



FINAL April 2020

Selwyn District Council

Leeston Community Facility - Needs Assessment

Contents

1	<i>Executive Summary</i>	1
	Key Findings	1
	Recommendations	2
	Preferred Site	2
2	<i>Introduction</i>	4
	Location	4
	Context	4
3	<i>Method and Key Findings</i>	6
	Demographic Profile and General Trends	6
	3.1.1 Population	6
	Policy and Plan Review	10
	3.1.2 National and Regional Policy and Planning Framework	10
	3.1.3 Local Policy and Planning Framework	11
	Literature and Best Practice Review	11
	3.1.4 International Trends	11
	3.1.5 National and Local Trends	12
	Community Facility Provision	12
	Sport, Recreation and Community Activity Review	16
	3.1.6 Sports Codes Analysis	16
	3.1.7 Recreation/ Community Groups Analysis	17
	Community Consultation and Engagement	17
4	<i>Analysis and Recommendations</i>	19
	Analysis	19
	Recommendations	20
5	<i>Leeston Community Facility Description</i>	21
	Vision for Leeston Community Facility	21
	Design Focus Areas	22
	Indicative Floor Area	23
6	<i>Site Options Assessment</i>	24
	Results	24
	Preferred option(s)	24
	Appendices	26
	6.1.1 Appendix 1 - Updated Plans and Policies Since 2016	26
	6.1.2 Appendix 2 - Sports Trends	27
	6.1.3 APPENDIX 3 - Leeston community facility site matrix – decision making criteria	30

1 Executive Summary

For a number of years, the Leeston Community have discussed the need for a community facility that caters to a range of sports and community activities. A number of scenarios have been considered over the years¹ including refurbishing existing facilities, however Council resolved to investigate a new community facility development.

The Selwyn District Council (SDC) Long Term Plan 2018 - 2028 has committed to planning the construction of a new facility in 2025/26 at a cost of \$6 million.

The purpose of this Study is to identify the community need for a new community facility in Leeston and present recommendations. Key methods taken to understand the community needs were:

1. Review of demographic profile and analysis of demographic trends
2. Review of relevant policies and plans
3. Review of literature and best practice
4. Review of community facility provision
5. Review of sport, recreation and community activity (primarily via community consultation)
6. Capturing community views through two phases of community consultation and engagement.

Key Findings

From the research undertaken, the following key findings have been identified:

- Leeston contains a **large number of existing facilities** relative to its size and population, especially for sports activities (acknowledging that some facilities are old and dated and could undergo some renovation). Refer to a map and description of these existing facilities in section 3.4.
- **No single group is currently without a venue for their activity**, however older persons groups are generally looking for space that is warmer, more comfortable and has capacity to meet their growing needs.
- There is a **desire for warmer, inviting, community related spaces that are flexible**, multi-use and available for less formal recreation and community activities and events.
- The **Leeston community lacks a 'community heart'**, and a place that people feel comfortable visiting.
- There are opportunities to make **improvements to existing facilities** and the way they are administered, to enrich the network of Leeston facilities.
- Leeston is projected to have **continued population growth** (around 3% per year) that will impact on the demand for community facilities in the future.

¹ The feasibility study investigations began as a result of an approach from Leeston Rugby Club to the Council to take on ownership of their club building to serve as a community facility for the township in late 2015. In 2016 the 'Leeston Community Facilities Feasibility Study' was undertaken which recommended that Council pursue the potential to partner with Leeston Rugby Club in the provision of the Leeston Rugby Club Facility for the community for the short to medium term (5 – 10 years). Following this study, a concept document was developed that looked at what could be done to the facility to bring it back to life and create interest in it as a viable venue for the local community, however at that time, Council resolved they would like a new facility instead.

- Any facility considered for Leeston needs to be **complementary to the wider network of community facilities** and provide a point of difference that will ensure it is well used and reflects the unique identity of Leeston.
- The community have a preference for a new facility at Leeston Park near to the Leeston Rugby Club that would complement existing facilities.

Recommendations

Based on analysis of the research undertaken above, the following recommendations for a new community facility have been drawn:

- Build a new community space that incorporates modern design for flexibility and multi-purpose use. A new facility should not replicate or replace activities already undertaken in existing facilities but provide extra space to meet gaps in provision and to cater for future demand.
- The new facility should be located at Leeston Park near the Leeston Rugby Club.
- Provide the necessary features that support a functional facility such as toilets, change rooms, showers, lighting and storage for sport, recreation and/or performance equipment.
- The new facility should include an arts and culture element that creates a point of difference and connection with the cultural uniqueness of the locality.
- Consider this community space as the 'community heart' that promotes the development of a community, sport and recreation hub centered around the Leeston Park. Imagine 'The Leeston Lounge'.
- This sense of community 'heart' could be enriched by promoting the use of the surrounding network of (existing) community facilities through the activation and accessibility of the various connecting spaces between the physical places.
- As part of that facilities network, modernise the current indoor court facilities contained in the Leeston Rugby Club to make them fit-for-purpose and accessible 24/7.
- Provide resources and consider the 'activation' of the new community space and other community facilities within the Leeston township to promote utilisation through programmes, events and community activities.

Ensure partnership opportunities and financial considerations are explored to create an efficient and effective community facility that can be managed and operated to provide for, reach the greatest number, and benefit the whole Leeston community.

Preferred Site

Following a Site Options Assessment, a location near to the Leeston Rugby Club at Leeston Park was identified as the preferred site for a community space.

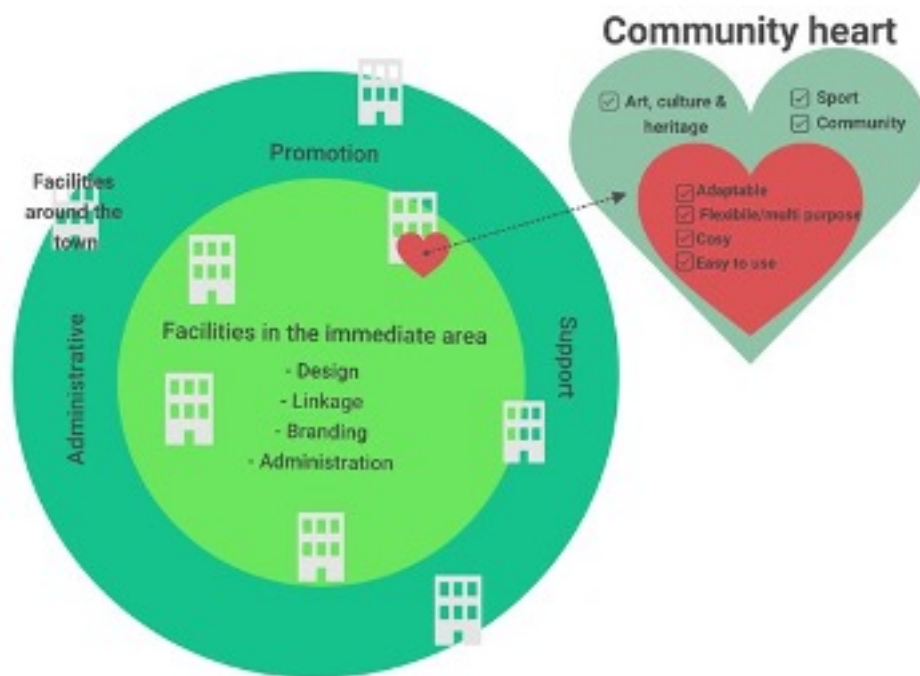


Figure 1. The 'Community Heart', with a focus on providing a place for the community to visit, whilst connecting into other Leeston facilities.

