

St Crispin's Leisure Centre - Summary of consultation responses:

80% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with closing the leisure centre. The most cited reasons were:

- Location (cited by 47% of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed)
- General loss to community (43%)
- Loss of squash facilities (38%)
- Use of the centre by younger people (36%)

Respondents were asked for their comments on each of the options for future use of the asset.

Option one: Continue with the leisure centre as is:

Generally, the most popular option with some respondents suggesting it could be promoted more to attract more usage

Option two: Transfer the asset to The Circle Trust to support the expansion of St Crispin's School:

Generally, the second most popular option (16% of respondent clearly objecting to it) with comments relating to:

- The needs of St Crispin's School for additional space
- The overall need for more school places in the borough.
- Potential for some community use to be maintained at the centre should it be transferred to the trust.

Option three: Dispose of the site (with or without planning consent) for residential development:

Almost no support was voiced for this option (with 75% clearly objecting to it), with negative comments relating to:

- Location (too close to school)
- Existing perception of over-development
- Loss of a community facility while more housing would increase need for such facilities

Option four: Use the site to provide other services:

Limited support was expressed for this option (with 42% clearly objecting to it) with comments relating to:

- Support for ongoing community use
- Need for more detail on what services could be provided

There were some specific suggestions for potential uses such as, health services, youth services and school use.

Option five: Demolish the centre and mothball the site for future alternative use, or future residential development

Very little support was expressed for this option (with 78% clearly objecting to it) with comments relating to:

- Existing perception of over-development
- Loss of a community facility while more housing would increase need for such facilities
- Safety concerns over a vacant site
- Concerns over the visual appearance of an empty site

Responses relating to ongoing physical exercise:

Respondents were asked about the impact a potential closure of St Crispins Leisure Centre would have on how and where they exercise. They were asked to select from a range of options for alternative exercise (ticking all those that could apply to them).

About half for respondents (49%) indicated they would use Wokingham Leisure Centre at Carnival Hub. About 20% indicated that they would use a private gym and about 17% that they would exercise outside.

A total of 156 (17%) stated they would stop exercising completely without indicating another option. Of these the two most common reasons were:

- Related to location - good location/can't drive/can walk there as a reason not to continue activities (51%)
- No alternative squash provisions

Other issues raised through consultation:

Respondents were given to the opportunity to explain their answers (with open comments) to the questions about their future intentions for physical exercise and their level of support for potential closure.

The more common themes (mentioned by at least 5% of respondents) were:

- St Crispin's has a good location
- Lack of alternative squash facilities
- Closure would prevent people from exercising
- Parking is more difficult at alternatives
- St Crispins is used by younger people
- St Crispins is more affordable than alternatives
- St Crispins is good for older people who may prefer a quiet gym
- There is a need for more facilities not fewer – to support health and well-being
- St Crispins has a good range of facilities (wider than elsewhere)
- More housing is leading to more demand
- Alternatives will become too busy if St Crispins is to close
- St Crispins has been neglected – investment and marketing would bring more users

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