the Town Council will fully support this initiative. Marlborough is woefully short of sporting facilities. Particularly sports pitches.
The proposal only affects a very small area of the Common. There is a shortage of training spce in Marlborough
I am more than happy for the young people of the area to have access to more clubs although can I ask if thought has been given to parking which is very dangerous around the area and is access to the club free for the young people?
Need more space for the children to be able to play sports.
This would be of benefit to the many children who want to play football on saturday and Sunday am, without any adverse impact on any other user.
I would also like to see more outdoor based activities such as outdoor gym equipment
Such a wonderful, natural facility should be kept, and guarded for all now and in the future
Will these facilities open to girl's teams as well? I am very keen that the girls have sporting facilities as well as the boys.
The Rugby Club is a great fixture in our community. It is inclusive and promotes great social interaction, sport and exercise. This is a 'no brainer'. Lets do it!
Our youngsters need facilities for outdoor exercise and team sport made available.

I appreciate the concerns of those against the extra pitch, but feel there is enough space for all users. There should be extra/better parking provision. In addition I struggle to see where else in/close to the town that a suitable pitch.
I am fully supportive of allowing the common to be used by the Rugby and Football clubs. Marlborough is a town that is badly served in terms of playing fields for our younger townspeople. The football and rugby club isn't asking to own the land just to be able to invest in the land to allow for a pitch to be mown and lines to be painted during the season. Where else do the kids have to go? I can see how busy the fields in Elcot Lane are each weekend, and how utilised the Rec is. Why can't we celebrate the fact that we have two thriving community teams investing in the children of the town and giving them something to do which builds their health, confidence and a respect for others.
I am fully supportive and see no reason why the town should not welcome this! There is sadly a very vocal minority who do not wish to support the children of this town and want to keep the common for the very local minority who have lived here for several generations. This is short sighted - the children of the town today, from the generations or recent, will be the custodians of the town in the future. In addition, the football and rugby clubs bring financial uplift to the town in terms of trade on a Saturday and Sunday. I frequently see parents and families popping to the High Street for shopping, to have a coffee or a meal. Surely this is essential to in keeping our High Street thriving or are we just relying on the very small minority to achieve this?
As the town is developing, it is important that we have leisure and team sports in the community
On balance I am in favour of the extra pitch. I understand the arguments around giving up public space for a specific activity, but given limited hours that the pitch is in use, and the wellbeing benefit to younger residents of Marlborough (and their parents) I think it is worthwhile. My only concern is there is a potential "pinchpoint" on Saturday mornings when Parkrun is happening and youth training also starts, but assume with goodwill from all parties and sensible debate this can be resolved.
Sport is essential for young children's physical and mental health. As a mum of 2 boys, it's important they have somewhere they can play a sport properly with team mates and against other teams. The skills they learn and the bonds they make are key to ensuring a happy, active life. With suicide rising in teenage boys, research has shown just how important sport is to support them if and when they experience any difficulties in life. I hope you support this application.
"The sporting facilities in Marlborough are very poor and anything to improve them should be encouraged
Football helps kids escape any problems they may be having at home/school and gives them the opportunity to express themselves and connect with others.
A worthy and heartwarming proposal.
The common is there to be used by everyone, and is an important space for recreational activities. We need to encourage everyone to use it, but especially children who might otherwise stay glued to electronic devices and not get essential exercise and social interaction. It seems to me that there is enough room for all, and the more folk that use it, the more it will be appreciated and looked after.
Sport is really important for the youth of Marlborough and the common is large enough to accommodate this additional facility as well as remaining an area for dogs and walkers
No
I was a coach at MRFC and my son played there for three seasons, though we stopped this year due to the Covid related changes to rugby (no contact). The club has done brilliantly to get so many youngsters involved and I know the football club has done a similarly good job. However, there is not enough space and this extra pitch would make a huge difference. The value of both clubs to the local economy can't be small and there will still be plenty of space on the common for everyone else, particularly in the more pleasant late spring and summer months when there's no rugby or football. Getting our youngsters back playing sport must be a priority post-Covid and approving this pitch will make a huge difference in providing playable pitches for training and matches.
Fully support a further training facility
It would be a great addition to the rugby club
I'm a big supporter of the rugby team and this addition would be of great help to the team especially with their recent success
It is very rare that youngsters involved in sport are also involved in crime/anti-social behaviour
I have a business in the area at SN8 4AW & would like to see an improvement of sporting facilities in the area for future generations
This rugby club has grown in reputation and has developed a strong following for the youth of Marlborough and not provided by the school

<p>The Rugby club is thriving and well-run - a model community activity. I support the creation of an additional Rugby pitch, but not in the place suggested. The suggested location in the middle of the Common is intrusive and very much in the area where a lot of walkers (with their dogs) have unimpeded access. An obvious place for a third pitch is along Free's Avenue continuing the line of the two present pitches. There is room there (I have paced it out).</p>
<p>From what I gather it is only flattening an area - not taking it away from other users. Covid has ever more shown us the need for sport and the role it plays in society. We need to support this initiative.</p>
<p>Plenty of room for all.</p>
<p>I feel that this additional pitch would hugely benefit the youngsters of Marlborough for future generations.</p>
<p>I support the application but there should be some conditions attached. In particular parking currently seems to be very ad-hoc, I have passed on occasion and see vehicles parked along the common down towards the swing causing considerable damage. Maybe the same approach could be taken as with the park run club who have volunteers directing people to park on the hardstanding at the end of the track. Another consideration should be the loss of some of the wildflower/long grass habitat. Could some other areas of the common be left to grow long to compensate, possible amongst the orchard or maybe some areas around the edge of the common? I also presume outside these hours of use the general public would be allowed to use this space still</p>
<p>While I have no issue with the provision of additional space for the rugby and football club, I think there should be some conditions attached to the allocation of more space. The parking when matches is on can be adhoc and I have seen people parking down towards the swings causing considerable damage to the grass. Also I would be concerned if the provision on the new area reduced the amount of meadow left growing. I feel the meadow is vital habitat to an insect, bee and butterfly population which is also struggling. It would be great if an area is to be last for the pitch another area could be instead or put aside for new meadow to grow.</p>
<p>The common is large enough for all activities. The Rugby club provides A Lot of children with the chance to get fit / bond with each other and be part of a team.</p>
<p>I support this as long as we are allowed to walk on the space when the sports teams are not using it.</p>
<p>I run Rugbytots classes at Marlborough, and we act as a feeder to the mini's section of Marlborough RFC. We wholeheartedly support the request for a much needed extra training facility for the youngsters, both now and for future generations. It is much needed. Thanks</p>
<p>The Rugby Club provide a valuable service to the town of Marlborough, and tis suggested use of The Common for a few hours on Sunday morning is thoroughly justified.</p>
<p>I enjoyed my time in Marlborough Minis back in the day!</p>
<p>Sport and physical activity provides so many health, social and physical benefits for everyone. To have additional facilities in order to play rugby/football is most welcome and needed, especially after a year in lockdown.</p>
<p>I may have missed it, but do you state anywhere exactly where the new sports pitch will be? In the middle of the Common? Further south/north of the existing pitches? It would be helpful to know. Also, you say that it will be a training facility. Do you mean a pitch for matches? With rugby and/or football goalposts? Again, it would be helpful to know so as to be able to give informed answers to your questionnaire. Yes, I support the pitch, as I think it will benefit a lot of young people in the town - but I do not want the entire Common taken over by sports pitches. Thanks</p>
<p>The provision of additional training facilities to support expanding the opportunity for more children to play sport locally is a great initiative and gets my full backing.</p>
<p>We need to encourage children to be more active and take up sports. This is not only beneficial for their physical wellbeing but it also to develop social skills and a sense of community and belonging.</p>
<p>The provision of additional facilities will only increase the use of the common for all ages. It will not reduce the ability of anyone to enjoy the common but will benefit the youth of Marlborough greatly.</p>
<p>There is plenty of space on the common for an additional space to be made available to more sporting activity, without impacting any current users such as walkers, dog walkers or other leisure users. I can only see an upside to this great proposal for people of all ages to be able to engage in sport, watch it or go about their business uninterupted.</p>
<p>I live in Devon however both my sons live in Marlborough abs have both played football for Marlborough since 5 and continue to do so now aged 12 and 16 football has been fundamental in them growing as individuals and becoming great sportsman abs team players; a necessary life skill. Enhancing the facilities for children to play sport outside can only be a positive thing for local people.</p>
<p>I cannot think of anything more important than the physical health of the young which would be enhanced by the provision of this trading facility.</p>

The sports facilities in Marlborough particularly the rugby and football pitches and clubhouse should be expanded and enhanced to improve sports for all ages both children and adults.
Sport is a vital activity for our young people, promoting fitness, teamwork, mental well being and friendship.
In addition to the training facility would like to see full size football pitch created for the Marlborough youth teams who currently have to play their matches in Great Bedwyn and Burbage. They currently also have to go to Hungerford for their weekly training sessions.
Would like to see facilities provided for the older age youth football teams who currently have to play their home games in outlying towns and villages as there are no football pitches in Marlborough that they can use which is disgraceful! Youth football seems to be undervalued in Marlborough.
Use of the common land for sporting activity is to be supported providing that such activity is to the exclusion of use by other local people and reduces the use for such sporting activities on other open spaces and town and village greens elsewhere in Marlborough is reduced accordingly so that such areas are more available to the other people of Marlborough.
The common is there for us all to enjoy and I really dont see what the difference this will make to the vast majority of people. I would like to see them use the ground that is already cut and leave the longer, wilder grass areas for dog walkers
Increasing the provision of training areas for these thriving sports clubs will improve their capacity to further grow grass- roots participation - which is so important for health and well being.
Through playing sports in Malborough for 7 years this would be such a big opportunity for the younger generation to have space for there further advance in activies and be out sude a lot more.
Sport and recreational physical activity not only allows participants of all ages within sporting organisations to benefit physically, but benefit mentally too. The pandemic has been especially tough on a lot of people's mental well-being and with the opportunity to increase the capacity of sport that can take place, will help act as a release once restrictions allow. Additional training space is absolutely vital for this town to support members of already successful sporting clubs and to aid in their development and future successes in which, the whole town can enjoy.
I believe the more help and facilities we can provide in the town to encourage all ages to take part in sporting activities the better it is for all especially with the rising obesity problem in this country. I think the small amount of time it will be used by clubs is quite negligible in the grand scheme of things and zero cost to the good folk of Marlborough. I find it difficult to understand the opposition to this scheme and can only presume it is from people who have no wish to partake in sport and having read their comments on social media they appear to be misguided to the impact this will have on the common.
As a parent of teenagers I understand how vital it is that children have adequate facilities to allow them to have a constructive hobby and supervised sporting activities. Youth rugby and football clubs are a valuable way to aid this. I thus support the proposal to add extra training space on the common.
Sport is essential for all ages and Marlborough needs more. Especially for clubs with youth. Metal well being and physical. Nature and green sports can be effectively managed at this location. The okd ww2 hospital foundations are exposed in areas and could be remediated to make safe and useful space to benefit all.
Our 3 sons have played both rugby and football in Marlborough for years and we know that they could really use the extra space at the club
We need to encourage the provision of sport for the younger generation for their future health The creation of this additional space will still leave more than enough space for the rest of the community to enjoy
I am 15 years of age and believe that it is important to have the space we need to play organised sport. School space is limited, we have nowhere else.
My son plays on the common. Very important that this continues
This is an excellent proposal for Football and Rugby. It will have little impact on the use of the common. I listened to the council meeting about this and I have to say the Flora and Fauna that Appel are rly will be affected is nothing more that weeds and dog mess. Secondly the gold club have a 99 year lease? I'm guessing that got pushed through when the majority of councillors were keen golfers! The town needs space fir structured sporting development. Please approve.
The youth of Marlborough who are very much into there sport could really benefit from a free facility Many thanks
There is only positive impact when creating sports pitches within communities for the use of local people, especially young people, so heavily impacted by COVID-19. This is no negative impact to the common of the existing pitches and none by the provision of an additional.
The children need safe areas whwre they can learn to play rugby and football.



This team is a good team and just need a good training ground with everything we have, supporters, management are all in good shape
This additional space is really important to help kids get into sport from a young age. Having a safe space to train and play team sports brings children together and is vital for their future development, both physically and socially.
Plenty of room for all to share.
I think this is vital for our young children to exercise their body and mind.
This must not lead to further encroachment of the "natural" area of the Common
Space for the kids to train
This is a great suggestion to help give some kids extra space to train and makes more of the common generally useable to walk, play and sit on rather than scrub land. We have so much countryside around us that we don't need to protect a small area on an open area anyway
His is desperately needed.
please support this important use of the common.
Provision for outdoor activities for younger people could not be more important than at this time. Both the junior rugby and football clubs are thriving institutions and should be encouraged in every way.
I think the Golf Club remove access to too much of the beautiful space on the Common; I urge the Council to negotiate greater access to this area for the public without fear of being hit by golf balls.
More space for outside activities for the young of Marlborough
Agree with training space BUT extremely opposed to the permanent existence of advertising hoardings hanging on the spectating bars. During matches they may have some use but their presence for the rest of weeks is a permanent eyesore severely reducing the visual attractiveness of the common while serving no advertising effect
This is long overdue, I fully support this
A fantastic feature that will inspire youngsters to get fit and active and inspire them to make a difference to there health and fitness
Brilliant idea for sport in Marlborough , and especially the expansion of the rugby club
It's time Marlborough better supported it's sports clubs and teams and realised the opportunity the town has to bring the most popular clubs on the town together to aid development and increase all round physical activity opportunitoes within the town!!!
I walk on the common all year round. I do not see many people using it, considering the size of the town. There is plenty of space for everyone. The additional pitch would only be in part of the year. I am sure something could be done to help the parking situation up there but it is important everyone can use the common whether it is football, dog walking, the circus, car boot sale, walkers, lying in the sun! I do not think this training ground will prevent this happening. It is great space to be used for all the community. Please support the young sports people of Marlborough.
Considering the size of Marlborough town, we lack sports facilities. Many other local towns have running tracks and astroturf pitches that are used by a variety of local clubs. It seems to me that it his extra pitch is a small step in the right direction to support the community and grass roots sport.
It's great to see more facilities especially sport for our young people.
Providing recreational activities, space and sport is the most important thing to help support the younger generation. As a teacher I have seen the incredibly positive affect it can have on installing positive values, self esteem and giving young people a purpose.
Marlborough Town Rugby is a wonderful community club committed to helping young people.
Access to suitable playing facilities is essential for young people engaging in team sports (especially through the winter months). The current pandemic has highlighted the benefits to sports, physical activity and recreation in the outdoors. Team sports in particular are benefical for young people's development of social and life skills. Currently the spaces available are not adequate for the youth population of Marlborough and its surrounding villages.
there could be a clause that other organisations (circus, ballon festival, civil war reenactment, can book and override the football and rugby club's use on debited dates.
Yes I think we need additional facilities for Rugby training, so I think it's a good decision and it's helping the community
Will be good for the youth and Marlborough generations.
Sports facilities are much required- particular in a world where it has been highlighted the dangers of being overweight- any additional facilities can only be seen as a positive impact.
Plenty of space, this proposal would only impact on teh area for a small number of hours across the year - the town, particularly the youth of the town need this facility

Important for our youth to have an activity
Youth sport should be a priority of Marlborough. The fact that the 2 clubs in question need more playing space should be encouraged and I look forward to seeing this playing space being created!
Id love a new training facility because it is for the good of our younger generation and others to get involve in sports and healthy fitness living.
Fully support any development to encourage our children to participate in sport/exercise
This is to be only a training area. The Clubs will maintain the area. The area will remain common land and available for all. To see the children playing football and rugby on a week end is a joy to see. Why deny these Marlborough children the opportunity to be outside on grassland encouraged, trained and supervised by volunteering adult parents?
I think the common is big enough for everyone, and the rugby club does an excellent job with young people from all around Marlborough
I am greatly in favour of the rubgy club being able to develop the facilities. It is obvious from seeing our neighbours' children, and the number of muddy rugby clad kids in Waitrose on a Sunday lunchtime, what impact the club have with our young people. After the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, any intitiative that supports children rebuilding physical and mental health, and teamwork and respect, should be strongly supported. The common is huge and this is going to be an accessible piece of green open space. What's the problem?
I can only see benefits to this proposal and one that I fully support. It is a much needed new facility for the town's people.
Group sport is so valuable for your health and wellbeing as well as teaching you team skills, discipline, stamina and respect for rules and others. The use is only for a few hours for part of the year so the impact on other users is minimal. In my opinion the benefits far outweigh the negatives.
I think consultation is important in this case, it cannot be assumed by any group that public land can be used as they see fit.
I think for the young people of Marlborough this would be beneficial. They need it to be encouraged.
kids need places to play sport and be outside for so many reasons it even benifits there mental health and teaches them far more that ball skills as a country with to many over weight unhealthy kids they need this space more now than ever before
The club and the community will only benefit from this. The public will still be able to use the space as the do currently, there will be no posts or barriers will be erected. This extra pitch is not being requested for the purpose of bringing more people to the club but purely to cater for the current members and users of the facility. It will not increase the amount of traffic above the level that already attend regularly.
As a relative newcomer to Marlborough (6 years here now), I am surprised by the lack of sporting facilities and the resistance we see to add it (youth club, lights for skating, pitches). With the continued growth of the town it is imperative that the town start to prioritise youth and the facilities they need!
Anything that encourages children to get involved with team sports is a great use of resources. There's a huge amount of land very close to the common used for rugby and cricket pitches, a small amount of the common available to all the youngsters in and around Marlborough seems a fair use of land.
The usage would make very little difference to the overall access of the Commom, particularly compared with the area occupied by the Golf Club. The benefits to kids are way more important.
Richard Pitts does not speak for me and his pseudo-environmental claims are totally fatuous
We walk on the Common c5 days per week with our dog (on a lead, and we never walk across any pitches - we don't think other dog-walkers should either). We think this extra use of a bit of the commin is a good idea.
I have been walking on the common more recently than before along with many others, and everyone uses the outside not where the training pitch will be. Not only that there won't be training all the time so people will still be able to walk across the whole of the common.
Few pitches in Marlborough to serve the town and surrounding villages, so the few we have get battered and become mud baths not conducive to improving player talent
The Rugby club provide an essential sporting service to the youngsters of Marlborough.
As a teacher and parent I am amazed at how MRFC has grown over the last 10yrs and, more importantly, at the quality and importance of the physical and mental wellbeing support the club offers to our youth. On Sundays in particular but also on weekday evenings the Common hosts a huge number of youth from 6yrs to 18yrs old. Families come from a huge area to play here (we travel 30mins to train in preference to Salisbury or Devizes) and the Club has become one of the most successful youth clubs in Wiltshire. It needs the space to grow especially on Sundays when the club hosts visiting teams. Expansion does not restrict access for dog walkers or others using the Common for other recreation activities and would not significantly reduce the scrub grassland flora and fauna. An Environmental

Impact Assessment of the whole Common would (I'm sure) support this statement. At a time when our young people spend too many hours in front of screens and with limited exercise, MRFC (and the soccer team) are doing a huge amount to rectify this and should be supported in this expansion request.
Physical activity is so important for good mental health. Marlborough has very few pitches considering its size so additional space is greatly needed. This can be achieved whilst not impacting on the space and available land for other types of users. Please give this the go ahead!
This is public land and should be used to its fullest capacity! In Marlborough there are plenty of open spaces and lanes to walk dogs and exercise!
With chronic shortage of Leisure facilities in and around the town, Council should really have done this a long time ago when passing residential development that has failed to be accompanied by leisure infrastructure
As long as the Model flying club retains a patch, I'm OK for it.
Great facility for children
No one uses the common for anything else!!!!!!! Another pitch will be a ginormous help to the development and training of the youth rugby teams of Marlborough
The proposed area should not progress to full pitch status with goal posts, rails, advertising banners etc. The permanent advertising banners on the existing pitches should be for use on match days only, not a permanent blot on the horizon from Frees Avenue.
Doing the best , not only for our older generation , but also for our youngsters is as important as well . Creating clean open spaces for all to simply walk, picnic ,enjoy family time ,and get kids out to enjoy fresh air, motivate by playing sports and build encouragement to move away from a society transfixed with social media /games and stuck indoors . Without the facilities to do this , how can we possibly achieve it ? It may appear just a section of grass to many , but for others could be a lifetime of sport enjoyment for thousands of kids over the forthcoming years .
I think that the additional playing field would be a great asset to the people of Marlborough and will help accommodate the vast amount of kids eager to get out and play football and rugby once restrictions ease.
I feel that the proposed new pitch should be in line with the other two pitches if this project is approved
I feel their is a shortage of sports facilities in the town, beyond those of Marlborough College, which are unusable for the majority of the population. I think an additional training ground would be a positive addition to the town.
I think an additional training facility would be a great addition to the town, and would be of immense benefit to young people in the area. Spaces for people to exercise in are good for the health of the local population and should be welcomed.
This was a complete waste of time and money. I feel it's more to do with councillors ego instead of doing what is right for the kids of Marlborough. it's two mornings a week please get a crip. how many of you have gone up there dayly I have with my dog it's never busy but people do still walk there dogs on Sat and Sun morning.people are still running and the flying club are still flying there little plane's
It's imperative that we move forward. Impossible that nimbys can win over in 2021. People arguing that the land is for grazing animals? Laughable and I don't know why you are even hesitating to approve
This is an excellent example of progressive development that will support social and community engagement post COVID. Excellent!
I fully support additional sports facilities for our young people
I think additional training space is essential for the future well-being of our town, in particular for the youth of the area.
it will just be a bit of cut grass. Whats the fuss?
Children and adults need structured and organised exercise and this new pitch would be used by both groups . Marlborough has few such pitches so this initiative should be encouraged.
Great idea which I completely support.
Additional facilities are much needed to support the youth teams in Marlborough especially as the towns expands.
We could do with a running track next!
I think it is crazy that a town like Marlborough doesn't have the facility for all of the age groups to be training together at the same times. You go to villages like Ramsbury for instance, they do, yet we are a town!
It would be good to have an alternative to using the College's facilities, as the pandemic has shown these will not always be available, and alternatives (especially with floodlighting) are almost non-existent.