2 Introduction

Location

Leeston Township is located in the Selwyn District in the wider Canterbury region. It is approximately 35 km south-west of Christchurch, surrounded by rural farmland. Other townships in the area include Rolleston (~20km north), Lincoln (~20km north-east) and Southbridge (~6 km south-west). The Rakaia river provides a natural barrier to the southwest of Leeston.



Figure 2: Area map showing Leeston in context with other surrounding communities.

Context

For a number of years the Leeston Community have discussed the need for a community facility that caters to a range of sports and community activities. Funding for a major community centre in Leeston at \$6M has been approved in the 2025/2026 budget and will be funded from the district-wide rate.

While there are a number of existing facilities the community feels that they are lacking something to be proud of. Furthermore, the existing facilities do not fully meet the requirements and needs of the community for various reasons i.e. too old, cold and tired.

With this said there are a range of community facilities in and around Leeston and the community would like to retain these. Community facilities currently offered include:

- 1 x large multi-use facility including sports court, squash, clubrooms and bar facility (Leeston Rugby Club)
- The Station indoor court facility.

- 2 x school gymnasiums (including undersized courts) with priority use for the school, access is limited to evening and weekends, and at the school's discretion.
- 18 x smaller venues - community halls, churches, community meeting venues
- 2 x squash courts are also located at the Leeston Rugby Club facility.

Of the 21 community facilities, (with the exception of the meeting room adjacent to the SDC Library and the outlying rural community halls) all are owned by other organisations, such as churches, schools or clubs.

In 2016 work was carried out via the Leeston Community Facility Feasibility Study, 2016 (the 2016 Study) to determine if the existing (but poorly utilised) Leeston Rugby Club facility could be a suitable location for a multi-use facility fulfilling the gap in community provision. While deemed feasible in the short to medium term, the long term requirements were for a new fit-for-purpose community facility.

In 2018/19 further research and consultation was undertaken to determine the community need, feasibility and potential location for a new community facility. This report presents the findings of the additional research and recommends a way forward for a new community facility.

3 Method and Key Findings

This needs assessment has briefly reflected on earlier work undertaken particularly the 2016 Study (primarily assisting with community use trend analysis). However, this needs assessment was focussed on understanding the community need for a new community space.

Key methods taken to understand the community need were:

1. Review of demographic profile and analysis of demographic trends
2. Review of relevant policies and plans
3. Review of literature and best practice
4. Review of community facility provision
5. Review of sport, recreation and community activity (primarily via community consultation)
6. Capturing community views through two phases of community consultation and engagement.

Each of these methods and the key findings are summarised in the sections that follow.

Demographic Profile and General Trends

3.1.1 POPULATION

Nationally, the population of New Zealand had increased from 4,430,900 in 2013 to 4,957,400 by the end of March 2019².

By age distribution the largest population growth between 2013 and 2018 was amongst:

- people aged 65 years and older (12%)
- followed by those aged 15 - 39 (11%)
- individuals 14 years and under and those aged 40 - 64 years experienced similar increases in population of 3%.³

These growth rates are reflected in the long-term estimates of population in New Zealand to 2068, clearly indicating the ageing national population.⁴

² Stats NZ (source: <https://www.stats.govt.nz>, June 2019)

³ Stats NZ, Population estimates and projections (source: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/topics/population-estimates-and-projections>, Jun 2019)

⁴ Stats NZ, Population estimates and projections (source: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/topics/population-estimates-and-projections>, Jun 2019)

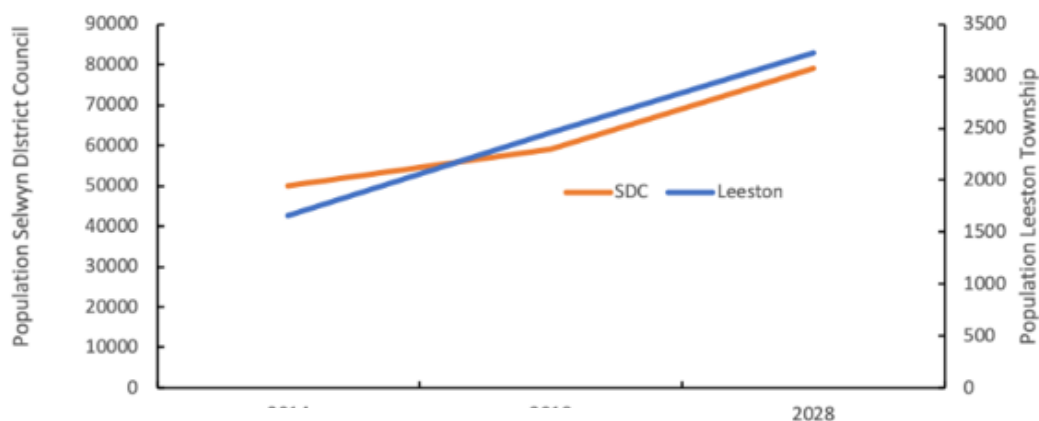


Figure 3: Population of Leeston and Selwyn

Similarly, the forecast for population levels in Selwyn District and Leeston Township continues to project strong growth over the long-term. Within the Selwyn District the percentage of people aged:

- 65 and over is forecast to increase by approximately 4%
- 40 - 64 will decrease 3% by 2028
- there is a small increase forecast for numbers of people aged 15 - 39 years (0.3%) and the 0 - 14 age group (1.5%).⁵

The Leeston population is forecast to increase from 2,453 in 2018 to 3,221 in 2028.

While ethnic diversity is increasing in New Zealand the population of Leeston is predominantly of European descent.

- 94% of Leeston residents identify as European,
- 9.4% of residents are of Māori or Pacific Island descent
- 5.1% identify as being of Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, African or another ethnicity.

Anecdotally, the schools are experiencing small increases in other ethnic groups, especially post Canterbury earthquakes.

Population and Sport

Participation in sport is closely related to age group. The Active NZ 2017 report from Sport New Zealand⁶ identifies declining participation after the age of 14 to 24 before plateauing, then declining again after age 65. Overall participation is reportedly around 5 hrs per week from age 18 to 65 before declining again. As the population of Leeston is forecast to age in the coming years, it could be expected that the demand for sports facilities will decline.

Population and Art

⁵ Stats NZ National Population Estimates (Source: <http://archive.stats.govt.nz>, Jun 2019)

⁶ Active NZ. The New Zealand Participation Survey 2017. Sport New Zealand.

Art is of high importance to New Zealanders. Thirty percent of New Zealanders feel that the arts and art activities provide a range of benefits, “*art helps to make communities more cohesive and interesting places to live*” (New Zealanders and the Arts, 2018; pg.9). The impact that art has on people is becoming increasingly recognised throughout the country (New Zealanders and the Arts, 2018⁷).

