

# **Gosport Borough Local Plan: Local Open Space Standards**

**Evidence Study to support the  
Consultation draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038**

**Gosport Borough Council**

**PLEASE NOTE: THESE STANDARDS ARE NOT IN OPERATION  
UNTIL SUCH TIME THE GOSPORT BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN 2038 IS  
ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides the evidence base for establishing new open space standards in Gosport Borough. It makes recommendations for different typologies of open space and relates these to hectares per 1,000 of the population which is converted into m<sup>2</sup> per dwelling.

The new open space standards will be used for a number of purposes:

- to calculate the on-site open space requirement for new developments where appropriate thresholds are met;
- to assist in calculating the open space requirements to inform the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule;
- to calculate an off-site contribution for an identified open space scheme to be provided by developments secured by Section 106 Agreement and not included as part of the CIL;
- to form a benchmark for assessing and monitoring the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision in the Borough and thereby informing planning policy decisions to:
  - protect existing open spaces;
  - improve the quality and value of open spaces;
  - consider alternative open space uses for sites;
  - consider whether certain types of open spaces could be used for other purposes; and
  - consider the need to allocate new open spaces to reflect quantity, quality and accessible deficiencies.

The proposed quantity standards to be used for larger developments are shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Quantity Standards for On Site and Off-Site Provision for New Residential Developments (Class C3) of 50 or More Dwellings**

Open Space Typology	Quantity Standards for On-Site and Off-Site Provision (Ha. per 1,000 of the population)	On Site Provision Required?
Public Open Space *1	1.6	Yes for sites of 50 units or more
Outdoor Sports	1.1	No
Allotments	0.46	No

\*1 This includes parks and gardens, natural/semi-natural greenspace, amenity greenspace and children's play space.

As well as setting new quantity standards, new open space provision will also be expected to meet the Council's 'Good quality' standards.

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The study aims to provide evidence for the Council's latest local open space standards in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.
- 1.2. This study has reviewed the current provision of open space and recreation facilities as identified by the 2021 Open Space Monitoring Report (GBC 2021). This work supports the Consultation Draft of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 (often referred to as the Regulation 18 version) which will be subject to public consultation. In time, when the new Local Plan is adopted these standards will replace those included in the adopted Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011 – 2029 (2015) and the policies will be used to determine planning applications. The new open space standards will be used for a number of purposes:
  - to calculate the on-site open space requirement for new developments where appropriate thresholds are met;
  - to assist in calculating the open space requirements to inform the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule;
  - to calculate an off-site contribution for an identified open space scheme to be provided where required (secured by Section 106 Agreement) and not included as part of the CIL;
  - to form a benchmark for assessing and monitoring the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space provision in the Borough and thereby informing planning policy decisions to:
    - protect existing open spaces;
    - improve the quality and value of open spaces;
    - consider alternative open space uses for sites;
    - consider whether certain types of open spaces could be used for other purposes; and
    - consider the need to allocate new open spaces to reflect quantity, quality and accessible deficiencies.
- 1.3. The study primarily draws on the Council's Open Space Monitoring Report 2021. This includes a site by site assessment of open space relating to size, quality and value. The accessibility of certain types of open space is also considered. The 2021 Report also pulls together a number of other evidence studies relating to the needs for various types of open space including:
  - Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment (Strategic Leisure 2014)
  - Gosport Play Strategy 2007- 2012 (Gosport Borough Council June 2007)
  - Accessible Natural Greenspace Report included in Appendix 5 of the Open Space Monitoring Report 2021.
- 1.4. It should be noted that these standards will be further informed by new emerging evidence including a revised Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Strategy which will be produced later in 2021. If there are any necessary changes to the standards these will be included in a refreshed document to accompany the next stage of the Local Plan to be produced in 2022, known as the Publication version Local Plan (or Regulation 19 version).

## **What's included in this document?**

- 1.5. This study sets out new standards for various types of open space which include the following:
  - Parks and gardens
  - Natural/semi-natural greenspaces
  - Amenity greenspaces
  - Provision for children and young people
  - Allotments
  - Civic space
  - Sports pitches and other outdoor Sports.
- 1.6. In order to start considering how local standards can be devised for each of these typologies, it has been necessary to consider existing national, sub-regional and local policies, best practise guidance and various established standards for different types of open spaces. This is outlined in Section 2.
- 1.7. A summary of existing provision within the Borough has been undertaken in Section 3. This takes account of work that has been published within the Council's Open Space Monitoring Reports with a particular focus upon the quantity, quality and accessibility of the Borough's existing open spaces.
- 1.8. The findings of the previous sections are then brought together in Section 4 with a range of quality, quantity and accessibility standards being set for a number of open space typologies. The quantity standards are shown through provision in hectares per 1,000 people with the accessibility standards applying catchment distances for each of the typologies that have been included. The quality standards have been based on work previously used by the Borough Council to assess the quality of sites as part of the Open Space Audits and have been informed by national quality standards and best practice. This assessment method is set out in Annex A. A note to developers outlines how the proposed standards would work and is set out in Annex B.
- 1.9. Finally, Section 5 sets out considerations which will need to be taken into account when determining developer contributions.

## SECTION 2: EXISTING POLICIES AND GUIDANCE RELATING TO OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

### National Policy

#### National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1. It is stated in the National Planning Policy Framework that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space and opportunities for new provision. It also states that the assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in the local area and that information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space provision is required.

### Sub-Regional Policy

#### PUSH Spatial Position Statement (2016)

- 2.2. The Spatial Position Statement (SPS) produced by PUSH (now PfSH- Partnership for South Hampshire) provides a non-statutory sub-regional planning framework for South Hampshire including Gosport Borough. The SPS recognises the importance of open spaces as part of the sub-regional network of green infrastructure and that the authorities will continue to work together to implement key projects as outlined in the PfSH Green Infrastructure Strategy. The SPS includes the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure including open spaces as a key principle (SP1) and includes a specific policy on GI provision (G1). In terms of standards it specifically mentions that the PfSH authorities will in their Local Plans, *'Make provision for these strategic and other local GI proposals taking account of Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGst); including where appropriate as an integral part of development proposals'*.

### Local Policy

#### Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (2015) (GBLP)

- 2.3. Policy LP34 sets out the open space standards which are required for new developments. It includes the current standards of provision that would be expected for a number of open space typologies as included in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Open Space Requirement (hectares per 1,000 of the population)**

Type of open space	Standard
Public Open Space standard (includes the 'local park' element) To be provided on-site for developments of 50 dwellings or more. For smaller developments this element is covered by the Community Infrastructure Levy	1.5ha per 1,000 people
Outdoor sports provision Not normally provided within a development site and could be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy	1.1ha per 1,000 people
Allotments Not normally provided within a development site and could be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy	0.4ha per 1,000 people

- 2.4. The GBLP sets out this requirement for developments of 50 dwellings or more, a total of 1.5 hectares per 1,000 residents or 15m<sup>2</sup> per person of public open space and that this provision should be made on-site. This provision will provide at least one park to serve the development with more required on larger developments. All dwellings should generally be within 400 metres of the park provision.
- 2.5. It is considered that the 50 dwellings threshold will enable a useful-sized local park to be provided on-site. The Borough Council requires the on-site provision to achieve the Borough Council's Good Standard. In order to meet the Council's Good Quality Standard it will be necessary to assess it against the criteria set out in the relevant open space scorecard.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.6. The GBLP sets out that in certain instances it may be necessary for the developer of a proposal of 50 or more dwellings to provide a financial contribution towards a specified offsite open space proposal in lieu of all or part of the required on-site provision. This could include a new facility or an enhancement to an existing one. This would be secured by a Section 106 Agreement and normally be specific with regard to the site it is intended to be allocated to. In such cases the obligation will need to meet the tests of Government legislation. Exceptional circumstances may relate to particular characteristics of the site or that there is an open space facility in close proximity to the development (normally within 800 metres of the development) which would significantly benefit from improvements and help it achieve the Council's 'Good' Standard. In certain cases the particular open space may be further than 800 metres from the development if it has the potential to be of sufficient quality and recreational value to attract residents of the new development.
- 2.7. The Borough Council recognises that on small residential developments it is neither desirable nor practical to make provision for open space other than certain elements of green infrastructure. Consequently the Borough Council in most instances will take a financial contribution in the form of the Community Infrastructure Levy where a proportion of money may be spent on new or enhanced open space provision.

### **Advice on setting standards**

#### **National Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014)**

- 2.8. The NPPG makes it clear that open space includes all open space of public value including formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.
- 2.9. It states that it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. The NPPG refers to Sport England's guidance<sup>2</sup> on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> This is set out in the latest Open Space Monitoring Report.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/>

## **National Model Design Code (MHCLG 2021)**

2.10. The guidance notes to the recent Government consultation on the National Model Design Code<sup>3</sup> recommends a number of approaches to setting open space standard including population based standards which could include the Fields in Trust (FIT) standards or an alternative approach as well as accessibility greenspace standards.

### **Setting Standards- Good Practice**

2.11. CABE (2009) provides detailed advice on setting open space standards. It is acknowledged that open space standards provide an easy-to use transparent foundation for the negotiation of planning agreements, providing planning authorities with a robust method for assessing the type, amount, location and quality of provision needed in an area. Quantity, quality and accessibility standards need to be set for each typology of open space to be applied throughout a local authority area.

2.12. Urban residents should be able to walk to most forms of provision. Open space standards should cater for local circumstances such as differing demographic profiles and the extent of existing built development in an area.

2.13. The following is referred to in the CABE guidance as the best way to set standards:

- **Quantity standards:** area of open space per thousand population
- **Quality standards:** a description of the required design and management standards
- **Accessibility standards:** a distance threshold (for example 400 metres) that takes into account any physical barriers to movement and the location of entrances to open space.

### **Quantity**

#### **CABE Open Space Strategies-Best Practice Guidance**

2.14. It is stated that the best way to develop quantity standards is to calculate the quantity of provision by population, by typology and for different local areas. Wards can be used to define local areas but it may be more appropriate to use areas defined by existing barriers to access such as railways, main roads and waterways.

2.15. The quantity of open space should be expressed as the area per 1,000 of the population for the local authority as a whole and for individual areas. This helps make comparisons with other similar local authority areas. The use of local level data can also enable comparisons of provision within a local authority area.

2.16. It is suggested that the quantity of provision should be compared with the results of the demand assessment, checking whether people feel there is enough open space in their local area, and the accessibility assessment. A suitable quantity standard can be set, based on this analysis but it will also require a professional judgement based on local conditions alongside the evidence.

2.17. Quantity standards should be seen as minimum and not absolutes. If the provision standard is set lower than the quantity of provision in some areas, this does not

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<sup>3</sup> See page 21 of the following document  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/957207/Guidance\\_notes\\_for\\_Design\\_Codes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957207/Guidance_notes_for_Design_Codes.pdf)

automatically imply there is a surplus of open space. For example, the open space may provide green infrastructure functions, or form part of a key link.

- 2.18. The strategy should also consider whether there is increasing demand for allotments. This should be related to supply and a standard then devised from this.

### **Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport**

- 2.19. The Fields in Trust (FIT) (formerly the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)) replaced the Six Acre Standard Six with its publication Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play 2015 (PADOSP), updated at November 2020). The PADOSP sets out benchmark standards for provision of outdoor sports, play and informal open space. The guidance sets out benchmarks for a range of open space and equipped play areas. Importantly PADOSP states that quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as maximum levels of provision, and recommends that these are adjusted to take account of local circumstances. The Acre Standard recommends a minimum standard for outdoor play space of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) per 1,000 of the population. Outdoor playing space is not the same as public open space. It is space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children's play. The quantity guideline is broken down into hectares per 1000 population in the table below:

**Table 3: Field in Trust Guidelines**

<b>Fields in Trust Recommended Benchmark Guidelines – Formal Outdoor Space</b>	
<b>Open space typology</b>	<b>QUANTITY GUIDELINE (hectares per 1,000 population)</b>
Playing pitches	1.20
All outdoor sports	1.60
Equipped/designated play areas	0.25
Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks)	0.30
Total	3.35 ha/1000 population
<b>Fields in Trust Recommended Benchmark Guidelines – Informal Outdoor Space</b>	
Parks and Gardens	0.80
Amenity Green Space	0.60
Natural and Semi-Natural	1.80
Total	3.2 ha/1000 population

### **National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners**

- 2.20. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggest a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,200 people (2.2 persons per dwelling) or 1 allotment per 200 people. This has been calculated as 0.125 ha per 1,000 of the population based on an average plot size of 250 square metres. Preceding this, the 1969 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha of allotments per 1,000 of the population.

### **CABE Open Space Strategies-Best Practice Guidance**

- 2.21. It is stated that quality standards should set out design and management standards for different types of open space. They should be an aspiration for existing spaces where improvements are needed and a requirement for new ones, provided by developers.

- 2.22. The quality standards should relate to the criteria used in the quality audit carried out on-site. The audit scores can be used to provide a local benchmark of quality, based on the score of a site deemed to be of good-quality such as a Green Flag Award winner.
- 2.23. It is also stated that the Green Flag Award criteria provides the basis for a quality standard for green spaces and can be adapted to suit other open spaces.
- 2.24. It is also recognised that Sport England provides quality standards for sports facilities, including access for disabled people, and that Play England has information on what makes a quality play space.

### **Green Flag Award**

- 2.25. The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces. It gives a nationally recognised approach for providing parks and green spaces to a high level of quality and rewards green spaces in England and Wales that meet the required high standards. A total of eight categories are used to assess the overall assessment of the quality of a green space. These are:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe, and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

### **Sport England – Towards a Level Playing Field**

- 2.26. The 'Towards a Level Playing Field – A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies' publication provides a summary of the following factors that may influence the quality (and therefore capacity) of pitches and ancillary facilities:

#### **Factors Determining Quality of Pitches**

- Slope
- Exposure (openness to elements)
- Soil type
- Drainage
- Grass cover or surface type

#### **Factors Determining Quality of Ancillary Facilities**

- Type and quality of changing (if available)
  - Showers
  - Cleanliness
  - Security
- Floodlighting
- Car parking
- Spectator and social facilities
- Practice areas
- Security of tenure
- Management

2.27. Assessing the quality of pitches is considered to be important in helping towards the following:

- Helping to identify pitches that are being over-used.
- Helping to explain why some pitches are being under-used.
- Helping to prioritise for investment when developing an action plan.

### **Play Strategy - Quality in Play (Play England 2008)**

2.28. Quality in Play is a quality assurance system developed by playwork practitioners for school-age play and childcare provision, robustly tested through a pilot programme to ensure it was fit for purpose across a range of play providers. Growing numbers of play providers across the country have used it to raise standards and demonstrate quality play provision. It is now being rolled out nationally by Play England, in support of the Play Strategy's aims.

2.29. The Strategy sets out five overarching areas of action to improve play opportunities for all children. Each of these can help towards achieving an improved overall quality of children's play facilities:

- **More places to play:** responding to children's demands for high-quality play spaces in every area;
- **Supporting play throughout childhood:** improving provision through a range of settings for children of all ages;
- **Playing safely:** providing safe, accessible and stimulating places for children to play;
- **Child-friendly communities:** engaging communities and involving children in decisions; and
- **Embedding play in local priorities:** ensuring leadership and effective delivery in every local area.

