



## HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

*Prepared by TEP*

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

1. TEP was commissioned by Harborough District Council in May 2020 to produce an updated Open Spaces Strategy for the District.

### Introduction

2. Open space is important due to its valuable contribution to quality of life, health and the economy. Provision of a range of open space facilities in our towns and villages is very important in planning for a sustainable future and is embedded in national planning policy.
3. The evidence in this Open Space Strategy comprises an assessment of the quantity, accessibility, quality and value of open spaces within Harborough District, and for each of the three sub-areas. The Open Space Strategy has been completed using the below methodology:
  - Define the context, purpose and scope of the Strategy (Chapter 2);
  - Review of national and local policy (Chapter 3);
  - Identification and mapping of open spaces per typology (Chapter 4);
  - Identify local needs including consultation with key stakeholders, the community and developers (Chapter 5);
  - Assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of each open space (Chapter 6);
  - Develop local standards for open space provision (Chapter 7);
  - Review of current and future provision of each sub-area (Chapter 8); and
  - Provide recommendations and strategy based on the findings of the Open Spaces Strategy (Chapter 9).

### Methodology

4. This Open Spaces Strategy is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Open Space, which have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its companion guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).

Outdoor sports facilities are not included in this review, as these are considered as part of the Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy.

Information relating to Greenways has been produced based on the Built Sports Facility Strategy (August 2019) (BSFS) to ensure consistency between the two Strategies and that they complement one and other.

### Open Space Provision as at 2020

5. The current open space provision in the District is shown in the table below. 654 sites are designated as open space, with a total area of 1097.57 hectares. Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace covers 871.82 ha and accounts for the majority of the District's open space provision. The total open space within the District equates to 11.69 ha per 1,000 population.

Open Space Typology	Current Provision (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	22.85
Amenity Greenspace	109.95
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	43.50
Civic Spaces	1.05
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	871.82
Parks and Gardens	38.05
Provision for Children and Young People	10.34
<b>Final Total - rounded to two decimal places</b>	<b>1097.57</b>
Greenways	Approximately 700km

### Quantity Assessment and Standards

6. The proposed quantity standards are shown in the table below. Civic Spaces have no quantity standard because there is no existing Harborough or relevant National Benchmark standard (*Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard*<sup>1</sup>, 2015).

Open Space Typology	Proposed Standard (ha per 1,000)	2019 ha per 1,000	2036 ha per 1,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.35	0.24	0.21
Amenity Greenspace	0.90	1.17	1.01
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.35	0.46	0.40
Civic Spaces	No Standard	0.01	0.01
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	8.50 (District wide)	9.29	8.01
Parks and Gardens	0.80	0.41	0.35
Provision for Children and Young People	0.25	0.11	0.09

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>



Open Space Typology	Proposed Standard (ha per 1,000)	2019 ha per 1,000	2036 ha per 1,000
Greenways	1.3 (3.3km per 1,000)	7.51km/1,000	6.53km per/1,000

7. As of 2019 the population for the District was 93,807. Using the proposed standard, there is a current deficiency in provision of Allotments and Community Gardens (-0.11 ha per 1,000), Parks and Gardens (-0.39 ha per 1,000) and Provision for Children and Young People (-0.14 ha per 1,000). There is a current surplus in Amenity Greenspace (0.27 ha per 1,000), Cemeteries and Burial Grounds (0.11 ha per 1,000), Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (0.79 ha per 1,000) and Greenways (Approximately 4.21km per 1,000).
8. The future population of Harborough District is projected to be 108,872 by 2036. When compared to the current provision of open space, this increase in population would result in a quantitative deficiency in Allotments and Community Gardens (-0.14 ha per 1,000), Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (-0.49 ha per 1,000), Parks and Gardens (-0.45 ha per 1,000) and Provision for Children and Young People (-0.16 ha per 1,000). The quantitative surplus of Greenways, Amenity Greenspace and Cemeteries and Burial Grounds is reduced.
9. The Table below shows the shortfall, based on 2036 population projections.

Open Space Typology	2019 Surplus/ Deficiency (ha per 1,000)	2036 Surplus/ Deficiency (ha per 1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	-0.11	-0.14
Amenity Greenspace	0.27	0.11
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.11	0.05
Civic Spaces	No Standard n/a	No Standard n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	0.79	-0.49
Parks and Gardens	-0.39	-0.45
Provision for Children and Young People	-0.14	-0.16
Greenways	4.21km/1,000	3.23km/1,000

## Quality and Value Audit

10. Of the 654 open spaces in the District, 299 sites were audited for Quality and Value. The following open space types were not included in the site audits, for the reasons set out below:
  - Sites smaller than 0.2 ha with exception of Provision for Children and Young people. Smaller sites have limited usage compared to larger sites and limited multi-functionality;
  - Greenways - These are considered separately in the Built Sports Facilities Strategy; and
  - Outdoor Sports Facilities - These are considered separately in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
11. All 654 sites received a partial audit and ground truthing to confirm presence and review boundaries against GIS data.
12. The proposed quality standard is based on the Green Flag Award National Benchmark:
  - Excellent - 90% to 100%
  - Very Good - 80% to 89%
  - Good - 70% to 79%
  - Fair - 50% to 69%
  - Poor - 0% to 49%
13. The Table below shows the current Quality scores for the 299 audited sites.

Quality Score Against Green Flag Award Criteria	Number of Sites	% of Audit
Excellent	88	29.4%
Very Good	73	24.4%
Good	86	28.8%
Fair	49	16.4%
Poor	3	1.0%

14. The recommended Quality standard, is for all sites other than those excluded for reasons previously stated (e.g. smaller than 0.2ha), to achieve a Good Quality Score (70% or above, using the Green Flag Award benchmark). All sites audited are able to apply for a Green Flag Award if they wished to do so however some typologies such as Allotments and Community Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People are most likely to be entered for an Award as part of a wider open space, such

as an Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace or Park and Garden.

15. Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Parks and Gardens should aim for the >70% quality score. Allotments and Community Gardens and Provisions for Children and Young People should use the scoring criteria to improve the open space quality where possible.
16. The value standard is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17' and was assessed by TEP's experienced Green Flag Award judges. This allows a balanced assessment of each site. The value standard is:
  - High - 60 to 100%
  - Medium - 40 to 59%
  - Low - 0 to 39%

17. The table below shows the current value of the 299 sites audited.

Value score	Number of Sites	% of Audit
High	17	6%
Medium	109	36%
Low	173	58%

18. The proposed value standard is that all sites other than those excluded for reasons previously stated (e.g. smaller than 0.2ha), obtain a Value Score of 60% or above, classed as "High Value".

### Accessibility Audit and Proposed Standards

19. Allotments and Community Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People have been assigned an accessibility standard. There is no accessibility standard assigned for Civic Spaces as there is no accessibility National Benchmark (*Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard*<sup>2</sup>, 2015) for this typology.
20. The proposed accessibility standards are shown 'as the crow flies' (straight line) from an open space. This has been converted into walking time to show approximately how long it should take for residents to walk to their local open space typology. The accessibility standards are shown in the table below.

Open Space Typology	Walking Threshold
Allotments and Community Gardens	4.0km or 10 minutes bus/drive
Amenity Greenspace	800m or 10 minutes walk

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/guidance>

Open Space Typology	Walking Threshold
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	2km or 5 minutes bus/drive
Civic Spaces	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	1.6km or 20 minutes walk
Parks and Gardens	4km or 10 minutes bus/drive
Provision for Children and Young People	400-800m or 5 - 10 minutes walk
Greenways	20 minutes drive time (taken from the BSFS)

21. Maps G8202.008 - 013, and G8202.017 show accessibility catchments for each open space typology. Accessibility to open space is generally higher in the Middle sub-area. Full analysis of accessibility to open space by typology is provided in Chapter 6 Auditing Local Provision.
22. Accessibility maps included within this study show both straight-line buffers as well as road network modelling which uses the nearest junction to open space sites. The two buffers used provide differing accessibility catchments. For the purpose of this Strategy, straight-line modelling has been used when assessing accessibility to open space sites. Road network modelling is provided for the purpose of highlighting physical barriers to the accessibility e.g. watercourses or motorways.

### Recommendations

23. Recommendations have been made in Chapter 9 Recommendations and Strategy. The recommendations include:
  - Adopt the recommended standards (Chapter 7);
  - Increase the multi-functionality open spaces where possible, including increasing green travel routes, improving aesthetic, increasing habitat for wildlife and the cultural offering;
  - Production of a Supplementary planning document to outline open space requirements in new developments;
  - Seek funding opportunities including Section 106 Agreement, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and developer contributions; and
  - Production of a Delivery Plan to address recommendations in this Strategy.

## 2.0 Introduction

### Context

2.1 Open space is important because of its valuable contribution to quality of life, health and the economy. Furthermore, open spaces provide green infrastructure (GI) benefits such as mitigating climate change, flood alleviation, and ecosystem services. The provision of these facilities in our cities, towns and villages is of high importance to a sustainable future and is embedded in national planning policy.

2.2 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in February 2019, recognises the opportunities that appropriately located and well-designed open spaces can provide. Paragraph 96 states:

*Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.*

2.3 Open space provision crosses many other aspects of the NPPF including:

- Promoting Healthy Communities;
- Delivering Sustainable Development;
- Supporting a Prosperous Rural Economy;
- Promoting Sustainable Transport;
- Requiring Good Design;
- Conserving and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment; and
- Meeting the Challenges of Climate Change.

### Purpose and Scope

2.4 This Open Spaces Strategy (hereby referred to as the 'Strategy') replaces the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 to 2021, adopted by Harborough District Council (hereby referred to as 'the Council') in 2016.

2.5 The Strategy provides robust and up to date information concerning the demand and use of open space throughout the District irrespective of ownership up to the Local Plan end date 2031. It will support the Council's corporate objectives:

- The Place: An enterprising, vibrant place;
- The People: A healthy, inclusive and engaged community; and
- Your Council: Innovative, proactive and efficient.

- 2.6 It should be noted that the open space proposals identified in the strategy are not all intended to be provided or funded directly by the District Council. It should not be assumed that the Council will automatically make additional funds available to assist other bodies to provide new or improved open spaces. It also does not mean that the Council will take on responsibility for providing or managing more open space in the future.
- 2.7 This Strategy will ensure that the Council can prioritise development of open space, ensure that poor quality open spaces receive investment and improvement, and that open space receives sufficient developer contributions to provide for new communities.
- 2.8 All sites within the District have been audited, a sample of sites were subject to a full quality audit. The criteria for these sites are set out in the Methodology.

### **Analysis Area**

- 2.9 The Strategy looks at the overall provision of the District and across sub-areas. The sub-areas are consistent with the Playing Pitch Strategy (February 2018) and Built Facility Strategy (August 2019) and are based on three key sub-areas which are an amalgamation of Middle Super Output Areas (MSOA's) shown in Appendix A.
- 2.10 The sub-areas and MSOA boundaries are shown on MSOA and Sub-Areas Map (Ref: G8202.005).