It is important for young people to have sports facilities
Marlborough Youth Football Club is a marvellous facility and deserves this support
would it be possible for the pitch to revert to 'Common' usage during the summer months?
I like football
We travel out to Marlborough the youth football club is very well run. Having additional facilities to support local sports teams would further support the development of the children
This is a massive opportunity to increase the already congested training space for the relevant teams. My son will benefit from the additional training facilities for a good number of years if this proposal was to be successful.
Two boys in the family aged 3 and 6 years who use it every weekend.
My 12 year old daughter is a keen player for Marlborough Rebels and has played since she was 7, my older daughter also played football and my son rugby at the Marlborough Rugby Club from age 5 to 19. They are fantastic local clubs that are a great asset to Marlborough and have grown from strength to strength through the dedication of local volunteers and coaches. Many local children benefit enormously from these clubs. However they suffer from not having enough local facilities for training and matches and the youth football club rely on the goodwill of Marlborough College and local village pitches for training and matches. A new pitch on the common would be a brilliant and much needed addition to the facilities in Marlborough for children to enjoy these great team sports and help the clubs to welcome more children as they continue to grow.
My support for this facility is my concern over the health of our young people which has been exasperated by the covid lockdowns. I think in Marlborough there is a lack of facilities for that enable and encourage our young people to take part in sport. We have a duty to keep our young people for and healthy and that includes providing facilities that can allow this to happen.
Please can we think about our young children of the town in making the decision who already have a dearth of facilities
Marlborough Youth and the rugby club are a growing group who need the additional spaces to enable the youths of Marlborough somewhere safe to play. With increase in numbers of children joining these teams there is limited spaces that they can play.
Strongly support this as Marlborough Football Club offers the only girls football structure in the district. This is incredibly important for our girls but the club has a nomadic existence, training in local villages etc in a way that is not sustainable or desirable for anyone involved or impacted.
I play for Marlborough Angels - one of the problems with SO many boys and girls teams, is there isn't always enough space for training so we end up going to Pewsey late at night - when I could walk to the common. A new pitch would be AMAZING.
Marlborough rugby club has a thriving mini-rugby programme, which struggles to fit into the space currently available on its pitches and in the common land near the clubhouse. The additional space that would be enabled by this proposal would allow more space for each age group, meaning better drills, more players on the pitch during practice matches, and more active children.
We really struggle to get football training facilities. When we do it often involves significant travel away from Marlborough which is difficult for some families. Standards of facilities can be variable too. More purpose built facilities for both football and rugby would be fantastic.
I strongly support the rugby club. it has proved an important part of the social fabric of the town. it's victories are a source of pride. the values of the organisation leave young pepole who go through its programme with a strong civic and competitive experience.
This would be a fantastic addition for children and all
I feel Marlborough football club has massive youth numbers and yet they have to scabble around trying to find somewhere to play and train each season. Surely a club of this size should have a facility to train and support each other as a club, but hem being dotted around on any piece of land available the club is very separated in its sections as they can't train and play as a club due to facilities available so having more hours in one place will benefit the club massively and help to continue to provide a valuable sporting opportunity for the youth of Marlborough
Marlborough is very short of sports facilities and can not and should not have to rely on the college. There is plenty for the older population but not for our children. This project is essential for our children welfare, fitness and mental health
Tory Government Out!
We have to support any grassroots club for our children, especially one that is growing in popularity. It's growing for a good reason and we need to accommodate & support the Club

I think it makes sense to use the Common as much as possible! BTW don't forget the pigeons which are released on Saturday mornings
Young people need facilities, organised team sport is very positive for us.
Greatly needed as training is difficult due to lack of facilities
Marlborough is in desperate need of a dedicated facility for the community to enjoy sport
Team sports are incredibly important to community - and so while all respect must be paid to other users, I think encouraging both MRFC and MYFC should be a fait accompli. Both clubs are excellent, well-run, and their ambition - and that of their hundreds of members must be supported.
It is so important for Marlborough to have this facility for all generations. It allows people to keep fit, join a team, meet new people, become team members, good mental health the list could go on & on regarding the benefits. Let's hope Marlborough does not rely upon a private school to have all the facilities that not everyone can have access to. We are a community that supports everyone
My Daughter now plays football and I feel its very important we support the girls teams and with lack of space I would be worried the girls teams would be first to go. Let's not let this happen.
I would be really grateful for the opportunity to play on this lovely pitch. I just hope I get to.
there are not enough football pitches in marlborough for the football club. they struggle to find pitches & have to travel outside of marlborough to find a pitch. marlborough should be supporting the youth sports clubs
Pls can the natural environment be protected/ preserved as much as possible. Ad boards are unsightly.
Currently the MYFC training facilities are sub-standard and discourage children from participating in this team sport with all its associated physical, mental and social benefits. An all-weather floodlit pitch would be beneficial for all ages and sectors of Marlborough residents and its surrounding villages
The young should be encouraged to develop their sporting activities, and in this respect, the proposed increased use of the Common will help.
The playing area offers a wonderful opportunity for kids to enjoy a well structured safe playing area, meanwhile the town can benefit from any parental activities that happen during or after the sport takes place. Many of the towns restaurants and Sunday trading businesses will flourish when sports days are taking place so I whole heartedly support the creation of an additional pitch
Organised training/ sport should be encouraged for young people in our community
We are short of good training facilities in the town and I believe this would be a very good addition.
we should be encouraging young people to do sport it's great for there mental health
Dear Marlborough Town Council. Please can we have a nother football pitch because I love foot ball. I can see my friends and it makes me feel happy. In my opinion it's good to be active because then you can be not bord and be healthy. For the walkers if they don't agree maybe you could plant some trees and flowers. I am very sure more people will come to the common with a foot ball pitch and rugby. It would also be really good to have a astro pitch in Marlborough so matchs can't get cancelled. Thank you for listening to my letter. Max age 6
Dear Marlborough Town Council Thank you for consulting us about Marlborough Common. I think that we should put a football and rugby pitch on the Common because people who play football will be happy and will like playing footbal with new people or friends. Everyone will still be happy because the Common is huge and there will still be lots of space to go for walks with dogs. I also that that we should plant some seeds, flowers and get some bee hives so if we make a new football and rugby pitch we don't loose any of the wildlife. Eliza Age 8
5 hours per weekend is very reasonable. The youth of the town need to be supported. There are tow residents at this address who support the Rugby and Youth Football Club
Approval should be subject to the rigger club (1) reducing litter outside clubhouse (2) reducing late night noise from social events (3) tidying up around rear & north ends of club house. Note the closeness of the clubhouse to the residents of Merlin Court & St Lukes Court creates problems and requires close monitoring
Any green space is special - especially for our youths
Parking: Saturday morning in particular parking on double yellow lines in Frees Ave leaving no passing points make it very difficult
Something needs to be done re parking especially ParkRunner who drive round to park in front of the step where a good many people access the common so you are met with cars coming at you from all directions and when the cars are not there you are faced with a very large area of deep mud. After all this time the grass has still not recovered
Great if it happens. Young people need to be encouraged to play games - a vital growing up requirement. We need to nurture the young!

So much has been taken from children if this is where can go train so yes a ILLEGIBLE

It is such a beautiful and relaxing space. I love walking regularly up there, and as long as access is never stopped I agree

## COMMENTS – PEOPLE WHO SAID ‘NO’

I feel if more if the Common is used for sports facilities then gradually more and more will be used Nd the people of Marlborough may feel they can't use it as well
The Rugby club already has extensive land on the common. It should be protected for use for the general public, flora and fauna and wildlife. St Johns is building all weather pitches can they not utilise those, or indeed Marlborough College? Marlborough is losing its green spaces. Specifically that end of town the building on the play park at Rabley Wood estate of houses, with an inadequate substitute offered. The common is for everyone not just Rugby players
I feel that it would damage the wildlife and general ecological balance of the Common. Over the years, we have lost so much of the Common to Golf Courses and rugby fields. There is already plenty of space for them to practice without taking up even more common land.
It's a complete abuse of common land when they are receiving money to advertise abs leave those signs up throughout the year. Also an accident waiting to happen with the parking and running across the road.
My concern is the wild life whilst digging up the common for the 'new rugby pitch'. I walk my dog on the common 2,3 times a days, I don't feel as I can walk on the rugby pitches as it is. The common is land for people to enjoy what little natural land we have left to walk on.
It would be helpful if you would clarify what "a permanent training facility" would consist of.
My concerns are where exactly will all the cars be parking? As it is when they do have rugby or football on the common is full of cars. There is also the wildlife that they would be just about to dig up for another pitch. Yet they have managed to make it work with the kids up and around the rugby club it self. I feel very strongly about this as a dog Walker on the common I really do enjoy the free space. I just find it hard to believe that they have all these kids yet don't have the room for them.
I feel the rugby club is slowly taking over the common. Those hideous advertising hoarding should also go
This space is for dog walkers and people to play in the summer. Do not make ANOTHER rugby pitch, just for the rugby team to NEVER take down the railings- they don't own and don't need more of the common. For us to who live next to the common (herd street) parking is already bad enough without additional rugby goers. There is a rec, marlborough college facilities, a leisure centre and a skate park. We don't need another rugby pitch. Stop trying to gentrify out beautiful nature and leave the common alone :)
I would object less if the area chosen ran alongside Frees Avenue, ie at the end of the current pitch. But the Rugby club's presence has already seriously impaired the beauty of The Common by its failure to remove unsightly advertising holdings and barriers in the off season.
I love the look of the meadow grass in the summer.
So much of the common has been taken over we are now in danger of losing a great open public space quite quickly
It should be available for everyone! The rugby/football pitch advertising boards are an eyesore! It's not all about pitches!
The rugby club has shown its unfitness to be entrusted with more of our precious common land bu disfiguring it with advertising banners
Another training area would take away too much of the common's open space. This would negatively impact both wildlife and casual users of the common.
I think that the balance between formal sports areas and 'free access' parts of the common is about right at the moment. I would be very supportive of getting rid of the elitist and privileged golf club from the common and using the space taken by that for more youth sports facilities.
Had enough of rugby club taking common land.
There are already enough structures on the common which inevitably restricts access, especially at the weekends. It limits the use of the common at these times to one activity, rather than all activities, which was the purpose of the COMMON in the first place. I am happy for them to play on it, but I do NOT support more permanent structures.
It's a common and nibbling at it's open nature is not acceptable. There is nothing to stop clubs using it on an ad-hoc basis but must not have dedicated areas, fenced or not.
I think the rugby club take up too much of our common already. They abuse the common bylaws with their advertising which was controversially allowed by the council. It was pointed out to the council that the hugh pile of soil/clay accumulated on the common over the years, was in breach of common land law but very little has been done to put this right. It seems the council and rugby club are being allowed to abuse common land, as they wish.

The rugby club is only inclusive to those who play and support rugby, they make no attempt to accommodate other sports and physical activities
The main users of the Common on a DAILY basis, morning, noon and night in fair weather and foul are walkers and dog walkers. By removing another pitch sized section of the Common, the area available to these people will be even less. There are already two large rugby pitches available in addition to areas for football and training near the clubhouse. I use the Common most days and can vouch for the fact that if there is a pent up demand by sports people then they keep it very well hidden as they are hardly ever on the pitches that they already have. The proposal of removing the tall goal posts during the week is never going to happen. Walkers and their dogs don't want to walk over ground that is obviously laid out as a sports facility so these people will have a smaller area to utilise whilst the area set aside for sports languishes unused for the majority of the week. The average game is 90 minutes; much better use of the existing facilities could be made rather than expanding them. They don't all need to play at the same time! Also, no more barriers and advertising hoardings. They are ugly and ruin the look of the open space.
Too much of the common has been given over to sports already. Although the pitch would be accessible when not in use a close mowed area will do nothing to support vital biodiversity. The children in the east of the town have lost their playground to a housing development. The common should be for all, not the minority who play rugby. There are pitches at the rec, on Eliot lane and on the common. Where else within walking distance of the town provides open spaces to picnic and walk?
The common is for the use of all people in Marlborough and not just for the use of just one group of people
Walking on the common every day it is extremely rare that we see both rugby pitches in use at the same time, so I struggle to see the need for further expansion. The unmowed areas are important for biodiversity, creating a habitat for all manner of creatures and it would be a great shame to lose this
I walk regularly on the common and feel enough space is taken by rugby pitches. Of course the need for space for these sports needs to be provided but the considerations of walkers runners and family groups need to be considered.
In my application In my opinion the common is for everyone to enjoy. Also the advertising should not be allowed on it's not for for groups to make money.
Too much of this wonderful space is already set aside and this proposal would severely limit other activities on the common
Please keep the common available for all
I feel there is enough of the common given to rugby and football. giving more ground to the sports will erode the COMMON land for all users. The wonderful wild flower meadow would be reduced... less insects ,birds etc. There are too many cars parked on the common now when the sports fields are being used, if more ground is given to the sports ,where are these cars going to park NO leave the common for all ,not just a few.
they have enough space. there needs to be room left for other people who live here
Lack of parking, purposes location of pitch, current advertising boards on common is too much. There needs to be more other things up there eg more play equipment for the children to play on.
Marlborough common has been broken up for various uses, the rugby club, the golf club(how did it happen that a paying membership organisation has exclusive use of so much of a common)?The common is a unique space which should be available for all of the inhabitants of the town. In this I include the wildlife and plants not just it's human users. There needs to be an environmental assessment ( as there should have been before either the golf club or rugby club were given use of the common originally) before any changes are made.
The commons should be for everyone, not sequestered for just one group of people. Currently hoardings are left all year round detracting from the natural beauty and the impact on the local flora and fauna will be significant when replaced with yet another pitch
Common means common land and erosion of this given land for very specific groups should not be allowed
The common should be available for all to use. With the golf club and the rugby club a lot of ground is used up already.
On Saturday and Sunday mornings it is dangerous to even drive along Frees Avenue never mind walk or even walk a dog; in the meantime the football pitches in the recreation ground and in Elcot Lane are nearly always empty; the youngsters would be far safer on these pitches neither of which have a main road running inches from hundreds of tiny children. Older people especially are forced to drive to Hungerford Common which has been beautifully kept as a common. With all the money coming in from



<p>the hundreds of children surely the Rugby Club can afford financially and morally to buy or rent somewhere else rather than steal away a common right.</p>
<p>I am all for children taking part in sport but don't feel this should dominate the use of the common at weekends. Should be available for everyone to enjoy</p>
<p>I think the perimeter advertising is a TOTAL EYESORE and should be removed. Please do not spoil the remainder of Marlborough Common which another rugby pitch.</p>
<p>Too much Common has already been given over to rugby.....the club should be negotiating with Marlborough College for access to their pitches- a stones throw from the Club House. The junior football pitches are well used outside of training by members of the public for a variety of activities but demarcation of another rugby pitch will deny the public that usage as with the current pitches which folk dare not walk on. I'm a keen sports player and all for opportunities etc but 3 rugby pitches just goes too far when there are alternatives available</p>
<p>There are enough sports facilities with rugby golf tennis etc. Leave the common as it is for people to enjoy the open space and views.</p>
<p>There is precious little communal space, let's leave something that everyone can enjoy, not just the rugby/footballers.</p>
<p>Most people have been very careful to avoid walking over the rugby pitch. I certainly will not avoid another pitch. It is not necessary or needed.</p>
<p>As a dog owner that lives on the Portfield estate there are ver few places to walk a dog. With the new building work behind Rigers Meadow and Marlborough College fencing iff the top playing fields the only local place to walk a dog is the common. Over the years this space has gradually got smaller and smaller. What should be given space on the common is a childrens play area that would be used by many local families.</p>
<p>most of the time the existing pitches are unused</p>
<p>considering that if they go up a league they would need a pitch with seating, that would take a lot of "common land" also parking is already bad up here so parking would need adding. Taking more green space away from us. Unless of course if the land is not actually common land. You won't put a playground space for children, That benefits all children, but your consider a large space taken by another pitch that can't be dismantled (the dismantled 1 hasn't been dismantled in a long time)</p>
<p>Isn't it time to face the fact that MRFC has been a victim of it's own success? Extending storage containers, asking for road layout changes, more playing space... The draft neighbourhood plan shows a housing site at College Fields. Wouldn't that be a great location for a purpose built club? Goodwill, grants and crowdfunding might make it happen</p>
<p>The location isn't suitable for more facilities as parking and access is an issue. Making better use of existing facilities at the football club and recreational ground would be better. Leave the common as an open space for public to use and nature to flourish.</p>
<p>There is already more than enough facilities for this purpose. The common is one of the only spaces which has been available for locals to go during the pandemic. I think that the rugby has ruined the common with the signage which is up all year. To me it is an eyesore. To have more of this is very unfair to others who want to use the common.</p>
<p>The common is for all. We use daily to walk our dog as do others. Sports are well represented there already. Also increased traffic along an already busy road increases risk, congestion and parking - I know that parking is provided on the common itself but that also takes up more space and also risks damaging the common.</p>
<p>All for having enough facilities but not convinced there aren't and shouldn't reduce the space available for others to enjoy the common/wreck the grass too much. There's a underused pitch at the football club, one on the Rec plus hireable facilities at both schools -should be enough for football surely? Problem seems to be that the adult football club and Marlborough youth have fallen out and therefore refuse to share. They need to sort it out.</p>
<p>Common Land must not be set aside for use by one group alone, it must be open for everyone at all times. Why doesn't the Rugby club buy its own land?</p>
<p>No, there are enough sports activities taking place on the Common, already hemmed in with the adjacent golf course. The long grass and flower meadow area is sorely missed, it was magical and teeming with wildlife, now it's just a flat grass plain in comparison. The Common is a wonderful resource for all ages and dogs and I think the existing rugby area is intrusive enough without adding more. Please reinstate the flower meadow. Thank you.</p>

