

Chapter 9

Recreation & Leisure





Recreation and Leisure

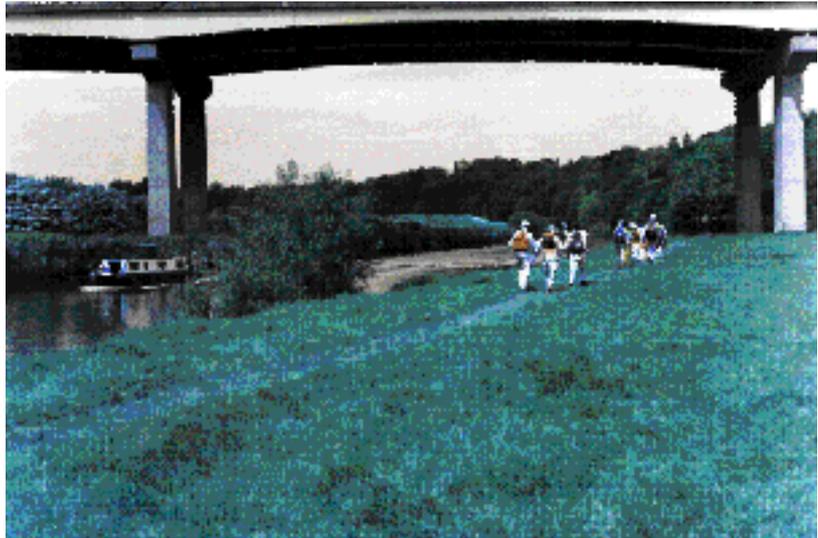
INTRODUCTION

9.1 The availability of a good range and quality of recreation and leisure facilities is being increasingly recognised as an important influence in investment and relocation decisions thereby aiding economic regeneration. Sport and Recreation is a major section of the UK economy accounting for over £10 billion of consumer spending and just under half a million jobs. Unlike many other sectors it has shown sizable and steady growth in recent years. The development of recreation facilities can also help reduce social inequalities and contribute to environmental improvement and was highlighted in the Public Attitude Survey as one of the most important things the Borough Council could facilitate.

9.2 The Borough Council is a major provider of a wide range of recreation and leisure facilities including parks, sports pitches, children's playgrounds, allotments, sports halls, swimming pools, cultural/educational facilities, country parks, woodlands, and the Dome/Leisure Park and is variously involved in their promotion, financing, management and enhancement.

9.3 The UDP is largely concerned with land use issues and in particular with urban open space and countryside recreation; it is also primarily concerned with land as a recreation resource rather than its particular use at any one time; it assesses playing field provision generally for example rather than football or cricket pitches specifically and apart from children's playspace/local public open space it does not assess individual requirements of different sporting or leisure activities.

9.4 There is likely to be a continuing

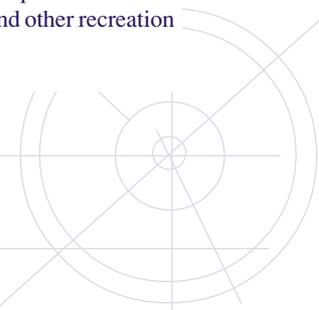


increase in demand for recreation facilities throughout the UDP period as the result of increasing leisure time, affluence and expectations. The amenity and environmental value of formal and informal open spaces within urban areas is widely recognised although such areas are subject to considerable development pressure. At the same time there is growing recognition of the desirability of encouraging increased participation in sport and active recreation, of improving access to the countryside and of ensuring that full opportunities are available for these activities through the provision, where necessary, of new and improved facilities.

9.5 In accordance with Strategic Guidance the UDP has had regard to the national and regional strategies of the Sports Council and Countryside Commission. Planning Policy Guidance Note PPG17 on sport and recreation indicates the importance of sport and recreational opportunities and facilities, including playing fields

and other urban green spaces, to local communities and the need for Development Plans such as the UDP to consider and provide for them.

9.6 Recent legislative changes particularly those relating to the management of Local Authority facilities and education establishments, bus deregulation and agricultural policy are likely to affect recreation provision and access to facilities during the plan period. In particular the Borough Council's scope for influencing the nature, scale and management of formal recreation provision may well decline whilst there is likely to be an increase in provision by the commercial sector for example through proposals in the countryside as the result of farm diversification. The Borough Council remains committed however to the principle of access for all and will seek to maintain and improve the level of facilities on offer as far as it is able and to increase participation in a wide variety of sporting and other recreation activities.



OPEN SPACE

SRL 1
~~THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL PROTECT AND WHERE NECESSARY ENHANCE EXISTING OUTDOOR PLAYSPACE AND AMENITY OPEN SPACE. EXISTING DEFICIENCIES WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, LAND ALLOCATED FOR THESE PURPOSES. WHERE APPROPRIATE, NEW PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WILL BE REQUIRED AS PART OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS.~~

Replaced by Core Strategy Policy 17: Providing Green Infrastructure

9.7 Open space is an essential part of the urban heritage. It provides important opportunities for formal and

informal recreation, fulfills important social, cultural and ecological roles and enhances the quality and image of

the urban environment and thereby assists regeneration.

OPEN SPACE POLICY AREAS

RL 1
 WITHIN OPEN SPACE POLICY AREAS, AS DEFINED ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED, EXCEPT IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ANCILLARY INDOOR FACILITIES; ALLOTMENTS; NATURE CONSERVATION OR CEMETERY USES. SUCH DEVELOPMENT AS IS PERMITTED, INCLUDING ANCILLARY BUILT FACILITIES, WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTABLE WHERE:

- a) THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF OUTDOOR PLAYSPACE, AND
- b) THE VISUAL AMENITY OF THE SPACE IS RETAINED AND WHERE POSSIBLE ENHANCED THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT AREAS, VISTAS AND FRONTAGES AND CAREFUL ATTENTION TO DETAILED DESIGN AND LAYOUT, AND
- c) THE ENVIRONMENTAL/ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF THE OPEN SPACE IS RETAINED AND WHERE POSSIBLE ENHANCED THROUGH THE RETENTION OF EXISTING TREES AND OTHER IMPORTANT HABITATS AND THROUGH APPROPRIATE LANDSCAPING.

DEVELOPMENT FOR OTHER PURPOSES WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR WHERE SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES CAN BEST BE RETAINED AND ENHANCED THROUGH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL PART OF THE SITE AND PROVIDED THAT AN ALTERNATIVE PROVISION IS MADE WHICH IS OF AT LEAST THE EQUIVALENT COMMUNITY BENEFIT AND WHICH MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL IN TERMS OF QUANTITY, QUALITY, NATURE, LOCATION AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM/TIMESCALE.

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan

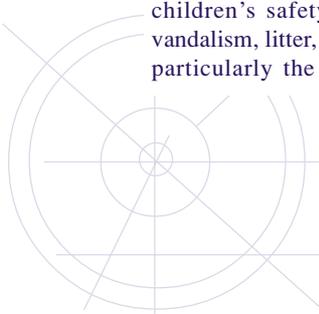
9.8 The importance of urban open space is perhaps greater than ever given increasing expectations and awareness of “green issues”; greater available leisure time; and growing recognition of the need to promote and provide for “sport for all”.

urban open space through development. Whilst some of these problems are largely beyond the remit of the UDP, the protection and provision of open space are major land use issues.

with potential for a range of open space uses and usually with a value to the community over and above that of its existing or primary use. Not all urban open spaces are designated as Open Space Policy Areas; School playing fields and sites of importance for nature conservation are covered by Policies CF3 and ENV39/40/41 respectively whilst Policy RL2 covers those urban open spaces too small to identify individually. Some open spaces (Sandall Beat for example) are covered by both Open Space and Nature Conservation policies

9.9 There is now widespread concern about the availability and quality of urban open space, its general condition, and related issues such as children’s safety, lack of security, vandalism, litter, dog fouling etc. and particularly the continuing loss of

9.10 Open Space Policy Areas cover a wide range of existing recreation, amenity and other open space uses including playgrounds, kick-about areas, playing fields, parks, allotments, cemeteries and woodlands. Urban open space is primarily important however as a resource, often



reflecting the diversity of their value; in such cases proposals will need to satisfy the relevant nature conservation policy (ENV39, ENV40 or ENV41). The protection of the countryside and its informal recreation opportunities is dealt with through Green Belt or Countryside Policy Area designation. Open Space Policy Areas located on the edge of urban areas have also been washed over by Green Belt or Countryside Policy Area designations.

9.11 Open Spaces can fulfill a variety of important functions. In addition to recreational, amenity, social, cultural and ecological functions, open spaces can make an important contribution to the image of an area; they can help enhance the built environment, screen unattractive uses, separate incompatible uses, act as buffers between the urban edge and the countryside and so on. Open spaces which connect with other open spaces within the urban area forming open space networks or which link, or form part of a “green wedge” from the urban area into the countryside have a particularly important value to the urban fabric and the community. Where such networks include operational railway land it is not the intention that the Policy infers a right of access to such land.