## 3.0 Policy Context

- 3.1 This chapter summarises how open spaces feature in the following national and local policy. Figure 1 illustrates the hierarchy of planning policy for the District.

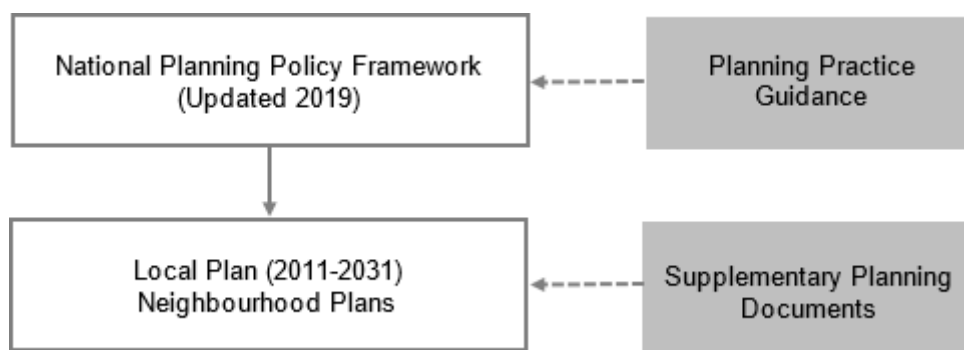


Figure 1: Hierarchy of Planning Policy in Harborough

### National Policy Context

#### National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated in February 2019 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. The NPPF is a material consideration in decision and Local Plan making. The NPPF requirements in relation to open space are outlined in the following paragraphs.
- 3.3 The NPPF defines 'open space' as:

*"All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity".*

#### *Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities*

- 3.4 Paragraph 91 states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, safe and accessible places which promote social interaction and enable and support healthy lifestyles.
- 3.5 Paragraph 96 states that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.
- 3.6 Paragraph 97 states that existing open space, including sports and recreational buildings and playing fields, should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space is surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision.

### *Local Green Space Designation*

3.7 Paragraphs 99 to 101 in the NPPF set out the Local Green Space designation as a way for communities to identify and protect green space of particular importance to them through local and neighbourhood plans. In order for the Local Green Space designation to be used the green space must be:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to the local community with a particular local significance (aesthetically, historical, recreational or environmental); and
- local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

3.8 The NPPF states that local policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

### *Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment*

3.9 Paragraph 170 of the NPPF states that the planning system has a role to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Valued landscapes and ecosystems should be protected, with development prevented from adversely affecting soil, air or water, or from causing noise pollution and land instability.

3.10 The NPPF states in paragraph 174 that local planning authorities should plan to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity. This should be achieved through identifying and mapping local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them. Furthermore, plans should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

3.11 With regards to GI, paragraph 181 states that there are opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts through the provision and enhancement of GI.

### **Planning Practice Guidance**

#### Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities; Public Rights of Way; and Local Green Space (March 2014)

3.12 This planning practice guidance (PPG) provides advice on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way (PRoW) and the Local Green Space designation. The guidance states that it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. It describes the Local Green Space designation in further detail than the NPPF.

#### Healthy and Safe Communities (March 2014 updated November 2019)

3.13 The Healthy and Safe Communities PPG sets out key advice on the how to account for health and wellbeing in the planning process in two ways:

- Creating environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles; and



- Identifying and securing the facilities needed for primary, secondary and tertiary care and the wider health and care system.

3.14 This PPG states how planning can influence the built environment to improve health and reduce levels of obesity in local communities.

3.15 The PPG also covers the promotion of the benefits of estate regeneration and supporting safe communities.

#### Climate Change (June 2014 updated March 2019)

3.16 The Climate Change PPG advises how to identify suitable mitigation and adaption measures in the planning process to address the impacts of climate change.

3.17 The PPG states that the impact of climate change needs to be taken into account in a realistic way and, as part of this, local planning authorities should identify no or low cost responses to climate risks that deliver a multitude of benefits, for example, GI that improves adaption, biodiversity and amenity.

3.18 Furthermore, the Climate Change PPG states that when Local Authorities are preparing Local Plans and taking planning decisions they should pay particular attention to integrating adaptation and mitigation approaches and looking for 'win-win' solutions. For example, the provision of multi-functional GI can reduce urban heat islands, manage flooding and help species adapt to climate change whilst also contributing to a pleasant environment that encourages people to walk and cycle.

#### Natural Environment (January 2016 updated July 2019)

3.19 The Natural Environment PPG advises on land of environmental value, GI, biodiversity and ecosystems and landscape.

3.20 The PPG highlights the importance of GI as a natural capital asset. These include community benefits such as enhancing wellbeing, outdoor recreation, food and energy production and mitigating the effects of climate change, such as urban cooling and flood risk management.

3.21 The PPG also identifies the benefits of wider environmental net gain to reduce pressure on and achieve overall improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefit they deliver.

### **Local Policy Context**

#### Local Plan 2011-2031<sup>3</sup>

3.22 The Local Plan was adopted in April 2019, superseding the Harborough District Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2006-2028) and saved policies from the previous 2001 Local Plan.

3.23 The Local Plan sets out strategic planning policy, for the District and the approach to future development in the District. The vision for the District and its open spaces, as set out in the Plan is:

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/file/5714/harborough\\_local\\_plan\\_2011-2031\\_-\\_adopted\\_april\\_2019](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/file/5714/harborough_local_plan_2011-2031_-_adopted_april_2019)

*“In 2031, Harborough District will be a vibrant, safe and prosperous place which retains its identity as a predominantly rural area of villages and market towns where local communities enjoy a high quality of life. Residents will benefit from increased access to suitable housing, a wider range of local skilled jobs, and high quality services and facilities, all of which promote healthy and safe lifestyles.”*

*“The diversity and quality of Harborough’s countryside, natural and historic environment will have improved for the benefit of residents and visitors.... There will be better access to the countryside and an improved range of open spaces for local people to enjoy.”*

*“New development will have been delivered in the most sustainable locations. The historic market town of Market Harborough will have retained its character and strengthened its role as the District’s principal town.”*

*“These two market towns [Market Harborough and Lutterworth], along with settlements near to the edge of Leicester (Scraptoft, Thurnby and Bushby), Broughton Astley and the rural centres, will have been the main focus for development. Residential development will have been delivered to meet strategic and local needs and the necessary infrastructure and community facilities needed to support this growth will have been delivered on time.”*

*“Communities will have access to improved social, recreational, sports, health and educational facilities. Existing valued community services will have been retained and necessary new ones delivered to keep pace with development. The design of the public realm will have responded to the needs of the elderly, young and other vulnerable sections of the community, thereby assisting in a sense of inclusiveness and well-being for all residents.”*

3.24 Ten key issues are identified in the Local Plan. Key issue 5: Green Infrastructure identifies that there is a biodiversity deficit, which should be addressed through the provision of multifunctional green space including a range of habitats and linkages to established habitats as part of new developments.

3.25 Local Plan Objective 4. Infrastructure, states that the Council will support local communities and maintain a high quality of life by ensuring that new development delivers the necessary infrastructure including health, culture, open space and recreation. Furthermore, Objective 6. Natural Environment, states that the natural environment and biodiversity will be protected, maintained, restored and enhanced.

3.26 The following policies are relevant to open space within the District.

*Policy GD7 Green Wedges*

3.27 Policy GD7 Green Wedges identifies two ‘Green Wedges’ within the District:

- Leicester/ Scraptoft/ Bushby; and
- Thurnby/ Leicester/ Oadby.

- 3.28 One of the key aims of Green Wedges is to provide “access from urban areas into green spaces/open countryside and provide recreational opportunities”. Further to this, Green Wedges are described as a ‘green lung’ in urban areas.

*Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure Networks*

- 3.29 Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure Networks states that development will be permitted which supports the potential for strategic GI assets to contribute to the wider GI network. Assets include:

- Welland, Sense, Soar and Avon river corridors;
- Grand Union Canal;
- Dismantled railway lines;
- Saddington, Stanford and Eyebrook Reservoirs; and
- Traffic free cycle routes, and long-distance recreational paths and bridleways.

- 3.30 The GI assets listed above will be safeguarded and, where possible, enhanced.

*Policy GI2 Open Space, Sport and Recreation*

- 3.31 Policy GI2 Open Space, Sport and Recreation aims to provide access to high quality open space, sport and recreation facilities. Development resulting in the loss of, or reduction in, defined open space, sport and recreational facilities will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that:

- the space or recreational facility is surplus to local requirements and will not be needed in the long term in accordance with local standards; or
- replacement areas will be at least equivalent in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility, and there will be no overall negative impact on the provision of open space in accordance with local standards; or
- the proposal is for alternative recreational provision which meets evidence of local need in such a way as to outweigh the loss.

- 3.32 Furthermore, developments of more than 10 dwellings which would result in deficiencies in the quantity, accessibility and/or quality of existing open space, sport and recreational facilities should contribute towards:

- the provision of specific new open space, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with local standards; and/or
- the enhancement of identified existing facilities to meet the relevant local standards.

- 3.33 New open space, sport and recreational facilities should be provided within residential development sites (unless otherwise agreed by the Council) and should:

- be accessible, usable, of a high quality design, visible and safe and include facilities for a range of ages;
- enable links to be created between new development and surrounding recreational networks and facilities (including Public Rights of Way (PRoW));

- provide an appropriate landscaping and landscape maintenance scheme; and
- specify, prior to the commencement of development, the responsibilities for management and maintenance in perpetuity of the open space, sport and recreational facility.

*Policy GI4 Local Green Space*

- 3.34 Policy GI4 Local Green Spaces states that Local Green Space should retain their openness. Construction of new buildings on Local Green Space will not be permitted other than in very special circumstances. Appendix I Local Green Space Designations lists 36 Local Green Spaces.

*Policy GI5 Biodiversity and Geodiversity*

- 3.35 Policy GI5 Biodiversity and Geodiversity aims to safeguard nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites. Development is only permitted where there will be no adverse impact. Developments must contribute towards protecting and improving biodiversity and geodiversity through:
- a. protecting and enhancing habitats and populations of priority species;
  - b. protecting and enhancing the strategic biodiversity network and wildlife corridors, particularly river and canal corridors, disused railways and all watercourses;
  - c. maintaining biodiversity during construction;
  - d. providing contributions to wider biodiversity improvements in the vicinity of the development;
  - e. including measures aimed at allowing the District's flora and fauna to adapt to climate change;
  - f. including measures to improve the water quality of any water body as required by the Water Framework Directive; and
  - g. protecting features and areas of geodiversity value and enhancing them to improve connectivity of habitats, amenity use, education and interpretation.