<p>They already have 2 pitches on the common for rugby. The town has a football club in Elcot Lane, which could be used by juniors, as our son did. The common is well used by walkers and they need the space. The fences effected with advertising barriers also look unsightly on the common.</p>
<p>A Commons is a resource available to all for common use. The proposed change flies in the face of that fundamental principle, creating a space which de facto is not a commons when those not using the facilities are excluded. The new initiative would have a negative effect on the biodiversity of the commons. Creating a changed environment with detrimental effects on insects, wild flowers and the wider ecosystem. The Council may wish to explore research evidence regarding change of uses of Commons which demonstrate, without doubt and unambiguously that exclusionary practices in Commons, such as that proposed lead to diminished environmental value, social divide and reductions in usage - e.g., Elisabeth Ostroms Nobel prize winning economics research. Deliberately choosing to take an action in a valued resource against some of the clearest evidence that is available in environmental economics would not be wise. I say this as a rugby player and a university environmental researcher and academic.</p>
<p>They have enough training pitches &amp; how many children actually come from Marlborough not the catchment area. The posts around pitches are not permanent why are they still up out of season and have sponsors permanently fixed to rails. No more land were are parents to park.</p>
<p>too many cars. ruining wildlife. no space for dog walkers.</p>
<p>This is Common land, first the Golf Club have some, then the Rugby Club, then another, then another, then there is no Common!</p>
<p>there is precious little 'wild' area left for wildlife further encroachment on it should be prevented at a time when we are very aware of our effect on nature. the rugby club has sufficient pitches if they time the use in a staggered manner</p>
<p>It is used by a lot of people now, I feel it will restrict those who are not playing football, rugby etc</p>
<p>Gradually the common is being "closed off" to the public, this trend needs to be reversed not made worse.</p>
<p>The Common should remain as described by its name ... eroding this space would be irresponsible</p>
<p>The common should be kept as much as possible as a space for all age groups to walk /play and enjoy the natural environment. The more space that is allocated for specific sports the less available for general use.</p>
<p>While I support the provision of open space for young people to use for sport, I feel that the Common should continue to have a significant proportion retained as wild flower meadows</p>
<p>The Rugby club already dominate the common with a club house and car park built on the common. Two pitches are fenced making it difficult to just roam the common. There is also unsightly advertising that they have installed around one pitch. While I understand the clubs wish to grow the club there are many in the town who wish to use the green as a free open space. It is the only good large pice of ground that can be enjoyed all year round and does not get flooded. The real problem is the lack of community sports facilities in Marlborough and the area. Perhaps there is a need for the council to work with neighbouring parishes to establish a good community sports field. I suspect that the lack of space for sports is a shared problem with neighbouring parishes. In the 40 years I have lived in Marlborough the population has grown but outdoor sports facilities have not, even St Johns school has a shortage as some of its site became housing. Many Thanks for reading all this.</p>
<p>Should the Town Council decide to approve another pitch for the Rugby Club. It is imperitive to ensure that there is still enough space for the other very important activities that the common is used for the new Rugby Pitcg should be situated immediately behind the present pitch close to and in line with Frees Anvenue. Sport although important must not be allowed to eat up the entire Common at the expence of other equally important forms of recreation or families that have little or no gardens using it perhaps for family picnics or simply to play.</p>
<p>I feel that a permanent pitch is unnecessary, they seem to manage very well with what they have. Consideration should also be given to other users, this would restrict the Park Run route, boot sale timings and other pursuits. Also parking is already a problem, would they also require a chunk of the common for extra parking too?</p>
<p>I enjoy walking and running. As a frequent user of the common I feel that there is already too much space dedicated to specific sports.</p>

<p>I believe that the Common needs to remain a free space for everyone. During the lockdowns the space has been used by families, dog walkers, young and old. It is centrally located for all to enjoy and think another Rugby pitch is unnecessary. It says it has 700 members. That is not individual players that is family groups and a lot who don't live in Marlborough itself. They have members from Hungerford and all the surrounding villages so to them losing the common is nothing. When the Rugby, Football and Park Run are on the common is an accident waiting to happen. One Saturday there were in excess of 90 cars all over the lower end leaving very little dog walking space for anyone else. We will have a fatality if it is not addressed. There are young children and dogs running around all over the place and sadly some cars think they can drive wherever they want. I have had to help an elderly lady off the common with her dog one Saturday morning as she tried to dodge all the moving vehicles. The common is totally accessible for buggies and wheel chair users unlike which is invaluable. The Golf Club have already managed to gain some common land so the free space is already limited. I do hope you will leave the common alone. I remember when the ponies used to graze on the land and as I understand the Common is for the people of the town not just the Rugby club! Thank you There are also pitches at the College and St Johns is getting some new training facilities soon. Why should the people of Marlborough have to give up another chunk of the common to rugby and football. There is a football club in Elcot lane and the Rugby club already has two pitches. The railing are a real eyesore. Littered with advertising and the people who use the common where not consulted on that. The railing never come down and even if the rugby club says it will remove posts etc you know it won't. The wildlife and flowers are stunning in the spring and its great fun for kids to go bug hunting and dogs to try and catch a mouse. I think it will be a real shame to lose a treasured haven that we all enjoy. Please</p>
<p>We will have no common left they have enough of common land</p>
<p>I believe the Common is for the towns people and the Rugby Club don't care about the space as they don't use it other than for sport. The amount of people that walk on the common everyday is huge and even more so during lockdown. I enjoy it with young family</p>
<p>I have lived near to Marlborough since 1984, and over the years have noticed that there is more space allocated to sports and similar activities, and less area left more natural for wildflowers and wildlife. I think that is a shame in this world of ever increasing populations and less and less natural space. These areas are just as important for our health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, as areas for sport and group activities. Thank you for your consideration over this important aspect of Marlborough - a place close to my heart since the 1960s when I was just a young child.</p>
<p>Big supporter of the clubs that already use but I believe they have enough of the space and we should keep what we have free for other events, walkers, etc. Adding more facilities would constrain this.</p>
<p>The place for young people to play sport is at school, so the schools should never have been allowed to sell off sports fields for housing. But now they have, we find the Common being eaten up by one after another sports club taking over bits of it. Each time there's the same reason given - that we need to encourage young people to engage in sport - and the same promises - it will only be a small area, it won't be used too often, we'll still leave plenty of room for walkers and other users. But where does it stop? Surely the Common was intended to be used for annual events and one off events, not for permanent club houses and sports facilities? Enough is enough now.</p>
<p>I do not believe the permanent change to yet another area of the Common is a good thing. The wild areas have disappeared over the years and anymore loss would be unacceptable. The golf course encroaches even more, paths get moved, there are no orchids now and far fewer birds. I support sport on the Common. 100 per cent. I am a regular park runner and volunteer and it leaves no trace. It is all over in an hour and a half. A permanent change to a rugby pitch sized area is not good. Parking. Parking. Did I mention parking? The Rugby club will be the most dominant feature and it shouldn't be. It's common land not a sports ground. Enough is now Rugby pitch. Please no more.</p>
<p>Ruby club has fence off there pitch and will want to do the same i think, as the Ruby club out grown the common</p>
<p>I think it should remain as much as possible as unspoiled open space for informal recreation</p>
<p>Parents park in our spots or blocking us in. Same goes for the cemetery. Plus the noise is almost unbearable and we feel like we do deserve a break like everyone else. There is too much noise as it is. Thanks</p>
<p>The common should be available to use at anytime. Allowing the rugby and football to use it on regular days plus training will limit those families that may wish to come for picnics or to just use the open space for family fun. In addition allowing organised sport will increase the problems of parking in the area that already exists along the road when rugby particularly are training and playing.</p>
<p>I have loved rugby all my life but it's not for any group to have sole use of a part of it</p>

Rugby pitch getting bigger and club house and training pitches in areas we're family's use to have fun games and picnic and park cars on grass we're training pitches are now. Weekend cars parked on side off road dangerous for children crossing the road. Grave
I have used the common over the years for football training, walking with the family, dog walking and attending all of the fabulous events put on such as the Giffords Cricus, Park Run and Civil War reenactment. It's an incredible space which currently has the right balance and access for everyone to enjoy. Please keep it this way.
Need to leave some open space for people to walk at any time .
Where will it go, how large will it be, how much remaining space will there be for long grasses, will there be any mitigation (long grasses in other areas), what will they do about additional parking?
Please sort out the safety of pedestrians crossing over to the common I have had numerous incidents with cars speeding out of Marlborough it is not safe to wait in the centre reservation as vehicles seem to misread the road and come directly at you crossing the double line. This is not a safe crossing!!!!!!!
I feel that instead of using the Common and thereby preventing others exercising from using it that it would be far better to investigate using land at St John's School (underdeveloped but potentially useable) instead.
I think the Common is gradually being taken over. We need the open space for all generations to enjoy.
born and raised in Marlborough, went to Marlborough Grammar School, family still lives inMarlborough. I rememberthe war and prior to the golf course it was a wildlife haven. Surely now is the time share what land there is left to the reintroduce this environment for the world to njoy, not just act on a present day whim. Hugh Dow
The rugby club and football club is a nightmare especially on sat and sun morning when it comes to parking on the road. It can be pretty dangerous when you have loads of them parked on the straight stretch when you are driving over rocky. Why encourage more cars when they don't park properly anyway
Marlborough is a very populated town, open space and relaxation are in short supply. Even during lockdown the few paths and walks are crowded and poor. The common is the only open space. Sports facilities for the young are more than catered for in Marlborough as it is. This is an older age group town. The common is already overused for sport and what little is left should remain...as intended for the use of all.
I love to see the different grasses and wildflowers and think this rich habitat is more beneficial than another sterile mown area.
The rugby club already have enough common land both sides of frees avenue. The common is for everybody not just rugby (and golf ) players. The barriers are an eyesore and have not been removed as previously stated. Parking at rugby times is inconsiderate and dangerous
Of the 45 hectares of Marlborough Common less than 10 remains undesignated, to quite specific sporting activities. A further loss of ANY of this remaining land sets a dangerous precedent for the future of the Common ...just how long before it's all gone? By way of comparison, how much of Hungerford Common has sporting facilities on it? None, to be precise. I was a pupil at St Johns and a member of the school rugby team. We played several matches up on the common and, even back then in the very late 70s and early 80s, there were better facilities elsewhere, that weren't also prone to freezing solid. I have no fond memories of playing on a pitch that was as hard as concrete. The current 'ice sculpture' at Rockley aptly demonstrates that this still happens. I also understand that a random daily head count was recently done by Marlborough Golf Club and it was discovered that, on average, around 400 people a day use the Common. It would be a great shame if the youth of today, when they reach my age now, have no common land at their doorstep.
The common is a facility for all and the Rugby Club and its pitches already take up a large area. To take away more space from what should be available to everyone is in my opinion, not acceptable.
The rugby club and Golf club are taking up enough room. Full stop.
Marlborough Common is a space for the whole town. Each generation the sports lobby chip away at another small piece, and each time it is given because it is only a small percentage and few councillors have the backbone to vote against any proposal which can be presented as 'for the children' - however many negative side effects there may be. While sports facilities are important, they cannot trump all other needs of the town. While organised societies such as sports clubs have the ability to lobby the council and push their agenda through organised structures, the vast majority of common users are individuals who have no chairman, no secretary, no funds - and require no special treatment and no specific area. They simply wish to use the common in a non-depletive manner, excluding no one else in the process. Their voice is less loud - their only representatives are the councillors, who must resist the easy temptation for photo ops with children and giving into the organised interest groups, and instead protect

<p>this precious resource over which they have a duty of care. The enjoyment but of a small minority for a few hours a week is not sufficient reason to desecrate an important wildlife habitat and public space enjoyed by others at all times.</p>
<p>Sports have enough space. This is common land and should be left for the whole town to enjoy, and for wildlife such as the skylarks which nest in the long grass</p>
<p>The Marlborough Rugby Club already possess too much land, which should be accessible to the public as is the right of every local. I spent many years in and out of Marlborough and though coming from Burbage, would feel it a great shame to see more land used up.</p>
<p>I strongly believe that Marlborough Common is a precious facility for all Marlborough residents to enjoy. Unfortunately in recent years too much of the Common has been taken over by Rugby and Football players, many of whom are not Marlborough residents. As these clubs continue to grow they will demand more and more land. We must leave enough space on the Common for all the other residents to enjoy whatever their pass-times may be.</p>
<p>At present there seem to be adequate proportion of areas for pedestrians and training facilities . Personally I believe we need the undisturbed area of natural beauty for ordinary pedestrians , dog owners , joggers , elderly and people who like calmness to enjoy the common .</p>
<p>Common land for everyone no more restrictions.</p>
<p>This would restrict access for the majority of the public and urbanize the common. Sports pitches should go elsewhere.</p>
<p>A huge issue is parking. Already the rugby parents seem to park everywhere because the RFC car park is not big enough. People are struggling to get to the cemetery and driving down the Free's Avenue can be difficult with the parked cars and people (often the children) randomly crossing the road, suddenly appearing from between parked cars.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Dog walking isn't pleasant weekend with so many cars It's over whelming so never walk on the common weekends</p>
<p>I do not want an additional rugby pitch. The common is for all and two thirds of the common is already taken over by pitches. The cars on the common is out of control and someone will get hurt. What about the walkers that use the common. Most people work all week and only have access to the space at weekends. The common is very busy with cars abs matches. It leaves little space for others</p>
<p>The common land should be left as it is. The young families and the elderly that use the common on weekends are very limited when there are matches going on. Can you imagine if another pitch taking up the central area was on too? The cars on the common are a real problem. You can't walk safely through the area without having eyes in the back of your head. The land should be left as it is and the ugly white railings and advertising boards removed.</p>
<p>The cars and the railings Gould be removed from the common. I don't believe another pitch should take up any more of the land.</p>
<p>I work during the week and live locally. I enjoy taking my family to the common as it is accessible for bike riding in parts and buggy friendly. We enjoy dog walking and have used the space a lot during lockdown. The weekend are often the only time we have and i find the volume of cars on the common horrendous. When Park Run who park their cars so close to the access steps, football and Rugby are all on there are about 100 cars on the common. It is an accident waiting to happen. The car parking is scattered and people don't seem to care that they are damaging the common. I really don't think we need to have any cars on the common and surely another pitch will add to that. Also if the pitch goes on the other side of the track that will create a corridor for walkers and restrict people drone Exploring the common. You can't let your dog off the lead when there are so many cars etc. I think the rugby club have taken up enough of the common and it should be left alone with wild flowers to grow. The golf club already encroaches on the common. Who is going to stop them taking more !</p>
<p>The increasing erection of fences and hoardings have restricted the free access to much of the common and caused narrow muddy routes around the ends of such structures. Parkrun, particularly, gives a very popular opportunity for exercise to a great many residents of all ages. I think the rugby and football clubs could also make much better use of the areas they already have, being much more considerate to users of the common. The do like to dominate the space they decide is "theirs"!</p>
<p>Provided the hours outlined are strictly adhered to I have no objection. As another pitch would reduce the walking space I could not support practice etc extending over 250 hours per year. Golfers tell me it is "their" area even though I do not walk across their green. The common must remain as an area for everyone to use.</p>

There is already a significant part of the common apportioned for Rugby, golf and tennis. Free space for all is important. We've already lost the Rabley open play area!
The sky Larks and other birds nest in this area
The park in The Thorns and Rabley has already been taken so this is the only local space to use and other facilities are available for rugby which is invasive to anyone else using the common at the same time.
The gradual encroachment of buildings and pitches into the Common is not good in my opinion. Adjacent to the Rugby Club are acres of sports facilities owned and managed by Marlborough College. I'm sure that a better option for all local sports would be to fully utilize the underused Marlborough College playing fields using a financial arrangement.
The Rugby club have already taken up enormous space and it's not appropriate to have the common as a mown playing field when it's for the whole of Marlborough town's people and we are surrounded by other school facilities that could offer pitches, or they go elsewhere. It would be wonderful to see the common restored for wildlife and people - why are there no benches to sit and enjoy the view - for the elderly and it's all mown flat when we could let the wildflowers flourish and have a town meadow around the orchard which was planted. It would restore habitat for insects and birds and give us all something to look at and enjoy. Why have the council persisted in mowing the lovely cowslips at the top of the common and destroying bushes and briars where the birds and possible hedgehogs could live at the top of the common above the graveyard? Why not have meadow as much as possible and save public money, reduce our carbon output and retain carbon in the wildflowers and long grass. We need a total rethink here or we will have no birds in the future, so many are dangerously declining.
There is already plenty of space for the Rugby Club. There has been an increase in walking activities and restricting this space will be detrimental (however temporary). Thank you
As frequent users of the common for dog walking, we feel that yet another pitch taken up for Rugby club use reduces significantly the amount of area we would be able to walk the dogs. I'm all for sports and outdoor recreation, but strongly feel another pitch, which would also lead to more parked cars on the common would significantly impact on the free space for non-rugby club users. This is a space for everyone to use after all.
In view of the climate emergency the area not currently used for training should be dedicated to tree planting
Surely the Football Club is the place for football. All open spaces lost on the Common such as the Golf and Rugby Club buildings and the orchard should be replaced by buying extra land attached, if possible, to the Common.
Enough is enough.
test
The sports people have enough space now, if they have any more there will be nothing left for ordinary people to enjoy.
We have lost so much of our common land to sport already. It is destroying the balance of nature already. The Rugby and Football Clubs have more than enough room and we wholeheartedly oppose any further part of the Common being destroyed.
I am fully supportive of all the current activities on the Common but I definitely don't want to see another permanent rugby pitch. A lot of the club members are not local which is how there's so many cars parked ( I have counted 98 on one occasion but I will say there was no sign of damage the next day ). If the club gets any bigger the parking problem will escalate. I understand that the club is successful at the moment ( before lockdown) but if they go higher in the league they will need a permanent viewing stand as well. It's no point saying it can be removed during the summertime because there has already been no attempt to take away the advertising boards during the summer as originally planned. The Common is for everyone to enjoy and the implications of another permanent rugby pitch just isn't acceptable at all.
I truly believe the common should be left for the people of the town. At the moment there are two rugby pitches and a football pitch. Also on Saturdays the Park Run is on and when most people have weekends off you can find the common a very busy place. There are far too many cars on the common. Some people think they can drive up the grass paths so to get closer to the pitch and on one occasion I counted 95 cars!!! A large amount are at parked near the steps that access the common from The busy road. If another pitch was allowed the cars would increase abs there would be no space for walking at all. As a dog owner dogs like to sniff around the long grass searching for mice and sniffing out moles. The long grass is beautiful in the spring when the wild flowers grow. A new pitch would lose the wild flowers and the wildlife. The white railings littered with advertising is an eyesore. Why were we not consulted when they were applied for?? Will the new pitch want railings too? More advertising? The railings restrict dog walkers from accessing the pitches when not in use and another pitch would

seriously restrict the freedom on the common. The place has become a real haven for the local people during lockdown and I believe we should keep it that way. There are other facilities in town for the kids. More pitches being made up at the school and Marlborough college often rent theirs out too. The rugby club players are not concerned about the common as they often come from out of town to play and don't use it on a daily basis. I sincerely hope they do not get permission to build another pitch. Thank you

Grass is fine for training as it is.