9.12 Open Space Policies apply to both public and private land. The Borough contains numerous private clubs and also sports grounds provided by firms for the benefit of their employees. They make a considerable contribution to meeting overall demand in the

Borough and any loss would lead to increased pressure on public facilities. Consequently the UDP gives equal importance to the retention of private as well as public facilities. In the calculation of existing provision (see Policy RL3) private facilities and those owned by CISWO (Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation) are included.



9.13 There is no widely recognised quantitative standard for the provision of open space and the Borough Council has not adopted one. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)’s Six Acre Standard relates to playspace only - see Policy RL3. Policy RL1 recognises the wider environmental, social and recreational value that urban open space (including play space) has to the Community, a value that cannot easily be quantified.

9.14 The Borough Council does not propose that all the existing undeveloped land within urban areas should be protected and has sought to balance open space objectives with development requirements. The UDP makes ample provision within the urban areas and elsewhere for housing, industry and other built development. Only in exceptional circumstances therefore will the development of Open Space Policy Areas, other than for the open space uses listed in the Policy, be acceptable. It is important that the development of these listed uses retains and where possible enhances the character of the open space. The development of ancillary facilities such as a sports pavilion or changing rooms is acceptable provided the facilities are ancillary (i.e. they do not exceed those which are reasonable and sufficient for the users of the main facilities) and meet the conditions set out under Policy RL1.

9.15 Where, in exceptional circumstances, the overall benefits to the community of development of part or all of an Open Space Policy Area for some other use outweigh the benefits of its retention for open space, the Borough Council may make an exception to the Policy provided an alternative acceptable provision is made elsewhere. Urban open space is however a finite resource and opportunities for creating new open space within the urban areas are limited. Proposals for replacement open space outside urban areas will not normally be accepted

PROTECTION OF NON DESIGNATED OPEN SPACE

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan

RL 2

THE DEVELOPMENT, OR CHANGE OF USE, OF OPEN SPACE NOT DESIGNATED AS AN OPEN SPACE POLICY AREA WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IF IT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE USE OF THE OPEN SPACE FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- a) AS A FACILITY FOR CASUAL PLAY
- b) AS A BUFFER AREA BETWEEN INCOMPATIBLE USES
- c) AS A VISUAL/ENVIRONMENTAL AMENITY
- d) AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SETTING OF INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS OR GROUPS OF BUILDINGS
- e) AS AN AREA OF EXISTING OR POTENTIAL NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST
- f) AS A LINK BETWEEN OTHER OPEN SPACES.



9.16 Urban Areas contain numerous open space uses which are too small or which it would be inappropriate to identify individually but which make a vital contribution to the urban fabric. These areas usually take the form of small or irregular shaped areas of grass and/or landscaping and may be categorised as informal amenity areas or casual play areas.

9.17 Informal amenity areas include grass verges, the space around buildings, incidental areas of open space within residential areas and other areas of landscaping. Because of their size, physical characteristics or location (adjoining busy roads for example) such spaces have little potential for recreation. They do however make a considerable contribution to the environmental quality of the area. Casual or informal children’s playspace within residential areas (or “Doorstep Play”) fulfills a vital playspace requirement

particularly for children in the 4-6+ age groups. The importance of casual playspace is dealt with more fully under Policy RL4.

9.18 The Policy is not intended to apply to areas of undeveloped land allocated for development in the UDP even though they may have an existing amenity or casual playspace value. In the case of spaces around buildings (particularly industrial/business

premises) the benefits of allowing appropriate expansion and extension will need to be balanced against the loss of open space and any value it may have under one or more of the five categories listed in the Policy. On the other hand the presumption against development will apply to new areas of open space which may come forward in the plan period (as part of new developments for example) and which cannot be identified now.

Public Attitude Survey

Over a third of those asked thought promoting leisure facilities was one of the three most important things the Borough Council should do.

OUTDOOR PLAYSPACE PROVISION

RL3
 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ACHIEVE A MINIMUM PROVISION OF OUTDOOR PLAYSPACE OF SIX ACRES PER 1,000 PERSONS, OF WHICH FOUR ACRES WILL COMPRISE PLAYING FIELDS AND OTHER OUTDOOR YOUTH/ADULT USE FACILITIES, BROADLY LOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEMAND.

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan

9.19 Existing outdoor playspace will be protected by Policies RL1 and RL2, as a sub element of open space. Protection is by itself not enough however. Outdoor playspace is an essential element of a healthy life and it is vitally important that further provision is made in accordance with the needs of the population.

9.20 The National Playing Fields Association’s (NPFA) 6 Acres (2.43 ha) per 1000 population standard for minimum provision of “outdoor playing space” has gained wide acceptance as a national standard since it was first put forward in the 1920’s. The NPFA reconfirmed its six acre standard in its 1989 Review which included a detailed breakdown between youth/adult facilities such as pitches, greens and courts (including those in private ownership) and children’s facilities. The children’s use element is dealt with under Policy RL4. The Youth and Adult use

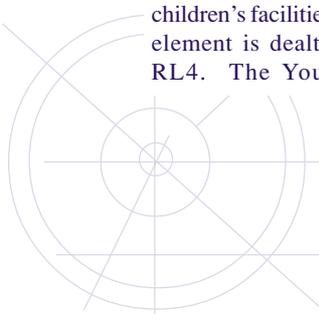
element comprises a minimum of 4 acres (1.6 ha) per 1000 population. The NPFA defines outdoor playing space as “space which is available for sport, active recreation and/or children’s play, which is of suitable size and nature for its intended purpose, and safely accessible and available to the general public. Outdoor playing space is not open space, land specifically intended for passive or informal recreation for adults (or) concerned with water based sport and recreation”. Appendix 9.1 provides further information on the NPFA standard.

9.21 Existing provision of outdoor playspace for youths/adults has been calculated using the NPFA methodology as 945 acres (382 ha) The estimated 1991 population of the Borough is 290,400 which would give a 4 acre (1.6 ha) per 1000 requirement of 1162 acres (470 ha). There is therefore a current shortfall of 217 acres (88 ha) which is reflected in the

full use made of existing facilities.

9.22 Many of the Borough’s school playing fields are often available for public use but not always or as “a matter of practice and policy” (NPFA Standard refers). Their availability is a matter for individual school governing bodies and cannot be guaranteed. This element therefore, whilst very valuable, is not regarded as contributing towards the minimum standard.

9.23 Given the magnitude of the shortfall and financial constraints on public expenditure it is unlikely that the shortfall will be made good by the end of the plan period. The allocation of 30.32 acres (12.27 ha) of land for playing fields (see Policy RL5) will reduce the current shortfall. The Borough Council will work towards achieving the minimum standard within the plan period and beyond by maximising use of existing facilities



and the provision of new facilities and in particular by:-

- * extending the community use of educational and private leisure of facilities - see Policy RL25
- * requiring provision as part of major new residential developments
- * reclaiming derelict land for this purpose where appropriate
- * promoting greater use of floodlit and all weather facilities, upgrading existing surfaces and providing associated facilities
- * allowing provision of new facilities within the Green Belt and Countryside Policy Area in accordance with Policies ENV3 / ENV4 and ENV7.
- * making full use of European and Government programme monies and grants from outside bodies concerned with sport and generally capitalising on opportunities as and when they arise.

9.24 Youth/adult playspace facilities are not evenly distributed across the Borough for a number of reasons both physical and historical. Some local areas have a provision which is greater than the minimum standard but some fall well below the Borough average. However participants in team games are usually able to travel by bus or car and it is often more practical and economic to group facilities together. Areas which are particularly deficient will be treated as priorities when opportunities for further provision arise. The Armthorpe, Bessacarr, South East and Mexborough wards each have deficiencies of more than 15 ha. The Southern Parks, Central and Bentley North wards have deficiencies of between 10 and 15 ha; the Thorne, Rossington, Conisbrough and Edlington/Warmsworth wards have deficiencies of between 5 and 10 ha. Of the remaining 10 wards, 5 have deficiencies of up to 5 ha.



Public Attitude Survey

Only 30% of those asked agreed there were 'safe places for children to play' in the Borough.

When asked what new leisure facilities they would like provided (a choice of 3 out of 10) most chose countryside facilities, although no one facility comes out overwhelmingly in front.



LOCAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PROVISION

RL 4

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO REMEDY LOCAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DEFICIENCIES WITHIN EXISTING RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND WILL REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF LOCAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, PRINCIPALLY OF BENEFIT TO THE DEVELOPMENT ITSELF, WITHIN NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

- a) 10-15% OF THE TOTAL SITE AREA OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH OVER 20 FAMILY DWELLINGS TO BE LAID OUT AS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE THE BOROUGH COUNCIL REQUIRES A COMMUTED SUM - SEE C) BELOW.
- b) 15% OF THE TOTAL SITE AREA OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH OVER 20 FAMILY DWELLINGS TO BE LAID OUT AS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WHERE THE SITE FALLS WITHIN OR ADJOINS AN AREA OF EXISTING LOCAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE DEFICIENCY (DEFINED IN APPENDIX 9.2) EXCEPT IN CASES WHERE THE BOROUGH COUNCIL REQUIRES A COMMUTED SUM - SEE C) BELOW.
- c) WHERE THE SIZE OF THE DEVELOPMENT SITE IS SUCH THAT 10 - 15% OF THE SITE AREA WOULD RESULT IN AN AREA OF LOCAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OF LESS THAN 0.4 HA (1 ACRE) THE BOROUGH COUNCIL MAY REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE A COMMUTED SUM, IN LIEU OF AN AREA OF OPEN SPACE, TO BE USED FOR THE CREATION OF A SUITABLE AREA OF OPEN SPACE ELSEWHERE OR FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF AN AREA OF EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IN THE VICINITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT SITE.
- d) DEVELOPERS OF SCHEMES COMPRISING 10-20 FAMILY DWELLINGS WILL NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A COMMUTED SUM TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING LOCAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.
- e) THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE TO BE DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND TO INCLUDE LANDSCAPING, AMENITY AREAS, NATURE CONSERVATION AREAS AND PLAYSPACE WHICH MEET THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF DETAILED SITING, SIZE, SHAPE AND DESIGN.
- f) PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE OPEN SPACE THE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A COMMUTED SUM FOR FIVE TIMES THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COST OF THE OPEN SPACE AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AREAS.

