



## **Operating Statement: King George V Playing Fields Project**

### **1. Exeter City Community Trust (ECCT): Our Mission and Services**

Exeter City Community Trust is a charitable organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people in Exeter. We currently deliver 49 health and wellbeing programmes focused on helping individuals to "start well, live well, and age well."

Our services are structured across three key strands:

- **Sport:** Providing opportunities for participation in various sports and physical activities for people of all ages and abilities.
- **Support:** Offering social and community support programmes, including our Extra Time Hub sessions for senior members of the community and our supported housing service for those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, in Exeter.
- **Education:** Delivering educational initiatives and skill-building programmes, primarily for children and young people.

The KGV project has several key aims, each reflecting the principles of King George V Playing Fields and the Fields in Trust, alongside the mission and values of Exeter City Community Trust:

- Develop New Health, Wellbeing & Leisure Facilities
- Protect & Enhance the Natural Environment
- Create a Gateway to the Exe Valley River Park
- Deliver Community Developed Provision
- Reduce Barriers to Participation for:
  - People of All Ages
  - Women & Girls
  - Para Sports Activities
  - Lower Socio-Economic Groups
  - Ethnic Minorities
  - Local Residents & Community Stakeholders
- Provide Physical Activity & Social Inclusion for All
- Facilitate Outstanding Youth Development
- Enhance Usage, Safety & Security
- Increase Community Pride

### **2. Current Use of King George V Playing Fields (KGV)**

KGV currently serves as a significant recreational space in Exeter, housing multiple sports pitches and facilities. Fields in Trust plays a vital role in ensuring that these fields remain available for community use and are protected from development that may compromise their function as public recreational spaces.



The facility currently includes multiple grass pitches, tennis courts, an accessible play park, and a pavilion (changing rooms, showers and toilets). Usage of the latter is minimal in relation to its potential, largely due to the need for renovations to make the building more accessible and relevant to the needs of existing and future user groups.

User groups range from use by the general public for walking and play, to structured activities including football and baseball. Over the course of the past 12 months, key users for the structured activity include Central FC, Exeter City Girls' Junior Premier League teams, and the Spitfires Baseball Club.

### **3. Proposed KGV Facilities and Operation**

The proposed redevelopment will significantly enhance KGV's facilities and accessibility, including:

- **A new 3G artificial grass pitch:** Providing year-round all-weather availability for football and other sports.
- **Refurbished Pavilion:** A modern facility with updated amenities, including modernised – and accessible – changing rooms / places, multi-purpose rooms, and a café and events space for the community.
- **Padel Courts:** Provision of 3 covered Padel courts, 2 no doubles courts and 1 No. singles court.
- **Enhanced Grass Pitches:** Improved playing surfaces and potential addition of new pitches.
- **New PlayZones:** Providing additional recreational activities for various age groups.
- **Woodland Trail/Cycle Paths:** Promoting health and wellbeing through outdoor recreation.

**3.1. Proposed Hours of Operation:** KGV would be developed to provide round the clock security for the site, with facilities being generally accessible to the public between 0800 and 2200. Padel Courts will be available from 0700.

**3.2. Potential Users:** The KGV project aims to serve a wide range of community members, including:

- Local residents
- Residents of lower socioeconomic areas
- Women and girls
- People with disabilities, including those with mental health issues
- Ethnic minority communities
- Various sporting clubs and organisations (listed in the document)



**3.3. Partner Organisations:** A range of organisations will support – or be supported by – the KGV project. A list of those currently identified include:

- Exeter City Community Trust
- Exeter College
- University of Exeter
- Central Football Club
- Exeter Strollers
- Exeter City Women's Football Club
- Exeter International FC

#### **4. King George V Playing Fields Management Plan**

ECCT will manage KGV, ensuring appropriate maintenance, safety, and community access generally between the hours of 0800 and 2200. Padel Courts will be available from 0700.

##### **4.1. Overall Goals:**

- Maximise community access and usage of the facilities.
- Ensure the safe and responsible operation of all facilities.
- Maintain high-quality facilities and grounds.
- Promote inclusivity and accessibility for all users.
- Foster a positive and welcoming environment.

##### **4.2. Facility Management:**

- **3G Pitch:** Booking system for organised sports and community use. Regular inspections and maintenance (surface cleaning and brushing). Designated times for specific sports (football, rugby, etc.) or open access. Equipment inspection and repair (where applicable).
- **Pavilion:** Cleaning schedule. Security measures (CCTV, alarm system). Maintenance and repair protocols. Key access control for authorised users (staff and booked groups). Potential for indoor community activities – booking system required. Supervision during peak hours and events.
- **Padel Courts:** Booking system required. Regular cleaning, surface maintenance and repair. Equipment inspection and repair (where applicable).
- **Grass Pitches:** Regular mowing, line marking, and maintenance. Watering schedule (weather dependent). Designated areas for different sports or open play.
- **PlayZones:** Booking system required. Regular cleaning. Equipment inspection and repair (where applicable). Age-appropriate usage guidelines.
- **Woodland Trail/Cycle Paths/Cycle Hub:** Regular trail maintenance (clearing debris, repairing damage). Signage and safety measures (for cyclists and pedestrians).

##### **4.3. Staffing and Roles:**

- **Site Manager(s):** Oversees all aspects of site operations, staff supervision, maintenance schedules, and manages bookings.



- **Groundskeeper(s):** Responsible for the maintenance of the playing fields and outdoor facilities.
- **Facility Assistants:** Assist with bookings, facility cleaning, and minor repairs. Security patrols during evening/night times might be needed. All staff to complete facility supervision, first-aid, and safeguarding training.
- **Administrator:** Manages bookings, responds to queries, manage finances as part of the wider Finance and Resources team at ECCT.

#### 4.5. Bookings and Access:

- Online booking system.
- Clear booking policies and terms of use.
- Designated access points and security measures. Key card/access systems might be needed.
- Emergency contact information clearly displayed.

#### 4.6. Safety and Security:

- Regular safety inspections.
- Emergency response plan in place.
- CCTV surveillance (potentially).
- Clear signage and guidelines for facility usage.
- First-aid facilities available.
- Security personnel (potentially).

#### 4.7. Maintenance and Repairs:

- Regular preventative maintenance schedule.
- Reactive repair system for immediate issues.
- Budget allocation for maintenance and repairs.

#### 4.8. Communication:

- Website with facility information, booking system, and contact details.
- Regular communication with users and stakeholders.
- Feedback mechanisms for improvements and suggestions.

### 5. Wider Public Benefits

The KGV project offers significant benefits to the wider public:

- **Improved Sports Facilities:** Providing modern, accessible facilities for a broader range of sports and recreational activities.
- **Increased Community Engagement:** Creating a central hub for community activities, social interaction, and well-being initiatives.
- **Health and Wellbeing Improvements:** Encouraging physical activity and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- **Economic Benefits:** Potential job creation and increased local economic activity.



- **Environmental Improvements:** The addition of woodland trails and cycle paths promotes environmental sustainability.

Further information can be found at [kgvexeter.com](http://kgvexeter.com)