Engagement in the arts in New Zealand is growing. Around 85% of New Zealanders had attended at least one arts event in the last 12 months (2014), compared to 80% in 2011 (New Zealanders and the arts – attitudes, attendance and participation, 2014⁸). Furthermore, attitudes towards the arts are generally quite strong with several value statements demonstrating this in Table 3 below⁹:

Table 1 Attitudes of Art in New Zealand

Table 3: Attitudes towards the arts in New Zealand			
Statement	Rating	Statement	Rating
The arts are good for you	88% agree	The arts should receive public funding	74% agree
I learn about different cultures through the arts	86% agree	I don't find the arts all that interesting	72% agree
Overall New Zealand arts are of high quality	85% agree	The arts are for people like me	71% agree
The arts help improve New Zealand society	82% agree	My local council should give money to support the arts	71% agree
The arts help define who we are as New Zealanders	78% agree	My community would be poorer without the arts	69% agree
The arts are strong in New Zealand	75% agree	My community has a broad range of arts and artistic activities that I can experience or participate in	66% agree
The arts contribute positively to our economy	74% agree	The arts improve how I feel about life in general.	64% agree

With this evidence in mind, it is likely that demand for facilities in Leeston that cater for the arts will increase over the coming years.

Population and Community

Facilities and services associated with community uses help bring people together, strengthen community capacity, build community resilience and enhance community

⁷ http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/assets/paperclip/publication_documents/documents/607/original/new_zealanders_and_the_arts_2017_full_report.pdf?1526981303

⁸ Source: New Zealanders and the arts - attitudes, attendance and participation 2014
http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/assets/paperclip/publication_documents/documents/391/original/new_zealand_and_the_arts_research_publication_-_final.pdf?1437364227

⁹ New Zealanders and the arts - attitudes, attendance and participation 2014
http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/assets/paperclip/publication_documents/documents/391/original/new_zealand_and_the_arts_research_publication_-_final.pdf?1437364227

cohesion. When community facilities are developed appropriately, they can cater for intergenerational needs and provide a great legacy for everyone to enjoy.

Community facilities, services and networks help individuals, families, groups and communities meet their social needs, maximise their potential for development, and enhance community wellbeing¹⁰.

Facilities that are multi-purpose appeal to diverse community members such as artists, activists, academics and social entrepreneurs allowing them to share knowledge and experiences. Encouraging diverse communities to come together at a multi-purpose facility can inspire innovative thinking, provide opportunities of collaboration and partnerships¹¹.

The heart of the community is like a community hub. A community hub is somewhere people can go to make friends, pursue common interests and find support when they need it. It's a place that's welcoming, inclusive and connecting. A hub is a space that:

- Meets many needs
- Helps those who use it improve their community
- Has more than one purpose
- Is open to everyone who is part of the community

- Is created by the community, for the community

Another example is the Westgate library in Auckland which has become the 'heart of the west'. "the facility serves for the old and new and is a welcoming place for the community to meet, learn and have fun"¹².

HUB SUCCESS STORY

A Place to Mix, Mingle and Build Community Together

Serving four Calgary-area affordable housing communities and their surrounding neighbourhoods, Patch Hubs has three interrelated goals: reduce poverty, improve health and wellness, and create thriving communities. Appreciating that poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon that requires a multifaceted approach, Patch Hubs pursues its goals in many different ways—from coffee time drop-ins and block parties to tax clinics, parent/baby playtime and open-ended hangout time for kids. All these healthy connections help create real community spirit and inspire the motivation to give back.

"We have a group of single moms who met during a mingle and are now fast friends. They lean on each other when things get stressful, helping each other with childcare, encouraging each other. One of the moms has said she feels 'calmer and happier' because of the connections she's made through Patch Hubs — proof that this is a place where people come together to create hope and to grow resilience."

— Tessa McGarrigle

Figure 2. Success story of a community hub in Calgary

The Netherton Community Centre in Glasgow also provides a range of community activities including room hire for local community groups, parties and special events¹³.

The concepts highlighted above and through the examples presented, align strongly with the Living Standards Framework recently released by the New Zealand government, which

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.sgsep.com.au/publications/innovative-delivery-community-infrastructure-brings-benefits>

¹¹ <https://www.crcresearch.org/solutions-agenda/multi-functional-spaces>

¹² Source: <https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2016/12/multipurpose-community-facility-set-to-become-heart-of-the-west/>

¹³ Source: <https://www.powertochange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Report-14-Success-Factors-Community-Hubs-DIGITAL.pdf>

recognizes that economic and financial measures are not the only measures when considering what matters to New Zealanders¹⁴.

Policy and Plan Review

A number of policies and plans were reviewed for this Study, with the primary source of information coming from the 2016 Study. These need to be considered and understood to ensure this assessment aligns with them appropriately. The list of Policies and Plans is provided at Appendix 1.

3.1.2 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

As mentioned above, the Living Standards Framework is a guiding reference when considering what is important to New Zealanders. As this Framework is refined and developed it will continue to offer guidance for decision making on what is important to New Zealanders. The key emphasis of this Framework is that it '*looks across the human, social, natural and financial/physical aspects of those things that affect our wellbeing – the 'four capitals'*'. It is a tool that emphasises the diversity of outcomes meaningful for New Zealanders, and helps the Treasury to analyse, measure and compare those outcomes through a wide and evolving set of indicators'¹⁵.

The *National Facilities Strategy for Indoor Sports (2014)* and the *Territorial Authority Sport and Recreation Facilities Decision Guide (2013)* remain relevant facility planning documents as referred to in the earlier 2016 Study.

Both documents emphasise the need for New Zealand communities to adapt and redevelop existing facilities as a priority over new build projects. If new build projects are pursued these should have a strong emphasis on adaptive and efficient design. New builds should cater for maximum diversity of current and future potential sport and recreation activities as demographics, diversity of community activities (variety of sports, arts, culture and heritage activities) continue to evolve and expand. Adaptive facilities are required to ensure people can participate in sport and recreation in a variety of ways i.e ranging from formalised club structures to pay for play.

The *Sport NZ Group Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020* identifies Sport New Zealand's (SNZ) aim to have 90% of children active for three hours or more per week, along with increasing adult participation and volunteering. A key focus to achieve this aim is by increasing connectivity with people involved in local delivery of sport, particularly in communities where participation is low. Appropriate community facility provision is important to achieve this.

Research suggests that implementing programmes at the community level enables local leaders to develop solutions that will benefit the community and increase participation¹⁶. Increasing local delivery of sport at the community level supports SDC's community facility provision¹⁷. In this approach SDC might consider an increased involvement in the management and operation of facilities, thereby freeing up volunteer time to deliver activities directly to the community.

¹⁴ Source: <https://treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/living-standards>

¹⁵ Source: <https://treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/living-standards/our-living-standards-framework>

¹⁶ Source: S.E. Vail, Community Development and Sport Participation, Journal of Sport Management, 2007

¹⁷ Pers. Comm. Denise Kidd, Community Relations Manager, Selwyn District Council (11 January 2019)

3.1.3 LOCAL POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

While the SDC policy and planning documents indicate that Leeston has no dedicated community facility, there are a number of facilities owned by other organisations that offer this function (refer to section 3.4).

The Community Facilities Activity Management Plan (2018) defines levels of service standards for community centres. This plan identified that mid-sized townships (such as Leeston) and their surrounding catchments should have a mid-sized facility that caters to 200+ users. This should include:

- a main hall space,
- space for meetings,
- active recreation,
- toilets,
- storage,
- adequate heating
- carparking.

This is consistent with the direction of the Community Centres and Halls Strategic Plan for Selwyn District (2013). In 2016 the Leeston Rugby Clubrooms were identified as potentially meeting this function. However, following consultation on the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, Council decided to explore other options for a community facility to service Leeston. This did not discount the possibility of considering Leeston Rugby Club for some future use.

Council is moving towards providing additional management and operational assistance for new and existing facilities including professional management, programme support and a centralised booking system¹⁸. This is a shift from the previous decentralised system of individual hall committees largely managing and operating facilities in isolation. To achieve the additional management and operational support SDC has appointed a Community Projects Co-ordinator to assist Hall management committees.