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan

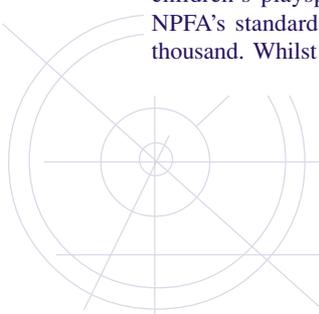
9.25 Local Public Open Space within or adjoining residential areas is the most regularly and intensively used type of open space particularly by young children and old people and includes amenity areas; casual/informal playspace or "doorstep play" areas; equipped playgrounds and kick-about areas.

9.26 With the exception of amenity areas the above elements comprise the children's playspace element of the NPFA's standard, i.e. two acres per thousand. Whilst the Borough Council

endorses this as a standard for minimum provision within existing residential areas as part of the overall Six Acre Standard (See Policy RL3) the accessibility and quality of children's playspace is more important than the exact amount (although certain standards for the size and quality of each local open space are of course important - see below). A distance of 400 metres can represent a 5-10 minute walk for a child or elderly person and has become widely accepted as a catchment for the provision of local public open space.

Other groups apart from the young and old also benefit from open space which is truly local and provides an opportunity to meet and relax.

9.27 The assessment of existing provision has therefore been based on 400m catchments (amended as necessary to take into account barriers to safe and convenient access such as busy roads) drawn around existing local public open spaces (where these comprise at least a reasonably level, regularly maintained grassed area of 1 acre (0.4 ha), or more i.e. suitable



for children's kick-about games. The space may or may not contain play equipment and may form part of a larger park or recreation ground but must be available to the general public at all times. It is not accepted that suburban areas or areas in close proximity to the countryside have less need of local Public Open Space. Gardens are not usually large enough for many children's games and do not fulfill the wider social and environmental functions whilst access to the countryside is often restricted.

9.28 Many of the deficiencies in local public open space identified as a result of this assessment will be removed by the development for public open space of a large number of sites proposed in the UDP - see Policy RL 5. There remains however, a number of deficiencies. These are shown in Appendix 9.2. The Borough Council will seek to make good these deficiencies for example by using underused land and will give priority to these areas of deficiency wherever opportunities arise.

9.29 With regard to new residential developments it is essential that these include sufficient well planned and designed local public open space to meet the requirements of the new residents in terms of the provision of gardens, landscaping, amenity areas, doorstep play areas, playgrounds and kick-about areas as appropriate. The Borough Council will produce revised supplementary planning guidance setting down the detailed requirements for each, together with the procedure for securing provision and adoption of areas of public open space and provision of commuted sums.

9.30 The basic open space requirement for new developments of over 20 family dwellings is to be within a range of 10-15%, the exact amount to be determined according to particular circumstances. However new developments within or adjoining areas of local public open space deficiency as defined in Appendix 9.2 will be required to provide the full 15% and the nature and location of the

open space(s) should also reflect the existing deficiency.

9.31 Where a housing site is of insufficient size to generate an area of public open space of 0.4 ha (1 acre) the Borough Council may require a commuted sum in lieu of an area of open space. Areas of open space which are significantly smaller than 0.4 ha (1 acre) are often unsuitable for kick-about games and other functions and create maintenance problems. On the other hand there are advantages of accessibility in requiring all developments, of 20+ dwellings to provide some open space. The Borough Council will weigh the relative merits of accessibility and

usability in each case. Where a commuted sum is required this will be used to enhance existing or to create (or contribute to the creation of) a new area of public open space in the vicinity of the development site. Where adjoining small development sites afford the opportunity to provide for the open space requirements of the area as a whole, for example through the central location of an area of open space, the Borough Council will plan for this.

9.32 In the case of developments of 10 - 20 family dwellings the commuted sum will normally be used to enhance an area of existing local public open space in the vicinity.

Key Fact

MINERS WELFARE GROUNDS

ARMTHORPE, Church Street, Armthorpe - Putting, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, Tennis.

ASKERN, Askern Road - Bowls, Soccer, Cricket, Running Track.

BENTLEY, The Avenue, Bentley - Bowls, Soccer, Cricket.

BRODSWORTH, Welfare Road, Woodlands - Bowls, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket.

DENABY, Tickhill Square, Denaby Main - Cricket, Bowls, Soccer.

MOORENDS, Grange Road, Moorends - Bowls, Tennis, Football, Rugby, Cricket.

DUNSCROFT, Broadway, Dunscroft - Soccer, Rugby.

EDLINGTON, Edlington Lane, Edlington - Soccer, Cricket, Bowls, Rugby Running Track, Indoor Practice Net.

HATFIELD / STAINFORTH, Church Road, Stainforth - Soccer, Bowls, Cricket, Running Track.

MEXBOROUGH, Adwick Road, Mexborough - Soccer, Cricket, Bowls, Tennis.

ROSSINGTON, West End Lane, Rossington - Bowls, Cricket, Soccer, Rugby.

THORNE COULMAN RECREATION GROUND, Coulman Road, Thorne - Football, Cricket.





Key Fact

MAJOR PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS IN DONCASTER

ADWICK PARK, Windmill Balk Lane, Adwick Le Street: Tennis, Bowls, Cricket, Playground.

ASKERN LAKESIDE PARK, Station Road, Askern: Boating, Course Fishing, Cafe.

BENTLEY PARK, Askern Road, Bentley: Bowls, Tennis, Soccer, Playground.

CANTLEY PARK, Ascot Avenue, Cantley: Approach Golf, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey, Rounders, Cricket, Playground.

CARCROFT PARK, Chestnut Avenue, Carcroft: Bowls, Soccer, Rugby, Playground.

CARR VIEW PLAYING FIELDS, Western Road, Balby: Soccer.

ELMFIELD PARK, Bennetthorpe: Tennis, Bowls, Crazy Golf, Playground.

GROVE GARDENS, Armthorpe Road, Wheatley Hills: Bowls, Tennis.

HASLAM PARK, Boswell Road, Bessacarr: Bowls, Tennis.

HEXTHORPE FLATTS, Greenfield Lane, Balby: Tennis, Bowls, Soccer, Playground.

HILLS LANE PLAYING FIELDS, Armthorpe Road, Wheatley Hills: Soccer, Cricket.

SANDALL BEAT PLAYING FIELDS, Leger Way: Soccer, Cricket.

SANDALL PARK, Thorne Road, Wheatley Hills: Approach Golf, Putting, Boating, Soccer, Cricket, Playground.

TICKHILL PLAYING FIELDS, Sunderland Street, Tickhill: Soccer, Tennis, Bowls, All Weather Area.

WARMSWORTH PARK, Edlington Lane, Warmsworth: Tennis.

WESTFIELD PARK, Balby Road, Balby: Bowls, Tennis, Playground.

CUSWORTH COUNTRY PARK AND MUSEUM, Cusworth Lane, Cusworth: Course Fishing. (2 Lakes) 1 Cafe, Shop and Playground.

OPEN SPACE ALLOCATIONS

RL 5

THE FOLLOWING SITES WILL BE DEVELOPED AS OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION PURPOSES:

UDP AREA 1

(-) WATERDALE	Town Square	See Town Centre Chapter-Policy TC33
(1) BEECHFIELD ROAD	Playground	Equipped Play Area to be Provided on Existing Grassed Area.

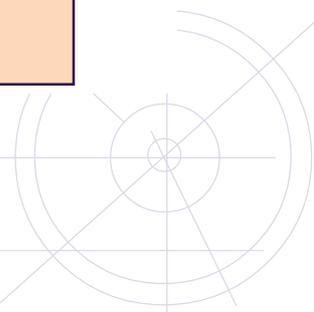
UDP AREA 2

(2) TOWNFIELDS	Playground	Equipped Play Area to be Provided on Existing Grassed Area.
(3) WOODFIELD ROAD, BALBY	Playground	Former Sand Quarry, suitable for adventure playground.
(4) CHURCH LANE/OSWIN, AVENUE, BALBY	Playground	Equipped Play Area to be provided on Existing Grassed Area.
(5) SPRINGWELL LANE, BALBY	Public Open Space	Former Landfill Site. Recreation Uses to be determined and dependent upon management of methane gas problem.
(6) R/O WEST END LANE, ROSSINGTON	Public Open Space	Replacement site for existing Bankwood Lane Open Space.
(7) OFF GRANTHAM STREET, ROSSINGTON	Public Open Space	Surplus school playing field to be opened up for public use to serve area of local public open space deficiency.