Marlborough Common is the only large area of open space available and accessible for the whole Marlborough community. Over the years this oasis has been effectively privatised by small groups who have commandeered this public space for their own use including Marlborough Golf club, Marlborough tennis club, Marlborough Rugby Club and the football club. This has reduced the availability of this large area to a small fraction of its original size. These private uses have had the effect of changing the nature of this area from natural landscape to a suburban sports field, with manicured flat fields, car parks and substantial buildings. If another rugby pitch is accepted this will inevitably lead to calls for more car parking and the NP cynically proposes a car park as an extension to the existing rugby club car park under the guise of being a public car park whereas it will in reality be just an extension to the rugby club. This will reduce even further the area available for public enjoyment and will involve extensive cut and fill, levelling and drainage works and will reduce the natural appearance of the common irretrievably. The rugby club are on record as saying that the club house is too small and no doubt this extra pitch will lead to proposals for a larger clubhouse and more development. If the club expands it will lead to demands for permanent spectator facilities and more ugly advertising hoardings around the pitches. I support more sports facilities in the town but this needs a proper sports strategy formulated by the all the relevant sports clubs, Marlborough sports forum, the Sports Council, Town Council and Wiltshire Council to acquire land and lay it out as a proper sports area with adequate parking etc. It occurs to me that the £62,000 spent on the flawed Neighbourhood Plan could have gone a long way to paying for a new sports site. I would suggest that the Town Council are well placed to establish a sports provision working party to achieve this. The current suggestion of a new pitch, and the NP proposal for an extension to the Rugby Club car park is another example of a salami slicing approach to the relentless erosion and privatisation of a public asset. The Common is the perfect place for some environmental enhancements including tree planting, and improving biodiversity rather than this constant suburbanising of this residual piece of Common land. This is the tipping point and now is the chance for the TC to achieve two worthwhile public benefits; a new sports area on a new site and some environmental improvements as a small but valuable enhancement to public amenity and addressing climate change. A new pitch is not the thin end of a wedge but a long way down that wedge of destroying one of the redeeming features of the town.

No I do not support a permanent training ground because it will erode the area available to people for enjoyment who are not members of sporting clubs. There should be an overall management and landscape and environmental plan for the Common as a whole to maximise public enjoyment and not the random piecemeal commandeering of sections of the Common for the benefit of a small number. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are also proposing additional parking at the rugby club. All potential changes should be presented together as a complete plan for consultation.

The erecting of permanent advertising hoardings on the Common has turned me against the Rugby Club. They obviously can't be trusted to keep the Common unsullied by money making opportunities for themselves. No more encroachment and they should be forced or remove the unsightly mess in their current area.

The rugby club has erected ugly fencing and advertising boards on our common land. Until this has been removed they cannot be trusted to respect this is a shared space for the whole town.

I do feel it would be a great shame to add another pitch on the common. If it was to go ahead two thirds of the common would be used for matches and although at weekends I feel those that work all week feel the common would not be available to them when matches were on. The common is often crowded with cars around the pitches and the added event of Park Run only adds to the chaos. Another pitch located in the centre of the common would restrict dog walkers and young families or the elderly from using the space. The railings situated on the pitches are littered with advertising and I believe should be removed any the end of every season. Something that has happened yet!! Why should those that don't play rugby lose an enjoyable space that has always been available for everyone.

The common shouldn't be used as a regular place for football etc. This will bring in cars that don't need to be parked up. There are plenty of other facilities that can cover the requirements for weekend matches.

<p>Dear Councillors, I object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed third rugby pitch on Marlborough Common for a number of reasons. Firstly, the Rugby Club already have two sizeable pitches, which is fine, but in recent years they have used up even more Common land with a large Club house, a sizeable car park and latterly unsightly advertising hoardings on further land adjacent to their pitches. The Common is for use by all townfolk, not just the members of Marlborough Rugby Club and I believe that it is time to say to them that enough is enough. The Common is not an infinite source and needs to be protected, particularly in light that a large section will also potentially be lost to an expansion of the town's cemetery as proposed in the new Town Plan. The proposed area for the new pitch is also a haven for wildlife, including grass snakes, insects and numerous species of wild flowers and birds, which I have observed in this longer grassland over the past 50 years. The Common is a valuable resource, and I believe that approval of this application would dramatically reduce the space allocated to the wider population of the town. This is already restricted to a limited area, compared to that granted to the golf, rugby &amp; tennis clubs, yet is much needed for a wide variety of other activities including the annual circus &amp; fairs, park run, dog walking, town events, football, cricket and general use such as picnics, or simply flying kites. As Town Councillors and custodians of our Common, I therefore hope you will take all of these points into account before making your decision. Thanking you in anticipation, Ian Philpott - 7, Aubrey Close, Marlborough. SN8 1TS - ianphilpott@talktalk.net</p>
<p>There are quite enough sports pitches on the Common already. Especially bearing in mind the lack of car parking!</p>
<p>This space would become unavailable walkers during those times that the pitches are being e used, which will be at the mosy popular times to walk dogs, walk. Dog walkers use this land to let their dogs run without being on the lead abd adding more pitches will mean this cant happen as much. The rugby club has Plenty of space at the moment on the public ground already. Having more will mean taking more from the rest of the public. The road running adjacent to the common already gets masses of cars parking up there from rugby club member and family, adding more pitches up there is enviably going get make more traffuc and parking problems in that area. They have plenty of soace already without taking more of the common group for the public to use!</p>
<p>Not enough left for walkers.</p>
<p>There isn't enough. The parents 4x4s vlog up the roads, they're park anywhere they like and also damage the common.</p>
<p>Could put the horses back on common.</p>
<p>I'm not sure if my previous questionnaire was sent so apologies if this is a repeat There are a number of sites already in town that could be beter utilised- recreation ground, Marlborough Town FC &amp; adjacent land at Elcot lane, St John's school, &amp; Marlborough College. There is also the potential for land involved in the Rabley Wood play area land swap, for the new development at Rabley Wood. I believe that as part of the charitable status of Marlborough College they are obliged to let the town use some of their sports facilities - they do this for hockey so perhaps they should be approached for the Rugby club's needs. The College has expanded in recent years via new a dormitory block and on site buildings so it's not unreasonable to expect them to offer more to the town. The College fields are nearly as close to the Rugby club as The Common and easy access is available via Hyde Lane or Leaze Lane and the car parking can be accomodated is the same manner as would be needed for any expansion on the Common</p>
<p>Use the school rugby football pitches they also have parking</p>
<p>The grounds left on the common should be habitat for natural flowers, birds and insects. They do not thrive well on mown grass.</p>
<p>Far too dangerous to encourage more parking. It's an accident waiting to happen. Also the signage looks an absolute mess</p>
<p>It worries me that a club that says it's has 700 members is taking such a bullish attitude towards this. They have little concern for the wildlife and wild flowers that grow or the fact that the land is a common space. They think that by them treating the land and spending 30k on the surface will be a good thing. I would like the common land to remain as it is. It's a wildlife haven and been an absolute godsend during lockdown. I walk the common twice a day everyday with my dog and family. I have seen an increase in the amount of people That use the space. All ages and even all disabilities. The space is accessible to all and is centrally located for everyone to use. Surely the common should keep its common land status and not be returfed for rugby. The existing railings are a barricade so we cannot walk on the pitches and the advertising signs are so ugly. How do we know they won't put more up? They may have 700 members but that is not players. That's families and individuals. There are plenty of other options and if another pitch was to go ahead where would everyone that works all week go for exercise? The common</p>



<p>is crazy busy when matches and Park Run is on. The railings seem to be a permanent fixture which apparently they are not meant to be.</p>
<p>I have lived in Marlborough for the past 45 years thorough out this time I have been lucky to witness many large, small and fleeting events held on the common from carnivals to the late Eddy Kidd stuntshow all wonderful in there own way. The common denominator with these and other events like footprints on the beach “ all traces have gone”. I get the sport/ health/ social argument, I to off-road cycle ,run , walk and dog walk all year on or around the common, the expansion of the so called “ removable “ structures is a travesty and not a legacy the current town council would want to add there names to I would venture. Common land is for ALL of the town to enjoy and continue to enjoy. Thank you for your time</p>
<p>Rugby club seems to have sufficient space to train. Important to retain some common land for walkers etc to not feel unable to visit the common at the weekeds</p>
<p>The Common is really the best (only?) really open space in Marlborough. Stonebridge often wet. Priory gardens often closed and no dogs. Please don't take away any more. Another pitch will be there everyday. Can't the Elcot Lane or Rec pitches be used instead?</p>
<p>This could be the thin end of the wedge - we have already lost enough common land and feel that what remains should be protected for everyone's use. Certainly don't want to see any more pitch areas fenced off.</p>
<p>Spare rugby pitches up st John s school with parking facilities keep the common free.</p>
<p>The advertising boards are ugly and shouldn't be on Common land.</p>
<p>does tthis not be 'Loss of amenity for older people' we the older people are suffering the effects of the lock down just as much as the youg. the common is the only flat green space we can relax for pichnicks etc.</p>
<p>this area is already too busy on week ends to visit the grave yard. will extra free public car parking be installed?</p>
<p>Will the road be widened to allow for the extra traffic. Freeze Avenue is a real pain with a house box Saturdays and Sundays.</p>
<p>i have a flat with no garden in the town. i am too disabled to walk any other than the common. pre woo flu it was getting very busy weekends,, can the rugby be moved somewhere else to leave the common for us?</p>
<p>i have suffer from cronic asthma, the only time i venture out is week ends when the traffic polution subsides a bit. a stroll on the common is the only place i feel safe to go to. will this mean there is more polution week ends?</p>
<p>no, no, no there is too much traffic in back lane now. parents are idiots and park any where.</p>
<p>i was going to join the model flying club but have been told to hold off because they don't know if they can carry on. they have asked me to say no here.</p>
<p>I am over 80 years old and have been a resident all my life. The Rugby Club and Golf club have taken up most of The Common already. What about the rest of us who use this area? Additional traffic &amp; parking issues as well as a disregard fo adhere to current conditions (signage &amp; railings should be removed during the off season.).</p>
<p>I consider that they already have enough space and removing a further portion of the common from availability to local residents (which will very likely exceed the maximum 250 hours and increase gradually as years go by). They already fail to comply with agreements made with the town (such as removal of the sponsorship banners at the end of the season) so it is not sensible to trust them to honour any new agreements. I am also very concerned that it will have a detrimental effect on both available parking on the common and, more importantly, an increase in traffic going to the site (as a Herd Street resident who already has to endure too many HGVs and far too many speeding and/or unsociably loud vehicles passing our front door) I am against anything which will increase this, already completely unpoliced, nuisance. Further I do not believe their claims that this area will only be markings on the ground and will not require posts or fencing - I believe it will quickly grow both and become just another 'annexing' of common land by the rugby club. Common land is supposed to be for the benefit of all and not simply a commodity to be given up by the town council as they see fit. I frequently walk across the common and, as a member of the public who 'own' it (it doesn't belong to the council by the way - you are only its stewards) I wish to continue to be able to exercise this right without further hinderance.</p>

<p>People can use the common for sporting activities without a designated sports area. It is a place to walk and have freedom. Pic Nic's etc. It is public and open. Marlborough residents who do not have cars need some free space to enjoy. The football pitches are not used that much and take up space.</p>
<p>There are already 2 rugby pitches and a football pitch on the Common. Another rugby pitch will severely limit access to common land at the weekend.</p>
<p>Where is all this development going to end? We are building evermore houses and this issue proves that Marlborough can not grow any more as there is no more space. There has been no investment in infrastructure like the bypass that has been discussed for the last fifty years. This just can not happen, Marlborough just can not take any more people. Looking at the extended grave yard filling up over the last few years, where is the next extension of this to be? On a rugby pitch?</p>
<p>The common is the only place I can easily get to in my aging years. I do enjoy seeing the model planes fly as I hobble around it would be a shame to push them out after so many years. During lockdown it has been nice to walk with out so many sports people around. This is why I say no the common has always been for everybody.</p>
<p>Before COVID19, Freeze Avenue was a disaster at weekends. It has been much easier to get to Marlborough from Rockley during the lock down with out all of the players there. there must be some where better for them to go.</p>
<p>Hi. I was just talking to my neighbour about this. The road up past the common is not wide enough now without even more in considerate parents parking all over the place. Getting to Marlborough is a problem on weekends when the sports people are there. I am not sure where the Saturday and Sunday mornings come from. I have noticed that the Rugby Colts start practicing for about lunch time on Sunday and go well into the afternoon.</p>
<p>The road infrastructure around Marlborough common is not suitable to take more traffic at peak times. The rugby club house is in an unadvisable location forcing the users to cross the carriageway to gain access to the pitches. There has already been an incident of a child being involved in an RTC a few years ago and to put even more of the population at risk is not to be advised. For this scheme to progress the council would be ill advised to do so without considerable investment in the road infrastructure involved.</p>
<p>How will this impact on the car boot sales?</p>
<p>I say no. Marlborough council has enough on it's plate with out taking on even more. Some where along the line whether it be grass cutting or litter picking this will cost more on our rates.</p>
<p>I don't know why three little oaks don't just apply for the stadium that they need for the next division up and be done with it. the council then would not need to bother with the upkeep.</p>
<p>More walkers walk weekends</p>
<p>I enjoy all sport, and I am particularly keen to see kids engaged in sport at an early stage. However I feel that The Common is already over developed to specialist interests, most notably the golf and rugby clubs. There is such a small area left to wild grassland and wild flowers that it would be a travesty to de use it further. The wild flowers last summer were a delight, and many people enjoyed a picnic in these fertile areas. Last year more than any other showed the value of land that is open access to all - I have never seen so many families kicking a ball, walking a dog, have a picnic etc. People seem to have woken up that sport and recreation doesn't have to be formally organised, just go and do it. The rugby club already takes over the whole of the section of Common on the western side of Frees Ave, whilst keeping their pitches free for formal matches. It has to accept it cannot continue to grow, there is a limit. I delight in seeing it be used by so many kids, but the kids are not the problem it is the parents who regard this land as theirs, in the same way as the golf club do. Even under lockdown I had a golfer shout at my wife and I for walking on the fairway. Constant Parking is also an issue - as formalised sport brings in many more cars. The casual use of the Common attracts more pedestrians from local areas. I can only illustrate the problem of partisan interests on common land by recollection of having seen on May occasions rugby parents parking on the football field, including the goal mouth. On sodden grass this causes significant damage. No more Common land grabs - open for all on what's left or you create alienation. What do the rails and advertising hoardings on the rugby pitches say to everyone else.</p>
<p>I like to see the children enjoying sport but feel we also need open spaces for all ages and activities</p>
<p>Will increase car parking requirements which already causes problems in Frees avenue and St Johns Close, and will reduce the natural habitat of the common.</p>
<p>The pitches and training areas already take a large percentage of the common, further expansion of this is not fair to other users especially as the time these areas will be used is exactly the time other users will also want to use it.</p>
<p>The value of the common as a green space has continually been eroded over recent times (golf course, extended mowing, rugby pitches with fencing and advertising) while other green spaces are neglected or</p>

sold off. Time to start reversing the damage not increase it further. The Common should be a common not a municipal sports field.
There is little enough space for walking and on a Sunday morning it is almost impossible to enjoy walking on the common.
The continued expansion of permanent sporting facilities in common ground is leading to the gradual erosion of the Common as an undeveloped semi wild space. I am pleased at the success of both the rugby and football clubs, but they need to look for an appropriate alternative home now as with continued growth they will need to increase their facilities (spectator stands, toilets, more parking etc) and unless the Council intends for us to lose the common altogether it makes sense for them to move now before they have invested any more money in the current site.
The common encroachment by the rugby club, the golf course and the additional traffic incurred must stop. The next thing will be tiered seating and more facilities for the middle class rugby types, not kids who want a kick around, families picnics and everybody else. A third pitch will never go back to being common. No No No.
Too much common land has already been taken. Leave the common open and wild without it being taken by this club or that club. Soon there will be nothing left.
As I walked on the common this morning I noticed a Kite flying high above the exact point where you say they want a rugby pitch. You can see the wild flowers that are starting to grow and the wildlife is abundant. What worries me is that all this will be destroyed with a newly laid rugby pitch. If the new pitch was to go ahead it would Limit the weekend use of the space to just rugby and football. What about others? Before we know it they would put up more railings and the ghastly advertising boards and we would be left with only a strip to walk down. Why are the white railings there at all? They are supposed to be removed and abs haven't been. The advertising should not be allowed. The other concern is the amount of traffic that is allowed to park and drive erratically wherever they like. There is often approx 100 cars parked on the common on a Saturday or Sunday. How about other events that have often happened on the common? The circus, fair and reenactment days? It would be such a shame to lose the space abs freedom on the common. No doubt the fact that the rugby club are tgrowing money at it helps their situation but selfishly they don't use the common like the local people do. They often come from out of town so the common is of no concern to them. We have to save the common because once they have another pitch more railings and cars will arrive too.
We don't need anymore sport spaces, the common is for everyone to use not just the rugby club with more pitches where are people suppose to walk. There is. I parking for all the people who would come to the matches, when they park on the common they always ruin the grass.
Rugby club already has enough of the common now, should permission be granted there will be much less open space for the majority to enjoy, otherwise those playing rugby ( I understand many of the players come from at least 15 miles away from Marlborough ) and those playing golf will occupy well over half of the common, which should be completely open for all as originally intended. It has been lovely to walk over the golf course during the lockdown.
Ground either side of the access road to the common is already being badly damaged by 4x4s, pickups and assorted vehicles and not being repaired. With another pitch and more traffic, how would to this be dealt with, where does the money come from for the reparations? We do not want further abuse of situation.
Common land should be left as intended for the use of everyone and not be eroded by granting access to some groups at the expense of others. It is a slippery slope to develop an area like this that once done can not be taken back. The Council should be seeking to protect these spaces wherever they can - green spaces are just as beneficial to young people as organised sports are to the few.
We feel there are two rugby pitches, football pitch, there are other sports facilities in Marlborough which could be made use of, the parking for these pitches limits the space for families with young children playing, also dog walkers, everyone needs exercise space not just young people!
This proposal to reserve communal resources for particular use continues the creeping trend from public to private, and will further the increase the visual cluttering and environmental modification of an open space valued for its largely untouched state. The rugby club is a minority interest; the open space of the common is accessible to all. Approval of this proposal will embolden the Golf club and other interests to further snip away at the margins, diminishing the utility of this shared resource.
Common Land is for everyone, stop giving away our land. last time, you gave land to the Golf Club, next time Rugby Club, where next? until there is none left. The Town Council has a responsibility to keep this land for us, not for any one section of our town. Why doesn't the town council provide these facilities on some of their own land, or buy land, like Calne, Trowbridge Burbage, Berwyn Ramsbury.....ll use some of your bank balance to do something positive for our town.