*Places and Sites*

- 3.36 The Local Plan (2011-2031) identifies significant allocations for development at Leicester Principle Urban Area (PUA), Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Fleckney and The Kibworths. The policies relating to these allocated sites include provision for open space and GI as appropriate.
- 3.37 **Leicester Principle Urban Area (PUA)** - The Leicester PUA comprises the built up settlements of Scraftoft, Thurnby and Bushby which adjoin Leicester. The Leicester PUA settlements are at the top of District's settlement hierarchy, which means they have relatively easy access to a wide range of services and facilities and therefore are the most sustainable location for new residential development.

- 3.38 Policy GD7 designates two Green Wedges in and around the Leicester PUA. The Leicester/Scraptoft/Bushby Green Wedge seeks to ensure the continued separation of Scraptoft village from Leicester, while protecting the upper slopes of the Thurnby Brook valley from development. It incorporates several PRoWs and the disused railway line. Opportunities to improve public access and recreation in the Green Wedge within the Scraptoft North Strategic Development Area (SDA) have been part of the master planning process. The Thurnby/Leicester/Oadby Green Wedge is a more extensive designation running south from the edge of Thurnby to the edge of Stoughton Airfield, surrounding the village of Stoughton and preventing coalescence with Leicester. This Green Wedge adjoins similar designations in Leicester City and Oadby & Wigston Borough promoting access from the urban area into the countryside. Full details about Policy GD7 are provided in paragraph 3.27-3.28.
- 3.39 **Scraptoft North SDA** - Scraptoft North SDA is located immediately north of Scraptoft and on the eastern edge of the Leicester. Scraptoft North is allocated as a SDA and is part the Leicester PUA. The Scraptoft North SDA will provide a sustainable extension to Scraptoft providing approximately 1,200 homes and associated community infrastructure and green infrastructure. Policy SC1 Scraptoft North SDA states that there will be sustainable and high quality living environment within a network of green infrastructure, which maintains and enhances the existing areas of highest ecological value, creates new habitats, recreational opportunities and the distinct identity of Scraptoft village.
- 3.40 A planning application for the Scraptoft North SDA (application ref: 19/00700/OUT) has been submitted to the District Council. A decision date is expected mid-2021.
- 3.41 **Market Harborough** - Overstone Park (Policy MH1) is situated to the south east of Market Harborough town centre and is allocated for 600 dwellings and now has planning permission. Land East of Blackberry Grange (Policy MH2), to the south of Market Harborough, is allocated for the development of 350 dwellings and a planning application has been submitted to the Council. Burnmill Farm (Policy MH3) is situated to the north of Market Harborough town centre is allocated for 128 dwellings and is now under construction. Policies for each of these allocated residential development sites provide for an integrated approach to surface water drainage and multifunctional green space, as well as provision for recreational facilities.
- 3.42 **Lutterworth** - There is an SDA allocated on land to the east of Lutterworth, which will provide a well-planned extension to Lutterworth with its own sense of place, including a community park. Policy L1 East of Lutterworth SDA, states that the masterplan will provide for a multi-functional green infrastructure network including greenways, a community park, natural and semi-natural greenspace, a cemetery and allotments and local public open space with equipped play space and multi-use games areas. There has been a resolution to grant outline planning permission for the SDA.
- 3.43 **Fleckney** - Fleckney is large village close to the edge of the northern border of the District, equal distance between Leicester and Market Harborough. Land off Arnesby Road (Policy F1) is allocated for residential development of approximately 130 dwellings and provision of open space and recreational facilities and has planning permission.

- 3.44 **The Kibworths** - Land south and west of Priory Business Park (Policy K1) will also provide provision for new formal and informal public open space, and green infrastructure linkages.

*Housing*

- 3.45 The Local Plan (2011-2031) provides up to date information on housing requirements during the Plan period. According to paragraph 5.1.4, the overall housing required for the District is 557 dwellings per annum, which amounts to a total housing requirement of the plan period of 11,140 dwellings by 2031.

- 3.46 Policy SS1 The Spatial Strategy, states that there is a provision of land for a minimum of 12,800 dwellings (housing requirement, plus 15% contingency buffer), set out as follows:

- Already completed or committed dwellings – 8,792 dwellings;
- SDA on land east of Lutterworth – 1,260 dwellings;
- SDA at Scraftoft North – 1,200 dwellings;
- Other allocated sites – 1,200 dwellings; and
- Non-allocated sites or sites allocated in Neighbourhood Plans – 307 dwellings.

- 3.47 Development will be strictly controlled in the countryside and on designated open space within all settlements.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.48 The following Neighbourhood Development Plans have been made:

- Arnesby;
- Broughton Astley;
- Billesdon;
- Burton Overy;
- East Langton;
- Foxton;
- Great Bowden;
- Great Easton;
- Great Glen;
- Houghton on the Hill;
- Hungarton;
- The Kibworths;
- Lubenham;
- Medbourne;
- North Kilworth;
- Saddington;
- Scraftoft;
- Shearsby;
- South Kilworth;
- Swinford; and
- Tur Langton.

- 3.49 The Neighbourhood Plans acknowledge the importance of development within the District, whilst requiring a harmony between the natural and built environment. The number of Neighbourhood Plans show that there are active Parish Councils and communities in the District.

Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (January 2017 update in 2021)

- 3.50 A planning obligation is a legally enforceable obligation entered into under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal, to ensure a planning application is acceptable. The Council (together with Leicestershire County Council) enters into these agreements with developers to help ensure that obligations are met.
- 3.51 The Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was prepared to inform developers, landowners, infrastructure providers and local communities about the approach of the Council to securing community infrastructure and affordable housing through planning obligations.

*Funding*

- 3.52 Funding of open space maintenance can be particularly difficult due to budgetary constraints on the local authority. Developers are advised not to assume that proposed open spaces assets will be adopted by the Council. Developers should ensure that there are adequate arrangements made to ensure appropriate maintenance and management of the asset in perpetuity and to prevent it from becoming a future liability.
- 3.53 The Provision for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2015 document details an approach to determining developers' required level of contribution towards open space, sport and recreation facilities when applying for new residential development. The level of contributions will be periodically reviewed to ensure that they are accurate and will be calculated for each development from a detailed assessment of the range of existing open space in the area. This will give confidence to developers that they are not being asked to contribute towards open space typologies where there is an existing oversupply.
- 3.54 A commuted sum will normally also be requested by the Council to ensure arrangements for the maintenance of the facilities over the initial 30 year life of the facility are in place, should the Council decide to take ownership of a site.

## 4.0 Method

### Guidance and Best Practice

- 4.1 This Open Spaces Strategy is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Open Space, which have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).
- 4.2 Whilst the Companion Guide to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 has been superseded, it is acknowledged that the principals and approach within the guidance have not been replaced and it is still relevant to apply the methodology to assess needs for open space provision.

### Stages of the Assessment

- 4.3 The Open Spaces Strategy process follows five stages as illustrated in Figure 2: Open Spaces Strategy Process.

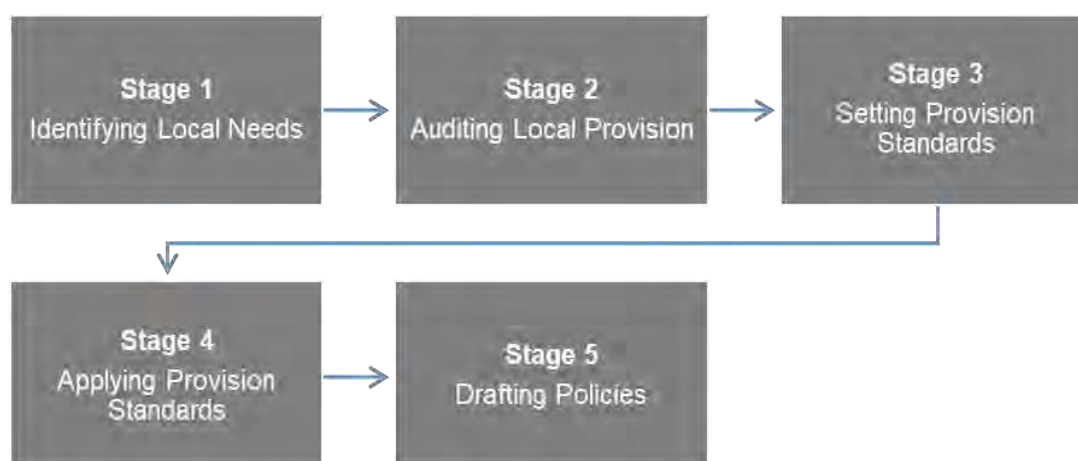


Figure 2: Open Spaces Strategy Process

### Typologies

- 4.4 Table 1 provides a description of each of the open space typologies included in this Strategy.

Table 1 Open Space Typologies included in the Open Spaces Strategy.

Open Space Typology	Description
Allotments and Community Gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.



Open Space Typology	Description
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.
Churchyards and Cemeteries	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.
Civic Spaces	Hard surfaced areas usually located within town or city centres.
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.
Parks and Recreation Grounds	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one or more of the other types of open space within them.
Play Space (Children)	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction specifically designed as equipped play facilities for children.
Play Space (Youth)	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction specifically designed as equipped play facilities for young people.
Greenways	These include towpaths and walkways alongside canals and riverbanks, cycleways, public footpaths and disused railway lines.

## Quantity

- 4.5 The quantity assessment is carried out through a desk based GIS exercise, using open space data provided by the Council. Open space sites are mapped in a GIS geo-database which provides total area in hectares of each site. Each site is assigned an open space typology so that a total area of sites by typology can be calculated.
- 4.6 The quantity provision of sites is based on the Council's Open Space Asset list. Further updates to the open space data have been captured during the site audits in 2020.

- 4.7 When combined with population figures, quantity can be expressed in terms of a hectare per 1,000 population figure. This is the way that local authorities express their quantity of open space, and is how quantity standards for open space are expressed.
- 4.8 In this assessment, total area, or in some cases numbers of sites, has been used to calculate the current quantity provision for the District and each sub-area. Population figures have been used to calculate the hectare per 1,000 population figures for each typology on a District wide and sub-area basis, for the current and future population. The exception to this is Greenways which is calculated as a linear length in line with the BSFS.