UDP AREA 3

(8) CUCKOO PLANTATION, CRABGATE LANE, SKELLOW	Public Open Space	To be retained as it is but its use formalised.
(9) BRODSWORTH COLLIERY	Public Open Space	Part of former colliery site to be developed as extension of Highfields Lake Park adjacent.
(10) OFF OWSTON ROAD, CARCROFT	Public Open Space/ Playground	Part of Proposed housing site to be laid out as public open space.

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan



(11) LUTTERWORTH DRIVE, WOODLANDS	Public Open Space/ Playground	Long standing proposal for open space to serve development north of Tenter Balk Lane.
(12) LAND ADJACENT TO ARKSEY RECREATION GROUND	Playing Field	Proposed extension to playing field.
(13) VICTORIA ROAD, BENTLEY	Public Open Space/ Playground/Playing Fields	Enhancement of existing public open space.
(14) BENTLEY ROSTHOLME	Public Open Space/ Playground	Part of Proposed housing site should form an extension to Bentley Park linking through to the disused railway line which is to be developed as a cycle track, footpath, open space. A further site of up to 4 ha(10 acres) should be included within the development to accommodate any future indoor or outdoor sports provision in Bentley.
(15) LAND AT SUNNYFIELDS, BENTLEY	Public Open Space/ Playground	To be developed as a major open space in an area of deficiency.
(16) NEWLANDS DRIVE, BENTLEY	Public Open Space/ Playground	To be provided as part of new housing development.
(17) RAIL INTERSECTION, BENTLEY	Public Open Space	To complement existing informal use of this site which is well related to local footpaths and to the proposed cycle route.
(18) ADJACENT BENTLEY TIP RECLAMATION SITE	Playground	To remedy area of local public open space deficiency.
(19) FORMER ALLOTMENT SITE, TOLL BAR	Public Open Space/ Playground	Long standing commitment to develop the former allotments for public open space.
(20) HALL VILLA LANE, TOLL BAR	Public Open Space/ Kick-about Area	To remedy an area of local public open space deficiency.
(21) CUSWORTH PARK	Countryside recreation	Extension to Cusworth Country Park to absorb site growing demand.



UDP AREA 4

(22) MINNEY MOOR RECREATIONGROUND, CONISBROUGH	Playground	To remedy local deficiency in the provisions of playgrounds.
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UDP AREA 5

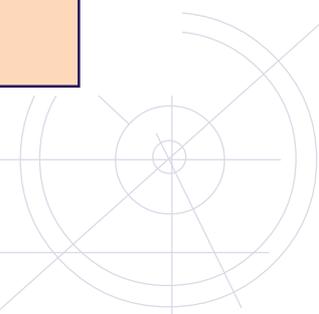
(23) HERBERT STREET/HARLINGTON ROAD, MEXBOROUGH	Playground	To remedy local deficiency in playgrounds.
(24) MAPLE GROVE, CONISBROUGH	Playground	To remedy local deficiency in playgrounds.
(25) SOUTH OF DENABY MAIN	Playground	Equipped Play Area to be provided within new residential area south of Denaby Main.
(26) LAND AT BRICK QUARRY, MEXBOROUGH	Public Open Space	To be restored to recreational use after tipping.
(27) MILL PIECE, KEARSLEY BROOK, CONISBROUGH	Adventure Playground	Long standing proposal in this village centre location.

UDP AREA 6

(28) ADJACENT CADEBY ROAD RECREATION GROUND, SPROTBROUGH	Public Open Space/Playing Field	Extension of recreation ground proposed. Football pitch required.
(29) DISUSED QUARRY, INGLEBOROUGH DRIVE, SPROTBROUGH	Public Open Space/Playground	To be reclaimed and laid out for open space.
(30) RIVERSIDE DRIVE, SPROTBROUGH	Public Open Space	To be provided as part of new housing development.
(31) OFF WINCANTON CLOSE, MEXBOROUGH	Public Open Space including Kick-about Area	To remedy area of local public open space deficiency.
(32) CHURCH LANE/HOLLOWGATE BARNBURGH	Public Open Space	Enhancement to area of open space in area of general deficiency.

UDP AREA 8

(33) REAR OF LOCKING DRIVE, ARMTHORPE	Playground	To meet existing deficiency.
(34) HOLLY BUSH LANE, EDENTHORPE	Playground/Public Open Space	To meet needs of Informal existing and proposed residential areas.



(35) BROSLEY AVENUE PLAYING FIELDS	Playground	To meet existing deficiency.
(36) REAR OF EDEN GROVE ROAD, EDENTHORPE	Informal Public Open Space	Improvements to untidy site to provide local amenity.
(37) DONCASTER ROAD/ HUNGERHILL LANE, EDENTHORPE	Informal Public Open Space	Will provide a landscape buffer between existing housing and the proposed Business Park. A footpath/ cycleway to be provided.
(38) THORNE ROAD, EDENTHORPE	Informal Public Open Space	Will provide a landscaped buffer between existing housing and the proposed Business Park.
(39) FAR SANDALL FIELD, EDENTHORPE	Formal Sports Ground	To meet an identified deficiency in public playing fields in the Edenthorpe/Kirk Sandall Area.
(40) NEAR SANDALL FIELD, EDENTHORPE	Public Allotment Gardens	To meet an identified deficiency in allotment provision in Edenthorpe.
UDP AREA 9		
(41) KING EDWARD ROAD, THORNE	Public Open Space	To remedy an area of local public open space deficiency.
(42) ALEXANDRA STREET, THORNE	Playground	To be laid out as part of proposed housing site.
(43) BALNE CROFT COMMON, THORNE	Playground	To be laid out as part of proposed housing site.
(44) LAND R/O THORNE MINERS WELFARE CLUB, MOORENDS	Playground	To meet local deficiency in playground provision.
(45) DARLINGTON GARDENS, MOORENDS	Public Open Space	To remedy area of local public open space deficiency.
(46) LAND TO NORTH OF NEW PARK ESTATE, STAINFORTH	Playground	To be provided as part of proposed housing development.
(47) WITHIN THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, ST MARY'S ROAD, DUNSVILLE	Playground/ Woodland/ Informal Public Open Space	Major upgrading of existing site.
(48) OFF ST MARY'S ROAD, DUNSVILLE	Countryside Recreation Site	Extension to St. Mary's Road Public open space as part of the upgrading of the site.
(49) FORMER SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS, FISHLAKE	Public Open Space Including play Equipment	To remedy area of public open space deficiency.
(50) LAND AT R/O CHAPEL LANE, SYKEHOUSE	Playground	To remedy area of local public open space deficiency.

(51) IVY CLOSE, HATFIELD	Public Open Space	Extension to Jubilee Park to provide an additional recreational area, to better relate the park to the town centre and to improve pedestrian access to the park from high Street.
(52) DISUSED COLLIERY RAILWAY LINE STAINFORTH	Informal public open space	To provide link between Stainforth and the Stainforth-Keadby Canal and complement environmental improvements that have been made to the land. The Borough Council will explore ways with the landowners of formalising the use of the open space.

9.33 Most of these sites are existing commitments which will be developed as and when resources allow or as integral elements of other developments such as housing developments. Development of these sites will help achieve progress towards the minimum playspace

standard (see Policy RL3); help reduce identified deficiencies in local open space provision; meet requirements on new developments and/or capitalise on specific opportunities for the creation of new recreation open space.

safeguarded for these purposes; most are designated as Open Space Policy Areas. Within the life of the UDP additional areas of open space will be identified, designated and safeguarded as part of new developments or as opportunities arise.

9.34 All the above sites will be

PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE AS PART OF NON RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Replaced by Core Strategy Policy 16: Valuing Our Natural Environment

RL 6
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL, WHERE APPROPRIATE, REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF AREAS OF AMENITY LANDSCAPING AND OPEN SPACE AS PART OF PROPOSALS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR USES OTHER THAN HOUSING, CONSISTENT WITH THE SCALE AND NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE.

9.35 Most new developments will require some level of amenity landscaping in order to enhance the quality of the development and in the interests of local amenity. Policy ENV 60 applies. Certain developments may however also offer opportunities for creating areas of open space, possibly with public access, as part of their landscape plans depending upon the size and nature of the development. Particular attention should be paid to opportunities for retaining open land with existing or potential landscape or nature conservation value or which can, for example, provide a setting for buildings or a visual enclosure around car parking, storage and plant areas. A requirement for the provision of public open space as part of non-housing schemes will generally be confined to the larger developments, town centre schemes (see Policy TC32) and/or sites with landscape or conservation value. The Borough Council will however need to be

satisfied that the developers have taken full account of opportunities to provide open space.