Like any other clubs have a waiting list & parking
This is a big decision and should be put to a vote by all residents
The Rugby Club has been encroaching on the Common for the last 20 years. It is not clear what form this Training Facility will take but it seems like a "blank cheque".
They already have a football and rugby pitches which should be sufficient for training.
I think they have taken enough how many matches do they have at a time? It is common Landnot sports fields
With current sports /recreation areas in both Elcot Lane .and Salisbury Road/The Mead which appear under used .Along with further sports facilities inc" Pitches at St Johns School (planned ) the common should not be over developed by further ..I pitches , I question why the advertising on the current rugby pitches are allowed ? which I consider an eye sore and not in keeping with the beautiful surroundings.
This seems to be a very short questionnaire! While being very impressed with the work of the football and rugby club and seeing how well the facilities are used I have many reservations about them taking over more of the Common. I am keen on sport and personally aware of it's ability to improve people in both mind and body but not everybody enjoys competitive sport. Isn't the idea of Common Land for an open space which all can enjoy for leisure this is becoming more difficult as there appears to be less space between golf club and rugby club facilities. I respect these areas by not using them to walk on and am aware of the beautiful countryside that is available for walking and running. I am sure the clubs do not want people walking on their pitches etc., the more Common land that is taken up the more likely this is to happen. Marlborough has a large elderly population who cannot always get to more remote areas and the Common provides an easy access area for relaxation and contemplation something which cannot be achieved when you are sandwiched between sports pitches. It is also worrying that the more the Common is managed by single interest groups the more a precedent can be seen to have been set for further development.
The clubs have more than an ample share of The Common already.
A designated 'Common' should remain as such. As soon as parts get nibbled away by organisations, the precedent has been set and more common space will be given up over future years. A nother rugby pitch would soon have fencing installed to comply with whatsoever regulation which will effectively designate a 'no go' area on what is common land. This must not be allowed to happen.
Leave the common alone. The rugby club have plenty of space. Save the few wild places we have left for all the town to use.
I object to the proposals on a number of grounds: 1) loss of permanent accessibility for all ages who enjoy informal use of the Common within walking distance of the Town. No alternative facilities are being offered to compensate for the loss to the wider Town community; 2) Sustainability - without attractive public open spaces adjacent to the Town, people will drive further to exercise their dogs/have a picnic/go for a walk (and those without cars will be disadvantaged in terms of access to local open space); 3) biodiversity - the long grass and wild flower meadow areas on the Common are a benefit to wildlife (mammals, birds of prey, insects etc) and are greatly appreciated by humans too; 4) permanent training facilities could end up with frequent use of lighting in order to allow access to the area on winter nights. Additional lighting in this area is not only bad for wildlife (eg the bats and owls which currently hunt in the area) but also unsightly for local properties and highly visible, against the Dark Skies policies of the AONB; 5) views of barriers or other formal facilities - in close range views and from elsewhere in etc AONB which have views towards the elevated Common; 6) exacerbating existing road safety and traffic congestion issues on what is effectively a single carriageway road. The key point against the expansion of organised sports facilities is that the Common is an important asset for the whole community - not just for those who undertake organised sport. Whilst I understand the desire to expand existing facilities for organised sport and the benefits that can bring to those who play the organised sport, the proposals would substantially reduce the accessibility and enjoyment of the Common for people of all ages and backgrounds who use it informally for walking, picnicking, jogging, kicking a ball around etc. During lockdown many people (from the young to the elderly) have greatly enjoyed unimpeded access to the area of the Common allocated to the Golf Club. Technically walkers, joggers etc can access these areas at any time but in reality, people hitting golf balls is not conducive to safe use of the Common and people are intimidated from using the wider area. Further actual and perceived reduction of access to this public open space and the enjoyment of the semi-natural grass and wild flower meadow in summer months would greatly affect many people's enjoyment of the Common. From a sustainability and accessibility perspective, having the Common on the edge of the Town means that people of most ages can walk to it, without the need for cars etc. It is well used by the elderly and young families as well as joggers, younger dog walkers etc. The training pitch proposals would further shrink the readily accessible area of the Common to an unrealistically small area with the general public squeezed between specialist interest

groups. Whilst the Rugby Club would use the pitch for training and playing etc mainly at weekends - the same time that families/dog walkers/joggers etc want to get out during non-school or working hours. The Common is well used for informal recreation such as dog walking. There needs to be sufficient space for dogs to be able to run around, chase balls, undergo socialisation and training etc without being coralled into a narrow space where dogs are too close to each other the whole time. Furthermore, dogs find long and varied grass types much more interesting than closely mown and well-studded (and inevitably churned to mud) playing pitches. The long grassed areas and wild flowers are an absolute delight for humans and wildlife in summer months and would be lost due to releveling and reseeding of the area. Again having access to this type of facility within walking distance of people's homes is fantastic and much treasured - and accessible to all the Town's residents. Additionally, people using the Common for jogging or walking may not wish to have to be close to dogs in a narrow area between the pitches/training facilities /driving range/ golf course. Just look at an aerial photo of the Common to see how space for the rest of the public is being encroached by organised sport. That could also increase pressure on dog owners to keep dogs on a lead the whole time rather than running and playing. Furthermore . the current Rugby Club barriers and advertising hoardings have been in place throughout the whole year, not just at weekends during the playing season as was supposed to be the agreement. I presume that the Town Council have turned a blind eye to this due to the pandemic. However, when we are back to some form of normality, the barriers and hoardings should be removed as per the agreement. They are not only visible from the Common and surrounding roads, but also from other elevated and publicly accessible parts of the North Wessex Downs AONB where they are unsightly and urbanising features in otherwise attractive views across the AONB. Any associated night time lighting would similarly be highly visible - and contrary to the Dark Skies policies within the AONB. Any permanent lighting columns etc would be unsightly features. Larger formal sports facilities means that there will be more cars, either from visiting clubs or club members. Frees Avenue is effectively a single carriageway road in places due to parked cars. Attracting further cars at peak times will exacerbate existing safety and traffic congestion issues in the area.

I think that the Common needs to be used for all and by all. A grass area for playing Rugby is not the same as an area of common ground that can be used by all. A rugby pitch does not seem inviting to walk on and ultimately becomes an area apart, and separate, from the Common proper. I applaud the Clubs great efforts recently but it does not represent the interests of everyone in the town. It is of great importance that we keep as much of our open areas with wildflowers and grasses, these are vital to insects and bees, and are, in turn, vital to us. In February 2019 Wiltshire Council acknowledged the Climate Emergency and this should, by now, be apparent to all of us. Also, our lives are hemmed in by parts where we cannot be as far ranging as in our middle years. Although Marlborough is surrounded by beautiful countryside it is not accessible to all. The Common offers those with young children a change to be outside in a different environment that is close to their home, it also offers those in their elder years who may not be able to go as far. The Common offers a change to be in nature to people like this, and everyone else, to be in town and be in the country. When I first moved to Marlborough I thought it was fantastic that there was an area set aside for wildflowers, ground nesting birds, and wild grasses, for all. Marlborough should be making more of its green credentials.

I don't to lose any more rough Common area. I'm worried about the Rugby Club encroaching yet further and don't understand why they've been allowed to have the advertising hoardings. It mars the character of the Common.

If more sports facilities are made available on The Common it means that less people would be able to use it for general use and relaxation. Spaces like this are constantly being used for purposes they weren't meant for. I wouldn't want to walk there with the fear of wayward balls hitting you and the general noise that comes with it on a beautiful open space which is meant for ALL.

Whilst I fully support the sport of rugby and especially the work of 'our' Rugby Club with children, the club has already taken over a large percentage of the COMMON (I purposefully emphasise the word). Training areas are now marked out west of Frees Avenue from the club house up to the cemetery and there are two pitches on the main common, in addition training also takes places north of these two pitches. There is a rarely used football pitch south of the rugby pitches and as we are talking 'training' rugby posts are not required. The centre area of the Common is pleasantly rough pasture, levelling and mowing would ruin what remains of our Common, the club is not the only 'enjoyer' of the Common and it does not own it. However there is third issue: I note in the pictures of the Common shown in the preamble to this survey that there is no photo of the advertising hoarding that blights the middle of the Common, nor the completely unnecessary permanent heavy duty railings (where the crowds that need controlling?) I understand that railings are deemed a requirement by the league... does the league dictate to this council? It should be saying 'thank you' for allowing the erection of goal posts. I also note that the club, without public consultation was given approval for the advertisement boards on condition

<p>that they were were removed at the end of the playing season (I have a note from this council affirming this). The Club has failed to honour this agreement and Covid is no excuse, there is no danger to anyone given the task of dismantling. What assurance do we have that a new training area will not suddenly acquire goal posts and railings. And looking to the future, if the Club is promoted to the next league are we expected to permit the erection of a grandstand! All praise to the Club for its good work and success but the Common is ours not theirs.</p>
<p>Free access is everyone's right, so the remaining common land must be kept available for everyone at any time.</p>
<p>There are other sports facilities in the Town, the Common is for the use of all residents.</p>
<p>As stated the Common provides a wonderful and indeed sometimes life-saving amenity for all members and ages of the residents of Marlborough. This amenity and also the landscape of the North of the town has already been impacted by the presence of the Golf Club and Rugby Club and represents a gradual erosion of the amenity. The existing rugby pitches have enlarged by the erection of crash barriers which themselves are fitted with plastic advertisements which form a disfiguring scar across the Common, visible from a mile away at the edge of Savernake. I understand these banners were supposed to be temporary (Consent 19/07584/ADV - Friday to Sunday , September to April) but this evidently is not followed. Do not underestimate the deterrent effect on free access and enjoyment caused by the presence of a large numbers of muscular rugby players! If the Rugby Club is successful and growing, it should perhaps seek a long lease of suitable land from one of the surrounding farmers. A lesser hindrance to access and impact on visual amenity would be a training pitch further North and parallel to Frees Avenue in line with the existing pitches. I know this would be at higher cost, but not unreasonably so and easily affordable by the large and growing Club Membership.</p>
<p>Leave it green &amp; beautiful</p>
<p>Too uch of The Common is already unuseable by those who do not care to participate in Marathons, football , rugby, golf nor tennis</p>
<p>At the moment golf club has part of the common. The rugby club has two pitches which are surrounded by adverting broads which look as bad as the golf club building. So this club should not be given any more space. Common land is for everyone.</p>
<p>I quote from www.Gov.uk, do we have these lease in place for the Golf Club and the Rugby Club? Selling or leasing rights that are attached to the land You can only sell rights that are attached to the land by selling them with the land itself, unless you're selling or transferring them to either: Natural England a commons council anyone named in an order made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs If you're leasing out rights that are attached to the land, you can only use the same lease for up to 2 years. After 2 years you must make a new lease - even if you're leasing it out to the same person under the same terms.</p>
<p>I strongly object to the proposals on the grounds of loss of genuinely accessible land for walkers, families etc. The Common is a resource for the whole community and should not be 'carved up' further for specific interests. The Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan proposes extending the graveyard and considerably expanding the current rugby club car park. This will further restrict useable public space. Combining these losses with the proposed permanent rugby training facility and also the relatively recent loss of further Common land due to the golf club's driving range, as well as the extensive golf course itself, mean that the informal users of the Common are very heavily restrained to the 'left over' bits between organised formal sports and other uses. Yes, in theory, people can walk across the whole of the Common at any time, but in reality, people don't walk across an active driving range or golf course etc. It will be the same with a permanent training facility and associated car park facility.</p>
<p>I would not like to see any additional common land taken away from the people of the town. The golf club and the RUgby club have each had some land and now they want to restrict the free space even more. I know it says only the weekend Saturday and sundays but how about those of us who work all week and often like to walk the common with family and friends at the weekend. Already it is Incredibly difficult to walk as the common is littered with too many cars between the running event and the football and rugby. These cars are randomly parked anywhere churning up the land often leaving little space for anyone else to walk on the hard standing. The number of cars is a real area of concern and should be dealt with as a top priority. Also the white railings that are now littered with advertising and then the temporary tape that is often put up to stop people accessing the pitches. This only angers dog walkers and walkers alike. It is common land and for the use of the town not just rugby and football. The football club have pitches in Elcot Lane and if they ended their pathetic argument and came to an agreement there is plenty of space for both the Marlborough Town and Marlborough youth to play! St. John's has recently applied for new sporting pitches and this would enable people to park safely too. The common</p>

is full of wild flowers and wildlife and often you can see people walking of all ages and abilities on the common. It is accessible for all and should remain so.

The Rugby Club already has substantial grounds by Frees Avenue and on the common. Irrespective of the pitch being used for 28 days a year, the monoculture grass is 365 days and year as is the implicit "keep off". It's common land, formal, all year - please lets keep it that way.

I feel the common should be a space for everyone and not changed into another rugby pitch. I am concerned for the wildlife in the ground and the birds that feed on the common daily. The kestrels that circle the common will not have a feeding ground if the the rugby club level off the land. The wild flowers that crest pathways around the land are stunning in the spring and the summer. The common land has got smaller and by adding another pitch will crest a corridor down the centre. The railings are never removed and the advertising boards restrict access to land that we are allowed to walk on. I would worry that the club would then install more railings and advertising boards as their number increase. The boundary tape that is often placed again to stop people walking across the space would be again out up and a feeling off Don't walk here!!! The common belongs to the town and the people. It is the only safe and accessible space for everyone and has grown in numbers during the lockdown. Families have been using the space more and more. Kids and their friends playing games etc. The common has been taken over with cars and activities that run all weekend. The College and St John's both offer sports fields and parking. The cars are a huge health and safety risk to people and their dogs.

The common belongs to the town and if we allow another pitch who else will want a bit!!! It's a slippery slope and the town will lose the common land if you allow this

No. I walk my dog regularly and the lose of more space to sporting activities during the weekends would be very sad. It is already very difficult to walk safely when there are so many cars on the land. You have to have eyes in the back of your head to survive! I work Monday to Friday so really enjoy the common on weekends with my family and dogs

Whilst I would support the new pitch I will not because of the additional parking this will cause on the Common which is bound to churn up the beautiful grassland. Also the resulting litter found on Monday's is sadly bound to result too.

The Rugby Club has two pitches on the Common. That is enough.

I walk on the Common from my home in Ducks Meadow on a daily basis, and it's been incredibly important to my mental and physical health over the past 12 months in particular. The Common is a very precious space for Marlborough residents for recreation, and is also a valuable open and natural space (i.e. not farmed or chemically treated, just carefully and sensitively managed by the Council staff) which I believe we should be retaining in its current state, not giving over even more land to sports facilities. The Common is for the use of the people of Marlborough, which I'm assuming means all of those of us who live IN the town. The rugby club (MRFC) draws its members from well beyond the town boundary of Marlborough (perhaps they could supply location information for all their members to the town council? Not actual addresses just the name of the town/village members live in) and continues to grow. While this is a positive thing for MRFC I feel strongly that the people of Marlborough should not have to sacrifice more of their open and natural space because MRFC is growing. I understand MRFC has ambitions to go up a league and will then need even more space and possibly permanent seating. If that's the case they need to be looking around elsewhere for a larger space outside the town at which they can base themselves, not expecting that the Common will meet this need. In the interim, if they're in need of further training space they could consider the playing fields at Marlborough St Marys, or the fields at St John's, both of which have parking, which is another significant concern in relation to further expansion of their facilities on the Common. Parking on the Common when training and matches are taking place is already packed, with some drivers behaving with complete disrespect for other users of the Common. Increased car journeys to the Common also worsen the already bad situation with regards to pollution from traffic in the town. Also, shouldn't all these considerations and the possible impact of another training pitch be factored in to the discussions surrounding the neighbourhood plan? I hope that the Town Council will examine very carefully the statements MRFC have made about the numbers of children "in Marlborough" (MRFC's words) who are in need of this training facility as they seem inflated and most likely include children from a far wider area, not just the children of Marlborough. On their website (<https://marlboroughrfc.rfu.club/information/training-area-faqs>) they currently state this: "The rugby club currently has around 370 young players (under 18 years old) players currently registered with England Rugby Football Union (RFU); the Youth Football Club has around 430 players on their books. This is around 20% of the 3-18 years old in the Marlborough community area." There is no evidence provided that all these children live within what they refer to as "the Marlborough community area" and they don't define what that area is. The only truly relevant figure is children who actually live in Marlborough and are therefore residents of the town to which the Common belongs. MRFC should be required to provide precise information about this with supporting evidence. Many of the statements in the FAQs section on the MRFC website are open to challenge and their use of statistics seems designed to confuse. For example their website says: "Do the relatively small number of players have requesting a disproportionate right of access in comparison to the town's 8,400 population? We estimate that over 1,500 minis, juniors, youths, coaches and parents are currently involved plus senior players and many more who have played for, volunteered at or had a child at the clubs over the years." As stated below many of those involved in MRFC do not live in Marlborough. And do the 800 children they state are members of MRFC (370) and the Youth Football club (430), which presumably would be the "juniors" and "youths" mentioned above, really require the involvement of another 700 people (1500 minus 800)? It seems unlikely. I'm not being a NIMBY and I'm of the opinion that physical activity and fitness is incredibly important for all of us, but I think it's important to recognise that the Common is a space which belongs to the people of Marlborough and there are many ways in which people of all ages use the Common to maintain their physical and mental health, not just playing rugby and football. MRFC are asking to take Marlborough space for the benefit of people from a far wider geographical area for a very specific purpose (rugby/football) which will adversely impact on activities such as the Park Run and the model airplane club, as well as those of us who walk on the Common and enjoy the beauty and space of the natural environment. I often walk on a Sunday morning when rugby practice is taking place and overheard a conversation late last year in which one parent of a child taking part in training asked another where they lived and the reply was "Winterbourne Bassett". I'm also told by a neighbour whose late husband was very involved in MRFC when younger that the club has seen an influx of new players recently, who are, to quote her, "beefy army blokes from Tidworth", and that the club is becoming increasingly "professionalized" meaning that some adult players from within Marlborough no longer get on the team because of the incomers. While their increased success is wonderful for the club, is this and the resultant expansion going to lead them to demand ever more areas of the Common and more permanent structures? We already have the eyesore of the advertising hoardings, which not only spoil the appearance of the Common when you're on the Common, but which can be seen from miles around. My understanding is that the planning permission from Wiltshire Council specified that they should be removed at the end of the season on the last day of April and reinstated only on 1 Sept. That definitely didn't happen last year and Covid restrictions wouldn't have prevented them from being removed. It's



concerning that MRFC has a history of ignoring planning restrictions. I very much hope the hoardings won't be there on 1 May this year. It seems clear that MRFC is a successful club which is only going to grow but they need to accept that the town cannot accommodate further growth in their facilities. On their website they give examples of other Wiltshire towns with far more sports pitches. Many of those towns (e.g. Wroughton, Highworth) are not confined to river valleys as Marlborough is. MRFC need to accept that the geography of Marlborough and its location in an area of outstanding natural beauty means that space for sports pitches is limited and they need to look elsewhere if they wish to expand. The Common is a wonderful natural resource, which is likely to be used more and more by walkers, joggers and families because the move to homeworking during the pandemic looks likely to have a permanent impact on how much time people spend working from home. At least some people who used to go in to their office somewhere other than Marlborough will be spending at least part of their working week at home and are likely to want to use outdoor spaces in Marlborough more often. We have the forest but it isn't especially safe for walking alone, whereas the Common is. It's also more accessible for elderly residents who don't want to use their cars (or those don't have cars) to drive to other locations to walk. Given that the council has, quite rightly, recently declared a climate emergency, we should be enhancing our natural spaces as much as we can, not turning more parts of them into barren areas (which is what a rugby pitch/training area is). MRFC is a powerful club, and they are clearly determined to get more space on the Common. They push their agenda very assertively (I was at the Town Council meeting in December and "assertively" is quite a polite way to refer to some of their and their supporters' comments). They are a coordinated group who are lobbying hard for this to happen, up against individual Marlborough residents who aren't lobbying or banding together and whose voices haven't been given enough weight (I'm not involved in either group, but I found the complete disregard for the points of view and needs of the model airplane flying club and the park run when the open spaces committee originally granted MRFC's request for a new pitch quite shocking and completely undemocratic). I hope that the Town Council will give the voices of those of us who speak somewhat more quietly than MRFC the weight they deserve. The proposed additional training space would dramatically change the nature and appearance of the Common and it would be entirely wrong for it to be permitted.