The new community and recreation centre which opened in West Melton during early December 2018 is a good example of this new approach; Council has responsibility for managing the facility to maximise usage.

A significant change to the rating system (the way council rates across the District) to provide funding for community centres, halls and reserves will be introduced in 2018/2019 (SDC LTP 2018 – 2029). Previously, community centres, halls and reserves were funded through a targeted rate paid by each local community, which had to meet the majority of costs. The change to a standard district-wide rate means that every ratepayer will pay an equal amount towards community centres, halls and reserves. This will allow SDC to develop larger facilities that are more inclined to meet community needs and assist smaller communities with the maintenance of smaller and older facilities.

Literature and Best Practice Review

3.1.4 INTERNATIONAL TRENDS

International trends support the need for a robust decision-making framework to establish community facilities. A structured process that considers the needs of the community will

¹⁸ Source: Community Facilities Action Management Plan 2018 p11-2.

ensure that any facilities developed will meet both current and future demand. In this context it is particularly important to note the relationship between sport, recreation, and social space. The need for local meeting spaces can be as important as the need for sport and recreation.

Community facilities should ideally be located on public transport and walking and cycling routes. Initiatives such as discounted bus fares can be used to encourage people to attend facilities. While this is desirable, rural locations such as Leeston currently have limited access to public transport in the Selwyn District, although there is a daily bus service for commuters to and from Christchurch City.

The international trend towards a greater reliance on partnership or trust governance structures between community and providers is reflected in SDC's intention to undertake more of a governance role in facility provision and management while encouraging the community to deliver the programmes. Developing Service Level Agreements between Council and Community Committees will be a key priority to ensure a formally agreed way of working together to make the overall project a success.

3.1.5 NATIONAL AND LOCAL TRENDS

National and local trends for the provision of community facilities reflect the need for flexible and adaptable spaces that are centrally located and easily accessible. Many community facilities now provide opportunities for concerts, festivals, exhibitions and meeting places in addition to sport and recreation. Additionally, the provision of adjacent, or nearby services such as cafes and medical centres can make the space more attractive to the community.

Successful governance models for community sport and recreation facilities are partnerships or trusts. Partnerships with the most success tend to be aligned with adjacent school sites such as the Graham Condon Centre (Christchurch City Council) and the Mitre 10 Mega Rangiora Fitness Centre. Declining volunteer numbers and funding emphasises the need for more direct community involvement. Facilities such as the Porangahau Country Club (Central Hawke's Bay) and the Moutere Hills Community Centre typify the interaction between local government support for the funding of the facility and community involvement in the provision of services and activities.

Six key management models for territorial authorities were identified by Sport NZ in 2013, noting that there was no one ideal model. The aim of the document was to provide guidance for which model, or combination of models could be used in a particular instance¹⁹. Management of any community facility requires more focus than before due to the declining number of volunteers and their inability to manage the facilities voluntarily. In the context of a new build for Leeston, Council involvement in the management of the new facility would reduce the time commitment for the diminishing number of volunteers from the Leeston community who could then focus on programme delivery.

Community Facility Provision

The map below provides an inventory of all known community facilities in Leeston. The table further below provides an overview of these, their key features and usage (where known).

¹⁹ Territorial Authority Community Sport and Recreation Facility Management Choices in New Zealand 2013

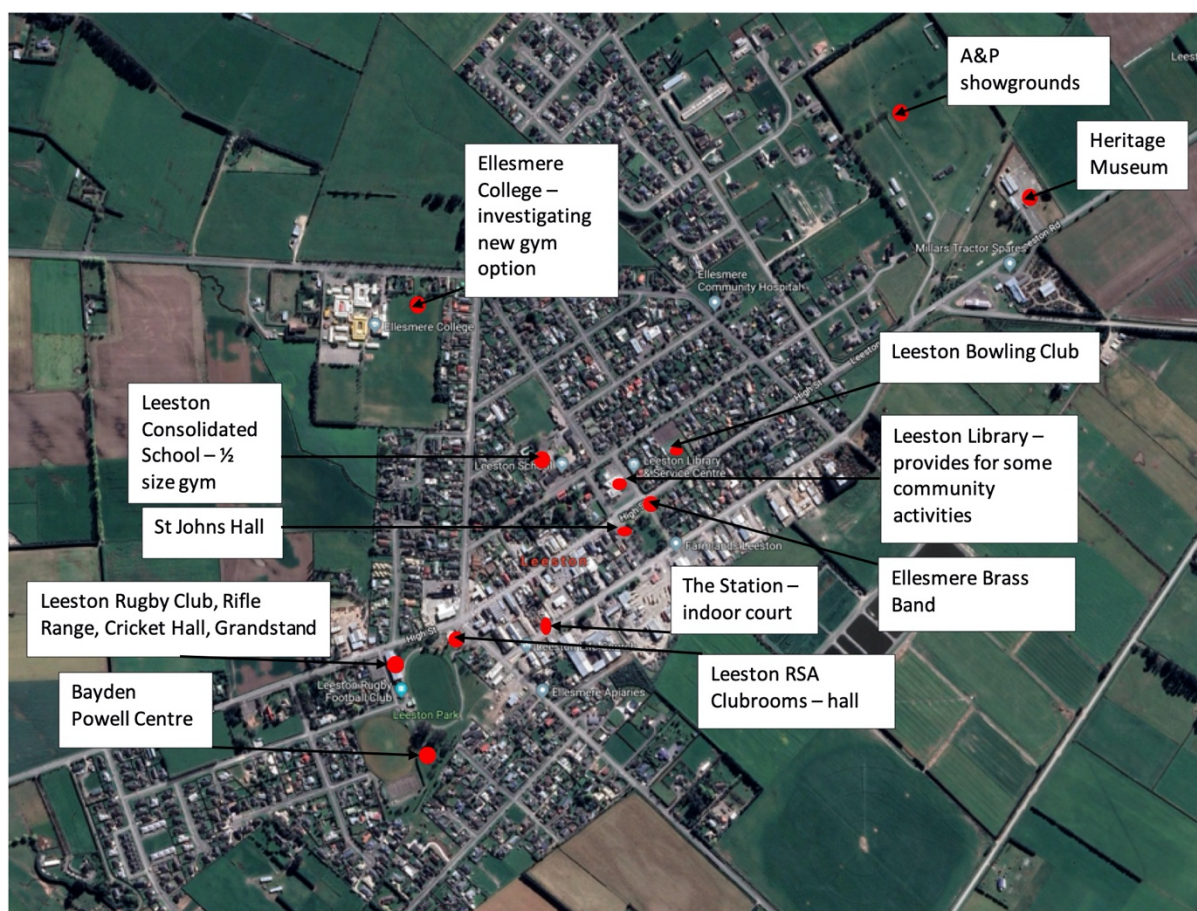


Figure 5: Location of community facilities in Leeston & the Leeston Library Facility²⁰.

There are currently 21 indoor community facilities located in and around the Leeston township. As can be seen from table 2 below, a large proportion of these facilities are small-moderate church or local community hall facilities that cater for small meetings/ events. Numbers are typically restricted to below 200.

Of the 21 community facilities (with the exception of the meeting room adjacent to the SDC Library and the outlying rural community halls) all are owned by other organisations, such as churches, schools or clubs.