9.36 Where the Borough Council considers it necessary to provide open space as an integral part of a non

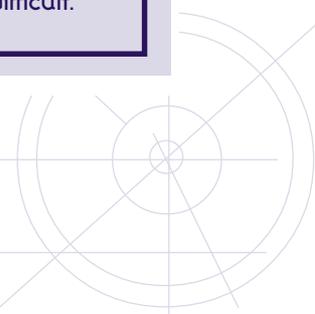
residential development, the developer will be required to submit a scheme for approval and may be required to enter into a legal agreement to help secure the future maintenance of such areas.

Public Attitude Survey

After 'going to a restaurant or pub', 'going swimming', taking countryside trips' and going to local parks' were the three most popular leisure activities.

Desired participation in leisure activities exceeded actual participation in only two activities - theatre and night classes.

Almost 7 out of 10 thought leisure facilities were accessible and easy to get to. Although of the 24% of those who thought accessibility was a problem, 7% believed it was very difficult.



OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

RL 7

~~THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ACTIVELY IMPROVE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER AREAS OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.~~

This was not saved in 2007

9.37 The majority of the Borough's 140 (approx) playgrounds are based on traditional items of equipment (a swing, a slide and a climbing frame) much of which is old and was erected prior to the introduction of British Standard Recommendations.

programme of improvement works has been approved which will bring existing sites up to current British Standards. Only new equipment which meets these or succeeding standards will be provided and/or maintained by the Borough Council. The provision of a range of more imaginative play equipment in a landscaped setting is the Borough Council's objective.

9.38 In January 1990 the Borough Council completed a survey of all sites in terms of equipment, surfaces, layout, and amenity value. A

DEVELOPMENT ADJOINING OPEN SPACE

RL 8

DEVELOPMENT ON SITES ADJACENT TO OR VISIBLE FROM OPEN SPACE POLICY AREAS WILL BE LOCATED AND DESIGNED TO AVOID ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE VISUAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, RECREATION OR AMENITY VALUE OF THE OPEN SPACE AND SHOULD WHEREVER POSSIBLE ENHANCE IT.

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan

9.39 It is important that good townscape design and layout are employed to take advantage of the opportunities provided by open space settings. The use of sympathetic boundary treatments will be expected

and the scale, layout and form of the development, particularly along the open space frontage, should make a positive contribution to the local townscape. Opportunities for opening up views and sunny aspects; reducing

adjacent traffic; improving footpath access and entrances and for extending and improving the open space should be realised wherever possible.

SURPLUS SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

RL 9

SURPLUS SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS WILL NORMALLY BE RETAINED FOR OPEN SPACE PURPOSES. WHEN CONSIDERING THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS WHICH ARE SURPLUS TO EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF DISPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AGAINST THE LOSS OF THAT OPEN SPACE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ITS EXISTING AND POTENTIAL VALUE AS OPEN SPACE INCLUDING ITS VALUE AS:

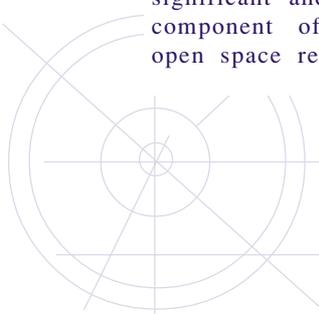
- a) A FACILITY FOR CASUAL PLAY
- b) A FORMAL OUTDOOR SPORT OR RECREATIONAL FACILITY
- c) A VISUAL/ENVIRONMENTAL AMENITY
- d) AN AREA OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST
- e) A LINK BETWEEN OTHER OPEN SPACES

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan

9.40 School playing fields are a significant and very important component of the Borough's open space resource in visual,

environmental, ecological and amenity terms. Whilst the public use of school fields is normally restricted to organised games rather than casual

games or informal use by local residents, school playing fields (and their associated changing and shower facilities) do make a significant



contribution to current playing fields provision and are often used by local teams. Consequently, their loss would result in increased pressure for the use of other Borough Council sports pitches.

9.41 Falling school rolls and related

issues are likely to result in some school playing fields being declared surplus to requirements. The Borough Council will consider such facilities' existing and potential value in the context of this policy and Policy CF 4. In particular it will have regard to the level of existing public use, the

availability of public playing fields and other open space in the vicinity and the proximity to areas of local public open space deficiency as defined in Appendix 9.2.

OTHER POLICIES FOR OPEN SPACE

9.42 Policies contained elsewhere in the UDP have implications for the Borough's open space. Each of the mixed use Regeneration Projects and Housing/Community Benefit Sites for example will include significant new areas of open space and recreation

facilities - see MURP and Housing chapters. The reclamation of derelict land and the environmental improvement of other waste and untidy sites can create important opportunities for the creation of new areas of open space - see Environment

Chapter. The policy context for school playing fields and sites of importance for nature conservation is also contained - in the "Community Facilities" and "Environment" chapters respectively.

COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION

~~**SRL 2**
OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFORMAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION WILL, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, BE INCREASED THROUGH THE PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF EXISTING COUNTRYSIDE RESOURCES; DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY SYSTEM; AND THE PROVISION OF A RANGE OF SUITABLE SITES. THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES OF A MORE FORMAL/INTENSIVE NATURE WILL BE ENCOURAGED PROVIDED THERE IS NO CONFLICT WITH POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.~~

Replaced by Core Stra

9.43 Going out into the countryside is one of Britain's most popular recreational activities. The Countryside Commission's National Countryside Recreation Survey 1985 revealed that the nation's most popular recreational activity is walking in the countryside and that over one third of people travel less than 5 miles to get to a suitable site. In fact all the most popular countryside recreation activities are felt most keenly in close proximity to urban areas. Furthermore only 30% of people visit managed recreation sites whilst 70% use the wider countryside where recreation is just one of many interests being pursued.

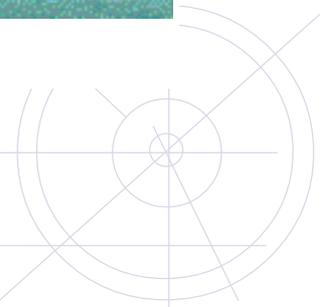
9.44 Recreation in the countryside is based largely, although not entirely, on the natural resources of the landscape and watercourses and can therefore lead to potential conflict with competing recreational uses, and with the interests of agriculture, and nature conservation and with the interests of people who live and work in rural areas. Achieving an acceptable balance is therefore of paramount importance.

9.45 The wealth of countryside in the Borough, the dispersed nature of much of the population and the relatively low level of car ownership means that access to the countryside and the provision of facilities in the urban fringes and the countryside generally is very important. If the growing demand for countryside recreation is not effectively catered for there will be two main effects:-

* Some of the pressure will be directed outside the Borough with a resulting loss of opportunities for greater access to and enjoyment of the countryside by those people who live and/or work

in the Borough together with a loss of potential benefits to the local economy from tourism, recreation and leisure.
 * The remaining pressure will result in increasing conflict with other interests in the countryside because of its lack of focus on proper facilities.

9.46 The Borough Council will therefore seek to accommodate the increasing demand for a wide range of formal and informal countryside leisure and recreation activities in such a way that other countryside interests (agriculture, wildlife, amenity and so on) are not adversely affected.



PROTECTION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION RESOURCE

~~**RL 10**
FEATURES WHICH OFFER THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFORMAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION SUCH AS WOODLANDS, CANALS AND OTHER WATER AREAS, COUNTRY ESTATES, DISUSED RAILWAY LINES AND OTHER IMPORTANT NATURAL OR MAN MADE ELEMENTS OF THE LANDSCAPE, WILL BE SAFEGUARDED WHEREVER POSSIBLE.~~

Replaced by Core Strategy Policy 17: Providing Green Infrastructure

9.47 Policies for the protection of the countryside and the conservation of the landscape provide these features with protection from development which would adversely affect them. This Policy indicates the Borough Council's commitment to, where necessary, pursue action on other fronts to safeguard the countryside recreation resource (and ensure its development is compatible with other UDP Policies including those for nature conservation) for example by purchasing woodlands, reaching agreements with landowners, and working with statutory undertakers and other organisations responsible for the management and development of the land and water. - See also Environment chapter - "Conserving the Landscape" section.

Key Fact

WOODLANDS WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

<p>SANDALL BEAT WOOD, SHAW WOOD/HAG WOOD, HATCHELL WOOD, KING'S WOOD, BRECKS PLANTATION, INSLEY PLANTATION, CLIFFWOOD, KIRKMOOR PLANTATION, LONG PLANTATION, HOLMESCARR GREATWOOD, MELTON WOOD,</p>	<p>Sandall Beat Road, Leger Way. Mansfield Crescent, Armthorpe. Plumton Park Road, Bawtry. Doncaster Road, Bawtry. Barnby Dun. Auckley. Cadeby. Bessacarr. Edenthorpe. Rossington. High Melton.</p>
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RECREATION ON THE URBAN FRINGE

~~**RL 11**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE, AND PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NORMALLY BE FORTHCOMING FOR, RECREATION AND LEISURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE URBAN FRINGE PROVIDED IT COMPLIES WITH POLICIES ENV7 AND ENV16.~~

This was not saved in 2007

9.48 The pressure for informal countryside recreation is felt most keenly in the urban fringes. The environmental benefits of utilising marginal agricultural land, derelict and other waste sites on the urban fringe for outdoor recreation and leisure uses is dealt with under Policy ENV7. There are also social benefits. The provision of informal countryside recreation opportunities close to urban areas will particularly help the poor, the elderly, the immobile and other relatively disadvantaged groups to enjoy the countryside.