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Transition Marlborough. There are a number of issues that arise with this proposal: 1) Precedent - the common was originally registered as 45 Hectares of land. There are now fewer than 10 that are not allocated to specific sporting activity. While a sports pitch doesn't exclude people walking across it, it does prioritise rugby over any other activity and it would change the nature of a further hectare of the Common. If this pitch goes ahead it also sets a precedent for further chipping away and encroachment of the Common land in the future. 2) Polarisation - this consultation is having somewhat of a polarising effect - if people are not fully in support of the new pitch they are being accused of not wanting the best for the children of the town or being 'anti-sport'. If they are in support of the pitch they are being accused of land grabbing and not caring about other life forms, biodiversity and climate change. The reality is that the Common is a finite piece of land with a very specific history and meaning to the town. There are competing demands on this finite resource and people who hold passionate yet differing views on how it should be managed - not just for the near future but in perpetuity for future generations. We would like to see this situation managed in a way that doesn't foster that polarisation but brings people together in their shared appreciation of the Common. 3) Ecological survey and future planning - To that end we support Cllr Nick Fogg's call for an ecological survey of the Common and would welcome the opportunity this offers for more Marlborough residents to learn about what is growing and living on that land. We also support his call for better planning for the management of the Common into the future. Where will the line be drawn on future requests to commandeer Common land for specific purposes? How can what remains of the Common - whether or not the pitch goes ahead - be enhanced for biodiversity and wildlife? How can it be better joined up with other wildlife areas to create vital corridors of life through the town and into the surrounding country? 4) Understanding what 'The Common' means - Commons are a precious reminder of the chequered history of land ownership in this country and public understanding of their significance is generally quite poor. The people of Marlborough are privileged to have this historic, free and open space at their disposal. While we may not be grazing our geese and cattle there any more, there is still a spirit of the Commons that risks being extinguished each time another patch is leased for organised sport. That might sound romantic and flimsy but a Common is the heart of a Community - the words have the same language root, it denotes sharing, freedom, reciprocity, ordinariness, not specialising, open, public. Perhaps it is time to be bold

<p>with planning for the future of Marlborough - to create sporting facilities on another site that has better potential for future expansion and for the Common to be reclaimed and celebrated for the precious wild and open space that it is. If Covid has taught us anything, it is that diverse outdoor activity and safe accessible places to do it are crucial for everyone's wellbeing.</p>
<p>We are losing too much common land to the few</p>
<p>The Rugby Club have appropriated quite enough of the Common already</p>
<p>The Common is open to all users and the siting of a permanent training facility will create an exclusion zone making it an exclusive area. It isn't only the training facility but also the additional parking that would be required and supporters sitting in cars whilst waiting with engines running. Whether intentional or not there is an air of ownership of the common when the clubs meet and other users are regarded as an inconvenience and nuisance. Perhaps the clubs could work in partnership with St John's and co use the facilities that already exist in the town?</p>
<p>The proposal is unclear in its impact on other users. We already have increasing amounts of fencing in the last 3 years. It feels like the common is turning into a recreation ground.</p>
<p>I feel the rugby club have enough free space for their playing fields on the Common. They are a large club and should be seeking alternative grounds for their activities if their utilisation of what they have is at capacity. The Common is an open space for all age groups and for all kinds of community activities. The current permanent rugby club advertising is an eyesore on the Common and should be removed. I have also heard that a member of this club's committee is on the Council, which appears to be a conflict of interest.</p>
<p>I am a member of the rugby club and I do not support the new pitch. I believe the rugby club has plenty of space and opportunity without the added pitch. The common is as it says common land which seems to be disappearing between the golf club and the rugby club. The rugby club has access to the Marlborough college pitches. It has access through the gate by the old cemetery and in fact has its own padlock on the gate to restrict access. If another pitch is allowed it won't be long until more railings increased traffic and other demands will be made. Keep it a space for the town.</p>
<p>Would like to propose that other groups of common users are considered eg children's playground, or an outdoor gym for adults?</p>
<p>The rugby club already has enough space on the common the barriers up there are an eyesore and the amount of traffic at the weekends a nightmare. I am a local resident and use the common for exercise especially during lockdown. It's for all of Marlborough to enjoy. Leave what little space the public have left. I am totally against them having any more of the common.</p>
<p>Leave the common as free common land. There are too many clubs taking parts of it. The rugby club should use its facilities better and liaise with the school and college.</p>
<p>I worry that 800 children apparently playing on the common with the additional cars and people is a huge health and safety risk. Where are the marshalls, first aid etc. The white railings already give you the impression that you cannot access the common. They are a signal telling you to keep off. The common is for the people of the town and that is hugely important for people's mental health and well being. It is impossible to imagine that rugby football and parkrun can run safely with additional cars etc. The common is a treasured piece of land that belongs to everyone and not the greedy rugby club who already have two pitches and use the college ground too.</p>
<p>Enough of the common has been annexed for exclusive use already.</p>
<p>They already have pitches. The town is losing its green spaces and parks. Can they not use one of the colleges 11 pitches? The common is for ALL not just rugby fanatics. Keep it fair</p>
<p>The common is an area as the name implies for common use - not by specific clubs. As it is when I regularly walk up there I have to put up with their sponsorship/advertising hoardings around the pitch which are an eyesore - on what should be a green open space for us all to enjoy - I can't imagine why the town council allowed them. More pitches will result in more congestion caused by cars. Why can't the youth team play in the afternoons as well as the mornings and use the same pitches?</p>
<p>The space for the public is already limited by the current two pitches. Please do not reduce the space further - particularly as the nearest open space, the Rabley Wood area, is being built upon.</p>

We need to preserve open uncut areas for wildlife and for safeguarding the environment.
Parking on common on days when sports activities is already taking up all the road area right down to the old hospital area, more pitches means more parking needed... where are the rest of the people wishing to walk, fly kites or just enjoy the common going to have anywhere left to use??
The rugby club is taking over the common! It looks unsightly with the advertising. Why can't the football club field be used? The common is for everyone to enjoy. Young and old!
During lockdown I know of many people who have used to Common for exercise. There are few areas within the locality that can be easily accessed and especially by those who require firmer and more level surfaces. Children and adults alike can enjoy walking and exercising on the Common. To reduce this facility when there are areas such as grounds at St John's School and Pewsey Vale School which could be utilised for training seems short sighted. The schools, by allowing their facilities to be used for training, could also gain financially from renting out their premises. You will see that I fall into an older age category however I work in a secondary school and exercise daily both at leisure centres (when allowed!) and at home.
There are other open areas and grounds that could be used just for training purposes, like the primary school riled behind George Lane and the recreation ground and the football pitch are not used lto full capacity.
One sports club cannot be allowed to take over so much of the Town's common land. The advertising hoardings on the current pitch should never have been allowed.
The Rugby Club have already created an eyesore up the common by leaving their railings and even more unsightly the advertisement boards that litter the sides. They should have been made to take them down after every session, only putting them up for matches. In addition to this, the parking around the common, particularly on a Saturday morning when Park Run is on already makes it a next level Piccadilly Circus with the volume of cars parked along Frees Avenue, the surrounding Side Streets and even more inconveniently the little parking there is at the cemetery, which limits access to paying your respects.
Our beautiful common land is already overrun with Rugby and golf. If the Rugby Club cannot be bothered to follow the simplest of regulations e.g. the removal of temporary banners as requested, they are clearly unconcerned about regulations which are in place. Lots of other residents use the common for walking and other activities. Please don't give yet more land away. Not everyone is a follower of rugby!
They've taken enough of our common already
this is an area use of wildlife and flowers
This DESTROYS wildlife. I have lived here my whole life and the Rubgy people do NOT need another pitch. This is our green area to walk our dogs
No!! Where are we going to walk our dogs. The ruby etc have already got enough space. DONT DO THIS TO OUR WILDLIFE AND SPACE TO RUN
I go running on the common- this is destroying the last bit of green grass that side of town. LEAVE IT ALONE
This is a place for my children to play - I think it's highly ridiculous that the rugby and football teams need ANOTHER pitch. They don't need it. Where are we going to walk the dogs and what about the environment? You pride yourself on being a good place for young people yet you take away all the green spaces. Leave it as it is. It's not yours
I would agree to a further pitch area, on the agreement that an equal area of common land used by the golf club is relinquished and returned to public access.
Uncertain that this is a necessary addition to existing facilities. The common land is a special environmental amenity, further structure will reduce it's natural and aesthetic value and bring in further car usage all at one time. If there is too much demand for existing facilities, can the times they are used for be extended?
Common ground is for everyone, not just sport players
Enough common land is being given over to clubs
Sadly, allowing this would be another step in an already compromised, true common. No doubt the 250 hours would be on weekends, just when demand from all others is maximum.
I believe a common is a common and not a sports facility which it will loose.
There are plenty of pitches at Marlborough College and St John's school that could be utilised by the club. We've already lost enough of the common to the golf club, please don't take anymore.
Too much space given to rugby and golf. What about the rest of us?
The common is beautiful leave it alone
No chance! They have a clubhouse, training areas, a car park and 2 full pitches already. Enough!

This would ruin the Common for others
As a local householder I highly value access to the common . Any further deployment of the land for rugby will severely reduce our access and enjoyment of the facility . We need to recognise that the land is for everyone to share ( for all generation )
It sounds very little, a rugby pitch, but the effect on wild life, wild flowers, public movement, other users, like park runners, dog walkers, etc is huge. The football and rugby club have plenty of space , I really do not see how they can justify taking more to the detriment of others.
The young people of The Town could share with St John's and Marlborough College by arrangement that would leave the Common for wildflower and wildlife keep our open spaces.
I feel that part of the common should be left wild. This would support the flora and fauna of the common, and remain a pleasant place for people to enjoy.
I worry that once they get a third pitch they'll start installing more guard rails and advertising. Maybe not right away but in the future. And people are already driving their cars down the paths because they're too lazy to walk to the pitches!
This is not the purpose of our common, it should all be available for all. I question the decision to allow the existing railings and advertising boards? It should never have been allowed.
There is no provision for extra parking. When all of these sports groups are using the common it won't be possible for local kids to just go up for a kick about. Why not put a small play area up. We have just 2 swings at the moment, the kids this side of town would like somewhere to play safely.
Anything put on the common should be for the use of the tax payers who fund the maintenance of the common
There is enough ground on the Common for the rugby now. the Common is for all . the flora and fauna will be lost . Although no Posts will be erected , it will change the very essence of common land ,especially the flora and fauna .
In the past year during the covid lockdown the common has been a very popular place for everyone to enjoy. I walk on the common everyday and have never seen it so busy. Young families, dog walkers, kids learning to ride a bike etc and picnics. The worry is the traffic. I avoid the common on a Saturday morning as the amount of cars that are allowed to park wherever they want is terrifying!!! An accident waiting to happen. there is no organisation and when Park Run is on too there really is no where to walk your dog safely. They run a particular route around the common and if a match or two is on there is very limited space for anyone else. Another pitch in the space allocated will create a single track that goes through the middle that will be full of people watching matches and as you cant walk around the outside of the common for fear of cars and more people where exactly are dog walkers etc supposed to go? A friend of mine had limited mobility and the ground on most of the common is suitable for him to walk safely but not when there are matches on and cars parked randomly. The damage the cars do to the area at the top of the stairs leading onto the common is horrendous. Deep ruts that make it very difficult to walk on. Surely the Rugby club can continue to use the college playing fields as it already does on a Sunday morning. Where are 800 people coming from? I bet there aren't all from Marlborough therefore losing the common is of no concern to them. Surely the common which has always been a place fro the people of the town often used for outside events should remain that way. I remember the carnival and even the horses that grazed there. Lets not lose this valuable piece of space that some don't have as they live in flats etc and keep it an open safe space for everyone. The railings are an absolute eyesore and now littered with advertising. When will they be removed as promised?? How long until we see more railing and advertising not to mention cars. The rugby club does not approve of dog walkers accessing their pitches and regularly puts up a temporary rope fence to stop anyone accessing the ground. This needs to be stopped. Lets not lose the wildlife and the freedom the common offers.
<b>THE RUGBY CLUB/FOOTBALL HAVE GOT TOO MUCH GROUND AS IT IS. THE COMMON SHOULD BE FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY.</b>
I think throughout the Lockdown that The Common has been a real life saver for anyone seeking a walk in a beautiful setting,if anything is to change it would be better to have a better play area for kids and more dog poo/litter bins.The Golf Course being open for walking has been lovely,it is "Common Land"but inaccessible during normal non Covid hours.
I fly model aircraft an if this proposal goes ahead it will stop modelers of all ages meeting as many members work during the week . that means that elders and youth are deprived of knowledge and developments vital to our engineering UK base.
I am a member of the Marlborough Model Flying Club and an additional pitch across the common will prevent my ability to fly model aircraft.
this will finish our model flying at week ends.

i am one of the elder members of the model flying club. i am very concerned about this and the probable loss of my club. i am seeing advise about the legality of loss of amenity for older people.
i am a member of the model flying club. this does appear to be loss of amenity for older people. our club may not survive this in which case i will bring personal action against the council under the above heading.
can the council find the model flying club another field?
I am one of the model flyers. we have been discussing loss of amenity for older people. also i can not find another club to fly with all of the other local ones are full. the nearest is 55 miles away.
this will remove my ability to fly my planes and live.
I am a member of MMFC and am extremely concerned about the increasing loss of a public space, used by individuals and small organisations. to the benefit of a very large club with, seemingly, a large income. If the Rugby club has that many 'paying' members, should they not be looking at purchasing/renting their own facilities rather than taking away from local users?
There is an active model flying group on the field. Further training facilities will encroach on the CAA boundary of the club and potential breach
Silly idea. They only need it for a few hours a week but the natural feel of the Common will be gone. It'll just be one big sports pitch!
I have been a active member of the Marlborough Flying club for a number of years, in that time members have enjoyed the peace and serenity that common lands provides for all. The rugby club is notable for its stretching of common land sharing niceties. For a small club in a small town I believe they have more than enough common land to meet their needs. Give them an inch and they will take a mile. Look after all your community, fresh air and space for all matters.
At present( due to lockdown ) I can easily drive to the cemetery without having to juggle my way past rugby players crossing the road & all the extra cars they bring
I lived in marlborough up to 3 years ago & moved to Devizes. I still consider myself as a Marlborite, I do still come to Marlborough to visit & walk either in Savernake Forest or picnic & run about with my children on The Common I would hate to see more of it disappear under Rugby feet .They already have 2 pitches +the area between the Club & the graveyard.
I am a model aircraft flier, I would lose the facility and the result would almost certainly mean the death of the club. Your question is unfair, because it does NOT make clear or try to set out the consequences of the extra designated sports area being established, to other users of the common.
I have been a member of the Marlborough Model Flying Club since 1980 and had many hours of model aircraft flying on the common, there are no other suitable flying sites in the area, I would have to give up my long standing hobby. To prevent me from following my interest would be against my human rights.
How can one sport with existing facilities justify damaging another sport by seeking a second facility. Yes aeromodelling is a recognised sport.
We frequently walk on the common as we live approx 200 yards away. I am already unhappy about the wall of commercial posters alongside the present rugby field and I certainly object to any more of the common land being taken over for sports on 2 mornings each week.
creating another sports pitch would decimate the wildlife that thrives in the rough grass on the common. The wildlife is an important part of our eco system and we must do all we can to protect this for the future
Another pitch on top of the other's is obviously too much, enough is enough there is other's that need access to the space.
Whilst I live outside Marlborough, I happily travel to the common to enjoy the model flying. The commitment of the members to be friendly and welcoming to all comers is wonderful. All the members take great care and pleasure in their flying, building and, educational roles. Often you will see modellers taking time to help youngsters with the most rudimentary toys. Offering encouragement to go on to bigger projects. To limit or, even lose this incredible asset would be a huge error.
I would support this training facility if only it did not result in more unsightly ads and notices spoiling the natural environment and if it did not keep off the public when not in use for training. Alas, this sort of use usually does spoil the environment
I have many fond memories of flying model aircraft on the common going back to over 60 years ago think it would be bad practice if future generations were denied the opportunity of enjoying the same harmless pleasure.
I feel the extension of the rugby pitch will inhibit the use of the common by people other than rugby players. I have been a member of the flying club for over 25 years and extending the rugby pitches will mean the end of the flying club. Membership of this club has helped my mental state no end, being able to meet up with people who share a similar passion.

prior to moving to Wales i flew on The Common every w.e but if the rugby club get its way it will be a journey for nothing over the winter with such short evenings.
as i work all week the w/e are my only chance to continue with my hobby
I have been a member of Marlborough Model Flying Club for many years, it is my local club, the propose pitch will impact very badly on the ability of the club to function, the position and proposed hours of use only make the effect worse.
while i now live along way from Marlborough but i return at w/e to visit friends & I still enjoy flying on Marlborough Common .Long may it last
I'm a member of Marlborough R/C flying club and I regularly fly on the common. We did have two sites to use however we have just lost the right to fly at the other one. If you bump us off the common it would be devastating for us. We have always flown safely and are always mindful of other users. It is my only place to go to for rest and recuperation and the club camaraderie is great!
I have flow model aircraft on the common with the model club, an additional pitch/training facility will make this impossible due to safety reasons. Model flying has taken place on the common for decades, but his would kill it off.
This would prevent safe model aeroplane flying during these periods and enjoyment of my hobby. Long standing member of Marlborough Model Flying Club.
I object to thensure proposal to remove even more public free movement on Marlborough Common. It is land that mist be preserved for all to use at any time. The addition of advertising banners on our Common is unsightly and should be removed.
Prior to moving to Sussex I flew model aircraft on Marlborough Common regularly for roughly 30 years. Any further encroachment on common land by the rugby club and any associated activities would make model flying unsustainable on safety grounds. Also I feel it worthy of mention that the bad language I remember from 30 years ago and which probably still continues does create problems for the enjoyment of the common by members of the public.
I understand that the the Common is 45 hectares in total and that 35 are already taken up by organised sporting organisations such as the Rugby Club, Golf Club, Tennis Club etc. While I think sporting activities have many benefits, I feel that enough of the Common has been dedicated to these activities and that the remaining 10 hectares needs to be preserved both for the existing biodiversity, which as we know is in steep decline, and to allow people to enjoy being in nature by simply walking, exercising the dog, having a picnic and unstructured games with children etc. I note that much is said about the benefits of sport in the introduction of this consultation but it is widely agreed that simply being in nature also enhances wellbeing. The Common is one of the few accessible and safe areas where people can easily be in nature without driving and enjoy its benefits. In the face of current pressures to build additional housing, we have a duty to maintain areas like the Common for future generations to enjoy along with its biodiversity. I feel the sports clubs need to find alternative solutions to their needs such as buddying up with other clubs and sharing facilities, looking at better lighting so they can play later in the evening, more flexibility in playing times etc. rather than looking at this unique resource
The times proposed are in conflict with other activities on the common. Rugby already has good facilities there.
I joined the Marlborough Model Flying Club in about 1967 when I was 10, before there was a mown flying circle, and was one of the founder members of the club. I became secretary of the club at the age of about 16 for several years before I moved away from Marlborough itself. As my grandfather, father and mother are all buried in the cemetery, and because I still love Marlborough, I regularly make the trip to Marlborough to visit the cemetery and take the opportunity to fly off the mown airstrip. I feel that the barriers and advertising around the existing pitches is out of character with the Common and having a further pitch, especially in the planned position, would put further restrictions on the model flying activity and further negatively change the character of the Common.
The long established model flying club will have have its activities' severely curtailed by this additional pitch. The common should have continuing provision for all activities and not be dominated by just rugby and football.
Prior to moving due to work comments I did fly model aeroplane on Marlborough Common & what a relaxing place with wildflowers ,skylarks . Nature at its best .all to be lost
I feel the Common will be lost forever . Surely it is time with 700 + children ( if you believe the numbers from MRFC should start to buy their own grounds & stop increasing their numbers that cannot be sustained.
The Common is for everyone to enjoy as equal partners not for the chosen .
I am a Marlborough Model Flying Club member and we have been flying from a site on Marlborough Common on a regular basis for many years. I have been regularly flying from this site since 1976 and

