

YMCAs of Southwestern Ontario

Association Services 49 Finch Drive, Unit 7A Sarnia, ON N7S 5C6 519-336-9622 www.ymcaswo.ca

January 22, 2019

REPORT

TO: Community Hub/Recreation Project Steering Advisory Committee

FROM: Sean Dillon, Senior Manager Business Development

RE: User Group Focus Group Sessions – Feedback and Analysis

Background

As part of its contracted scope of work, for Community Development Services, the YMCA conducted User Group Focus Group sessions to gather input on the proposed Community Hub/Recreation Centre. Three sessions were held with attendees representing Service Clubs, Social Service Agencies, Aquatic User Groups, Arts and Culture Groups, Field Sports, Sports/Recreation, and Ice User Groups. In all 21 User Groups, represented by 27 individuals, participated in the process. Some groups provided written submissions and those are appended to this report.

A summary of key feedback of each individual focus group follows with combined results and conclusions at the end of the report.

Aquatics Focus Group

The focus group was attended by members of the South Huron Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and the Kirkton Pool Committee with the Mayor Elect also sitting in on the session.

Organizational Profile:

CMHA serves 138 clients in Exeter of all ages. The average age if its clients is 48 however; they report a growing demand for service for youth. 98% of CMHA's clients receive some program support or subsidy, primarily through government and social assistance funding.

The Kirkton pool is a multi-municipality partnership (South Huron and Perth South) that is managed by a committee of volunteers who manage and program this summer pool. No hard enrolment/participation numbers were available however; the representative anecdotally reported the pools runs at 80% of its capacity and estimates 340 children participate in lessons, 3000 public swim participations, 136 Day Camp enrollees, and a staff of 8. The pool serves all age groups and estimates its average user is 40 years old. Kirkton also reports a large catchment area with participants travelling from Exeter and Lucan.

Pool Usage:

The CMHA runs programs throughout the region and accesses recreational pool space for its clients in Exeter, Vanastra, Goderich and Kirkton. The CMHA indicates a continued and growing interest in pool access for recreational and

therapeutic purpose for its clients and supports an aquatic component within the Community Hub/Recreation Centre model.

Kirkton pool runs in the months of July and August and offers a full range of lessons, water aerobics, and recreational swimming.

The group also identified current Vanastra Pool usage by the local Exeter high school phys-ed program and swim team. Additionally; the One Care program was identified as a casual user of recreational pool space for its clients.

<u>Desired Community Hub/Recreation Centre Amenities/Programs:</u>

CMHA -recreation focused pool and hot tub

-walking track

-accessible Fitness Centre

-shared meeting rooms/offices

-community Kitchen

Kirkton -expressed concern with the cost of aquatic centre operation

-expressed concern for transportation needs of those external to Exeter

-walking track

-shared meeting rooms

-kitchen

-Gymnasium/Multi-purpose space

Support of the Community Hub/Recreation Centre project:

Neither group is capable of supporting a capital campaign but CMHA staff indicated a willingness to personally donate. CMHA indicated an interest in renting space and accessing programs on a fee for service basis. CMHA would further be willing to partner on the provision or facilitation of programming within the proposed centre.

The representative from Kirkton Pool indicated general support for recreation programs and facilities but is not supportive of including an aquatic centre within that model.

Social Service Agencies, Service Clubs, Arts, Culture and Community Groups Focus Group

This Focus Group saw participation from 12 different groups:

Exeter Food Bank Alzheimer's Society Community Theatre

South Huron Optimists Club MS Society South Huron Cultural Collective

Centralia/Huron Park Lions Club Communities in Bloom South Huron Band

Huron Arts and Heritage Network Huron County Library

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Organizational Profiles:

While most organizations expressed service to all age groups the average age of each organization's volunteers, staff, and participants was 50 years old. All identified aging demographics, increasing need, and aging/burnout of volunteers as key challenges to their organizations. Local service clubs reported steady or growing membership; bucking the

national trend of service club decline. The availability of shared or dedicated space was also identified as a key challenge for many of the organizations represented. The following group sizes were reported:

Exeter Food Bank	300	Alzheimer's Society	400
Community Theatre	150	South Huron Optimists	25
MS Society	150	Cultural Collective	375
Centralia Lions Club	32	Communities in Bloom	20
South Huron Band	22	Huron Arts & Heritage Network	8

It is worth noting that was a lot of overlap of representation (persons representing or belonging to multiple organizations) pointing to an interconnected local network of organizations and partners.