In addition to the community meeting/ gathering facilities mentioned above, there are three 'indoor courts' currently available including the Leeston Rugby Club indoor court facility. All are undersized (with the exception of Ellesmere College which the College state is full sized) but provide a function to the local and surrounding community for district competition. No indoor court facilities are currently provided by Council. Two squash courts are also located in Leeston, both located at the Leeston Rugby Club. These facilities are rarely used.

New community recreation centres have been built and recently opened at Greenpark, Dunsandel, Tai Tapu, Lakeside and West Melton. Of note, the West Melton centre also

²⁰ Source: Google Earth, 8th August 2015

includes indoor court space to accommodate a range of indoor sports and the Dunsandel Centre caters successfully to corporate/ business meetings.

While SDC provide multiple community, sports and recreation facilities throughout the district, there is no dedicated indoor community facility in Leeston, particularly for arts, culture and performance. It should be noted that the existing Rolleston Community Centre may be repurposed for art, culture and performance in the future which could provide a central venue for these activities in the Selwyn District.

Larger community and private events are held at the Leeston Rugby Club, Ellesmere College Gymnasium, Leeston Library, and Southbridge Hall, with smaller events being held in one of the other 21 halls or meeting spaces in the Leeston or surrounding areas provided by a variety of organisations.

While not within the boundary of SDC, it should be noted that plans for a Community Sports Facility in Rakaia (~26 km west) are progressing, thus possibly providing another facility close to Leeston in the near future.

Table 2: Leeston Township Facilities

Leeston Township Facilities		
Facility & Location	Size & Facility Provision	Other Details
Cooperating Parish Hall	Small – moderate hall space	
RSA Hall	Small – moderate hall space	
Leeston Scout Den (Baden Powell Centre)	Small – moderate hall space	Owned by Leeston Scouts
Brass Band Hall	Small – moderate hall space	
St Johns Ambulance Hall	Small – moderate hall space	
St Johns Anglican Hall	Small – moderate hall space	
SDC – meeting space attached to Library	Small – meeting room facility	
Ellesmere A&P Showgrounds Hall	Small – meeting room facility	
Leeston Bowling Club	Small – moderate facility	Primarily used for small-scale social functions
New Life Centre/ The Station	The New Life Centre consists of a number of moderate meeting room/ hall spaces, primarily for use by the New Life Church, but available to others. The New Life Church also has an indoor hall/ sports court facility referred to as 'The Station' (discussed further below).	Owned by the New Life Church
Cricket Hall	Small facility located adjacent to the Leeston Rugby Club – used for occasional meetings.	Owned by Leeston Cricket Club (located on Council Reserve)
Rifle Range	Adjacent to the Leeston Rugby Club	

Leeston Consolidated School	Moderately sized hall with associated smaller meeting room space.	Owned by the Ministry of Education. Relatively 'busy' facility used in most part by the school with equipment filling a proportion of the space.
Leeston 'Grandstand'	No meeting space available within this facility.	
Outlying Facilities		
Killinchy Hall	Moderate hall facility and associated kitchen facilities.	Older style hall (wooden). Located approximately 10km from Leeston.
Southbridge Hall	Large hall facility and associated entertainment facilities.	Recently upgraded and the Southbridge community are keen to see this facility utilised more effectively in the future.
Doyleston Hall	Small to moderate hall facility and associated kitchen facilities located on Osborne Park	Older building that has been modernized.
Lakeside Hall	Was demolished and rebuilt following significant damage sustained in the CHCH earthquakes.	Hall space redeveloped.
Indoor Courts		
Leeston Rugby Club	Indoor court (under-sized), squash courts, meeting rooms, bar facilities.	Owned by the Leeston Rugby Club.
The Station	The Station consists of a moderately sized hall space with a stage and facilities for catering. It is popular for moderate sized events however has no liquor licence. The Station also contains an 'under sized' indoor court space which is used on occasion for wet weather training. It has a concrete surface.	Owned by the New Life Church.
Ellesmere College Gymnasium	Indoor court (under-sized)	Owned by the Ministry of Education.

Sport, Recreation and Community Activity Review

3.1.6 SPORTS CODES ANALYSIS

Sport New Zealand produced a document in 2015 that reported on sport participation levels in 2013/2014.²¹ Within that report were trends analyses for a number of sports that compared participation levels in 1997/98 to 2013/14. Badminton, Basketball, Netball, Rugby and Tennis experienced a median decline in participation of 1.9% during that period.

Although there is no recent national trend analysis of sport participation since the 2015 report, there are clear indications that this decline continues amongst the majority of indoor sports that would be expected at the new facility.

Two sports that were not considered in the 2016 Study, Futsal and Indoor Bowls, are experiencing growth at the national level. However, demand for indoor bowls at the local level is in decline, and Futsal have no interest in operating from Leeston.

Club membership			
Sport	Opus report	Current report	Change
Leeston RFC	~330 members as 180 players 50 Golden Oldies 100 Social members	~200 members as 150 players 50 Golden Oldies Minimal Social Members	Declining
Netball	Southbridge 7 teams Dunsandel 10 teams Ellesmere Combined 150 players (16 teams total).	Southbridge 5 teams Dunsandel 10 teams Ellesmere Combined ~130 players	Declining
Tennis	Three clubs, Leeston, Killinchy and Southbridge. Southbridge 25 children, 12 adults.	Total membership in Canterbury suggests a decline since 2016. (Source, Canterbury Spaces and Place Plan 2017)	Declining
Squash	Leeston club reportedly had 25 members at its peak. In recession. Six members using two courts in Lincoln. Sixty members using two courts in Darfield.	Squash continues to struggle in the Leeston area, possibly due to the lack of available courts.	Declining
Table Tennis	Club in recession.	Unable to contact local clubs	Static/unknown
Badminton	Club in recession.	Unable to contact local clubs	Static/unknown
Basketball	~63 members operating from Ellesmere College	Leeston club in recession. Basketball played at Ellesmere College	Static/unknown
Indoor Bowls	Data not reported in Opus report.	Numbers dropping in Southbridge and Leeston.	Declining
Futsal	Data not reported in Opus report	Nationally, Futsal participation is increasing. No current	No presence in Leeston but

²¹ Sport New Zealand, Active New Zealand Survey 2013/2014

Club membership			
Sport	Opus report	Current report	Change
		interest in court space in Leeston.	
Tae Kwon Do	Data not reported in Opus report	~ 7 - 12 adults in Leeston.	Declining
Cricket		Increasing membership over the past three years.	Increasing

Key	Increasing
	Static/unknown
	Declining

For further commentary on the specific sports code user statistics refer to [Appendix 2](#).

3.1.7 RECREATION/ COMMUNITY GROUPS ANALYSIS

A number of recreation/ community clubs were contacted during the first round of consultation which is discussed further in section 3.6. Of those who responded, there was little to no interest in moving from their current location. Cost of facility use was the main driving factor behind a reluctance to move, primarily due to a perception that hireage fees would increase. Another reason was due to Leeston not being central enough.

Community groups such as church groups, play centres and those involved with care of the elderly are generally satisfied with the facilities currently being used.

Other groups have concerns about how the new facility may affect existing facilities' income. These groups would only utilise the facility if it offered what they required i.e. a range of sporting groups are at maximum capacity currently or there is a trend and demand for some groups to move indoors. Some groups said they would consider moving to the new facility (Ellesmere Art Group Trust).

Community Consultation and Engagement

Two phases of consultation spanning several methods of data capture, were undertaken to inform this needs assessment. The detailed consultation and engagement report is contained in a separate document titled 'Leeston Community Facility – Consultation and Engagement Report' (April 2020) for further reference.