<p>gradually the golf course and Rugby Club have been encroaching on our space and on the 'common land'. There are no alternative sites in this vicinity for the Club members to use.</p>
<p>I flew model aeroplanes on Marlborough common for some 20 yrs but due to ill health had to give up. The Common had a wealth of wild flowers &amp; relaxing to see the skylarks . Who will make the final decision where the pitch will go .No it won't be the Town Council .it will be MRFC</p>
<p>I believe this shouldn't be agreed until properly explained. There appears no map or explanation of the exact area under consideration. Any other detail is difficult to find. As proposed, it seems to be the easiest and cheapest option; that doesn't make it the right one! I fully support sport for all and availability of good facilities which all sections of the community can access. MRFC talk about possible improving bio-diversity as a result of the training area. Clarity and firmer proposals are required for this to be credible. MTC mention a bio-diversity plan/review - this needs to be done first and foremost - MRFC need to align their plans with the council's overall strategy. Part of the rationale for the training area seems to be football club young people now needing to train on the Common rather than Elcot Lane. MRFC mention this in their Q&amp;As. There's insufficient evidence to suggest discussions between MFC and MRFC have been detailed and robust enough to preclude better use of Elcot Lane facilities. If inter-club politics are a barrier this is greater reason to say the Common shouldn't be the easy option. MTC seem to have a view that land on the cemetery side of Frees Avenue would be better. I've read the reason against that is £20k increase in costs to develop that land. £20k is not in itself good reason to lose an area of the Common permanently and requires further consideration. Finally, there appears a casual approach to loss of land. I understand the rugby club requires barriers. But temporary means temporary. As soon as the posts went up they needed advertising. And now they appear anything but temporary. Co-Vid is not a valid reason to make them semi-permanent and nor is the reason to advertise. Is the advertising revenue funding the plans to further damage the Common? In summary, the existing proposals if linked to a bio-diversity plan, more detailed and considered may be the right ones. However the case isn't made out to date. MRFC need to be seen to be good stewards of the Common and be seen to live up to their commitments - this means being seen to remove barriers/hoarding when not in reasonable use.</p>
<p>The Common is an area for all residents to enjoy and to walk. We have already lost large areas of our Common to the Rugby Club restricting access and being bullied by their members keep off playing areas. Marlborough Council has the responsibility to ensure The Common is made accessible to everyone. Please, please, remove the unsightly barriers and advertising hoardings on the Common.</p>
<p>The Town Council are to be congratulated for permitting the use of The Common for Model Flying. This long standing activity, which is also a recognised Sport continues to be enjoyed particularly by an older minority of the population where it provides friendship and fulfilment along with the benefits of physical activity and mental well-being. I respectfully ask the Town Council to allow this and other minority interests to continue and not be discriminated against or curtailed through over exploitation of ball sport as is being requested. Like many others, for whatever reason, I am prepared to make a short journey for a few hours of comradeship and enjoyment. Access to The Common is a worthwhile reason for visiting the town to combine shopping, eating and leisure sport whilst minimising travel.</p>
<p>Marlborough should set up a Commons Council. Also limit any permissions to maximum of 2 years as detailed in the gov.uk website. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-common-land">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-common-land</a></p>
<p>The common should be open to everyone. I want to walk my dog without being shouted at by him running in the wrong place</p>
<p>there is ample rugby fields now</p>
<p>I strongly believe that common land ought to be available for all to enjoy at all times as a natural, peaceful haven. The provision of sports facilities would endanger wildlife, create noise and additional damage to the environment. For years I have visited Marlborough and enjoyed the natural peace of the common and would hate for it to be spoilt.</p>
<p>It started with the golf club,then the rugby pitch, now I see a football pitch. And they still want more, and they will get it. Why am I wasting my time?</p>
<p>Why does the rugby club put up railings with advertising on when the agreeemtn was that they were meant to be taken down out of season? Also how many of the Marlborough first team are have lived in Marlborough more than 4 years. I believe this is just benefiting the club not the Marlborough community</p>
<p>We feel that enough of the common is taken up at weekends already,and also more posts,rails and advertising banners would be an eyesore and spoil the beauty of the countryside</p>
<p>The banner advertising left there is disgusting and should be removed immediately</p>
<p>The rude response on another Facebook post about the advertising boards says it all. The rugby club has disregarded the agreement about leaving the boards up for the season only. Claiming they need the income. If the club is so successful and popular I suggest they raise the funds from their members.</p>

I enjoy walking my dog on the common, not on a common over run by MRFC. They already have 2 so why the greed. GREED is one of the 7 deadly sins. Just remember The Common is for everyone not the chosen. I am extremely disappointed with my elected councillors for allowing this to be even entertained.

Any proposed facility cannot be a "permanent facility" as suggested as that would constitute a change to common land designation. That would require an Act of Parliament. Marlborough Common is on chalk grassland, a globally rare and threatened habitat. This valuable pocket of habitat for wildlife has been under attack by the reckless actions of Marlborough Town Council and its employees for years. Skylarks nested on Common until Marlborough Town Council decided to aggressively mow the area where they nested. They are now gone. Large numbers of winter migrant birds used to stop off to feed on the standing grasses until Marlborough Town Council decided to aggressively mow the dead grasses and other plants in the autumn. Birds no longer stop off to feed on the Common in winter. Marlborough Common until recently had an enormous colony of Small Blue butterflies, a nationally scarce and declining species. It was possible to see 100+ in flight in May for many years until Marlborough Council decided to mow the entire common for the battle re-enactment. This reckless act decimated the colony and for good measure the Council mowed the whole Common again in the autumn of the same year. By some miracle a tiny number survived and could be seen in the area proposed as a "permanent facility" for sport. If this proposal goes ahead, they will be gone and Marlborough Town Council will have finally transformed a rich wildlife habitat into a sterile space. Mission accomplished! Marlborough Town Council clearly has no interest in the value of the Common as a rare habitat for nature and absolutely no interest in their responsibility as the guardian of a valuable space that belongs to the people of Marlborough. The world is waking up to the damage that is being done to the natural world but Marlborough's Town Council is blind and deaf to this. The Council is an absolute disgrace and cannot be trusted to look after the Common.

The current pitches aren't used enough to justify another. Try better scheduling of what they already have? The advertising billboards are an eyesore and should be removed.

I am against the siting of the training facility in the centre of the common. There are only 10 Ha of open space left - they want 1 of them... I don't believe this is a fair use of the common and will fundamentally change the nature of the common. The fact is this is only for 250 hours - means they should plan the use of their current area's better. There is also a concern regarding the numbers of cars parking on or near the common. If the clubs numbers are to be believed and I think they are very questionable it would be a big problem. The council needs to put the problem of sports activity space into the area plan and look at the issue holistically and engage with area's that have playing spaces. Perhaps renting space from the college or St John OR investing in a new area. This is as it is a flexible space, good grassland habitat, to be enjoyed by all - keep it that way.

A lot of people I have spoken to are under the impression if MRFC get the 3rd pitch it will run along Freese Ave & not across the Common thus cutting it in half. Who will have the final say MTC or MRFC

Due to all the unsightly banners that they have up most of the time I don't believe they should be able to have any more of the common

I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed third rugby pitch on Marlborough Common for a number of reasons. Firstly, the Rugby Club already have two sizeable pitches, but in recent years they have used up even more Common land with a large club house, a sizeable car park and latterly unsightly advertising hoardings on further land adjacent to their pitches. The Common is for use by all townsfolk, not just the members of Marlborough Rugby Club and I believe that it is time to say to them that enough is enough. The Common is not an infinite source and needs to be protected, particularly in light that a large section will also potentially be lost to an expansion of the town's cemetery as proposed in the new Town Plan. The proposed area for the new pitch is also a haven for wildlife, including grass snakes, insects and numerous species of wildflowers and birds, which I have observed in the longer grassland over the past 50 years. The Common is a valuable resource, and I believe that approval of this application would dramatically reduce the space allocated to the wider population of the town. This is already restricted to a limited area, compared to that granted to the golf, rugby & tennis clubs, yet is much needed for a wide variety of other activities including the annual circus & fairs, park run, dog walking, town events, football, cricket and general use such as picnics or simply flying kites. As Town Councillors and custodians of our Common, I therefore hope you will take all of these points into account before making your decision



Club vote 28-40 members currently difficult due to COVID. Whilst I am writing on behalf of the Marlborough Model Flying Club, I can see that there quite a few questions which we in our minds are asking which will affect many users of Marlborough Common. The question our commoners are being asked "do you want a third rugby pitch on the common yes or no". We in MMFC are very much minority users of the common but do have a valuable role to play in our society and as Marlborough people. We have for instance fielded at least 5 national champions in their own discipline, we have represented Britain at 4 world championships, and many of our current and past members are/have been full size pilots. As a direct result of our club's activities we have fielded an aircraft designer, a rescue helicopter pilot and a top aviation engineer within the Royal Air Force. The MMFC has deliberately put a self restriction of 40 members in order not to overuse our treasured flying site and given joining priority to local people. It is an unseen fact most of these situations have had their gestation on Marlborough Common. It is doubtful if many people are aware that the very first aviators were model experimenters first, as are many current engineers. It is an incredibly difficult task of designing, manufacturing and testing of models. That has been and is the inspiration of many people. In our country we are currently desperately short of engineers. What as a club that concerns us is that we are being more and more squeezed and a further rugby pitch would sow a death knell to our club. Traditionally we have met on a Sunday morning from 11am to sunset. Some years ago we met in the Royal Observers Hut but that is now part of the graveyard. So Sunday being the only day when many working people can meet with the experienced older members of the club to obtain knowledge, wisdom and help with their latest projects. Yes we wish our youth to have extra facilities but that includes youth many generations hence as well as the here and now. If the common is taken over by rugby/football then other activities cannot be taken safely. Please let our council know how you fee be it by letter, emai twitter or whatever. And please bear in mind the extra parking needed. And if you are worried about pollution bear in mind the developments of efficient electric motors and batteries have been developed by aero modellers. We have been officially recognised by our council since October 1968. This is the official response to Marlborough Town Council approved by Committee

Keep open spaces for life!

I am pleased to see the Marlborough Town & Country mag has this - I had no idea this was happening. Re article: how can this waffle end with a throwaway sentence "special training facility to the size of a rugby pitch"! Permanent too :(

I believe if this is granted it will be the beginning of other requests to "hive off" pieces of the common in the future and eventually there will be nothing remaining for those who enjoy walking there. (It has been so wonderful up there in lockdown and being able to use the golf course too!)

Marlborough needs to maintain its open spaces for residents and wildlife to relax and enjoy. To create more traffic will add to more pollution of which this town has more than enough to be *ILLEGIBLE*

What does this mean (timescales)? Are you going to police it with a stopwatch to stop them using it when the annual total exceeds this? Or is it actually permanent? You say you want to ensure the future of the common for all to enjoy. The maximum number will enjoy it when the pre-conditions for using it are nil. If you decide to prioritise the use of one bit of it for a small selective group of people with a particular purpose then you are not meeting your stated objective. You mention precedents for evolving use over the 19th and 20th centuries and then propose provision of a permanent change that is not acting in the "role of guardian". If the kids want open recreational space, they've got it: its called the common. Privatising a bit just for them is nonsense; that "pitch" area is where I have a picnic with my family every Saturday and Sunday morning during the youth football season. The sports club members could get even more exercise by running the other way from the club house and using all the nice flat grass at the top of the College playing fields - there's hardly every anyone there and there's certainly never 100% use of those fields, and usually plenty of room for an extra game. The College is big on outreach and here's a way they could benefit the town, make better use of an under-utilised resource and prevent the loss of a community asset

It is not necessary to have a training pitch there is sufficient alongside the club. The Common is for everyone's use and there is more non players locally using the common than players wishing to train

I have thought long and hard about this, but as I believe strongly that open space such as The Common is crucial to everyone's well being, I think that this request should be rejected. My reasons follow: 1. is the Rugby Club being honest? A suggestion exists of plans to increase the size of the club house and to have a seating stand on the common. Is this present request the thin end of the wedge? 2. Parking. There is already pressure on the common to provide parking for matches already happening and the Park Run. There would be even more space required for even more parking. 3. I would have more faith if the club abided by the agreement to remove the unsightly banners when play is not happening. At present they do not. Would the promise of removing posts etc go the same way? 4. the common already has a very large "no go" area occupied by the Golf Club for the benefit of a few. Is there a danger that

<p>another one is to be created for the benefit of a few. 5. Concern has been expressed over wild life, flora and fauna. All justified. 6. MANP contains a proposal to increase the size of the existing car park and to extend the cemetery to Frees Ave. Both commendable suggestions but even more nibbling into accessible space on the common. To sum up: lockdown has proved beyond doubt that The Common plays a very important part in the sanity and health of every one - young and old. Anyone should be able to go kick a ball, play on the swings (this area could be improved by the way), go to the circus (would this have to move to another part of the common? with the knock on effect on flora and fauna?) have a picnic etc. It must not be the domain of a few. May I respectfully suggest that if the Rugby Club wishes to increase its standing in the league it should be looking for a more suitable venue. As most parents drive their children to events distance should not be an issue. Please leave what is left of the common for common usage.</p>
<p>Does a "special training facility the size of a rugby pitch" mean a rugby pitch? Weasel words! Permanent changes are very dangerous - what next? The Rugby Club has more than enough space. No more development.</p>
<p>As I recall, the club only got planning for their clubhouse and car park because deputy PM John Prescott over-ruled Kennet DC and the Town Council. Common land is for everyone, not a select few</p>
<p>The proposed area for a further rugby pitch is, in my view, taking too much space from public use and would limit other activities. A site to the side would be better - but I understand more costly. Also required would be more car parking facilities so that more green space is taken from around the clubhouse. This town needs more public car parks. Short-sighted development in the town itself leaves only a multi-storey car park by the river, or a space by St Johns Close as options. Very sad. Please add to your survey. Do not throw away!</p>
<p>Please remove the advertising boards. The common is for all public use and should not be restricted on certain days whilst rugby and football are played. Please preserve what is left of this beautiful area, surely that is your duty.</p>
<p>The cemetery car park is often full now for people who want to visit graves and this will only get worse</p>
<p>I believe that an additional rugby pitch in the centre of the common is undesirable. I would not object to a third rugby pitch being placed in line with the two existing rugby pitches and adjacent to Frees Avenue. I wish to hear once again the song of the skylark over the common and to see the flowers growing</p>
<p>The current rugby pitches are rarely in use together and its important to preserve the biodiversity particularly in the uncut areas of the common. If anything, more effort should be made to keep more areas wild. NB we walk on the common daily</p>
<p>As I recall, the club only got planning for their clubhouse and car park because deputy PM John Prescott over-ruled Kennet DC and the Town Council. Common land is for everyone, not a select few</p>
<p>Obstacles erected for sports fields are incompatible with model and kite flying. Attached a copy of the response from Marlborough Model Flying Club (ref p006)</p>
<p>Climate Change. In ticking no, I am making a plea to preserve every inch of the wild flower meadow which over the years has been gradually reduced. Already larks have abandoned the area and bees, butterflies, insects and mammals are all precious. We destroy these at our peril, once gone, gone forever</p>
<p>My objection for an additional pitch and training ground for members of Marlborough Rugby Club is generally as Mr Richard Pitt has voiced, and are as follows: 1. The Chairman of MRFC, Mr Graham Sharp gave a vague and incomplete presentation to the council, for example: 2. an unsubstantiated number of 700 school age children want to play ruggar? 3. car parking, already a big problem causing damage to the common, completely unregulated. 4. wildlife, how can an increase or to encourage numbers if their habitat is destroyed? 5. the increase in MRFC members in recent times is a consequence of the success of the senior team, this being so it attracts players, coaches and supporters from outside Marlborough, therefore it cannot be justified to take ancient rights of the Common to accommodate people from other areas. The common must remain as it is now</p>
<p>The common should not be used for even more sports facilities. I walk the common every day and I am horrified at the continual encroachment by various sports, which is having a devastating effect on the wildlife, flora and fauna. Not just the various pitches but the cars which these sporting facilities attract. Marlborough Common is for ALL Marlborough's people to enjoy. Enough is enough.</p>
<p>There seems enough space for these activities. The Common has lost it's the natural look with wild flowers all chopped down and lazy parents to lazy to park their cars and walk to see their kids play, they even drive up the grassy paths</p>

<p>The Common is for everyon NOT the chosen few. I was born and educated in Marlborough but when I left school I could not get a job let alone trying to buy a house so I was forced to move away. I do come back to visit friends and I read up on Marlborough News Online. The farce with Marlborough Rugby Football Club and Marlborough Common re 3rd pitch. I did listen in on a Zoom meeting with a friend and could not believe the anger and conduct from some councillors really let the town down. One councillor even went as far as saying the common was just scrub land!!!! he obviously has not walked across the common on a lovely spring day or a summers evening when one can see wildlife aplenty. Which brings me to the consultation paper. I do have to ask did Marlborough Town Councillors write the question for the Rugby Club or did the Rugby Club write the questions for Marlborough Town Councillors. Either way it is extremely biased in favour of the rugby club ie a third pitch yes/no or unsure with no plan as to where it is to go. People I have spoken to believe the 3rd pitch to run along the other two ie along Frees Ave. Not true. One also forget when the Rugby Club was given permission for fencing to go around the main pitch they were supposed to take it down at the end of each season but that has never happened. If the club were to go up another league they will need a grandstand. Pray may I ask where would that go? Only 250 hours a year, in fact again this is manipulated figure with the season going from September to March every Sat/Sunday leaving very little scope for other people to use the Common ie Marlborough Model Flying Club who have flown their models on the Common for over 50 years and yet they keep their numbers to 40 as agreed with the Town Council in 1969 (again that was a very sly comment from the Rugby Club). People just like to walk on the common and not have to avoid yet more rugby players. They have 2 pitches, why the greed? I for one like to take my family on the Common to play a kick about or fly a kite etc. Please think again where this pitch (if granted) should go as no doubt the MRFC have got more clout over the council than its people. The common is for everyone to enjoy not the chosen few</p>
<p>I feel the Rugby Club have been treated extremely well already with their clubhouse and two pitches already! Parking is horrendous on Sundays and the continual advertising on the common is an eyesore</p>
<p>I wish to keep Marlborough Common as a common as it is for all to use now and well into the future for our great grandchildren and beyond</p>
<p>I am a wife of a modeller and enjoy the freedom of the common and the wildlife there</p>
<p>I have been in the MMFC since 1970 and still fly models and do not wish change</p>
<p>I feel I must strongly object to the Rugby Club getting a third pitch/training area on the Common. They have more than enough room to train on the two pitches they already have, what next, permanent floodlights and a grandstand?!! The Common is jointly owned by the residents of Marlborough, Preshute and Manton as stated in the Royal Charter and must be kep for us all to use!</p>
<p>(1) 2 permanent sports pitches already occupy ne side of the main common, with more practice areas/childrens ports pitches on the Rugby clubhouse side or the road (2) cars and SUVs access and parking during sporting events is already a massive nuisance and cuts into recreational walking space (3) adequate sports facilities already exist in Marlborough (4) St Johns is expanding its sports facilities (5) conversely the space for recreational woaking (for all ages around the town) is increasingly very limited</p>
<p>Being a senior and head primary teacher for many years I greatly understand the importance of exercise and sports for children. However I feel strongly that the extension of existing facilities would greatly restrict usage for the wider population for whom regular exercise and appreciate of wildlife, flora and fauna are also essential for physical and mental wellbeing</p>
<p>I frequently walk on the common as I live about 200 yards away. I am not happy about the wall of commercial posters all along the present rugby pitch, and I certainly object to any more of the common land being taken over for sports</p>
<p>Use of the Common is an open benefit to all who wish to walk there freely. Such rights, once relinquished, will never return. Access to open green space and fresh air has been a blessing during the lockdown for all age groups, not just for young sports players.... Proximity to the Common was what made us live close by rather than elsewhere in Marlborough!#</p>
<p>Trees. Could more trees, individually and in small groups, be planted widely on the common. This would make the common less bleak and more attractive.</p>
<p>We need more shelter - trees. Wildflower meadows (wildlife, bees etc). Common is an amazing place to be enjoyed by "everybody"! :)</p>
<p>I feel the Common is for the use of the common people and not for the chosen few i.e. Marlborough Rugby Football Club. They already have a fair share of "scrub land" as one member of the Rugby Club/Councillor commented on. This questionnaire is extremely bias towards the MRFC to the degree I have to ask this question: did the council write the "questions" for the MRFC or did the MRFC write them for the council!? With no plan as to where MRFC want the 3rd pitch and not where the majority of the people who attended a Zoom meeting were in favour of ie along Frees Aven. If the MRFC get a 3rd pitch (permanent) where will it go? And who will decide on that. All is NOT clear. Again a very wishy washy questionnaire. 700+ people in the R. Club - where are they all going to park on match/practice days?</p>

Again when the question was asked re amenities to cater for all these extra people we were told extra toilets changing rooms were being installed. Funny they never mentioned a "ladys rugby team" (Marlborough.News) bringing even more people to trample over our common land or scrubland as members of MRFC refer to it + one councillor. Also the extra toilets/changing rooms etc are to cater for the ladies + 700+ children. Who are you all kidding. Please Marlborough Council take stock! of (1) all the extra parking required and not on the common please (2) the noise generated from all the "shouting" - yes they do impact on neighbours/retirement home (3) If and a big "if" the MRFC stated they would sow wildflowers - when would one get the benefit of them? especially as they would be trampled into the ground over the winter. Yes a small amount of trampling is good but not with 700+ children running all over them. (4) very little thought has gone into this proposal and MRFC are "pulling of the" saviour of our 700+ children. How generous of them! and the MTC has fallen for it. I for one and my children and grandchildren would be free to use the common. Not the rugby common for years ++ to come. I have not seen an official list of 700+ children from MRFC.