### **Accessibility**

#### **CABE Open Space Strategies-Best Practice Guidance**

2.30. This document still provides helpful guidance on informing accessibility standards. It is stated that accessibility standards will help to identify areas with open space deficiencies. Standards should be set for the provision of public open space and for access to specific typologies of public open space.

2.31. Walking and cycling distances can be used for smaller open spaces with public transport or driving distances used for larger open spaces. The recommended approach is to adopt five, 10m 15 or 20-minute travel times and to convert them into distances using typical walking, cycling, public transport or driving speeds.

2.32. It is recommended that any assessment should identify significant barriers that could reduce the effective accessibility of a public open space.

### **Natural England: Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt)**

- 2.33. It is acknowledged that access to the natural environment through local green spaces varies across the country, and even within a single local authority area. ANGSt aims to address this by setting a range of accessibility standards for natural sites and areas within easy reach of people's homes. A broad view is adopted on what constitutes 'natural'. This does not necessarily mean that it has to be rare or notable enough to be designated. Users will find nature in wildlife, wild flowers, open landscapes, seasonal changes and places of tranquillity.
- 2.34. ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:
- Of at least two hectares within 300 metres walking distance (five minutes walk) from their home;
  - At least 20 hectares within two kilometres;
  - At least 100 hectares within five kilometres;
  - At least 500 hectares within ten kilometres;
  - One hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 of the population.

### **Draft Allotment Strategy GBC 2020**

- 2.35. The Borough Council has prepared a draft Allotment Strategy. The draft Strategy has been prepared in consultation with the Allotment Stakeholders working group undertook a survey, targeted at the existing allotment tenants in 2019.
- 2.36. The current demand for allotments in Gosport is an ever growing one with demand now clearly outstripping available provision. As such the waiting lists need to be reduced in order to meet the statutory requirement to provide to demand.
- 2.37. The unmet demand is most apparent in the Lee on Solent area with over 33% of the total waiting lists for the Borough being in this area alone.
- 2.38. Aim to provide an ideal average of 27 plots per 1,000 households (an accepted minimum standard plot size being approximately 125m<sup>2</sup>). This is based on 'Growing in the Community Good Practice Guide' (LGA 2009) requirements.

## SECTION 3: SUMMARY OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE PROVISION

### Quantity

- 3.1. The 2021 Open Space Monitoring Report shows that the Borough has a varied range of open space for an urban authority both in terms of type and size. 245 open spaces have been identified in respect of each of the open space typologies that were assessed accounting for approximately 611.55 hectares of the Borough's land area. This equates to a total provision of 7.30 hectares per 1,000 of the population. The largest open spaces include the Alver Valley which has significant areas of natural/semi-natural greenspace most of which is part of the Country Park which is currently being established. Other strategic open spaces are the Solent coastal areas of Stokes Bay, Browndown and Lee Seafront and Clifflands. The smallest open spaces included in the survey are the numerous residential amenity areas located throughout the Borough.
- 3.2. Figure 1 shows a map of the Borough's existing open space provision with the larger open spaces as noted in paragraph 3.1 identified separately as strategic open spaces. It also shows key proposals for open space provision. This plan includes parks and gardens, natural/semi-natural greenspace, green corridors, children's play space, sports pitches, provision for other sports, allotments, civic space and cemeteries and churchyards.

**Figure 1: Existing and Proposed Open Space within Gosport**



- 3.3. Table 4 shows the provision of open space per 1,000 of the population for each of the assessed open space typologies. Natural/semi-natural greenspace is the dominant form of open space that serves the Borough with there being a total existing supply of over 333 hectares. This is due to the significant areas of existing natural/semi-natural greenspace such as the Alver Valley, Stokes Bay, Lee Clifflands and Browdown.

**Table 4: Open Space Typologies – Existing Provision per 1,000 of the Population (2021)<sup>4</sup>**

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha.)	Ha. Per 1,000 of the Population
Parks and Gardens	75.76	0.90
Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace	333.3	3.98
Green Corridors	16.85	0.20
Amenity Greenspace	42.66	0.51
Cemeteries and Churchyards	18.77	0.22
Provision for Children and Young People	8.11	0.10
Sports Pitches	85.63	1.02
Other Sports	4.45	0.05
Civic Space	3.52	0.04
Allotments	22.50	0.27
<b>Borough Total</b>	<b>611.55</b>	<b>7.30</b>

- 3.4. Further to Table 4, further information on existing provision on sports pitches is provided within the Playing Pitch and Sport's Facility Assessment (Strategic Leisure 2014) which provides an understanding for maintaining an adequate supply of sports pitches within the Borough and upon the current supply and demand from users with details set out below. The Borough Council has commissioned a new Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Assessment. Therefore for the Regulation 18 consultation on the draft GBLP 2038 this will continue to use the information from the previous 2014 Assessment. This section will be reviewed and redrafted following the findings set out in the Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Assessment 2021 for the Regulation 19 version of the GBLP 2038.
- 3.5. In terms of overall number of pitches that were available for local community teams to use on a secured or unsecured basis at the time of the last survey, there were 21 playing pitch sites and 81 playing pitches (football, cricket, rugby union, grass hockey, full size artificial turf pitch 5-a-side artificial turf) within the Borough boundary (Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment 2014 - Strategic Leisure). The pitch supply was made up of the following;

**Table 5: Playing Pitch Provision in the Gosport Borough**

Pitch Provider	Number of Sites	Number of Pitches
Gosport Borough Council	11	50
Education sites *	5	17
Other sites **	5	14
<b>TOTAL PROVISION IDENTIFIED</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>81</b>

\* Education sites only include formally marked pitch sites.

\*\* Other sites including MOD sites.

- 3.6. The total of 81 pitches included two training pitches but excluded two 5 v 5 pitches with planning permission at Gosport Leisure Centre. Gosport Borough Council is the main

<sup>4</sup> 2020 based Small Area Population Forecast (2021) (HCC)

provider of pitches, at the time of last survey its stock accounted for 61% of all community accessible pitches within the Borough. A further 21% were education sites and 18% were other sites (predominantly MoD pitches). Consequently these sources of supply remain very important in contributing to the overall community provision. This along with the variability of community and local club access to pitches not owned by the Council highlights the importance in maintaining access to those pitches provided by other agencies (Strategic Leisure 2014). A short summary of the provision for the main types of sports pitches at the time of the last survey is outlined below with further details in the Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment 2014.

Football pitches

3.7. Table 6 shows the number of football pitches which were used by local teams on a regular basis on a secured or an unsecured basis at the time of the last survey.

**Table 6: Pitches available in the Gosport area (secured or unsecured community use)**

Pitch Provider	Number of Pitches 2008	Number of Pitches 2013
Mini Soccer Pitch	10	15
Junior / Youth All Formats	4	13
Senior Football Pitch	40	34
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>

3.8. Table 6 shows that there were 5 more mini soccer pitches in 2013 than there were in 2008 and 9 more junior pitches across all formats. This was mainly due to the changes in the Football Associations Youth Format from the 2013/14 season and Gosport Council supplying additional youth format pitches for the 2013/14 season to meet the new youth size of pitch rules e.g. 7 v 7 and 9 v 9 (Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment 2014 – Strategic Leisure).

3.9. There were 6 less senior pitches at that time. The loss of the senior pitches was because a number of MoD pitches that were available for community teams on a regular basis in 2008 were no longer available for community use at the time of the last study and only provided for MoD competitive team use. In addition the closure of the Civil Service Sports Ground (at what is now known as Brockhurst Gate) resulted in the loss of one senior football pitch.

3.10. The two pitches lost due to the completion of Gosport Leisure Centre had in 2013 been relocated elsewhere within the Borough (i.e. at Grange Lane and Stokes Bay).

3.11. It is also important to recognise that 12 of the pitches identified in Table 6 whilst available to be used by the community, are not available on a secured basis.

3.12. The Study concluded that there is a need to improve the quality of existing football pitches and associated facilities. Whilst there is not a need at present for additional football pitches there is certainly a need to retain all existing pitches (whether secured or unsecured community pitches or those that are currently not available for general community use). This is particularly the case in relation to good quality pitches or those that can be managed to a high quality. This is very important given the vulnerability of guaranteed secured supply as a high proportion of sites are not in local authority control and that there a number of pitches that are of a lower quality and vulnerable to flooding.

### Cricket pitches

- 3.13. There were 5 grass squares and 4 non-turf wickets in the Borough at the time of last survey. The overall quality was considered to be generally good. The demand had been met by the available pitch supply as demand tended to be split throughout the week which helped to ensure pitch supply was adequate at that time. Over the Plan period it is considered necessary to retain existing provision.

### Rugby pitches

- 3.14. Table 7 shows the supply of rugby pitches in the Borough at the time of the last sports pitch assessment. It is considered that demand at that time was adequately serviced by the pitch supply if senior pitches are used to accommodate junior. The Study acknowledged that there would be a deficit of 2 junior pitches by 2021 but this could be met by the use of Bay House School Rugby Pitches. The new Sports Pitch Assessment to be produced later in 2021 will consider whether this is still the case. It is therefore important to maintain the existing supply of pitches and encourage the dual use of pitches on school sites. The quality of pitches were consider good as were the changing facilities at the time of the last survey.

**Table 7: Rugby pitch supply in Gosport Borough**

<b>Pitch type</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Mini</b>
Gosport Park	3	2	2
Bay House School	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PITCHES</b>	5	2	2

### Hockey pitches

- 3.15. There was only one artificial grass pitch (AGP) used regularly by local community teams, located at St Vincent College. The Report indicated that the quality of this pitch needed to be resurfaced during the Plan period. It is likely over the Plan period (beyond 2021) that there will be demand for an additional facility (such as a sand-based facility). Similarly this issue will be reconsidered as part of the new Sports Pitch Assessment. This demand could in part be accommodated by the use of existing school facilities such as the hockey pitch at Bay House School.

### **Quality**

- 3.16. Quality relates to the key attributes of an open space as it currently exists. The quality of each identified open space has been assessed as part of the Borough Council's Open Space Monitoring Reports. These have established that the Borough has a good number of prestigious open spaces that have been assessed to be of high quality. These assessments are based on a scoring system to allow for a relatively consistent basis to compare each open space to each other<sup>5</sup>. For the purposes of the assessment, sites have been assessed as high, medium or low quality. The proportion in each category is set out below:

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<sup>5</sup> This has been reproduced in Annex A

**Table 8: Quality of each type of open space**

Type of Open Space (Primary Use)	Proportion of open spaces in each typology assessed as:			Change in Proportion of High Quality Open Spaces Between 2014 and 2016 (%pts)
	Low Quality (2016)	Medium Quality (2016)	High Quality (2016)	
Cemeteries/ Churchyards	0%	0%	100%	0%
Civic Spaces	0%	14.3%	85.7%	+2.4%
Parks and Gardens	0%	15.6%	84.4%	+9.4%
Outdoor Sports (Sports pitches and other sports) <sup>6</sup>	5.3%	28.9%	65.8%	-1.8%
Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace	10.3%	41.4%	48.3%	0%
Provision for Children and Young People	7%	40.4%	52.6%	+5.2%
Allotments	0%	53.8%	46.2%	0%
Green Corridors	6.3%	68.8%	25%	0%
Amenity Greenspace	4.3%	74.5%	21.3%	0%
<b>All open spaces</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

\* This table takes account of each typology within each open space within the Borough. For example, one open space could include a provision of parks and gardens, sports pitches and provision for children and young people.

3.17. The last Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment (2014) identified that the pitch quality is generally perceived to be “Good”. This is reflected in both the scores from the quality assessments and the ratings places on facilities by clubs. However, pitch quality across mini and junior pitches was considered to be markedly lower. Ancillary facilities on the whole were of an average standard and there is significant scope for improvement. However, a high percentage of pitches were served by some form of changing facilities at the time of the survey. These facilities will be reviewed in the forthcoming study.

## Value

3.18. The value of each identified open space has also been assessed as part of the Borough Council’s Open Space Monitoring Report. Value is different to quality in that an open space may be low quality in terms of recreational facilities, but may be of high value because it has certain characteristics that if lost would be detrimental to the community. To assess value a simple grading system has been devised to determine whether it has a high, medium or low value. Each open space is valued in accordance with the highest category it obtains when carrying out the three ‘tests’ outlined below:

- **special attributes;**
- **level of use;** and
- **context** (proximity of a similar type of open space, accessibility).

<sup>6</sup> This is based on the findings of the 2014 study and will need to be reassessed in the context of the findings of the 2021 PPS.

3.19. There are numerous high value sites within the Borough (see Table 9).

**Table 9: Value of each type of open space**

Type of Open Space (Primary Use)	Proportion of open spaces in each typology assessed as:			Change in Proportion of High Value Open Spaces Between 2014 and 2016 (%pts)
	Low Value (2016)	Medium Value (2016)	High Value (2016)	
<b>Allotments</b>	0%	0%	100%	0%
<b>Cemeteries/ Churchyards</b>	0%	0%	100%	0%
<b>Civic Spaces</b>	0%	0%	100%	0%
<b>Outdoor Sports (Sports pitches and other sports)</b>	0%	2.6%	97.4%	0%
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>	0%	6.0%	94.0%	0%
<b>Green Corridors</b>	6.3%	6.3%	87.5%	0%
<b>Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspace</b>	3.4%	17.2%	79.3%	0%
<b>Provision for Children and Young People</b>	15.8%	15.8%	68.4%	0%
<b>Amenity Greenspace</b>	50.0%	24.5%	25.5%	0%
<b>All open spaces</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>100</b>

\* Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

\* This table takes account of each typology within each open space within the Borough. For example, one open space could include a provision of parks and gardens, sports pitches and provision for children and young people.

## Quality/Value Matrix

3.20. The Council's overall objective is to increase the number and proportion of open spaces in all typologies that are of high quality and high value. The Government's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Companion Guide<sup>7</sup> has informed the quality/value matrix (Table 10) which sets out a potential policy response/management action for each category.

**Table 10: Combining Quality and Value**

<p><b>High Quality/ Low Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wherever possible the preferred policy approach is to enhance its value in terms of its present purpose.</li> <li>• If this is not possible, the next policy approach is to consider whether it might be of higher value if converted to some other form of open space.</li> <li>• Only if this is not possible will it be acceptable to consider a change of use.</li> </ul>	<p><b>High Quality/Medium Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preferred approach is to enhance its value but in most circumstances there is less priority than the low value open spaces.</li> </ul>	<p><b>High Quality/ High Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideally all spaces should come into this category and the planning system should seek to protect them in perpetuity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium Quality/ Low Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These open spaces are of a fair standard and therefore ways to improve their value should be explored. In many cases this is likely to include measures to encourage greater use and/or adding features of interest.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medium Quality/ Medium Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preferred approach is to enhance its value and quality but in most circumstances there is less priority than the low value and quality open spaces.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medium Quality/ High Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In many cases a small number of measures can be taken to improve their quality to ensure that it becomes a high quality/ high value open space. It is important that these open spaces are protected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Low Quality/ Low Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wherever possible, the policy approach for these spaces should be to enhance their quality, provided it is also possible to increase their value.</li> <li>• If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may in due course be considered surplus to requirements in terms of its present purpose.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Low Quality/ Medium Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By improving quality it may be possible to increase its value by encouraging greater use. This may be a lower priority than low quality/low value open spaces.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Low Quality/ High Value</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy approach to these spaces should always be to enhance their quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Formerly the Companion Guide to PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation which was cancelled due to the enactment of the NPPF. However, the Companion Guide remains valid as a guidance document.

