

## **Overall summary and conclusions**

### **Introduction**

- 16.1 The study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” (September 2002).
- 16.2 The prime objectives of the study were to:
- support the implementation of the Local Plan (Policy CF3)
  - provide a clear framework for the development of policies, acquisition and, allocation of resources and an action plan to protect and improve open spaces, sport and recreation spaces and facilities;
  - provide clear recommendations for the setting of local quantitative and qualitative standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities
  - inform the preparation of the Local Development Framework
  - inform the development of the Council’s Play Strategy
  - inform the production of a Green Space Strategy
  - inform the future development of a Sports Strategy.
- 16.3 In addition to the quality standards set for each individual typology, a quality vision is also proposed for all open spaces in the District. This vision has been created through the public consultation process and it includes aspirations present for all typologies:

**RECOMMENDED LOCAL QUALITY VISION**  
*“All open space sites should be clean, litter free and have a range of ancillary facilities appropriate to the site. Where applicable, sites should be accessible to all and promote the Council’s Vision of achieving a better quality of life in Rother.”*

- 16.4 It is important to note that the Council only controls a limited amount of the sites audited through this study. Where the report has stated that the Council needs to provide new sites or improve the quality of sites, the reality is that the relevant Parish Councils will need to take responsibility for implementing change with Rother District Council providing various means of support wherever possible. The Local Action Plan process has the potential to play an important part too. Partnership working will be key to achieving success.
- 16.5 For quantity standards, it is possible to create an overall standard for the different areas by combining the quantity standard sets for each typology. The local quantity standard for the urban areas is 7.84ha per 1,000 and for East and West Rother it is 6.35ha per 1,000 population. It is envisaged that this will be the overall standard that each new development will aspire to. However its precise typological make up will be dependent upon local circumstances. Table 16.1 overleaf provides a breakdown of how this standard is created.

**Table 16.1 Quantity standard**

Typology	Bexhill, Battle and Rye (ha per 1,000 population)	East and West Rother (ha per 1,000 population)
Parks and gardens	0.43	0.71
Natural and semi natural	2 <sup>1</sup>	2 <sup>1</sup>
Amenity greenspace	1.73	1.73
Children and young people (combined)	0.4	0.4
Outdoor sports facilities	2.97	4.84
Allotments	0.45	0.09
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>7.96</b>	<b>9.57</b>

16.6 The following table summarises the key findings of the study, under the headings of each typology. Short term/high priority recommendations have a 3 year timescale, medium term/priority recommendations have a 5 year timescale and long term/low priority recommendations have a 10 year timescale.

**Table 16.2 Recommendations**

<b>ISF 1</b>	The Council to aim for indoor tennis facilities in Bexhill in the long term.
<b>ISF 2</b>	The Council to provide a replacement lane swimming facility in the long term in the Bexhill area.
<b>ISF 3</b>	The Council to give long term consideration to a new swimming facility in the Battle area.
<b>ISF 4</b>	The Council to investigate the possibility of facilitating access to school sports halls facilities in Bexhill.
<b>ISF 5</b>	The Council to investigate the feasibility of increasing the number of health and fitness stations at its own sites.
<b>CYP 1</b>	New play areas to be delivered as a medium priority in west Robertsbridge.

<sup>1</sup> New natural or semi natural provision is expected only from large scale residential developments.

## SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

<b>CYP 2</b>	New play areas in north Northiam, Brede and Cliff End should be high priorities. New play areas in Fairlight Cove, North Winchelsea, Beckley and Peasmarsch should be medium term priorities.
<b>CYP 3</b>	In the long term the Council should seek to negotiate public access to the leisure facilities at the holiday camps in the Camber area. If this is unsuccessful, new provision should be pursued as a low priority.
<b>CYP 4</b>	The Council to endeavour that new play areas in northeast Bexhill residential development contain play areas that are situated so that they serve not only potential new residents but also existing residents without provision.
<b>CYP 5</b>	Gillham and Penland wood should be considered for new play area provision, as should the land around St Richard's Catholic College.
<b>CYP 6</b>	The Council to consider new play areas on the edge of all urban areas of Bexhill that do not currently have provision.
<b>CYP 7</b>	The Council to consider new provision as part of the housing development in Blackfriars Battle, Glengorse playing field, Great Wood and around the Old Mill in north Battle.
<b>CYP 8</b>	The Council should prioritise improvements to existing play areas in the Rye analysis area over provision in new locations.
<b>CYP 9</b>	New provision in Robertsbridge a priority for the Council with new provision in Hurst Green a medium priority and Crowhurst a low priority.
<b>CYP 10</b>	The Council to focus upon the Westfield area in East Rother for a new facility for older children/teenagers.
<b>CYP 11</b>	New sites to be considered in the east of Bexhill in Little Common and in or near to Collington Wood and Gillham Wood.
<b>CYP 12</b>	The Council to prioritise a new facility as part of the housing/open space developments in south Battle.
<b>CYP 13</b>	The Council to consider a new facility as part of any new developments ideally to the south of Rye, in addition to expanding and broadening the range of facilities at current sites
<b>CYP 14</b>	The Council to provide a new play area in the redeveloped Egerton Park to become a quality benchmark for all provision in the District.
<b>P&amp;G 1</b>	The Council to review the catchment areas of parks and gardens after the establishment of Pebsham Country Park.
<b>P&amp;G 2</b>	The redeveloped Egerton Park in Bexhill to become the future benchmark for provision in the District.
<b>NSN 1</b>	The Council to concentrate on qualitative and accessibility improvements in all rural areas with the exception of Winchelsea where new provision is a low priority.

**SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

<b>NSN 2</b>	The Council to concentrate on qualitative improvements to other open spaces in southeast Bexhill to compensate for the lack of a natural or semi natural site.
<b>NSN 3</b>	The Council to concentrate on qualitative improvements on existing sites over new provision in Battle and Rye.
<b>AGS 1</b>	The Council to consider new long term provision west Robertsbridge.
<b>AGS 2</b>	New provision in Broad Oak should be considered as a low priority
<b>AGS 3</b>	The Council to concentrate on qualitative improvements to Collington and Gillham wood in west Rother to help ensure these sites are accessible to all.
<b>AGS 4</b>	The Council to concentrate upon qualitative improvements to amenity green spaces in the Battle and Rye areas.
<b>OSF 1</b>	The Council to consider undertaking a playing pitch strategy and sports facility strategy in partnership with external partners.
<b>OSF 2</b>	The Council to continue plans for additional pitches in the Bexhill area.
<b>ALLOT 1</b>	New allotment sites in Hurst Green and Burwash to be of a high priority. New allotment sites in Etchingham and Flimwell of a medium priority. Further opportunities will be investigated in other large service villages within Western Rother on an opportunity-led basis.
<b>ALLOT 2</b>	New allotment sites in Fairlight Cove, Westfield and Broad Oak to be of a high priority. New allotment site in Brede of a medium priority.
<b>ALLOT 3</b>	Subject to demand, the Council to identify new sites on the west and east of the Bexhill urbanised area.
<b>ALLOT 4</b>	Subject to demand, the Council to provide a new allotment site in south Battle through new provision or the reallocation of existing provision.
<b>CC 1</b>	Adopt the quality standard for all sites in the district.
<b>CC 2</b>	Encourage site owners to increase the accessibility of sites to local residents.
<b>CC 3</b>	Council to prioritise improvements to sites where the churchyard is the dominant open space in the village.
<b>GCBCA 1</b>	The Council to improve the accessibility to, and quality of the beach/coastal area in southeast Bexhill.
<b>GCBCA 2</b>	Ensure all new major developments contain green corridors to reduce dependence on cars for short journeys, particularly as part of the Bexhill urban extensions.
<b>GCBCA 3</b>	The Council should provide additional seating, litter and dog fouling bins at green corridors within their control.

**SECTION 16 – OVERALL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

<b>PLAN 1</b>	Ensure developer contributions can be made to all dwellings where necessary in local policies (ie one dwelling and above).
<b>PLAN 2</b>	Devise a matrix approach to clearly state the types of housing mix that will be required to contribute to open space.
<b>PLAN 3</b>	Include a statement to clearly set out the approach to affordable housing.
<b>PLAN 4</b>	Apply the policy to commercial development.
<b>PLAN 5</b>	Require developer contributions for all types of open space, sport and recreation facilities covered in the PPG17 audit (with local standards).
<b>PLAN 6</b>	Apply the PPG17 assessment's local standards to decide whether the development creates a need for new open space or a need to improve the quality of existing open space in the local area.
<b>PLAN 7</b>	Identify appropriate minimum size thresholds for on-site provision for each typology. Develop a matrix approach to determine the threshold of dwellings for on versus off-site provision as a guide only. A case by case approach will still be required.
<b>PLAN 8</b>	Use a formula for the calculation of the provision of open space requirement. Update costings regularly.
<b>PLAN 9</b>	Utilise the methodology above to assess the impact of major growth against agreed quantity standards to proactively plan for emerging open space, sport and recreation needs.
<b>PLAN 10</b>	Set out maintenance (commuted sums) required and update these regularly.
<b>PLAN 11</b>	Prepare an SPD detailing the approach towards open space developer contributions.