### Quality

- 4.9 All sites within the Open Space Asset list have been audited as part of the assessment process. Two levels of audits have been applied as per Figure 3:

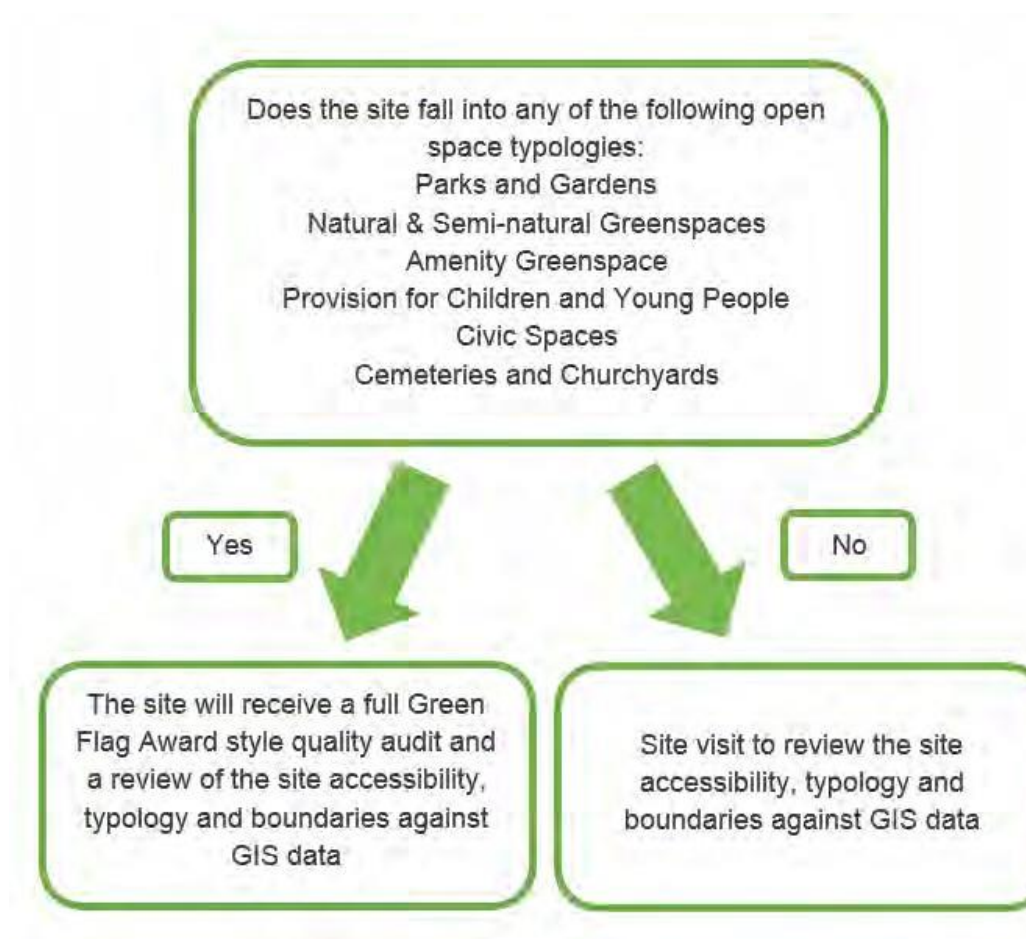


Figure 3: Audit levels

- 4.10 The open space quality assessment is based on site audits aligned to the Green Flag Award assessment criteria. The Green Flag Award is widely recognised as a quality benchmark for parks and green spaces, is advocated by Fields in Trust (FiT) and used by many other local authorities as part of their open space assessments.

- 4.11 Greenways have not been assessed for quality as they do not readily fit within the Green Flag Award criteria.
- 4.12 It should be noted that quality audits undertaken as part of the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 to 2021 aligned to Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) and as a result quality results between the two strategies vary.
- 4.13 The quality assessment method for the site audits uses some of the Green Flag Award criteria (described in Table 2) based on those that can be applied to all typologies of open space. This allows a quality benchmark to be applied to all the District's open spaces with exception of Greenways as stated prior.

*Table 2 Green Flag Award Criteria*

<b>Green Flag Award Criteria</b>	<b>Description</b>
Welcoming Place	Signage
	Entrances
	Safe Access
	Access for All Abilities
	Boundaries
	Car parking/Cycling Provision
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Facilities and Activities
	Clear Sightlines
	Shelter
	Lighting
Well Maintained and Clean	Bins, Dog Bins and Recycling
	Overall Site Cleanliness
	Hard Landscape Features
	Buildings
	Soft Landscape Features
	Site Furniture

- 4.14 The quality assessment does not attempt to 'judge' all sites as to whether they would pass or fail the Green Flag Award. This would not be appropriate to do as part of an Open Spaces Strategy due to the types and nature of the sites; the proportionate amount of time needed to spend assessing each site in full; and the information available to undertake the assessment. The full Green Flag Award process involves reviewing a management plan for each site, and undertaking a site visit with the site managers, key stakeholders and the local community.
- 4.15 Not all open spaces are within the Council's ownership. This does not mean the District Council would not take on the responsibility of managing an open space in the future. The Council may adopt open space which has strategic value within the District, e.g. those which draw visitors from further afield. Further details on the Council's approach is detailed in Chapter 9. The bandings for the open space quality audits are as follows:
- Excellent - 90% to 100%;
  - Very good - 80% to 89%;
  - Good - 70% to 79%;
  - Fair - 50% to 69%; and
  - Poor - 0% to 49%.
- 4.16 The full site audit results are included as Appendix D. Full details of audit results including accompanying notes have been provided to the Council.

### Value

- 4.17 The open space value assessment is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17<sup>4</sup> (September 2002). Although PPG17 has been superseded by the NPPF 2019, there has been no supporting guidance published to supersede 'Assessing needs and opportunity: a companion guide to PPG17'. This is the most up to date guidance for value assessment for open spaces.
- 4.18 Table 3 details the value criteria used for this Open Spaces Strategy.

*Table 3 Value Criteria*

Value	Value Criteria
Context Value	Value as a cycle or pedestrian route
	Value in terms of a linked series of green or hard spaces
	Value in terms of a linked openness in a densely developed area
	Value in terms of providing a setting for buildings (e.g. Georgian square)
Historical/Heritage Value	Value as a designed landscape

<sup>4</sup>

Value	Value Criteria
	Value of historic buildings within the space
	Value of other historical features (e.g. statues, fountains, headstones)
Contribution to Local Amenity, Vitality and Sense of Place	Contribution to the appearance of the neighbourhood
	Evidence of use for events
	Value as a noise buffer
	Value as a visual screen or buffer
	Value in terms of 'sense of place'
	Value in terms of 'business' for social interaction
	Value in terms of local air quality and amelioration of pollution
	Visual attractiveness
	Proximity to hospital/health centre/school/other community hub
Recreation Value	Value for community events
	Value in terms of health benefits (e.g. jogging, health walks)
	Value of informal recreation opportunities (e.g. walking, relaxation)
Play Value	Value in terms of variety of finishes and experiences
	Value of space for adventure play
	Value of space for kickabout
	Value of space for seeing birds and animals
Ecological/ Biodiversity Value	Nature conservation designation
	Value as a green corridor for wildlife
	Value for public enjoyment of nature
	Value of habitats within the space (including water)

Value	Value Criteria
	Value of trees to the neighbourhood
	Buildings have potential for green roofs/walls
	Buildings have potential for rain water harvesting

4.19 The bandings for the open space value audits are as follows:

- High - 60 to 100%;
- Medium - 40 to 59%; and
- Low - 0 to 39%.

### Quality and Value Matrix

4.20 The Value of a site, in conjunction with the Quality, can be used to guide planning decisions about the future of the sites as shown in Table 4.

*Table 4 Quality and Value Matrix*

<b>Poor Quality High Value</b>  High value sites that are poor quality should look to be enhanced in terms of their quality	<b>Good Quality High Value</b>  Ideally all spaces should fall into this category, and decisions focused on protection of the best sites
<b>Poor Quality Low Value</b>  Where possible look to enhance quality and value, or review if sites are surplus to requirements	<b>Good Quality Low Value</b>  Where possible look to enhance value in terms of the functions the sites provide, or consider if value could increase by a change of use

### Accessibility

4.21 The accessibility assessment applies Walking Thresholds ('as the crow flies') to sites. Walking Thresholds are shown on accessibility maps in this report to indicate areas with access to each type of open space, and those without. The maps also show accessibility through the road network which identifies physical barriers to access such as motorways or watercourses. For the purpose of this study, straight line buffers have been used.

4.22 Distance for the accessibility thresholds were determined in the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 to 2021 and, following consultation with the Council, are to be applied to this Strategy.

- 4.23 Table 5 sets out the walking distances and walking thresholds from the FiT Guidance for Outdoor Sports and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard and the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 to 2021, and how the distances, in metres (m) can be interpreted as walking time.
- 4.24 An advantage of using the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 to 2021 accessibility standards is that a comparison of the results on the maps produced for this Strategy can be directly made with those contained within the previous study.

*Table 5 Walking Distance, Thresholds and Time*

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Benchmark Standard<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Existing Accessibility Standard</b>
Allotments	None set	4.0 km or 10 minutes' drive/ bus
Amenity Greenspace	480 metres	800m or 10 mins walk
Cemeteries & Burial Grounds	None set	2km or 5 mins drive/bus
Civic Spaces	None set	None set
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	720 metres	1.6km or 20 mins walk
Parks and Gardens	710 metres	4km or 10 mins drive/bus
Provision for Children and Young People	LAP - 100 metres LEAP - 400 metres NEAP – 1,000 metres	400m - 800m or 10 mins drive
Greenways	None set	20 minutes drive time (taken from the BSFS)

<sup>5</sup> [FiT Guidance](#)

## 5.0 Identifying Local Needs

### National Strategy Documents

#### Promoting Healthy Cities (Royal Town Planning Institute)<sup>6</sup>

- 5.1 The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) published Promoting Healthy Cities, a document tackling the role of planning in creating healthy cities in October 2014.
- 5.2 The report calls for the UK to develop more integrated strategies for healthy place making, gather greater intelligence on the social and economic determinants of health and reform and strengthen institutions to ensure integration of health policies. This process should involve a range of professions and community stakeholders.

#### Green Infrastructure Strategies (Natural England)<sup>7</sup>

- 5.3 Green Infrastructure Strategies (Natural England, October 2014) provides guidance on:
- Why we need GI;
  - What GI should achieve;
  - What GI is; and
  - GI strategies.
- 5.4 Natural England states that GI:

*"Contributes so much to the setting and quality of people's living and working environments, and its role in generating economic benefit has often been overlooked".*

- 5.5 The guidance states that *"policies and decisions on development proposals should conserve and enhance environmental assets"*. Consideration should be made to providing off road, green routes for walkers and cyclists, and consider privately owned land, which provides connectivity for wildlife, and helps tackle climate change and flooding.

#### The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (2011)<sup>8</sup>

- 5.6 The NEWP states that *"People cannot flourish without the benefits and services our natural environment provide. Nature is a complex, interconnected system. A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing"*.
- 5.7 The Government wants to put the value of nature at the heart of decision-making, in Government, local communities and businesses. To achieve this the NEWP focuses on 4 key areas:

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/policy/2014/february/promoting-healthy-cities/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033>

<sup>8</sup>



- Protecting and improving our natural environment - Achieve a better quality natural environment by taking and promoting actions across farmed land, woodlands and forests, towns and cities, and rivers and water bodies;
- Growing the green economy - Economic growth and the natural environment are mutually compatible. Sustainable economic growth relies on services provided by the natural environment, often referred to as 'ecosystem services';
- Reconnecting people and nature - High-quality natural environments foster healthy neighbourhoods; green spaces encourage social activity and reduce crime. The natural environment can help children's learning; and
- International and EU leadership - Environmental leadership should be demonstrable internationally and within the EU, to protect and enhance natural assets globally, promoting environmentally and socially sustainable growth.