9.49 Although public access is often unfairly associated with vandalism, nuisance and trespass, unless the needs of both agriculture and informal recreation are considered together the productivity and amenity of those

extensive areas of agricultural land adjacent to the urban areas will continue to be seriously compromised.

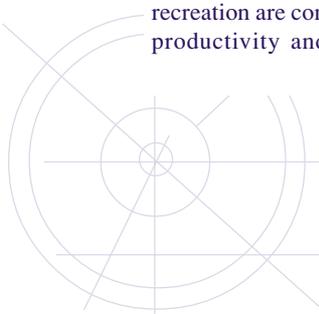
9.50 The Borough Council will work with farmers, landowners, statutory undertakers and all those responsible

for the management and development of land and water, as well as with local communities themselves, to ensure that the local countryside is productive, attractive and accessible to local populations.

Public Attitude Survey

Over a third of those asked thought Doncaster Borough should have more 'countryside facilities.'

Of all trips to the countryside, 65%, were taken within the Borough. Cusworth Hall was the single favourite location.



PUBLIC ACCESS

Replaced by Core Strategy Policy 17: Providing Green Infrastructure

~~**RL 12**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ALL OF ITS COUNTRYSIDE SITES CONSISTENT WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY OF THE SITE.~~

RL 13
WHEREVER POSSIBLE AN AREA OF PUBLICLY OWNED LAND, SUITABLE FOR LOCAL INFORMAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION, WILL BE PROVIDED ADJACENT TO ALL MAIN CENTRES OF POPULATION IN THE BOROUGH. THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ALSO SEEK THE PROVISION OF ACCESSIBLE NATURE CONSERVATION SITES THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH THROUGH THE CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT AND THROUGH SUPPORT FOR HABITAT CREATION.

Saved UDP policies w

9.51 The Borough Council already holds land suitable for informal countryside recreation in many areas. Where suitable land is not available, acquisition of such land will be pursued. The sites owned by the Borough Council and designated as countryside sites, form a hierarchy, with Country parks providing the widest range of opportunities for visitors, picnic sites offering more limited resources and other smaller areas providing simply an area of semi-natural land across which access is free - see Policy RL 15. Some sites, such as Council owned nature reserves, will be more sensitive to public access than other areas but public access can be managed on all sites and will form part of the management of all publicly owned countryside sites. Through

development control and through its proposed Nature Conservation Strategy the Borough council will seek to improve the accessibility of nature conservation sites throughout the

Borough through management for nature conservation value of its own countryside and urban open space sites and through encouragement for habitat creation and enhancement elsewhere.

Public Attitude Survey

Nearly a third of all people used countryside paths within a four week period.

When asked how they travelled to the countryside nearly 70% of visitors arrived by car but a significantly high proportion (15%) of visitors arrived on foot.

~~**RL 14**
AGREEMENTS ALLOWING PUBLIC ACCESS ONTO PRIVATE LAND WILL BE ENTERED INTO WHERE APPROPRIATE TO COMPLEMENT ACCESS LAND MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH PUBLIC PROVISION.~~

This was not saved in 2007

9.52 In some instances, it might be inappropriate or impossible for the Borough Council to purchase land in the necessary locations to allow easy public access. In these cases, and to

supplement the provision of public sites, use will be made of privately owned sites. This can be arranged with land owners through formal or informal access and management

agreements under the relevant sections of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION SITES

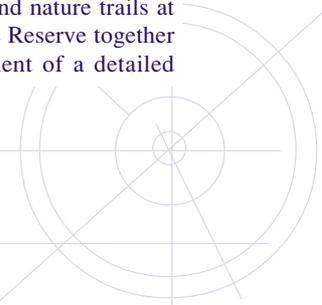
~~**RL 15**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL, WHERE NECESSARY, UPGRADE ITS EXISTING COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION SITES TO PROVIDE A RANGE OF FACILITIES SUITABLE FOR LOCAL AND BOROUGH WIDE NEEDS.~~

Replaced by Core Strategy Policy 17: Providing Green Infrastructure

9.53 The Borough Council is already committed to, or is in the process of carrying out, a number of improvement works designed to

upgrade its existing sites including landscape works and improvements to visitor facilities at Cusworth Park and the provision of a visitor centre, car

parking, play equipment and interpreted walks and nature trails at Sandall Beat nature Reserve together with the development of a detailed



management plan for the reserve.

9.54 The Borough Council would like to provide a range of sites catering for different levels of need. Whilst this will involve the development of some new sites and access arrangements as already referred to, the basis of the provision will be existing sites with upgrading as necessary. At present, only Cusworth Park can be regarded as a prime site i.e. one with a high standard of visitor facilities and a suitable venue for major events. The upgrading works to Sandall Beat will create a second prime site and there are other existing sites such as Hatfield

Marina which could also be upgraded, with better and/or more diversified facilities, to prime sites. The development of the Trans Pennine Trail will also provide an extremely important countryside recreation facility - see Transport Chapter.

9.55 There are a number of sites which can be regarded as major sites i.e. suitable for half day visits, well interpreted with a programme of countryside events and a good standard of visitor facilities. Howell Wood and Campsall Country Parks and Sandall Beat, as it presently is, are examples. A number of local sites such

as Highfields, Conisbrough Craggs and St. Mary's Road, Dunsville could be upgraded to major site status.

9.56 Local sites are approximately 10 acres plus and capable of meeting everyday informal recreational needs with some visitor facilities, suitable for local events. Examples include Shaw Wood (Armthorpe); Kings Wood (Bawtry); Cliff Wood (Cadeby); Kirk Moor Plantation (Bessacarr) and West Doncaster Linear Park. In accordance with Policy RL13 the Borough Council will endeavor to make available suitable local sites adjacent to all main centres of population.

RECREATION ROUTES

RL 16
~~COUNTRYSIDE SITES AND INFORMAL ACCESS AREAS WILL WHEREVER POSSIBLE BE LINKED TOGETHER BY A NETWORK OF RECREATIONAL ROUTES USING PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY COMPLEMENTED WHERE OPPORTUNITIES ALLOW BY SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED LINEAR PARKS AND PATHS.~~

This was not saved in 2007

9.57 The countryside sites, provided through public provision and access agreements will form a network of semi-natural sites open to the public for their enjoyment. In order that visitors to these sites might enjoy the wider countryside and that these individual sites might be linked together, linear routes will be developed which connect the countryside sites. The public right-of-

way system will be invaluable in achieving this but further access can be encouraged by providing a system of linear routes such as the West Doncaster Linear Park, which was established along a former railway line and the Trans Pennine Trail (see Transport Chapter).

9.58 The Hatfield, Thorne, Fishlake and Sykehouse area is one such area

with many protected sites and rights of way e.g. Moorends Drop Ponds and Bell's Ponds, Ashfield Bank, Historical Enclosure Landscape, Hatfield Marina, canals and green lanes. The development and linking together of such facilities can create a major countryside recreational resource for the benefits of the borough.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

RL 17
~~AS WIDE A RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AS POSSIBLE WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, SUBJECT TO ECOLOGICAL, AMENITY AND AGRICULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS.~~

This was not saved in 2007

RL 18
~~ACCESS INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE WILL BE ENCOURAGED FOR ALL SECTORS OF THE PUBLIC, BUT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO DISADVANTAGED GROUPS FOUND TO BE LESS ABLE TO VISIT COUNTRYSIDE SITES.~~

This was not saved in 2007

9.60 Access involves more than providing footpaths or bridleways upon which the public can walk or ride. There is a need to actively encourage people to use the countryside. Certain groups such as

the unemployed or disabled are less likely to visit the countryside than others, because their circumstances make it more difficult for them to do so. In order to positively promote access to the countryside for these and

other groups special efforts need to be made to make access easier. These will include events programmes, transport arrangements, interpretation or specialised path surfaces.



~~**RL 19**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL UNDERTAKE A PROGRAMME OF EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY TO INCREASE THE APPRECIATION, ENJOYMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.~~



9.61 The Borough Council’s Policy Statement on the future of the countryside in the Borough - “A Breath

of Fresh Air” contains a commitment to the preparation of educational and interpretive material, for the general

public and the development of year round programmes of events and activities.

~~**RL 20**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NEW COUNTRY PARK IN THE EAST OF THE BOROUGH.~~

This was not saved in 2007

9.62 The Borough’s existing Country Parks (Campsall, Cusworth and Howell Wood) and the proposed Earth Centre are all in the west of the Borough. The eastern half of the Borough, with its generally lower agricultural values its opportunities for landscape enhancement and in particular for creating new woodlands and for water recreation areas based on former sand and gravel workings, has great potential for a major

countryside recreation facility which is more locally accessible to people living in the eastern half of the Borough and, with excellent access via the M18 and M180, attractive to people living outside the Borough. Consideration of a suitable proposal for the parkland in the vicinity of Rossington Hall will be given.