Phase 1 involved consultation with stakeholders previously engaged in the earlier 2016 Study and primarily focused on key stakeholder groups from a range of clubs and organisations.

Phase 2 investigated the broader segment of the Leeston community that had not been captured as part of the phase 1 process. Phase 2 consultation and engagement included individual interviews, attendance at a community fete, online and hard copy surveys available including the survey's widespread publishing in the local community newsletter (Ellesmere Echo), school newsletters and brochures were dropped at the play centre, school offices and at the Leeston Library.

Information sought from the consultation and engagement included:

- Club/group membership changes and trends.
- Identification of what additional facilities are in use, any issues and why.
- Identification of the need for a new facility.
- Potential users of a new community facility owned by the SDC.
- Identification of any specific requirements.
- Identification of opportunities or threats to the use of a new facility in Leeston – access, other facilities in the region, distance.

The key findings from the consultation were:

- Overall, there is a **desire for a new community facility** by the Leeston Community.
- The public are conscious that there are **a number of existing community facilities within the Leeston township and they need to be retained** and supported alongside any new facility that is built.
- It was suggested that a community facility could be **co-habited** and used for different activities at the same time.
- Not **everyone was in support of a new build** and a number of people were concerned about the cost of a new facility.
- It was suggested that a **wider range of programmes, activities, tournaments, events and performances could be organised and managed** to assist with the utilisation of a new community facility.
- There is a need for a **flexible, multi-use and adaptable** community space.
- People were looking for a **sense of community** through a space that the community can be proud of and reflects the Leeston identity.
- **Leeston Park was the preferred site** for a new community facility to be developed.
- **Affordability** and other financial considerations were another theme that came out of the community consultation and engagement process.
- According to the community feedback, the new community facility should **include**;
 - Flexible space for multi-use
 - Stage/ music/ performance
 - Large seating/ conference/ meeting rooms/ space for movement activities/ social service areas
 - An indoor court
 - Kitchen facilities
 - Good acoustics/ audio equipment
 - Car parking
 - Designed for post emergency use/ first aid room
 - Entrance/ administration area/ double as exhibition space/ art gallery

4 Analysis and Recommendations

Analysis

Having considered all of the information gathered through the research the following key points have been drawn.

Key Community Statistics:

- Leeston township is located in the Selwyn District in the wider Canterbury region. It is approximately 35 km south-west of Christchurch, is one of a number of small townships in the District and is surrounded by rural farmland. Refer to figure 1.
- The population of Leeston as of 2018 is 2,453. This is forecast to increase to 3,221 by 2028 (around 3% per year)
- The percentage of people 65 and over in Selwyn is forecast to increase by approximately 4% while the population aged 40 – 64 will decrease 3% by 2028. There are small increase forecast for numbers of people aged 15 – 39 years (0.3%) and the 0 – 14 age group (1.5%).
- Leeston community is primarily comprised of long-time residents and commuters²². According to the census data there is not a high level of Māori presence²³ however Te Taumutu Marae is within close proximity to Leeston and has a strong Māori connection with Te Waihora and the rivers near Leeston.

Snapshot of Community Views:

- No single group is currently without a venue for their activity, however older persons' groups are generally looking for space that is warmer, more comfortable and has capacity to meet their growing needs e.g. day club.
- While some respondents felt there was no need for new facilities in Leeston, the majority of respondents would use a new facility.
- The community view (from consultation) is that any new facility should be multi-purpose with flexible space that can be adjusted to suit small or large events with kitchen and bar facilities to suit.
- There is a desire for more community related spaces that are flexible, lending itself to less formal recreation and community activities and events.
- Support for arts and cultural activities with a stage and wall space capable of converting to gallery space should be included.

Key Facility Characteristics:

- Leeston contains a large number of existing facilities relative to its size and population, especially for sports activities (acknowledging that some facilities are old and dated and could undergo some renovation). Refer to a map and description of these existing facilities in section 3.4.
- The Community Facilities Activity Management Plan (2018) identified that mid-sized townships such as Leeston and their surrounding catchments should have a mid-sized facility that caters to 200+ users. There should be a main hall space, space for meetings, active recreation, toilets, storage, adequate heating and car parking. It is considered that although such space may be available, such as the Leeston Rugby Club facility, it is either unknown or not fit-for-purpose as it does not provide a warm,

²² This is an observation from community consultation and would require further substantiation.

²³ 93.9% of residents considered themselves of European ethnicity according to the 2013 census.

inviting place that the community are proud of and wish to be associated with (feedback from consultation about the Rugby Facility).

- Any facility considered for Leeston needs to be **complementary to the wider network of community facilities** and provide a point of difference that will ensure it is well used and reflects the unique identity of Leeston.

Key National, Regional and Local Trends:

- Community facilities need to be flexible and adaptable, centrally located and easily accessible.
- The provision of adjacent, or nearby services such as cafes and medical centres can make the space more attractive to the community.
- If new build projects are pursued these should have a strong emphasis on adaptive and efficient design catering for a maximum diversity of current and future potential sport and recreation activities.

Recommendations

Based on analysis of the research undertaken above, the following recommendations for a new community facility have been drawn:

- Build a new multi-purpose community centre that incorporates modern design for flexible space and multi-purpose use.
- A new facility should not replicate or replace activities already undertaken in existing facilities but provide extra space to meet gaps in provision and to cater for future demand.
- Provide the necessary features that support a functional facility such as toilets, change rooms, showers, lighting and storage for sport, recreation and/or performance equipment.
- The new facility should include an arts and culture element that creates a point of difference and connection with the cultural uniqueness of the locality.
- Consider this community facility as the 'community heart' that promotes the development of a community, sport and recreation hub centered around the Leeston Park.
- This sense of community 'heart' could be implemented using existing buildings that can be refurbished or repurposed, including the promotion of a network of community facilities through the activation and accessibility of the various connecting spaces between the physical places.
- As part of that facilities network, modernise the current indoor court facilities contained in the Leeston Rugby Club to make them fit-for-purpose and accessible 24/7.
- Provide resource and consideration into the 'activation' of the new build community facility and other community facilities within the Leeston township to promote utilisation through programmes, events and community activities.
- Ensure partnership opportunities and other financial considerations are explored to ensure an efficient and efficient community facility can be managed and operated to provide for and reach the greatest number and benefit to the whole of the Leeston community.

5 Leeston Community Facility Description

Vision for Leeston Community Facility

A community facility that is attractive and inviting for all segments of the Leeston community that:

- acts as a 'community heart'
- compliments and encourages activation of the other useful community facilities already in the township
- is cozy and comfortable and acts as a 'third place' – third place defined as 'social surrounding separate from the 2 usual social environments of home and work. Other examples coined as third space include; churches, cafes, clubs and public libraries'.
- is flexible and versatile in design – and might incorporate movable pods, couches, tables, dividers
- Incorporates arts and culture/spaces
- considers an indoor-outdoor flow
- is a place to congregate, recreate and activate
- has the capacity to accommodate large gatherings as well as intimate meetings all in one

Ultimately, the community feel that their existing facilities, while still functional in many respects, are old, cold and tired. They consider they are missing a place that they can be proud of and somewhere they really want to visit and be a part of.