<u>Desired Community Hub/Recreation Centre Amenities/Programs:</u>

Meeting Rooms of varying sizes with full A/V capabilities	6
Community Hall	4
Kitchen	3
Bar	3
Connection to the outdoors	3
Fitness Centre	2
Green Build and Operating Centre	2
Walking Track	2
Multi-purpose space	2
Music Practice/Recording Space	2
Accessible design (physical, gender, breast feeding consideration)	2
Café	2
Ice Rink	2
Dog Park	2
Surrounding Park space	2
Storage	2
Gymnasium	1
Business Centre	1
Tuck Shop	1
Wifi Enabled building	1
Performance Hall	1
Farmer's Market	1
Museum/Archive space	1
Sports Fields	1
Aquatic Centre	1

<u>Support of the Community Hub/Recreation Centre project:</u>

Service Clubs indicated they would be high likely to support a capital fund-raising campaign however; also reported existing fund-raising commitments. Additionally; they expressed an interest in providing ongoing operational support.

The remaining organizations reported a moderate interest in the rental of space within a Community Hub element of the proposed project. Many spoke to accessing meeting rooms and the potential of shared office space. The costs of space rental was identified as a concern. Most organizations are highly price sensitive and requested a community group rate or a no-charge rate be considered.

Modest interest and support for program and service partnerships was expressed by several of the groups.

Ice, Field, and Recreational Sports Groups Focus Group

This focus group saw participation from 6 groups:

Seniors 55+ Pickleball Senior Pickup Hockey South Huron Minor Hockey
South Huron Youth Soccer ESC Figure Skating Adult Soccer

Organizational Profiles:

	<u>Participants</u>	Volunteers	Ages Served	Gender
Seniors 55+ Pickleball	65	4	55+	60% female
Senior Pickup Hockey	15	1	55 – 65	100% male
South Huron Minor Hockey	420	125	3 – 18	60% male
South Huron Youth Soccer	300	8	4 – 18	60% male
ESC Figure Skating	200	?	3 – 18	80% female
Adult Soccer	100	10	15 – 65	80% male

	Participant Fee	Subsidy	Program Hours	Cost of Rent
Seniors 55+ Pickleball	\$20/yr & \$2/session	Municipal Rent	6 hours/wk	\$2/person
Senior Pickup Hockey	\$11/game	None	1 hour/wk	\$153/hr
South Huron Minor Hockey	\$500 - \$550	RASP Jumpstart	50-55 hours/wk	\$270,000/yr
South Huron Youth Soccer	\$55 - \$100	RASP Jumpstart	15 hours/wk	\$17.50/per
ESC Figure Skating	\$350 - \$520	?	,	?
Adult Soccer	\$190 - \$300	None	3 hours/wk	\$47.50/per

It is worth noting that the information gathered from ESC Figure Skating was provided by a participant/volunteer in the organization who is not a member of the club executive and was therefore not privy to some of the data requested.

All organizations reported their ability to serve more people, and many presented hard statistics on year over year service growth, was limited by the facilities available. Pickleball, experiencing 25% annual participant growth, is limited by the 3 courts available within the South Huron Recreation Centre. Nationally Pickleball is amongst the fastest growing sports. The Senior Pickup Hockey group reported the size and condition of arena changerooms were limiting their growth however; they indicated they have current excess program capacity. South Huron Minor Hockey indicated the availability of ice time, size and condition of changerooms, and the lack of a dual pad arena were limiting their growth. They indicated that the number of ice pads currently available is appropriate but the fact they are not under one roof is the greatest challenge to the club. They support the creation of a dual pad arena and the potential decommissioning of ice surfaces outside of Exeter. Nationally hockey registration has declined by 200,000 participants over the last 5 years as reported by Hockey Canada however; South Huron Minor Hockey has bucked that trend and seen its enrolment

increase from 370 in 2016 to 420 in 2018 and is projecting 500 enrolments by 2024. South Huron Youth Soccer are at 100% capacity and could grow if more fields were available. All groups reported good financial health.