Group have produced a draft feasibility study which sets down many interesting and exciting ideas for the establishment of a country park on land at Old Kirk Sandall village. Whilst there are many issues which would need to be resolved, not least that of land ownership, before such a scheme could be a practicable possibility, the Borough Council supports in principle the development of this concept.

9.63 A local community group-The Kirk Sandall Community Wildlife

~~**RL 21**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OFF - THE - ROAD MOTORCYCLE FACILITIES AT APPROPRIATE LOCAIONS IN THE BOROUGH AND SEEK TO REDUCE UNAUTHORISED MOTOR CYCLE USE.~~

Replaced by Core Strategy Policy 2: Growth and Regeneration Strategy

9.64 The problem of unauthorised use of land by motorcycles is prevalent throughout the Borough, particularly in the countryside near to urban areas on open spaces and woodland sites and has resulted in numerous accidents including serious injuries to innocent members of the public. There is a strong association between this activity and motorcycle theft, and noise nuisance and intimidation have a serious effect on the amenity value of many otherwise attractive areas. Some public footpaths and bridleways have become almost impassable or unusable by other legitimate users and vandalism costing thousands of pounds has been caused by motorcyclists seeking to gain access to amenity areas such as the Linear Park, Cantley Park and Cusworth Hall.

Motorcycle barriers are routinely installed when informal Public Open Spaces are upgraded and on Public Rights of Way when circumstances permit. The Borough Council is currently exploring the possible establishment of a programme of action in co-operation with Policy Officers from the Motorcycle Unit of the Road Traffic Section, South Yorkshire Police and Community Police Officers. It is considered that unauthorised motorcycle use will be reduced considerably by concerted firm and long term action.

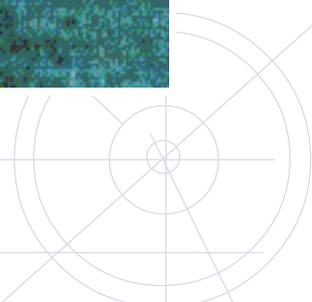
- preferably be close to a bus route.
- be close to the urban core so as to be accessible to users.
- be sufficiently secure to prevent unauthorised motorcycle use
- not give rise to loss of residential amenity for local residents
- not significantly detract from the enjoyment of the area by other users
- be screened by existing trees vegetation/topography
- comply with the policies of the UDP particularly Policy ENV7

9.65 Numerous efforts have been made by Council Officers to control the problem, including the creation of the Council’s Bye-laws with Respect to Motorcycles, and the Council’s rangers are working regularly with local Police Officers in certain areas.

9.66 The Borough Council is also however actively investigating the potential of a number of Council-owned sites to accommodate a planned authorised off road motorcycling facility. Where appropriate the Borough Council will take up opportunities to provide such facilities as part of development proposals.

9.67 To be appropriate for such a facility a site must

- have good vehicular access and



OTHER POLICIES FOR COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION

9.68 A new Country Park will be provided at Woodfield Plantation, Balby. The other Mixed Use Regeneration Projects will also provide significant areas of attractive, useable countryside. - see Chapter 16.

9.69 The Borough Council intends to develop its policies into specific proposals and programmes for action in more detail as part of its Recreation Strategy (see Policy RL24). The strategy will examine demands for, and opportunities for, countryside

recreation in the Borough, assess sources of available finance and determine priorities for action. It will examine the public rights of way system and ways of enhancing and promoting it and assess the range, quality and distribution of countryside recreation sites, Council owned and private, existing and potential. It will look at specific recreation demands including those which can cause noise and disturbance and at ways of resolving potential or existing conflicts between recreation and other interests

in the countryside. Finally it will look at ways of promoting the recreational use of the countryside and encouraging public access.

9.70 The consideration of planning applications for recreation and leisure developments in the countryside is dealt with under Policy ENV6. The Transport Chapter deals with public rights of way and the recreational use of the waterways.

BUILT FACILITIES

~~**SRL 3**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT THE PROVISION OF NEW, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING, INDOOR RECREATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.~~

Replaced by
Core Strategy
Policy 1:
Quality of
Life

9.71 The UDP does not contain a comprehensive set of recreation and leisure proposals particularly in respect of indoor facilities and other facilities aimed at specific types of recreation activity. In general terms however the Borough Council will continue to facilitate the provision of a wide range of recreation and leisure opportunities in accessible locations in recognition of the growing demand for, and importance attached to, such facilities and the contribution they can make to the regeneration of the Borough.



PROVISION OF FACILITIES

~~**RL 22**
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE AND PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NORMALLY BE FORTHCOMING FOR, INDOOR RECREATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL FACILITIES PROVIDED:~~

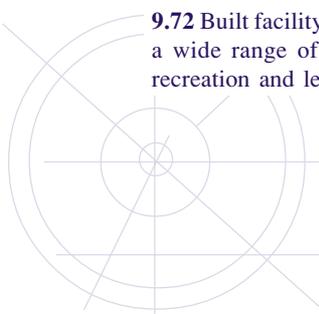
- ~~a) DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE GREENBELT OR COUNTRYSIDE POLICY AREA COMPLIES WITH POLICIES ENV3, ENV4 AND ENV7 AND~~
- ~~b) THERE IS NO UNACCEPTABLE LOSS OF RESIDENTIAL AMENITY AND~~
- ~~c) THE PROPOSAL SATISFIES THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CAR PARKING STANDARDS AND~~
- ~~d) THERE IS NO CONFLICT WITH ANY OTHER POLICIES OF THE UDP.~~

Replaced by Core
Strategy Policy 2:
Growth and
Regeneration
Strategy

9.72 Built facility provision embraces a wide range of active and passive recreation and leisure, entertainment

and cultural uses including traditional multi-purpose sports halls, one use sporting facilities such as swimming

pools and bowling centres, cinemas and theatres, restaurants and public houses. Improvement to the level of



facilities will be a major issue for the Recreation Strategy; the UDP as a 'land use' based plan can only play a supporting role to such a strategy.

9.73 "National research shows that in an urban environment, the further away from a swimming pool people reside, the lower will be their level of usage, i.e. participation in swimming falls dramatically as the distance from a facility increases. This fall off in demand is particularly pronounced beyond one and a half miles. It also applies most significantly to those people without access to a car, e.g. children, many women and less well-off families.

9.74 As a long-term strategic goal the Borough Council will aim to maximise the number of people living within a mile and a half of a swimming pool. This would:

- * maximise public access to swimming - thereby contributing towards health objectives

- * discriminate in favour of those with low personal mobility - thereby contributing towards social/anti-poverty objectives

- * reduce people's need to travel - thereby contributing towards environmental objectives

However, this has to be balanced against the potential viability of a planned new pool. Given the continuing pressures on public sector spending and therefore the need to minimise subsidy levels, it is reasonable to argue that a new pool is unlikely to be built unless it will serve a potential catchment population of at least 20,000 people. This could be expected to produce a healthy level of demand and therefore income.

9.75 Participation in sports hall activities also falls as the distance from

a facility increases. In the case of sports halls, the fall-off is particularly significant beyond two miles. Despite the fact that levels of participation for sports hall activities (e.g. badminton) are much lower than for swimming, such facilities are considerably cheaper than pools to operate. Consequently, a catchment population of 20,000 people is regarded as the minimum required to viably support a new sports hall development. Given the location of Doncaster's existing sports halls (including those on school sites) and the population of those areas beyond two miles from a facility there is only one proposal for a new Sports Hall - see Policy RL24.

9.76 Doncaster is the only town/city in South Yorkshire without a synthetic-surface athletics track. (It does have two existing cinder tracks at Eden Grove and Stainforth Welfare Ground). Given that the town's population is second only to Sheffield, there is little doubt about there being a viable population base to support a synthetic track.

9.77 The Regional Sports Council Strategy highlights the following hierarchy of facilities;

- * Regional Stadium-Don Valley (Sheffield)
- * Sub-Regional Stadia e.g. Woodbourn (Sheffield) and Quibell Park (Scunthorpe)
- * District Facilities e.g. Herringthorpe (Rotherham) Thomes Park (Wakefield) Dorothy Hyman (Barnsley)

It is clear that a synthetic track in Doncaster would fit into the strategy at the 'district' level. Although desirable, however, it is recognised that an athletics facility would require considerable financial support and this

would have to be resolved before any commitment to such a project was forthcoming.

9.78 Notwithstanding the Borough Council's commitment to the Leisure Park, the maintenance and improvement of local indoor provision within or accessible to each of the main settlements remains a priority.

9.79 Private sector provision is likely to increase but is dependent upon the commercial viability of the particular facility. There are a number of existing and planned private indoor facilities in the Borough notably at the Leisure Park (See Policy RL 23); proposals will be viewed positively subject to them meeting the usual requirements of the Borough Council.

9.80 Apart from the Leisure Park, the Borough Council has few current proposals for indoor facilities; the situation may change within the timescale of the UDP but is dependent upon future local government financing and other factors which are difficult to foresee at present. Apart from new provision which is likely to be largely confined to relatively low cost extensions to existing swimming pools/centres the Borough Council will seek to:

- * extend dual use of educational facilities.
- * encourage greater public use of private facilities.
- * encourage and support new private sector provision.
- * improve public awareness of and access to existing facilities.
- * encourage the re-use of rural buildings for sport and recreation use subject to compliance with Policy ENV 10.