3.21. Table 11 identifies the current proportion of high quality and high value open spaces in the Borough. Further details on the quality and value of the Borough’s open spaces particularly in respect of each assessed typology are included in the 2021 Open Space Monitoring Report.

**Table 11: Quality/Value Matrix: Number of Open Spaces<sup>8</sup>**

<b>High Quality/ Low Value</b> 2 open spaces (0.8%)	<b>High Quality/Medium Value</b> 8 open spaces (3.3%)	<b>High Quality/ High Value</b> 95 open spaces (38.9%)
<b>Medium Quality/ Low Value</b> 56 open spaces (23.0%)	<b>Medium Quality/ Medium Value</b> 23 open spaces (9.4%)	<b>Medium Quality/ High Value</b> 49 open spaces (20%)
<b>Low Quality/ Low Value</b> 1 open space (0.4%)	<b>Low Quality/ Medium Value</b> 5 open spaces (2.0%)	<b>Low Quality/ High Value</b> 6 open spaces (2.5%)

### **Accessibility**

3.22. The 2021 Open Space Monitoring Report includes an assessment of accessibility by identifying catchment areas for a range of open space facilities. These were based on 400 and/or 800m straight-line catchment areas from the open space which approximately represent 5 and 10 minute walking distances. The assessment identified areas where further provision could be prioritised to improve local access.

<sup>8</sup> n=245 representing the number of assessed open spaces sites. Where a site has more than one primary function the assessments have been combined to provide a single rating for the whole site.

## SECTION 4: SETTING NEW STANDARDS

### Overview

- 4.1. The new set of local quantity standards will replace the local standards that were adopted as part of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (October 2015), Importantly the latest standards are based on the same approach as the current Adopted Local Plan and thus have been subjected to previous rounds of consultation. The standards have been informed through an assessment of the current provision available (Section 3) and further detailed in the Open Space Monitoring Report (GBC 2021).
- 4.2. The overall aim of the quantity standards will be to determine a minimum expected level of open space provision that should be maintained for the relevant typology at a Borough wide level. The quantity standards will also be used for calculating the amount of future open space provision that will be required as part of new residential development (Class C3). A note to developers of how the standards would operate is contained in Annex B.

### Setting Quantity Standards

- 4.3. There are a number of types of open spaces which are set out below which need to be considered when setting standards.

Type of Open Space	Primary Purpose (Summary)
Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Green Corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls or athletics.
Amenity Greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments, Community Garden, Urban Farm	Opportunities for those people to grow their own produce.
Cemeteries, Church Yards and similar space	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked with the promotion of wildlife conservation.
Civic Space	Providing a setting for civic buildings and community events.

Source: Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to the Former PPG17: Open Space

- 4.4. In order to produce an overall standard it is necessary to consider existing provision for most of the typologies. This is based on the premise that the Borough Council does not wish to reduce the current levels of provision per population in a dense urban area. Consequently understanding the current levels of provision per 1,000 people therefore is a useful starting position for setting quantity standards.
- 4.5. It is not proposed to produce quantity standards for green corridors and cemeteries and churchyards. In the case of cemeteries and churchyards such provision is related to a capacity issue and is not appropriate for a standard. This provision is also covered by other policy criteria in the Local Plan. It is also considered that it may be difficult to achieve set standards for green corridors since they relate to specific

limited opportunities (e.g. disused railway lines). It has also been observed that standards for green corridors were generally not included as part of the quantity standards set by other local authorities. However, it is recognised that where opportunities do arise as part of developments that the provision of green corridors can count as part of the public open space standard providing important benefits to local residents and enhancing the green infrastructure network of the Borough.

- 4.6. The quantity, quality and accessibility standards which have been set in this Section have taken account of a number of previous consultation exercises that have been undertaken over recent years<sup>9</sup>.
- 4.7. Quantity has been assessed on a provision in hectares per 1,000 of the population basis for each open space typology in order to be consistent with previous analysis undertaken as part of the Borough's Open Space Monitoring Reports. This method of calculating the supply of open space has also been carried out in order to comply with national guidance and to be consistent with the approach taken by other local authorities.
- 4.8. The quantity standards for each assessed open space typology in this study have been informed by the 2020 based Small Area Population Forecasts (as at 2021) produced by Hampshire County Council.
- 4.9. A stage by stage process has been used to determine the quantity standards which are set out below.

**Stage 1: What is the Total Current Level of Open Space Provision per 1,000 of the Population?**

- 4.10. Table 12 shows the current provision at a Borough wide level. This ranges from larger more strategic open spaces such as the Alver Valley down to small residential amenity areas which are at least 0.04 hectares in size. The expected minimum provision for each of the typologies is considered to be a realistic minimum level of provision that should be retained on a Borough wide level.

**Table 12: Current Level of Open space Provision per 1,000 of the Population (2021)**

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>Current Level of Open Space Provision (Ha. per 1,000 of the population)</b>
Parks and Gardens	0.90
Natural/ Semi-natural greenspace	3.98
Amenity Greenspace	0.51
Civic Space	0.04
Provision for Children and Young People	0.10
Outdoor pitches/Other outdoor sports	1.08 <sup>10</sup>
Allotments	0.27

- 4.11. The figures provide a useful benchmark on how much open space should be provided across the Borough. However, as it includes the larger strategic open spaces (i.e. much of the Alver Valley, Stokes Bay, Browndown and Lee Seafront) it is

<sup>9</sup> See Open Space Monitoring Report 2021 for further details

<sup>10</sup> Figure for outdoor sports and other outdoor sports added together is 0.01 higher than Table 3 due to rounding

considered not to provide a suitable basis to determine the provision for new development proposals.

### **Stage 2: What is the Total Current Level of Open Space Provision per 1,000 of the Population Excluding the Larger Strategic Open Spaces?**

- 4.12. Table 13 shows the levels of provision excluding the largest strategic open spaces (i.e. much of the Alver Valley, Stokes Bay, Browndown and Lee Seafront). Taking account of the Borough's open spaces in this way is considered to be a more realistic basis for setting new standards for new development.

**Table 13: Current Level of Open Space Provision Per 1,000 of the Population (Excluding the Large Strategic Sites i.e. the Alver Valley, Stokes Bay, the Beach, Browndown and Lee Seafront) (2021)**

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>Current Provision (Ha. per 1,000 of the population)</b>
Parks and Gardens	0.67
Natural/ Semi-natural greenspace	0.29
Amenity Greenspace	0.51
Civic Space	0.04
Provision for Children and Young People	0.08
Outdoor pitches and playing fields <sup>11</sup>	0.98
Allotments	0.27

### **Stage 3: Determining what types of open space are best suited to be provided on-site and off-site.**

- 4.13. On-site provision is open space that can be reasonably provided as part of new development schemes which serve the local needs of the new development. This can include informal space such as parks and gardens, natural/semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. Children's play space can also be expected to form part of on-site open space provision. These types of open space tend to require more immediate accessibility for users and are focused towards specific neighbourhoods. Therefore as part of the standard it is proposed to group the types of open spaces that can normally be provided on sites of a suitable size. These elements are collectively termed as a 'Public Open Space' and comprise the elements set out in Table 14<sup>12</sup>.

**Table 14: Elements that make up Proposed On-site Public Open Spaces**

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>Current Provision (Ha. per 1,000 of the population)<sup>13</sup></b>
Parks and Gardens	0.67
Natural/ Semi-natural greenspace	0.29
Amenity Greenspace	0.51
Provision for Children and Young People	0.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.55</b>

<sup>11</sup> Includes football, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens

<sup>12</sup> The requirement for civic space has not been incorporated within this standard as it would not be relevant for most forms of residential development.

<sup>13</sup> Excluding strategic areas

- 4.14. It is proposed that the 1.6 ha<sup>14</sup> per 1,000 people would be an appropriate standard to require for new development as it reflects current provision excluding the major strategic areas of open space. The balance of elements that would be provided for within a public open space will be dependent upon the current provision within the area, the age profile of the proposed development and the character of the site being developed. A residential scheme that would serve more elderly sections of the population could be more suited to the provision of a park or garden or amenity greenspace whilst a development serving younger sections of the population (e.g. in Grange where there is a younger age profile) could provide more appropriately for children's play space or other informal features children can use.
- 4.15. Off-site provision is open space that normally cannot be practically provided on-site as part of new development schemes since they tend to serve larger catchment areas and may require larger areas of land. This can include allotments, sports pitches and provision for other sports (i.e. bowling greens and tennis courts). These larger catchment areas often tend to be Borough-wide and therefore it is not usually appropriate to be provided on-site as part of new development schemes. It will however be necessary for new development to make a contribution to the Borough-wide provision of allotments and sports facilities as these will potentially be used by residents of the new development. The off-site elements are set out in Table 15. Stage 6 below considers how the current provision outlined in Table 15 is converted into a proposed standard.

**Table 15: Elements to be provided off-site**

Open Space Typology	Current Provision (Ha. per 1,000 of the population)
Outdoor pitches and playing fields <sup>15</sup>	1.08
Allotments	0.27

#### **Stage 4: Setting a Threshold for On-site Open Space**

- 4.16. The Borough Council has been operating open space standards for a number of years and has been able to reflect on its positive outcomes as well as elements that have not worked as well. One of the key areas of success has been the use of developer contributions for off-site provision for a whole range of new and improved open spaces which continue to be well-used including BMX and skate park facilities, adventure playgrounds and sports facilities. There has also been successful on-site provision ranging from new neighbourhood parks and smaller play grounds. However a number of very small play areas within new residential developments have been provided which have not always been used effectively with many under-used and difficult to maintain. It is considered that if some of these spaces had been combined within the locality the space could have been used more successfully as a multi-functional open space with informal and formal play areas including the necessary dedicated play area for small children.
- 4.17. In order to create a large enough public open space that is useful and practical it is necessary to establish the minimum size of residential development that would require some form of on-site park. A number of sizes of development were considered in relation to the 1.6 ha per 1,000 residents standard proposed in Stage 3 above which resulted in various sizes of open space. Comparable existing open spaces were then assessed to evaluate what would be the minimum practical size of

<sup>14</sup> rounded

<sup>15</sup> Includes football, rugby, cricket and hockey pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens

public open space that could be created in relation to a new development. From this work it was considered that a public open space between 0.16 to 0.19 hectares serving 50 dwellings would be reasonable in terms of size of park and threshold of development for on-site provision (see calculation below):

The following calculations have been made in respect of a 50 dwelling development being required to provide informal open space in the form of a public open space;

- Average size of household = **2.25 residents**<sup>16</sup>
- Total number of residents living in **50 dwellings** based on average size of household = 113 residents (rounded)
- Average provision per 1,000 residents = **1.6 hectares (16 m<sup>2</sup> per resident)**
- Average provision for 50 dwellings = **1,808 m<sup>2</sup> (113x16)**

Based on the above calculation the provision for other development scenarios would be:

1 dwelling	36m <sup>2</sup>	100 dwellings	3600 m <sup>2</sup>
10 dwellings	360 m <sup>2</sup>	200 dwellings	7200 m <sup>2</sup>
25 dwellings	900 m <sup>2</sup>		

- 4.18. The provision of 0.18 hectares is considered to be a reasonable minimum size for a public open space in most cases, although it is recognised that developments of small dwelling sizes would equate to a smaller area of open space which may be suited to the proposed residential development.
- 4.19. This methodology takes account of the limited opportunities that exist for the provision of additional open space within the Borough which is predominantly urban in nature. It is also considered to be a realistic level of provision for a residential development of this size (i.e. 50 dwellings). The standard would allow open spaces to be provided of a sufficient size and to be located close enough to people's homes to be effectively used. Open spaces of around 0.18ha would also allow for other benefits to be delivered such as improved biodiversity and other green infrastructure benefits.
- 4.20. It is important to note that the on-site calculation for each development will be based on the latest average household sizes for each dwelling size<sup>17</sup>. These are currently:

One-bed	1.27 persons per dwelling
Two-bed	1.85 persons per dwelling
Three-bed or more	2.96 persons per dwelling

- 4.21. On sites where it may be challenging to meet the recommended quantity standards of provision, it may be appropriate for a developer to come up with innovative and pragmatic design solutions in order to provide the identified amount of open space that would be required on site. For example it may not be possible to include the entire provision in a public open space format but it may be possible to include meaningful pockets of natural and amenity greenspace on other parts of the development which can be enjoyed as areas of recreation.

<sup>16</sup> figure based on HCC's 2020 based Small Area Population Forecasts for 2021

<sup>17</sup> HCC advice (2021)

**The proposed standard for a public open space is 1.6 hectares per 1,000 of the population to be provided on-site for development of 50 or more dwellings.**

- 4.22. The new quantity standard for the provision of a public open space is seen to be practical and flexible in allowing for a range of open space to be developed which would be suited to a particular residential scheme.

#### **Stage 5: Making Arrangements for Public Open Space Provision to be made Off-Site**

- 4.23. In most cases development of 50 dwellings or more will be required to deliver public open space on-site. However in certain cases it may be necessary for the developer of a proposal of 50 or more dwellings to provide a financial contribution towards a specified off-site open space proposal. This could include a new facility or an enhancement to an existing one. This would be secured by a Section 106 Agreement and normally be specific with regard to the site it is intended to be allocated to. In such cases the obligation will need to meet the tests of Government legislation.
- 4.24. Off-site provision may be necessary when considering particular characteristics of the site or that there is an open space facility in close proximity to the development (normally within 800 metres of the development) which would significantly benefit from improvements and help it achieve the Council's 'Good' Standard.
- 4.25. The Borough Council recognises that on small residential developments it is neither desirable nor practical to make provision for open space other than certain elements of green infrastructure. Consequently the Borough Council in most instances will take a financial contribution in the form of the Community Infrastructure Levy where a proportion of money can be spent on new or enhanced open space provision<sup>18</sup>.

#### **Stage 6: Determining Standards for Off-Site Provision for other types of open space**

- 4.26. It is recognised that certain elements of open space provision cannot be practically provided on-site with new residential schemes. These elements will be funded by the Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) requirements. The standards set out for allotments, sports pitches and other outdoor sports will be used to inform the CIL Charging Schedule or if applicable any new form of levy to be introduced by the forthcoming Planning Bill. The section below set out standards based on the current levels of provision included in Table 15 and then amended to take account of the latest demand information.

##### **Allotments**

- 4.27. The current provision of allotments is 0.27 hectares per 1,000 of the population. This is already above the national standard of 0.20 as recommended by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. In order to understand the requirement for additional allotments within the Borough, it is necessary to gain an understanding of the take up rates over recent years (Table 16).

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<sup>18</sup> When calculating the total CIL costs for the 'Public Open Space' element the provision for sites of 50 or over was excluded leaving the calculation based on those under 50 dwellings only.

