

Welcome : help shape the future of leisure and wellbeing in Welwyn Garden City

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council is exploring how it can support the long-term health, wellbeing and leisure needs of current and future generations in Welwyn Garden City.

The Council wants to understand local views on the opportunity to provide new and improved leisure facilities, **including swimming and indoor sports provision, alongside wider community, green space and wellbeing benefits.**

The **Panshanger Golf Course site could help deliver this wider vision.**

Your feedback will help the Council understand local priorities and inform future decision-making.

Scan the QR code to take part



Have your say

Please read the information on these boards and complete the survey.

Consultation closes: **31st July 2026**

Complete the survey:

www.welhat.gov.uk/leisure-engagement

Why are we talking about this?

Need for additional leisure

The emerging sports strategy identifies a growing need for additional leisure provision in Welwyn Garden City and the surrounding area.

Need for a swimming pool

Welwyn Garden City does not currently have its own public swimming pool, which means many residents need to travel elsewhere.

More active communities

New facilities could help more people to be active, connected and healthy, supporting physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Requirement for indoor sports

There is an identified need for indoor sports provision, including flexible space for a range of sports, activities and community uses.

Increase in demand

Population growth and changing leisure habits mean demand for swimming, fitness, indoor sport and wellbeing facilities is expected to increase.



The Council is exploring how new leisure facilities could **support healthier, more active communities** and help meet the needs of current and **future generations**.

The site we are considering : Panshanger Golf Course



Existing site

Panshanger is currently used as a golf course. This consultation explores whether the site could help deliver wider leisure, community and green space benefits.

Meeting future needs

The Council is considering how a new leisure provision could be delivered in a way that supports current and future needs.

Landscape-led approach

Any future proposal would need to respond carefully to the site's landscape, existing trees, local context and the principles of Welwyn Garden City.

As part of this early conversation, the Council is looking at whether land at the current Panshanger Golf Course site could help meet future leisure, wellbeing and community needs in Welwyn Garden City.

If this option were taken forward, the site would no longer operate as a golf course. The Council recognises this would be an important change for existing users and wants to understand views on this as part of the consultation.

The red line shows the area being considered. Any future proposal would need to be shaped by consultation, further technical work and the planning process.

Important considerations include access, landscape, existing trees, green space, nearby residents, the current golf use, and how new leisure and community facilities could be funded.



EXISTING EMPLOYMENT/
COMMERCIAL AREAS

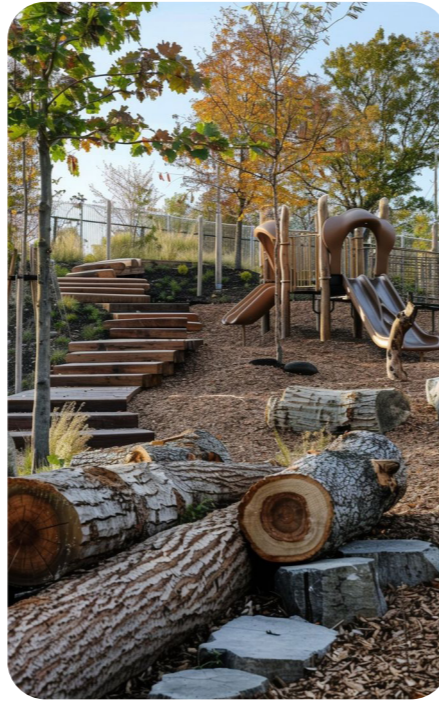
POTENTIAL ACCESS
CONSIDERATIONS

Opportunities for the site

Early feasibility work suggests the site could have the potential to deliver:

- A new wet and dry leisure facility, including a six-lane **swimming pool**, teaching pool, gym, studios, sports hall, soft play, aqua play and café.
- A new **neighbourhood parade** with **commercial space**.
- The View, hotel, bar and restaurant, retained or re-provided.
- Space for a **health facility**.
- A maximum of 500 homes, including family homes of mixed sizes and approximately 140 council-owned social rented homes.
- **Allotments** or a **community garden**.
- Large outdoor play and family activity space.
- **Improved walking routes** and western green space.
- Retention of nearly 90% of existing trees.
- A **landscape-led approach** inspired by Welwyn Garden City principles.