THE LEISURE PARK

RL 23

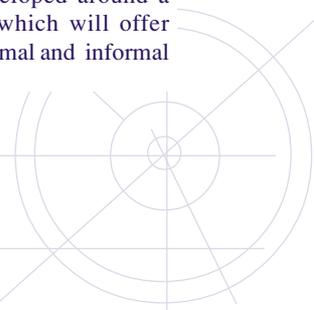
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE DONCASTER LEISURE PARK WITH THE PROVISION OF A WIDE RANGE OF HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL RECREATION IN AN ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPED SETTING.

Replaced by Core Strategy Policy 2: Growth and Regeneration Strategy

9.81 Phase 1 of the Doncaster Leisure Park is largely complete or committed consisting of the Dome, Hotel, Indoor Bowls, Indoor Cricket, multi screen

cinema and restaurant/nightclub/dance halls. Phase 2 is currently being developed and will consist of a mixed use development (See also Chapter 16)

within which recreation will form a major element developed around a large central lake which will offer opportunities for formal and informal



recreation activities, lakeside walks, water sports and so on. A number of other built recreation facilities are also envisaged.

9.82 The Leisure Park represents a major facility of Borough and regional importance. It is close to large residential areas and readily accessible by car and public transport. It will continue to be developed and promoted as a high quality multi use facility serving the whole Borough and as one able to attract significant numbers of visitors from outside the Borough.

Key Fact

GOLF COURSES IN DONCASTER

CROOKHILL PARK MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

AUSTERFIELD,
DONCASTER,
HICKLETON,
THORNE, KIRTON LANE,
TOWN MOOR,
WHEATLEY,
OWSTON PARK,

Common Lane Austerfield.
Bawtry Road, Doncaster.
Hickleton.
Thorne.
Town Moor (Centre of Racecourse)
Armthorpe Road, Wheatley.
Owston.

RL 24

~~THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO IDENTIFY AND BRING FORWARD FOR DEVELOPMENT A SITE FOR A NEW SPORTS CENTRE TO SERVE THE MEXBOROUGH/ CONISBROUGH AREA.~~

9.83 The Mexborough/Conisbrough District Plan (1982) identified the need for a Sports Centre to serve the Plan area, the nearest sports centres being at Adwick and Swinton, Rotherham.

The lack of a suitable site at the time however prevented a formal proposal being included in the Plan. The need for a Sports Centre remains. A site has been identified at the Denaby railway

crossing between Mexborough and Denaby Main.

DUAL USE

RL 25

THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY USE OF EDUCATIONAL AND PRIVATE LEISURE FACILITIES WHERE THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PRINCIPAL USERS OF THE FACILITIES.

Saved UDP policies which are not replaced by the Core Strategy or Joint Waste Plan

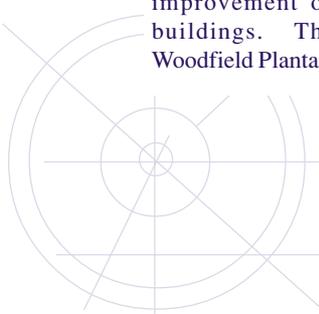
9.84 The dual use of existing facilities and the joint provision and sharing of new facilities makes sound economic sense and provides an opportunity to expand the facilities available to the public in accessible locations. Educational facilities, such as sports halls, playing pitches and changing rooms, are particularly well located to serve the community and are often under-utilised outside school hours. There is scope for extending and promoting the dual use of these and other school facilities. The Borough Council will also look to opportunities for dual use of indoor sports facilities in the design of new, or the improvement of existing school buildings. The new school at Woodfield Plantation for example will

be designed for dual use. The Local Management of Schools and attitude of school governors and head teachers will, however, influence opportunities for community use of educational buildings and facilities.

9.85 Agreement with the private sector for a degree of community access to private facilities may provide a mutually beneficial way to broaden opportunities for recreation and leisure, where buildings or facilities are under-utilised during particular times of the day or week. An arrangement exists between the Borough Council and British Railways Staff Association Plant Works Athletics Club at Eden Grove, Hexthorpe for the maintenance of the

Athletics Track. Many similar arrangements exist with the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO) Trust which has opened up its sports facilities to the general public in return for the Borough Council's agreement to maintain the grounds. The Borough Council will pursue other similar arrangements where opportunities arise.

9.86 With the increasing emphasis on provision of facilities by the private sector joint use schemes whereby two or more agencies combine resources to provide a facility may increase in importance. Partnership in leisure provision could be a significant means of implementing U.D.P. policies.



RECREATION STRATEGY

RL 26
 THE BOROUGH COUNCIL WILL DEVELOP A RECREATION STRATEGY WHICH WILL IDENTIFY PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION FOR INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND IMPROVING EXISTING, AND PROVIDING NEW, FACILITIES FOR A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATION, LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.



9.87 The strategy will be produced in conjunction with the Sports Council and other interested bodies including local clubs, local councils and so on and will need to:

I) assess existing provision in terms of type, quality and distribution of facilities. In particular it will need to examine the relationship between the Dome/Leisure Park and local indoor provision.

II) assess existing demand and likely future demand with reference to local population characteristics and trends in different activities. Particular attention will be paid to the needs of identified priority groups.

III) identify deficiencies with reference to local demand and national standards, particularly the new sports council playing pitch strategy for

assessing provision of football, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches.

IV) determine priorities and programmes for action with particular reference to specific opportunities for improving provision for example through extended dual use.

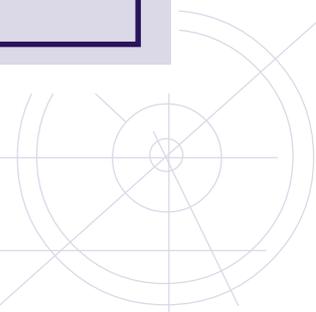
Key Fact

COUNTRY PARKS IN DONCASTER

- CUSWORTH COUNTRY PARK AND MUSEUM, Cusworth Lane, Cusworth,
- HOWELL WOOD COUNTRY PARK, Burnwood Lane, Brierley.
- CAMPSALL COUNTRY PARK, Churchfield Road, Campsall.

OTHER DMBC COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION SITES

- HIGHFIELDS LAKE, Great North Road, Woodlands.
- THORNE MEMORIAL PARK, SOUTH PARADE, THORNE (Operated by the Thorne Town Council)
- CONISBROUGH CASTLE, CONISBROUGH (Woodland / Grassland)
- WEST BESSACARR PARK, BESSACARR (Grassland / Woodland / Hedgerows) Bessacarr.
- ST MARY'S ROAD, DUNSVILLE (Parkland) Dunsfield.
- HATFIELD WATER PARK.



PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

9.88 New developments such as residential developments and large scale non residential developments create demands for increased and enhanced recreation and leisure provision and put pressure on existing facilities. They can also result in the loss of provision for example through the removal of urban open space or countryside. A number of UDP

policies make reference to various elements which often need to be included as a matter of course in many developments in order to make the development acceptable in itself (e.g. open space provision and landscaping). It is increasingly being recognised however that there are many circumstances in which development can contribute in a more

positive way to public benefits (for example through the provision of built facilities for sport and recreation) and that a wider view needs to be taken of the true impact of a development upon the locality and its community. Policies IMR1 and IMR2 in the Implementation, Monitoring and Review Chapter refer.

Key Fact

DMBC LEISURE CENTRES AND SWIMMING POOLS

ADWICK LEISURE CENTRE, Welfare Road, Woodlands: Swimming Pools, Sports Hall, Sauna, Squash Courts, Fitness Studio, Solarium, Floodlit All Weather Area.

ARMTHORPE SPORTS CENTRE, Mere Lane, Armthorpe: Swimming Pools, Squash Courts, Keep Fit, Table Tennis, Community Room.

EDLINGTON SPORTS CENTRE, Tait Avenue, Edlington: Swimming, Fitness Studio, Floodlit All Weather Area, Solarium, Community Room.

ASKERN AND CAMPSALL SPORTS CENTRE, Churchfield Road, Campsall: Swimming, Fitness Studio, Sauna, Solarium, Community Room.

DENABY SWIMMING POOL, Tickhill Square, Denaby: Swimming, Sauna Suite, Solarium.

ROSSINGTON SPORTS CENTRE, West End, Rossington: Swimming, Sauna Suite, Solarium, Fitness Studio.

ST JAMES SWIMMING POOL AND HEALTH CLUB, Waterdale, Doncaster: Swimming, Turkish Baths, Solarium, Fitness Studio.

THORNE SPORTS CENTRE, Haynes Road, Thorne: Swimming, Sports Hall, Fitness Studio, Solarium.

HATFIELD WATER PARK, Old Thorne Road, Hatfield: Caravan and Camping, Boating, Sailing, Sailboarding, Fishing, Sub-Aqua, Canoeing, Rowing, Picnic Area, Cafe.

***DONCASTER LEISURE PARK**, Bawtry Road Doncaster: Leisure Pools, Flume, Leisure Ice, Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Fitness Studios, Snooker Hall, Restaurants / Bars, Entertainment Suites

* Operated by the Doncaster Leisure Trust.