**Table 16: Gosport Borough Council Allotment Provision and Waiting List Information (2021)**

Year	Total Number of Plots	Vacant Plots	Waiting List
April 2006	798	28	0
April 2007	798	0	361
April 2008	937	0	411
April 2009	937	0	464
April 2010	937	0	464
October 2011	938	0	620
April 2012	938	0	594
April 2013	1042	0	576
April 2014	1070	69	412
April 2015	1089	20	580
April 2016	1091	41	234
April 2017	1,095	22	200
April 2018	1104	45	229
April 2019	1108	71	313
April 2020	1116	93	688
April 2021	1123	89	732

4.28. In addition there are 159 plots provided by the Diocese of Portsmouth which also have a waiting list. Consequently the Borough has a significant demand for allotments which is currently not being met.

4.29. The current demand for allotments combined with high levels on the waiting list<sup>19</sup> provides a justification for the standards to be set even higher than the 0.27 hectares that is currently provided per 1,000 of the population. The provision of new homes with smaller gardens/residential amenity space along with higher residential densities will also be likely to contribute towards increased numbers on the waiting list. The following shows the requirement for additional allotment land which has been based on a calculation relating to current provision and waiting list figures for 2021<sup>20</sup>.

- Total number of allotment plots = 1,123
- Minus Vacant plots (89)<sup>21</sup> = 1,034
- Total on waiting list = 732
- Therefore a 71%<sup>22</sup> increase in allotment plots is required
- 71% of the current provision of 0.27 hectares per 1,000 of the population is 0.19 hectares totalling 0.46 ha per 1,000 people.

4.30. The proposed standard of 0.46ha<sup>23</sup> per 1,000 people will be used as a basis for informing the CIL Charging Schedule. This level of allotment provision will be required to support the requirements of new development in the Borough.

<sup>19</sup> The waiting list has been managed by the Borough Council which has contacted those previously on the waiting list to confirm that each person still requires allotment and amended accordingly with non-respondents taken off the list. The waiting list therefore identifies those with a genuine demand. The Council has also increased the number of plots available by reducing the size of certain plots to meet modern demands.

<sup>20</sup> The calculation excludes the Diocese of Portsmouth plots and waiting lists for the purposes of setting the standards as it is not possible to ascertain whether the people on the Diocese waiting list are the same as those on the Council's list and therefore double counted.

<sup>21</sup> This level is often caused by churn as one person leaves a plot and has yet to be taken by a new tenant.

<sup>22</sup> rounded

<sup>23</sup> rounded

- 4.31. The proposed standard of 0.46ha<sup>24</sup> per 1,000 people will be used as a basis for informing the CIL Charging Schedule and it is considered that the use of the Council's Strategic CIL on allotment projects should be given a high priority. This level of allotment provision will be required to support the requirements of new development in the Borough.

**The proposed standard for allotments is 0.46 hectares per 1,000 of the population. This will inform the CIL Charging Schedule.**

### Spots Pitches and other outdoor sports

- 4.32. New development will increase pressure on existing provision and consequently it is necessary to ensure new provision or improvements to quality is taken account of in association with new development. The current provision of sports pitches within the Borough is calculated to be 1.02 ha. per 1,000 people and 0.05 for tennis courts and bowling greens. It is now proposed to combine these elements as a joint standard in order to give greater flexibility on the type of outdoor sports that can be provided. Consequently the current combined outdoor sports pitch per 1,000 of the population is 1.08ha (this is adjusted due to rounding).
- 4.33. Table 17 below identifies the need for future provision for various sports pitches and other outdoor sports based on the latest evidence studies and includes demand from local clubs. Please note that this element of the standard will be reviewed once the Council has received the forthcoming evidence in the new Sports Pitch and Indoor Facilities Study due later in 2021. This will be used in a refresh of this document as part of the Regulation 19 Local Plan in 2022.

**Table 17: Assessment of sports pitch and other outdoor sport requirements within Gosport Borough<sup>25</sup>**

Type of pitch	Shortfall/Surplus <sup>26</sup>	Standard size of pitches <sup>27</sup>	Total area of shortfall/surplus for the population of Gosport <sup>28</sup>
Mini football pitch	Theoretical surplus of 4.9 pitches	1,612 sq.m	+7,899 sq.m
Junior football pitch	There would be no surplus. Need to maintain current provision levels particular the higher quality pitches to enable more effective resting.	4,820 sq.m	0 sq.m
Senior football pitch	Theoretical surplus of 1.3 pitches	7,971 sq.m	+15,145 sq.m
Cricket pitches	Current and future demand is met by current provision provided that current demand is spread through the week. Need to maintain current provision levels.	10,080sq.m	0 sq.m

<sup>24</sup> rounded

<sup>25</sup> Sources: Playing pitch and Sports Facility Assessment (Strategic Leisure 2014)

<sup>26</sup> Future demand relates to the period to 2021 taking into account 10% requirement for resting of pitches but does not take into account the potential increase of senior teams (and therefore pitch requirements) following league reorganisation

<sup>27</sup> Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts (Sport England Feb 2009) Calculated by taking the average of min and max sizes for each type of sports field

<sup>28</sup> Based on approximation of HCC Small Area Population Forecast for 2021

Rugby	Current and future demand is adequately serviced if senior pitches are used to accommodate some junior games. Need to maintain current provision levels. There is a deficit of 2 junior pitches by 2021 if community use on other available pitches is not secured.	11,902sq.m  Junior (u11/u12's) 4,240 sq.m	0 sq.m  -8,840sq.m
Hockey	Demand is current met through the available supply. Need to maintain current provision levels.	5,708 sq.m	0 sq.m <sup>29</sup>
Tennis	Demand is currently met through the available supply. Need to maintain current provision levels.	669 sq.m	0sq.m
Bowling	Demand is currently met through the available supply. Need to maintain current provision levels.	1,661 sq.m	0sq.m
Total	-	N/a	+14,204 sq.m

4.34. The current 1.08 ha per 1,000 of the population is a good basis to maintain the current levels of provision on a pro-rata basis. In the light of the latest evidence in relation to it is considered reasonable to adjust the standard to take into account the theoretical surpluses of football pitches and shortfall of junior rugby pitches. It is very important to make clear that this does not in any way demonstrate that any pitches, particularly those that are of good quality or have the potential to be good quality can be lost for sport use. Indeed the Sport Pitch Assessment makes it clear that all such pitches should be retained given the Borough's reliance on pitches that are used by community and local teams on an unsecured basis and that this supply can, and often does become unavailable. The adjustment advocated here is solely for the purposes of identifying a standard for new residential development. This provision also includes informal pitches which can be used by the general public on an informal basis and does not necessarily form part of the provision used by local league teams. In effect the proposed new standard allows the residents of new development to take up this surplus whilst maintaining provision for other outdoor sports. The adjustment is set out below.

<p>The adjustment is made using the following equation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theoretical surplus identified =14,204sq.m (1.42ha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= 1.42 ha per 83,727 resident population</li> <li>= 0.02ha per 1,000 people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Take surplus pitches per ha. off current combined outdoor sports provision per ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.08 ha – 0.02 ha per 1,000 people</li> <li>= 1.06 ha per 1,000 people</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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4.35. It will be important to keep this standard in particular under review as there is a high dependency on pitches provided by private providers (including MOD) and the

<sup>29</sup> The Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Assessment (Strategic Leisure) concludes that an additional facility may be required after 2021.

education sector to accommodate community needs. A number of these have been categorised as having “limited access” and the extent of community use varies from season to season and potentially could be withdrawn from public use at limited notice. Importantly some pitches have significant deficiencies in quality and therefore it is important to ensure the best pitches are retained as often this enable more intensive use which helps to meet current and future demand.

**The proposed standard for outdoor sports pitches is 1.1 hectares<sup>30</sup> per 1,000 of the population. This will inform the CIL Charging Schedule.**

- 4.36. The proposed 1.1ha per 1,000 residents’ level of provision will be required to support the requirements of new development in the Borough.

### **Comparison of new proposed open space standards with current Adopted Standards**

- 4.37. Table 18 summarises the proposed standards with the current adopted standards.

**Table 18: Proposed standards and current adopted standards**

Baseline Standards as contained in the Gosport Borough Local Plan Review 2006 (hectares per 1,000 people)		Adopted Standards in the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 (hectares per 1,000 people)		Proposed Standards to be included in the draft (Regulation 18) Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 (hectares per 1,000 people)	
Sports Pitches	1.2	Outdoor Sports Facilities	<b>1.1 ha</b>	Outdoor Sports Facilities	<b>1.1 ha</b>
Other Sports Facilities	0.4				
Outdoor sports facilities	<b>1.6 ha</b>				
Children’s Play Space	0.8ha	Public open space including children’s play and other informal elements	<b>1.5 ha</b>	Public open space including children’s play and other informal elements	<b>1.6 ha</b>
Informal Open Space	0.4ha				
Public open space	<b>1.2 ha</b>				
Sub total	<b>2.8 ha</b>	Sub -total	<b>2.6 ha</b>	Sub total	<b>2.7 ha</b>
Allotments	<b>n/a</b>	Allotments	<b>0.4 ha</b>	Allotments	<b>0.46 ha</b>
Total	<b>2.8 ha</b>	Total	<b>3.0 ha</b>	Total	<b>3.16 ha</b>

- 4.38. The standards used in the current adopted Plan are remarkably close to the equivalent elements of the new proposed standards i.e. 2.6 ha and 2.7 ha per 1,000 people respectively. However overall the new standards are higher as they include 0.46 ha for allotment provision.

<sup>30</sup> Rounded

- 4.39. The new standards have a much greater emphasis on the elements that make-up the public open space than the previous standards. This reflects the greater emphasis in the latest plan of providing multi-functional green spaces which offer a range of green infrastructure benefits. The new standards have a lower level for formal sports provision reflecting recent surveys which highlight a continuing need to improve the quality of existing provision and maintain a similar level of provision but at a slightly reduced rate.
- 4.40. Similar to the current adopted standards the outdoor sports element and allotments for all development as well as the public open space elements for development under 50 dwellings will be subsumed in the overall Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). These parts of the standard will be used to identify a funding gap along with all other infrastructure needs and then the CIL rate will be calculated based on viability considerations reflecting the local property market.
- 4.41. For developments of 50 dwellings or more a greater on-site provision will be required unless it can be demonstrated that it is not practical or viable. In these cases a developer contribution normally secured by a Section 106 Agreement will be required for a specific scheme in the locality in accordance with the Government's latest guidance on the use of planning obligations.

### **Setting Quality Standards**

- 4.42. Quality relates to the key attributes of an open space as it currently exists. Quality standards should set out design and management standards for different types of open space. They should be an aspiration for existing spaces where improvements are needed and a requirement for new ones, provided by developers (CABE 2009).
- 4.43. The proposed quality standards have taken account of the quality assessments that were used to inform the previous Open Space Monitoring Report publications (reproduced in Annex A). Therefore there has been little or no change to the criteria that has been set as a quality standard. Previous research and best practice information was used as a basis for the assessment criteria for the quality standards. Evidence includes following;
- Research published by the University of Sheffield for the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce relating to an ideal park (2002)
  - Criteria for the Civic Trust's Green Flag Award
  - Elements of the scoring system in Appendix B of the Government's Assessing Needs and Opportunities PPG17 Companion Guide (September 2001)
- 4.44. The set quality standards have been refined where necessary through liaison with the Council's Streetscene, Community and Customer Services Section.
- 4.45. Some of the key factors that the Council will consider in assessing the quality of its open spaces are listed below. The detailed scorecards which will inform future assessments relating to the quality of the Borough's open spaces are included in the Open Space Monitoring Report Methodology.

**The scorecards (used for the Open Space Monitoring Report) to be used as the basis for the Council's Quality Standards.**

## **Key Factors Considered for Assessing the Quality of the Borough's Open Spaces**

### **All Open Spaces**

**All open space should have taken account of the following considerations:**

#### ***Multi Functionality***

- A variety of functions should be included which will assist in attracting a range of age groups and sectors of the community.

#### ***Access and safety***

- An inviting and welcoming entrance;
- Open spaces should have good accessible and safe links with the surrounding area;
- Good accessibility within the open space including appropriately surfaced paths;
- Equal access for all members of the community - wheelchair and pushchair users should have easy and safe access to and within the site;
- Safety and security measures including opportunities for natural surveillance from near-by properties and roads;
- Presence of defined routes, clear entrances and landmarks.

#### ***Buildings, structures and facilities***

- Buildings structures and facilities should be clean and well-maintained;
- The condition of historic buildings and structural features should be preserved and enhanced;
- Green roofs and other forms of green infrastructure should be incorporated where appropriate.

#### ***Park Furniture***

- Benches, litter bins and dog bins should be provided as well as other features such as picnic tables where appropriate.

#### ***Other Features***

- Good quality boundary treatment needs to be considered;
- Where appropriate interesting eye catching features should be incorporated within the site to give the site its own identity;
- Good quality and maintenance of features (eye catching and well-designed features)
- Good quality and maintenance of signage;
- Provision of well-maintained toilet facilities, drinking water, first aid, public telephones, emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water).

### ***Appearance of greenery***

- Appropriate hard and soft landscaping;
- Incorporation of appropriate natural habitats. Areas should be designed around existing features including trees and hedgerows and areas created to enhance biodiversity;
- Appropriate relationship with existing buildings and structures;
- Formal gardens, trees and shrubs should be well maintained.

### ***Management and Maintenance***

- Management and maintenance measures to deter and remove litter, dog fouling and fly tipping as well as appropriate measures to deter vandalism and dealing with the consequences of vandalism.
- Measures taken to deter activities not appropriate for a particular site.

### **Children's Playground and Facilities**

**All children's play spaces should take into account the following factors:**

- the route between the dwellings and the play space is as safe as possible;
- near-by roads are as safe as possible;
- the play space has natural surveillance from near-by dwellings and/or road;
- the site is in an open and welcoming location;
- the site should be on land suited for the type of play opportunity intended;
- the site should be sufficiently far from dwellings and include buffer zones to reduce the likelihood of noise and disturbance;
- the site should be integrated as far as possible with other open spaces and amenity areas;
- the site should include seats for parents and carers;
- the site should include play equipment of high quality and must meet current British safety standards;
- the site should include impact absorbing surfaces beneath and around play equipment;
- the site requires appropriate boundary treatment; and
- the site should include interesting eye-catching features.

### **BMX/Skateboard Facilities**

**All BMX and skateboard facilities should take into account the following factors:**

- Such facilities should be finished to an industry quality standard and be easily maintained.

### **Sports Pitches and Provision of Other Sports**

**All outdoor sports facilities should take into account the following factors:**

***Sports Pitches, outdoor bowling greens and courts (tennis, basketball, multi-use etc)***

- The surfacing of sports pitches and other outdoor sports facilities should be in good condition and be constructed in order that a good surface can be maintained taking into account issues such as drainage, the evenness of the surface, and the quality of grass or all-weather surface;
- The use of floodlighting where appropriate and other measures to intensify usage should not detract from the amenities of local residents or the quality of the local environment;

#### ***Team and player facilities***

- Toilet and player facilities should have attractive features suiting their surroundings and be well maintained, secure and clean.

#### **Allotments**

**All allotments should take into account the following factors:**

Sites should:

- be well-maintained and secure;
- include appropriate facilities such as water supply and toilets.