Imagine 'The Leeston Lounge'

Normally:

- a knitting club with people knitting in warmth and comfort
- a group of youth able to do drumming practice (in a sound proof break-out room)
- where friends can meet and relax (likened to a student lounge)
- where mothers and children feel safe and comfortable
- a place for people lounging and playing out on the paved area

On occasion:

- the space converts to a large functional space for community events

Design Focus Areas

The key design focus areas should flow into any future design and should be captured through the design process.

Multi-purpose use and space:

- Versatile main room space (with excellent acoustics) capable of hosting 150 people usually (noting that the space needs to be versatile enough to enable a range of ages and stages to cohabit the space).
- Further large flexible space (connected to main room space so that it can be opened out for a big event) that can be divided into several smaller spaces to provide space for small groups as well as groups of 200+.
- Large hard-standing outdoor area flowing out from the indoor space that can be easily covered over to expand available space for accommodating larger groups. The outdoor area needs to be oriented to utilise sun and provide for shelter.
- Kitchen, bar, toilet and storage space of sufficient capacity to host large one-off events.
- Space for hands-on activities – arts crafts, hobbies
- Space for performing arts practice with moveable stage
- Wall space for displaying arts and crafts – gallery.
- Indoor stage projecting outwards to the outdoor space. The outdoor space becomes an auditorium for seating or eating (marque or similar that is weather proof and the space has the ability to be heated and ventilated).
- Green room or change room that is sound proof, large enough for band practice and could double as meeting rooms, would be good use of space.
- Space for a foyer or reception entrance area if considered necessary. (Note that this space can be often wasted space. The emphasis is on a welcoming facility).
- Consider a library function – focusing on space for displays, exhibitions and perhaps a library extension for programmes.
- Consider the ancillary facilities required e.g., car park space.

Sense of Community:

- A genuine community space that is well activated and helps to activate other facilities nearby.
- A building that the community can be proud of and which reflects the Leeston identity. A cozy, friendly and comfortable space that will encourage community use.
- An attractive and welcoming space to the whole community, old and new.
- Kitchen and bar facilities that encourage socialising and celebration.
- Other functional features such as toilet block, changing rooms, showers, lighting, plenty of storage for sport, recreational or performance equipment, for example.

Connected:

- Provides connections to other nearby facilities.
- Easily accessible.
- Serves as a hub uniting other community facilities either physically through paths or as a central supplier of information.
- Connection to the surrounding environment (Te Waihora) and Te Taumutu Marae.

Indicative Floor Area

Taking the above into consideration, and utilising the Dunsandel Community Facility recently built as a reference, the following floor areas²⁴ could be considered as a guide:

Total Floor Area: 384m²

Area	Risk Group ¹	Floor Area m ²	Occupant Density m ² /p	Number of Occupants	Reference
Lounge (G15)	CA	117	0.8	147	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Loose Seating"
Multi-use Hall & Stage (G16)	CA	157	0.8	197	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Loose Seating"
Foyer	CA	36	N/A	0	This area will be used intermittently by people already counted elsewhere in the building.
Lobby	CA	13	N/A	0	This area will be used intermittently by people already counted elsewhere in the building.
Reception	WB	7	10	1	C/AS4 Table 1.2 "Reception Area"
Meeting Room 1	WB	24	2	12	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Reading or Writing Room"
Meeting Room 2	WB	27	2	14	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Reading or Writing Room"
Office	WB	12	10	2	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Office Spaces"
Service Room	WB	5	100	1	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Bulk Storage"
Hall Store 1	WB	10	100	1	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Bulk Storage"
Hall Store 2	WB	12	100	1	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Bulk Storage"
Group Store	WB	10	100	1	C/AS5 Table 1.2 "Bulk Storage"
Archive Room	CA	11	10	2	C/AS4 Table 1.2 "Libraries: stack area"
Kitchen	WB	45	10	5	C/AS5 Table 1.2 Table 3.1 "Commercial Kitchens"
Total for Building				384	

²⁴ Source: By Beca Ltd. (2015). Dunsandel Community Facility – Fire Design Report.

6 Site Options Assessment

A long list of site options was identified. Following a screening process this long list was reduced to a short list of sites and then considered through a Site Options Matrix. The short list and matrix assessment is discussed in the following section. Conclusions are then drawn on the preferred site for the Leeston Community Facility.

The Short List of sites are:

- Ellesmere Heritage Park and Leeston Dog Park Site
- Ellesmere A & P Site
- Ellesmere College
- Leeston Park Extension land on Leeston and Lake Road (Carrodus Site)
- Leeston Park site of existing community/sports pavilion (adjacent to Leeston RFC building)
- Catholic Church land on high street

Results

A decision matrix (Appendix 4) was developed to assist with determining the most appropriate site for a facility based on the priority needs established throughout this report. A series of questions were developed under each of the following headings;

- **Overall location** – centrality, space, connection with existing facilities, community. space, unique features.
- **Planning** – services, heritage, planning constraints.
- **Accessibility** – Ease of access, safety, parking.
- **Future Proof** - expansion, complementary use,
- **Risks** – cost, disadvantages.

The various questions were considered and scored numerically according to a site's attributes. These scores were then multiplied by a weighting based on the importance and totalled. The site with the highest total was considered the most favourable.

The sites were each given a sense check against the scoring criteria.

Preferred option(s)

The preferred option based on the scoring from the Decision Matrix and a sense check, was **Leeston Park adjacent to the Leeston RFC building** (100 points). The A&P Showgrounds scored second on 94 points and the Dog Site Adjacent to the Heritage Area scored 83 points.

In terms of overall location, there was a clear outcome for siting a new facility at Leeston Park near the Leeston Rugby Club. This site is central for the majority of residents, close to existing facilities and provides safe and easy access particularly for the young (proximity to schools) and the elderly (proximity to residential care and the local community). Planned future development in Leeston would also suggest this to be a suitable location.

Planning considerations appear to be more favourable for the A&P Showgrounds site (however this requires verification through further analysis).

A new community space is likely to increase traffic and parking in the immediate area that will need to be addressed with a facility at Leeston Park. On the other hand, the space available at the A&P Showgrounds is a considerable advantage of this site.

Leeston Park is a reserve; as a result, future development will need to navigate the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 and the designation that sits across the site. Further to this there are several protected trees that would need to be considered through any future development. These constraints do not apply to the Dog Park site adjacent to the Heritage Centre nor the A&P Showgrounds.

There was little difference between the sites in terms of community accessibility.

The Leeston Park site provides better opportunity to create a destination venue, build on the other surrounding community facilities and promote economic benefit to businesses in the immediate area than the other sites.

There was little difference in the scores for the level of risks between all the sites.

Appendices

6.1.1 APPENDIX 1 - UPDATED PLANS AND POLICIES SINCE 2016

Governing Body	Policy and Plan Document Reviewed in previous study (2016)	Policy and Plan Document Reviewed in current study (2018)
Selwyn District Council	Long Term Plan 2015/2025. Selwyn 2013 – District Development Strategy. Selwyn District Annual Plan 2014/2015. Community Centres and Halls Strategic Plan for Selwyn District 2013. Selwyn District Physical Activity Plan 2007.	Long-Term Plan (2018 – 2028) Annual Plan (2017 – 2018). Community Facilities Activity Management Plan (2018). Eastern Selwyn Community Spaces Plan (2016). Ellesmere Area Plan 2013.
Other local authorities	Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Action Plan 2010.	Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Update (2016).
Sport New Zealand	Sport New Zealand's Strategic Plan 2012-2015 Young Peoples Survey 2012. Spaces and Places Plan for Sport & Recreation in Greater Christchurch. National Facilities Strategy for Indoor Sports 2013. Community Sport Strategy 2015-2020. SPACR Sport Partnership Project 2005. Territorial Authority Sport and Recreation Facilities Decision Guide 2013.	Sport NZ Group Strategic Plan (2015–2020). Active NZ 2017. Territorial Authority Sport and Recreation Management Choices in New Zealand 2013.
Sport Canterbury		Canterbury Spaces and Places Plan. A Regional approach to Sporting Facilities – 2017.