Desired Community Hub/Recreation Centre Amenities/Programs:

4
4
2
2
2
2
2
1
1
1
1

Support of the Community Hub/Recreation Centre project:

All participating organizations expressed support for the Community Hub/Recreation Centre project with all willing to pay rent for ongoing use of space within the proposed facility. The mandate of each group prevents them from contributing to a capital fund-raising campaign except for South Huron Minor Hockey who would be willing to make a capital contribution in exchange for a dedicated office space.

Conclusions

- 1. There appears to be significant interconnection of community groups and clubs and a strong local culture of volunteerism and community service. This bodes well for the recruitment of capital campaign and Centre program volunteers however; the universal concern of aging volunteers may be a longer term challenge for any eventual operation.
- 2. The Aquatic Focus Group was the least attended session and the creation of an aquatic centre amongst the least cited desired facility amenities. Given the lack of year-round aquatic facilities within the community this is not surprising however; numerous respondents cited a lack of support for the creation of aquatic facilities and such should be a caution in considering a final capital model for the proposed facility.
- 3. The number of lifeguard certification candidates participating in programming at Kirkton Pool is low. An examination of similar numbers within the Exeter outdoor pool should be conducted. Concern exists that the community may not have a sufficient supply of qualified lifeguards to staff a year-round aquatic facility. Such lack of qualified aquatic staff has been noted in numerous other smaller communities in the Southwest Ontario region.
- 4. A great many of the participants expressed interest in shared space or meeting room access within a new facility. There exists an opportunity to flush out a more detailed model of the Hub portion of the building that may see multiple organizations utilizing meeting rooms and shared office space on a reoccurring schedule.
- 5. A majority of respondents expressed interest in renting space within the facility providing a significant revenue stream to consider in the eventual operating model.

- 6. Current ice, field, and recreation sport groups growth is constrained by the available facilities within the community. Minor Hockey identified growth potential is limited by the lack of a dual pad arena. The rent received of \$270,000 a year from Minor Hockey could increase should the groups enrollment be supported by the deployment of better facilities. In unison with the Municipalities examination of capital assets it is recommended that a dual pad arena be considered and that such new dual pad may displace existing aged facilities throughout the entire community.
- 7. Capital Campaign support, with a few noted exceptions, is weak among these groups largely due to the constraints of their mandates.
- 8. Service Club support and intention to participate in capital fund-raising is very strong.
- 9. Multiple respondents expressed desires for a facility that includes outdoor elements such as parkland, sports fields and a general connection to the outdoors.
- 10. The top cited desired amenities for new facilities includes:

Meeting Rooms	10
Walking Track	8
Gymnasium	6
Fitness Centre	5
Community Kitchen	5
Community Hall	5
Ice Rink(s)	4
Multi-purpose Space	3
Bar	3
Sports Fields	3

Sean Dillon

Scott Currie <scurrie@southhuron.ca>

Movember-27-18 1:05 PM

Sean Dillon

FYI: Court Sports Admin Group input - Athletic Indoor Courts

Sent: Sent:

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Subject:

From: Lindsay Groot [mailto:lindsay.muller.13@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, November 26, 2018 3:45 PM To: Scott Currie <scurrie@southhuron.ca>

Subject: Athletic Indoor Courts

Hello,

I just wanted to express the need for more access to appropriate courts in South Huron.

There is such limited access to the high school gyms and the current rec centre in Exeter was not built to suit court games such as volleyball, soccer or basketball.

Using public schools is completely inadequate for adult sport and most other appropriate facilities outside South Huron are regularly booked (ex. Lucan).

Please take note of building a large court for a future project. ((sadly the Huron Park centre was torn down years ago and served as a phenomenal building for indoor soccer, ball hockey, volleyball, basketball, etc... As a child watching my parents play there, I couldn't wait until I was able too and now never have.)

Lyanks

Lindsay Groot BSN, BASc.

Advocacy Coordinator, YPAHD (Young People Affected by Huntington Disease) Exeter for Huntington Disease: Hike of Heroes Coordinator

Hike of Heroes: June 1, 2019 MacNaughton Park Pavillion, Exeter, Ontario

Huntington disease (HD) is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable.

Parkinson's and Alzheimer's – simultaneously.

HD causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington disease becomes less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. Many describe the symptoms of HD as having ALS, to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. Many describe the symptoms of HD as having ALS,

About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend.

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"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" - Mohatma Gandhi

In advance of each session, the YMCA is asking participants to come prepared with the following information.

T) Demographic profile of your organization's participants

Ages/genders services for individuals from 16 years of age to 99, 2 of our eldest clic

CMHA provides services for individuals from 16 years of age to 99, 2 of our eldest clients are in mid-80"s and still very active physically Both women and men receive services

Residency of participants

The Majority of the individuals we support live independently in the Exeter and surrounding areas (Hensall, Huron Park, and Zurich)
Some individuals live in shared homes throughout Exeter, as well as some living Community Homes for Opportunity in Exeter

Financial aid/fee subsidy provided and the percentage of your participants requiring such

Many individuals supported by CMHA Middlesex Exeter site receive some sort of financial aid(ODSP, OW, CPP Disability) placing them under the poverty line, some also work gainfully in the community but still face financial difficulties.

CMHA Middlesex is a not for profit organization that is funded by the South West LHIN and Ministry of Health and long term care. Individuals supported pay no fees to receive services.

Number of volunteers engaged in your organization and desired skill sets of volunteers

CMHA Middlesex Exeter Site has 3 volunteers at this time. Volunteers help in our day centre with activities, events and helping prepare the free lunch offered each day at no cost.

Volunteers at CMHA are interested in giving back to the community and enjoy working in a group and socializing with individuals, a lot of times they have an interest in community mental health. The amount of time a volunteer is able to provide is totally up to them, some will come a few days per week or once per month depending on availability and need of organization.

Volunteers are required to have CPIC's and are provided with orientation and training

2) Profile of programs/services

Hours of programming offered per week

The CMHA Centre is open Monday through Friday 8:30am-3:00pm (Except Thursday centre closes at 2pm)

centre closes at 2pm)

Offlice is open Monday to Friday from 8:30-4: 00 where staff are available by phone and appointment.

Mental Health workers go into the community to see individuals in homes, work, or places identified by individual served, as well as at CMHA Exeter Centre

Relief staff do work on weekends supporting individuals that live in 1 of the 4 shared homes located in Exeter. Usually 10-2 Saturday and Sundays

• Program fees

Whenever possible no fee for events and activities (community outings, swimming in St. Mary's, fitness programs/activities etc.) If a fee is required CMHA Exeter covers over half the fee making it as affordable as possible for people)

Current facility rental fees paid

CMHA Middlesex owns the building where are offices, and day center are located inbrary, if need a location else where we look for places that have no fee attached (churches, library, Hanson's upstairs)

• Venues utilized to deliver your services

Most programming and services offered at our location 149 B Thames Rd. West Exeter. Community outing and programs take place at churches, Pyramid centre in St. Mary's, local restaurants, library, Food bank Distribution centre, Exeter Food Bank

Number of program streams/teams/divisions operated locally

CMHA Exeter offers **Case Management**(Assisting individuals with activities of daily living, support with other services and professionals, other goals on their road to recovery) **Community Wellness**(Recreation, community integration, life skills training), **Employment Services** (Job skills, assistance linking to community resources to aid in building employment skills) **Day Centre** where individuals can come socialize see workers, get a free lunch, build life skills through activities offered on daily basis, and a place they can go to decrease isolation

Current enrolment capacity (e.g., 120 registered with space for 150)

Each day our Centre attendance is anywhere from 20-30 people receiving lunch, Current enrollment is -130-140.

3) Current and future operating model

At CMHA we meet individuals where they are at not only geographically but as well where they are on their road to recovery. We believe in services that wrap around the individual, that are driven by the individual at their pace and following their direction.

We are a voluntary program that operates treating individuals with dignity and equity to help make their journey successful.

Financial health of your organization (accrued deficits, funders, financial reserves)

Our organization is funded by the South West LHIN and the ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Funding is based on government of the day.

• Current/future challenges

Transportation is a large barrier for individuals we support; Disposable income to take part in meaningful day time activities in their community; knowledge of what resources, activities and recreational opportunities are available; Stigma of mental illness-internally and projected socially

5 year enrolment projections

In the past few years we have been seeing an increase in service enrolment with a younger demographic accessing services, its projected that more individuals will keep accessing services as more education is gained and stigma is weakened.

• Projected future facility, programming, and administrative needs

Our community Wellness program would base programing around what was offered at the new facility, promoting community integration by using what is available in Exeter nurturing natural supports and ease of use for individuals served.

Case Managers would be able to utilize space in facility for meetings with individuals,

families and other service providers. It would helpful if there were flexible hours offered at an affordable price or subsidies for individuals and families in need.

Desired amenities of any new or enhanced recreation facilities

wellness we would like to see more accessible options for exercise for all persons'.

As research shows that increased physical fitness and health is linked to positive mental

regardless fitness level, age and financial situations. Swimming is a large part of programming and is an activity that most can participate in so an indoor swimming pool would be something that we as an agency as well as

individual we support would utilize often. A walking track would be a wonderful addition also we utilize the trails when weather permits for our weekly "Mood Walks" program but have nowhere to go in bad weather

other than driving to Clinton to use their free walking track. Meeting space or space to run a small group (6-10 people) would be an asset for bringing life skills groups into the community promoting community integration, and making services more desirable for individuals that feel uncomfortable coming to the

Centre due to anxiety, and fear of the unknown

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"eqoH gnibee" "Feeding Families,

Address: 249 Andrew Street, Exeter, ON

Phone: 519-860-4104

Email: exeterfoodbank1@gmail.com

Exeter Community Food Bank

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The Exeter Community Food Bank is a Christian non-profit organization committed to providing:

- Food assistance, with comfort and support, to community
- Connections and relationships to facilitate access to other services and resources
- Empowered engagement of our community with the issues and circumstances of poverty

Demographics

Ages/genders served:

of volunteers:

- All ages and genders are served
- Our most recent Stats from October 2018 show the following:
- Total Families: 107
- Children: 121
- Seniors: 16
- VI :STOME -
- Total Served
- Total Served: 314
- Z:W9N -
- Top Ups: 1 Residency of participants:
- Participants are from the South Huron and surrounding areas. We service clients from various communities such as Exeter, Huron Park, Centralia, Crediton, Hensall, Lucan, Corbett, and Elimville
- Financial aid/fee subsidy provided and the percentage of your participants requiring such:
- All of our services are free of charge. Clients do not pay a fee for the
- services offered. Number of volunteers engaged in your organization and desired skill sets
- 15 volunteers currently and we are always seeking new volunteers. Successful completion of the Safe food handling course and ability to lift 15lbs boxes are desired but defiantly not required by volunteers.

- Hours of programming offered per week
- We are open Wednesday 9am 11:30am. Thursday 6pm 8pm
- e Program fees
- There are no associated fees with our organization. Everything
 offered is free of charge. Clients arrange an appointment and in turn
 are provided with a weeks' worth of food for their family during their
 appointment.
- Current facility rental fees paid
- \$600.00\monthly
 Venues utilized to deliver your services
- Our current location is at 249 Andrew Street, Exeter. We are also fortunate to have local businesses offer collection boxes for non-perishable food items on our behalf
- Number of program streams/teams/divisions operated locally
- We are the only organization in this local area offering this service
- Current enrolment capacity
- We have no enrollment capacity. We offer 24 appointment spots per week for clients, but also take walk-in clients during our open hours on top of those 24 appointment spots.

Operating Model

- Financial health of your organization:
- We solely operate from the donations received through the community. We currently have no short or long term debts, and typically operate at a break even each year. Our 2017 financial statements show \$25,164.80 in donations.