#### **Setting Accessibility Standards**

- 4.46. Accessibility standards in terms of distance from the proposed development will help identify areas with open space deficiencies for each of the typologies that have been assessed. These are set out in Table 19 below. They have been influenced by national guidance, previous work on accessibility to open space undertaken by the Borough Council through the publication of its Open Space Monitoring Reports. The ANGSt work which is shown in Appendix 5 of the 2014 Open Space Monitoring Report has also helped to inform standards for larger areas of natural greenspace.
- 4.47. No accessibility standard has been set for green corridors since their function is to join places rather than to provide a destination in their own right. No accessibility standard has been set for cemeteries and churchyards, outdoor sports or allotments as they are considered to be Borough-wide facilities. As the Borough is small it is seen appropriate that certain facilities can serve the whole Borough.

**Table 19: Accessibility Standards**

<b>Type of Open Space</b>	<b>Identified Catchment Area (Straight Line Distance)</b>	<b>Time Taken (Walking)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Parks and Gardens	400 and 800 metres	5 and 10 minutes	Set catchment distances depend on the scale and nature of the park and garden. The larger strategic open spaces are considered to have Borough wide catchments.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	400 metres	5 minutes	These spaces have been included within the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards Assessment.
Amenity Space	400 metres	5 minutes	Considered to serve particular neighbourhoods and localities within the Borough.
Provision for Children and	400 and 800 metres	5 and 10 minutes	Catchment distances depend on the scale and nature of children's play

Type of Open Space	Identified Catchment Area (Straight Line Distance)	Time Taken (Walking)	Comments
Young People			facilities to be provided. There are also a small number of Borough-wide facilities.
Other Outdoor Sports Facilities	<b>400 metres</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	Considered to have Borough wide catchments. However, bowling greens and tennis courts are also considered to serve particular neighbourhoods and localities within the Borough.
Allotments	<b>No standard set</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>	Considered to have Borough wide catchments. However, allotment sites are also considered to serve particular neighbourhoods and localities within the Borough.
Civic Space	<b>No standard set</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	Can serve both local neighbourhoods and residents across the whole Borough depending on the scale and location of the development.
Sports Pitches	<b>No standard set</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	Considered to have Borough-wide accessibility therefore no standard set.
Green Corridors	<b>No standard set</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	Function is to join places rather than to provide a destination in their own right. Therefore no standard set.
Cemeteries, Church Yards and similar space	<b>Not standard set</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	These are Borough-wide facilities.

## **SECTION 5: CONSIDERATIONS FOR SETTING DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Introduction**

- 5.1. In order to use the standards it will be necessary to set some standardised costs for a standard park (including informal and formal recreational) to calculate the cost of providing or improving an off-site park for developments over 50 where this cannot be provided on-site (to be secured by a Section 106 Agreement).

### **Developer Contributions**

- 5.2. The majority of off-site provision for parks as well as outdoor sports provision and allotments will be potentially funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy whereby each development will contribute an overall tariff to a Borough-wide fund. The funding will then be used for schemes identified on the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statements (published annually) which will include open space schemes.
- 5.3. The Council will require on-site open space provision from developers of residential schemes of 50 dwellings or more. Where this isn't practically possible, a contribution will be required through a Section 106 agreement so that appropriate open space provision can be made off-site. The amount of monies required in connection with a Section 106 Agreement will increase year on year with inflation and will be published on the Borough Council's website. Where provision is made on-site the developer will be required to make sure suitable arrangements are in place for the long-term management, maintenance and public access to the site.
- 5.4. No monies will be required from developers of commercial schemes towards open space other than the general CIL charge where appropriate. However, it will be important for developers of commercial development to ensure appropriate landscaping is provided and that opportunities are taken to enhance biodiversity on site where necessary. Providing green spaces as part of commercial development is recognised to be of benefit to workers and visitors to these areas.

## **SECTION 6: CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1. As a result of the work associated with this document it is proposed to update the current standards in the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 and set these out in the emerging Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038, which will be subject to consultation. The approach is largely based on maintaining a similar level of provision associated with new development as the Borough average (excluding areas of strategic open spaces such as the Alver Valley and Browndown). It is also proposed to set out details for quality and accessibility standards.
- 6.2. For most residential developments the contribution will not be a separate payment towards open space and instead form part of an overall tariff in the form of the proposed Community infrastructure Levy which will be subject to a separate public consultation.
- 6.3. However for residential development of 50 or more dwellings developers will normally be required to provide on-site open space provision that can be used and valued by the residents of that development. It is intended that the majority of this open space would be in the form of a single multi-functional park but there will be circumstances where other patterns of provision may be more appropriate. This document details the proposed open space provision required based on a standard of 1.6 hectares per 1,000 residents (excluding sports pitches and allotments). For these larger residential developments the provision for sports pitches and allotments will also form part of the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 6.4. This document, including the note to developers in Annex B, sets out the details of how the standard would operate and attempts to set out a number of considerations that developers will need to address in terms of the quantity of open spaces, its quality and accessibility. The standards aim to provide sufficient flexibility to provide meaningful on-site open spaces and/or the potential for necessary improvements for off-site provision within the vicinity of the development.

## ANNEX A: DETERMINING ‘GOOD QUALITY’ FOR OPEN SPACES

This annex includes an extract from the Borough Council’s Open Space Audit Methodology which has been used for successive Open Space Monitoring Reports to determine the quality of open spaces in the Borough. It is considered that this same approach provides a consistent method for determining the quality of new open spaces in association with new developments and therefore a developer should consider the criteria for each element and aim to provide it to a good standard or at least ensure that the overall average meets the good standard as detailed below.

The considerations are set out below followed by the scorecards for each type of open space.

**STEPS 1- For each open space define its primary purpose-some sites will have more than one primary purpose as well as a number of secondary purposes.**

The primary purposes are defined the Companion Guide to PPG17<sup>31</sup> and set out in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Typology of Open Space**

Type of Open Space	Primary Purpose
Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Green Corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls or athletics.
Amenity Space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
Allotments, Community Garden, Urban Farm	Opportunities for people to grow their own produce.
Cemeteries, Church Yards and similar space	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked with the promotion of wildlife conservation.
Civic Space	Providing a setting for civic buildings and community events.

**STEP 2 - Determine the quality of each open space. If a site has more than one component score each part separately and then determine its overall average score.**

Quality relates to the key attributes of an open site as it currently exists. The Audit assesses how good or poor a site is based on a number of elements including accessibility, provision of facilities, built and natural features and overall management.

<sup>31</sup> Whilst the Companion Guide has been superseded by the National Planning practice Guidance this typology is still considered to be relevant.

A detailed scoring system to assess quality has been developed in order to provide a consistent approach to compare the quality of each type of open space in the Borough. The scoring system reflects important characteristics for each type of open space (see Quality Scorecards 1-9).

The criteria for quality have been developed from local community research, Gosport Leisure Strategy and the service objectives of the Borough Council's leisure unit. It also draws on wider research such as University of Sheffield research for the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce relating to an ideal park, criteria for the Civic Trust's Green Flag Award and the Urban Parks Forum questionnaire. Elements of the scoring system in Appendix B of the Companion Guide to PPG17 have also been used to determine the criteria for assessing the quality of certain attributes (e.g. entrance, paths, park furniture, and information).

The quality scorecard for each type of open space varies in order to take into account key required features for each particular function. These key features have been chosen for a number of reasons:

The attribute is necessary within the site in order for the function to be carried out- i.e. play areas will require play equipment;

In other cases a characteristic will be important for the enjoyment of an area, for example tranquil areas will be more important in a public garden;

In certain instances a particular standard may be acceptable for one type of function but not for another type of open space. For example an uneven informal path may be acceptable on natural greenspace but not in a park.

The attributes chosen relate well to the key objectives of parks and greenspaces set out in the Green Flag Award Scheme including:

- be welcoming;
- be healthy, safe and secure;
- be clean and well maintained;
- promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage; and
- reflect community needs and promote community involvement.

These criteria represent what people expect to find in a quality park or greenspace, whilst recognising the diversity and distinctive character of individual places.

In order to determine quality it has been necessary to undertake on-site assessments. The suggested criteria which help determine the scores have been tested by officers in order to ensure consistency when scoring each site and that relevant issues for each score have been properly considered. The attributes are suggestions and a site does not have to include all the attributes in each category.

Each primary use was scored as follows:

Each attribute: 2 points (Good);  
1 point (Fair);  
0 points (Neutral/Not applicable); or  
-1 point (Poor).

Each management issue:  
1 point (no litter, vandalism etc.);  
0 points (insignificant) or;  
-1 point (large amount/significant).

In order to improve consistency, statements of what represents good, fair or poor has been included on the scorecard and reflects research outlined above.

A Neutral (zero points) score is given where an attribute is desirable but the score of a public open space is not penalised with a negative score for not having the attribute. The points are included in the average score as it may be possible to include the feature in the future.

A Not Applicable (zero points) score is given where an attribute is not practical or desirable or not relevant to a particular site. The points are not included in the average score.

The scores for each characteristic and management issue are added together and an average calculated (excluding not applicable attributes). Each type of open space has been scored and then graded as being 'Good', 'Medium' or 'Low' Quality. An average of 0 or negative value is considered to be of low quality, an average of 0.1 to 0.9 is considered to be medium quality and an average score of 1 or over is considered to be high quality.

Where a site has a number of primary uses it has been possible to combine the relevant attributes in order to determine an overall score. Attributes which are duplicated such as accessibility are only included once for the site.

**It is important to note that with all qualitative assessments there is an element of subjectivity. However, it is considered that the scoring system enables a broad and consistent assessment to facilitate the comparison of different open spaces.**

## Quality Scorecard 1- Parks and Gardens

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the park/garden	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas. Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance.	Difficult to access the site from residential areas. Difficult crossing points. Difficult to improve natural surveillance.
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming. Clean/Well maintained. Well-connected network. Easy to cross.	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Additional paths may be useful. Clean/Well maintained.	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained. Poor network of paths.
Ease of movement within the park	Suitable materials. Level for safe use. Good path.	Limited repair required- some unevenness. Paths in need of improvement.	Incorrect positioning of footpaths or no footpaths. Need for repair, uneven.
Safety and security in and around park and garden	Good lighting. Natural surveillance overlooked by properties. Locked at night. Park warden scheme. Appropriate CCTV covering park buildings.	Reasonable lighting. Natural surveillance ok but could be improved.	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties. Feeling of neglect.
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within site	Suitable material, level surface, no obstacles.	Some obvious improvements could be made.	Disabled access poor and very restricted.
Cycle access and facilities	Safe routes close by. Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking.	Safe routes close by. Possible to improve off-road access.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road. No cycle parking.
Parking facilities-  <b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	Well maintained. Good surveillance. No conflict with other users. Sufficient parking to suit function of site.	Some minor improvements to maintenance of car park required. Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users. Sufficient parking.	Poorly maintained. Poor natural surveillance-overgrown or no over-looking properties. Conflict with other users. Insufficient parking presenting a highway hazard.
Multi functionality  <b>Neutral</b> if the site is a garden and this is the only appropriate use.	Park has numerous functions which has the potential to attract a wide cross-section of people (e.g. field, play areas, nature conservation, gardens, other feature of interest)	Standard park two or three elements such a sports field and play area-	Dominated by very limited function-parts could be put to alternative use to improve appeal
<b>Buildings/Structures/Facilities</b>			
Condition of historic	Well maintained,	Some improvements to	Buildings at Risk

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
buildings/ structures.  Not applicable if no historic buildings  <b>Score each historic building separately and then average the score for an overall attribute score.</b>	attractive historic buildings	maintenance and condition required.	Register.  Poor condition
Toilet facilities within or adjacent the site  <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small or not appropriate as it serves a very localised area.	Well maintained, clean.	Usable	No facilities and the park serves a wide catchment area. Existing toilets are unusable for a variety of reasons/permanently closed.
Refreshment facilities within or adjacent the site  Not applicable if site is too small/ quiet for such a facility	Attractive feature suiting its surroundings. Well maintained.	Well maintained functional building	Poor condition detracting from appearance of the area.  No facility in popular park
Shelters  <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ serving a localised neighbourhood/ positioning of shelter not desirable	Well maintained, clean Fits well into surroundings.	Well maintained and functional	Poor condition-detracting from appearance. Park in exposed position and could benefit from some form of shelter.
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Litter bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Dog bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
<b>Sports facilities</b> –see Quality Scorecard 4 & 5			
<b>Young person facilities &amp; Children’s Play Facilities-</b> see Quality Scorecard 7			
<b>Other Features</b>			
Non-natural boundary treatment e.g. condition of railings and gates, walls, fencing.  <b>Not applicable</b> if there is satisfactory natural boundary treatment or no	Good design (heritage/innovative/ attractive) Well maintained/ Good condition	Standard design -Well maintained/ good condition  Or  Good design with better maintenance required	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site. Boundary treatment required

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
boundary treatment is required/suitable			
Public art and other features  <b>Neutral</b> –zero points for non-premier parks without public art	Good design (heritage/innovative/ attractive) Well maintained/ Good condition	Good design with better maintenance required.  Condition needs to be improved.	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site/gives a feeling of intimidation  Premier park which would benefit from public art
Welcome/ Interpretation signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
Presence of water.  <b>Neutral</b> zero points if site is not adjacent water or does not have a water feature	Good relationship with lake, pond, sea or Harbour. Lake/pond well maintained/clean	Relationship with water could be improved through better maintenance or improved access.  Or feature is small scale or very minor feature	Water detracts from site-significant rubbish, dumping Unsafe-represents a dangerous hazard
Quality of views and vistas  <b>Neutral</b> – zero points for views which are not particular attractive nor unpleasant	Good views and vistas of natural and historic features of interest	Potential views and vistas could be improved (maintenance of vegetation/ access)	Unpleasant view or vista - which could realistically be improved (screened, maintenance, removal)
Presence of tranquil areas. <b>Not applicable if the character of the park is not suited to the presence of a tranquil area e.g. sports pitch</b>	Presence of seating in a quiet area. Other features could include fountain and similar water features.	Quiet area exists but could be improved by seating and other features to make more attractive.	The park is suited to a tranquil area-but no opportunities currently exist.
<b>Greenery</b>			
Overall appearance	Good relationship with buildings and structure. Attractively landscaped which enhances the setting of buildings and other features.	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown- feeling of neglect
Formal Gardens <b>Neutral</b> -zero points if flowerbed could be included; otherwise <b>not applicable.</b>	Includes attractive flower beds	Some improvements required	Neglected flowerbeds. Site would clearly benefit from such a feature, particularly if it is a high profile site.
Trees and shrubs <b>Neutral</b> -zero points if trees/shrubs could be incorporated;	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown- feeling of neglect

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
otherwise <b>not applicable.</b>			
Nature conservation areas <b>Neutral</b> -zero points if no type of vegetation but could be incorporated otherwise <b>not applicable.</b>	Variety of habitats Established nature conservation Interpretation boards	Limited nature conservation value or potential nature conservation area not yet established	Poorly managed for mature conservation purposes
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