### Local Strategy Documents

5.8 The following strategy documents provide an overview of the Council's strategic context and actions in relation to open space and are summarised in the following paragraphs:

- Corporate Priorities 2018/19-2020/21;
- Leicestershire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017);
- Harborough District Council Open Spaces Strategy (2016-2021);
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (Sub-Regional Strategic Framework 2010); and
- Harborough District Cemetery and Burial Strategy 2016.

#### Corporate Plan (2018/19-2020/21)<sup>9</sup>

5.9 The Council's vision is *"to secure a prosperous future for the people of Harborough District"*. To achieve this the Corporate Plan (2018/19-2020/21) sets out three priorities:

- The Place: A safe, enterprising and vibrant place;
- The People: A healthy, inclusive and empowered community; and
- Your Council: Creative, proactive and efficient.

5.10 Plans to achieve these priorities include increasing opportunities for sport and physical activity to develop long-term health and wellbeing outcomes and liaise closely with parish councils to understand local need and support.

#### Corporate Property Strategy (2013-2018)<sup>10</sup>

5.11 The Corporate Property Strategy incorporates the Council's Asset Register and Disposals, Acquisition and Community Transfer Policy. The Strategy also provides a plan of actions to be taken with regards to the effective management of the authority's property portfolio over the short and medium term.

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory\\_record/472/corporate\\_plan](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory_record/472/corporate_plan)

<sup>10</sup> [Our policies, plans and strategies - Corporate Property Strategy and Asset register | Harborough District Council](#)

- 5.12 The vision is *“To enhance Harborough’s public service through effective property management”*.
- 5.13 The Corporate Property Strategy, Supplementary Policy and Procedures Disposal & Acquisition Procedure provides a mechanism for adoption of open space. Appendix C, Section 5: Adoption of Public Space of the Corporate Property Strategy outlines the criteria under which HDC will adopt Public Open Space. The Council will not adopt areas of Public Open Space unless one of the following applies:
- A commuted payment is available from the developer in accordance with extant Planning Guidance for developer contributions;
  - The area is of interest to a charitable trust or a Parish Council which will maintain the land; or
  - The Council will utilise an Assessment Toolkit to determine whether the land will be accepted by the Council as shown in the Appendix. A score below 30 is likely to be considered unsuitable for adoption.
- 5.14 However exceptional circumstances will be considered after other options have been considered e.g. community organisation of Parish Council maintenance where there is an overriding public interest. These exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis without precedent.

#### Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017)

- 5.15 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy outlines the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board's approach to reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Leicestershire County.
- 5.16 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy's vision is to *“improve health outcomes for the local population, manage future demand of services and create a strong and sustainable health and care system by making the best use of the available resources”*.
- 5.17 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to:
- enable people to take control of their own health and wellbeing;
  - reduce the gap in health inequalities;
  - ensure good health and wellbeing for children and young people; and
  - plan ahead for older people to retain a good quality of life.

#### Open Spaces Strategy 2016 to 2021<sup>11</sup>

- 5.18 The Harborough Open Spaces Strategy 2016-2021 sets out a vision for the District's open spaces *“to work in partnership to protect, enhance and enable quality open space that is safe, supports wildlife, is valued and enjoyed by people and contributes to their health and wellbeing”*.

The aims of the Strategy are divided into 8 areas:

- Quality;
- Conservation;

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/download/873/open\\_spaces\\_strategy\\_2016\\_to\\_2021](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/download/873/open_spaces_strategy_2016_to_2021)

- Value Safety;
- Volunteers;
- Safety;
- Values;
- Income; and
- Health.

5.19 The Open Spaces Strategy 2016 to 2021 builds on the results of the Provisions for Open Space, Sports and Recreation study (2015).

Provision for Open Space, Sports and Recreation (2015)

5.20 The Provision for Open Space, Sports and Recreation (2015) study is the companion to the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 - 2021. The two documents support and inform each other.

5.21 The Provision for Open Space Sport and Recreation forms part of the developer guidance notes produced by the Council and takes account of the results of consultation throughout 2015 concerning the local need for open space and commuted sums required when the Council adopts open space on new development.

5.22 The method used for setting the standards in the 2015 study is in accordance with PPG17 and used both qualitative and quantitative information sources from audits and consultation. Standards were developed for quantity and accessibility.

*Quantity*

5.23 The District was divided into five areas for the study:

- (i) North East Rural;
- (ii) The Kibworths, Fleckney & Central;
- (iii) Market Harborough & Lubenham;
- (iv) Peatling & Bosworth; and
- (v) Western Area (Lutterworth/ Broughton Astley).

5.24 The report concluded the following for each typology:

- Parks and Gardens: there is a deficiency of Parks and Gardens within all areas of the District, the largest of which is in The Kibworths, Fleckney and Great Glen;
- Natural and Semi-Natural: as a result of the predominantly rural nature of natural and semi natural open space, and the vastly different levels of provision in the more urban areas of the District (Market Harborough and Lubenham, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley) two standards were set. Overall, there is considered to be an oversupply of Natural and Semi-Natural open spaces, and only Market Harborough and Lubenham are perceived to have shortfalls in Natural and Semi-Natural provision;
- Amenity Greenspace: only Market Harborough and Lubenham have a surplus of Amenity Greenspace, all other areas are currently considered to have a shortfall in provision;

- Provision for Children and Young People: there is a total deficiency of provision across the District equating to over 10 hectares of provision, and there is a deficiency in each of the analysis areas, the largest of which is in Market Harborough and Lubenham; and
- Allotments: there is an overall deficiency of allotments within the District, however there is a small oversupply of provision within the Peatling and Bosworth analysis area.

5.25 The 2015 quantity standards will be reviewed as part of this Strategy.

*Quality*

5.26 The 2015 study concluded that there are many high quality open spaces provided within the District with the majority of sites rated as average or above and more sites than any other rated as 'good' or 'very good'. Very few sites were considered to be poor or very poor.

5.27 The quality of Cemeteries and Churchyards, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks and Gardens was considered to be particularly good.

*Accessibility*

5.28 Most open spaces within the District are accessible to the public, with the majority of sites considered to have good or very good accessibility. The main area of concern was limited access by public transport.

*Calculations*

5.29 The Council has historically asked for 15 years commuted sums. The 2015 study proposed an increase in commuted maintenance sums from 15 years to 30 years in the event that the Council accepts responsibility for maintenance of the open space in perpetuity.

Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy (Sub-Regional Strategic Framework 2010)

5.30 The GI Strategy was adopted in 2010 by the 6C's regional body (comprising three cities - Derby, Leicester, and Nottingham and three counties - Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire). The vision of the GI Strategy is to seek to embrace the multiple functions of GI and show how these can provide important benefits for the 6Cs sub-region in relation to national, regional and local policy priorities.

5.31 The overarching strategic aims for the GI Strategy are to:

- Develop the GI approach as an 'environmental life-support system' for healthy communities and ecosystems;
- Provide a long-term environmental framework for sustainable development that achieve wide ranging environmental, economic and social benefits; and
- Maximise the potential of GI to bring about multifunctional holistic solutions to environmental concerns, including climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- 5.32 The countryside around Market Harborough has been identified as an Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zone due to increased pressure for development at the edge of the town.
- 5.33 Through investment in GI provision, the Urban Fringe Green Infrastructure Enhancement Zones have the ability and potential to deliver a range of economic, environmental and social benefits related to the following GI themes or functions:
- A bridge to the countryside from urban centres;
  - A gateway to improve the image and experience of towns and city;
  - Improvements to health and wellbeing;
  - Environmental education opportunities;
  - Sustainable living; and
  - Strengthening biodiversity and conservation management.

#### Harborough District Cemetery and Burial Strategy 2016<sup>12</sup>

- 5.34 The Cemetery and Burial Strategy 2016 was prepared to inform the Council's Local Development Framework and Local Plan (2011-2031). The purpose of the Cemetery and Burial Strategy is to provide an evidence base on burial land needs and provision to inform future planning policies and site allocations.
- 5.35 There are seven Parish Council's with insufficient burial space until 2031 - Fleckney, Foxton, Houghton on the Hill, Market Harborough, Stoughton, Thurnby and Bushby and Tilton.
- 5.36 There are eleven Parish Council's with insufficient cremation ash plots until 2031 – Claybrooke Magna, Fleckney, Great Easton, Houghton on the Hill, Lubenham, Market Harborough, Misterton with Walcote, Peatling Magna, Stoughton, Thurnby and Bushby and Tilton.
- 5.37 Towards the south of the District, around Market Harborough, there is a significant shortage of burial space and cremation ash capacity. All other Parishes have capacity until 2031 or capacity until 2039.
- 5.38 Most Parishes could achieve the required capacity through intensification. Any extensions or new sites would need further assessment.

## **Population**

### Facts and Figures

- 5.39 The Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2017) states that there is an aging population across the County with a reduction of working age population over the next 20 years, which is in line with the Council's population figures.
- 5.40 The population of Leicestershire is projected to grow by 14.7% by 2037. However, the over 65 population is predicted to grow by 72.7% and 85 and over population by 186.8%.

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<sup>12</sup> [https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory\\_record/2628/gr3\\_harborough\\_cemetery\\_and\\_burial\\_strategy](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory_record/2628/gr3_harborough_cemetery_and_burial_strategy)

- 5.41 The rural population of Leicestershire makes up approximately 30% of the total population. It is growing more slowly than urban areas but growing older more rapidly than the County as a whole.
- 5.42 The County has significantly higher than average life expectancy for men and women for England. However, there is a 5-6 year gap in life expectancy between residents in the most deprived areas, compared to residents in the most affluent areas.
- 5.43 The Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy concludes that the County is a relatively affluent area and experiences very low levels of social-economic deprivation overall.

Current Population

- 5.44 For the purpose of this Strategy, the population figures have been sourced from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Middle Super Output Area Mid-Year Population Estimates (MSOA) for 2019. According to ONS estimates the current population of Harborough District is 93,807. For reference, Table 6 shows the division of the current population into the three sub-areas which closely align with MSOA boundaries.

*Table 6: Current (2019) Population Figures by Sub-Area*

Sub-Area	Population
East	26,228
Middle	38,193
West	29,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,807</b>

- 5.45 See plan (G8202.005) and Appendix A and for Sub-Area MSOA breakdown areas.