6.1.2 APPENDIX 2 - SPORTS TRENDS

6.1.2.1 Rugby

Membership and trends

At the time the data was collected for the Opus report the Leeston Rugby Club comprised approximately 330 members. Since that report the membership has declined to approximately 200 members as follows:

- 120 players under 16
- 30 senior players
- 50 Golden Oldies

There is minimal social membership.

Leeston facility need and demand

Leeston Rugby Club own and operate the facility that was the subject of the Opus report. The rugby club have a need for a facility but can no longer afford the upkeep of the existing buildings. If a new facility was to be built the Club would require:

- A minimum of four changing rooms to cater for 4 teams concurrently.
- A kitchen capable of providing up to 100 post-match meals.
- Bar and lounge facilities to seat 150 people.

The view of the Club leadership is that any new facility would be of benefit to the wider community if provision for a range of indoor sports was included.

6.1.2.2 Netball

Membership and trends

The number of netball players in the Selwyn District has declined since the Opus report. Dunsandel RFC Netball Club's membership appears to be holding steady with 10 teams being fielded in 2018, the same as before. However, both Southbridge and Leeston clubs are fielding fewer teams than at the time of the last report.

Leeston, along with Southbridge and Dunsandel compete in the Selwyn district competition with most games at Lincoln on the outdoor courts. These courts tend to be fully booked at weekends. The Leeston Netball Club is based at Leeston Park where there are four outdoor courts, two floodlit, and a clubroom. Anecdotally, netball is moving towards using more indoor space to avoid inclement weather and remove the need for floodlighting. Current indoor facilities at Ellesmere College and Leeston Rugby Club are not full-size and the Ellesmere College facility in particular is often not available due to other bookings using the court space.

Leeston facility need and demand

The current indoor facilities at Ellesmere College and Leeston Rugby Club are not full-size courts, restricting the movement of umpires behind the goal line. Furthermore, the Ellesmere College gym is not always available to meet the Club's needs during term time. Due to the small size of the clubroom, the annual prize-giving is held at the Leeston Rugby Club or, as was the case in 2018, the Dunsandel Community Hall as the Rugby Club was not available..

The Club leadership feels that any new facility should include the provision of full-size netball courts to facilitate the predicted growth in netball that is likely to occur if additional indoor courts are available in Leeston.

6.1.2.3 Tennis

Membership and trends

Tennis continues to experience a decline in player numbers since the last report, confirmed by the Canterbury Spaces and Places Plan published in December 2017.²⁵ Approaches to Canterbury Tennis and the local clubs at Dunsandel, Southbridge and Killinchy to gain more recent information was unsuccessful. However, the president of the Leeston Tennis Club acknowledged a decline in the number of local players was primarily due to the lack of volunteer coaches. Leeston players, particularly juniors, travel to other clubs in the region where coaching is available.

Leeston facility need and demand

The president of the Leeston Tennis Club suggested that indoor courts would offer little benefit for tennis in the Leeston area. The president noted that indoor courts in Lincoln were underutilised, principally because little tennis is played in winter and there is no shortage of outdoor courts for the summer months.

6.1.2.4 Squash

Membership and trends

Squash in the Selwyn District and the wider Canterbury area has experienced a decline since 2010.⁵ The Leeston club remains in recession and, in the absence of any local court facilities is likely to remain so, principally due to the lack of adequate facilities. There are a number of junior squash players in the area that are poorly served by the two squash courts at the Leeston Rugby Club, one of which is being used as a weights room. Squash Canterbury did make a representation to SDC to have squash courts included in the Foster Park development, apparently without success. Two main problems currently are the ageing-up of players leading to a decline in participant numbers, and the lack of space for junior development after school hours.

Leeston facility need and demand

The needs of a growing number of junior squash players in the Leeston area is not being met with the currently available facilities. Squash Canterbury continue to emphasise the need to accommodate the changing demands of squash players through the provision of 'pay-to-play' courts. Under this model, players utilise an electronic booking system that charges for the court time and allows access to a facility. This coupled with adjustable walls that allow for courts to be used for squash and a number of other indoor sports could increase participation. There are currently no new squash courts being proposed in the Selwyn District.

6.1.2.5 Basketball

Membership and trends

Selwyn Basketball Club continue to operate from the Ellesmere College Gymnasium and also utilise court space at Rolleston, Lincoln, and expanding into the new facility at West

²⁵ Canterbury Spaces and Places Plan. A Regional Approach to Sporting Facilities. December 2017.

Melton. No current membership numbers or any indication of participation trends at the local or district level were provided, only a comment that basketball participation is increasing, placing growing demands for court space. Other drivers of participation in the Canterbury area include pop-in sessions at the YMCA in Bishopdale, and midnight basketball organised by Canterbury Basketball. The Club provides after-school hoops sessions at a number of locations in the area along with a Monday night schools' competition. A major issue the Club faces concerns split venues as this requires more volunteers. If a double court facility was available, one court controller could control two courts simultaneously.

Leeston facility need and demand

Court space is a concern at the current membership levels. While this might be alleviated to some extent with the provision of more courts at Foster Park and West Melton, there is a demand for more courts in Leeston. Any new facility in Leeston should include a double-court facility to allow for efficient control of the court space. An electronic booking system that charges for court time and allows access to the courts could be beneficial.

6.1.2.6 Cricket

Leeston-Southbridge Cricket Club is growing and has seen increasing numbers for the past three years. There are currently 168 players registered with the club. The number of senior teams has grown from one in 2018 to three in 2020. There are also 11 junior teams. In 2019 girls' cricket was introduced and has expanded to two primary school age teams comprising 21 players. Seventy percent of games are played in Leeston, 20% in Southbridge and 10% at Dunsandel. With no access to a pavilion at Leeston, the club has difficulty finding space for its annual prizegiving and limited changing-room options for the senior premier team and opposition.

6.1.2.7 Other sports

There are a number of other sports that have been played in the past in the Leeston area but are no longer active. Clubs such as Table Tennis and Badminton were apparently quite active in past years but have fallen away as membership has aged, volunteers have declined, and facilities become unavailable. Nationally, Futsal is purported to be one of the fastest growing sports in New Zealand²⁶. However, a Futsal development officer expressed no interest in court space in Leeston as it was believed their current needs are met within the Selwyn District. Indoor Bowls have clubs throughout the Selwyn District, including Southbridge and Leeston. Like other clubs in the area, Indoor Bowls is experiencing a decline in membership and volunteers while struggling to attract younger members to rejuvenate the clubs. There is a rifle range adjacent to the Leeston Rugby Club, however it was not possible to find any information about usage.

6.1.2.8 Recreation and community groups

A number of recreational clubs were contacted during this round of consultation. Of those who responded, there was little to no interest in moving from their current location. Cost of facility use was the main driving factor behind a reluctance to move, primarily due to a perception that hireage fees would increase.

Community groups such as church groups, play centres and those involved with care of the elderly are generally satisfied with the facility currently being used.

²⁶ Source <https://www.nzfootball.co.nz/newsarticle/71771>