These ideas are indicative and would need to be tested through consultation, further design work and future planning stages.



External play spaces

Outdoor spaces could provide opportunities for children, families and young people to play, meet and spend time together.



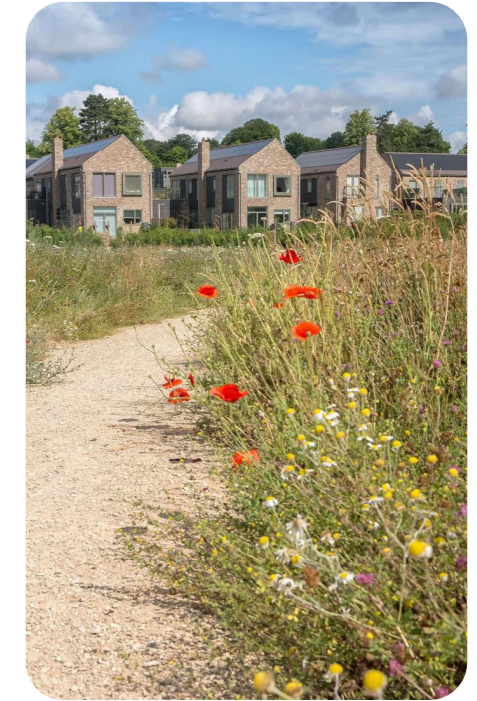
Soft play facilities

The leisure centre could include soft play and aqua play, helping to support families with younger children.



Landscaped trails/walks

Improved walking routes could help more people enjoy the site, connecting with surrounding neighbourhoods.



Integrated nature

A landscape-led approach could retain existing character while improving biodiversity, planting and access to green space.



Leisure centre/facilities

A new leisure facility could include swimming, indoor sports, fitness, studios, café and wider wellbeing uses.



Housing provision

New homes would help fund community infrastructure and provide family housing, including council-owned social rented homes.



Community square

A neighbourhood parade and public space could create somewhere to meet, spend time and access local services.



Allotments

Allotments or a community garden could provide space for growing, learning, wellbeing and community activity.

What could this mean for local people?

Health and wellbeing benefit

New facilities could support physical, mental and social wellbeing by helping more people swim, exercise, meet and stay active.



Improved quality of life

Better access to leisure, green space and community facilities could help improve everyday quality of life for residents.

Opportunities for all ages

The proposal could provide facilities for children, young people, families, adults and older residents.

Inclusive sport provision

Modern, accessible and inclusive facilities to support a wider range of sports and activities for all abilities.

Social connection and local pride

A new community destination to feel proud of, where people can meet and spend time together.



The opportunity is to **create a place where people can swim, exercise, walk, play, meet and spend time together.**

It could improve access to swimming and **indoor sport**, provide activities for children and families, enhance walking routes, **play space and green space**, and support new community uses.

The aim is to understand whether this option could **create wider public benefits**, while also considering local views on this approach.

Have your say : what happens next?

The Council wants to **understand your views on the need for new leisure facilities**, the potential **use of the Panshanger site**, the mix of facilities and benefits that could be provided, and factors that should be considered in more detail.

Your feedback will help the Council understand local priorities and inform future decision-making.

What happens next?

After the consultation closes, the Council will review and consider all feedback.

The findings will help inform whether the proposal should be explored further, what additional technical work may be needed, and how any future plans should respond to local views. Any future proposal would be subject to further design work, planning, approvals and funding.

Final call to action

Please have your say and help shape the future of Panshanger.

Scan the QR
code to
respond

(paper copies
are available
on
request)



How to respond

Please complete the survey by scanning the QR code or visiting the web address below.

Consultation closes: **31st July 2026**

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