Future Population

- 5.46 The projected future population for Harborough District in 2036 is 108,872. This is based on ONS MSOA 2019 population figures and a percentage forecast change from ONS of 16.06% between 2019 and 2036.

*Table 7: Projected Future Population by Sub-Area*

Sub-Area	2019 Population	2036 Population
East	26,228	30,440
Middle	38,193	44,327

Sub-Area	2019 Population	2036 Population
West	29,386	34,105
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,807</b>	<b>108,872</b>

## Consultation

- 5.47 In September 2020 TEP and Harborough District Council undertook a six week online consultation event with three key groups: key stakeholders including Parish Councils and Elected Members; the community; and developers. Each group was invited to answer a set of bespoke targeted questions related to management, use and perception of open space in the District. Questions and a summary of responses are outlined in Appendix B.
- 5.48 The aims of the Open Spaces Strategy consultation were to:
- Provide key stakeholders across the District with information about the Open Space Study;
  - Allow key stakeholders and the local community to comment on the vision and approach to managing and developing open spaces within the District;
  - Understand key opportunities and challenges faced by developers; and
  - Consider feedback received as a result of the consultation process.
- 5.49 Community consultation was hosted online via TEP's website and published through TEP's and the Council's social media platforms, and in turn by the Council's communication team.
- 5.50 The key stakeholder and developer questionnaires were issued via email link for participants to respond to.
- 5.51 27 responses were received from the Key Stakeholder questionnaire, 200 responses were submitted by the community and 5 responses were received by developers.
- 5.52 A focus group was also held between TEP, the Council and resident groups to discuss current open space management within the District.
- 5.53 To ensure the Strategy meets the needs of residents within the District, as well as being achievable in terms of deliverables TEP also undertook a consultation meeting with the Council's Planning Enforcement Team.

### Key Stakeholders and Community

- 5.54 Key stakeholders included Parish Councillors, Elected Members, local conservation groups and community interest groups from across the District to ensure diversity in results.

- 5.55 Key stakeholders were asked to complete 12 questions issued by email, and the community were asked 11 questions as an online questionnaire which covered usage, accessibility, quality, quantity, play space and open space improvement. Key stakeholders were also asked additional targeted questions related to open space they manage.

*Usage*

*What type(s) of Open Space do you and/or your organisation frequently use?*

- 5.56 Key stakeholders use and/or managed Provision for Children and Young People (56%), Parks and Gardens (48%) and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (48%) most frequently. The least used and/or managed is Educational Grounds (4%) and Civic Spaces (19%).

- 5.57 The community scored Parks and Gardens the most frequently used (93%) followed by Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace second most frequently (77%). The least used was Civic Spaces (24.50%), Education Grounds (20.50%) and Allotments and Community Gardens 19.50%). These results are in line with the frequency of visits, with participants visiting Parks and Gardens (97 responses) and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (88 responses) weekly. However Educational Grounds (91 responses), Allotments and Community Garden (124 responses) were mostly never visited.

*Accessibility*

*How accessible are the open spaces that you use in relation to walking, cycling, driving and public transport?*

- 5.58 Key stakeholders and community consultees scored walking as Excellent or Good, cycling and driving as Good and public transport as Average. Comments were made by both key stakeholders and community consultees that there is poor public transport connectivity to the villages across the District.

*How accessible are the open spaces across the district as a whole in relation to walking, cycling, driving and public transport?*

- 5.59 Key stakeholders and community consultees scored walking, cycling and driving as Good and public transport as Average. As above there are several rural areas of the District which have poorer connectivity and accessibility to open spaces, although it is acknowledged that rural areas have increased access to the open countryside.

*Quality*

*How would you rate the quality of open space that you use?*

- 5.60 Key stakeholders and community consultees both scored the quality of the open spaces they use and/or manage as Good. Welland Park in particular was identified as being a high quality open space.



*How would you rate the quality of open space across the district as a whole?*

- 5.61 Key stakeholders scored the quality of open spaces across the district as Average, whereas the community scored them as Good. It was noted that footpaths across the district could be improved including the provision of walking and cycling routes, and access for disabled users.
- 5.62 Responders also noted that an improvement in maintenance and rewilding would improve the quality of open space.

*Quantity*

*How would you rate the quantity of open space you use?*

- 5.63 Key stakeholders and community consultees both stated that there is enough of Parks and Gardens, Churchyards and Cemeteries and Civic Space. Key stakeholders also thought there was enough Amenity Greenspace although community consultees thought there was not enough.
- 5.64 Key stakeholders and the community both agreed that there was not enough Natural Semi-Natural Greenspaces and Green Corridors.

*How would you rate the quantity of open space across the District as a whole?*

- 5.65 Key stakeholders and community consultees agreed there is enough Parks and Gardens, Churchyards and Cemeteries and Educational Grounds, and not enough Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace, Provision for Children and Young People, Accessible areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe and Green Corridors.
- 5.66 Key stakeholders thought there was enough Amenity Greenspace whereas the community thought there wasn't enough. Both groups agreed that there was not enough Allotments and Community Gardens.

*Play Provision*

- 5.67 Key stakeholders were asked how important it is that play space is accessible within 10 minute walk from someone's home. Key stakeholders think this is very important (81%) or somewhat important (19%). No responses were received for not important.
- 5.68 The key stakeholder questionnaire noted that that play spaces are generally considered the most expensive open space typology to manage and therefore asked how the Council should address play facilities in the future. Most key stakeholders believe that if the current facilities were improved there would be no need for additional play facilities. The community consultee respondents also agreed.
- 5.69 Community consultees stated that they mostly have access to a playground approximately 10 minute walk from their home. Marginally more people stated that they do use adventure playgrounds within the District.

### *Improvements*

- 5.70 Key stakeholders were asked what improvements they would like to see to open spaces that they use and/or manage. The highest score was more facilities such as seating and bins, followed by improved landscaping and maintenance. The lowest score was for better entrances and more information such as information boards. The community wanted to see better maintenance, closely followed by more facilities.
- 5.71 Across the District key stakeholders and the community want to see improvements to maintenance. Suggestions for improvement across the district included:
- Increase dog bins;
  - Wilding areas and less frequent mowing regimes; and
  - Increase woodland cover.
- 5.72 Concerns were raised regarding overcrowding and increased usage throughout 2020 due to the Covid-19 (coronavirus) Pandemic. Concerns were also raised over the new Lutterworth East development, as well as losing open space across the District as a whole due to development.

### Developer Consultation

- 5.73 Developers who undertake development in the District were identified by the Council and asked six questions relating to their role in providing and managing open spaces in the District.

### *Open Spaces Provided*

- 5.74 The developers were asked what type of open space their company provides as part of new developments. All developers who responded have provided Amenity Greenspace and 80% have provided Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People. None of the developers have provided Civic Spaces or Educational Grounds. This was also reflected in which open spaces developers prefer, as all developers prefer to provide Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Amenity Green Space.

### *Management post-development*

- 5.75 As part of the consultation stage, the Council wanted to find out what the preferred approach to open space management is for developers post development. The developers who responded do not have internal management companies to manage open spaces.
- 5.76 The majority of developers who responded choose to transfer open space to an external management company or resident owned entity, because they often feel this is the only option, however they would prefer to transfer open space to the District or Parish Council.
- 5.77 The majority of developers who responded felt that the process of transfer to the Council was the largest barrier for transferring open spaces to the District Council instead of a management company.

- 5.78 One developer elaborated on this by saying they were unclear on the process of transfer, they often found timescales for transfer lengthy, confusion of ownership/responsibility within the Council, and commuted sums. Another developer agreed with the concerns over commuted sums by stating that the cost of the commuted sum can affect viability of a site.
- 5.79 All developers were in favour of the Council providing a number of units below which play provisions are not required in new development. They had no issue with off-site contributions but wanted more clarity in relation to on-site provisions to assist with site appraisal.
- 5.80 Three of the developer consultees currently use the existing Open Spaces Strategy (2016); two do not.

#### Residents Associations

- 5.81 A meeting was held with representatives of several resident associations in the District where open space is managed by third party managing organisations rather than Harborough District Council.
- 5.82 It should be noted that managing organisations can be resident-led, or an external private or third sector management company.
- 5.83 The objective of the meeting was to provide residents with an opportunity to voice on the ground experience of managing organisations. Information gathered in this meeting and subsequent correspondence with the group has provided guidance in the development of this Strategy.
- 5.84 Full details from this meeting can be found in Appendix C and comments have been considered with Chapter 9.

## 6.0 Auditing Local Provision

### Introduction

- 6.1 This section presents the results of the quantity, quality, value and accessibility assessment for the District as a whole, the sub-areas and each of the open space typologies.
- 6.2 At the project outset, a site list was provided by Harborough District Council. This dataset and associated GIS files were assessed and a data consolidation exercise undertaken prior to site audits to capture any additional open space sites which should be audited as part of the Strategy.
- 6.3 Outdoor sports facilities are not included in the review of open spaces within the District, as these are considered as part of the Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy.

### District Overview

#### Quantity

- 6.4 The number, area and percentage of each type of open space within the District is shown in Table 8. The highest proportion of open space is provided by Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space this is due to rural nature of the District, followed by Amenity Greenspace.
- 6.5 Civic Spaces and Provisions for Children and Young People provides the least provision across the Harborough District (1% or under).

*Table 8: Open Spaces by Typology, Number and Area*

Open Space Typology	Description	No.	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Allotments and Community Gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	36	22.85	2.08%
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	312	109.95	10.02%

Open Space Typology	Description	No.	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	109	43.50	3.96%
Civic Spaces	Hard surfaced areas usually located within town or city centres.	5	1.05	0.10%
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.	117	871.82	79.43%
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks and formal gardens. Parks usually contain a variety of facilities, and may have one of more of the other types of open space within them.	9	38.05	3.47%
Provisions for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas and skateboard parks.	66	10.34	0.94%
<b>Final Total - Rounded to two decimal places</b>		<b>654</b>	<b>1097.57</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
Greenways	These include towpaths and walkways alongside canals and riverbanks, cycleways, public footpaths and disused railway lines.	>1000	700km	n/a

6.6 Table 9 shows the quantity of each typology by sub-area in ha.

*Table 9: Ha of Open Space by Typology and Sub-area*

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>West</b>
Allotments and Community Gardens	3.05	10.01	9.79
Amenity Greenspace	34.99	46.37	28.59
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	16.85	13.17	13.48
Civic Spaces	0	0.79	0.26
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	703.66	74.38	93.79
Parks and Gardens	20.36	8.69	9.00
Provisions for Children and Young People	2.94	3.04	4.36
<b>Total rounded to two decimal places</b>	<b>781.85</b>	<b>156.45</b>	<b>159.27</b>
Greenways	Not considered within sub-area split due to the nature of the typology.		

6.7 According to ONS MSOA estimates the current population of Harborough District is 93,807 and the total amount of open space of 1097.57 ha, current provision of open space is calculated at **11.69 ha per 1,000 population**.