Its common land & meant to be enjoyed by everyone - the erosion of this space already with the golf course means the general public are losing even more of a common space/facility that they are entitled to - something hugely important and reinforced in particular due to the current pandemic

Our natural open spaces are precious. Flora & fauna are constantly losing habitat all around us and we must stop the mentality of humans above everything else. Please leave our beautiful common alone. We are bombarded at the moment by Sir David Attenborough etc on how we are losing, bit by bit, our natural world. I live in Marlborough because of the space and lovely wild places so close to the town. Let us just pause and stop thinking "oh just another football pitch won't hurt" etc. Let us not turn the common into Hackney Marshes!

I feel that the rugby and football pitches already on the common are enough and are not used that much. Let's keep the common as a common and not erode it into physical activity blocks. The common has been diminished enough by the golf course.

If MRFC are so keen to grab more of our precious Common maybe it is time they bought their own field and stopped land grabbing. The figures mooted but never confirmed: 700+ children; 30+senior team members; 30+2nd team; 30+in ladies team + coaches/ground people+helpers+call it 800 if they all paid £1 you have £800 straight away. But as MRFC & parents are so eager for the pitch to go ahead despite they already have almost 1/2 the common, if they all paid £1 per week for 1-2 years they would have  $800 \times 52 = £41,602$ , x2 for 2 years. A very good start + fundraising, grants from sports councils, + rugby/football association etc. One would have sufficient funds to buy, but then again why would MRFC want to spend money when they can half 1/2 the Common for free. Parking is another big issue our elected town councillors have not taken on board or are all these 800+ within walking distance, that would go some way on keeping our environment clean. Just as a reminder MRFC have on common land club house, small car park, 2 pitches to date, use of a plot of land from clubhouse to cemetery car park. Not sure when they got permission to use that plot or did they? More questions for our elected MTCs elected by the people and not for the chosen few. Someone once told me if you have trouble getting permission from MTC for anything then just become a councillor & yes you get what you want as has proven in the past. But I would not have the patience to listen to all the bickering and back stabbing that goes with it.

## COMMENTS – PEOPLE WHO WERE UNSURE

<p>There is little Flora on the Common since it is mowed relentlessly and no fauna except invisible mice and moles. Regular users do not want it looking like a municipal park, we valued the wilder areas which are now very much reduced.</p>
<p>What would be it used for, not a skateboard park. A cycling or running track would be good</p>
<p>I appreciate the Common as a wild space, good for dogs, etc., and though I support sports facilities for all ages I would hate to see the Common completely dedicated.</p>
<p>Whilst I support initiatives which promote sporting activities for young sters I am also concerned about any permanent changes to the Common. This area is very special and should remain as a fabulous open space for all to enjoy a range of activities. I would want to knoe how big an area was intended for rugby/football and car parking. Is this the best spot for a further sporting venue or can school or other facilities be more suitable. I welcome the opportunity for further discussion as to lose the nature of our Common would be unfortunate at the very least.</p>
<p>You state additional training area, give no details as to what this would look like or what is proposed and not until you fill in survey does it mention training area for rugby and football club, who already have a fair proportion of the Common to train/play fixtures on. May I suggest that before you ask people to comment, you actually should make them aware of exactly what they are commenting on. Something like a 'trim trail' on the Common for all to use may be of better use to more of the towns people, rather than a permanent training ground for rugby/football, where only some can make use of.</p>
<p>It feels like the rugby club is taking over the common, I understand they need another pitch but I feel it should not be done at the expense of other users of the common and consideration for other users of the common. I feel the location of the new pitch should be looked at and consideration should be made to move it further down the common or why has the area of grass directly outside the rugby club house has not been considered, why is it so important to have it in that exact location? Consideration on moving it's location would in my humble opinion help with the objections from other common users such as the flying club and park run. I feel the lack of facilities eg bins, toilets and seating areas needs to be considered. I feel parking needs to be addressed as currently there is no suitable parking and trying to drive up Frees Avenue when the rugby club is in session is dangerous. Cars consistently driving on the grass of the common would damage the grass area. I feel the advertisement boards are not in keeping with the area and I do not understand why they have to be left up all the time. I also feel other facilities such as a better standard of play equipment for other children in the area needs to be addressed as I agree with comments on Facebook there is a need for better/ more play equipment eg slide, roundabout etc for the other children in the area. I feel if location of pitch is changed, more facilities eg play equipment as a sweetner to the community, parking is addressed and the double yellow lines up Frees Avenue is re painted and the traffic warden patrols/ ticket cars would make people more on the side of having it.</p>
<p>The issue for me is the advertising banners that are placed around the rugby field. They look terrible, and completely destroy the open beauty of the common. I am also unsure as to why the rugby and football clubs do not use the facilities at St John's. I understand that St John's is expanding its playing fields. Would it not make sense for everyone to combine forces?</p>
<p>If the rugby and football pitch was installed but wasn't fenced off with permanent fencing and advertising hoardings, I feel that there would be more support from the local community about the space being shared. If however, the provision of the pitch restricted peoples movement in some way, I am not in support of the idea. One group of users cannot take precedent over another group of users. All the community should have access which is equal and on a shared basis.</p>
<p>Happy for it to be used by Marlborough youth football club at weekends but why do we need more rugby facilities? The rugby club is already there. The common is a great local space for lots of activities that suits a wide variety of personal tastes would not support erosion of this for a single interest group.</p>
<p>As a dog Walker and parent of a young rugby enthusiast I am torn as I find the space for walking freely is being squeezed either side from clubs restricting access to the public and so being seen as a nuisance by players.</p>
<p>What would happen to park run</p>
<p>Option must be open to share for kids and dog walkers. It cannot be exclusive, that would not be fair</p>
<p>I can see the advantage to young people in our town to have somewhere to go &amp; healthy activities to join. It also concerns me that there is very little for young people to do here. However my bigger concern is how much more of our common will be taken over and will this set a precedent for the future and so even more will be lost to the general public. I would also like complete assurance that anyone driving young</p>

people to the common will be policed much more efficiently and effectively than in the past as some of these have always parked extremely selfishly before.
I don't know where the area would be sited. There appear to be plans for extra car parking too. So I am concerned about more loss of open space. I would favour some space used for junior sport e.g. football.
Would the new training area be able to be used by the public on the days not being used by the football club? I use the common almost daily, as i love the free space for dog walking, kids games and exercise.
What do you mean by a 'training facility'? Just grass mowed and marked out or fences or posts, AstroTurf, a building of some sort?
If it's all kept over to one side I don't see the problem, but if encroaches on the middle of the common where most walkers go then I don't agree.
I live on Rabley Wood View and we have lost our park and play space due to the building development. I think that provision should be made for children and young people who live near the Common, not only Rugby and Football players. A good play area and maybe an outdoor gym for all ages. Older people walk there. The most should be made of ghespace for all ages.
Not against the proposal in principle, so long as it doesn't impact other activities that take place on the Common on Sat & Sun, e.g. the Marlborough Parkrun. If it was to have a significant negative impact on those other users then I do object to the proposal.
My issue with having extra playing space is where will all the cars be parked? When there are lots of people up there on match days the traffic is chaos, the clubs should proved parking marshals for before and after the training/match's.
Compleatly support keeping Marlborough fit amd healthy as long as it does not effect the weekly parkrun or cause a hazard on free Avenue.
Although I agree that the youth of the area needs facilities to ensure that they can carry out their sport, I have concerns about parking in this area. Also if they start fencing the playing areas, it restricts others who want to use the common.
Will this affect Parkrun?
I am hesitant to agree to another football/rugby pitch on the common when there is a perfectly good recreation ground in the town. I cannot see why a wooden /temporary club house couldn't be established on this site.
We would not support provision of another playing field in the area adjacent (ie to the east) of the current rugby pitches as this is an area of rough grass, important for biodiversity and gives the Common its special feel of being different from a municipal park in that it is not manicured, and leaves space for insects, plants and supports more birdlife than close-mown grass can ever do. We walk there a lot and see how popular an area it is. PS - The feel of the Common has already been changed by the permanent rugby advertising hoardings - not attractive!
Parking is a huge concern and will need to be addressed when a decision is made. Also the advertising banners should be removed after every match/training session - they are incredibly ugly!
I would like to see the mitigation of any new area becoming sterile grass in two ways. Firstly, the diamond formed by the Diamond Jubilee Plantation planted up with wild flowers with just a mown pathway through it. Access to the trees for maintenance could be a small circle of mown grass. Once the diamond is wild, it would show the shape off beautifully and bring a joyful splash of colours through the season. There are other areas on the common that would really benefit from NOT being mown to neat oblivion and a plan could be drawn up to do this with wild flower meadow maintenance being practised. Less mowing, mow some pathways perhaps but let's get serious about leaving wild places and increase the flora and fauna on our beautiful common whilst sport is being played nearby. This is surely the way forward if we seriously follow all the advice we are hearing to allow nature back in, as it really is more important than humans! It means more training perhaps, but less mowing for the future!
I think there should be a training ground but not just for the Football and Rugby Club - the football club have a ground and the rec at Margaret's Mead. The rugby club have taken over 2 pitches and the area in front of the clubhouse. Other sports need to he catered for
I was reading last night that there is now an open debate on the future of the common. We have been asked if we should approve more sporting facilities. Of course we should encourage anything that improves everyone's well being and help and encourage more adults and children to enjoy the great outdoors. We are extremely lucky to have the common. But I worry about the impact on the local community. Especially the residents who live nearby. As it is, the parking is terrible most days of the week. With more cars needing spaces over the weekend to spectate or participate in the extra sports grounds this can only add to the problem. There has been a long standing discussion between the town council and the residents on how we can alleviate the parking problem in Marlborough. A survey, paid for by the Town Council in 2017 high lighted the severity of lack of parking. 4 years later, nothing seems to

<p>have changed! The Rugby Club, I understand has plans to increase the size of their current car park, but this will soon be inadequate if there are to be more pitches and more families driving to the common. Before a decision is made, please could you address this problem on behalf of all the residents that live within walking distance of the proposed new pitches. I understand a Residents Parking scheme is to be trialled in the Kennet Place vicinity, maybe the town council, if this expansion of sporting facilities is approved on the common, could consider a similar parking scheme to be put in place for Kingsbury Street, Silverless Street and The Green.</p>
<p>Where exactly is the extra pitch to go? That would help inform my vote for or against? I hate the advertising banners that totally spoil the look of the common. I'm all for people of all ages playing sport but a map showing the intended use of the space would be useful.</p>
<p>Are pesticides used to maintain the grounds? This is a key concern for me, as our local flora and fauna are losing their wild habitats. All in favour of securing more space for health and wellbeing, but not to the detriment of the wildlife.</p>
<p>we have brilliant pitches at stjohn's why can't these be used?</p>
<p>i play rugby, but i don't think we should like affect other users of the common.</p>
<p>If approved there should be no fixed structures , advertising hoardings etc.</p>
<p>Although I support the use of the common for rugby and football, the additional use should not jeopardise the continued safe use at weekends by the Marlborough Model Flying Club. They are long-established users of the common, so the continued weekend availability. for flying model aeroplanes should form part of a written agreement between the various recreational users of the common.</p>
<p>I am not against the rugby pitch but I am concerned that other users will be squeezed into a smaller area. I doubt the rugby club would be happy for other events to be held on the pitches. The physical barrier alongside the existing pitch has the effect of reducing space for others. Events such as the food fair, circus and park run are more likely (and some already do) use the bowling green which is a legally protected scheduled monument for parking, pitching tents and holding events on. How will you protect the heritage sites on the common? Have you consulted the county archaeologist about your responsibility for the monuments? I am also concerned at the loss of natural environment. The tidy golf course and mown rugby pitch are not natural environments and reduce the meadow grass land area. The common is beginning to feel more like a park than common. Is it time to start thinking about acquiring more open space for all to enjoy?</p>
<p>How on earth can I give an opinion when you don't give information about exactly what nor where?</p>
<p>This is another erosion of a community and wild area asset. The common has lost over 75% of its area to sports all ready. If this carries on there will no wild areas left, leaving people of Marlborough thinking they can't use these areas. every resident should have a informed vote on this issue.</p>
<p>I fully agree that improvements in sports facilities would enhance the health and wellbeing of Marlborough's sports people and affiliates, however if the pitch levelling is undertaken other steps to improve biodiversity in the immediate area should be included. Ideally looking for funding outside of the ruby club, maybe looking to Marlborough collages natural history society to see if they wish to make a project out of this for students who could fund raise and do the relevant science before implementing their work.</p>
<p>Don't want to see this in the centre of the common. Hate the existing advertising paraphernalia that goes with the pitches at present and this should be removed. The Aero-modelling club should stay where it is. The Rugby club are incorrect in saying that the public has no access to the Common land section of the Golf club. They do. It is only the lower section of the golf course which the club own which is private. I have no connection with the Golf Club. I am a frequent user of the Common (not a dog owner either) and enjoy the open space, flora and fauna and wildlife.</p>
<p>I think it's too many pitches</p>
<p>I'm all for community use of the common, especially if it gets kids outdoors and away from electronic devices. My concerns arose from loss of habitat for wildlife and insects. We're losing enough from housing construction in the area. Will there be chemical use in the care of the playing sites? My hope is that the 'husbandry' will fe environmentally friendly, and that there will be less dog poo left behind. As a responsible dog owner, it enrages me to see the amount of poo left 'unpicked'. Mainly we need to ensure the natural environment is not adversely effected.</p>
<p>If this HAS to happen it should be in line with the others and NOT alongside. And No More Advertising Boards!!</p>
<p>I would like to see the results of the flora and fauna survey before any decision is made: we need all the bio-diverse land we can get. If the training pitch goes ahead, this bio-diverse land will need to be replaced elsewhere. Please could the council also consider a plan of how young people can be</p>

supported in their health and well being, particularly with reference to physical activity in a wild outdoor setting, particularly in light of the loss of youth services and the pandemic.
Hi. This really doesn't leave much for anyone else other than golfers and rugby players. How about Elcot Ln?
The provision of another rugby/football pitch would be good to allow more young people to enjoy playing. However I am concerned about the possible detrimental consequences - litter (coffee cups ? ) from spectators watching the matches; damage to the grass areas from extra parking ; loss of un-mown grass areas. It would also take away a walking area during the week when the pitch isn't being used, so really it is a permanent 7 days a week use.
I would support it as long as it doesn't impact other activities especially the model flying club which requires adequate room for safe flying to take place.
Am against this as there will be railings and advertising hoardings - if left as "open" ground then would be happy to support
It's not the pitch so much that I disagree with but the fencing and especially the ugly advertising banners should not have been allowed.
Please don't allow advertising hoardings as currently displayed, and ask rugby club to remove existing ones. They're an eyesore!
Yes but conditionally: - adequate car parking - the preservation of well marked, well kept and protected paths for the elderly (preferably with benches to rest on!)
I am at a loss to understand how one is supposed to make a viewpoint when you have offered NO INFORMATION about what the facility would involve; how it would look or where situated. Ridiculous.
In principle, this is a good idea, getting children out on Saturday and Sunday mornings for exercise and sport, keeping them away from drugs and those County Lines' stooges who sell them. As you rightly point out, over the years change of use has occurred due to different events taking place on the Common, some less noisy than others. However herewith are my concerns and comments: 1. yet more noise on the weekends for those who live nearby. I am not religious, but it was wise of those over the centuries who set aside one day of rest every 7 days, no matter what religion or not people may follow. Lockdowns may have been hard, but, oh, the lovely peace and quiet. 2. yet more traffic and cars in Marlborough on the weekends causing yet more pollution and more carbon monoxide build up above the town. Every little bit helps destroy air quality. 3. further disruption to plant and animal life? 4. surely, years ago, with some foresight, a less controversial site could have been found. Why has the council not worked with local landowners or farmers to find a permanent spot for this kind of sports' training near the town. Has any council member been in touch with Manton Estates or Brian Meehan, the horse training, or other locals with tracks of land they might lend out for 250 hours per week, supplying a parking area for the duration? Perhaps, Rabley Wood should have been designated as such a site? Unfortunately lack of intuition and foresight, as I said, have been the hallmark of so many during the blunders of late, whether local or national. My overall gut feeling is to find another site for this endeavour. Constant noise, parking rage and stress, pollution, bread and circuses, more people rushing about. Is this really what life is all about? Of course, children need exercise, but this could be cutting off your noses to spite your faces?
We need a plan. It would be a shame to encroach on the wild area near the golf club. Could the new pitch be along the side near Kingsbury Street/opposite Highfield?
Concerned about: 1. the fencing off of the area designated, especially if it is to be used as permanent advertising hoarding. 2. extra parking required. 3. its position and appearance. Also could Elcot Lane football field not be used?





# MARLBOROUGH COMMON

## A CONSULTATION

**11 FEBRUARY – 25 MARCH 2021**



The Town Council, in its role as guardian, wants to ensure the future of Marlborough Common as a wonderful recreational open space for all to enjoy. That's why we are running a consultation for views on the creation of a new training area on this land, making more space for sports for young people.

The pandemic has helped to reiterate how important active exercise is to the general health and well-being of the community for all ages, from dogwalkers to young sportsmen and women. Free access to The Common is everyone's right. The issue is whether the extension of existing facilities would restrict usage for the wider population or whether such provision is of greater importance.

There are stipulations set out in law about what common land can and can't be used for and these rules have always been followed or permission formally requested for any works. That said, over the years its use has had to evolve with the changes each generation brings - horseracing in the nineteenth century, helping with the war effort with a military hospital during WW2 as well as a school between the 1940s–1960s. Today it is home to a number of successful sports and recreation clubs – a Golf Club, Rugby Club, Model Flying Club, Marlborough parkrun and a Tennis Club as well as offering some space for other sports, most notably junior football. Many events now take place there too – civil war re-enactments, circuses, fairs, food festivals, car boot sales, dare devil stunt shows, even a hot air balloon take off.

This superb open space is also host to the Diamond Jubilee Plantation and its fruit trees as well as much wildlife, flora and fauna – all important to those who regularly use The Common for recreational walks. So, to help future proof this, we are commissioning a flora and fauna survey so biodiversity and the natural environment can be protected.

Before the Council makes its decision on this issue, one which has aroused strong feeling, we would like to hear your views on whether a special training facility, the size of a rugby pitch, should be created on The Common, as outlined in the question overleaf.

**Please return your questionnaire to Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street,  
Marlborough SN8 1AA to arrive no later than 4pm on 25 March 2021**

**PRIVACY:** Marlborough Town Council has a duty to protect personal information and will process personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Any personal data you provide in response to the consultation will not be published and will only be used for the purpose of the Marlborough Common Consultation. The data will be stored on computer and/or manual files depending on how you prefer to take part.



# WE NEED YOUR VIEWS

1. Do you support the provision of an additional permanent training facility on Marlborough Common for use by Marlborough Rugby Football Club and Marlborough Youth Football Club for use on Saturday and Sunday mornings during the youth football season for a total of 250 hours per year?

YES  NO  UNSURE

2. What is your age? Please tick one box

18 and under	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 – 29	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 – 44	<input type="checkbox"/>
45 – 59	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over 60	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. What is your postcode? This will help us to understand which comments come from within Marlborough and which from elsewhere

4. **Additional Comments (optional)**

If you would like to leave comments about The Common please write them here (you can continue using an additional sheet)

## THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART

For more information, please contact:  
Marlborough Town Council, Council Offices, 5 High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1AA  
or [enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk) or 01672 512487 or 07593 584099  
Responses can be made online at [www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk)