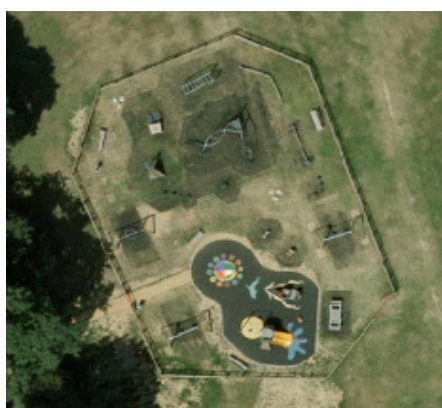


Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

PPG17 Study: February 2012



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Executive Summary - Standards Proposed 1

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1.1 The following is a summary of the standards proposed throughout the document. These standards do not form Council policy unless adopted through the preparation of the Local Development Framework; however, they are still important and useful benchmarks against which to assess the current level of provision and any issues that may exist. The standards, their implementation and resulting key actions will be taken forward to help create an Open Space Strategy for Waverley, to help link the approaches taken to open spaces of all kinds by the Council's Planning, Leisure and other relevant services. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be adopted by the Council in July 2011.

Public Parks and Gardens

Quantity Standard - 0.2ha per 1000 people

Quality Standard - Parks and gardens should be welcoming, safe, clean and inviting spaces that are well maintained with a good mix of natural and built amenities.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minutes walk, approximately 800m

Natural and Semi- Natural Greenspaces

Quantity Standard - None set

Quality Standard - A natural open space with a focus on the retention and/or enhancement of natural features and conservation of flora and fauna, assisted where appropriate by the use of education facilities such as interpretation boards. They should be clean, litter free, well signed and with clear footpaths.

Accessibility Standard - 15-minute walk, approximately 800m

Green Corridors

Quantity Standard - None set

Quality Standard - Green corridors should be clean, litter free and clear to ensure that they are accessible. They should contribute to nature conservation particularly through the protection and enhancement of suitable planting and in urban areas enhance the linkages between green areas.

Accessibility Standard - None set

1 Executive Summary - Standards Proposed

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Outdoor Sports Facilities

Quantity Standard - 1.60 ha per 1,000 population. (May be revised once the results of the revised Playing Pitch Strategy are known.)

Quality Standard - Outdoor sports facilities should be clean and litter free, the pitches and playing surfaces should be maintained, safe, level and with good drainage. Toilets, changing facilities and parking should be of an acceptable standard and provided where possible. Bins should be provided to reduce the occurrences of litter and dog fouling problems.

Accessibility Standard - To be determined once the results of the revised Playing Pitch Strategy are known.

Indoor Sports Facilities

Quantity Standard - None set

Quality Standard - Indoor sports facilities should be of a good standard of appearance, well maintained, clean, and offer a range of facilities, including appropriate changing areas. Customer care, health and safety and security/ feeling of safety should be of a high standard. Appropriate and safe parking should be available for all users.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minute drive, approximately 5.8km

Amenity Greenspace

Quantity Standard - 0.8ha per 1,000 people

Quality Standard - Amenity greenspace should be well maintained, clean and litter free. It should be welcoming and provide a visually attractive environment. The management of dogs and any mess created needs to be integrated into the site.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minutes walk, approximately 800m

Provision for Children and Young People

Quantity Standard - 0.25 ha per 1,000 people of specific play equipment for children and young people, including both designated equipped play space, and informal play space.

Quality Standard - Sites should be clean/ litter free and provide a safe, fun and stimulating environment where possible for children of all ages. Areas should be set aside as dog free. Sites should be in areas easily accessible by foot to the local community they are intended to serve with limited barriers to access such as main roads.

Accessibility Standard - Fields in Trust standards are to be used:

- Local Areas of Play (LAPs): accompanied walking distance 100m (straight line distance 60m).
- Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs): walking distance 400m (straight line distance 240m).
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs): walking distance 1,000m (straight line distance 600m).

Allotments

Quantity Standard - None set until further investigation carried out.

Quality Standard - A well maintained, clean/ litter free site, level with good quality soil, drainage and access to a good water supply.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minutes walk, approximately 800m

1 Executive Summary - Standards Proposed

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Churchyards and Cemeteries

Quantity Standard - None set

Quality Standard - Churchyards and Cemeteries should be well maintained, clean and litter free. They should contain an appropriate mix of flowers / trees and shrubs to enhancement biodiversity and provide a pleasant and peaceful setting for those using the sites. Bins should be provided to reduce the occurrences of litter and dog fouling problems. They should be accessible to a wide range of people including those with mobility difficulties, with sufficient parking, seating and where appropriate, lighting.

Accessibility Standard - None set

Civic Spaces

Quantity Standard - None set

Quality Standard - Civic spaces must be clean, well maintained, inviting places that are considered and feel safe to those wishing to use them. Where appropriate and practical the provision of toilets and parking should be sought.

Accessibility Standard - None set

Introduction 2

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2 Introduction

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Study Purpose

2.1 This is an assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities in Waverley Borough. The purpose of this assessment is to identify and then audit the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing provision and help to determine future requirements.

2.2 This study has been undertaken to support the work by Waverley Borough Council on the *Local Development Framework (LDF)* and in order to fulfil the Government's objectives and policies set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17)*. It follows the 5-step methodology set out in *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17*. The outcomes will help to inform the direction to be taken by Waverley in planning for future and existing open space, sports and recreation facilities, and have been used to produce an Open Space Strategy for the Council's Leisure Service.

Context

The Importance of Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities

2.3 The importance and benefits of open space, sport and recreation facilities have been widely documented. PPG17 indicates that 'open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life'. Well-designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation facilities are also fundamental to delivering broader government objectives, which include:

- Supporting an urban renaissance
- Supporting a rural renewal
- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- Health and wellbeing
- Promoting more sustainable development

2.4 PPG17 suggests that local authorities should recognise that most areas of open space can perform multiple functions. These include:

- Strategic functions: defining and separating urban areas; better linking of town and country; and providing for recreational needs over a wide area
- Urban quality: helping to support regeneration and improving quality of life for communities by providing visually attractive green spaces close to where people live
- Promoting health and well-being: providing opportunities for people of all ages for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or ride within parks and open spaces or along

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paths, bridleways and canal banks. Allotments may provide physical exercise and other health benefits

- Havens and habitats for flora and fauna: sites may also have potential to be corridors or stepping stones from one habitat to another and may contribute towards achieving objectives set out in local biodiversity action plans
- As a community resource: as a place for congregating and for holding community events, religious festivals, fêtes and travelling fairs
- As a visual amenity: even without public access, people enjoy having open space near to them to provide an outlook, variety in the urban scene, or as a positive element in the landscape

2.5 The draft National Planning Policy Framework contains a proposal for a new Local Green Space designation to protect locally significant green areas that are special to local communities. It proposes that these can be used in local and neighbourhood plans, in a way that complements investment in homes, jobs and other essential services. It also states that planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. Planning policies should protect and enhance rights of way and access.

2.6 As it currently stands, the South East Plan policies of relevance are:

- Policy CS3: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty,
- Policy CS6: Countryside Access and Rights of Way
- Policy BE4: The Role of Small Rural Towns ('Market Towns')
- Policy TC2: New Development and Redevelopment in Town Centres
- Policy TSR2: Rural Tourism
- Policy TSR: Visitor Management
- Policy S1: Supporting Healthy Economies
- Policy S5: Cultural and Sporting Activity
- Policy S6: Community Infrastructure

2.7 The *Urban White Paper - Our Towns and Cities: The Future* (The Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions, 2000), suggests that well-managed public open spaces, recreational and sporting areas improve the attractiveness of urban areas and help promote a healthier lifestyle. They can bring benefits for wildlife and the environment, act as an educational tool and can relieve pressure on the countryside. It concludes by stating that they are therefore vital to enhancing the quality of the urban environment and the quality of lives.

2 Introduction

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2.8 Open space, sport and recreation provision in Waverley therefore has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of the Government's objectives, providing a high quality of life and in places relieving pressure on the sensitive countryside around.

2.9 Waverley's Corporate Plan 2012 -2015 has leisure and lives as one of its corporate priorities. The Council will continue to support opportunities for all to take part in sport, recreation and other leisure activities to promote health and well-being for all. Waverley has a crucial strategic role to play in improving the quality of life for residents in our Borough by ensuring that everybody has access to a range of high quality sports and leisure opportunities. One of the priorities within the Plan is to encourage residents to use the Borough's open spaces and countryside as an important recreational resource, and to work with local residents and park users to develop appropriate management plans.

2.10 There are a number of policies in the Waverley Borough Local Plan 2002, which relate to the protection of open space and recreational facilities, as well as those which seek to protect those which have value for the protection of wildlife and the character of the landscape. These are:

- Policy BE1: Important Green Spaces within settlements
- Policy C3: Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Area of Great Landscape Value
- Policy C9: International and National Conservation Sites
- Policy C10: Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites
- Policy C11: Undesignated Wildlife Sites
- Policy C12: Canals and River Corridors
- Policy CF1: Retaining Existing Community Facilities
- Policy CF2: Provision of New Community Facilities
- Policy LT1: Retention of Leisure Facilities
- Policy LT6: Leisure and Tourism Development in Settlements
- Policy LT7: Leisure and Tourism Development in the Countryside
- Policy LT8: Sports Grounds and Playing Fields
- Policy LT9: Golf Courses

Provision of quality open space

2.11 There is a multitude of factors that contribute to creating a quality open space. Within this, factors differ as to what is important to different types of open space. These are detailed within the sections dedicated to the individual open space types.

2.12 The *Green Flag Award Scheme* was launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country. The scheme provides useful general criteria (listed below) as to what is considered a quality open space, and formed the basis for how Waverley Borough's open spaces were judged within the qualitative assessment:

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- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainability – methods used in maintaining the park/ green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

2.13 The aim of the LDF and particularly the Core Strategy is to address the identified issues and deliver the Spatial Vision for Waverley in 2028. The following are draft key objectives for the Core Strategy that this open space strategy seeks to support:

- To deliver sustainable development that meets the needs of the local community, whilst not compromising the quality of life for future generations
- To deliver planned development in areas of significant change, including planned development in Hindhead that meets the needs of residents, businesses and visitors, as a result of the changes brought about by the new A3 tunnel scheme. To ensure that cross boundary impacts arising from development or infrastructure provision are considered and addressed.
- To ensure that adequate provision is made for new or improved social, physical and green infrastructure to meet the needs of the increased population
- To support the vitality and viability of the centres of Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh, taking account of the difference between each of the centres and the different roles that they play.
- To ensure that provision is made to meet the leisure, recreation and cultural needs of the community.
- To protect the countryside as a recreational asset, including its visitor facilities, and, where appropriate, promote its continued recreational use.
- To safeguard and where appropriate enhance the rich historic heritage and the diverse and attractive landscapes and townscapes in Waverley, and ensure that new development takes proper account of the character and distinctiveness of the area in which it is located.
- To protect and enhance the diversity of the wildlife and habitats that are within and around Waverley, both on designated sites and undesignated sites.

Report Structure

2.14 This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space in Waverley Borough, and key actions developed to implement change. This is structured as followed:

- **Part 2: Methodology**
- **Part 3: General open space issues**

2 Introduction

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- **Part 4: Assessment by typology**
 - Public parks and gardens
 - Natural/ semi-natural green space
 - Green corridors
 - Outdoor sports facilities*
 - Indoor sports facilities
 - Amenity green space
 - Children and young people's open space
 - Allotments

 - Cemeteries and Churchyards
 - Civic Spaces
 - Special Interest Sports

Further Work

Outdoor Sports Facilities

2.15 The Council has a detailed Playing Pitch strategy that was produced in 2003. This produced a number of key issues about over and under supply of various types of sports pitches by area.

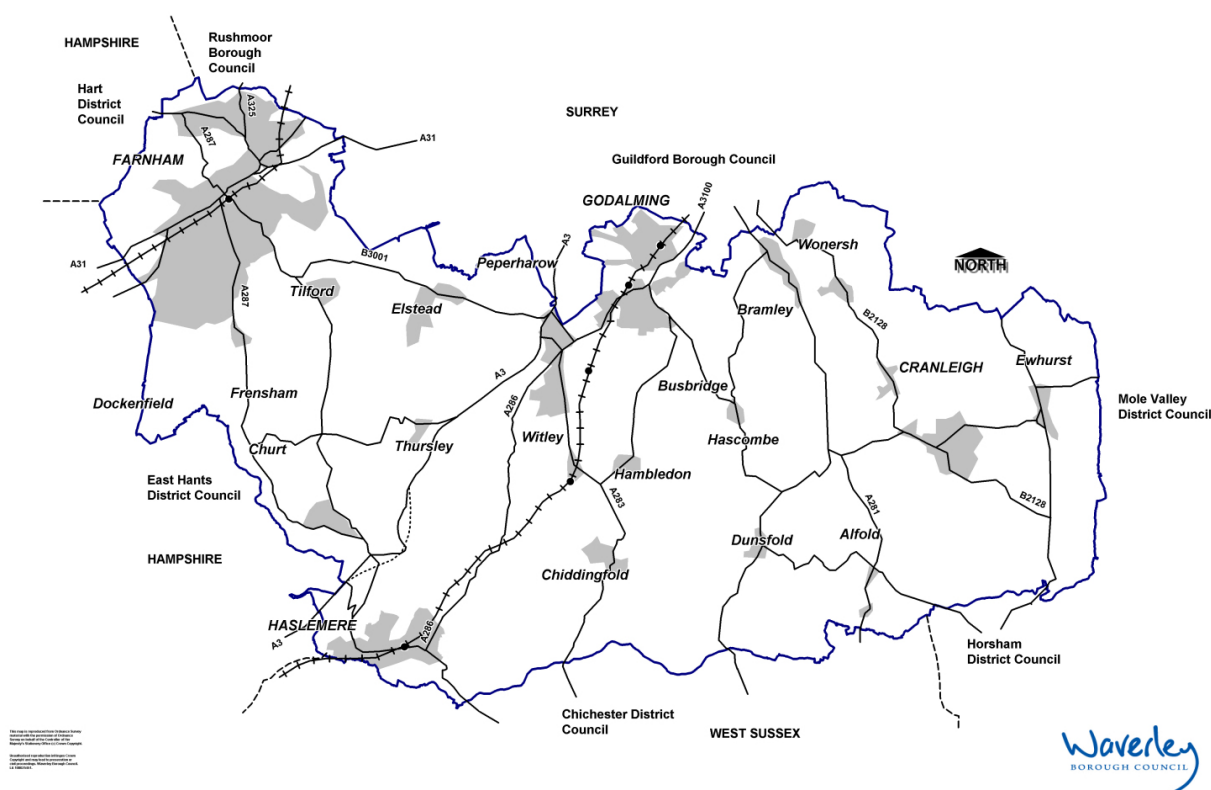
2.16 As part of this PPG17 study, survey forms were sent out to local sports clubs and others specifically about the outdoor sports facilities in Waverley. However, the response was not felt to be comprehensive enough to be able to formulate specific actions for this type of space. The Leisure and Community Safety Service has therefore decided to update the Playing Pitch Strategy in 2011 and the analysis and results of this will be incorporated into the PPG17 study once completed. The current (2003) data has been included in the chapter on Outdoor Sports Facilities until it has been revised.

2.17 Waverley's Leisure and Community Safety Service will also use the information gathered in this PPG17 study and develop it further to produce an Open Space Strategy for the Borough. This will involve taking the Key Actions produced, an assessment of their feasibility, cost and a timescale of projects and objectives. It is anticipated that it will be adopted by Waverley during 2012.

A Profile of Waverley Borough

2.18 Waverley Borough lies in southwest Surrey, roughly half way between London and the Sussex Coast. It borders the Boroughs and Districts of Guildford, Hart, Rushmoor, East Hampshire, Chichester, Horsham, and Mole Valley.

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Map 2.1 Waverley Borough and Surrounding Areas

2.19 The 2001 census showed the Waverley population to be 115,665, an increase of just 0.5% since 1991. The 2009 mid -year estimate is 118,800, and is projected to rise to 131,200 by 2026. Waverley has an ageing population, with a relatively high proportion of people above retirement age. 17.6% of Waverley's population is over 65, compared with the national figure of 16%. This trend is set to continue with a significant percentage increase forecast in the number of people over 65 and over 85 in the 2005-2015 period projected to be 16.5% and 29.4% respectively.

2.20 Some 97% of the Borough's population is white, with just under 2% being black, Indian, Pakistani or mixed origin. There is a significant and long-standing gypsy and traveller community in Waverley.

2.21 At 345 square kilometres, the Borough is roughly bounded by its four principal urban settlements. Each has a different character and distinctiveness, and a defined town centre. About 72% of the population of Waverley live within one of the four main centres.

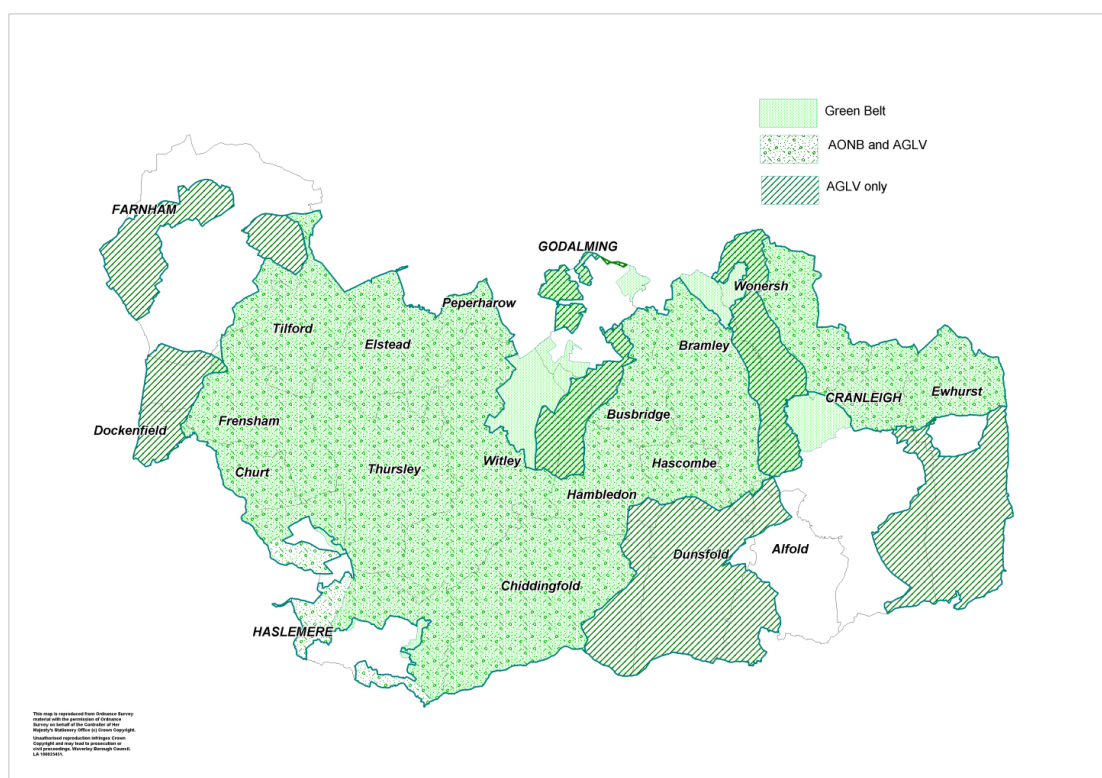
- Farnham is the largest settlement, having a population of approximately 36,000. Functionally, it has links with other centres outside Waverley, including Guildford and the string of settlements west of the Borough in the Blackwater Valley.

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- Godalming has a population of 21,000. The size and range of services is less than Farnham, but is significantly influenced by Guildford, which is only 10km away via good road and rail links.
- Haslemere, which has a population of approximately 15,000, lies in the southwest corner of the Borough, close to the boundaries with West Sussex and Hampshire. This small country town has a large rural catchment, which extends into Hampshire and West Sussex.
- Cranleigh, to the Borough's east, has a population of approximately 12,000. It has a more limited range of services within its village centre, but these are very good for a settlement of its size and location. It borders West Sussex and is influenced by Guildford and to a lesser extent by Horsham.

2.22 Approximately 92% of the Borough is rural; made up from 61% (21,000 hectares) within the Metropolitan Green Belt and 31% (10,624 hectares) designated as Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt. 80% of the countryside is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and/or an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).



Map 2.2 Green Belt, AONB and AGLV

2.23 There are also significant ecological assets within and close to the Borough, and numerous areas that have one or more local or national policies to protect them. These include Special Areas of Conservation, a Ramsar Site, National and Local Nature

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reserves, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance. Waverley also contains all or part of some 15 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). There are also two Special Protection Areas designated under the European Birds Directive as being of European importance for its wild birds. Only 80 hectares of the Thames Basin Heaths PSA lies within Waverley, to the north of Farnham, but its zone of influence extends 5 km from its boundary and therefore affects development in most of Farnham.

2.24 Waverley's landscape has a distinctive wooded character, which at 31.5% is the highest in the country.

2.25 Rivers flowing through the Borough include the River Wey (Alton to Farnham reach, Liphook to Tilford reach, Tilford to Godalming reach and Bramley to Cranleigh reach), and Cranleigh Water. Frensham Great Pond and Frensham Little Pond are significant water bodies and there is an extensive network of lakes, ponds, streams and ditches across the Borough.

2.26 Many of the residential parts of Waverley have a distinct semi-rural character. Haslemere and Godalming have wooded hillsides surrounding them, while in Cranleigh there is a much more rapid transition from urban to rural, with common land extending into the heart of the shopping centre. Most of the rural villages have village greens, many of which are multi purpose and of great importance to residents, both as a functional recreation space and as a distinctive part of the character of the area.

2.27 Waverley is an affluent area, as demonstrated by high house prices, high incomes, households with more than two cars and the relatively high proportion of children who attend private schools. However, there are identified small pockets of relative deprivation, typically in medium- sized housing estates on the periphery of the main settlements. Waverley has a buoyant economy, with low unemployment. A high number of people are employed in knowledge-driven occupations such as business and finance and computer/ telecommunications, and the Borough's residents have a high knowledge score.

Methodology 3

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Picture 3.1 Lammas Lands, Godalming

Introduction

This assessment was undertaken in accordance with PPG17 and the methodology in *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17*. The *Companion Guide* emphasises the need to undertake a local needs assessment and audit of provision. It states that the main purpose of undertaking a local needs assessment is to plan positively, creatively and effectively to ensure that there is adequate provision of accessible, high quality green spaces, civic spaces, and sport and recreation facilities to meet the needs of local communities and visitors.

The *Companion Guide* outlines four guiding principles for undertaking a local needs assessment; these are as follows:

- Local needs are likely to vary considerably, even within a local authority area
- The delivery of a network of high quality, sustainable open spaces, sport and recreation facilities depends on good planning, creative urban and landscape design, and effective management
- The delivery of high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing the accessibility and quality of existing provision than

3 Methodology

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on new provision. But at the same time, where additional open spaces or sport and recreation facilities are required, they should enhance the network

- The value of open space, sport and recreation facilities, irrespective of who owns them, depends primarily on two things; the extent to which they meet clearly identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife, biodiversity and the wider environment

Although these principles apply to both urban and rural areas the *Companion Guide* indicates that it may be necessary for some areas to have both urban and rural provision standards.

The Five Step Process for Undertaking the Local Needs Assessment

The assessment has been undertaken by following the 5-step process set out in the Companion Guide. The steps are as follows:

- Step 1: Identifying local needs
- Step 2: Auditing local provision
- Step 3: Setting provision standards
- Step 4: Applying provision standards
- Step 5: Drafting policies

The work undertaken at each step is outlined as follows:

Step 1: Identifying local needs

A review was undertaken of existing national, regional and local policies and strategies to identify any implications for local needs in relation to open space, sport and recreation facilities.

Consultation

A series of consultations were undertaken in order to identify the local needs and views of Waverley residents in relation to existing open space, sport and recreation facilities throughout the Borough. Paper questionnaires and online surveys via the Council's website were used to gather information on the general public's attitudes to existing provision, their quality and accessibility, and any deficiencies in their areas. 3,500 copies were distributed, and a 20.45% response rate achieved. Consultation was also undertaken directly with sports clubs and organisations, schools, Parish and Town Councils, and other landholders and the response rates from these groups is reported on throughout the document. In combination, these surveys provide a relatively robust

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evidence base from which to carry out the assessment and prepare and review planning policies as part of the LDF process; however, further work is needed on some of the aspects of the study to enable more accurate local standards to be produced.

Step 2: Auditing Local Provision

The assessment requires the identification of all applicable open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough, irrespective of ownership and the extent of public access. The following steps were used to gather and then verify the appropriate information.

Open Space

PPG17 defines that *‘open space should be taken to mean all open spaces of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity’*. Waverley contains many lakes and ponds as well as the River Wey and its tributaries and part of the Wey and Arun Canal. These have not been looked at in detail in this study, but their contribution to more specialist leisure activities in the borough is included in Chapter 15 Special Interest Sports.

PPG17 splits ‘open space’ into two main sub-sets: green space, which is normally grassed/ vegetated and, civic space, which is predominantly hard-surfaced. It also indicates that as a result of the multi-functionality of many types of open space it will be necessary to classify each open space by its ‘primary purpose’ to ensure that it was counted only once in the assessment. However, to enable a more accurate study to be undertaken in Waverley, where possible, large sites, such as Farnham Park, have been split into their component parts, and calculated accordingly.

In accordance with the guidance, the open space typologies that were included in this assessment along with their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in the table below which is taken directly from PPG17.

	Typology	Definition for this Study	Primary Purpose	Source of Information in Waverley
Green Spaces	Parks and Gardens	Urban Parks, Country Parks, and formal gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance • Officer knowledge • Waverley Borough

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	Typology	Definition for this Study	Primary Purpose	Source of Information in Waverley
				Council Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial Photographic survey 2009
	Natural and semi-natural green spaces, including urban woodland	Includes publicly accessible woodland, urban forestry, scrub, grassland (e.g downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (eg cliffs, quarries and pits)	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance • Officer knowledge • Local Plan Proposals Map 2002 designations • Waverley Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) 2010 • GIS data
	Green Corridors	River and canal banks, cycle ways and rights of way	Walking, cycling, or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance • Officer knowledge • Local Plan Proposals Map 2002 designations • Waverley Information Sheets • GIS data
	Outdoor Sports Facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either	Publicly or privately owned tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance • Officer knowledge • Playing Pitch Strategy 2003

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	Typology	Definition for this Study	Primary Purpose	Source of Information in Waverley
	publicly or privately owned)	other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waverley Borough Council Website • GIS data • Aerial Photographic survey 2009
	Amenity green space (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas)	Informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance or residential or other areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance • Officer knowledge
	Provision for children and young people	Play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (eg 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters)	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance • Playgrounds survey 2008 • Officer knowledge • Aerial Photographic survey 2009
	Allotments, community gardens, and city (urban) farms	Green areas for the public's use of growing produce	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance • Officer knowledge • GIS data • Aerial Photographic survey 2009

3 Methodology

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	Typology	Definition for this Study	Primary Purpose	Source of Information in Waverley
	Cemeteries and churchyards	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grounds Maintenance• Officer knowledge• Waverley Borough Council Website• GIS data• Aerial Photographic survey 2009
Civic spaces	Civic spaces	Civic and market squares, and other hard surface areas designed for pedestrians	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grounds Maintenance• Officer knowledge

Table 3.1

3.1 It should be noted that it is not always clear-cut as to which category an area falls into and the judgement of Officers has been used on occasions. As can be seen from the maps, Waverley is a rural borough, with large tracts of open land, including commons, agricultural land across it. In addition, many of these sites have more than one 'designation'. For example, one of the areas of Thursley Common is not only common land, but also a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation, a National Nature Reserve, and a RAMSAR site.

3.2 Using these typologies as a basis an attempt has been made to identify as much known open space, sport and recreation facilities within the Borough as practically possible irrespective of ownership and extent of public access. This includes primary, secondary schools and other educational institutes, and open space of particular historical/ cultural interest. The focus has been on land in the borough which is accessible to the public. It is acknowledged that there are large tracts of open land in private ownership which does not have this accessibility, and therefore in some case the areas of land quoted will be a minimum.

3.3 In accordance with PPG17 this assessment does not include the following:

- 'SLOAP' (space left over after planning), although significant areas within the towns that may be considered as amenity green space have been assessed;

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- other incidental areas of land, such as road verges, (those which are maintained by Waverley have been included) and which are not intended for a specific use; and,
- some small sites are excluded from the analysis due to the difficulties in mapping, identifying and assessing, for example village war memorials.

Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities

3.4 PPG17 does not formally define indoor sport and recreation facilities, but it does indicate that for the purposes of assessments local authorities should use a typology which includes:

- Swimming pools
- Indoor sports halls and leisure centres
- Indoor bowls centres
- Indoor tennis centres
- Ice rinks
- Community centres
- Village halls

Qualitative Assessment

3.5 To add to the information obtained above, an assessment of the quality of the sites was established through site visits undertaken by Officers of the Council. Over 300 of Waverley Borough's open space sites managed by the Parks and Landscapes Department were assessed. The larger sized sites managed by Waverley; which were generally natural/ semi-natural and amenity land, were not assessed on site, but with the knowledge of Countryside Officers. Sites not under Council ownership were not qualitatively assessed.

3.6 The qualitative survey work was based upon the guidance contained within the *Companion Guide* to PPG17, the results of the general survey relating to key site features and through consultation with the Leisure and Community Safety Service. Each site was assessed in spring 2010 through ten to twelve questions that relate to both the value attributed and quality of the open space for that typology.

3.7 Quality relates to the range of features or facilities on the site (e.g. trees, seating, paths), their basic characteristics (e.g. appropriate to the site or not), and their condition (e.g. on a spectrum from excellent to very poor)

3.8 Value is nothing to do with monetary value but refers the importance of a site to people and biodiversity; to its cultural and heritage value; and to its strategic value-for example by providing a sense of openness in a densely developed area.

3 Methodology

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3.9 Quality and value are therefore entirely independent of each other. For example, if a particular green space is the only one in which young people can take part in a kickabout in an area, it is of high value, even if it is poor quality. Conversely, a space or facility of superb quality may be of little value if it is inaccessible or no one knows it is there.

3.10 For these sets of questions, the site was marked as *excellent, good, poor, very poor, not present but required, and not present and not required*. The assessment resulted in a percentage score being given to both the value and quality of each site surveyed.

3.11 These ratings are only a guide and are not intended to indicate that a site is not valued by the community or is surplus to requirements. The difficulty with this approach is that it cannot take full account of the limitations of certain sites and that in many cases there may be restrictions (e.g. locational, environmental) meaning that a top score is unachievable. Therefore this information has been used as a guide and in conjunction with the results of the consultation process and Officer knowledge and judgement.

Step 3: Setting Provision Standards

3.12 Once the assessments of local need and audit of provision are in place it is possible to set locally determined provision standards. PPG17 states that local standards should include:

- A quantitative component
- A qualitative component
- An accessibility component

3.13 The **quantitative** standard was established through a combination of examining the consultation responses, mapping the location of sites, extracting data on size and facilities, and considering their accessibility to the population of the Borough. This helps to identify areas where provision needs to be examined further. A simple analysis of where concern that provision was too low was also undertaken based on the respondent's postcode, this gave a general indication of where there may be issues, but should be treated with caution due to the difficulties in matching postcodes with identifiable communities and any inherent bias in the number of respondents from various areas.

3.14 The **qualitative** standard was established through a combination of the site visits undertaken by Officers of the Council and the results of the consultations as discussed above.

3.15 The **accessibility** of sites was considered, both in terms of the physical accessibility of sites to the public i.e. were there footpaths, disabled access, was it easy to locate, accessible by foot etc and by the distance and means by which people were willing to travel in order to establish 'catchment' areas and provision standards. This was also supplemented by information on ownership, which can be viewed in the Area

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Profiles in Annex A. The Borough contains a number of member- only clubs or sites associated in particular with the high number of private schools and some large businesses within the Borough.

3.16 ‘Catchment’ areas for different types of provision were based on the favoured mode of transport and the distance people expected, or were willing to travel as established through the consultation responses. In all cases the catchment was defined as the distance 75 – 80% of users wish to travel by the most popular mode of transport. The catchments used in this study are fairly general in nature and do not take account of the wide variety of users; however, they are based upon the minimum distance likely to be travelled to take account of the needs of the older population and those with young children. They are also ‘as the crow flies’ catchments but any physical barriers to access are picked up through the area profiles.

3.17 Levels of usage can provide useful information on the popularity of a site or help identify deficiencies or barriers to access.

Step 4: Applying Provision Standards

3.18 Once the standards are set they are applied to the existing provision of each individual type of open space, sports or recreation facility. This process helps to identify gaps in provision and therefore the areas of priority. The anticipated changes in the population have been taken into account which, in Waverley, is expected to result in an increase in population from 118,800 (2009) to 131,200 in 2026. (Based on ONS 2008 based sub-national projections). As most new residential development is anticipated to be within the main towns of the Borough, it is expected that these areas are most likely to experience this population growth. With the generally ageing population and a reduction in the number of younger residents no significant population growth is anticipated in the more rural areas. Provision standards should not be seen as rigid, rather they are starting points for negotiations and a high quality environment will not necessarily result from their strict application. They should be combined with high levels of design skills and consideration of the wider context.

3.19 When applying the standards, Parish boundaries have been used for the rural areas. In the four main settlements Wards have been combined, and only in the case of Moor Park, divided, to better reflect the built-up areas and identifiable neighbourhoods as suggested by PPG17. Farnham has been divided into areas north and south of the A31, and similarly Godalming has been divided into two areas by the A3100.

3.20 The boundaries of the areas surveyed are shown on Map 3.1.

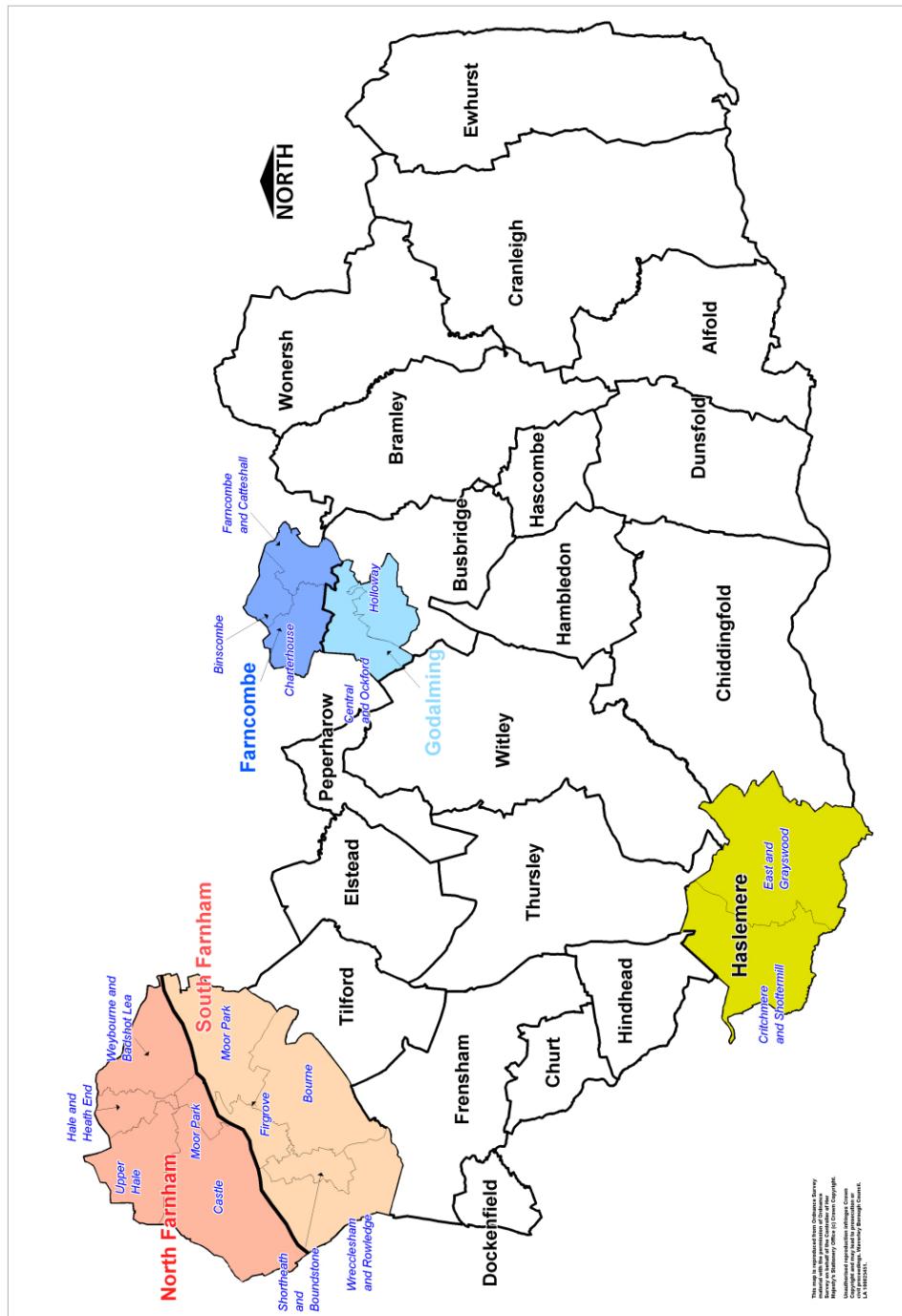
3.21 However, it is intended that the data captured should be capable of being used in a number of situations, and analysis of the typologies can also be made on a parish, ward and borough-wide basis as required, as well as the areas defined for this study.

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3.22 A profile for each area will be contained within Annex A, once the review of the Playing Pitch Strategy has taken place, and be used to assess local circumstances that may result in a need to deviate from the standards set across the Borough. This is felt to be more informative than setting urban and rural standards.

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Map 3.1 PPG17 Study Areas

Step 5: Policy Options and Key Actions

3.23 The preceding 4-step approach to the assessment provides the evidence from which the Council can make decisions on the open space, sports and recreation facilities that should be protected, enhanced, relocated or are indeed surplus. Also, 'key actions' have been suggested to address issues that can be dealt with immediately or in the longer term as part of any future Leisure and Community Safety Service Action Plans and also the Open Space Strategy (2012). In terms of new provision, it is recommended that a minimum acceptable site size for each typology is established, for use when development is proposed. The small nature of most development opportunities within the Borough will mean that provision on many sites will normally not be practicable. However, the Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 'Planning Infrastructure Contributions'(2008) incorporates a tariff system of developer contributions for many kinds of developments. The contributions are payable to increase capacity in line with additional need which the new development creates. The tariff approach allows funds to be gathered on every housing site from a single dwelling to a large development, and also for commercial development. The funds are pooled under different uses. One such use is leisure, which is sub-divided into Indoor facilities, Sports Pitches and Play Spaces. Contributions may be spent to meet the needs of the development on relevant county-level and district level projects or individual works to serve the actual development.

General Open Space Issues 4

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Study

4 General Open Space Issues

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Introduction

4.1 Consultation with users of open space across Waverley Borough covered a range of issues. Typology and site-specific information issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section describes the generic issues of open space quantity, usage, accessibility, quality, and value that concern all open space typologies.

4.2 Aside from Waverley Borough Council, open space is owned and managed by a wide variety of agencies, including the National Trust, Forestry Commission, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council, MOD, and Parish and Town Councils. As previously explained, developing an accurate picture of open spaces in the area is therefore, complex.

Consultation

4.3 A series of consultations were undertaken in order to identify the local needs and views of Waverley residents regarding existing open space, sports and recreation facilities throughout the Borough. This section sets out the key findings of these consultations.

The General Survey

4.4 The purpose of the general survey was to gather the views of households on the quantity, usage, accessibility, quality, and value of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough. Between December 2009 and February 2010, 3,400 surveys were mailed out across Waverley, distributed proportionately to the number of households in each ward. Within each ward these were distributed at random. A further 12 questionnaires were sent to members of Waverley's Top Youth Council, and an online version of the general survey was placed on the Council's website to coincide with the release of a news article about the general survey in the local press.

4.5 716 responses were received, equating to a response rate of about 20% of those specifically questioned.

The key findings in terms of all types of open space within the Borough were as follows:

Quantity

- It is considered that the amount of open space in the borough is about right (65%). Only 0.6% of respondents thought that there was too much. 24% thought there was too little provision. From the results, there is a perception that there is not enough provision for children and young people, or enough indoor sports facilities or green corridors in Waverley.

Quality

- The majority of people rated the space as good or average. Just over 9% thought they were poor or very poor, with concerns about indoor sports facilities, civic spaces and the quality of facilities for children and young people.
- Note has been taken of the spaces which people considered to be of poor quality for further investigation.

Accessibility

- Walking was the most favoured means of travel to an open space, closely followed by car travel, particularly in respect of indoor and outdoor sports facilities in the borough, which could be explained by the need to travel to away matches, or to the towns from the more rural parts of the borough, and also civic spaces, which are located in the towns.
- The majority of people expect to travel for no more than 20 minutes to the open space of their choice.

Importance

- Over 84% of people consider open space to be important or very important, while less than 4% consider it not to be important at all. Natural and semi natural spaces were thought to be the most valued by 79% of people, while others particularly valued parks and gardens and green corridors.

4 General Open Space Issues

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Usage

- The most popular reasons for people using the open space near them are walking, fresh air and to take exercise. The main reason for not using them was a lack of time; but a number of respondents said that they were too far away, with poor access or that the site nearest to them was not of good quality.
- The majority of people said that they only used open spaces occasionally, followed closely by those using them on a weekly basis. Only 11% used the spaces on a daily basis.
- 8.4% of respondents said that one of their main reasons for using open space was to observe the wildlife, which given the number of accessible areas which are designated for their wildlife/ habitat value, is not surprising.

Waverley Schools Survey

4.6 A questionnaire was sent to all 48 Primary and Secondary Schools in the Borough. 22 responses were received.

4.7 The purpose of this consultation was to ask schools to indicate the types of sport and recreation facilities they have, to ask about the use of their facilities by external sports clubs or organisations and whether or not they had any plans for increasing, decreasing or improving their facilities. This generally concerned information on playing fields and indoor facilities.

4.8 21 of the 22 schools that responded allowed outside clubs to use their facilities on a regular basis. Charterhouse list over 20 different clubs and organisations, several of which came from outside Waverley. Allowing access to the schools at weekends and the cost of maintaining grass pitches were given as reasons for restricting access. 13 of the 22 schools have plans to improve facilities, which range from hopes to rebuild an entire school to improving drainage on the sports pitches, all of which are dependent on funding sources of various kinds.

4.9 The forthcoming Playing Pitch Strategy will provide more detailed information in relation to the use of leisure and recreational facilities owned by educational establishments in the Borough.

Parish and Town Council Survey of Open Space and Allotments

4.10 The twenty Parish and Town Councils in the Borough were sent a questionnaire and asked to verify and add to information gathered by the Council on sites in their area.

4.11 The questionnaire asked for their opinion of the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities in their area, information on their village halls and any plans they may have for increasing, decreasing or improving sites. Eleven responses were returned. Where specific issues are identified these are discussed under the relevant typologies.

4.12 The majority of allotment sites in Waverley are owned and managed by the relevant Parish or Town Councils. An additional questionnaire was distributed to these Councils to obtain information about the provision of allotment sites, and to determine the current quality of the sites along with their accessibility and usage. Seven parish councils returned information concerning the allotments they manage. Analysis on the use of allotments is contained within the relevant chapter.



Picture 4.1 Busbridge Lakes

which, given the quality of the landscape and the rural character of the Borough in Waverley is not surprising.

4.15 Whilst the survey does identify some areas of concern from some user groups, this is not across all uses. Major refurbishment to Waverley's leisure centres in Cranleigh and Farnham have been completed since the survey was carried out, which should address the majority of concerns about these buildings.

4.16 All of the information from the various elements of the consultation has been fed into the relevant chapters, and from this a series of Key Actions has been identified for each typology. If agreed, these will be fed into the next High Level Action Plan of

Other Landholders

4.13 Other major owners of open space within the Borough were contacted. These included the National Trust, Woodland Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust. The purpose was to further identify land (in most cases *natural/semi-natural green spaces*) that is available for public use, its extent, quality and future plans. Mapped data from these groups has been included where appropriate within the document and where information was supplied.

Summary

4.14 It would appear that there is generally a good level of satisfaction with the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sports and recreation facilities in the Borough. There is a higher degree of satisfaction with the natural environment over the built facilities,

4 General Open Space Issues

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

the Waverley Cultural Strategy, and the emerging Open Space Strategy, and taken into account by other departments of the Council if potential funding opportunities arise to improve open space, sport and leisure facilities.

Public Parks and Gardens 5

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Study

5 Public Parks and Gardens

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Definition

Urban parks, country parks and formal gardens, the primary purpose of which is to provide accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

For the purpose of Waverley's study this definition includes gardens with more formal landscaping and planting and recreation grounds *without* formal sports facilities, such as goal posts etc.

Public parks and gardens also provide a variety of other secondary purposes such as ecological benefits and providing amenity green space etc.

Background

5.1 In 2003 a national survey was commissioned by Sport England, the Countryside Agency, and English Heritage⁽ⁱ⁾ to help establish how many adults in England use public parks. The definition of public park that was used in the survey was a very broad one (broader than the definition used in this study) and included both formal provision such as a town park, country park, formal gardens, play grounds, and recreation grounds, and less formal provision such as village greens or open common/ heathland. The main findings from this study include:

- Just under two thirds of adults in England had visited a public park during the previous 12 months
- There is a distinct bias in the use of parks by social groups with almost three quarters of adults from a higher social group visiting a park compared with only half of those from the lower social group. People from black and ethnic minority communities have relatively low participation rates, as do adults with a disability.
- More than 8 in 10 adults who had used a park in the previous 12 months did so at least once a month during the spring/ summer months with almost two thirds visiting a park once a week.
- The most popular type of park visited was an urban/ city/ town park.
- Accompanying a child to a play area was the second most common activity (43%) undertaken in parks by adults, behind going for a walk (75%).
- Only 11% of adults claimed to use a park to take part in formal organised sporting activity.

5.2 There are no local policies relating specifically to public parks and gardens, but they are often included in cultural and community strategies. Waverley does have eight Historic Gardens as identified by English Heritage; however because these are for the

i [The Use of Public Parks in England 2003](#)

most part private and some may only have public access by arrangement and payment and only on certain days, such as the Yellow Book Scheme, they have not been included in this audit.

Consultation Results

The General Survey

5.3 The results of the general survey showed that parks and gardens are considered to be the second most important type of open space in the Borough with 96% of respondents stating that they were either very important or important. This is only slightly lower than natural and semi natural space (98.1%) and green corridors (95%).

5.4 The high usage of a space can give an indication of how much it is valued. Over the last 12 months respondents visited a park or garden:

- Daily 16.7% (16.2% People using Parks and Green Space in SE)⁽ⁱⁱ⁾
- Weekly 38.6% (30% People using Parks and Green Space in SE)
- Monthly 17.2% (20.9% People using Parks and Green Space in SE)
- On occasion 27.5%

5.5 Parks and Gardens are the second most frequently visited type of open space in the Borough behind natural and semi natural green spaces. People from North Farnham use parks and gardens most frequently, but this is not surprising given that 11 of the 36 parks and gardens are in this area.

5.6 Over 77% think that the provision of parks and gardens is about right. 18.6% think that there is too little and postcode analysis shows that there was particular concern in Haslemere.

5.7 Parks and gardens are rated by 69.4% as being of very good or good quality, with 4.6% considering them to be poor or very poor. Respondents from Cranleigh and Ewhurst were least satisfied with the quality of their parks and gardens.

Parish and Town Council Survey

5.8 Results were generally positive with four of the six responses to this question rating the quality of their parks and gardens to be good.

5.9 There may have been some confusion about the definition of parks and gardens by the towns and parishes, as some said that they didn't have any, where some had actually been recorded in the audit. It is likely that they considered them under another typology. Conversely, some commented on them, where none had been recorded. This definition will need to be made clearer for future documents.

ii Source: BVPI Data. Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base – CABE 2009

5 Public Parks and Gardens

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5.10 Most of those that responded thought that the provision was right, with only Cranleigh suggesting that there was too little.

5.11 None of the Parish or Town Councils that responded has identified any future plans for the parks and gardens in their areas. In acknowledging that there were concerns about the lack of such facilities in Cranleigh, the Parish Council felt that this had been helped by the recent refurbishment of the recreation ground at Snoxhall Fields and the area surrounding the Parish offices.

Current Provision in Waverley

5.12 The audit identified 35 public parks and gardens in Waverley Borough. Of these, eight are gardens with more formal landscaping and planting, such as the Victoria Garden and Battings Memorial Garden in Farnham. The others are less formal parks with other facilities and open space.

5.13 Due to the multi-functionality of most public parks and gardens in Waverley many of them contain other typologies, in particular provision for children and young people. Farnham Park has not been included within Parks and Gardens, but for the most part has been included as a natural and semi natural greenspace, and its play space areas recorded in that category. Recreation grounds without sports equipment such as goalposts or formal pitches marked have been included as parks in this typology. Where other uses are present (such as sports facilities or playgrounds) the size in hectares of these have been calculated and removed from their total area. This is to ensure that there is no double counting and therefore as accurate a representation as possible of the other typologies is provided.

Setting Provision Standards

5.14 The provision standards have been set taking into account the current provision, site assessments, consultations and likely future needs.

Quantity Standards

5.15 The audit shows that there are some 20 ha of public parks and gardens across the whole of Waverley. This equates to a provision of 0.17 ha per 1000 people.

5.16 Respondents to the general survey are overall satisfied with the overall provision of public parks and gardens in the Borough and therefore results indicate that provision in Waverley is 'about right'. This is of course supplemented by amenity open space, natural and semi- natural green space and outdoor sports facilities that perform many of the functions of a public park. It is reasonable to set the quantity standard at 0.2 per 1000 people to reflect existing provision and the availability of access to the open countryside in Waverley.

Quantity Standard - 0.2ha per 1000 people.

Quality Standards

5.17 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme is a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. The awards are based on a holistic view of what makes a good green space, rather than a single indicator.

5.18 The following is the key criteria against which every park or green space entered is judged:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

5.19 Within each criterion are a series of other criteria and this is becoming an increasingly recognised standard across the country. Although the fact that a space has achieved a Green Flag award is a good indication of its quality, Green Flag is a voluntary scheme. The fact that a space does not have an award should not be taken to imply that it is of poor quality; it may simply not have been entered into the scheme, which is the case with most of Waverley's parks and gardens. It is anticipated that several of the parks will be nominated in the future.

5.20 The overall result of the general survey indicates general satisfaction with Waverley's parks and gardens, but some said that they did not use the following sites. Not everyone gave reasons:

- Badshot Lea Village Green, Farnham
- Chestnut Way Recreation ground, Bramley (litter/broken glass/dog mess/anti-social youths)
- Gostrey Meadow, Farnham (too much litter, unpleasant environment, full of teenagers)
- Town Meadow, Haslemere

5.21 Conversely, Gostrey Meadow was also one of the most frequently visited parks in the borough, as well the Langham Recreation ground, and Victoria Gardens, Farnham and the Philips Memorial Ground, Godalming.

Quality Standard – Parks and gardens should be welcoming, safe, clean and inviting spaces that are well maintained with a good mix of natural and built amenities.

5 Public Parks and Gardens

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Accessibility Standards

5.22 Without good accessibility to the public, the benefit of good quality or good quantity of open space will be of very limited value. The Use of Public Parks in England survey 2003 showed that the majority of people visit the park that is closest to where they live, and the most common way of getting there is walking, followed by using a car. The majority of journeys to a particular park originated within 5 miles of the park, however most of them originated within one mile of the park.

5.23 A more recent survey, the Park Life Report, carried out by the charity Green Space in 2007 showed that 69% of people visit parks and green spaces on foot while 25% travel to parks in cars. Few people use public transport to visit parks and green spaces with only 2% travelling by bus.

5.24 In Waverley, 53% of respondents walk to the parks or gardens, with 41% travelling by car, which reflects the rural nature of the borough with limited public transport in the rural areas. There are also fewer parks and gardens in the rural areas and other types of open space are closer to hand. Only 2.7% would cycle, the same amount travelling on public transport.

5.25 47% of people expected to walk for less than 10 minutes, while 41.1% were willing to travel between 11 and 20 minutes. PPG17 recommends that it is best to define catchments by using the distance 75%-80% of users are willing to travel, and so 15 minutes walk is suggested as an accessibility standard for parks and gardens.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minutes walk, approximately 800m

Applying the Standards

5.26 Map 5.1 shows the locations of the identified parks and gardens. This shows that the areas that have apparent deficits are the more rural parts of the borough. With a concentration of parks and gardens in just a few wards, the standard of 0.2ha per 1000 people may not be reflective of the true picture on the ground. Analysis of the largest wards shows an apparent over provision in some and a deficit, or no actual parks and gardens at all in others, however, this needs to be balanced against the significant amounts of accessible natural and semi natural space, amenity space and other accessible open space in the more rural areas of the borough, and the other recreational spaces such as play areas and amenity areas in the more built up areas.

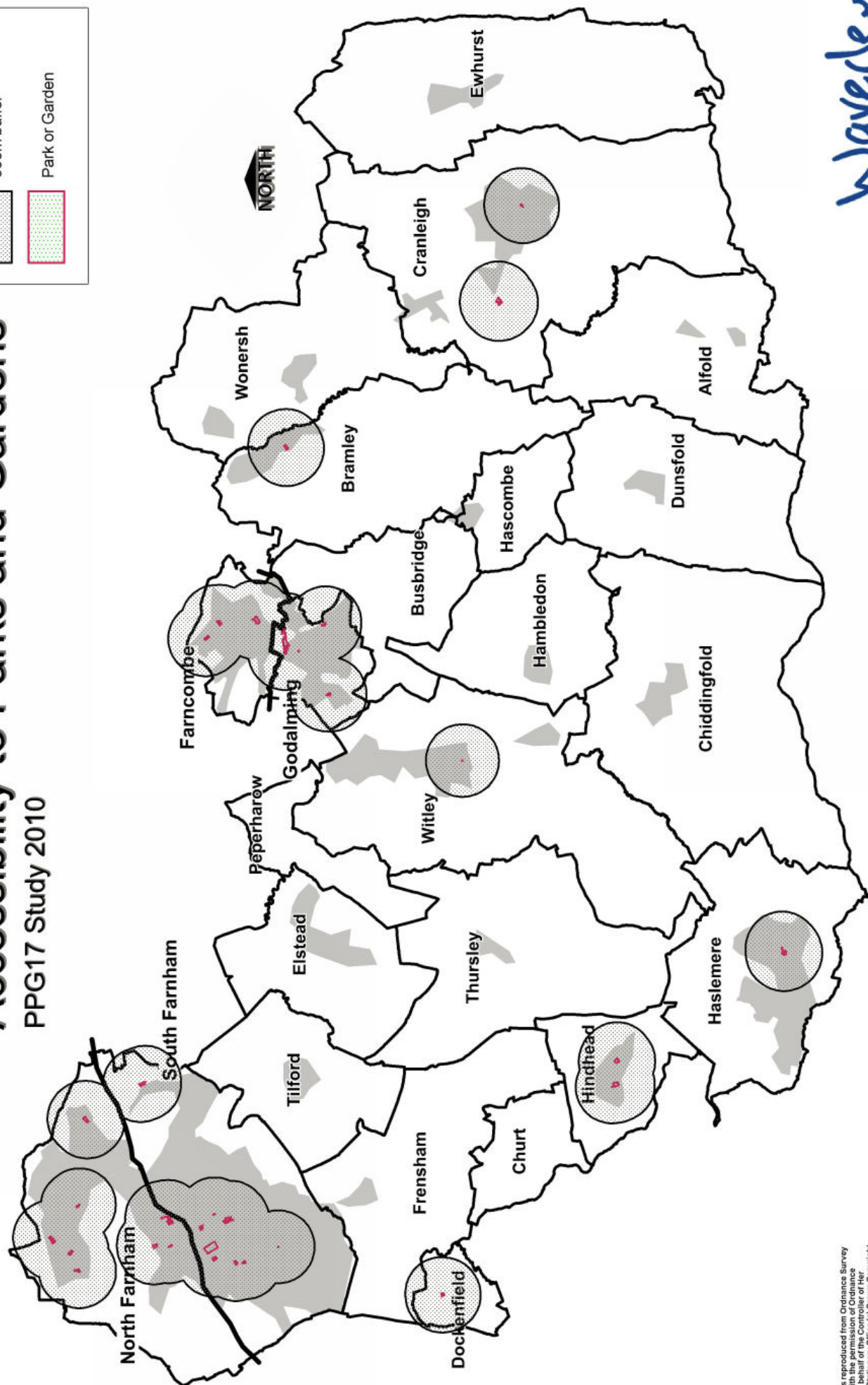
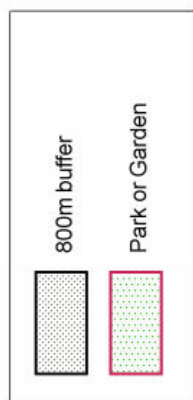
5.27 With 77% of respondents thinking that the provision of parks and gardens is about right, quantity does not appear to be a particular concern for most people. However, concern has been expressed in Haslemere and Cranleigh, and key actions have been suggested to look at this in more detail in the Open Space Strategy 2011.

5.28 In terms of quality, there did not appear to be any significant issues, with the majority of sites being rated as average to very good.

5.29 In terms of accessibility, there are some urban areas with higher populations that are not within 800m walk of a park or garden, but again, this should be looked at in conjunction with some of the other types of open spaces in these areas before making a decision on the need to address an apparent deficit.

Accessibility to Parks and Gardens

PPG17 Study 2010



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Policy Options

5.30 The anticipated levels of development to 2016 to could result in a population increase of around 4,300 people, (ONS 2008 sub-national population projections) this is most likely to be concentrated in the main towns of Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh, with lesser levels of development in some of the larger villages. This may result in an increasing need for, and pressure on open space generally within these areas. A population increase of about 4,300 would result in an additional need for about 1ha.

5.31 There are a number of policy options available:

- Make the best use of the resources available in the Borough and seek intensification / multi-use of existing sites, for example, some areas of amenity space in areas closely related to the population may double as parks and gardens, particularly if not suitable for informal recreational activities. This is not a planning policy issue and there would need to be a partnership between relevant organisations on these more land management issues.
- Where a need for new or expanded facilities is identified further land could be sought through the site allocations process; however, finding available land could prove to be very difficult particularly in existing built-up areas, and when other types of open spaces are taken into account could be hard to justify.
- Seek parks and gardens on development sites; however it is unlikely that a development site within the Borough will be of a large enough size to accommodate a park, or that there will actually be a need for such a formal facility, having regard to the amount of accessible greenspace in the borough, especially in the more rural areas. There are more likely to be opportunities for smaller landscaped garden areas in the more built up areas, particularly in conjunction with high quality amenity space. This could be dealt with on a site by site basis when amenity greenspace is being sought.
- Financial contributions could be sought from developments near to existing parks and gardens to be put towards their improvement so that they are a more attractive option for people to use.

5.32 If all existing open space, sports and recreation facilities identified in the PPG17 Assessment are protected from development, proposals for re-development to a non open space, sports and recreation based use should first be required to demonstrate that the site is surplus to requirements and unsuitable for all other open space typologies, not just its existing use. This is due to the identified deficiencies in some typologies and the limited opportunities available to accommodate new facilities across the Borough particularly in the built-up areas and across much of the countryside due to the significant constraints (both physical and policy related).

5 Public Parks and Gardens

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Key Actions

- **Address issues of general quality in the Cranleigh area**
 - Work with Cranleigh Parish Council to address issues, and seek sources of external funding. This would only be possible if housing numbers increase in the area generating specific need for further parks and gardens which is unlikely by comparison with the need for other facilities.
- **Identify ‘district level’ public parks and gardens in the Borough, with the aim to produce management plans (including specific landscape plans) for enhancing sites**
 - Produce management plans for:
 - Phillips Memorial Ground (Godalming)
 - Gostrey Meadow (Farnham)
 - Broadwater Park, Godalming
- **Seek to improve the overall quality of public parks and gardens through application for *Green Flag* accreditation for the following sites:**
 - Phillips Memorial Ground (Godalming)
 - Gostrey Meadow (Farnham)
 - Broadwater Park, (Godalming)
- **Improve the quality of public parks and gardens rated poorly in the survey:**
 - Boundstone Recreation Ground (Farnham)
 - Hale Reeds Recreation Ground (Farnham)
 - Oast House Crescent Recreation Ground (Farnham)
 - Sandy Hill Top Space (Farnham)
 - Weydon Tip (Farnham) (former landfill site still producing methane which limits its use.)
- **Address the lack of provision of public parks and gardens sites in Haslemere**
 - General survey respondents from the Haslemere area assessed local provision of public parks and gardens to be poor

- Identify appropriate new sites in the Haslemere area where open space of a public parks and garden standard can be developed
- Enhance the quality of centrally located 'major' sites of other typologies in the Haslemere area to reach the standard of public parks and gardens. Possible sites include:
 - St Christopher's Green (Haslemere)
 - Crown and Cushion Junction/ Weydown Road Car Park (open space Haslemere)
 - Town Meadow
- **Enhance Phillips Memorial Park, Godalming with the intention of improving overall quality; taking into account the Titanic centenary commemorations in April 2012**
 - Submit bid to Heritage Lottery Fund for additional funding
 - Undertake historic building works
 - Improve general accessibility
 - Enhance biodiversity
 - Enhance landscaping
 - Application for Greenflag award status
- **Improve site signage and provide appropriate interpretation.**

Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace 6

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Study

Definition

This type of open space includes urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits). Its primary purpose is wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental education and awareness.

Background

6.1 Access to natural/ semi-natural green space is a key characteristic of Waverley Borough and it is highly valued by residents and visitors alike. At a national level studies tend to focus on the value of more formal elements of sports and recreation facilities; however, Natural England and The Woodland Trust have recognised the importance of natural/ semi-natural green space and have devised their own accessibility standards, some of which will be examined later in this study.

6.2 English Nature, in their publication *A Space for Nature* (1996), believe that:

- *Everyday contact with nature is important for well-being and quality of life;*
- *everyone should be able to enjoy this contact, in safety, without having to make any special effort or journey to do so;*
- *natural green space in towns and cities can play an important part in helping safeguard our national treasure of wildlife and geological features; and,*
- *accessible natural green spaces give everyone an excellent chance to learn about nature and to help protect it in practical ways.*

6.3 Although the above document perhaps relates more to an urban population than a rural one, the sentiments are still strongly felt by residents in Waverley, no matter whether they live in towns, villages or more rural locations. This view has always been expressed by residents over a variety of consultations about what is valued in the Borough.

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

6.4 The majority of natural/ semi-natural green spaces within the Borough are managed by organisations with conservation and enhancement of the environment as part of their remit. In addition this type of green space is covered by national designations such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).



Picture 6.1 Frensham Common

6.5 There are a number of sites attracting visitors from quite large distances, such as the Devil's Punchbowl, Frensham Common, and Winkworth Arboretum. This can result in significant recreational pressure on sites and the road network around them, and needs careful management; although these pressures can be difficult to control as promotion may be carried out by other others.

Consultation Results

General Survey

6.6 The results of the general survey indicate that Waverley residents consider natural and semi-natural greenspaces to be the most important types of open space in the Borough. 98.1% rate it as important or very important. Over the preceding 12 months respondents visited these areas:

- Daily 16.7%
- Weekly 43.6%
- Monthly 18.8%
- On occasions 14.2%

6.7 As well as being the considered the most important type of space, it also the most frequently used in the Borough. The most highly rated sites included Blackheath, Cranleigh and Dunsfold Commons, Farnham Park, and Frensham Common.

6.8 Whilst only 3.5% stated dog walking as the main purpose, from observations many of those using sites on a daily basis are accompanied by a dog. Dog fouling is a significant problem at access points on many natural and semi natural greenspaces

6.9 82% of respondents thought that the quantity of natural and semi natural greenspaces was about right. 16.1% thought that there was too little and these respondents came mainly from North and South Farnham and Farncombe and Godalming.

6.10 Natural and semi natural greenspaces were rated as being of good or very good quality by 81.9% of respondents.

Town and Parish Council Survey

6.11 All Parish and Town Council responding to the survey considered natural/ semi-natural green space provision to be ‘about right’ within their areas.

Current Provision in Waverley

6.12 In total, there is at least 5,800 ha of land classified within the audit as natural/ semi-natural green space. Although this is already a large amount, in reality this is likely to be lower than what actually exists. Capturing and categorising the data is difficult. For example, commons are often managed as natural and semi natural greenspaces, but their primary purpose in some cases may be better categorised as amenity greenspace. When another use has been identified, usually through local knowledge or through use of the Council’s aerial photographic survey 2009, the other uses have been extracted and put into other categories. Every effort has been made to avoid double counting of land, but it is acknowledged that areas will have been missed, mainly because of lack of knowledge about ownership/ accessibility/ accuracy of physical boundaries.

6.13 Although the Council has contacted several major landowners having land accessible to the public, it recognises that there may be others.

6.14 The types of land included in this typology include

- The National Trust land
- Surrey County Council land managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust under contract
- Woodlands Trust land
- Surrey Wildlife Trust land
- Common Land and woodland managed and maintained by Waverley Borough
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission
- MOD
- Ancient Woodland with public access (i.e has a bridleway or footpath through it)
- All sites with national and local environmental designations that have public access (SSSIS, NNRs, LNRs, SACs, SPAs, RIGS and RAMSAR sites etc)

6.15 The South Downs National Park formally came into being on 31 March 2010, and part of the area adjoins Waverley for several miles along part of its southern border.

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study



Picture 6.2 Winkworth Arboretum

6.16 The amount and location of the captured areas demonstrates the significant environmental and historical heritage within Waverley. Although PPG17 suggests that all such land can be included, in this case, an attempt has been made to include only those areas that are available for the purposes of public recreation, or have an element of public access. Sites range widely in size, from the 0.38ha at Blackheath Crossroads, to the 367ha of Frensham Common. Several of these sites cross Parish and Borough boundaries, but the amount for each PPG17 area has been calculated. Major open spaces which extend beyond the Waverley Borough boundary include:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • Alice Holt Forest | East Hampshire District |
| • Council | |
| • Ashpark Wood | Chichester District Council |
| • Blackdown | Chichester District Council |
| • Blackheath, Farley Heath and Newlands Corner | Guildford Borough Council |
| • Crooksbury and Puttenham Commons | Guildford Borough Council |
| • Hogwood | Chichester District Council |
| • Hurtwood | Guildford Borough and |
| • Mole Valley District Council | |
| • Ludshott and Bramshott Commons | East Hampshire District |
| • Council | |
| • Rowhill Nature Reserve | Rushmoor Borough Council |
| • Linchmere & Marley Commons | Chichester District Council |
| • Caesar's Camp (part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA) | Rushmoor Borough & |
| • Hart District Councils | Hart District Councils |

6.17 The South Downs National park was designated in 2010, and part of its border is contiguous with Waverley around part of Haslemere. Many of the other boroughs and districts are rural and it is clear that users in Waverley will also travel outside of the borough to access other open land for various reasons.

Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area

6.18 A Special Protection Area (SPA) is a site that is designated under the European Habitats Directive as being of European importance for its populations of wild birds. In the case of the two SPAs in Waverley, the birds are specifically breeding populations of nightjar, dartford warbler and woodlark. All of them are rare birds in Britain. They nest on or near the ground and are therefore vulnerable to disturbance from cats, dogs and humans.

6.19 Only a small part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, about 80ha, is within Waverley to the north of Farnham. The vast majority of the SPA lies outside Waverley to the north. However, the zone of influence of the SPA extends 5km from the perimeter of the SPA and therefore, affects most of Farnham.

6.20 In order to avoid residents of new housing in the Farnham area having an adverse impact on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, the Council adopted an Interim Miniplan in 2007. The Miniplan prevents residential development within 400 m of the SPA and within 5 kms requires developers to contribute to the enhancement of Farnham Park as a suitable alternative natural green space (SANG).

6.21 The aim was to encourage residents to go to the SANG for dog walking and recreation, rather than visiting the SPA. When the Miniplan was first adopted, the identified capacity of SANG at Farnham Park was 10.9 hectares. That capacity was soon exhausted and a new Avoidance Strategy was adopted on 15 December 2009. It provides an additional 3.45ha of SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) in Farnham Park.

6.22 The Council has established an approach so it may determine planning applications for residential development in the Farnham area on the basis that they do not have a significant effect on the Special Protection Area. The Avoidance Strategy provides guidance to developers in relation to the level of avoidance measures that the Council expects to see incorporated within planning applications in the light of Natural England's advice. In this instance, "avoidance measures" means providing or contributing towards Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and contributing towards a programme of strategic access management and monitoring of the SPA.

Setting Provision Standards

6.23 The provision standards have been set taking into account the current provision, information from landowners, consultation responses and likely future needs.

Quantity Standards

6.24 The audit shows that there are at least 5,800 ha of natural and semi natural greenspaces in Waverley. This equates to a provision of 49 ha per 1,000 people and is significantly higher than other Boroughs in the area. (Mole Valley 34ha per 1000 people; Elmbridge - 9.86ha per 1,000 people; Epsom and Ewell - 11.09ha per 1,000.)

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

6.25 Waverley does have a significant amount of woodland, having about 31% coverage which is the highest of any district in the country. Only woodlands that have an element of public access have been included in the audit.

6.26 Respondents to the general survey are broadly satisfied with the amount of natural and semi natural greenspaces and the results, together with the data captured would indicate that the provision in the Borough is 'about right.' Using population forecasts and an assuming that there is no loss of land from within this typology, there will still be 44ha per 1000 people in 2026.

6.27 In terms of the quantity of natural/ semi natural green space the results of the study show that there is a significant level of land available across much of the Borough, although there is a greater concentration of larger sites in the western half of the Borough (Frensham and Thursley Commons) Much of this land is protected through national and local designations and it is unlikely that any significant loss to development of any such protected land type will be seen in the next 20 years.

6.28 Access on foot to the extensive areas of common land in Waverley is protected by the Countryside and Rights Of Way Act 2000 even where privately owned. Further detail by area will be contained within Annex A when completed.

6.29 There are two main standards which relate to the provision of natural/ semi-natural green space. These are the Woodland Trust's standard for woodland areas, and English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt).

6.30 The Woodland Trust recommends standards for the provision of woodland areas with different catchments for different size sites. They suggest that:

- No person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size
- There should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people's homes

6.31 This study has not distinguished between woodland and other forms of natural and semi-natural green spaces, but significant areas are wooded and this is a useful guide against which to assess the levels.

6.32 English Nature's standards are:

- An accessible natural green space of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (5 minutes) walk from home. (Map 6.1)
- 1ha of statutory Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population
- There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of home (Map 6.2)
- There should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km of home

- There should be one accessible 500ha site within 10 km of home

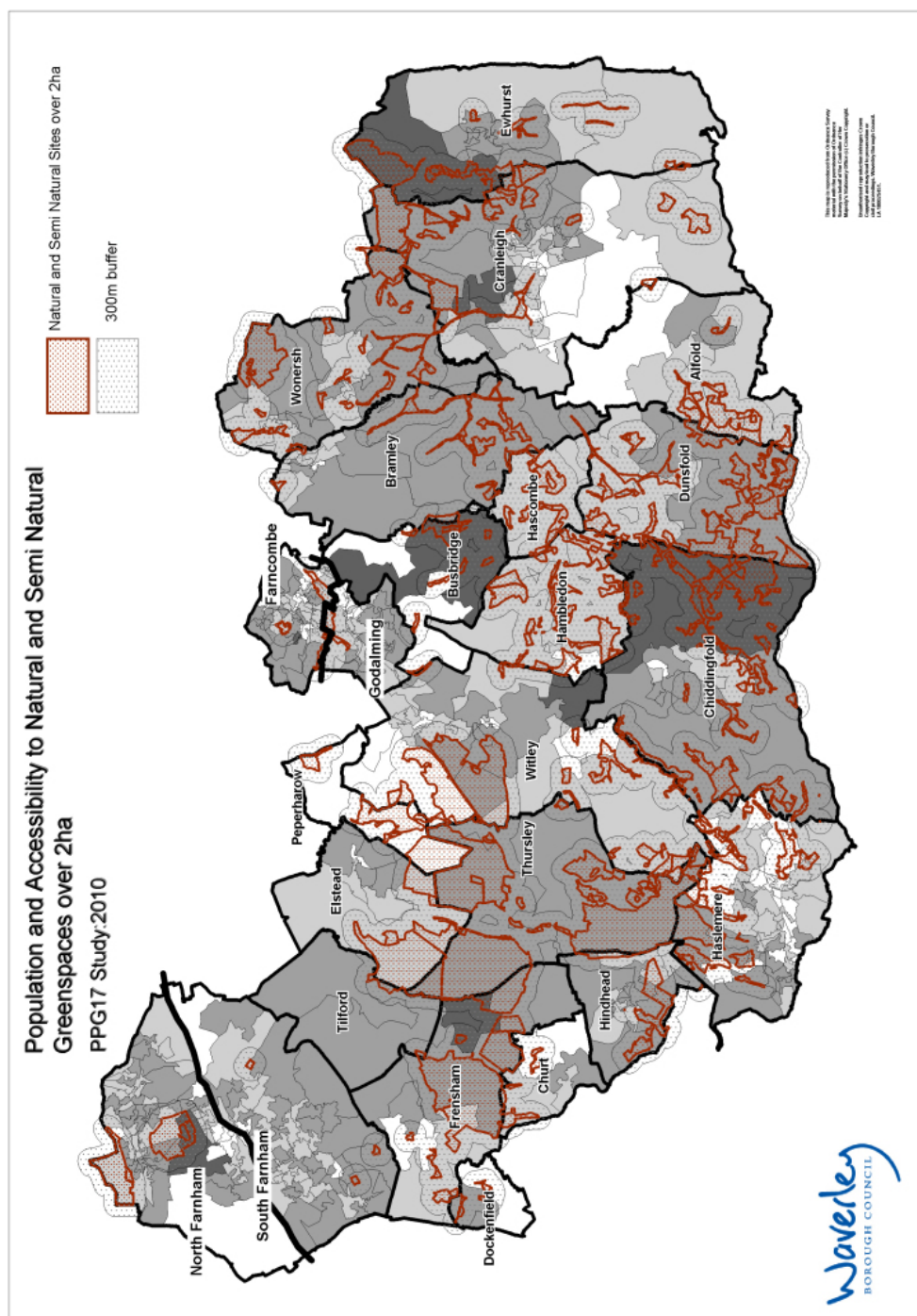
6.33 Analysis shows that there is 117 ha of Local Nature Reserves in Waverley, which equates to 0.98ha, per 1,000 population.

6.34 The following maps show the implications of the application of some aspects of these standards on Waverley.

6.35 Map 6.1 shows that there are many people, particularly in Farnham and Godalming for which accessible greenspace of more than 2ha is more than 300m away, however, the majority of sites in Waverley are over 2ha. It is not considered likely to be possible or practical to provide new space of this type in the urban areas as it is opportunity lead and there are limited, if any, opportunities in these areas.

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

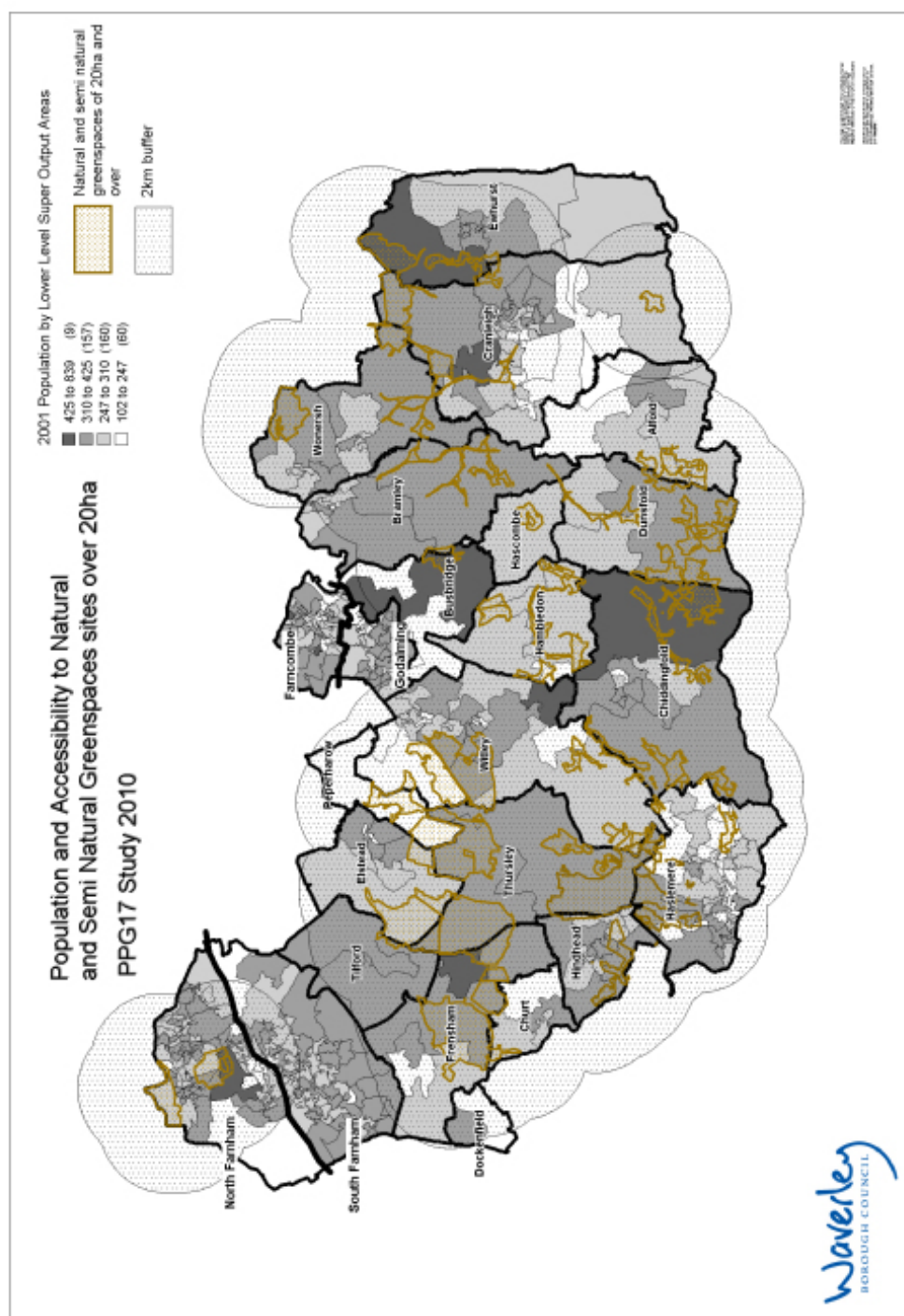
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6.36 Map 6.2 shows sites over 20ha in size with a 2km buffer. This shows clearly that while the rural area of the borough has good coverage, the residents of South Farnham and Farncombe and Godalming have little or no provision of this type of open space. The far south- eastern corner of Ewhurst appears deficient, but this has fewer residents, who may also have access to private open land and there are a number of properties in large plots as well as farmland or equestrian facilities. This also doesn't take account of natural and semi natural space land over the county boundary such as Alice Holt Forest, to which those in South Farnham are closest.

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

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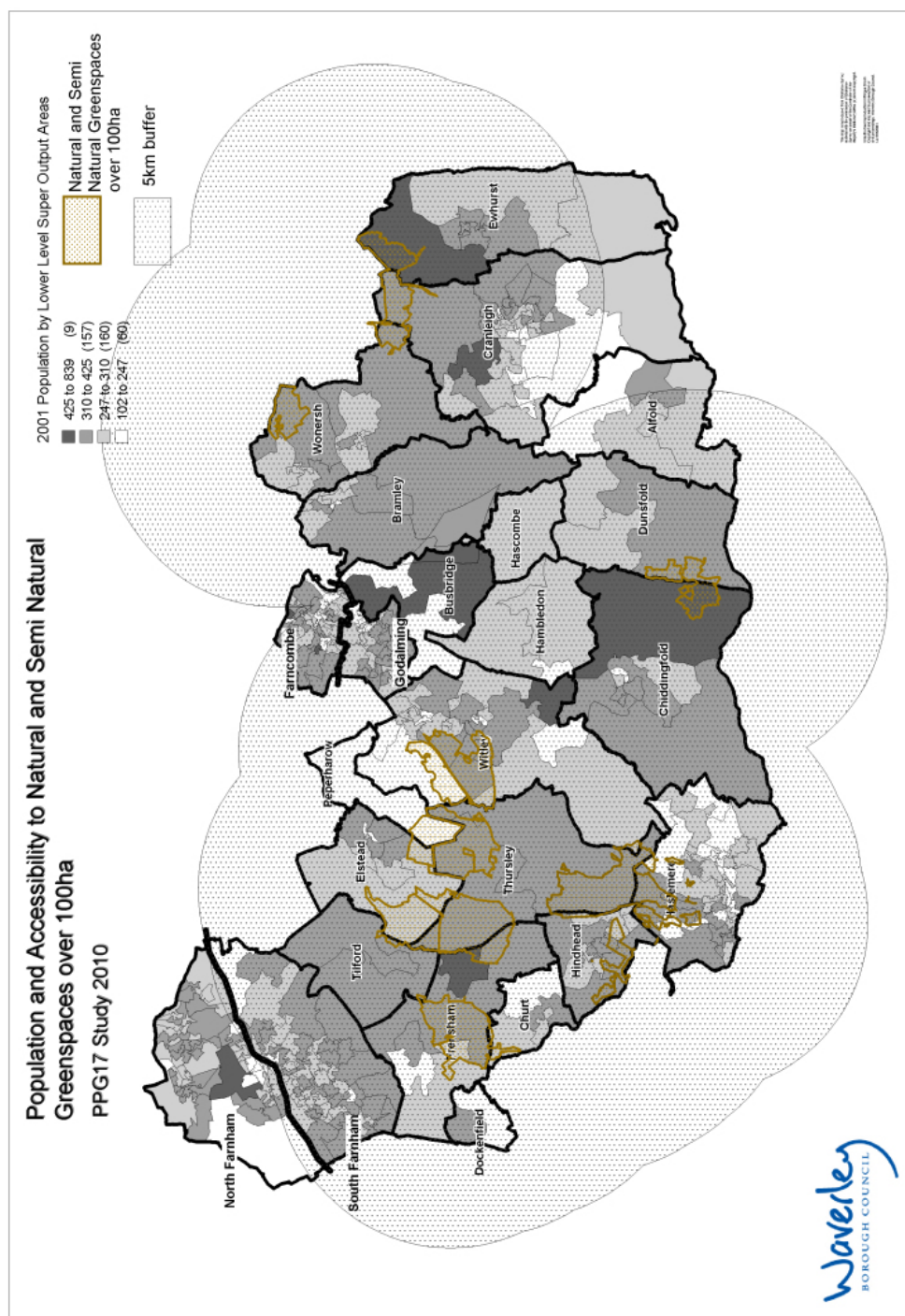


Map 6.2 Access to Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces over 20ha

6.37 Map 6.3 shows that the majority of the Borough has well in excess of the standard of sites of over 100ha, which provide a variety of habitats and areas to walk. The vast majority of the Borough is within 5km, and this does not include such sites as listed in para 5.14, which if plotted would show that the whole borough does have access to such sites.

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

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Map 6.3 Access to Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces over 100ha

6.38 In terms of the remaining standard, Waverley has two sites of over 500ha (Elstead and Thursley Commons and Hindhead Common) and a 20km buffer encompasses the whole of the Borough and beyond.

6.39 The A3 Hindhead Improvement Scheme (6.5 km) which was completed in 2011, created a continual dual carriageway link between London and Portsmouth. The site posed a number of environmental and ecological constraints as the route passes through areas of Ancient Woodland, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protected Areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area also provides a habitat for a range of reptiles, mammals and birds, including a number of protected species such as adder, dormice, badgers and rare heathland birds.

6.40 The aim of the design, planning and execution of the road works was to enhance heathland and woodland habitat for a wide range of species. Most importantly the scheme has re-unite the two severed halves of the Devil's Punchbowl Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This will mean that the species within the nature reserve will be able to migrate far more freely from one part to another and the re-united habitat will be far more viable. In addition new heathland habitat will be created and this is important since over 80% of lowland heath in Britain has been lost in modern times.

6.41 The major landscape gain will be the removal of the old A3 from the Devil's Punchbowl within the heart of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Extensive woodland planting and heathland recreation will take place. Landscape proposals have been drawn up and address the following principles:

- Mitigation of visual impact through integrated landscape/engineering design of new roads, road intersections and portals.
- Preservation of strategic views and of the quality of the local landscape.
- Design of new landscaping to ensure that its future long-term management is viable.
- Appropriate design to reinforce local landscape character.
- The completion of the tunnel should effectively halve the noise in that area and so restore tranquillity to the beauty spot.

6.42 Further information about the environmental aspects of the tunnel is available from the [Highways Agency](#)

6.43 As a result of analysing the information no quantity standard has been set as it is felt that there is clearly no need to require natural/ semi-natural green space as a result of future development, and that in terms of quantity it will have little impact on overall levels. It is important to continue to protect this land as open space or as a recreational facility, most of which is covered by high-level national and environmental policies for its quality and importance. The level of publicly accessible natural/ semi-natural green spaces is intrinsic to the character of the Borough and not only serves a local need but also for attracts visitors from further afield.

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Quality Standards

6.44 There are no national standards for the quality of natural/ semi-natural green spaces; however, the Countryside Agency has stated that such land should be managed to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, biodiversity, heritage and local customs. The vast majority of this land type within the Borough is managed by organisations with remits to protect and enhance the environment, such as the National Trust, the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Waverley Borough Council. As a result all of these sites are managed to ensure that they are protected for the future.

6.45 The quality of natural and semi natural greenspaces is considered good or very good by 81.9% of people.

6.46 Only Chiddingfold and Ewhurst Parish Councils thought that their natural and semi natural greenspaces were average; the others that responded rate them as good or very good.

Quality Standard - A natural open space with a focus on the retention and/or enhancement of natural features and conservation of flora and fauna, assisted where appropriate by the use of education facilities such as interpretation boards, leaflets, walks and talks. They should be clean, litter free, well signed and with clear paths.

Accessibility

6.47 62% of respondents favoured walking to natural/ semi-natural greenspaces, with 45% willing to walk less than 10 minutes to use this type of space. When extended to travel times of less than 20 minutes, results do not vary much across the open space types. 32% opted to travel by car.

6.48 The assessment of general accessibility of natural/ semi-natural green space made by Parish and Town Councils was mixed. Most rated access as good or average. Godalming Town Council stating specifically that access to the Lammas Lands is poor.

6.49 PPG17 recommends that it is best to define catchments by using the distance 75 – 80% of users are willing to travel. Respondents were asked how far in minutes they should be expected to travel in order to access natural/ semi-natural green space using their preferred method of transport. For this survey the preferred method of travel was walking, with 45% indicating that they would only expect to walk within 10 minutes and 42% for up to 20 minutes. Therefore a threshold of approximately 15 minutes walk will be used. This equates to a straight line distance of approximately 800m.

Accessibility Standard – 15-minute walk, approximately 800m

Applying the Standards

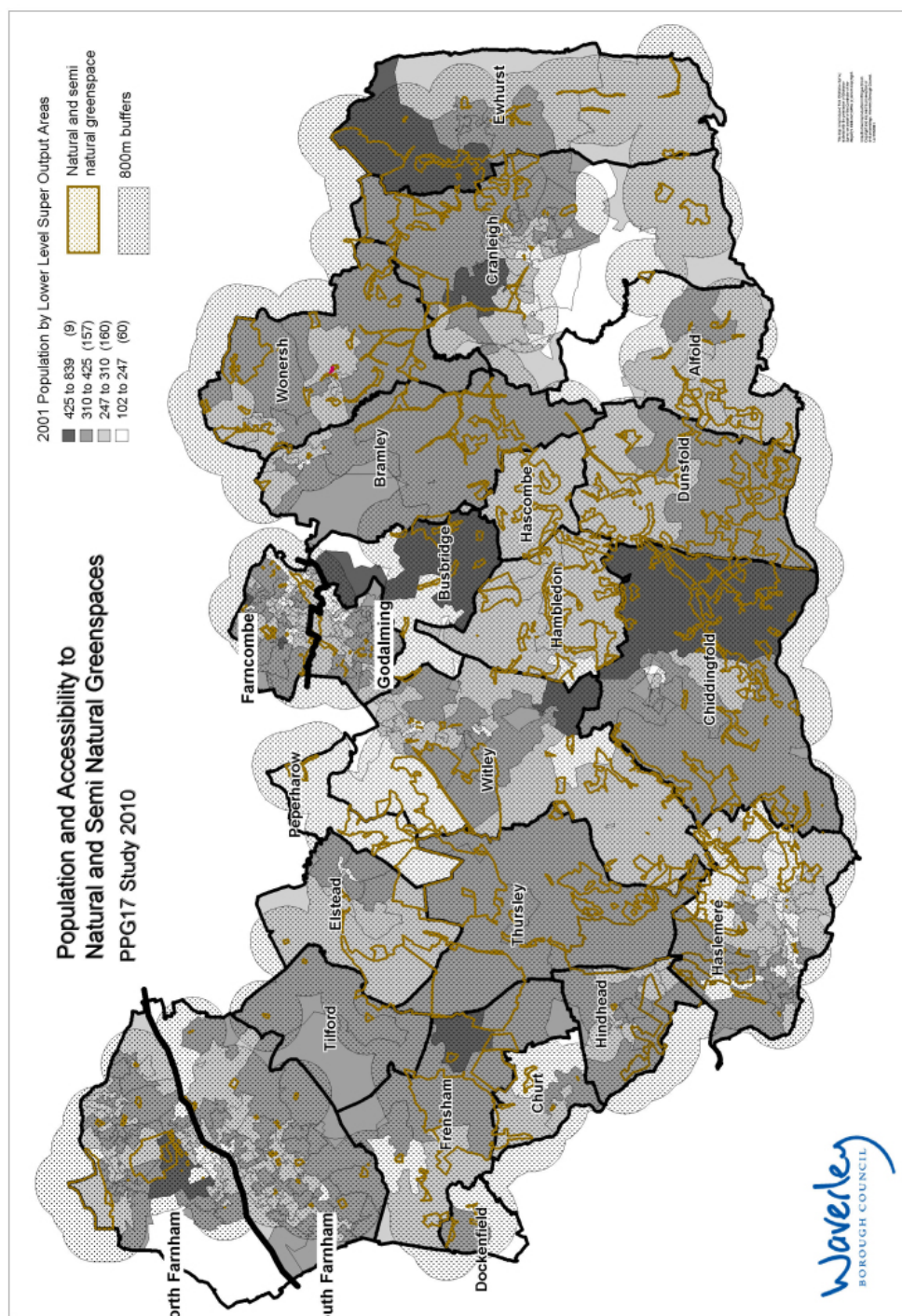
6.50 There is a substantial amount of natural and semi natural greenspace in Waverley, particularly in the western part of the borough. Much of this land is protected through national and local designations and is unlikely to be lost over the next 20 years. Further detail by area will be contained in Annex A.

6.51 The quality of all national and semi natural greenspace is considered to be good and/or (in the case of SSSIs) favourable or improving. Some areas are the subject of Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements, which aim to deliver significant environmental benefits in high priority situations and areas.

6.52 Map 6.4 shows the catchment area of all natural and semi natural greenspaces in Waverley with an 800m buffer. It shows clearly that accessibility to natural and semi natural greenspace on foot is very good for almost the whole borough. The areas which have least accessibility have some of the lowest populations in Waverley, but also have access to a variety of other types of open space both in Waverley and in adjoining boroughs.

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

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Map 6.4 Accessibility to Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces

Policy Options

6.53 The Companion Guide to PPG17 suggests that planning for new natural and semi-natural green spaces in established urban areas has to be largely opportunity-led. The Council is not aware of any plans to provide further natural and semi-natural green spaces within the Borough; however, the National Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust and other such organisations can from time to time be given land to manage. Due to the good level of high quality provision across the Borough it is not felt necessary to seek to supply further such sites even in light of the slight increase in development anticipated over the next 20 years. Only one policy options is suggested:

- Make the best use of the resources available in the Borough and seek intensification / multi-use of existing sites, for example, some areas of natural/ semi-natural green space in areas closely related to the population may double as, or accommodate, amenity green space, children's play areas etc; however, this may be contrary to other objectives, such as quiet enjoyment or conservation work. This is not necessarily an entirely planning policy issue and there would need to be a partnership between organisations on these more land management issues.

6.54 In addition, if all existing open space, sports and recreation facilities identified in the PPG17 Assessment are protected from development, proposals for re-development to a non open space, sports and recreation based use should first be required to demonstrate that the site is surplus to requirements and unsuitable for all other typologies, not just its existing use. This is due to the identified deficiencies in some typologies and the limited opportunities available to accommodate new facilities across the Borough particularly in the built-up areas and across much of the countryside due to the significant constraints (both physical and policy related).

6 Natural / Semi- Natural Greenspace

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Key Actions

- The Council will continue to manage its sites providing a balance between biodiversity and public access. It will:
 - Implement site management plans
 - Reduce the frequency of grass cutting to encourage wildlife
 - Improve public access routes by mowing meandering grass paths
 - Develop glades and paths through woodland and scrub
 - Create zoned areas by water bodies to allow managed public access but also provide undisturbed areas for wildlife
 - Promote responsible dog walking through the Dog Walkers Code of Conduct, to avoid the reduction in wildlife value of natural/ semi-natural green space
 - Link sites to areas of population through green corridors (see part 6)
 - Raise awareness of natural/ semi-natural green space on residents doorsteps and appropriate behaviour in order to conserve wildlife
- The Council will seek to bring its housing amenity open space with substantial woodland cover into appropriate natural/ semi-natural green space management.
- Improve biodiversity and public access to sites

Green Corridors 7

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Study

7 Green Corridors

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Definition

Green corridors include river and canal banks, cycleways and other rights of way. The primary purpose of this type of open space is to provide opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.

Background

7.1 Local Authorities, through Rights of Way Improvement Plans, and other measures, should encourage access to the countryside particularly by maintaining, enhancing and promoting Public Rights of Way. They should also identify opportunities and plan for routes within and between settlements, seeking to reduce car use; and, where possible make new routes multi-functional to allow pedestrians, horses and cyclists to use them.

7.2 Surrey County Council, who are responsible for the Public Rights of Way network have produced a Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾. It states that large numbers of local residents, visitors and tourists use the Surrey rights of way network. Walkers are the largest group of users and many use the rights of way network frequently. Rights of way are particularly important in enabling those without a car to access local services. Cyclists are the second largest group after walkers; mountain biking is particularly popular in the Surrey Hills.

7.3 Waverley adopted its Cycling Plan SPD in April 2005.^(iv) The aim of the Cycling Plan is to increase the levels of cycling in Waverley so as to help to achieve the cycle-related targets in the Surrey Local Transport Plan. This is promoted through a number of objectives, each of which is supported by specific actions in the related Action Plan.

7.4 Horse riding is very significant in Surrey where there is estimated to be more than 20,000 horses.



Picture 7.1 Wey Navigation at Godalming

iii Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Surrey: November 2007

iv Waverley Cycling Plan SPD

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7.5 Surrey has an extensive rights of way network and considerable areas of open access land (land accessible to the public under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, and access agreements with private landowners), registered commons, heathland and downland. Much of the access land is in the ownership of public bodies - the County Council and Borough councils, the Ministry of Defence and charities; the National Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust. The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is particularly popular for open-air recreation, and is an attraction for tourists.

7.6 The Rights of Way Improvement Plan survey results in 2006 suggest that there is a public demand for circular routes, adequate waymarking, multi-user routes and more information. There are some routes specifically designed for those with mobility difficulties. It is estimated that 20% of the population has some sort of disability and with an ageing population this is a growing issue.

7.7 The overall aim of the Improvement Plan is, 'to enable the rights of way network adequately to provide for the needs of walkers, cyclists, equestrians and those with mobility difficulties'.

7.8 Five key objectives to secure this aim have been identified:

- to improve accessibility to services, facilities and the wider countryside along rights of way
- to improve connectivity of rights of way to reduce severance
- to improve the quality of the rights of way network
- to increase recreational enjoyment
- to secure coordinated implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan within resources available.

7.9 The quality of the rights of way network in Surrey is variable - not only in terms of the conditions of surfaces and structures (stiles, gates, bridges, etc) but also the surrounding environment - including overgrowing vegetation and views of the landscape. Rights of way near to where people live are often heavily used but also under greatest threat of neglect and abuse. The Improvement Plan proposes to target improvements both to routes and the surroundings of these rights of way. It is also proposed to work with the local planning authorities to ensure planning policies and new developments enhance existing routes and, where appropriate, create new ones. Particular benefits can be gained from the creation of greenways - routes which give access to the wider countryside and destinations (such as work, shops, recreational & social activities) from where people live, without the need for a car.

7 Green Corridors

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Consultation Results

The General Survey

7.10 The results of the survey show that Green Corridors are the third most important type of open space in the Borough, with 95% of respondents considering them to be important or very important. The Downs Link north of Cranleigh was assessed to be the site of highest value in the Borough among those who responded.

7.11 Over the last 12 months respondents used green corridors:

- Daily 16.9%
- Weekly 38.5%
- Monthly 23%
- Occasionally 21.6%

7.12 64% of respondents thought that the amount of green corridor space was right, while a sizeable proportion (30.1%) thought that there was too little. Most of those concerned that there was too little came from Haslemere, South Farnham and North Farnham.

7.13 Green corridors are rated as being of very good or good quality by 62.2% of respondents and average by 29.2%.

7.14 The Towns and Parishes that responded all thought that provision was right, but Witley, Churt and Ewhurst all stated that the quality of these spaces was only average, while others rated them more highly.

Current Provision in Waverley

7.15 There is an extensive network of Public Rights of Way across Waverley, particularly given its rural character and the significant areas of natural and semi natural greenspaces. They have not been assessed, as the sheer number would make this impractical. In addition they are maintained by Surrey County Council and regularly monitored. They amount to 789kms (of which 438kms are footpaths, and 320kms bridleway).

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7.16 The audit identified several sites owned and maintained by Waverley Borough Council that are primarily for the purpose of providing green space for the movement of people and the environment, and these include the various riverside walks in Farnham.

7.17 There are also two long distance footpaths that run through the Borough: the North Downs Way and the Greensand Way. The Downslink between Cranleigh and Guildford runs north to south, following the disused route of the railway which closed in 1967, and this is probably the most significant green corridor in the borough and a well-established route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, linking the North Downs Way and South Downs Way. Sustrans National Cycle Network NCN 22 runs through Waverley as well as proposed local Scholar's Greenway (a cross-town, attractive and safe route which school children, parents and students would use to cycle and walk to school and college) and Weyside Way, promoted by Transition Town Farnham. The Sussex Border path lies to the south, and parts of this run through Waverley.



Picture 7.2 Downslink at Bramley

7.18 There are extensive lengths of roadside common or waste of the manor in Waverley, particularly in the east of the borough. As these are not easily accessible some have not been included in this report; however they are important wildlife corridors and rural landscape features.

7.19 Canals and river corridors are an example of providing a valuable 'wildlife corridor' or connection between a network of habitats across the Borough. Planning Policy Statement 9 recognises their value as access route to open space and sites of biodiversity importance. In Waverley, the River Wey and its tributaries, the Wey and Arun Canal, the River Wey and Godalming Navigations, and the River Blackwater provide a valuable asset for the landscape as well as a multifunctional role for recreation, leisure and nature conservation. These river corridors and canals contribute to the quality of the environment and quality of life for residents in both urban and rural areas. The River Wey flows through Farnham and Godalming and makes an important contribution to character of these areas. In addition the wider network of watercourses need to be acknowledged as providing valuable environments and connections between sites of biodiversity importance. The Wey and Arun Canal stretches from Bramley in the north to Dunsfold in the south and beyond Waverley's boundaries. Currently only a small amount of the canal within Waverley is navigable although the Wey and Arun Canal Trust have the aim of restoring the direct water link between the South Coast and London, and restoration work has begun on a stretch of the canal in Bramley.

Setting Provision Standards

7.20 The provision standards have been set taking into account the current provision, national and local guidance, consultations and likely future needs.

Quantity

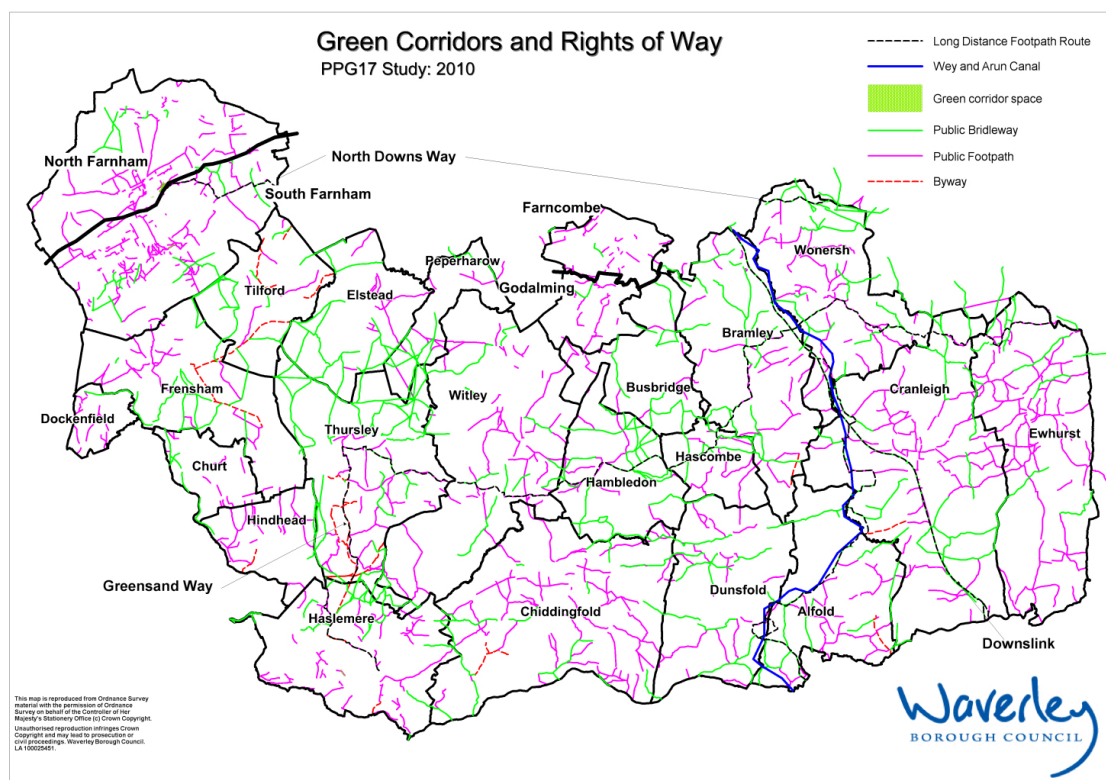
7.21 PPG17's companion guide states that: *"The need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of the land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads".*

7.22 The companion guide therefore recommends that: *"Instead, planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense, green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible".*

7.23 This approach is to some extent already reflected in the Surrey County Council ROW Improvement Plan aims and in national planning policy guidance.

7.24 Map 7.1 shows Green Corridors and the ROW network in Waverley together with portions of the long distance paths within the area, and the route of the Downs Link. As recommended by the companion guide, no standard is proposed. Map 7.2 is extracted from the Waverley Cycle Plan and shows the existing routes and desire lines.

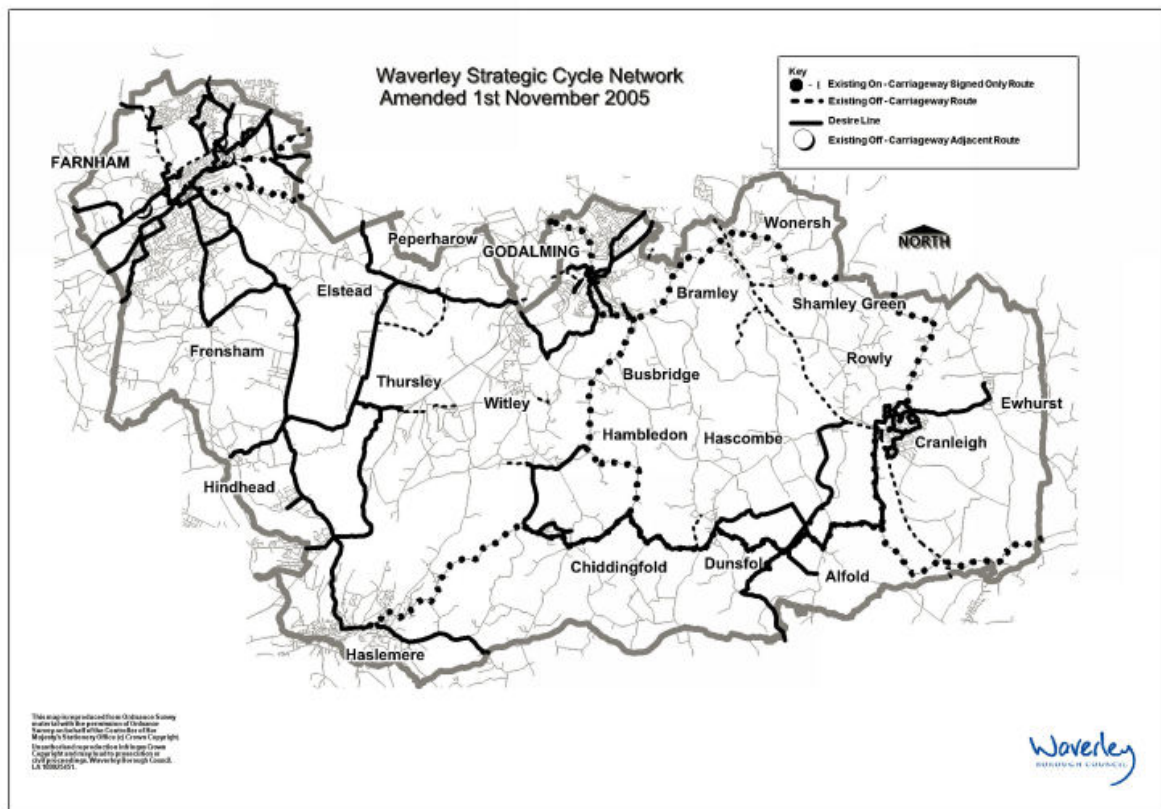
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Map 7.1 Green Corridors and Rights of Way

7 Green Corridors

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Map 7.2 Waverley Cycle Network (Cycle Plan 2005)

Quality Standards

7.25 The overall result of the survey shows a general satisfaction with the quality of the green corridors. Respondents did indicate that some of the footpaths in Cranleigh, and 'canals and riverbanks, and the Farnham River Wey' were poor, but did not go into details about what made them so.

Quality Standard – Green corridors should be clean, litter free and clear to ensure that they are accessible. They should contribute to nature conservation particularly through the protection and enhancement of suitable planting and in urban areas enhance the linkages between green areas.

Accessibility Standards

7.26 The results show that most people (52%), walk to green corridors (most of which are footpaths). 29.7% of respondents go by car, while 15% cycle. 42% would walk less than 10 minutes to a green corridor, with 41.4% willing to travel up to 20 minutes away.

7.27 Responses for length of time expected to travel, and mode of travel to green corridor sites were similar across all areas of the Borough, however it was noted that a significantly higher number of respondents from Farncombe cycled to green corridor sites.

7.28 There is no realistic way of setting accessibility standards for green corridors as they are very much opportunity led, and there is already an extensive network. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan states that the County Council will particularly focus on the quality of the more heavily used footpaths near to urban areas and that opportunities need to be sought through the planning process to improve linkages or fund work (potentially including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding) that may be needed. No accessibility standard has therefore been set.

Applying the Standards

7.29 Although no standard has been set, it is important to ensure that opportunities are not lost to improve connections to the rights of way network or other green corridors particularly where they arise through new development. It is important to ensure that there are excellent opportunities available to encourage people to walk, not only just for exercise but to reduce reliance on the private car. The Council will encourage contribution toward, or provide, opportunities to enhance the existing provision of green infrastructure, including designated sites, and improve the connection of existing open spaces.

7.30 The quality of green corridors is considered to be satisfactory by most respondents, and the County Council has a programme of maintenance and improvement works in place for Public Rights of Way. It has not been possible to survey the quality

of green corridors due to their extensive nature, and again much of this work is the responsibility of the County Council. However, a quality standard has been set which can be used to assess an established green corridor and potentially those in the vicinity of any new development to ensure that they are of an acceptable standard. In addition green corridors have an important part to play in linking areas of open space within built-up areas, providing a pleasant environment and wildlife corridors. This is reflected in the standard.

Policy Options

7.31 There are limited policy options available in terms of green corridors as most work is opportunity led and much is out of the direct control of the Borough Council. The exception to this is the Downs Link, which Waverley manages in partnership with the County Council. Waverley has also sought developer contributions towards footpaths and cycleway provision for major developments such as the housing scheme at Farnham Hospital.

7.32 It is considered important to work in partnership with relevant bodies such as Surrey County Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust, and National Trust. Green corridors within urban areas also help to connect areas of open space and then with the countryside. Although these links can be fragmented there are opportunities to enhance them through the greening of these routes particularly within urban areas, providing a more pleasant environment. This could also be assisted through ensuring that new development retains existing mature vegetation and hedgerows. This would also have beneficial implications for biodiversity.

7.33 The Rights of Way Improvement Plan can be used to assist the Borough in assessing the corridors against the priorities identified by the community along with improving the quality of other green corridors not under the control of the County. It must be also be recognised that there are many bridleways and that the needs of horse riders must be acknowledged where appropriate, particularly in relation to safety.

Key Actions

- **Support the work undertaken on green corridor sites and developing their links to population centres, particularly deliver the objectives outlined in the Downs Link Management Plan**
- **Seek to balance recreation needs with conservation needs within green corridor open space**
- **Promote green corridors to local residents as ideal ways to access open space areas and local facilities for the movement of people, and consequently reduce the need for motorised travel**

Outdoor Sports Facilities 8

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8 Outdoor Sports Facilities

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Definition

This type of open space can be privately or publicly owned and have natural or artificial surfaces, including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas. The primary purpose of this type of open space is to provide opportunities for participation in outdoor sports.

Background

8.1 Leisure and Lives is a core priority in the Council's Corporate Plan 2012 - 2015. The plan seeks to review the arrangements for the management of Waverley's sports pitches and recreation grounds, to ensure that local sports groups are given the greatest possible encouragement to take on devolved responsibility for their own local playing pitches.

8.2 The Waverley Local Plan (2002) Policy LT8 seeks to resist the loss of sports grounds and playing fields to development unless suitable alternative provision can be made.

8.3 The Waverley Playing Pitch Strategy was carried out in 2003, which identified current and projected shortfalls to 2013, and:

- Analysed the current level of pitch provision within the Borough
- Reviewed the quantity and quality of sports pitches across the Borough
- Identified the geographical spread of pitches
- Identified how facilities for pitch sports can be improved
- Identified the demand for pitches in the Borough



Picture 8.1 King George V Playing Field, Dunsfold

Future Work

8.4 Since the start of this PPG17 Study, it has been decided that the 2003 Playing Pitch Strategy should be updated during 2012. As such the current strategy as outlined in Local Plan Policy LT8 and guidance in national policy is to be continued until the results of the new strategy can be incorporated. The results of the PPG17 study survey

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are included here for information, as are the key results from the 2003 study. The comments received from respondents to the survey questions have been included as a useful indicator of what some residents currently feel about the quality, quantity and access to outdoor facilities in the Borough. An audit was carried out for the PPG17 and also identified tennis courts, golf courses and bowling greens in accordance with the definition of outdoor sports.

8.5 The Borough Council has appointed the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) to carry out a study of the quality of those pitches owned by Waverley and the Town and Parish Councils during 2012. This should result in a priority list of sites for improvement works.

Consultation Results

8.6 In the general survey, respondents indicated that outdoor sports facilities are the 8th most important type of open spaces in the borough, with 75.8% suggesting that outdoor sports facilities are important or very important.

8.7 Over the 12 months preceding the survey, respondents visited an outdoor sports facility:

- Daily 4.4%
- Weekly 28.5%
- Monthly 17.4%
- Occasionally 49.7%

8.8 63.1% of respondents considered that the amount of outdoor sports facilities is about right, while 26.8% feel that there is too little provision. Postcode analysis shows that the latter respondents mainly come from North Farnham, South Farnham, Godalming, and Farncombe, while a smaller, though a significant number came from Hindhead and Witley.

8.9 Outdoor sports facilities are rated as being of good or very good quality by 48.8% of respondents, and average by 42.2%.

Clubs and Organisations and Schools Surveys

8.10 Questionnaires were sent out to clubs, organisations and schools. Meetings were held with many of the clubs and organisations, and their comments have been noted for the review of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

8 Outdoor Sports Facilities

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Quantity Standards

8.11 Very few comments were received about outdoor sports facilities in the Borough from the general survey, however the pitches in Farnham and Godalming are considered good or very good by 63.2% and 61.1% respectively. A low percentage thought that the pitches were poor or very poor, and the majority of these respondents also came from Farnham.

8.12 Most of the Parish Councils that responded thought that provision was right and that there were enough suitable facilities for their needs; however, Chiddingfold thought that there was too little provision in the parish. There is a lot of local interest in sports, but little space available to provide facilities nearer to the centre of the village. The school sports field in Bramley is no longer used by the school and is under the ownership of the County Council, which has made no decision about its future use.

8.13 The 2003 audit identified 245 playing pitches in Waverley. This figure included all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they were in secured in public use. They comprised:

- 84 adult football pitches
- 31 junior football pitches
- 37 mini soccer pitches
- 43 cricket pitches
- 22 adult rugby union pitches
- 3 junior rugby union pitches
- 17 grass hockey pitches
- 8 full sized synthetic turf pitches

8.14 The total area of these pitches was estimated at 205.5 ha.

8.15 Of the 245 pitches identified, 169 (69%) were secured for the local community.

8.16 The research findings of the 2003 PMP Playing Pitch Strategy showed the following results in respect of the quantity of pitches. Projections relate to 2013:

Cranleigh

- Current shortfall of junior football and cricket pitches
- Projected shortfall of junior football and cricket pitches

Farnham

- Current shortfall of junior football and cricket pitches, as well as adult and junior rugby pitches
- Projected significant shortfall of junior football and cricket pitches, large shortfall of adult and junior rugby pitches

Godalming

- Current shortfall of junior rugby pitches
- Projected shortfall of junior football, cricket and junior rugby pitches

Haslemere

- Projected shortfall of junior football and junior rugby pitches
- Projected shortfall of junior football, cricket and junior rugby pitches

8.17 The study recommended that all existing playing fields are protected with consideration only given to disposal where alternative high quality provision is made available.

8.18 It also recommended that any new provision should be considered in multi pitch site format. Such sites are cost effective in terms of maintenance and ancillary facilities and encourage a sporting atmosphere. There is also the increased likelihood of obtaining external investment for multi use sites.

8.19 Until a more specific standard may be specified as a result of the revised Playing Pitch Strategy, the National Benchmark Standard recommendation for all outdoor sport will continue to be used.

Quantity Standard – 1.60 ha per 1,000 population

Quality Standards

8.20 The 2003 Playing Pitch Strategy identified a number of quality issues and areas in need of improvement. Those most frequently highlighted by clubs in Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh were:

- Need for improved changing facilities
- Improved drainage to pitches
- Levelling and marking of pitches

8.21 Specific pitches were identified and these issues will be reconsidered in the review of the 2003 strategy.

8.22 In the current PPG17 study, 9% said that they were poor or very poor, and the majority of these comments came equally from north and south Farnham.

8.23 The Waverley Cultural Strategy 2009 -2014 highlighted the following in relation to sports provision by voluntary and private sectors:

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8.24 Sports club facilities, both indoor and outdoor in the area, include a mix of publicly and privately-owned sites. In both sectors the responses pointed to a general need for improvement; partly because of constant use over the years and partly to accommodate expansion plans. Money, or the lack of it, was a recurring theme, with many clubs looking for funding partners to supplement their own resources, usually a combination of member fees and subscriptions and small grants and donations. Even where special fund-raising efforts were being made this was still felt to be inadequate. Yet the responses revealed that a number of clubs are already actively working with partners such as Waverley Borough Council in trying to achieve their ambitions.

8.25 A multi-sports and leisure club facility with outdoor tennis courts and pool are currently being constructed at Monkton Lane, Farnham (commenced 2011) This will allow the relocation of the Farnham Rugby Club and is also providing four playing fields, and pavilion as well as the erection of a multi-use games area and the provision of a bowls green. This development may also address some of the issues identified for improvement in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

8.26 A general quality standard is proposed:

Quality Standard – Outdoor sports facilities should be clean and litter free, the pitches and playing surfaces should be maintained, safe, level and with good drainage. Toilets, changing facilities and parking should be of an acceptable standard and provided where possible. Bins should be provided to reduce the occurrences of litter and dog fouling problems.

Accessibility Standards

8.27 Fields in Trust note in Planning and Design for Sport and Play, that local outdoor sports should be located where they will be accessible on foot, by bicycle or public transport. While it suggests that distance thresholds, which identify the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel are a useful measure of accessibility, it also notes that time is more important to users than distance in many instances, and so travel by motorised private transport is still, and will remain an important measure.

8.28 PPG17 recommends that it is best to define catchments by using the distance 75% - 80% of users are willing to travel. Respondents were asked how far in minutes they should be expected to travel in order to access amenity greenspace using their preferred method of transport. For this survey the favoured method of transport was driving and the 75th percentile was within the 10 to 20 minute drive category; this category also received the greatest percentage of responses.

8.29 51.7% of respondents travel by car, while 41.2% will walk.

8.30 33.3% suggested that they would only travel up to 10 minutes away. 53.9% of respondents indicated that they would be prepared to travel for up to 20 minutes to an outdoor sports venue, and this is not surprising given that people are likely to have to travel to away matches. 10.6% said that they would be prepared to travel up to 30 minutes away. A standard will be set once the Playing Pitch Strategy has been reviewed and a detailed audit with clubs undertaken. In the meantime, it is suggested that the FIT accessibility standards be used as follows:

Type of Space	Standard
Playing pitches	Within 1.2km of all dwellings in major residential areas
Tennis (community tennis courts)	Within 20 minutes travelling time (walking in urban areas, by car in rural areas)
Bowls	One green within 20 minutes travel time (walking in urban areas, by car in rural areas)

Table 8.1 : Accessibility Standards

Policy Options

8.31 On the basis of the deficiencies identified in the 2003 Playing Pitch strategy, financial contributions will continue to be sought from developments across the Borough, either through the Council's adopted Planning Infrastructure tariff or other Section 106 funding to support improvements in sites. In addition, if all existing open space, sports and recreation facilities identified in the PPG17 Assessment are protected from development, proposal for re-development to a non open space, sports and recreation based use should first be required to demonstrate that the site is surplus to requirements and unsuitable for all other leisure and recreational uses, not just its existing use, as in Policy LT8 of the Waverley Local Plan (2002). This should continue unless otherwise suggested through the Playing Pitch Strategy review.

8 Outdoor Sports Facilities

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Key Actions

These are general actions which were identified in the 2003 Strategy and through recent meeting with local sports clubs and organisations. The Review of the Playing Pitch Strategy should incorporate these aspirations:

- Revision of Borough- wide Playing Pitch Strategy in 2011
- Secure and promote the use of further school sites for community use, particularly where deficiencies have been identified (2003 Strategy)
- Support aims for sport and leisure contained in the Waverley Cultural Strategy 2009 - 2014
- Use the forthcoming Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) study to ascertain the quality of playing pitches to derive a priority list of sites for improvement works and identify those that could potentially receive a proportion of Planning Infrastructure Contribution or Section 106 funding from new developments to enable playing pitch improvements.
- Develop more robust provision and quality standards for playing pitches within an open space guidance document for Section 106 developments
- Standardise and formalise leasing arrangements with recreation ground committees on outdoor sports facility sites
- Leisure Service to engage in more regular consultation with outdoor sports facility users (particularly formal lease holders) as a means of maintaining playing pitch quality. (Identified as a major issue through consultation with formal users of Waverley Borough Council outdoor sports facilities)
- Formalise sporting activity on outdoor sport sites to encourage more effective use of the sites. The sites that have been identified through the PPG17 consultation with sports clubs include:
 - Broadwater Park (Godalming)
 - Holloway Hill Recreation Ground (Godalming)
 - Woolmer Hill Recreation Ground (Haslemere)
 - Haslemere Recreation Ground
 - Heath End Recreation Ground (Farnham)
 - Wrecclesham Recreation Ground (Farnham)
 - Bourne Recreation Ground (Farnham)
 - Rowledge Recreation Ground (Farnham)
- Any new provision should be considered in multi pitch site format, rather than at single site locations (2003 Strategy) to allow flexibility of activities and to make best use of the sites for a wide range of people.
- Seek to improve the overall quality of the setting of specific sports pitches and other activities through application for *Green Flag* accreditation for the following sites:

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- Broadwater Park, Godalming
- Farnham Park

Indoor Sports Facilities 9

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Definition

Indoor sport and recreation facilities include built facilities available for high levels of community use, including recreation and community centres, village halls, schools, and health and fitness clubs.

Background

9.1 Although there is plenty of technical guidance on the design of indoor sports facilities, there is less guidance on quantity, quality and accessibility standards particularly in relation to a PPG17 Assessment. The major leisure centres have traditionally been local authority owned and run, and have been based in the main towns, but this is now changing within the introduction of an increasing number of private clubs, particularly focusing on health and fitness. A number of these also contain swimming pools, squash and tennis courts. In more rural areas the village or school hall provides a valuable resource to communities with activities such as aerobics, short mat bowls, yoga and badminton. Good availability of indoor sports facilities will help towards meeting many of the Government and Sport England's objectives of increasing participation in sporting activities and ensuring that British teams and individuals sustain rankings within the top 5, particularly in more popular sports.



Picture 9.1 Cranleigh Leisure Centre

9.2 The Waverley Cultural Strategy 2009 –2014 contains several aims relating to sport and leisure.

Consultation Results**The General Survey**

9.3 The results of the general survey show that 83.3% of respondents consider our indoor sports facilities to be very important (44%) or important (39.3%).

9.4 More of the respondents in Waverley use the range of indoor facilities than outdoor. This may be reflected in the age range of the respondents. Over the previous year, the use of indoor facilities was as follows:

- Daily 4.9%
- Weekly 42.2%
- Monthly 15.5%
- Occasionally 37.4%

9 Indoor Sports Facilities

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9.5 61.9% of respondents felt that the provision was about right, but a significant percentage (31.6%) felt that there was too little.

9.6 75.1% of people thought that the quality of the indoor sports facilities were average or good, with 9.1% assessing them as very good. It must be noted however, that the study was carried out before the extensive refurbishment of both Cranleigh and Farnham Sports centres was completed in 2010. 15.8% thought that they were poor or very poor, and the majority of these views came from Godalming respondents.

9.7 Of the Towns and Parishes that responded, Godalming, Churt and Frensham all considered that there was too little in the way of indoor sports facilities. Only Bramley and Cranleigh thought that their facilities were very good. A new community facility is being planned in Chiddingfold.

School Survey

9.8 The survey showed that the majority of the schools that responded have facilities that are open to clubs or the general public. In general these comprise use of the school hall(s) in the evenings. More detail will be given in the Area Profiles in Annex A.

Current Provision in Waverley

9.9 There are the following numbers of the indoor sport and recreation facilities in Waverley. This does not currently include schools facilities with public/ community access:

Facility	Number
Leisure Centre with Swimming Pool	4
Leisure Centre with no pool	1
Fitness Clubs	8
Community/ Village Halls	63

Table 9.1

9.10 The school facilities have not been recorded in detail at this stage as not all responded to the survey. More details are likely to be recorded as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy review in 2011 and will be incorporated into the PPG17 Study at a later date.

9.11 The Council owned Leisure Centres are located in Farnham, Godalming and Cranleigh and there are two centres in Haslemere (the Herons and the Edge).

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- Godalming Leisure Centre is located near Broadwater Park in Farncombe. It is relatively small, and currently contains a full gym; swimming pool; swimming lessons; 2 squash courts and health facilities. A new centre is due for completion in Autumn 2012 and will have a new gym, swimming pool and café. This is one of the priorities in Waverley's Corporate Plan 2012 - 2015.

**Picture 9.2 Cranleigh Cafe and Gym**

- Farnham Sports Centre is located at Dogflud Way in Farnham town centre. It underwent an extensive refurbishment scheme in 2010 to provide an improved swimming pool, extended gym, and refurbished sports area. The usage of Farnham leisure centre has increased by 27% since its re-opening. ^(v)
- Cranleigh Leisure Centre is located off the High Street in Cranleigh, and was also refurbished in 2010, with a new and improved gym, improved changing facilities, and a new café. It also has a six-lane swimming pool and junior pool. The usage of Cranleigh leisure centre has increased by 37% since its re-opening. ^(vi)
- The Herons Swimming and Fitness Centre is located in Weyhill. It has a 25m swimming pool, junior pool, fitness and aerobic studios and three squash courts. A further priority by 2015 in Waverley's Corporate Plan is to invest £2million in improvements to this centre.
- The Edge, located at Woolmer Hill, Haslemere has a Fitness Suite, & Aerobics Studio, a large main hall and outside astroturf pitches.

9.12 There are 63 community or village halls spread across the borough, which is exceptional for an area of this size.

9.13 The Borough also has a large number of public and state schools, whose facilities are often available for public and club use. More information on these will be found in Appendix 2: Area Profiles when complete.

Setting Provision Standards

9.14 The Provision Standards have been set taking into account the current provision and the consultation responses.

v Waverley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2012 - 2015

vi Waverley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2012 - 2015

9 Indoor Sports Facilities

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Quantity Standards

9.15 The results of the survey showed that the provision of indoor sport facilities is about right (61.9%). The majority of people who thought that there was too little provision came from Godalming and Farncombe. A relatively high number also came from Milford; being so close to Godalming, these residents would be likely to use the town's facilities. This issue is likely to be addressed with the planned provision of a new leisure centre for the town.

9.16 While the provision of indoor facilities is good, it is also likely that residents travel to other recreation facilities outside the borough, such as:

- The Spectrum, Guildford
- Pavilions, Horsham
- Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre
- K2 Crawley
- Aldershot Pools Complex and Lido
- Farnborough Leisure Centre

9.17 The survey of schools asked about the level of usage of the facilities. It is worth noting that the Leisure Centres and commercial leisure industry premises are used on a daily basis where as the majority of the other facilities are generally used a couple of times a week. The results of the School Survey showed that all of the schools that responded have external clubs/ organisations that use their facilities. This is quite high usage, but there is likely to be further capacity as many of the facilities are not used on a daily basis. In conclusion the above analysis demonstrates that there may be capacity within the existing premises and facilities to increase the level of use rather than an urgent need for new facilities, although if opportunities arise there are certainly aspirations for further indoor facilities. No facilities that were surplus to requirements were identified.

9.18 One comment received asked that consideration be given to providing an indoor bowls centre in the Borough.

9.19 No quantity standard can be set as each indoor sport facility varies widely in its space requirements. It is however possible to identify a number of aspirations in terms of facilities as suggested in the key actions.

Quality Standards

9.20 75.1% of people thought that the quality of the indoor sports facilities was average or good. However, 15.8% rated them poor. As mentioned previously, this is likely to have already changed in respect of those respondents from Farnham and Cranleigh in view of the refurbishment that has taken place either during or after the survey was closed.

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9.21 The following areas of a high standard can be identified which should be retained in all existing facilities;

- good standard of appearance and well maintained;
- a range of facilities should be offered;
- customer care, health and safety and security should be high priority.

9.22 These factors form the basis of the quality standard, but should be treated flexibly due to the varying nature of indoor facilities.

Quality Standard – Indoor sports facilities should be of a good standard of appearance, well maintained, clean, and should aim to offer a range of facilities, including appropriate changing areas. Customer care, health and safety and security/feeling of safety should be of a high standard. Appropriate and safe parking should be available for all users.

Accessibility Standards

9.23 PPG17 recommends that it is best to define catchments by using the distance 75 – 80% of users are willing to travel. Respondents were asked how far in minutes they should be expected to travel in order to access indoor sports facilities using their preferred method of transport. For this survey the preferred method of travel was by car (68.1%). 35.2% thought they should travel for less than 10 minutes, while 52% were willing to travel for up to 20 minutes. The questionnaire did not differentiate between the types of indoor facilities.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minutes drive, approximately 5.8km.

Applying the Standards

9.24 No quantity standards are set due to the varying nature of the different facilities, from small village halls to large leisure centres. Through the consultation process no facilities have been identified as surplus, and small improvements in the quality of some premises could improve their attractiveness and encourage greater use. In addition a number of the smaller premises may be difficult to access if users have any mobility issues.

9.25 The quality standard set can be used as a benchmark, but should be applied flexibly taking into account the varying needs and requirements of each usage.

9.26 The following map shows the location of indoor sports facilities within the Borough and the effect of applying the varying accessibility standards. As can be seen, including the village halls gives comprehensive accessibility to indoor sports facilities across the

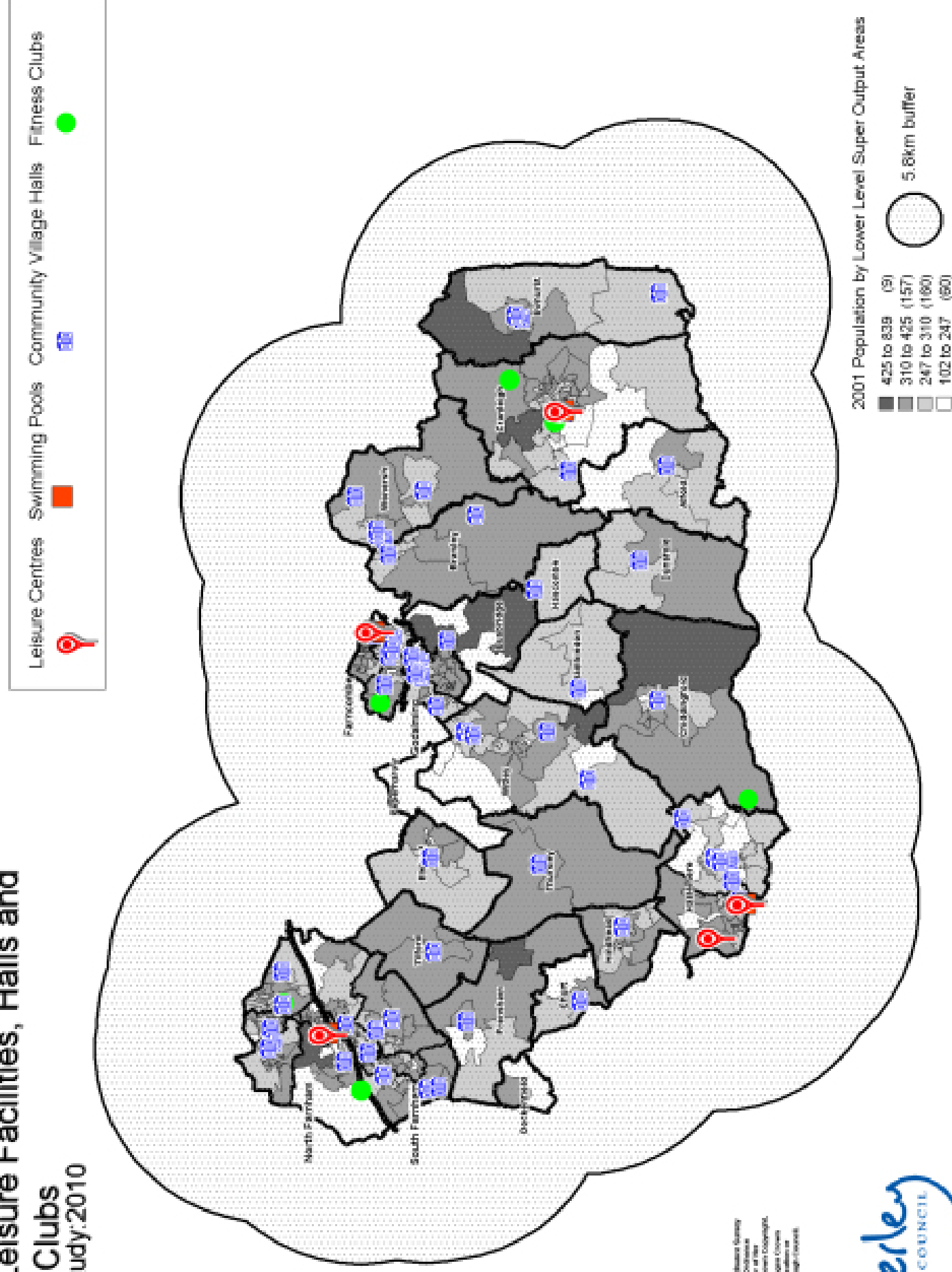
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borough. Taking the village halls out of the equation, as shown on the second map, and creating 5.8km buffers for the locations of specific leisure centres and fitness clubs, shows that there is still good accessibility, with part of all parishes within this buffer. This is to be expected, as the main leisure facilities are all located within the four main settlements, geographically located across Waverley.

**Indoor Leisure Facilities, Halls and
Fitness Clubs**
PPG17 Study:2010

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Policy Options

9.27 Across the Borough there does not appear to be a particularly high level of concern over the level of provision of indoor sporting facilities. There are some concerns about quality, which should have been addressed to a great extent with the improvements made at Farnham and Cranleigh and will be further addressed with the future plans for a new leisure centre for Godalming.

9.28 The more rural areas appear to have the most limited access to such facilities, but it must be recognised that it is clearly not going to be possible for all areas to have the same level of provision. This means that what is available in these areas is even more important to the community and should be retained.

9.29 The anticipated levels of development over the next 20 years will result in a population increase, which is most likely to be concentrated in the main towns. These areas have a good level of access to indoor sports facilities both within and outside of the Borough and there is currently no evidence that an increase in population will have a significant impact. However, when combined with government policies and programmes to increase the general level of activity of the population and development plans in neighbouring authorities which will increase the overall population in the wider area, the levels of usage should be monitored to ensure that no significant issues arise.

9.30 There are a number of policy options available:

- Make the best use of the resources available in the Borough and seek intensification/ multi-use of existing sites. There are still opportunities to increase usage of existing facilities and plans for extensions and or refurbishment to village halls/ schools should be looked on favourably if they are providing for a wider community need.
- If there was a need identified in the future, there is the potential to seek financial contributions from developments through the Planning Infrastructure Contributions SPD and other S106 agreements, towards improvements in indoor facilities so that they are a more attractive option for people or have greater capacity.
- In addition if all existing open space, sports and recreation facilities identified in the PPG17 Assessment are protected from development/ re-development, proposal for re-development to a non- open space, sports or recreation based use should first be required to demonstrate that the site is surplus to requirements and unsuitable for all other typologies, in this case, this may well include other community based activities, not just sporting. It is unlikely that any community facility is going to be surplus to requirements and it should be recognised that usage will vary, some village halls are more than just sporting activities and are important to a community, so even if their use in this respect is low they should not be considered surplus to requirements. There are limited opportunities available to accommodate new facilities across the Borough in the built-up areas and across much of the countryside due to the significant constraints (both physical and policy related).

Key Actions

- Provide a new leisure centre for Godalming by 2012.
- Support aims for sport and leisure contained in the Waverley Cultural Strategy 2009 - 2014
- Work towards a more comprehensive audit of schools indoor sports facilities, and encourage shared use between schools and sports clubs where deficiencies lie.
- Work with town and parish councils to increase the usage of and access to community facilities, particularly in the rural settlements.

Amenity Greenspace 10

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Picture 10.1 Aarons Hill Amenity Greenspace, Godalming

Definition

This type of open space is found most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas or as part of town and city centres and employment areas. Its primary purpose is to provide opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. Amenity Greenspace includes all of Waverley's Village Greens.

Background

10.1 Amenity greenspace covers a wide range of areas and has in some cases proved difficult to classify, especially as it is often associated with, or provides a setting for facilities such as children's play areas or outdoor sports pitches. Due to the diversity in type and scale of amenity greenspace, from small sites within residential areas to larger more strategic provision alongside other facilities, the guidance available is also diverse. The nature of amenity greenspace means that it can amongst others provide for informal recreational needs, therefore contributing towards a healthier lifestyle; it can 'green' an

10 Amenity Greenspace

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urban environment, improving the quality of an area; and provide habitats for wildlife and therefore enhance biodiversity. The qualities of a good area of amenity greenspace can fulfil many of the Governments broader objectives set out in PPG17 including:

- Supporting an urban renaissance
- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- Health and well being
- Promoting more sustainable development

10.2 Advice and guidance concentrates particularly on the quality of such open space. A site may be large and in a good location, but if it is not maintained, is considered dangerous, littered, used for off road parking by residents and not an inviting environment, it can create problems for an area rather than fulfil any of the objectives set out above. When of a high quality it is a very valuable source of open space particularly where other options are limited.

10.3 The draft National Planning Policy Framework contains a proposal for a new Local Green Space designation to protect locally significant green areas that are special to local communities. It proposes that these can be used in local and neighbourhood plans, in a way that complements investment in homes, jobs and other essential services. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities.

Consultation Results

The General Survey

10.4 The results of the general survey indicated that amenity greenspace was considered the third most important type of open space in the District with 90.4% of respondents suggesting that amenity greenspace is either important or very important.

10.5 Over the 12 months preceding the survey respondents visited an amenity greenspace:

- Daily (15.1%)
- Weekly (32.3%)
- Monthly (18.7%)
- Occasionally (33.9%)

10.6 Amenity greenspace is the sixth most frequently visited type of open space in the District. Use of amenity greenspace is highest in the urban areas; in Waverley's study our extensive commons have been included as natural or semi natural spaces. Amenity areas tend to be maintained at a higher/ more frequent level due to their usage for informal activities.

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10.7 65.7% of respondents think that the quantity of amenity greenspace is ‘about right’. The reasonable proportion (22.8%) indicating that there is ‘too little’ provision should however, be noted. These responses came mostly from the urban areas.

10.8 Amenity greenspace is rated as being of good quality by 46% of respondents and of average quality by 45.6%. 8.4% believe it to be poor or very poor.

Current Provision in Waverley

10.9 The audit shows that there is at least 95ha of amenity greenspace across the Borough on over 3,000 sites. Many of these smaller spaces comprise grassed verges maintained by the Council and alone, they appear relatively small and unimportant, but cumulatively contribute to the greening of the setting of housing or other developments. Amenity greenspaces tend to be more concentrated in the urban areas, and are generally small in size, however Waverley has a good number of rural village greens which have been included in this category. These are maintained spaces and used for a variety of purposes from fetes and fairs to providing places to sit or provide a quick walk with a dog.

10.10 Due to the multi-functionality of amenity greenspace in Waverley, many larger sites contain other typologies, in particular outdoor sports facilities or provision for children and young people. The sites that do contain other typologies have had the size in hectares of those provision(s) removed from their total in hectares. This is to ensure that there is no double counting and therefore an accurate representation of the other typologies is provided.

Setting Provision Standards

10.11 The provision standards have been set taking into account the current provision, consultations and likely future needs.

Quantity Standards

10.12 The audit shows that there are at least 95 ha of maintained amenity greenspace across the whole of Waverley Borough. This equates to a provision of 0.8 ha per 1,000 people.

10.13 There are no national standards for the provision of amenity space, and it is left as very much a local decision based on the range of facilities available in an area, although provision can range from 0.5 ha to 2 ha per 1,000 people.

10.14 Respondents to the general survey are broadly satisfied with the overall provision of amenity greenspace in the Borough, and all of the Parish Councils that responded thought that provision of amenity greenspace within their Parishes was right. They may have included common land within their consideration, and most of Waverley’s rural villages have village greens extensive natural areas that form their setting, as well as more formal amenity areas.

10 Amenity Greenspace

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10.15 A realistic approach needs to be taken, balancing the needs of the community against the level of provision of other typologies of open space and any guidance; but there is also a need to ensure that all opportunities are taken to provide amenity greenspace when they arise. In many instances in Waverley the village greens are also used seasonally for cricket, such as those at Tilford and Shamley Green.

10.16 There is a need to apply the quantity standard flexibly. In some circumstances a level above what is set should be sought, if there is a general deficiency in the area and a poor level of other open space, sports or recreation facilities within acceptable distances (based on the accessibility standards set within this report). The multi-functional nature of amenity greenspace means that a good quality site can contribute towards so many aspects of a high quality way of life, even when there are deficiencies in other typologies. Together with other types of greenspace, it is not considered that there is a deficiency of amenity greenspace in the borough and the maintenance of the existing standard is considered to be reasonable.

Quantity Standard – 0.8ha per 1,000 people

Quality Standards

10.17 The results of the general survey indicate an average to good quality rating for amenity greenspace in the Borough; this was supported by the results of Parish Council survey.

10.18 Litter problems and dog fouling were the most frequently mentioned problems by users of this type of space. These sites are particularly used for dog walking, as they are often near to housing estates and particularly convenient for this activity, and this is presenting itself as an issue to many people. Dog bins are provided but the right approach may need to be investigated further. There is also a wish by some to see dog free areas.

Quality Standard - Amenity greenspace should be well maintained, clean and litter free. It should be welcoming and provide a visually attractive environment. The management of dogs and any mess created needs to be integrated into the site.

Accessibility Standards

10.19 68.9% of respondents to the general survey would walk to amenity greenspace rather than go by car (25.3%), indicating that this type of open space probably satisfies a local need rather than attracting people from a distance.

10.20 Only 8% percent of those who walk to amenity greenspace indicated that they would walk for more than 20 minutes to reach one.

10.21 PPG17 recommends that it is best to define catchments by using the distance 75%-80% of users are willing to travel. Respondents were asked how far in minutes they should be expected to travel in order to access amenity greenspace using their preferred method of transport. The greatest percentage (60.5%) indicated that they would only expect to walk less than 10 minutes, with 31.7% saying that they would walk between 11 and 20 minutes.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minutes walk, approximately 800m

Applying the Standards

10.22 In terms of the quantity of amenity greenspace the results of the study show these to be concentrated in the more built up areas of the Borough. The map below shows that the distribution of sites generally reflects the main population concentrations.

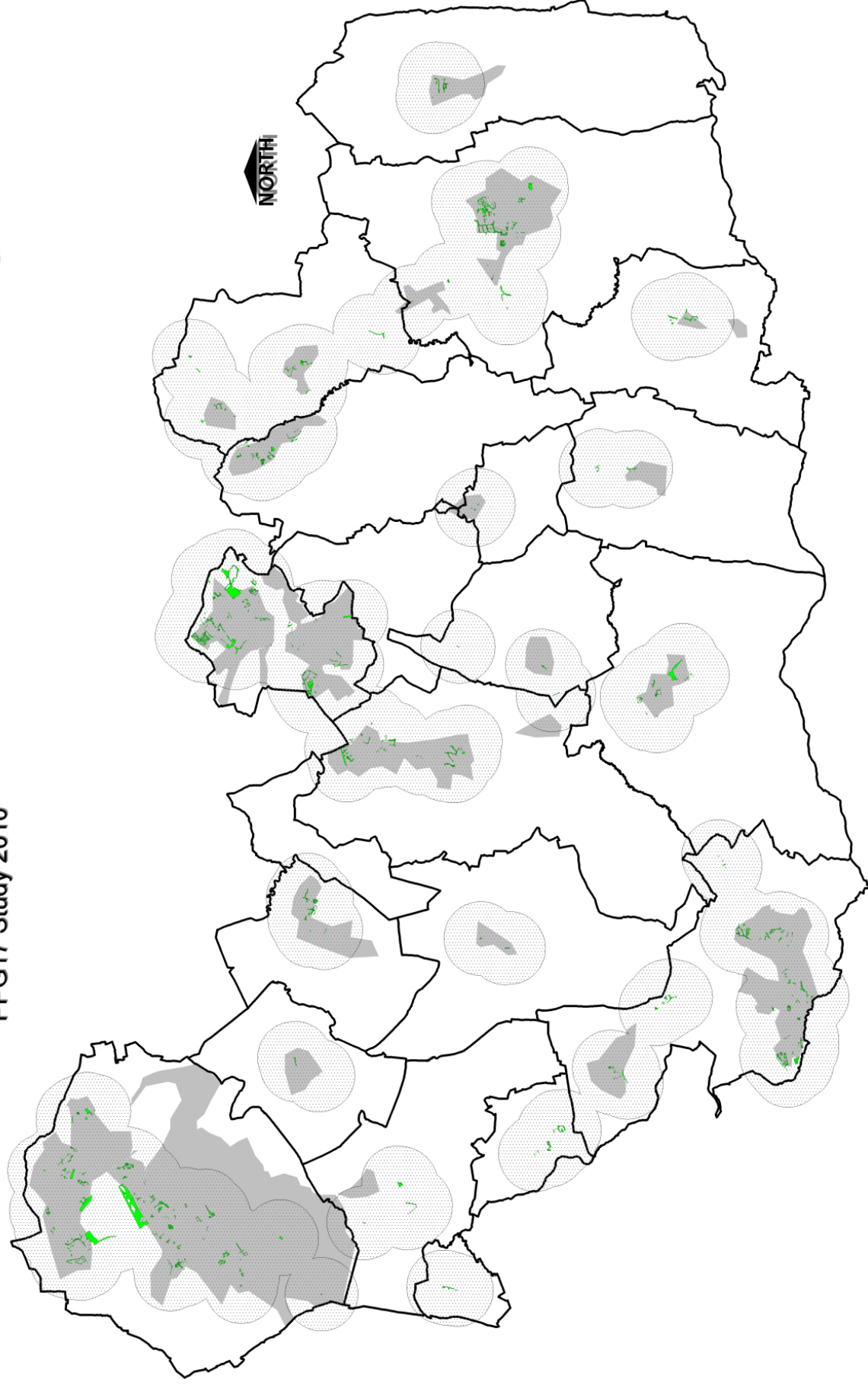
10.23 The quality of amenity greenspace was considered to be generally average or good; however, there were a number of sites that were considered poor. With limited work these could be much improved and may relieve pressure on other areas of open space. In areas with no, or limited deficits, it may be preferable to seek to improve what already exists rather than require new sites.

10.24 The map below shows the 'catchment' area of amenity greenspace, i.e. a 800m buffer which has been drawn around all sites based on the accessibility standard, reflecting the very local nature of such provision and the distances people will walk to sites. This shows that the majority of urban areas have good access to amenity spaces, which is improved considerably when combined with natural and semi natural spaces across the Borough.

10.25 Natural and semi-natural greenspaces may provide much of the amenity greenspace needed by residents, but this is only the case where it can provide for informal activities close to home and where this would not damage other objectives i.e. nature conservation.

Accessibility to Amenity Greenspace PPG17 Study 2010

Amenity Greenspace with 800m buffer



10 Amenity Greenspace

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Policy Options

10.26 When averaged across the District, there appears to be a very good level of amenity greenspace; the anticipated levels of development over the next 20 years will result in a population increase, this is likely to be concentrated in the main towns of Farnham, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh, with lesser levels of development in some of the larger villages. This will result in an increasing need for amenity greenspace within those areas, some of which already have limited provision.

10.27 There are a number of policy options available:

- Accept that the level of easily accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace in most areas of the District means that there is less need for amenity greenspace.
- Make the best use of the resources available in the District and seek intensification / multi-use of existing sites, for example, natural or semi-natural greenspace in areas closely related to the population may double as amenity greenspace, particularly if the needs of informal recreational activities is not restricted; however, this may be contrary to other objectives, such as quiet enjoyment or conservation work. This is not necessarily a planning policy issue and there would need to be a partnership between relevant organisations on these more land management issues.
- Where a need for new or expanded facilities is identified further land could be sought through the land allocations process; however, finding available land could prove to be very difficult particularly in existing built-up areas.
- Seek a level of amenity greenspace on development sites. PPG17's Companion Guide suggests that high quality amenity spaces will result from the use of an urban design-led approach rather than a simple quantitative provision standard, therefore simply applying a standard of 0.8ha per 1,000 people could be too blunt a tool; however the Council could seek amenity greenspace on sites of around 50 homes or more in areas not sufficiently provided for and this could be combined with other types of provision such as children's play areas.

10.28 In addition if all existing open space, sports and recreation facilities identified in the PPG17 Assessment are protected from development, proposal for re-development to a non open space, sports and recreation based use should first be required to demonstrate that the site is surplus to requirements and unsuitable for all other leisure or recreation uses and not just its existing use. This is due to the identified deficiencies in some typologies and the limited opportunities available to accommodate new facilities across the Borough particularly in the built-up areas and across much of the countryside due to the significant constraints (both physical and policy related).

Key Actions

- **Undertake enhancements to the quality of the following Amenity areas, as identified as being of poor quality through the qualitative assessment:**
 - Downhurst Rd open space (Ewhurst)
 - Hale Reeds Recreation Ground (Farnham)
 - Marchants Hill/ Tilford Rd (Beacon Hill)

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Definition

This type of open space includes equipped play areas, ball courts, skateparks and other more informal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters), the primary purpose of which is to provide for play and social interaction involving children and young people.

Background

11.1 Play England ^(vii) indicate that play has many benefits for children, families and the wider community, as well as improving health and quality of life. As well as providing physical exercise, mental stimulation it can play a part in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Well-planned provision can promote social inclusion.

11.2 Within the Surrey Strategic Partnership Plan 2010 - 2020, the aim is that by 2020 every child and young person will be safe, healthy, happy and creative, with the confidence, skills and opportunities to contribute and achieve more than they thought possible. The Partnership sets out in more detail its strategies to provide well-targeted, co-ordinated services to achieve the vision in the Children and Young People's Plan for Surrey. Key priorities have been agreed which focus on improving outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people.

11.3 Improving the delivery of services for children and young people was set down as a key strategic priority for 2006-2009 as indicated in the Waverley Corporate Plan (2006-2007). This resulted in a major replacement and refurbishment programme of many of Waverley's play areas. The current Corporate Plan 2012 - 2015 has leisure and lives as one of its priorities, and seeks to improve 30 children's play areas over the next three years.

11.4 Ongoing targets are also set out in the Youth Strategy, which contains objectives around increasing the amount of time young people engage in sporting activities. Further work on open spaces is proposed including the provision of skate parks, youth shelters and playgrounds around the Borough.

11.5 In the Town Centre Health Checks, Godalming Together identified the need for funding for Teen shelters in the area. ^(viii)

11.6 The Waverley Community Plan (2006-2016) also has young people as a priority with the aim 'To improve facilities and support for young people and increase opportunities for young people to have a healthy lifestyle'.

vii Play England, part of the children's charity NCB, established by the former Children's Play Council (CPC) in 2006 as a result of a Big Lottery Fund (BIG) grant of more than £15million for the Play England Project, as an integral part of BIG's Children's Play initiative. Currently funded by BIG until March 2011 to deliver the final year of this programme.

viii Action point Y2. The Godalming Healthcheck Report 2009.

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11.7 The Waverley Borough Council Cultural Strategy aims to ensure that adequate play provision is made within new developments in line with standards established in the Waverley Local Plan (2002) and this aim will continue through the emerging Core Strategy.

11.8 The Waverley Play Strategy (2007-2010) ensured a strategic and planned approach to the development and enhancement of quality of children's play opportunities in the Borough. It comprised a portfolio of projects focusing on the areas of greatest need and that form part of a local play strategy. The information from survey associated with this document is useful and has been incorporated where appropriate into this study, particularly when making an assessment of quality and quantity.

Waverley's Investment Programme for Playgrounds and Recreational facilities for young people 2009-2011

11.9 An investment programme for playgrounds and recreational facilities for young people was approved by the Council in 2009 and extends to 2011. In 2006 the Council embarked upon a major replacement and refurbishment programme of many of its play areas, and resulted in the substantial upgrade of 25 sites, with minor improvements carried out to a number of other Council owned play areas around the borough at the same time.

11.10 This work was completed at the beginning of 2008 and brought about considerable improvements to the range and quality of play opportunities across the borough, but despite the considerable investment outlined above, there were a further 30 play areas in this Council's ownership which did not benefit from this work and were still in need of attention. Some sites are in need of refurbishment, while additional facilities are needed in others. A priority list was drawn up and the ten sites in the greatest need of refurbishment allocated funding between 2009 and 2011, as part of the Government's Playbuilder initiative. These sites are:

- Mardens Recreation Ground, Farnham (completed)
- Beacon Hill Recreation Ground, Hindhead
- Cranleigh Leisure Centre Skatepark
- Boundstone Recreation Ground, Farnham
- Peakfield, Frensham (completed)
- Tilford Road, Hindhead (This site was highlighted as being of poor quality in the PPG17 survey)
- Roman Way, Farnham
- Herons Skatepark and MUGA, Haslemere
- Farnham Park (St. James Avenue) and
- Canon Bowring Recreation Ground.

11.11 In all, 55 playgrounds were identified as being in need of refurbishment. They have been prioritised and the programme will continue rolling forward while funding is available from a variety of sources.

Further Work

11.12 Waverley's Leisure and Community Safety Service is to use the information gathered in this PPG17 study and develop it further to produce an Open Space Strategy for the Borough. It is anticipated that it will be adopted by Waverley in 2012.

11.13 Play Shaper is part of Play England's Engaging Communities in Play programme aimed at empowering local communities to take control of spaces where their children would like to play and promote the long term sustainability of local play provision developed through the play pathfinder and playbuilder capital programme. It is funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and is a commitment from the government's national Play Strategy. Play Shaper is being delivered by a partnership led by Play England with Playwork Partnerships and SkillsActive. Play England helped local authority playbuilders and play pathfinders to deliver the government's £235m investment in play, the goal being to transform local areas into innovative and adventurous play spaces.



Picture 11.1 Peakfield, Frensham

11.14 Two Playbuilder projects have taken place so far in Waverley at Peakfield, Frensham and Mardens, Farnham.

11.15 Morley Road recreation ground was nominated as part of the Ready for Ten Parents for Playgrounds competition (April 2011), which is supported by Play England, with an opportunity to win £15,000 towards its refurbishment, but unfortunately was not successful. It did receive many local votes which highlights its importance to the local community.

11.16 It is a general aim of the Council to ensure that play space becomes integrated more generally within the design and layout of any new developments in Waverley. Play England has three aims in its manifesto:

- To make all residential neighbourhoods child-friendly places where children can play outside
- To give all children the time and opportunity to play throughout childhood
- To give all children somewhere to play - in freedom and safety - after school and in the holidays

11.17 Play England's document [Better Places to Play through Planning](#) provides valuable guidance on how to promote play through LDFs and the development control process.

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Consultation Results

The General Survey

11.18 The results of the survey show that provision of facilities for children and young people is considered to be the sixth most important type of open space in the Borough by 83.3% of respondents.

11.19 Over the previous year, the use of these facilities was as follows:

- Daily 9.3%
- Weekly 31.5%
- Monthly 19.5%
- Occasionally 39.7%



Picture 11.2 Play Space at the Burys, Godalming

11.20 52.8% of respondents felt that the provision was about right, but a significant percentage (37.6%) felt that there was too little.

11.21 In terms of quality, 45% of respondents thought that it was very good or good, while 13% considered it poor. Those in the eastern part of the borough were found most likely to say that the facilities were poor or very poor.

11.22 Of the Parish and Town Councils that responded, Godalming, Witley, Bramley, Wonersh and Churt said that provision was too low, while the others, Tilford, Ewhurst, Cranleigh and Frensham said it was about right. In terms of quality however, none of the parishes thought their facilities were very good, being split evenly between good and average. Only Churt Parish Council thought that their facilities were poor.

Current Provision

11.23 There are currently 80 play areas in Waverley. The vast majority (85%) of the NPFA classified play areas are provided by Waverley Borough Council, with the Parish/Town Councils providing 9 play areas. Waverley Borough Council also provides

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the additional play areas that are not NPFA classified. The majority have fixed play equipment on site but there are also five skate parks and a small number of hard surface ball courts. In total there is 4.70ha of hard surface grounds provided primarily for children and young people, the sites range from under 100m² to over 1000m², although they are usually integral to much larger amenity areas or recreation grounds.

11.24 Following extensive public consultation and advice from the Thames Valley Police Best Practice guide, a youth shelter has been installed in Haslemere. The existing Sandy Hill Youth Shelter, Farnham has been refurbished and is regularly used by the Surrey County Council outreach worker for young people.

11.25 The play areas are distributed around the borough, but there do appear to be areas with limited or no provision of formal play spaces, reflecting some of the comments from the general survey. These are in the more rural areas of the borough, such as Rushmoor, Sandhills and Hambledon.

Quantity Standards

11.26 The audit shows that there is 4.8 ha of fixed recreation equipment for children and young peoples outdoor activities across the whole of Waverley Borough, which equates to 0.04ha per 1000 people. This is a slight improvement on the findings of the *Quantitative Assessment of Children's Play Facilities in Waverley* (PMP 2003), which audited existing play provision in the Borough and found that the Borough fell well short of the NPFA minimum standard for equipped play areas which is 0.25 hectares per 1,000 population, having only 0.02ha per 1000 population. Some nine wards then fell below that standard.

11.27 Some of the areas have since been extended and/ or improved since the 2003 study, and other playspaces included in this study. The following fall below 0.04 ha/1000 population.

PPG17 Area (see Map 3.1)	Population of area	Area of playspace	Hectares per 1000 population
Bramley	3341	0.03	0.01
Busbridge	758	0.00	0.00
Chiddingfold	2882	0.03	0.01
Ewhurst	2391	0.06	0.03
Farncombe	12731	0.31	0.02
Godalming	0.29	0.03	0.01
Hambledon	765	0.00	0.00

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PPG17 Area (see Map 3.1)	Population of area	Area of playspace	Hectares per 1000 population
Hindhead	3874	0.13	0.03
Peperharow	195	0.00	0.00
South Farnham	17766	0.41	0.02
Thursley	654	0.00	0.00

Table 11.1

11.28 Some 17 wards fall below this standard, but as the PPG17 study uses parishes and combination of wards for the urban areas, it focuses where the deficits are more accurately. North Farnham collectively is shown to be over the 0.04 provision but this is due to the good provision in Farnham Park. However, individually, the *urban* wards which fall below the 0.04 provision are:

- Farnham Upper Hale
- Farnham Weybourne and Badshot Lea
- Farnham Shortheath and Boundstone
- Farnham Rowledge and Wrecclesham
- Farnham Moor Park
- Farnham Firgrove
- Farnham Hale and Heath End
- Farnham Bourne
- Cranleigh East
- Haslemere East and Grayswood
- Godalming Charterhouse

11.29 Fields in Trust now advises a minimum standard for children's play space (including both designated equipped play space, and informal play space) to be 0.8ha per 1,000 population. The standard for designated playing space is 0.25ha per 1000.

11.30 It is important to note that the PPG17 audit has measured the actual designated play areas, generally defined by fixed boundaries on the ground. It does not include most casual or informal playing space adjacent to many of these sites or within, for example, housing areas. For the purposes of this study these have been categorised as amenity greenspace (see previous section) as there is no way to define what is used by children or adults without double counting the land available. There is a large amount of this type of land in Waverley. When the area for children and young people is combined with amenity greenspace, this shows there is actually a provision of some 0.84 ha per 1,000 people, although in reality this figure is slightly lower as the amenity greenspace survey has included council maintained verges, which cannot be considered appropriate space for children's play purposes.

11.31 The audit results don't show anything new about the quantity of play space available since 2008, but confirms the lack of provision in playground provision in some areas. This will continue to be addressed in Waverley's Investment Programme for playgrounds and Recreational facilities for young people 2009-2011. 37.6% of those responding to the survey said play provision in places was too little, which is a significant number.

Quantity Standard – 0.25 ha per 1,000 people of specific provision for children and young people containing a range of facilities for casual or informal play, in discussion with Leisure Services.

11.32 It is acknowledged that this is a challenging target, but the Council is committed to improving the delivery of services for leisure through its Corporate Plan, and proposes to improve 30 play areas over the next three years. It continues to be an such an important part of many government and local agendas that to keep with the existing level of provision, would be unsound. It is a target and will be partially assisted through the investment programme for playgrounds and recreational facilities for young people. It is based on levels being sought across Surrey and may not consist entirely of fixed play equipment but could include informal play areas designed specifically for this age group, or the extension of existing playspaces, which may result in some overlap with amenity greenspace provision. This quantity standard reflects the priority placed on this typology. The level of provision will be monitored to assess the impact of this quantity standard.

Quality

11.33 *Fields in Trust* indicates some quality aspirations for children's play facilities including the provision of seating for adults, a varied range of suitable equipment, safety surfacing, prevention of dog fouling and teenager meeting places. The Trust advocates using quality benchmarks including the *Childrens' Play Council Quality Assessment Tool*, or *Fields in Trust's Play Value Assessment of Playgrounds*.

11.34 Some 45.5% of respondents thought that the quality of the playspaces in the Borough was very good or good, while 41% thought that they were average. Only 13% thought that the quality of provision was poor, and the majority of these were spread across north and south Farnham, south Godalming and Milford and Witley. Negative comments relating to the quality of spaces included references to them being:

- too small
- poorly equipped
- age limits should be applied

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- new facilities needed specifically at Milford play area, Lion Lane and Burnt Hill Way.
- those specifically referred to as being poor included Morley Road, Farnham and Tanners Lane, Haslemere, Amberley Road, Bourne Green, Beldhams, and Jubilee Field

Quality Standard – Sites should be clean/ litter free and provide a safe, fun and stimulating environment where possible for children of all ages. Areas should be set aside as dog free. Sites should be in areas easily accessible by foot to the local community they are intended to serve with limited barriers to access such as main roads.

Accessibility

11.35 Fields in Trust and Play England advocate the following national accessibility standards:

- Local Areas of Play (LAPs): accompanied walking distance 100m (straight line distance 60m). Play England define these as 'doorstep playable spaces'.
- Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs): walking distance 400m (straight line distance 240m).
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs): walking distance 1,000m (straight line distance 600m).

11.36 The Companion Guide to PPG17 suggests however, that this approach tends to result in children's play being allocated to the more 'unbuildable' parts of housing sites and often ignores the needs of older children, such as teenagers. It suggests that in new housing developments, it would be better to 'design in' children's play as an integral part of the housing environment, rather than to tuck it away in fairly sanitised play areas.

11.37 PPG17 recommends that it is best to define catchments by using the distance 75%-80% of users are willing to travel. Respondents were asked how far in minutes they should be expected to travel in order to access amenity greenspace using their preferred method of transport. For this survey the favoured method of transport was walking. 55.8% believed they should be expected to walk less than 10 minutes to use this open space, which is significantly higher than the average for all open space. 35% of respondents thought that they should have to travel for less than 20 minutes.

11.38 The audit has classified the various types of play area with the various accessibility distances and these are shown on Map 8.1.

Accessibility Standard – Fields in Trust and Play England standards are to be used:

- Local Areas of Play (LAPs): accompanied walking distance 100m (straight line distance 60m).
- Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs): walking distance 400m (straight line distance 240m).
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs): walking distance 1,000m (straight line distance 600m).

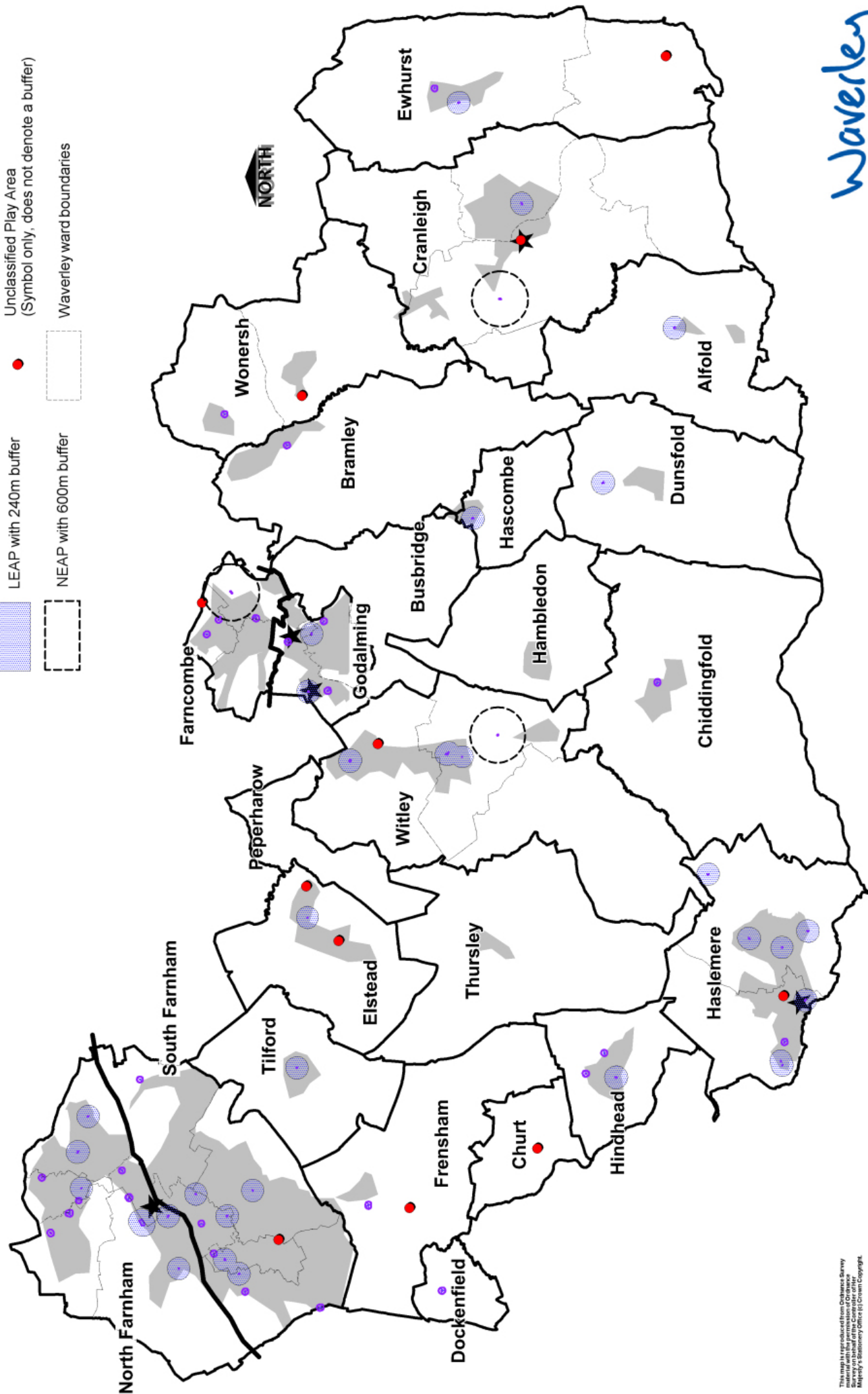
Applying the Standards

11.39 In terms of quantity, there are clearly less equipped playspaces in the rural areas, but this should be balanced with the high level of amenity greenspace and natural greenspace available. There were fewer comments relating to lack of provision in the rural areas, even when no formal playspace was available at all.

11.40 Provision of play has been given high priority in Waverley. Issues in the more built up areas of the borough have already been identified and a prioritised programme already in place to address them over a number of years. In the more urban areas there are also parks and gardens, which often serve many functions, including as more informal play space. In such areas, the 'catchment' of poor sites is often duplicated by the catchment of a better site which may to some extent compensate, but overall it may only worsen the level of under-provision in these areas.

11.41 The next map shows the catchment of the facilities, based on the accessibility standards for the different types of space, according to Fields In Trust. The catchment areas are understandably quite small due to the short distances people are willing to travel to reach a site. As can be seen, a large number of people are not within an acceptable walking distance of a reasonable site. The distance travelled will of course vary depending on the facilities available at these sites, and also depend on the profile of the users and age of their children.

Accessibility to Facilities for Children and Young People by Type of Space



Policy Options

11.42 It is acknowledged that there are difficulties in providing new sites in accessible locations near to where most people live across the Borough due to the lack of available land, and Waverley has already acknowledged the need to address some of the deficiencies and to ensure that new development does not add to the existing pressure and under-provision. In addition, there is a need to increase participation in play activities to ensure a healthier lifestyle, this can be encouraged through better quality, quantity and accessibility of opportunities. A number of policy options therefore need to be considered:

- Make the best use of the resources available in the Borough and seek intensification/ multi-use of existing sites, for example, other areas of land used for open space, sports or recreation and closely related to the population may have room available for a children's/ young people's play area; however, this may be contrary to other objectives, such as quiet enjoyment or conservation work. This is not a planning policy issue and there would need to be a partnership between relevant organisations on these more land management issues.
- In areas with significant deficiencies land could be sought through the site allocation process for larger sites; however, finding available land could prove to be very difficult particularly in existing built-up areas and it would need to be funded through some means. In rural areas, working with Parish Councils may help to identify and bring sites forward.
- Seek financial contributions for facilities from all appropriate development (this option is likely to be implemented through the Waverley Planning Infrastructure SPD) Seek sites for facilities on all development over a certain threshold. This can lead to very small, and in the past, poor quality sites within housing areas. The needs of older children should not be forgotten and a development of over 60 homes may be able to accommodate a LEAP, however it is unlikely that such large sites will be developed within Waverley.
- At present, many playgrounds and open spaces across the Borough are funded and managed by Waverley Borough Council or its contractors, or parish and town councils. However, there is a national, regional and local drive towards increased community ownership and management of facilities as part of the 'Big Society'. Further exploration of the potential to transfer ownership where appropriate could be undertaken. Consideration of alternative funding and management of open spaces is particularly relevant since the publication of the Localism Bill as it sets out commitments to 'Community Right to Buy' and 'Community Right to Challenge'. Such powers will give communities the opportunity to acquire local assets (such as land) threatened with closure or sale and to challenge local authorities' management of a service and take it over themselves.

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11.43 In addition, if all existing open space, sports and recreation facilities identified in the PPG17 Assessment are protected from development, proposal for re-development to a non open space, sports and recreation based use should first be required to demonstrate that the site is surplus to requirements and unsuitable for all other typologies, not just its existing use. This is due to the identified deficiencies in some typologies and the limited opportunities available to accommodate new facilities of this type across the Borough particularly in the built-up areas.

Key Actions

- Using the PMP Report *A Quantitative Assessment of Children's Play Facilities in Waverley* (2003) and the PPG17 strategy as a basis, further identify general lack of quality and provision of children and young people's open space in the Borough
 - Make more effective use of the *Fields in Trust* classifications of LAPs, LEAPs, and NEAPs to establish a hierarchy of playground quality and provision
- Address the overall under-provision of children and young people's facilities generally in the Borough to eventually meet the provision standard of 0.25ha of play equipment per 1000 people.
- Look in more detail at ways of providing new or extended playspace in the following PPG17 study defined areas, which fall below the average current provision of 0.04ha per 1000 population:
 - Parishes: Bramley, Busbridge, Chiddingfold, Ewhurst, Hambledon, Peperharow and Thursley
 - PPG17 defined areas of Farncombe, Godalming and South Farnham.
 - Other individual urban wards which fall below the current provision standards
- Specific Issues identified through PPG17 Audit for further investigation
 - Charterhouse area of Farncombe
 - No playgrounds exist in the Charterhouse areas
 - Potential site includes Upper Frith Hill open space
 - Busbridge
 - Redevelop the Home Farm site in Busbridge into an area more suitable for children's play
 - Rushmoor
 - No playground exists in Rushmoor (closest provided for areas are in Frensham, Churt, and Hindhead)
 - Witley

11 Provision for Children and Young People

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

- Parish Council could assist in finding suitable land in the particularly deficient Wormley area
- Chiddingfold
 - One playground exists in Chiddingfold. Possible additional sites include Hartsgrove open space and Pathfield Roadside open space
- Hindhead
 - Improvements to Marchants Hill/ Tilford Rd (Beacon Hill) playspace (see also Key Actions for Amenity Greenspace)
- Eastern part of the Borough
 - Almost half of general survey respondents from eastern rural areas felt there was too little children and young people's open space provision. This figure was the highest in the Borough
 - There is approximately one playground per 1900 people in the eastern rural areas compared to one playground per 1685 people throughout the Borough
- North Farnham, particularly in Upper Hale
 - Less than half of respondents to the general survey assessed provision to be *about right*, significantly below the average for the Borough
 - Only LAP type playgrounds exist in the Upper Hale area
 - Potential sites include Park View Estate (Trinity Hill) and Old Park Close

- Through consultation with local residents, investigate what could be done with the Thurbans Play Area (Farnham)
 - The site is underutilised
 - The site scored poorly on both quality and value in the qualitative assessment
 - South Farnham residents were satisfied with the existing provision of public parks and gardens sites in the area, rating above average in the Borough
 - The site is hidden from the road network and accessibility to the site is particularly poor
 - Greenhill Way Open Space, Beldhams Play Area, and Weydon School and St Peter's CE School playing fields are all quality open space sites within 300m of Thurbans Play Area
 - Monies from the sale of the land could be used to enhance open space sites in the area
- Re-prioritise the *Proposed Investment Programme for Playground and Recreational Facilities for Young People 2009-2011* based on the findings of the PPG17 Strategy
- Further assess the value of outdated or redundant play equipment and improve the quality to nearby existing playgrounds where appropriate
- Promote the potential of 'natural play', to explore wild space without the need to provide formal facilities.
- Support appropriate community led campaigns to provide or enhance play facilities under Big Society initiative, once established.

Allotments 12

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Study



Picture 12.1 Allotments at Maplehatch, Godalming

Definition

This type of open space includes all types of allotments, community gardens and urban farms with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

An allotment is a piece of land not exceeding 40 poles (1,012 m²) in extent, which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the plotholder for the production of vegetables or fruit by him/herself and family.^(ix)

12.1 There are no community gardens or urban farms within Waverley, and so this section therefore relates solely to allotments.

Background

12.2 As outlined in *Allotments: A plot holders' guide*, published for DCLG in 2007, having an allotment provides an excellent opportunity to grow your own fruit and vegetables, meet new people and get plenty of fresh air and exercise, as well as bringing together people from all age groups and various social backgrounds around a common

ix Allotments: A Plotholders Guide 2007

12 Allotments

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

recreational interest. They can also benefit the environment in a number of ways. They provide valuable green spaces within our towns and cities making them more environmentally friendly, sustainable and attractive places to live. They can also provide a varied and valued habitat for wild plants and animals.

12.3 Nationally, the majority of allotment sites are owned by local authorities and may be termed 'statutory' or 'temporary' where: 'statutory' allotment land is land of which the freehold or very long lease is vested in the allotments authority, and which was either originally purchased for allotments or subsequently appropriated for allotment use.

12.4 The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for overall government policy on allotments at a national level. The Department's aim is to promote allotments, provide necessary protection for them and ensure there is sufficient provision to meet demand.

Consultation Results

The General Survey

12.5 Survey forms were sent to each of the Parish and Town Councils. Of those which have the responsibility of allotment management, only five of the parishes responded. These results were combined with those responding as part of the general survey, which may have included some allotment holders themselves.

12.6 The results of the general survey indicate that allotments are considered to be important or very important by some 69.3% of those that responded. This was lower than any other type of open space, but is still considered to be high, and reflects the fact that although only a limited number of people actually have an allotment, many others consider them of value.

12.7 47.8% of respondents felt that the provision of allotments was about right, while 22.3% thought there were too few. Almost 30% were unsure about this issue.

12.8 Allotments are considered to be of good or very good quality by 37.5%, while 50.0% think that they are only average. Some 11.6% think that they are poor or very poor quality. These results should be treated with caution for several reasons: many people may not have visited allotments, and this view could relate to the facilities or other features or even the quality of soil on various sites.

Current Provision in Waverley

12.9 Twenty-eight allotment sites have been identified within the Borough, most of which are managed by Parish and Town Councils and the Farncombe and District Working Mens Allotment Association. Waverley Borough Council manages one site in Farnham. The sites range in size from 0.10ha to the 1.65ha site at More Road in

Farncombe. North Farnham and Farncombe have the most allotment sites. The number of plots total some 16.2 ha. Further investigation with managers of the sites will be carried out to ascertain the number of plots in total on each site.



Picture 12.2 The Burys, Godalming

12.10 The survey to the Parish and Towns asked how many plots there were on sites and the size of these areas. Of the parishes that responded, Witley, Wonerish, Ewhurst, Cranleigh and Chiddingfold all reported that they had plots available, with the exception of the Enton allotments. Many of the other parish and town websites suggest joining a waiting list.

12.11 Godalming Town Council want to help increase the availability of allotments by helping the Farncombe and District Working Mens Allotment Association to identify new sites. Cranleigh Parish Council wants to provide more allotments at the Elmbridge site, and is in discussion with St. Joseph's school to try to form a community garden and further allotments.

12.12 Many of those respondents suggesting that there were too few allotments do actually live in relatively

close proximity, i.e in the same ward as one or more allotment sites, particularly in Farnham, Godalming, Cranleigh and Haslemere. This could suggest that there is a demand for further allotment spaces in those areas, should the opportunity arise.

12.13 Wards or parishes which have no allotments and where there appears to be some demand, include Hindhead, Churt and Bramley.

12.14 In the absence of enough allotments, the Landshare^(x) initiative may also be helping to start to satisfy some demand. Launched in 2009, Landshare brings together people who want to grow their own food and those who have land to share. There are a number of registrations in Waverley from people who are interested, particularly in the Haslemere area (Dec 2010).

x <http://www.landshare.net/index/>

12 Allotments

Quantity Standards

12.15 It is estimated that since 1969 some 30% of the then available allotments land has been lost irrevocably. Hence, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommends that the minimum provision today should be 20 standard (250 sq.m or 0.025ha) plots per 1,000 households or 0.5 ha per 1000 households. *The Survey of Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms*, carried out by the University of Derby on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2006 showed that the national average provision was 7 plots per 1,000 population.

12.16 The audit shows that there are 16.2 ha of allotments within Waverley. This equates to a provision of approximately 0.34ha or 13 plots per 1000 households, which is almost double the national average. Further work may be undertaken to ascertain the numbers of plots at each site in the Borough for a more accurate standard to be set when the PPG17 study is reviewed in the future, and once housing requirements are established in the Core Strategy, future requirements for allotments may be refined.

12.17 PPG17's companion guide considers that the number of allotments required in any area is a function of demand and therefore it will be appropriate to use a demand-led methodology based on information from waiting lists. Such information can help determine the level of unmet need and its spatial distribution.

12.18 More accurate information is needed from the town and parish councils and the Farncombe and District Working Mens Allotment Association about the number of plots each site contains as well as more information about waiting lists/ demand for plots, before a realistic local quantity standard can be set. It would appear from information available that the amount that Waverley already has exceed the national average but falls short of what is recommended. Once established the standard will need to be applied flexibly taking into account provision within the area (defined by the accessibility standards discussed below) and the type of housing being provided, for example an increase in the provision of flats added to people's interest in allotments may add to the pressure for them. It is important that the effect of incremental increases in the number of properties does not result in a serious under provision of allotments.

Quality Standards

12.19 There are no definitive national or local standards for the quality of allotments, community gardens and urban farms, and no legal obligation on landowners to provide facilities. However, the publication *Allotments: A Plottolders' guide* (Allotment Regeneration Initiative for DCLG) suggests that allotments should have mains water supply, toilet facilities, fences, hedges and gateways, paths and hauling ways and adequate security measures.

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12.20 The overall result of the general survey indicates an average quality rating (50.9%) of allotments in the Borough by those that responded. However, an analysis of respondents by postcode shows that the greatest levels of concern over quality came from respondents in Godalming and Cranleigh, but there is no way of telling what these concerns might be.

12.21 Most of the Town and Parish councils that responded thought that the quality of their allotments was good or very good, but there was a low response rate and further information is needed.

12.22 Therefore from the results of the consultation and other guidance the following general quality standard is set.

Quality Standard - A well maintained, clean/ litter free site, level with good quality soil, drainage and access to a good water supply.

12.23 Although the provision of toilets are suggested as ideal facilities, this has not been incorporated into the standard as there is no opportunity to provide them in most cases; however, such provision, along with adequate security measures should be encouraged if appropriately designed and managed.

Accessibility Standards

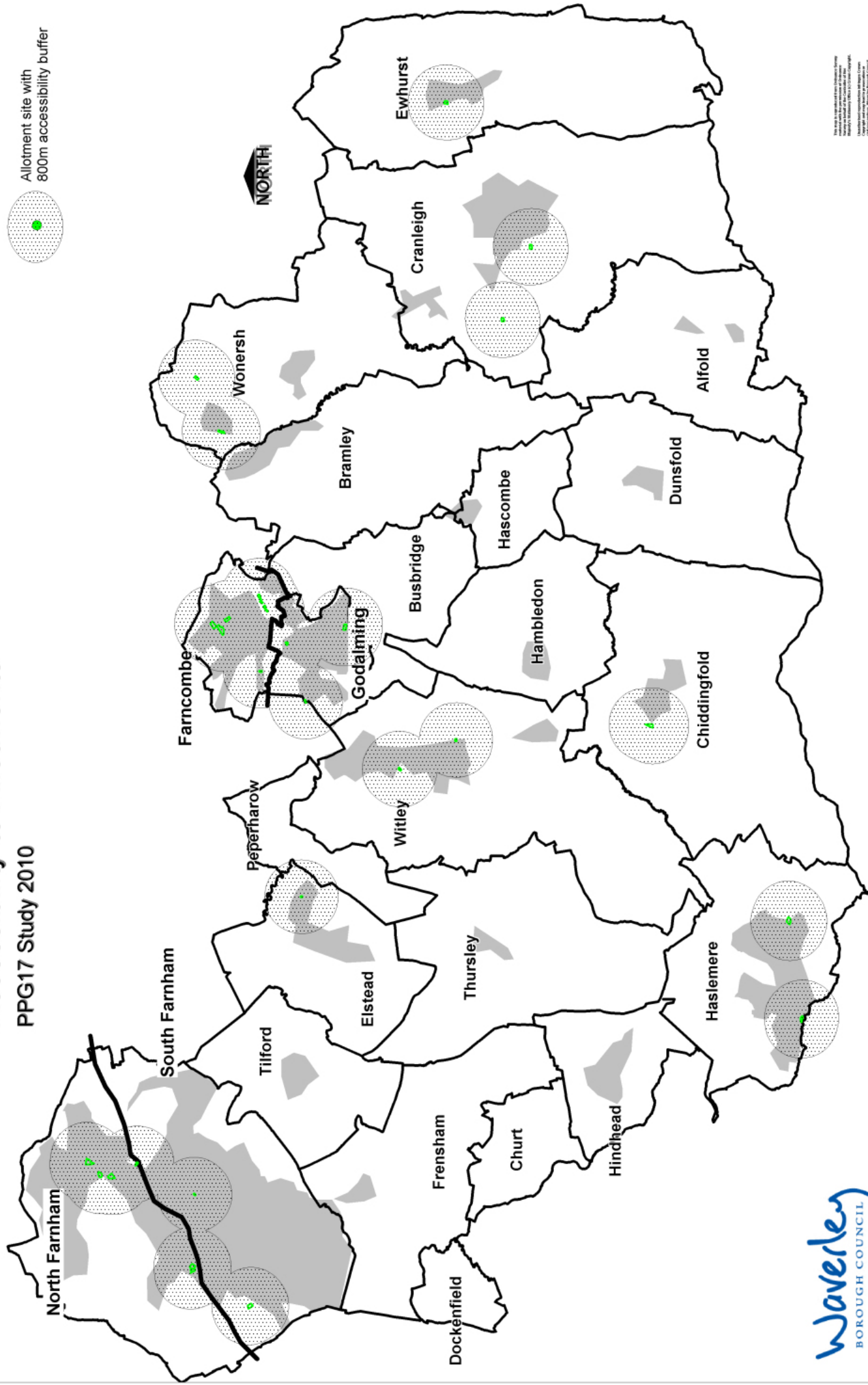
12.24 PPG17 recommends that the 75th - 80th percentile of responses indicate the time/ distance that the majority of people will be willing to travel and that this should be used to inform accessibility. Respondents to the general survey were asked how far in minutes they should be expected to travel to an allotment using their preferred method of transport.

12.25 The preferred methods of getting to allotments were walking (43.4%) and driving (39.3%).

12.26 For this typology the preferred method was walking and the 75th percentile was within the 11 to 20 minute category. An accessibility standard of 15 minutes walk (approximately 800m) is thought to be appropriate, and is shown on Map 11.1. It is acknowledged that a high number of people would prefer to drive, however, government guidance promotes measures other than driving.

Accessibility to Allotments

PPG17 Study 2010



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12.27 Mapping postcode results of those driving and walking to allotments within the 800m buffer shows that the majority of respondents who walk do actually live within that distance.

12.28 Analysing postcodes of those who drive to allotment sites shows that all people in Godalming who drive to their site also live within 800 metres, but this could be due to a number of factors such as the topography of the area where the allotment is located, or the need to take tools or other equipment to the allotment. People may also choose to walk because of a lack of parking.

Accessibility Standard - 15 minutes walk, approximately 800m

Applying the Standards

12.29 In terms of the quantity of allotments the results of the study show that most allotments are concentrated within the Parishes of the four main urban areas. Many rural parishes have no allotments, but from the survey, and very limited waiting list information supplied shows little demand in these areas. More comprehensive work on the waiting lists would be needed to indicate whether new sites would be required.

12.30 The quality of allotments in the Borough is considered to be good, overall. It is not felt that the quality of sites is preventing people from using them.

12.31 The previous map shows the 'catchment' area of allotments, i.e. an 800m buffer has been drawn around all sites based on the accessibility standard, and that the majority of those responding live within the catchment and walk to the sites.

Policy Options

12.32 The main issue is felt to be the quantity of allotments rather than quality or accessibility, although the provision of some allotments in rural areas would help those residents. This is most likely to be achieved by Parish Councils working with local residents and landowners to find suitable sites.

12.33 Over the next 20 years it is anticipated that the population of the Borough will increase. The PPG17 companion guide suggests that the need for allotments is likely to rise as a result of rising housing densities and consequential reduction in new garden sizes. Taking into account that the majority of the population increase is likely to be in the main urban areas of Farnham, Godalming, Cranleigh and Haslemere it is anticipated that this is where the greatest need will arise. If land is unavailable for new allotment sites, it may be possible to increase the capacity of existing sites and provide further plots.

12.34 It is therefore felt that all existing allotments should be protected unless higher quality alternative provision in the locality can be provided.

12 Allotments

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Key Actions

- Encourage the promotion and advertising of allotments in the borough, in conjunction with the allotment's land owners to raise the profile of the sites and the benefits allotments can bring
- Address under-provision in Parishes expressing a demand by looking at potential sites
- Investigate devolving ownership and maintenance of Waverley Borough Council's sole allotment sites in Weybourne Road to Farnham Town Council

Churchyards and Cemeteries

13

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Study

13 Churchyards and Cemeteries

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study



Picture 13.1 Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. Godalming

Definition

Churchyards can only exist where there is a Church, and cemeteries are found in locations where a Church is not present. The primary purpose of this type of open space is quiet contemplation and burial of the dead; it can also be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Background

13.1 Churchyards and cemeteries can provide valuable areas of open space, often in central and densely developed locations where other sources of open space are not available. The CABE Briefing Note 'Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds', published in November 2007, states that urban burial grounds in the 19th century were originally envisaged as public open spaces, and were professionally designed to be attractive places to visit in their own right. They consider that, today, many cemeteries are neglected, with little to attract anyone apart from those visiting specific burial plots.

This lack of design, planning and ambition means that the potential health and environmental benefits of cemeteries are not being realised. In rural areas their importance in terms of providing open space is less significant.

Consultation Results

General Survey

13.2 The results of the general survey indicate that cemeteries and churchyards are considered to be the 9th most important type of open space in the District. 73% suggested that cemeteries and churchyards were either very important or important.

13.3 Over the 12 months preceding the survey respondents visited a cemetery or churchyard:

- Daily (2.2%)
- Weekly (14.7%)
- Monthly (14.7%)
- Occasionally (68.4%)

13.4 75.1% of respondents think that the quantity of cemeteries and churchyards is 'about right', as did all of the Parish and Town Councils that responded.

13.5 Cemeteries and churchyards are rated as being of very good or good quality by 47.9% of respondents and of average quality by 47.3%. Only 4.8% thought they were poor or very poor quality.

13 Churchyards and Cemeteries

Current Provision in Waverley

13.6 The audit identified 48 cemeteries and churchyards within Waverley, totalling around 48 ha. There is generally a good distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough, with every parish having at least one cemetery or churchyard. The largest is a relatively new woodland burial site at Shamley Green, of some 7.3 ha. Permission was also given in 2010 to 6ha of land at Upper Hale Road, Farnham for another woodland burial site. The smallest is the former Quaker burial ground at Binscombe (used until 1790) of only 0.03 ha. Many of the rural churchyards are extremely attractive tranquil and valued areas and also provide many benefits for wildlife, but they are not a significant source of public open space as there are usually more appropriate and accessible alternatives available.



Picture 13.2 Bramley Cemetery (Closed)

13.7 The majority of active cemeteries in the Waverley area are managed by the local Town or Parish Councils. Sunvale Cemetery in Haslemere is now Waverley Borough Council's only operational cemetery. This is a 2.2 acre site on the western side of the town, and offers a range of burial options. Waverley is responsible for the management of nine closed cemeteries across the borough. A number of these are now important refuges for wildlife, as they still contain unusual flower species which were once previously common in local meadows in the past. Both Elstead (Thursley Road) Cemetery and the Churchyard of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Godalming, have areas of grass left unmown across the summer to allow rare wildflowers, like meadow saxifrage, to flower and set seed. This ongoing work is being carried out in collaboration with the Surrey Botanical Society, Surrey Wildlife Trust and local people.

Setting Provision Standards

13.9 The provision standards have been set taking into account the current provision, site assessments and consultations.

Quantity Standards

13.8 PPG17's companion guide states that no quantity standards for cemeteries and churchyards can be set:

13.9 *“As churchyards can only exist where there is a Church, the only form of provision standard that will be required is a qualitative one”.*

13.10 *“Every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is a steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burial. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard”.*

13.11 Although no quantity standard is set, it is worth noting that respondents to the general survey were satisfied with the overall provision of cemeteries and churchyards in the Borough as a source of open spaces indicating that it was ‘about right’. The number of respondents indicating that the provision of cemeteries and churchyards was ‘about right’ was the third highest for all open space types.

13.12 It should be noted that this assessment is not considering the need for burial sites, it is assessing it as a source of public open space. Although not explored in this study, the Council would need to work with local communities, who may express a need for further burial grounds, on an individual basis.

Quality Standards

13.13 No national quality standards exist; however criteria used for determining the winner of the ‘Cemetery of the Year’ state that ‘a burial site or crematorium should be a place that puts people first, where they can grieve and contemplate. It should include pleasant areas to sit, relax and appreciate the surroundings. It should be user friendly for all, including for the disabled, and give good service to the community’. They are assessed on many things including signage, access, information, opening hours, maintenance, facilities and attractiveness. Although this is not an assessment in terms of a site’s value as a source of open space, it is still helpful.

13.14 The overall result of the general survey indicates a general satisfaction with the quality of cemeteries and churchyards. The only site specific respondent said that the West Street cemetery in Farnham was poorly maintained.

Quality Standard - Churchyards and Cemeteries should be well maintained, clean and litter free. They should contain an appropriate mix of flowers / trees and shrubs to enhance biodiversity and provide a pleasant and peaceful setting for those using the sites. Bins should be provided to reduce the occurrences of litter and dog fouling problems. They should be accessible to a wide range of people including those with mobility difficulties, with sufficient parking, seating and where appropriate lighting.

13 Churchyards and Cemeteries

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Accessibility Standards

13.15 There are no national or local accessibility standards for Churchyards and Cemeteries. PPG17's companion guide highlights that accessibility to churchyards and cemeteries is important so that relatives are easily able to visit them. The general survey indicated that there were no major concerns related to the accessibility of cemeteries and churchyards and neither were any raised by the Parishes.

13.16 The general survey indicates that the majority of respondents (53.7%) would walk to cemeteries and churchyards rather than going by car (38%). 82.3% of respondents said they would be prepared to travel for up to 20 minutes; but this is more likely to reflect the need to visit the burial sites of relatives / friends rather than to use the area for its open space value.

13.17 No accessibility standards have been set as the need for new churchyards / cemeteries is demand led and is likely to be limited; however, if new sites are to be provided in the future they should be in areas accessible to the local community they serve, by foot.

Applying the Standards

13.18 The results of the study and the map below show that there is a good number and distribution of churchyards and cemeteries across the Borough; however, many are in rural locations and it is likely that those in more urban areas have a greater role in terms of providing open space, which is just that - a green area within or adjacent to development. The more rural sites have a role to play in providing areas for quiet contemplation and in many cases, as wildlife havens.

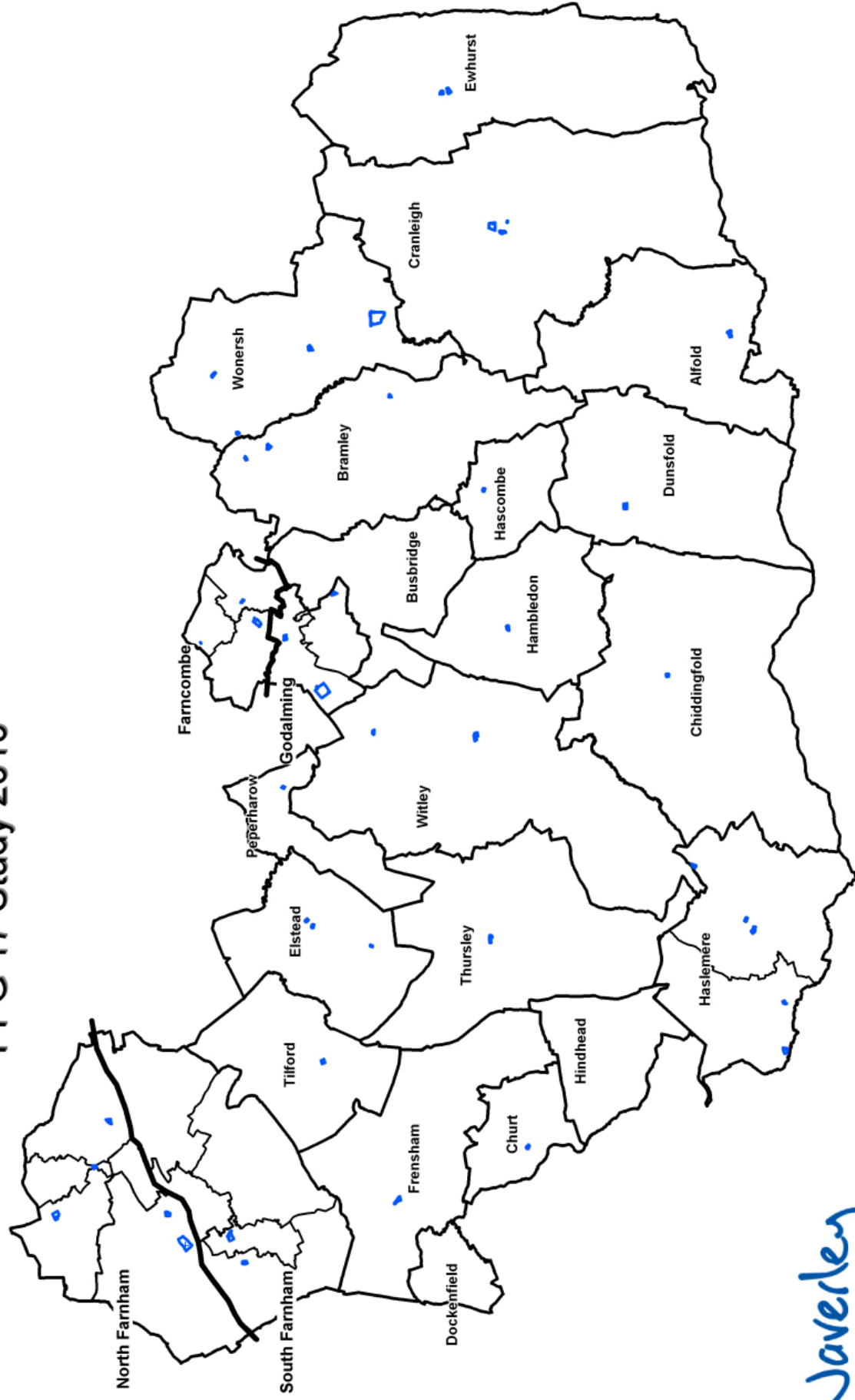
13.19 The quality of churchyards and cemeteries is generally considered to be good or average. A quality standard has been set against which to monitor existing sites and to act as a bench mark in terms of any future provision. No accessibility standard has been set.

Churchyards and Cemeteries

PPG 17 Study 2010



Churchyards and Cemeteries



Civic Spaces 14

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation
Study

Definition

This type of open space includes civic and market squares, and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians. The purpose of civic spaces, mainly in town and city centres, is to provide a setting for civic buildings, such as town halls, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events.

Background



Picture 14.1 Civic Spaces in Cranleigh

14.1 Civic space can be particularly important asset in town centre, providing an attractive, pleasant environment particularly for pedestrians. In many towns and cities it is a focal point used for gatherings of people, markets and entertainment; however, a poor quality area can attract vandalism,

appear threatening, therefore deterring rather than attracting people, and provide a drab setting to the wider area. Specific advice on Civic Spaces is not easily found; however The Urban White Paper indicated that well managed public open space improves the attractiveness of urban areas and helps to promote healthier lifestyles. In addition much of the quality of a civic space is closely associated with high quality design skills and a lot of detailed advice has been produced by the Commission for Architecture the Built Environment (CABE).

14.2 At a local level some of the guidance within the Surrey Design Guide is relevant to civic space, in particular that open space should be an integral part of the built environment.

14 Civic Spaces

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study

Consultation Results

The General Survey

14.3 The results of the general survey indicate that civic spaces are the seventh most important types of open space in the Borough. 79.6% of respondents suggested that civic spaces are either very important or important in Waverley.

14.4 Over the 12 months preceding the survey respondents visited a civic space:

- Daily (11.2%)
- Weekly (50.8%)
- Monthly (13.5%)
- Occasionally (24.5%)

14.6 62% of respondents think that the quantity of civic spaces is 'about right'. The proportion (25.5%) indicating that there is 'too little' provision is quite high and should however, be noted.

14.7 Civic spaces are rated as being of very good or good quality by 40.5% of respondents and of average quality by 44.6%. 14.9% rated them as being of poor or very poor quality (second worst rated type of open space in the Borough). Postcode analysis shows that the majority of these respondents came from Farnham, with equal numbers from Godalming, Cranleigh and Haslemere. Others came from Hindhead, Bramley, MIlford, Witley and Chiddingfold, but did not specify which civic areas they were unhappy with.

Current Provision in Waverley

14.8 Five sites across the District were classified as civic spaces; they were all within either Farnham, Godalming or Cranleigh. However, they are all relatively small in size and include:

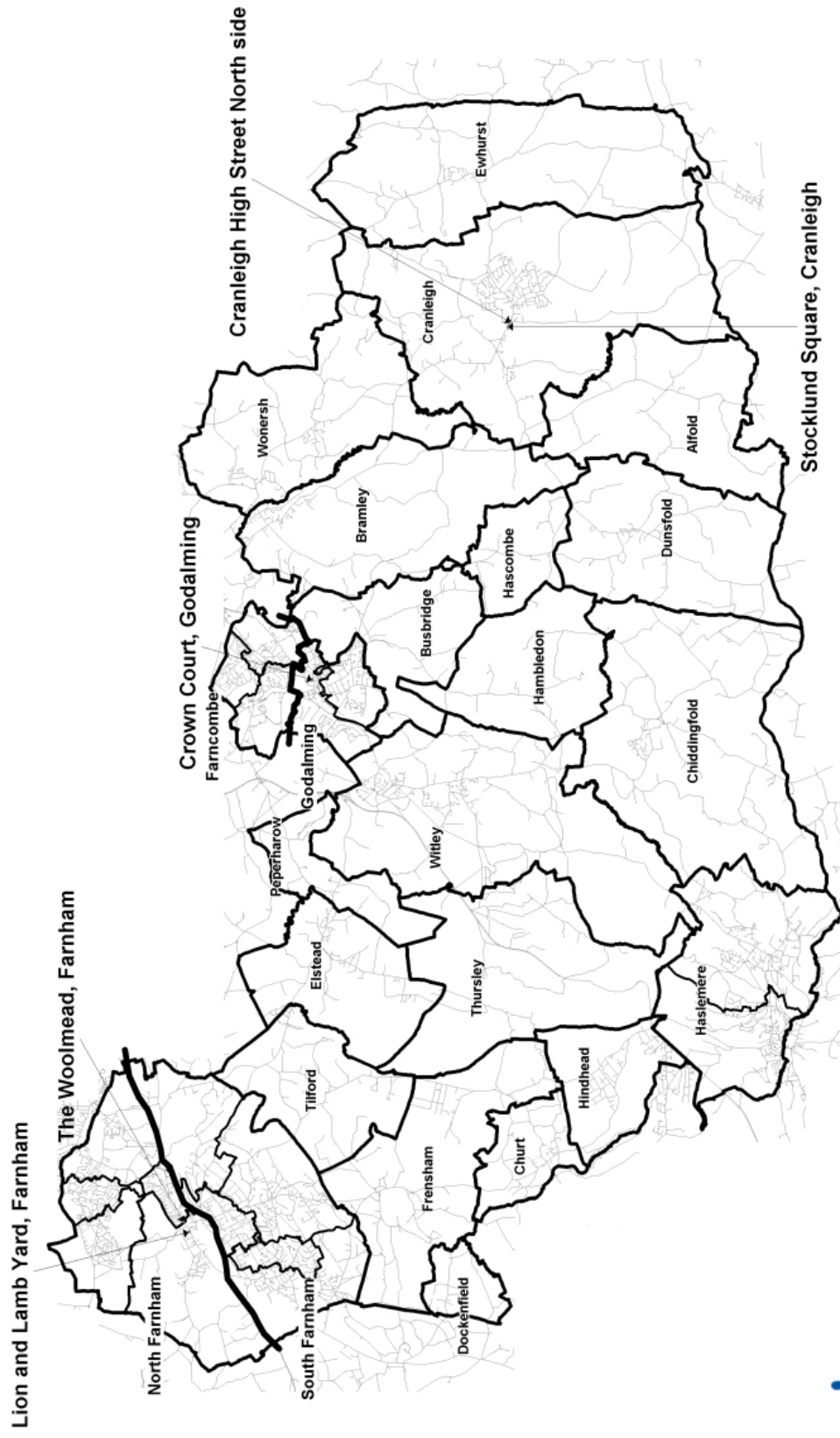
- the Lion and Lamb Yard, Farnham
- Stocklund Square, Cranleigh
- Fountain Square, High Street, Cranleigh,
- Crown Court, Godalming
- The Woolmead, Farnham

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There are also a number of even smaller sites within the towns and many of the villages, such as war memorials and the associated seating and grounds that are not identified due to their size; however, they are of importance to the local community and often maintenance is carried out by local people, such as the Pound project at Bramley, which won a Waverley Design Award. This next map shows the location of the identified Civic Spaces.

Civic Spaces

PPG17 Study: 2010



Setting Provision Standards

14.9 The provision standards have been set taking into account the current provision, site assessments, consultations and likely future needs.

Quantity Standards

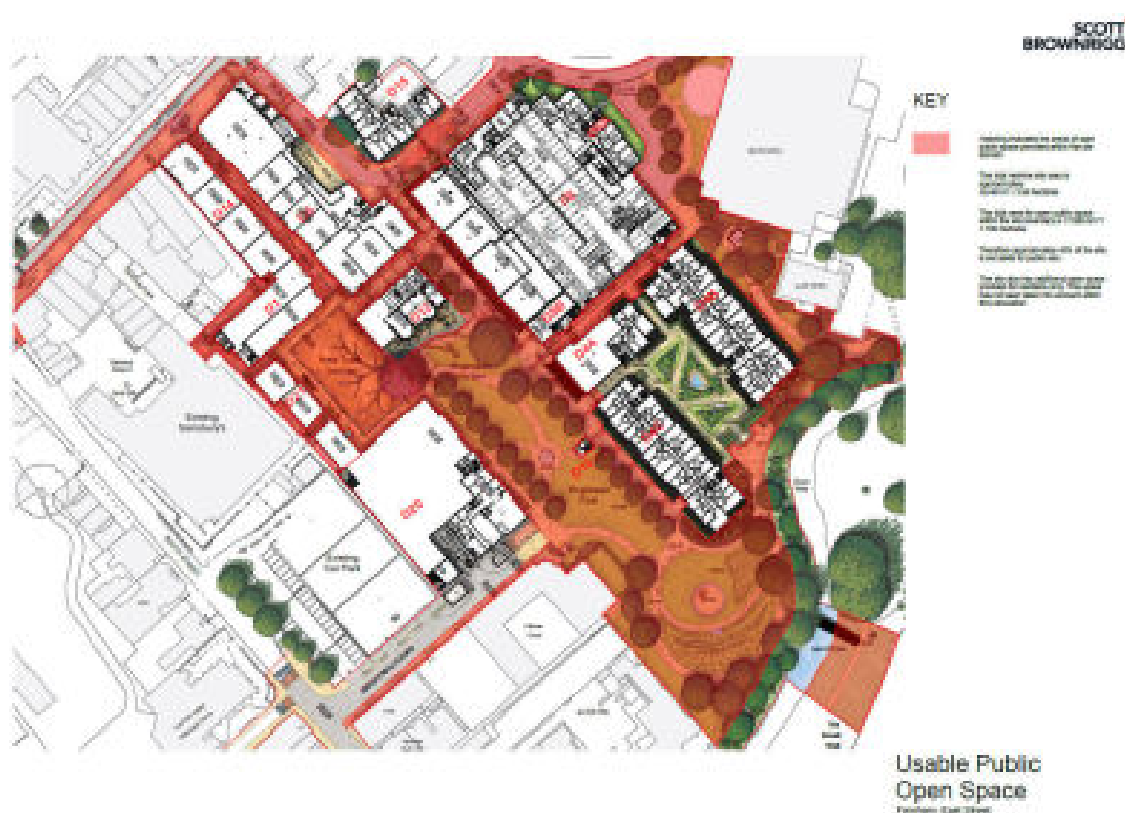
14.10 The audit shows that there is just over 0.4ha of civic space across the Borough. A provision per 1,000 population is not estimated as the audit focused on the main settlements and a standard would be meaningless, not taking into account the very small sites within the villages.

14.11 Respondents to the general survey are broadly satisfied with the overall provision of civic space in the District, with 62% considering it 'about right'. Godalming Town Council thought that there was too little of this type of space. The parishes that responded were split between those who thought that they had the right quantity, and those who had none at all under the definition.

14.1 According to the PPG17 companion guide, civic spaces are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design-led basis. No quantity standards will therefore be set as there appears to be no significant demand for additional civic space and there are other types of open space provision which are considered to be of a higher priority. It is considered to be more important to ensure that what is available is well maintained and usable and of an improving quality.

14 Civic Spaces

Waverley Borough Council | Waverley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study



Picture 14.2 Proposed Open Space :East Street, Farnham

14.2 Additional open space is to be provided as part of the East Street scheme in Farnham. The total area for open public space within the site boundary is 1.706 hectares, and which is approximately 43% of the site set aside for public use, as shown left. Part of this area is designated as a new town square.

Quality Standards

14.3 The results of the general survey indicate that some 40.5% of respondents thought that civic spaces were very good or good, while 44.6% thought they were average. Almost 15% thought that they were of poor or very poor quality. 15%. Several respondents mentioned that the road layout in Farnham precluded the provision of civic space. No one specified what they thought was poor about the quality of the civic spaces, but potentially this could relate to quality of surfacing, seating, litter, dog fouling, security, lighting and hard and soft landscaping and general appearance.

14.4 The provision of adequate lighting, CCTV and suitable parking are the main factors that make respondents feel safer at the civic space they visited most frequently.

Quality Standard – Civic spaces must be clean, well maintained, inviting places that are considered and feel safe to those wishing to use them. Where appropriate and practical the provision of toilets and parking should be sought.

Accessibility Standards

14.5 Logically, the larger of the civic spaces are found in Waverley's town centres, where for most of the time, such space is part of an area for pedestrians, and occasionally used for events, such as markets. With the increase in coffee shops and restaurants in some of the centres, outside seating areas are becoming more popular, utilising parts of the larger civic spaces.

14.6 PPG17 recommends that it is best to define catchments by using the distance travelled by up to 75%-80% of users; however, as no quantity standard is being set there is no need to set a specific accessibility standard.

Applying the Standards

14.7 In terms of applying the standards, the key issue is felt to relate to the quality of existing sites. They are important to the main centres, but in some cases the quality could be improved, this would not only affect the site itself but the surrounding area.

14.8 In terms of accessibility, all the sites audited are in very accessible locations and are used by a large number of people, there is a need to continue to ensure that this is the case and in particular that they are suitable for use by those with mobility issues as this was one area of concern highlighted by the survey.

Policy Options

14.9 It is not considered that there is any surplus in the provision of Civic Spaces and therefore they should be treated in the same way as all other forms of open space, particularly due to their importance for town centre locations. No specific policy relating to civic space is proposed, but should opportunities arise they should be considered by the Council on an individual basis and against any other competing requirements. New civic space is an important aspect of the development which has been allowed as part of the development scheme in East Street, Farnham.

Key Actions

Farnham Conservation Area Management/Action Plan

In 2010/11 the Planning Services Service Plan committed to improve the quality of Waverley's public realm (focusing on town centres). Initially this was thought to take the form of a public realm strategy with associated action plan, however it is considered more pertinent to produce a conservation area management plan for Farnham town centre, that would, in essence, achieve the same outcomes within the legislative framework. In the long term, it is anticipated that similar projects would be rolled out for Haslemere, Godalming and Cranleigh (following the completion of Conservation Area Appraisals).

The outcome of this project is to produce (and have adopted) a Conservation Area Management Plan with clear priorities for the Farnham Town Centre Conservation Area by December 2011. The document will include the following points:

- Audit of existing public realm and long term public realm strategy for the conservation area. The public realm includes space that is within and between buildings that is publicly accessible for use by everyone. These spaces include streets, squares, accessible buildings, forecourts, car parks, parks, waterways and open spaces.
- Identification of key environmental enhancement projects including a framework for tapping into developer contributions to fund the projects.

Information from the Management Plan will update and augment this PPG17 study in relation to civic spaces in the Conservation Area of Farnham.

Special Interest Sports 15

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15 Special Interest Sports

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Current Provision in Waverley

15.1 Through the work on the assessment a number of 'specialist' sports and associated facilities have been identified across the Borough. Many have provision for participation by people with disabilities.

15.2 There are three angling societies (Farnham, Godalming and Haslemere), which use a number of large fishing lakes in and around Waverley, some of which are privately owned. Some of the lakes and ponds are natural and others man-made. Fishing also takes place on the River Wey in certain locations and during appropriate times of the year.

15.3 Sailing also takes place on Frensham Great Pond.

15.4 There are also 6,856 horses registered with DEFRA in Surrey, and the largest number, 1,455 of these are in Waverley, where there is a large interest in equestrian pursuits, including a private polo club at Ewhurst. Waverley accounts for some 21% of registered horse ownerships in the County on 193 holdings. ^(xi) In reality the number of horses is estimate to be significantly higher in Surrey at around 20,000.

15.5 No provision standards have been set but there is a need to ensure that these sporting facilities or opportunities remain available, and improved if appropriate. Some of these more specialist sports are seeing rapid growth in participants at the moment and the wider variety of sporting or recreational options available the more likely it is that there will be something to suit everyone, thereby increasing public participation in activities.

Setting Provision Standards

15.6 No provision standards have been set for these special interest sports.

Policy Options

15.7 There are limited policy options, but it is considered that a flexible approach to these sports should be taken where they do not conflict with other objectives. Sporting activities should be encouraged and proposals treated where possible in a positive manner. Although not necessarily always relevant, the standards and policy options throughout this assessment may be used as a benchmark against which to assess any proposals for new or the redevelopment of facilities, and provision made for those with disabilities where possible.

15.8 The Waverley Borough Local Plan contains saved policies which relate to horseriding/ keeping. Policies RD13 and RD14 relating to development associated with the keeping of horses on a commercial and non-commercial basis. There is a large number of commercial riding establishments and livery stables. This has inevitably lead

xi June 2007 Agricultural and Horticultural Survey - England

to pressure of use on the bridleway network, particularly on the commons, where bridleways can become over-used and eroded. Bridleways on clay, in particular, can become muddy and unpleasant to use.

15.9 Horse riding will continue to be a popular pastime and the Council will seek to ensure that new equestrian development is located in places where the existing bridleway network and open space is capable of absorbing the number of horses all year round. Proposals which include the provision of permissive horse rides will be encouraged.

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16.1 The overall picture in Waverley is considered to be one of very good provision of natural open spaces, particularly in the rural areas of the Borough. The greatest deficiency is in equipped childrens' play areas particularly in the more urban areas. In the rural areas these deficiencies are to some extent compensated for by the large areas of natural and semi-natural and amenity greenspaces which are a significant characteristic of the Borough.

16.2 The results of the PPG17 audit show that all facilities are considered to be important. When the significant constraints in both the built-up areas and the countryside are taken into account, there may only be limited chances to provide further sites/ facilities, and therefore the protection of all the existing areas from redevelopment to uses other than open space, sports or recreation facilities should be considered.

16.3 The study is not yet complete in respect of outdoor sports. These have been audited as far as possible, but quality has yet to be assessed. Currently findings of the 2003 Playing Pitch Strategy are included, and it is hoped that a revised strategy will be carried out during 2013 to enable this part of the study to be completed. In addition, further information is needed in respect of allotments in order that quantity standards for future provision can be produced.

16.4 In terms of an overall strategy a number of additional options are also available. These are not necessarily mutually exclusive and a combination of approaches may be appropriate in some cases. These include making best use of the resources available and seeking intensification and multi-use of sites where deficits have been identified. This approach could be supplemented by the allocation of land for open space, sports and recreation facilities where new or expanded facilities are needed. These options require funding which could be obtained from a number of sources including planning infrastructure contributions, CIL, when introduced, lottery funding etc.

16.5 A number of detailed issue have been identified through this assessment, and some Key Actions identified. These will be taken forward into the emerging Waverley Open Space Strategy. They include:

- deficiencies and the quality of facilities for children and young people in some areas,
- Dated information on the quality and provision of playing pitches in the Borough
- Demand for allotment spaces in certain parts of the Borough

16.6 The Study has several purposes. Its findings form part of the evidence base upon which policies have been formulated for the Waverley Local Development Framework Core Strategy. The policy options are applicable to planning for open spaces and recreational activities, with the local standards being taken into the forthcoming Development Management DPD.

16.7 This document also forms the basis of the Council's Open Space Strategy 2012, which takes the Key Actions a step further towards potential implementation, in a series of Action Plans under each type of category. These plans and actions relate for the

16 Conclusions/ Next Steps

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most part to the open spaces that Waverley Borough owns or manages, but others are more broad in scope, seeking to support other agencies. The action plans contain objectives and actions for further consideration, potential funding sources and time scales towards achievement over the next five years.

Appendix 1: Existing Strategies

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Appendix 1: Existing Strategies

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NATIONAL

Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17): Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002)

.1 PPG17 recognises that open spaces, sport and recreation can underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives which include:

- Supporting an urban renaissance
- Supporting a rural renewal
- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- Health and well being
- Promoting more sustainable development

.2 PPG17 requires that local assessments and an audit of existing provision should inform any decision regarding open space, sport and recreation facilities. Audits should incorporate existing use, accessibility, quality and quantity considerations in order for Local Authorities to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses in provision.

The South East Plan

.3 The current planning policy context for the preparation of the Core Strategy is the national planning policy issued by the Government and the regional policy in the South East Plan 2009. Currently the 'soundness' of a plan like the Core Strategy depends in part, on whether it conforms with national policy and is also in general conformity with the relevant regional plan.

.4 In terms of regional policy, the South East Plan was published in 2009 and currently comprises part of the formal 'development plan' for the area. It sets a strategic framework within which local authorities, like Waverley, are expected to produce their local plans. In 2010, the newly elected Coalition Government announced its intention to abolish regional plans and their targets and to pass the responsibility for matters such as housing targets to local authorities.

The Localism Act 2011

.5 The Localism Act 2011 includes provisions for the abolition of regional plans, including the South East Plan, but it is still not clear exactly when these plans will disappear. However, it is anticipated that the relevant provisions in the Localism Act will have been enacted by the time the Waverley Core Strategy reaches its formal Publication and Submission stages.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework 2011

.6 The draft document aims to streamline national planning policy into a consolidated set of priorities to consider when planning for and deciding on new development. These important principles will help communities enjoy a better quality of life, both now and in the future.

.7 The draft Framework sets national priorities and rules only where it is necessary to do so. It will help ensure that planning decisions reflect genuine national objectives - such as the need to safeguard the natural environment, combat climate change, and to support sustainable local growth - while allowing for local authorities and communities to produce their own plans, reflecting the distinctive needs and priorities of different parts of the country.

.8 The Framework sets out a new right for local communities to protect green areas of particular importance to them. They will be able to earmark for special protection local green space land that is important to local life - whether its value is in its natural beauty, its historic resonances, its recreational value, its tranquility or its richness in wildlife. These sites will be planned so they complement and do not undermine investment in homes, jobs and other essential services.

.9 A healthy and diverse natural environment is crucial to our sense of wellbeing. The Framework underlines that the planning system should seek not just to protect, but, where possible, to enhance biodiversity – making sure we don't just have isolated pockets of wildlife, but rich and connected green spaces for all kinds of species to thrive. Planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland.

Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3): Housing (2006)

.10 PPS3 states that housing developments should be located in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure. The PPG17 assessment can help to inform this process. In addition PPS3 contains a goal of providing for the retention or re-establishment of biodiversity in the residential environment, this could be supported through high quality open space within the Borough.

Urban White Paper, Our Towns and Cities: The Future (2000)DCLG

.11 The white paper indicates that well-managed public open spaces improve the attractiveness of urban areas and help promote a healthier lifestyle. They bring benefits for wildlife and the environment, act as an important educational tool and can relieve pressure on the countryside. They are therefore vital to enhancing the quality of urban environments and the quality of lives.

Appendix 1: Existing Strategies

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.12 Everyone should have access to well-maintained and safe parks, play areas and other open spaces close to where they live and work. For many people, such spaces will be provided within the town or city, but for some, these spaces may be on the urban fringe and in the countryside.

.13 The paper outlines that over the last few decades a lot of public open space within urban areas has been lost to encroaching development and too much of what is left has been neglected and poorly maintained. It emphasises that more must be done other than simply halting the decline and outlines action in three key areas:

- Lead and develop a shared vision for the future of parks, play areas and open spaces
- Improve information on the quality and quantity of parks and open spaces, and the way in which they are used and maintained
- Improve the way we plan and design new parks, play areas and public spaces, and the way we manage and maintain existing ones

.14 Much of this is achieved through undertaking a 'PPG17' Assessment.

The Use of Public Parks in England (2003)

.15 This reports the findings of a national survey commissioned by Sport England, The Countryside Agency and English Heritage to help establish how many adults in England use public parks. The survey aimed to find out:

- What activities people take part in when visiting parks
- Reasons why they choose particular parks
- Levels of satisfaction with amenities on offer
- Why non-users do not use parks

.16 The main findings from this study include:

- Just under two thirds of adults in England had visited a public park during the previous 12 months
- There is a distinct bias in the use of parks by social group with almost three quarters of adults from the high social group visiting a park compared with only half of those from the lower social group. People from black and ethnic minority communities also have relatively low participation rates as do adults with a disability

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- Over 8 in 10 adults who had used a park in the previous 12 months did so at least once a month during the spring/summer months with almost two thirds visiting a park once a week
- The most popular type of park visited was an urban/city/town park
- Accompanying a child to a play area was the second most common activity (43%) undertaken in parks by adults, behind going for a walk (75%)
- Adults who took children to play areas, used their nearest park (72%), and were most likely to walk (61%)
- A third of adults had taken part in an informal sporting activity (34%) with the majority of these (23% of all adults) taking part in an informal game
- Only 11% of adults claimed to use a park to take part in formal organised sporting activity
- Over two thirds of adults (68%) said that the park that they most often visited was the one closest to where they lived
- The main reasons for people choosing a park which was not their nearest were; the park was more attractive (21%), well maintained (17%), offered the activity required (17%), had a good play area (17%), the setting (14%), flora and fauna (11%)
- Walking was the most common methods by which adults used to get to the park they visited most often (56%), followed by car / van (35%)
- The majority of journeys were originated within five miles of the park (82%) and most of there being within one mile (56%)

Green Spaces, Better Places: - The Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce (2006) DTLR

.17 The report emphasises the benefits urban parks and green spaces bring to people, neighbourhoods and cities and that they make an important contribution to wide, long-term social, economic and environmental progress.

.18 Despite their popularity the report indicates that there has been a decline in the quality of urban parks and green spaces. The report considers some of the problems affecting urban parks and green spaces and how they might be overcome.

.19 It suggests that a more co-ordinated approach is called for at the national level to guide local strategies, and that planners need to take better account of the benefits of urban parks and green spaces and the needs of local communities.

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Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide (May 2004) CABE Space

.20 This guidance draws on the principles of PPG17 and aims to help authorities contribute to national objectives for better public spaces. The document highlights that green space issues cut across most local authority functions and therefore a green space strategy will help achieve corporate objectives for improvement to the environment, recreation, leisure and social regeneration.

.21 The document indicates that some of the benefits of having a green space strategy include:

- Reinforcing local identity and enhancing the physical character on an area, so shaping existing and future development
- Maintaining the visual amenity and increasing the attractiveness of a locality to create a sense of civic pride
- Providing a wide variety of cultural, social and community facilities, including seasonal activities such as fairs, festivals and concerts
- Improving physical and social inclusion including accessibility, particularly for young, disabled and older people
- Offering alternative routes for circulation, including networks for walking and cycling and safer routes to school
- Protecting and enhancing levels of biodiversity and ecological habitats

Living Spaces – Cleaner, Safer, Greener (2002) ODPM

.22 This document indicates that the quality of public spaces affects all of use wherever we live and work. “Safe, well maintained and attractive public spaces have a critical role in creating pride in the places where we live which, in turn, is essential to building community cohesion and successful communities”.

.23 This document sets out the Government’s approach to making cleaner, safer, greener public spaces.

Sport England

.24 Sport England’s national policy for sport is focused on three principle documents. Game Plan and the related National Framework for Sport is Sport England’s interpretation of how Game Plan is to be translated into action through planning and other means. The other principle document is PPG17.

Game Plan (2002) Sport England

.25 This paper set an agenda to increase and widen the base of participation in sport and active recreation, an agenda for success on the international sporting stage, and an agenda for reform in order to create delivery structures.

.26 Game Plan established two broad targets, relating to activity and to success:

- Increasing significantly levels of sport and physical activity with the target of achieving 70% of the population as reasonably active – defined as participating in 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times a week – by 2020
- Our target is for British and English teams and individuals to sustain rankings within the top 5, particularly in more popular sports

.27 The report indicates that providing for sport and physical activity is not always seen as a priority at a local level. It is not a statutory responsibility and as a result sport and leisure expenditure is often the first to suffer if resources are reduced. A significant proportion of budget is spent on management and maintenance of facilities (rather than the strategic development of sport and recreation). This has led to a wide variation in levels of investment in sport and recreation. The report states whilst services were beginning to improve, there needed to be a “fundamental shift in attitudes in many authorities”. It stated that there needed to be clearer sporting priorities and objectives, focused on the needs of local communities; better strategic planning; wider consideration of the options for delivery; and practical steps to improve services and bring about a joined up approach to delivery.

The Framework for Sport in England (2004) Sport England

.28 1.21 This publication stated that improvements should be made to planning frameworks to ensure that provision for sport is included. The new planning system should recognise the importance of sport in helping to deliver sustainable communities and in particular to ensure that money is secured from new housing development for investments in sport.

.29 The report recognises that parks and open spaces provide an invaluable recreational resource for people to use, not just for formal games, but more importantly for informal activities, such as walking, cycling and informal games. Parks and open spaces are key multi functional community areas which can provide the focus and opportunity for people to become more active.

.30 Currently, participation rates in sport display inequality across a range of indicators including those relating to gender, ethnicity and disability. The report also indicates that barriers to participation in sport vary. Lack of transport is often the biggest issue in rural areas, whilst money is more commonly a barrier in urban priority areas.

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Planning Policy Statement: A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England (2006) Sport England

.31 This document sets out Sport England's policy for playing fields in England. It acknowledges that playing fields are one of the most important resources for sport in England. Yet as open land, particularly in urban areas, they are becoming scarce, as they offer a tempting opportunity for other forms of development. Sport England opposes such development in all but exceptional cases, whether the land is in public, private or educational use. Through its policy, Sport England aims to ensure that there is no further reduction in the supply of conveniently located, quality playing fields to satisfy the current and likely future demand.

English Nature

.32 English Nature states that greenspaces within towns are vital for providing people regular contact with wildlife. They believe that:

- Everyday contact with nature is important for well-being and quality of life
- Everyone should be able to enjoy this contact, in safety, without having to make any special effort or journey to do so
- Natural greenspace in towns and cities can play an important part in helping safeguard our national treasure of wildlife and geological features
- Accessible natural greenspaces give everyone an excellent chance to learn about nature and to help protect it in practical ways

.33 In **A Space for Nature (1996)** English Nature provide a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places of wildlife interest, these are examined within the study.

Fields in Trust: Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play

.34 Contains benchmark standards for outdoor sport and play, and supersedes the Six Acre Standard.

The Woodland Trust - Woodland Access Standard

.35 The Woodland Access Standard was developed based on wide-ranging surveys of public use and opinion of woodland.

- The Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standard requires:
- That no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size
- That there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km roundtrip) of people's homes

Civic Trust - Green Flag Award

.36 The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began in 1996 as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country

.37 The following are key criteria against which every park or green space is judged:

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and well maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management

Public Service Agreement Target 8 - Liveability (2006) DCLG

.38 The target is:

“Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, greener public spaces and improvement of the quality of the built environment in deprived areas and across the county, with measurable improvement by 2008”.

.39 Performance on this PSA target will be measured and assessed using evidence from the surveys, data sources and indicators and levels of improvements. The indicator that is relevant to this study is:

- Increase to 60% the proportion of local authority districts nationally, and to 60% the proportion of local authority districts in receipt of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), with at least one park or green space that meets Green Flag Award standard

County

Surrey Design Guide (2002) Surrey Local Government Association

.40 The purpose of this design guide is to promote high quality design of new development in Surrey.

.41 The guide indicates that space in the public realm needs to be:

- Well connected and accessible
- Well defined and enclosed forming streets and places
- Overlooked, safe and well used
- Characterised by high quality materials and detail
- Easy to navigate and interesting

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- Linked to a network of open space
- Well landscaped

.42 'Open space should be an integral part of the built environment' and should:

- Generally be fronted onto and not backed onto by buildings and visible to ensure that vulnerable groups do not feel insecure (unless the objective is to create informality and seclusion in keeping with a particular landscape character, or to promote biodiversity)
- Be part of the circulation network for both the development and wider area
- Have a clear function serving the needs of the community
- Be robust and adaptable and suited to a number of uses
- Be accessible to people with mobility impairments

Surrey Strategic Partnership Plan 2010 - 2020

.43 This plan sets out the Partnership's longer term goals and plans for how we will work together to make Surrey a better place to live, work and do business in. It has ten priorities : Children and Young People; Safer and Stronger Communities; Health and Well-being; Economic Development; Housing, Infrastructure and Environment.

.44 It notes that Surrey's landscape, habitats and heritage are unique selling points for Surrey, which support biodiversity, attract tourism and other business, and provide outdoor recreation that encourages healthy lifestyles.

Local

Waverley Borough Corporate Plan 2012- 2015

.45 Adopted on 21 February 2012 the [Corporate Plan](#) has Leisure and Lives as one of its Core Priorities. The Council will continue to support opportunities for all to take part in sport, recreation and other leisure activities to promote health and well-being for all.

Waverley Borough Local Plan (2002)

.46 The Waverley Borough Local Plan, adopted in April 2002 contains a number of policies relating to open space, sport and recreation facilities in the borough. They will be reviewed as a result of this study and through the preparation of the LDF.

.47 The current provision standards are as follows:

- The loss of sports grounds and playing fields was to be resisted unless suitable alternative provision could be made. Applicants had to demonstrate that there was an excess of provision in the locality even after the proposed development had gone ahead, The standard of 1.6ha (4 Acres) per 1000 population as recommended by the NPFA is used.

Waverley's Cultural Strategy 2009 - 2014

.48 The [Waverley Cultural Strategy 2009 -2014](#) sets out the vision and direction for the development of cultural services, facilities and activities within the borough between 2009 and 2014. Through its Sports Development service, Waverley supports and promotes a wide range of community sports events. It is a member of the Surrey Active Sports Partnership with local sports clubs actively participating in the scheme.

.49 Waverley owns and manages approximately 180 hectares of public open space on nearly 400 sites borough-wide. Waverley is also responsible for the upkeep and improvement of 60 children's playgrounds across the Borough. These areas are managed by the Parks & Landscape service.

.50 The Cultural Strategy highlighted the following in relation to sports provision by voluntary and private sectors:

Sports club facilities, both indoor and outdoor in the area, include a mix of publicly and privately-owned sites. In both sectors the responses pointed to a general need for improvement; partly because of constant use over the years and partly to accommodate expansion plans. Money, or the lack of it, was a recurring theme, with many clubs looking for funding partners to supplement their own resources, usually a combination of member fees and subscriptions and small grants and donations. Even where special fund-raising efforts were being made this was still felt to be inadequate. Yet the responses revealed that a number of clubs are already actively working with partners such as Waverley Borough Council in trying to achieve their ambitions.

.51 The strategy also looked at the needs of the youth sector. Youth sector needs have been subject to a number of specific local studies in the past few years e.g. Waverley Borough Council's Best Value Review for Services to Young People, Surrey County Council Youth Service Review and the Health Checks,. Amongst others, it highlighted the need for fixed facilities, such as sports use games areas and skateparks. More safe places to meet and provision for young people in rural areas were also issues.

.52 In the outdoor environment, where land ownership is shared among various local, county and national organisations, volunteer groups exhibited an enthusiasm to work with these partners in helping to manage and preserve the surrounding countryside. They recognised the need to achieve greater awareness and access for those people with special needs. Healthchecks show the higher priority that local people put on their local environment and wildlife.

.53 A number of projects have been identified and programmed within the Action Plan, which involve improvements to facilities across the borough, many involving partnerships between Waverley and local clubs and organisations.

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Blackwater Valley Strategy 2011 - 2016

.54 The [Blackwater Valley Strategy](#) puts forward the vision for the Valley as held by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership of 13 County, District, Borough, Town and Parish Councils that border the River Blackwater. It's aims include:

- the enhancement of the landscape to create a continuous area of naturalistic countryside and maintain the important open gap between urban areas,
- to realise the full potential of the Blackwater Valley as an outdoor recreation resource, with an emphasis on providing freely accessible green space as an alternative recreational venue to the heathlands of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, and
- to improve the Valley for wildlife by enhancing existing habitats, expanding the areas of ecological value by the creation of new habitats, and developing links between habitats.

.55 The area from Rowhill Copse to Badshot Lea is the only part of Waverley to be affected by proposals in the the study, and management proposals and short and long term projects identified.

Surrey Hills AGLV Review 2006

.56 The issue of the status of landscape designations was highlighted in advice issued with PPS7. It states that a landscape character assessment linked to criteria based policy approach should provide sufficient protection for these areas provided such designations are based on formal and robust assessment of the qualities of the landscape concerned.

.57 Against this background a report was commissioned by the Surrey Planning Officers Association to undertake a review of the Surrey AGLV. It recommended that an urgent review of the AONB should take place, and the AGLV should remain until that has occurred.

Surrey Hills Management Plan 2009 -2014

.58 The document sets out the vision, policies and plans for the future management of the Surrey Hills AONB . It was prepared by the Surrey Hillas Board and was adopted by the local authority partners as a duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The plan informs the policies and programmes of local authorities and provides guidance to o all the organisations and individuals that have a role in protecting and enhancing the Surrey Hills AONB.

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