6.8 Using the projected future population figures generated by the future population projections (see Chapter 5) it is also possible to calculate future provision. The area of each open space typology per 1,000 population (current and future) is shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Open Space by Hectare per 1,000

Open Space Typology	2019 ha/ 1,000	2036 ha/ 1,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.24	0.21
Amenity Greenspace	1.17	1.01
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.46	0.40
Civic Spaces	0.01	0.01
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	9.29	8.01
Parks and Gardens	0.41	0.35
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.11	0.09
<b>Total rounded to two decimal places</b>	<b>11.69</b>	<b>10.08</b>
Greenways	7.59 KM/1,000	6.53 KM/1,000

#### Accessibility

- 6.9 Plans (G8202.008-13, and G8202.017) shows accessibility to Allotments and Community Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds, Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace, Parks and Gardens, Provision for Children and Young People and Greenways mapped using the thresholds set out in Table 11.
- 6.10 A review of accessibility for each of these typologies is included in Chapter 7.

Table 11: Walking and Driving Accessibility for Open Space Typologies

Open Space Typology	Existing Accessibility Standards
Allotments and Community Gardens	4km or 10 mins walk/ bus
Amenity Greenspace	800m or 10 mins walk
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	2km or 10 mins drive/ bus
Civic Spaces	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	1.6km or 20 mins walk

Open Space Typology	Existing Accessibility Standards
Parks and Gardens	4km or 10 mins drive/ bus
Provisions for Children and Young People	400m-800m or 5-10 mins walk
Greenways	20 minutes drive (taken from BSFS)

6.11 Accessibility thresholds have not been assigned to Civic Spaces as they are limited to a very small number of sites in urban areas. An accessibility threshold would not be appropriate.

#### Quality

6.12 All open spaces across the District were audited either fully or partially based on methodology set out in Chapter 4. Initial data provided by the Council at the outset of the project detailed 852 sites. Following a desk-based exercise to consolidate data a total of 654 open spaces were taken forward to audit. Data consolidation consisted of comparison with Ordnance Survey layers, update to sites including those to be removed, and updates or merging of site boundaries.

6.13 299 sites had full quality audits as part of this Open Spaces Strategy and the results are shown on plan G8202.007. The other 355 open spaces had partial audits which included confirmation of typology, site boundaries and accessibility.

6.14 The range of score from the quality audits of open spaces are provided in Table 12 and the quality score split by each typology is in Table 13.

*Table 12: Open Space by Quality Score*

Quality Banding	No. of Open Space Sites	Percentage of Sites
Excellent	88	29.4%
Very Good	73	24.4%
Good	86	28.8%
Fair	49	16.4%
Poor	3	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>100%</b>



Table 13: Quality Score for Open Space Typology

Open Space Typology	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Allotments and Community Gardens	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity Greenspace	61	47	66	32	0
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	11	6	9	4	0
Civic Spaces	1	3	0	0	0
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	6	3	3	7	1
Parks and Gardens	2	2	0	0	0
Provisions for Children and Young People	7	12	8	6	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3</b>

#### Value

- 6.15 The range of value score from the audits of open space is shown at a District level on G8202.016.
- 6.16 The range of value scores from the audits of open spaces are provided in Table 14 and the value scores for each typology are in Table 15.

Table 14: Open Spaces by Value Score

Value Banding	No. of Open Space Sites	Percentage of Sites
High	17	5.69%
Medium	109	36.45%
Low	173	57.86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 15: Value Score for Open Space Typologies

Open Space Typology	High	Medium	Low
Allotments and Community Gardens	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amenity Greenspace	14	70	122
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	2	19	9
Civic Spaces	0	3	1
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	0	3	17
Parks and Gardens	1	3	0
Provisions for Children and Young People	0	11	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>173</b>

6.17 Plan G8202.016 shows the results of the value assessment by site, and results are broken down in Appendix D.

Key Finding on Quality and Value

6.18 Table 16 provides an overview of the range of quality and value scores achieved in the sites audits, and results are presented in Appendix D.

- 6.19 There were only three sites that had a Quality score of Poor. These typologies were Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People. The greatest range of quality score is within Provision for Children and Young People typology.
- 6.20 The greatest Value scores range was for Amenity Greenspace.

*Table 16: Range of Quality and Value Score by Typology*

Open Space Typology	Sites Audited	Range of Quality Scores	Range of Value Scores
Allotments and Community Gardens	0	0	0
Amenity Greenspace	206	53-100	2-72
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	30	61-100	10-61
Civic Spaces	4	81-98	39-47
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	20	46-100	12-50
Parks and Gardens	4	80-96	44-80
Provisions for Children and Young People	35	34-99	0-58
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>34-100</b>	<b>0-80</b>

### Allotments and Community Gardens

- 6.21 Allotments and community gardens provide opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

#### Quantity

- 6.22 There are 36 sites providing 22.85 ha of Allotments and Community Gardens in the Harborough District, this equates to 0.24 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.23 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) does not provide a national benchmark for Allotments and Community Gardens.
- 6.24 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

### Quality and Value Assessment

- 6.25 Allotment and Community Gardens were not audited as part of the Open Spaces Strategy.

### Accessibility Assessment

- 6.26 Allotment and Community Gardens have been assigned an accessibility threshold of 4km or 10 mins walk/ bus.
- 6.27 Open Space Accessibility - Allotments Plan (G8202.008) shows that there is good coverage in the west and middle sub-areas but there is less provision in the east sub-area.

### **Amenity Greenspace**

- 6.28 Amenity Green Spaces are informal green spaces providing opportunities for informal recreation for local residents and workers whilst enhancing the appearance of the area.

### Quantity Assessment

- 6.29 There are 312 sites providing 109.95 ha of Amenity Greenspace in the District, which equates to 1.17 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.30 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) provides a benchmark of 0.6 ha per 1,000 population. FiT's guidance is based on a survey of 119 (33%) local authorities in England and Wales which found that the median level of provision of Amenity Green Space sought was 0.55 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.31 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

### Quality and Value Assessment

- 6.32 Quality and Value scores for audited Amenity Green Spaces are summarised in Appendix D in order of their quality audit score and the results are also shown on Plan G8202.007. Value scores are shown on Plan G8202.016.
- 6.33 206 Amenity Greenspace sites received a full quality audit. The remaining 106 sites received a partial audit to confirm presence, typology and boundary.
- 6.34 The average quality score for Amenity Green Spaces is 81 which falls under the Very Good category as shown in Table 17. The greatest number of sites fall into the Good category, with Excellent being the next highest scoring category.

*Table 17: Quality Range for Amenity Greenspace*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
81	Very good	0	32	66	47	61

#### Accessibility Assessment

- 6.35 Amenity Greenspace has been assigned a walking accessibility threshold of 800 metres or 10 minutes' walk.
- 6.36 Open Space Accessibility - Amenity Greenspace (G8202.009) illustrates that there is Excellent accessibility to Amenity Greenspace throughout Harborough District. The only small gap is on the north eastern boundary, however this is a rural part of the District which has increased access to the open countryside compared to more urban areas.

#### **Cemeteries and Burial Grounds**

- 6.37 Cemeteries and Churchyards include disused churchyards and other burial grounds. There are 109 Cemeteries and Burial Grounds in the District.

#### Quantity Assessment

- 6.38 There are 109 sites providing 43.50 ha of Cemeteries and Burial Grounds. This equates to a quantity provision of 0.46 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.39 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) does not provide a national benchmark for Cemeteries and Burial Grounds.
- 6.40 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

#### Quality and Value Assessment

- 6.41 The Cemeteries and Burial Grounds which were audited for quality and value are listed Appendix D. Quality audit scores are shown on Plan G8202.007, and value scores are shown on plan G8202.016.
- 6.42 30 Cemeteries and Burial Ground sites received a full quality audit. The remaining 79 sites received a partial audit to confirm presence, typology and boundary.
- 6.43 Table 18 shows that the Cemeteries and Burial Grounds sites audited ranged in quality from Excellent to Fair. The average score for Churchyards and Burial Grounds was 83 which is categorised as Very Good.

Table 18: Quality Range for Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
83	Very Good	0	4	9	6	11

#### Accessibility Assessment

- 6.44 Cemeteries and Burial Grounds have been assigned an accessibility threshold of 2km walking distance or 5 minute drive.
- 6.45 Open Space Accessibility - Cemeteries and Churchyards (G8202.010) illustrates that there is a fair even spread of Cemeteries and Churchyards but some rural areas are not within the assigned accessibility threshold.

#### **Civic Spaces**

- 6.46 Civic Spaces are hard surfaced areas usually located within town or city centres.

#### Quantity Assessment

- 6.47 There are 5 sites classed as Civic Spaces in the District, which equates to 1.05 ha. This equates to a quantity provision of 0.01 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.48 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) does not provide a national benchmark for Civic Spaces and Market Squares.

#### Quality and Value Assessment

- 6.49 The Civic Spaces which were audited for quality and value are listed in Appendix D in order of their quality audit score. Quality audit scores are shown on Plan G8202.007 and value scores are shown on Plan G8202.016.
- 6.50 4 Civic Spaces received a full quality audit. The remaining 1 site received a partial audit to confirm presence, typology and boundary.
- 6.51 Table 19 shows that the Civic Space sites audited were categorised as Excellent and Very Good. The average score for Civic Spaces was 87 which is categorised as Very Good.

Table 19: Quality Range for Civic Spaces

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
87	Very Good	0	0	0	3	1

Accessibility Assessment

6.52 There is no accessibility threshold for Civic Spaces.

**Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace**

6.53 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace includes country parks, nature reserves, publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands and wastelands.

Quantity Assessment

6.54 There are 117 sites providing 871.82 ha of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in the District, which equates to 9.29 ha per 1,000.

Quality and Value Assessment

6.55 The District's Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces are listed Appendix D in order of their quality, value scores are also shown. Quality audit scores are shown on Plan G8202.007 and value scores on Plan G8202.016.

6.56 20 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace received a full quality audit, the remaining 97 sites received a partial audit to confirm presence, typology and boundary.

6.57 The average quality score for Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space is 77 which is categorised as Good, as shown in Table 20. The greatest number of sites (35%) fall into the Fair category.

*Table 20: Quality Range for Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
77	Good	1	7	3	3	6

6.58 Harborough District's Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace are listed in Appendix D including the value score which is based on the number of functions they provide. The results of the value assessment are shown at a District level on G8202.016.

Accessibility Assessment

6.59 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace has been assigned a walking accessibility threshold of 1.6km or 20 minutes walk.

6.60 Open Space Accessibility - Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace (G8202.011) illustrates that there is good accessibility to Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace around the urban areas in the District, however there is lower accessibility in rural areas although it is acknowledged that rural areas have greater accessibility to the open countryside.