Current/future challenges:

Our organization currently operates through a space that we rent monthly. The owners of this building have confirmed they are selling in the spring of 2020. At this current time we have no prospects of a future home. Our challenge is finding a new home that will allow us to offer our current services with no interruptions. Our current locations allows clients to use our services in a discreet manner since we are not located on the main street of Exeter. Our organization is also located in the back half of a residential building which adds to the discreetness of it. Our current location also allows us amble parking with two designated spots on the property, as well as street parking on both sides of the location. Come 2020 we will be looking for a location that allows us to operate in a similar manner. Our need for a location that allows us to operate in a similar manner. Our need to find a new home is a community issue since we serve over 300 local residents each month.

5 year enrolment projections:

- Over the next 5 years we're expecting the need of our service to grow approximately 1% each year. By 2023 we're expecting to be serving 330 clients per month.
- Projected future facility, programming, and administrative needs:
- Within in the next two years we would like to see our organization become more of an outreach centre. We want to focus on becoming a hub in connecting clients with other services and resources in the local area to help combat poverty.
- Desired amenities of any new or enhanced recreation facilities:
- Due to the timing of the potential new/enhanced recreation facilities and our need to find a new location, it would be ideal if we could come together and be able to offer our service out of the recreation facility.

tor sporting activities, higher certings Desired amenities & More courts, proper facilities 5 yr enrolement projections. More + more youth playing pickleball, continues to grow (as shown by our 35 Doinneas this tall). - We use the community hall. Can, play year round.
- We have unlimited enrolement capacity that may need to be spread over 3 days per week. Program fees: We pay \$30.00 per year or \$3.00 per session if you pay as you play: There are 50 paid members (Tues+ Thurs) 13 members. excellent with the Res Staff. Communication has been - Our group has a good working relationship are asnally given an alternate day to play . We play & days Eveny week - & hrs per session . Play can be burnped from scheduled day but we Profile of program services H people. à volunteers are changed Every 6 - We pay our own way . We hat consists of . - All are 55+ majority are 65 + over - Crouth of 35% over this fall. players per session. - the Past 2 weeks we have averaged over 30 Demographics

Sport + Fithers Focus Group Dec 3 168m

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To conclude :

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport for all ages. Our attendance has increased as this fall alone 4 we anticipate that this will continue to increase.

An indoor Community Cymnasiun opens Le the door to other sports; Indoor soccer, badminton, basketball, volleyball, baseball, indoor walking track, social events, community

A Eymnasuum is for all ages 8 to 80 and as Grandparents, we want this for our

The "Pickleballers"

Mail - Shawn Tucker - Outlook

Re: Meeting on Wednesday

South Huron Rush <southhuronrush@gmail.com>

Tue 2018-12-11, 8:39 PM

To: Shawn Tucker <shawtucker@hotmail.com>

6-8 pm at the Rec Cnetre

On Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 11:38 AM Shawn Tucker standam=1 the Rec Centre?">I didn't get a email from them so I am assuming the meeting is Wednesday at Spm at the Rec Centre?

I should be able to attend.

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From: South Huron Rush <<u>southhuronrush@gmail.com</u>>

Sent: December 10, 2018 10:58 PM

To: Matt Hern; Shawn Tucker

Subject: Meeting on Wednesday

As stated earlier I am unable to attend this Wednesday's meeting.

Here are the answers we talked about:

We are South Huron Soccer Club. Adult and competitive soccer. We operate under EMSA jurisdiction and are not the same as South Huron Recreational Soccer (the youth side of things).

1) Demographic

- We serve ages 15-65

- Players come from Huron County, but also Middlesex and Perth Counties.

- No financial aid is provided

- Number of volunteers is between 8 and 10

2) Profile of Services

- Hours of programming offered is 8ish

- Program fees are between \$190 and 300

- Surrent rental fees paid \$47.50 per game

- venues used are community field and for men, the hockey dressing rooms (point to discuss -

women don't use, men don't always get access, but still are charged).

- Number of teams is 3 currently

- capacity per team is 18 to 25 players

3) Current and future operating model

- financial health - doing ok

- current/ future challenges - field conditions, adults don't stay in town, club organization, no

competitive youth teams, no u18 teams at all -5 year enrollment projections - growing, both men's teams may have 2 teams in the future - projected future facility needs - would love a changeroom, clubhouse to share with baseball.

Facilities that will match our hopes and vision for soccer in Exeter

Thanks guys. If I can be of any help please let me know.