## Quality Scorecard 2- Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the natural/semi-natural greenspace	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas. Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points. Difficult to improve natural surveillance.
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming. Clean/Well maintained.	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained.
Ease of movement within the natural/semi-natural greenspace	Opportunities for people of all ages to use an even well-maintained surface	Suitable surfacing for natural/semi-natural space Limited repair required-some unevenness.	Large potholes, becomes very muddy in wet condition, certain stretches difficult to pass.
Wheelchair/ pushchair access to and within the natural/semi natural greenspace	Opportunities for wheelchair users to access parts of the site	Limited opportunities but surfacing/gradient could be improved	Disabled access poor and very restricted
Cycle access and facilities	Safe routes close by Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking	Safe routes close by.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road No cycle parking
Parking facilities- maintenance, safety, conflicts with other users  <b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	Well maintained Good surveillance No conflict with other users Sufficient parking to suit function of site	Some minor improvements to maintenance of car park required. Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users Sufficient parking.	Poorly maintained. Poor natural surveillance-overgrown or no overlooking properties. Conflict with other users. Insufficient parking presenting a highway hazard.
<b>Buildings/Structures</b>			
Condition of historic buildings/ structures. Not applicable if no historic buildings <b>Score each historic building separately and then average the score</b>	Well maintained, attractive historic buildings	Some improvements to maintenance and condition required.	Buildings at Risk Register.  Poor condition
<b>May need to include toilet facilities, refreshment facilities and shelters if considered appropriate-see Quality Scorecard 1 Parks and Gardens</b>			
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
Litter bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Dog bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Sports facilities –see Quality Scorecard 4 & 5			
Young person facilities & Children’s Play Facilities- see Quality Scorecard 7			
<b>Other Features may need to include others if applicable</b>			
Non-natural boundary treatment  e.g. condition railings and gates, walls, fencing. <b>Not applicable</b> if there is satisfactory natural boundary treatment or no boundary treatment is required/suitable	Good design (heritage/innovative/attractive) Well maintained/ Good condition	Standard design - Well maintained/ good condition  Or  Good design with better maintenance required	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site. Boundary treatment required
Welcome/ Interpretation signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
Presence of water.  <b>Neutral</b> zero points if site is not adjacent water or does not have a water feature	Good relationship with lake, pond, sea or Harbour. Lake/pond well maintained/clean	Relationship with water could be improved through better maintenance or improved access.  Or water feature is small scale/ancillary to the site e.g. small pond.	Water detracts from site-significant rubbish, dumping
Quality of views and vistas <b>Neutral</b> – zero points for views which are not particular attractive nor unpleasant	Good views and vistas of natural and historic features of interest	Potential views and vistas could be improved (maintenance of vegetation/ access)	Unpleasant view or vista - which could realistically be improved (screened, maintenance, removal)
<b>Greenery</b>			
Overall appearance	Good relationship with buildings and structure. Attractively landscaped which enhances the setting of buildings and other features.	More management required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Trees and shrubs	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Nature conservation value	Variety of habitats Wildlife designations Managed as wildlife site	Mature nature conservation areas Non-established areas with potential. More management	Little value at present

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
		required.	
Nature conservation interpretation/education	Useful and well-designed interpretation boards.  Educational events and information	Interpretation boards but needs to be maintained better.  More information needs to be provided.	No interpretation/education facility
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti (exclude skatepark)			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

### Quality Scorecard 3- Green Corridors/Cycleways

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Welcome	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance
Ease of movement around the green corridor	Inviting and welcoming Clean/Well maintained	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained
Condition of paths along green corridor	Opportunities for people of all ages to use. Good even relatively smooth surface	Limited repair required- some unevenness.	Large potholes, becomes very muddy in wet condition, certain stretches difficult to pass.
Safety and security in and around green corridor	Vegetation is cut back adjacent paths.  Main strategic links are lit (i.e. cycle routes in Gosport Cycling Strategy)	Some minor improvement required to cut back vegetation.	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties.  Feeling of neglect.  No lighting on strategic links
Wheelchair/ pushchair access to and within green corridor	Opportunities for wheelchair users to access parts of the site	Limited opportunities but surfacing/gradient could be improved	Disabled access poor and very restricted
Cycle access and facilities	Good standard cycle route-even surface, cycle signs Links with other routes	Usable for cycles although not hard surfaced Safe links close by.	Unusable for cycling Poor links with cycle network
<b>Buildings/Structures</b> – don't think applicable but may be if during the survey it is considered and issue (appearance of bridges?)			
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Litter bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Dog bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
<b>Other Features - may need to include others if applicable</b>			
Interpretation/ Welcome/ Directional signs or maps	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
Public art e.g. Sustran signs	Good design (heritage/innovative/ attractive)	Good design with better maintenance required.	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site/gives a feeling of

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Neutral (0pts)</b> if no public art	Well maintained/ Good condition	Condition needs to be improved.	intimidation
Quality of views and vistas  <b>Neutral</b> – zero points for views which are not particular attractive nor unpleasant	Good views and vistas of natural and historic features of interest on route including bridges across creeks	Potential views and vistas could be improved (maintenance of vegetation/ access)	Unpleasant view or vista - which could realistically be improved (screened, maintenance, removal)
<b>Greenery</b>			
Overall appearance	Good relationship with buildings and structure. Attractively landscaped which enhances the setting of buildings and other features.	Some maintenance required or additional greenery is needed.	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect.  Barren
Trees and shrubs	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required.	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Nature conservation value	Variety of habitats Wildlife designations Managed as wildlife site	Mature nature conservation areas Non-established areas with potential  Interpretation may be useful.	Little value at present
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

## Quality Scorecard 4a- Sports Pitches

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the sports pitch/site	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming Clean/Well maintained	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained
Ease of movement	Suitable materials. Level for safe use.	Limited repair required-some unevenness.	Incorrect positioning of footpaths. Need for repair, uneven
Safety and security in and around the site	Good lighting Natural surveillance overlooked by properties- Locked at night. Park warden scheme.	Reasonable lighting. Natural surveillance ok but could be improved.	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties. Feeling of neglect.
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within the site	Suitable material, level surface, no obstacles.	Some obvious improvements could be made.	Disabled access poor and very restricted.
Cycle access and facilities	Safe routes close by Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking	Safe routes close by.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road No cycle parking
Parking facilities-maintenance, safety, conflicts with other users  <b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	Well maintained Good surveillance No conflict with other users Sufficient parking to suit function of site	Some minor improvements to maintenance of car park required. Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users Sufficient parking.	Poorly maintained. Poor natural surveillance-overgrown or no overlooking properties. Conflict with other users. Insufficient parking presenting a highway hazard.
<b>Buildings/Structures –</b>			
Condition of historic buildings/ structures.  Not applicable if no historic buildings  <b>Score each historic building separately and then average the score</b>	Well maintained, attractive historic buildings	Some improvements to maintenance and condition required.	Buildings at Risk Register.  Poor condition
Public facilities-	Attractive feature	Well maintained	Poor condition detracting

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
spectators etc. (Refreshments/ Toilets) <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ quiet for such a facility	suiting its surroundings. Well maintained, secure, clean Good facilities	functional building, secure, clean	from appearance of the area.  No facility, but required at intensively used ground
Shelter  <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ serving a localised neighbourhood/ positioning of shelter not desirable	Well maintained, clean Fits well into surroundings.	Well maintained and functional/ or place for spectators to seek shelter from rain and wind	Poor condition-detracting from appearance. Exposed position that could benefit from some form of shelter.
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Litter bins/dog bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
<b>Sports facilities</b> (for new development a good is mandatory for all the facilities present on the site)			
Pitch Quality and characteristics	Excellent/good – even surface, flat-no slope, good grass coverage, well drained with no or very limited problems (postponements) in spells of wet weather. Evidence they are used for training purposes/evidence of use for more than two types of sport.	Average – some unevenness, flat pitch-no slope, some improvement required to grass coverage, some improvements could be made to drainage conditions, some problems (postponements) in spells of wet weather. Evidence of use for more than one type of sport.	Below average/poor – uneven-sloped pitch, poor grass coverage with bare patches, liable to flood, unusable for significant periods of time, significant problems (postponements) in spells of wet weather. Potential hazard arising from significant litter. Used for one sport only.
All-weather pitches  <b>Not applicable</b> if grass pitch	Well-maintained, good surface, markings. Good boundary netting Floodlighting, where appropriate	Some improvements could be made	Neglected Poor surfacing
Team facilities - changing rooms, pavilions, toilets, store room, other ancillary facilities.  <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ quiet for such a facility	Attractive feature suiting its surroundings. Well maintained, secure, clean. Good facilities. Includes two or more of the following; showers, toilet facilities, segregated changing facilities.	Well maintained functional building, secure, clean. Includes at least one of the following; showers, toilet facilities, segregated changing facilities.	Poor condition detracting from appearance of the area.  No facility, but required at intensively used ground. Evidence of vandalism and poor security.
<b>Other Features</b>			
Boundary treatment-walls, railings, gates,	Well maintained/ Good condition.	Better maintenance required	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
hedges	Good design  Good for preventing balls being kicked into roads and on to adjacent property	Adequate for preventing balls being kicked into roads and on to adjacent property	of site. Boundary treatment required Inadequate for preventing balls being kicked into roads and on to adjacent property
Welcome/ Interpretation signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
<b>Greenery</b>			
Trees, shrubs and other vegetation other than that of the sports pitch	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

## Quality Scorecard 4b- Outdoor Sports Facilities

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the sports facility/site	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming Clean/Well maintained	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained
Ease of movement	Suitable materials. Level for safe use.	Limited repair required-some unevenness.	Incorrect positioning of footpaths. Need for repair, uneven
Safety and security in and around the site	Good lighting Natural surveillance overlooked by properties- Locked at night. Appropriate CCTV.	Reasonable lighting. Natural surveillance ok but could be improved.	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties. Feeling of neglect.
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within site	Suitable material, level surface, no obstacles.	Some obvious improvements could be made.	Disabled access poor and very restricted.
Cycle access and facilities	Safe routes close by Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking	Safe routes close by.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road No cycle parking
Parking facilities-maintenance, safety, conflicts with other users	Parking facilities- <b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	Well maintained Good surveillance No conflict with other users Sufficient parking to suit function of site	Some minor improvements to maintenance of park required. Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users Sufficient parking.
<b>Buildings/Structures –</b>			
Condition of historic buildings/ structures	Well maintained, attractive historic buildings	Some improvements to maintenance and condition required.	Buildings at Risk Register. Poor condition
Public facilities-spectators etc. (Refreshments/ Toilets) <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ quiet for such a facility/particular sport does not generally attract spectators on this	Attractive feature suiting its surroundings. Well maintained, secure, clean Good facilities	Well maintained functional building, secure, clean	Poor condition detracting from appearance of the area.  No facility, but required at intensively used ground/toilets permanently closed

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
site e.g. tennis courts			
Shelter <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ serving a localised neighbourhood/ positioning of shelter not desirable	Well maintained, clean Fits well into surroundings.	Well maintained and functional/ or place for spectators to seek shelter from rain and wind	Poor condition-detracting from appearance. Exposed position that could benefit from some form of shelter.
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches- <b>Not applicable</b> for certain sports facilities e.g. tennis courts	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Bins/dog bins <b>Not applicable</b> for certain sports facilities e.g. tennis courts	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
<b>Sports Facilities (for new development a good is mandatory for all the facilities present on the site)</b>			
Bowling Green	Excellent/good condition - well maintained good condition surface. Facility is staffed and there are arrangements for public use are publicised (e.g. opening times and prices). Suitable ancillary facilities such as seating and pavilion present.	Average condition. Facility may be staffed and there are arrangements for public use publicised (e.g. opening times and prices). Ancillary facilities such as seating and pavilion may not be in a fair rather than good condition.	Poor/very poor condition - signs of neglect. Facility does not appear to be staffed and there are no arrangements for public use publicised (e.g. opening times and prices). No ancillary facilities such as seating and pavilion.
Tennis Courts	Excellent/good condition -well maintained good condition surface-good condition perimeter fencing. Nets and posts also in good condition. Floodlighting present.	Average condition - suitable for playing Fencing in need of repair. Nets and posts in a fair condition and may be in need of some repair.	Poor/very poor condition - in need of significant repair. Nets and posts in a poor dilapidating condition and require replacement. No floodlighting.
Other sports-add if applicable			
Team /player facilities -changing rooms, pavilions, toilets, store room, other ancillary facilities. <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ quiet for such a facility	Attractive feature suiting its surroundings. Well maintained , secure, clean Good facilities. Includes two or more of the following; showers, toilet facilities, segregated changing facilities.	Well maintained functional building, secure, clean. Includes at least one of the following; showers, toilet facilities, segregated changing facilities.	Poor condition detracting from appearance of the area.  No facility, but required at intensively used ground. Evidence of vandalism and poor security.

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Other Features</b>			
Boundary treatment-railings and gates,	Well maintained/Good condition.  Good for preventing balls being played into roads and on to adjacent property	Better maintenance required  Adequate for preventing balls being played into roads and on to adjacent property	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site. Boundary treatment required  Inadequate for preventing balls being played into roads and on to adjacent property
Welcome/signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
<b>Greenery</b>			
Trees, shrubs and other vegetation other than the sport surface	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

## Quality Scorecard 5- Amenity Greenspaces

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the amenity greenspace	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming Clean/Well maintained	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained
Ease of movement	Opportunities for people of all ages to use an even well-maintained surface. Easy to cross. Well defined natural pathway.	Suitable surfacing for type of space. Limited repair required-some unevenness. Natural pathway less well defined.	Large potholes, becomes very muddy in wet condition, certain stretches difficult to pass.
Safety and security in and around the amenity greenspace	Vegetation is cut back adjacent paths. Main path through the site is lit (ok for minor paths within site to be unlit)	Some minor improvement required to cut back vegetation	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties, Feeling of neglect. No lighting on main throughway path
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within the amenity greenspace	Opportunities for wheelchair users to access parts of the site	Limited opportunities but surfacing/gradient could be improved	Disabled access poor and very restricted
<b>Cycle access/Parking – Not applicable if these areas serve very local area</b>			
<b>Buildings/Structures – not applicable</b>			
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Litter bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Dog bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
<b>Sports, young persons &amp; play opportunities –see also Quality Scorecard 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>			
Opportunities for appropriate informal activities  <b>Not applicable</b> if site is clearly not designed for other purposes	Possibilities for kick-about and informal sports without having undue impact on residential amenities.  Opportunities for children to run-around-adventurous play.	Limited opportunities for activities such as young children play.	Such activity would have a negative impact on neighbours.
<b>Other Features</b>			
Non-natural boundary treatment Condition railings and	Good design (heritage/innovative/attractive)	Standard design -Well maintained/ good condition	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
gates, walls, fencing. <b>Not applicable</b> if there is satisfactory natural boundary treatment or no boundary treatment is required/suitable	Well maintained/ Good condition	Or Good design with better maintenance required	appearance of site. Boundary treatment required
Public art/other special feature. <b>Neutral</b> – without public art	Good design (heritage/innovative/ attractive) Well maintained/ Good condition	Good design with better maintenance required.  Condition needs to be improved.	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site/ gives a feeling of intimidation
Welcome/ Interpretation signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
Presence of water. <b>Neutral</b> zero points if site is not adjacent water or does not have a water feature	Good relationship with lake, pond, sea or Harbour. Lake/pond well maintained/clean	Relationship with water could be improved through better maintenance or improved access.  Or feature is small scale or very minor feature	Water detracts from site-significant rubbish, dumping Unsafe-represents a dangerous hazard
Quality of views and vistas  <b>Neutral</b> – zero points for views which are not particular attractive nor unpleasant	Good views and vistas of natural and historic features of interest	Potential views and vistas could be improved (maintenance of vegetation/ access)	Unpleasant view or vista - which could realistically be improved (screened, maintenance, removal)
Presence of tranquil areas. <b>Not applicable if the character of the park is not suited to the presence of a tranquil area</b>	Presence of seating in a quiet area. Other features could include fountain and similar water features.	Quiet area exists but could be improved by seating and other features to make more attractive.	The park is suited to a tranquil area-but no opportunities currently exist.
<b>Greenery</b>			
Overall appearance	Good relationship with buildings and structure. Attractively landscaped which enhances the setting of buildings and other features.	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Formal Gardens- <b>not applicable</b> if not suitable for this type of space.	Incl. Attractive flower beds	Some improvements required	Neglected flower beds  Prominent site would be greatly enhanced by the provision of formal

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
			gardens.
Trees and shrubs	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Nature conservation areas Not applicable if not suitable for this type of space.	Variety of habitats Established nature conservation Interpretation boards	Limited nature conservation value	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

**Quality Scorecard 6- Provision for Children (playgrounds) and Young People (teenage shelters, skateboards areas, ball courts)**

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the playground or play facility	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming Clean/Well maintained	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained
Ease of movement	Suitable materials. Level for safe use.	Limited repair required-some unevenness.	Incorrect positioning of footpaths. Need for repair, uneven
Safety and security in and around playground or play facility	CCTV, Good lighting	Reasonable lighting	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties, Feeling of neglect
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within playground or play facility	Suitable material, level surface, no obstacles		
Cycle access and facilities <b>Not applicable</b> if serving a very localised area.	Safe routes close by Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking	Safe routes close by.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road No cycle parking
Parking facilities-  <b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	Well maintained Good surveillance No conflict with other users Sufficient parking to suit function of site	Some minor improvements to maintenance of park required.  Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users Sufficient parking.	Poorly maintained. Poor natural surveillance-overgrown or no over-looking properties. Conflict with other users. Insufficient parking presenting a highway hazard.
Buildings not considered applicable (add criterion if during survey work these categories appear applicable for children's open space)			
<b>Young person facilities</b> (for new development a good is mandatory for all the facilities present on the site)			
Basketball/hard surface courts <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small or the site is inappropriate e.g. very close to dwellings.	Required facilities are in good condition	Some maintenance improvements required	Neglected or no facility even though the site could accommodate such a facility
BMX/Skateboard facilities. <b>Not applicable</b> if site	Required facilities are in good condition	Some maintenance improvements required	Poor quality surfacing-neglected. No facility even though the

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
is too small or the site is inappropriate e.g. very close to dwellings.			site could accommodate such a facility
Youth Shelters <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small or the site is inappropriate e.g. very close to dwellings.	Required facilities are in good condition	Some maintenance improvements required	Damaged, neglected. No facility even though the site could accommodate such a facility
Others <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small or the site is inappropriate e.g. very close to dwellings.	Required facilities are in good condition	Some maintenance improvements required	Damaged, neglected.
<b>Children's Play Ground</b>			
Overall impression	Clean well maintained, good facility with plenty of features-eye catching	Clean well maintained, standard facility	Poor condition, feeling of neglect
Cleanliness/ Condition of playground. This is such an important issue that it is also covered in the management section	Clean- no litter, safe	Limited litter	Broken glass, significant amounts of litter.
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Playground furniture -bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Surfacing of playground	Safe tidy. Appropriate surfacing	Safe, some improvements may be required.	Poor condition-uneven damaged etc. Alternative surfacing required.
Number of play equipment	6+ (LAPs 2)	3-5 (LAPs 1)	Less than 3 (LAP 0)
Provision for different types of play e.g. sand pits (sensory), swings (kinetic), wendy house/den/trees that can be climbed (role play – i.e. where children are given opportunities to act as someone else),	Provision for 3+ types of play	Provision for 2 types of play	Provision for 1 type of play only
Play provision for different age groups e.g. skate park for teens or cradle swings for toddlers	Play provision for 3+ age groups	Play provision for 2 age groups	Play provision for 1 age group only

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
Provision of play equipment suitable for disabled children	2+ pieces of play equipment suitable for disabled children	1 piece of play equipment suitable for disabled children	No suitable equipment for disabled children
Opportunities for more adventurous play e.g. zip wire (if applicable)	1+ opportunity for more adventurous play	1 opportunity for more adventurous play	No opportunities for adventurous play
Quality of play equipment	Good condition, variety	Good condition, little variety	Poor condition
Condition of other features including railings, gates, public art,	Interesting feature good quality-good condition	Functional good condition	Poor condition
Welcome/ Interpretation signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board. Presence of interesting signs with colour and interest.	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required. More colourful/interesting signs would enhance site.	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
Overall appearance of greenery	Pleasant presence of greenery. Attractively landscaped which enhances the setting of buildings and other features.	Some maintenance required.  Site would benefit from some additional planting	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect.  Site is barren/sterile/ boggy  Site would benefit from significant planting.
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti (may be acceptable in skatepark-except offensive-)			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

## Quality Scorecard 7- Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms

Quality Scorecard 7 contains key issues used to determine the quality of each of the allotments. These attributes relate include access, security, greenery and management as well as allotment facilities. The criteria for scoring each aspect of the allotments have been determined from general guidance (PPG17 Companion Guide) relating to public open spaces as well as issues highlighted by the Gosport Borough Allotment Questionnaire as part of the Best Value Review. The results relating to how allotment holders rated various aspects of the allotments is contained on p23 of Appendix 10 of the Parks and Open Space Best Value Review. A satisfaction score greater than 3 is considered to be poor in the scoring system outlined below, a score of 2-2.9 represents fair and a score below 2 is considered to be good. These results have been used in conjunction with the latest site observations, particularly where there have been improvements carried out since the allotment questionnaire as a result of the Best Value Action and Improvement Plan.

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the allotment	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance. Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance  Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied-
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming Clean/Well maintained	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained
Condition of paths within allotments	Suitable materials. Level for safe use.	Limited repair required-some unevenness.	Incorrect positioning of footpaths. Need for repair, uneven
Safety and security in and around allotment	Good lighting Natural surveillance overlooked by properties- Locked at night.  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.	Reasonable lighting. Natural surveillance ok but could be improved.  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties. Feeling of neglect.  Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within allotment	Suitable material, level surface, no obstacles.	Some obvious improvements could be made.	Disabled access poor and very restricted.
Cycle access and facilities	Safe routes close by Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking	Safe routes close by.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road No cycle parking
Parking facilities-	Well maintained Good surveillance	Some minor improvements to	Poorly maintained. Poor natural surveillance-

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	No conflict with other users Sufficient parking to suit function of site  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.	maintenance of park required. Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users Sufficient parking.  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	overgrown or no overlooking properties. Conflict with other users. Insufficient parking presenting a highway hazard. Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
<b>Buildings/Structures –</b>			
Appearance of buildings associated with use (sheds etc.)	Well maintained	Fair condition	Dilapidated structures
<b>Allotment Facilities and Maintenance</b>			
Toilet facilities  <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small	Well maintained, clean.  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.	Usable  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	None or unusable for a variety of reasons Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied/permanently closed
Availability of skips	Good skip service  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.	Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	No skip service  Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
Water availability	Good water supply-sufficient no. of water standpipes  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.	Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied-	No or little water available  Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
Maintenance-of unused plots, paths	Maintenance of unused plots  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.	Limited maintenance of unused plots  Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.	Not very limited maintenance of unused plots.  Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
<b>Other Features</b>			
Condition railings and gates, boundary treatment	Well designed, tidy, well maintained. Secure fencing.	Functional, tidy, well maintained.  Small repairs may be required	Significant repair required. Fencing does not secure allotment.
Information/noticeboards	Presence of well-	Presence of sign-	Existing signs neglected

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
	<p>maintained information , up-to-date information</p> <p>Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall very satisfied or satisfied.</p>	<p>appearance and maintenance could be improved.</p> <p>Further information required</p> <p>Respondent to Allotment Survey were overall neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.</p>	<p>Or Signs needed</p> <p>Respondents to Allotment Survey were overall fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.</p>
<b>Greenery</b>			
Overall appearance	Allotment Plots well-used, little evidence of neglect	Some evidence of un-used plot-but mostly in use	Large proportion of plots overall, feeling of neglect
Trees and shrubs	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Nature conservation value	Variety of habitats Wildlife designations Managed as wildlife site	Mature nature conservation areas Non-established areas with potential. More management required.	Little value at present
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

## Quality Scorecard 8- Cemeteries, Disused Churchyards and Other Burial Grounds

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the cemetery/disused churchyard/other burial ground	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming Clean/Well maintained	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained
Condition of paths within cemetery/disused churchyard/other burial ground	Suitable materials. Level for safe use.	Limited repair required- some unevenness.	Incorrect positioning of footpaths. Need for repair, uneven
Safety and security in and around cemetery/disused churchyard/other burial ground	Good lighting Natural surveillance overlooked by properties- Locked at night.	Reasonable lighting. Natural surveillance ok but could be improved.	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties. Feeling of neglect.
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within cemetery/disused churchyard/other burial ground	Suitable material, level surface, no obstacles.	Some obvious improvements could be made.	Disabled access poor and very restricted.
Cycle access and facilities	Safe routes close by Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking	Safe routes close by.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road No cycle parking
Parking facilities-  <b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	Well maintained Good surveillance No conflict with other users Sufficient parking to suit function of site	Some minor improvements to maintenance of park required. Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users Sufficient parking.	Poorly maintained. Poor natural surveillance-overgrown or no over-looking properties. Conflict with other users. Insufficient parking presenting a highway hazard.
<b>Buildings/Structures –</b>			
Condition of historic buildings/ structures.  Not applicable if no historic buildings  <b>Score each historic building/structure separately and then average the score</b>	Well maintained, attractive historic buildings/structure	Some improvements to maintenance and condition required.	Buildings at Risk Register.  Poor condition
Shelters	Well maintained, clean	Well maintained and	Poor condition-

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ serving a localised neighbourhood/ positioning of shelter not desirable	Fits well into surroundings.	functional	detracting from appearance. Exposed position that could benefit from some form of shelter.
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Litter bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
Dog bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number - unusable
<b>Other Features</b>			
Non-natural boundary treatment Condition railings and gates, walls, fencing.  <b>Not applicable</b> if there is satisfactory natural boundary treatment or no boundary treatment is required/suitable	Good design (heritage/innovative/ attractive) Well maintained/ Good condition	Standard design -Well maintained/ good condition  Or  Good design with better maintenance required	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site. Boundary treatment required
Welcome/ Interpretation signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
Quality of views and vistas  <b>Neutral</b> – zero points for views which are not particular attractive nor unpleasant	Good views and vistas of natural and historic features of interest.	Potential views and vistas could be improved (maintenance of vegetation/ access)	Unpleasant view or vista - which could realistically be improved (screened, maintenance, removal)
Presence of tranquil areas.	Presence of seating in a quiet area. Other features could include fountain and similar water features.	Quiet area exists but could be improved by seating and other features to make more attractive.	The park is suited to a tranquil area-but no opportunities currently exist.
Condition of graves and headstones	Well maintained gravestones and headstones. Surrounding areas also well maintained.	Appear to be fairly well maintained but with some possible improvements required (could just be older gravestones and headstones meaning they are in a fair rather than a good condition)	Overgrown areas around graves. Mainly broken/toppled gravestones and headstones. Poor condition and neglect with significant improvements required.

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Greenery</b>			
Overall appearance	Good relationship with buildings and structure. Attractively landscaped which enhances the setting of buildings and other features.	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Trees and shrubs	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

## Quality Scorecard 9- Civic Spaces

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Access</b>			
Pedestrian access to the civic space	Easy access from nearby residential areas. Pelican crossing points nearby. Good natural surveillance.	Reasonable access from nearby residential areas. Safe crossing points (central refuse). Possible to improve natural surveillance	Difficult to access the site from residential areas- Difficult crossing points- Difficult to improve natural surveillance
Welcome	Inviting and welcoming. Clean/Well maintained. Well-connected network. Easy to cross	Entrance is obvious but not particularly inviting. Additional paths may be useful. Clean/Well maintained	Access is not obvious. Overgrown. Not well maintained. Poor network of paths.
Ease of movement	Suitable materials. Level for safe use.	Limited repair required- some unevenness.	Incorrect positioning of footpaths. Need for repair, uneven
Safety and security in and around civic space	Good lighting. Natural surveillance overlooked by properties- Locked at night.	Reasonable lighting. Natural surveillance ok but could be improved.	Overgrown plants severely restricting natural surveillance from overlooking properties. Feeling of neglect.
Wheelchair/pushchair access to and within civic space	Suitable material, level surface, no obstacles.	Some obvious improvements could be made.	Disabled access poor and very restricted.
Cycle access and facilities	Safe routes close by. Cycle use possible within the site. Cycle parking	Safe routes close by. Possible to improve off-road access.	Only access along busy road-difficult to cross road. No cycle parking
Parking facilities-  <b>Not applicable</b> if it is undesirable to provide parking facilities on or near the site for various reasons, out of character with the area, the site is small and/or serves a limited locality.	Well maintained. Good surveillance. No conflict with other users. Sufficient parking to suit function of site	Some minor improvements to maintenance of park required. Natural surveillance could easily be improved. No conflict with other users. Sufficient parking.	Poorly maintained. Poor natural surveillance- overgrown or no overlooking properties. Conflict with other users. Insufficient parking presenting a highway hazard.
<b>Buildings/Structures –</b>			
Condition of historic buildings/structures.  Not applicable if no historic buildings  <b>Score each historic building separately and then average the score</b>	Well maintained, attractive historic buildings	Some improvements to maintenance and condition required.	Buildings at Risk Register.  Poor condition
Toilet facilities within or adjacent the civic space	Well maintained, clean.	Usable	No facilities in close proximity and the civic space serves a wide

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small or not appropriate as it serves a much localised area.			catchment area. Existing toilets are unusable for a variety of reasons/permanently closed
Refreshment facilities <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ quiet for such a facility	Attractive feature suiting its surroundings. Well maintained.	Well maintained functional building	Poor condition detracting from appearance of the area.  No facility in close proximity.
Shelters <b>Not applicable</b> if site is too small/ serving a localised neighbourhood/ positioning of shelter not desirable	Well maintained, clean Fits well into surroundings.	Well maintained and functional	Poor condition-detracting from appearance. Exposed position that could benefit from some form of shelter.
<b>Park furniture</b>			
Benches	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number -unusable
Litter bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number -unusable
Dog bins	Sufficient number to serve the site and good quality	Sufficient number to serve the site-average quality	No/insufficient number -unusable
<b>Informal activities</b>			
Opportunities for appropriate informal activities  <b>Not applicable</b> if site is clearly not designed for other purposes	Possibilities for informal recreational activities without having undue impact on amenities of adjacent dwellings/business or other users.  Relevant signs of what activities are prohibited	Limited opportunities for informal recreational activities without having undue impact on amenities of adjacent dwellings/business or other users.  If certain activities are inappropriate there should be appropriate signs e.g. 'No Ball Games'	Not appropriate for informal activities.  Such activity would have a negative impact on neighbours.  Such activity would be dangerous-e.g. close to busy road etc.
<b>Other Features</b>			
Non-natural boundary treatment Condition railings and gates, walls, fencing.  <b>Not applicable</b> if there is satisfactory natural boundary treatment or no boundary treatment is required/suitable	Good design (heritage/innovative/ attractive) Well maintained/ Good condition	Standard design -Well maintained/ good condition  Or  Good design with better maintenance required	Poorly maintained/condition Detraction from appearance of site. Boundary treatment required
Public art/other features	Good design (heritage/innovative/	Good design with better maintenance required.	Poorly maintained/condition

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
<b>Neutral</b> –zero points for minor civic spaces without public art	attractive) Well maintained/ Good condition	Condition needs to be improved.	Detraction from appearance of site/gives a feeling of intimidation.  Major civic spaces/Premier park which would benefit from public art
Welcome/ Interpretation signs & Information	Presence of well-maintained welcome sign/information and /or interpretation board	Presence of sign-appearance and maintenance could be improved. Further information required	Existing signs neglected Or Signs needed
Presence of water. <b>Neutral</b> zero points if site is not adjacent water or does not have a water feature	Good relationship with lake, pond, sea or Harbour. Lake/pond well maintained/clean	Relationship with water could be improved through better maintenance or improved access.  Or feature is small scale or very minor feature	Water detracts from site-significant rubbish, dumping Unsafe-represents a dangerous hazard
Quality of views and vistas <b>Neutral</b> – zero points for views which are not particular attractive nor unpleasant	Good views and vistas of natural and historic features of interest	Potential views and vistas could be improved (maintenance of vegetation/ access)	Unpleasant view or vista - which could realistically be improved (screened, maintenance, removal)
Presence of tranquil areas. <b>Not applicable if the character of the park is not suited to the presence of a tranquil area e.g. sports pitch</b>	Presence of seating in a quiet area. Other features could include fountain and similar water features.	Quiet area exists but could be improved by seating and other features to make more attractive.	The park is suited to a tranquil area-but no opportunities currently exist.
Overall appearance – hard landscaping/ landscape design	Interesting features-lighting, paving street furniture Well maintained	Standard, well-maintained	Poorly maintained, poor condition, lack of interesting features or includes features which detract from the appearance of the area.
<b>Greenery</b>			
Overall appearance	Good relationship with buildings and structure. Attractively landscaped which enhances the setting of buildings and other features.	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Formal Gardens <b>Neutral</b> -zero points if no type of vegetation but could be incorporated	Includes attractive flower beds	Some improvements required	Neglected flowerbeds. Site would clearly benefit from such a feature, particularly if it is a high profile site.

Criterion	Good (2pts)	Fair (1pt)	Poor (-1pt)
otherwise <b>not applicable.</b>			
Trees and shrubs <b>Neutral</b> -zero points if no type of vegetation but could be incorporated otherwise <b>not applicable.</b>	Mature, well maintained	Some maintenance required	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
Nature conservation Areas <b>Neutral</b> -zero points if no type of vegetation but could be incorporated otherwise <b>not applicable.</b>	Variety of habitats Established nature conservation Interpretation boards	Limited nature conservation value or potential nature conservation area not yet established	Significant overgrown-feeling of neglect
<b>Management/Maintenance</b>			
	None (1pt)	Limited Amount (0pts)	Large Amount (-1pt)
Graffiti			
Litter			
Dog fouling			
Fly dipping/Dumping			
Vandalism of features			

# ANNEX B: NOTE TO DEVELOPERS: OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 50 OR MORE DWELLINGS

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This note outlines the Council's proposed open space requirements for new residential development (Class C3) over 50 dwellings in accordance with draft Policy LE1: Open Spaces of the draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038.
- 1.2. New development places additional demands on the existing inadequate supply and quality of open spaces. It is important that new residential development meet or exceed the standards set out in the draft policy (LE1) in order to provide adequate open space provision for new residents. If these standards are not achieved the existing deficiencies in quantity, quality and accessibility will be exacerbated.
- 1.3. This note sets out the specific proposed open space requirements for different dwelling sizes and identifies those circumstances where a developer contribution will normally be required in lieu of on-site provision once the draft Local Plan is adopted. Once the draft Local Plan is adopted, the Borough Council will require developers to comply with this guidance set out in the Local Open Space Standards document.
- 1.4. Applicants should recognise that the Borough Council's Open Space requirement is regarded as a minimum standard and developers are encouraged to take opportunities for making additional provision where circumstances allow.

## 2. Proposed Open Space Standard

- 2.1. The Borough Council's proposed open space requirements are divided into the following categories as set out in Table 1:

**Table 1: Proposed Open Space Standards**

<b>Type of open space</b>	<b>Standard</b>
<b>Public open space</b> <sup>32</sup>	1.6 ha per 1,000 people
To be provided on-site for developments of 50 dwellings or more. For smaller developments this element is covered by the Community Infrastructure Levy	
<b>Outdoor sports provision</b>	1.1 ha per 1,000 people
Not normally provided within a development site and to be normally funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy	
<b>Allotments</b>	0.46 ha per 1,000 people
Not normally provided within a development site and to be normally funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy	

- 2.2. As identified above the only on-site open space requirement is for sites above 50 dwellings. Alternative arrangements as part of the Community Infrastructure Levy

<sup>32</sup> This includes the following elements: children's play space, formal and informal recreation areas, and natural/semi natural greenspace.

(CIL) are applicable for the equivalent types of open space provision on sites below 50 dwellings. Similarly outdoor sport and allotment provision for all residential development has been incorporated into the CIL charging schedule.

### **3. Calculating the Open Space Requirement for development of over 50 dwellings**

- 3.1. The Borough Council will require for developments of 50 or more, a total of 1.6 hectares per 1,000 residents or 16m<sup>2</sup> per person and that this provision should normally be made on-site.
- 3.2. In order to calculate the amount of on-site open space required for each development over 50 units it is necessary to calculate the average number of occupants per dwellings size (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Average Number of Persons per Dwelling (2021)**

<b>Size of dwelling</b>	<b>Average number of persons per dwelling</b>
1 Bed Dwelling	1.27 persons per dwelling
2 Bed Dwelling	1.85 persons per dwelling
3+Bed Dwelling	2.96 persons per dwelling

Source: HCC advice

- 3.3. Table 3 indicates the on-site open space requirement for each size of dwelling house. The total open space requirement for a development is calculated by multiplying the number of dwellings on the site by the standard. Where a development includes a mix of dwelling sizes, then the totals for each dwelling type should be added together to give the total requirement.

**Table 3: Proposed Open Space Provision Standards and Requirements (2021)**

<b>Category of Playing Space</b>	<b>Open Space Requirement (in sq.m) (per dwelling)</b>		
	1 bedroom dwelling	2 Bedroom dwelling	3+bedroom dwelling
Public Open Space	20.3	29.6	47.4

### **4. Location, layout and design of on-site open space in development of over 50 dwellings**

- 4.1. A large proportion of the on-site public open space requirement should be provided in the form of a single multi-functional local park. Other provision within the development site may be appropriate depending on the characteristics of the site.
- 4.2. **Main area of open space known as 'local park':** All dwellings should generally be within 400 metres of the local park provision. The local park should be in a high profile location and it should contain most of the overall requirement with any remaining

provision being located elsewhere in the development. Normally the main area of open space should be at least approximately 0.2 hectares in size<sup>33</sup>.

4.3. For illustrative purposes a local park could contain:

- equipped children's play areas for both younger and older children and be enclosed accordingly;
- features that encourage active play;
- a grassed area for informal recreation;
- a small formal garden area for sitting and quiet time;
- an area of nature conservation with or without public access depending on the characteristics of the area;
- elements that reflect the local character of the area.

4.4. Schemes could include local greens, urban squares, community orchards/woodlands, or nature conservation areas. It may also be necessary to incorporate relevant green infrastructure features to provide a number of environmental benefits (such as drainage, shade, shelter, amelioration of noise and air pollution). In some circumstances depending on the scale of the development it may be appropriate to include outdoor sports facilities or allotment type facilities as part of the on-site public open space standard.

4.5. The balance of the various open space elements will depend on a number of considerations including:

- the size of the development and therefore the size of the park - ideally the park should be within 400 metres of all dwellings. If the development is very large it may be necessary to include a secondary park or other smaller areas of open spaces within the development;
- the nature of dwelling sizes and types within the development and expected age profile;
  - for example a development with significant proportion of family housing should reflect the needs of children and young people whereas a development for elderly people may require different elements.
- the site qualities of the site. The open space should make the best use of these features such as topography, setting of a historic building or conservation area; waterfront location, on-site water features, natural features including mature vegetation. In certain cases it may be necessary to have more than one area of open space within the development to reflect these qualities;
- a consideration of what other provision is currently available in the vicinity and for the new open space to complement the existing areas; and
- be designed and implemented to meet the Council's 'Good Quality Standards'

4.6. In order to meet the Council's Good Quality Standard it will be necessary to assess it against the criteria set out in the relevant open space scorecard contained with the Open Space Audit Methodology. In some cases it will be necessary to use more than one scorecard to assess the quality of the on-site open space depending on the number of functions on the open space.

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<sup>33</sup> A minimum size of 0.18ha will be acceptable for those sites of just over 50 dwellings i.e 2.25 average household size x50 dwellings =112.5 residents then multiply this by 16m2 standard per person = 1,800sq.m or 0.18ha

4.7. A number of elements should be considered within open spaces including:

- an inviting and welcoming entrance;
- safety and security measures including opportunities for natural surveillance from near-by properties and roads;
- open spaces should have good accessible and safe links with the surrounding area;
- good accessibility within the open space including appropriately surfaced paths;
- wheelchair and pushchair users should have easy and safe access to and within the site;
- a variety of functions should be included which will assist in attracting a range of age groups;
- good quality boundary treatment needs to be considered;
- appropriate park furniture such as seating or picnic benches and bins should be provided;
- interesting eye catching features to give the site its own identity should be included;
- appropriate hard and soft landscaping;
- incorporation of appropriate natural habitats. Areas should be designed around existing features including trees and hedgerows and take opportunities to achieve a net gain in biodiversity.
- inclusion of measures to deter activities that are not appropriate for a particular site.
- the on-site play facility will be required to include well-design enclosed areas for younger and older children (see Box below)

#### **Quality considerations for Children's Play Areas**

- the route between the dwellings and the play space is as safe as possible;
- near-by roads are as safe as possible;
- the play space has natural surveillance from near-by dwellings and/or road;
- the site is in an open and welcoming location;
- the site should be on land suited for the type of play opportunity intended;
- the site should be sufficiently far from dwellings and include buffer zones to reduce the likelihood of noise and disturbance;
- the site should be integrated as far as possible with other open spaces and amenity areas;
- the site should include seats for parents and carers;
- the site should include play equipment of high quality and must meet current British safety standards;
- the site should include impact absorbing surfaces beneath and around play equipment;
- the site requires appropriate boundary treatment; and
- the site should include interesting eye-catching features.

4.8. **Other recreation open space outside the main local park(s):** The remaining provision outside of the main local park or parks will need to have sufficient recreational value to meet the Council's 'Good' Standard and could include smaller equipped play areas, a formal garden, or a retained or enhanced area for biodiversity. It can also include elements of green infrastructure such as sustainable drainage areas. Measures to be included as part of the overall open space quantity

requirement will need to be made available for residents to enjoy (this could include paths, benches, interpretation boards). The key quality considerations are similar to those outlined above.

- 4.9. For the purposes of these standards communal garden space as part of flatted development or elderly dwellings will be considered as part of the 'public provision' even though they are not normally available for general public use.
- 4.10. **Open space excluded from the on-site open space requirement:** Features such as highway verges and private gardens are not included as part of the requirement. Incidental landscaping which cannot be used for recreational purposes does not form part of this provision.

## **5. Off-site provision in connection with development of 50 or more dwellings**

- 5.1. In certain instances it may be necessary for the developer of a proposal of 50 or more dwellings to provide a financial contribution towards a specified off-site open space proposal. These circumstances may relate to particular characteristics of the site.
- 5.2. Developers may agree to fund improvements to enhance the quality of open space such as parks and recreation grounds within the local vicinity instead of providing the full on-site public open space local park requirement. Normally the contribution will be used within 800 metres of the site but in some circumstances this may be further if a particular open space is potentially of sufficient quality and recreational value to attract residents from the new development. The developer contribution would be secured by a Section 106 Agreement<sup>34</sup> and normally be specific with regard to the site it is intended to be allocated to. In such cases the obligation will need to meet the tests of Government legislation.
- 5.3. The developer contribution is based on the on-site requirement (see Section 3) multiplied by the cost of providing a square metre of local park. The provision for open space can also be split between on-site and off-site and in such cases the on-site provision is subtracted from the overall requirement and the remainder multiplied by the standardised cost per square metre.
- 5.4. The standardised costs per square metre in lieu of the on-site provision are based on an annual assessment by Gosport Borough Council. This takes into account a typical area of park including a proportion of children's play facilities, informal grassed area, a managed area of nature conservation and formal garden area. It will be updated each year by the Borough Council and published accordingly.
- 5.5. The developer contribution for off-site provision includes the capital costs and the commuted establishment sums. It does not include general maintenance for off-site provision (see Paragraph 6.2 regarding commuted sums for the maintenance of on-site open spaces). Payment can either be made on completion of the legal agreement or can be payable on commencement of the development. In such cases the sum will be calculated in accordance with the latest published open space contribution sum and interest will be payable on late payments. On larger developments, which are likely to be phased over a period of time, the legal agreement may specify that payments be made at specified trigger dates.

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<sup>34</sup> The provision of off-site open space in-lieu of on-site provision for developments of 50 dwellings or more has not been included as part of the CIL Charging Schedule.

- 5.6. The Borough Council considers that it is necessary to spend the developer contributions within a reasonable time period to ensure that the facilities are provided in relation to the new development. Consequently the Borough Council will return unspent contributions with interest to the developer if the money has not been used for off-site open space facilities within a reasonable period (normally five years) from the date they were paid. However in certain circumstances the developer may agree that the funds should be retained by the Borough Council in order that a more complicated or larger scale facility is constructed. Such facilities (sports pavilions, Country Park) require other sources of funding and it may be difficult to spend the developer contribution within a five year period.

## **6. Planning Application Procedures**

- 6.1. Planning applications of 50 or more dwellings should include sufficient information to enable the local park requirement to be calculated, i.e. the number and type of dwellings. Where outline planning applications do not include such information, any consent granted will normally be subject to a suitable condition or legal agreement, so that the requirement can be calculated when a detailed planning application is submitted. Amendments made to a planning application that alter the number and/or type of dwellings proposed once consent has been granted will require an appropriate amendment to be made to the outdoor playing space requirement.
- 6.2. **On-site provision:** a condition will be imposed on the planning permission to ensure the on-site provision is provided. If the facility is to be adopted by the Borough Council, it will be necessary for the developer to make a commuted sum to the Council for the maintenance of the on-site facilities for a period of 25 years.
- 6.3. **Off-site provision:** If the developer demonstrates that it is more appropriate to make open space provision in another appropriate location, it will be necessary for the developer to enter into a legal agreement with the Borough Council.
- 6.4. **Appeals:** In the event of an appeal following refusal of a planning application to which draft Policy LE1 of the Local Plan would apply, the Borough Council will seek the imposition of a condition or a legal agreement to ensure that the necessary provision is made if the appeal is allowed. Consequently development allowed on appeal will still be subject to the same requirements as other residential development in the Local Plan area.