## Parks and Gardens

6.61 Parks and Gardens are generally multi-functional spaces, providing a range of facilities including landscaped gardens, playing fields, play areas and facilities for outdoor sport provision.

### Quantity Assessment

6.62 There are 9 sites providing 38.05 ha of Parks and Gardens in the District, which equates to 0.41 ha per 1,000.

6.63 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) provides a benchmark of 0.8 ha per 1,000 population. FiT's guidance is based on a survey of 119 (33%) local authorities in England and Wales. The survey found that the median level of provision sought for Parks was 1.78 ha per 1,000 population.

6.64 Standards of covered further in Chapter 7.

### Quality and Value Assessment

6.65 Four Parks and Gardens were audited and the sites are listed in Appendix D in order of their quality, value scores are also shown. The quality score is shown on Plan G8202.007 and value scores are shown on Plan G8202.016.

6.66 The remaining five sites received a partial audit to confirm presence, typology and boundary.

6.67 The average quality score for Parks and Gardens is 88 which is categorised as Very Good, as shown in Table 21.

*Table 21: Quality Score for Parks and Gardens*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
88	Very Good	0	0	0	2	2

### Accessibility Assessment

6.68 Parks and Gardens have been assigned a walking accessibility threshold of 4km or 10 minutes' drive/ bus time.

6.69 Open Spaces Accessibility - Parks and Gardens Plan (G8202.012) illustrates that there is only accessibility to Parks and Gardens in Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Scraftoft and Allextion. There is limited accessibility within all three of the sub-areas within the centre of the District.



## Provision for Children and Young People

- 6.70 Provision for Children and Young People are areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas and skateboard parks.

### Quantity Assessment

- 6.71 There are 66 Provision for Children and Young People sites, providing 10.34 ha of Provision of Children and Young People which equates to 0.11 ha per 1,000.
- 6.72 FiT's Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) provides a benchmark of 0.25 ha per 1,000 population. FiT's guidance is based on a survey of 119 (33%) local authorities in England and Wales which found that the median level of Provision for Children and Young People was 0.25 ha per 1,000 population.
- 6.73 Standards are covered further in Chapter 7.

### Quality and Value Assessment

- 6.74 35 Provision for Children and Young People sites were audited and their quality scores are shown on Plan G8202.007. Value scores are shown on Plan G8202.016.
- 6.75 Quality scores for audited Provision for Children and Young People are summarised in Appendix D in order of their quality audit score. Value scores are also shown.
- 6.76 The remaining 31 sites received a partial audit to determine presence, typology and boundary.
- 6.77 Table 22 shows that the average score for Provision for Children and Young People based on the site audits fall into the Good banding. The greatest number of sites 12, falls into the Very Good banding.

*Table 22: Quality range for Provision for Children and Young People*

Average Score	Average Banding	Quality Split				
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
79	Good	2	6	8	12	7

### Accessibility Assessment

- 6.78 Provision for Children and Young People have been assigned a walking accessibility threshold 400m-800m or 5-10 mins walk.
- 6.79 Open Space Accessibility - Provision for Children and Young People Plan (G8202.013) illustrates that there is a spread of Provision for Children and Young People across the Harborough District. However accessibility to Provision for Children and Young People throughout the District is constrained to towns and smaller settlements.

- 6.80 There are a number of areas within main settlements including Market Harborough, Lutterworth and the The Kibworths which do not have access to Provision for Children and Young People within the accessibility threshold.

### **Greenways**

- 6.81 Greenways are used for cycling, walking and horse riding for leisure. They include public rights of way, bridleways, canal towpaths and disused railway lines (where accessible).

#### Cycling

- 6.82 Long-distance national cycle routes cross Harborough District, including numbers 6, 50, 63 and 64. Of these only the southern section of route 6 is mainly traffic free. Open Space Accessibility - Cycleways Plan (G8202.017) shows these national routes plus other promoted cycle routes. The accessibility plan shows that there are promoted routes in many parts of the District, but these are often unconnected. The availability of traffic-free routes (bridleways and off-road routes) is very limited.

#### Walking

- 6.83 The Walking for Health Scheme in Harborough - named Healthy Harborough Walks - has been running for 10 years in the District. There are four weekly-led walks throughout the District, two from Market Harborough, one from Lutterworth and one from Broughton Astley. All walks are under two miles and are pushchair friendly. The walks are led by trained volunteer walk leaders, all ages and abilities are welcomed.
- 6.84 Market Harborough Rambling Club organises group walks of between five and eight miles every Sunday throughout the year and on Wednesday evenings during the summer.
- 6.85 Other existing promoted provision for leisure walking in Harborough District include:
- Six designated 'Heritage Trails' (in Market Harborough, Lubenham, Lutterworth, Kibworth/Harcourt, River Soar and Thurnby and Bushby);
  - 31 designated self-guided 'Parish Walks';
  - The Brampton Valley Way, which links Market Harborough to Northampton; and
  - Four designated 'Long Distance Paths' pass through the District. They are the 'Leicester Line Canal Walk' (Grand Union Canal) 79 miles), the 'Leicestershire Border Walk' (198 miles), the 'Market Harborough Round' (71 miles) and the 'Hobblers Way' (the Severn to the Wash, 193 miles).
- 6.86 Consultation undertaken as part of the Built Sports Facilities Strategy (BSFS) demonstrated that safe cycling and walking routes and extensions to the cycling and walking network should be delivered, according to the Local Plan policies.
- 6.87 There is also a need to provide more opportunities for traffic-free cycling in all areas of the District.

- 6.88 Comments from the Open Spaces Strategy consultation confirm there are several rural areas of the District which have poor connectivity and accessibility to open spaces. Consultation noted that footpaths across the District could be improved including the provision of walking and cycling routes, and access for disabled users.

Accessibility Assessment

- 6.89 The Built Sports Facilities Strategy recommends that developer contributions are sought towards improvements in the network of cycle and walking routes; on site to connect the development to the wider network, and off-site to identified projects within a 20-minute drive time catchment.

## 7.0 Setting Standards

- 7.1 This Open Spaces Strategy is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for Open Space, which have replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002).
- 7.2 Whilst the Companion Guide to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 has been superseded, it is acknowledged that the principals and approach within the guidance have not been replaced and it is still relevant to apply the methodology to assess needs for open space provision.
- 7.3 Recommended standards of provision are based on local assessment and analysis, and may be the same as a national recommended standard, if appropriate. Where current levels of provision do not meet a national recommended standard this should be viewed as a minimum. Equally, the existing provision may already meet the future recommended standard and to lose it would significantly change the natural character of the area. By combining the existing level of provision with local views on its adequacy, it is possible to develop a range of new provision standards.

### Harborough District Existing Standards

#### Quantity

- 7.4 During the Open Spaces Strategy 2016, the adopted open space standards were reviewed, and, where appropriate, new provision standards were proposed. These were determined by analysis of existing quantity, consideration of existing local and national standards and benchmarks, and evidence gathered from site audits and consultation.
- 7.5 Table 23 presents the existing Harborough District standards for each open space typology.

*Table 23: Existing Quantity Standards (ha per 1,000 Population)*

Open Space Typology	Existing Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.35
Amenity Greenspace	0.9
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.35
Civic Spaces	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	8.5 (Country) 1.5 (Town/City)
Parks and Gardens	0.4

Open Space Typology	Existing Standard
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.3
Greenways	1.3 ha/1,000 (Based on information taken from the BSFS : A 3.3km route (at 3m wide) equates to 1.3 ha/1,000).

### Accessibility

- 7.6 The accessibility standards in the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 were set through consultation feedback. When asked whether a differential approach for accessibility should be taken for urban and rural areas or an approach based on the settlement hierarchy, none of the respondents believed that this was necessary.
- 7.7 Based on considerable research on distance thresholds as well as local consultation, the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 determined appropriate distance thresholds for walking in a straight line thresholds as shown in Table 24.

*Table 24: Existing Accessibility Standards*

Open Space Typology	Existing Accessibility Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	4km or 10 mins drive/ bus
Amenity Greenspace	800m or 10 mins walk
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	2km or 5 mins drive/ bus
Civic Spaces	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	1.6km or 20 mins walk
Parks and Gardens	4km or 10 mins drive/ bus
Provisions for Children and Young People	400m-800m or 5-10 mins walk
Greenways	20 minute drive time

- 7.8 A standard for accessibility to woodland was considered separately in the Open Spaces Strategy 2016. The Woodland Trust recommends access to woodland (in England) of at least 2ha within 500m of their home and at least 20ha within 4km of their home.

- 7.9 Access to woodland has not been considered as a separate standard as part of this Strategy, however ANGSt (see 7.13 below) has been considered (see benchmark standards below). In addition tree planting and access to woodland will be supported in the recommendations.

#### Quality

- 7.10 Standards in the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 are not derived from the scoring bands. Quality standards were identified through a series of principles for each typology and consultation feedback.
- 7.11 The existing quality standard was set out in the Open Spaces Strategy 2016. The overall quality vision for open space should be *'A Clean, litter free and dog fouling free area that has appropriate facilities, amenities, habitat and biodiversity that are maintained appropriately, accessible and in a usable condition'*.

#### **Benchmark Standards**

- 7.12 National Benchmark Standards are from Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) which replaces FiT's 2008 guidance Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play. Beyond the Six Acre Standard guidance reflects the NPPF, The Localism Act 2011 and the phased introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The guidance draws out new recommendations for accessibility and, alongside formal open space such as sports pitches and play areas, introduces benchmarking for informal open space (e.g. Amenity Green Space and Natural Green Space sites). The latest guidance has been informed by a survey commissioned by FiT in 2014 resulting in a response from 119 local authorities in England and Wales, representing a total response rate of 33%.
- 7.13 In 1996, English Nature (now Natural England) produced recommendations for the provision of accessible natural green space, this is often referred to as the ANGSt model. The ANGSt model recommends at least 2ha of accessible natural green space per 1,000 population which is detailed by tiers of site according to size. The guidelines recommend a provision of:
- at least two hectares in size, no more than 300m (five minutes' walk) from home;
  - at least one accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home;
  - one accessible 100 ha site within 5km of home;
  - one accessible 500 ha site within 10km of home;
  - a minimum of 1 ha of statutory local nature reserves per 1,000 people;
  - that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size; and
  - that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes.
- 7.14 According to the ANGSt model, a natural green space is based on the level of intervention through management or other forms of disturbance and accessibility is the ability of visitors to physically gain access to a site.

- 7.15 Although the ANGSt model was published in 1996, no other models or standards for accessibility have been produced and therefore it still remains relevant to this Open Spaces Strategy particularly in relation to proposing accessibility standards.
- 7.16 The Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard aspires to the following guidelines:
- no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 ha in size; and
  - there should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes.

#### Additional Information on Allotment Standards

- 7.17 There is no legal national minimum quantity provision standard for allotments<sup>13</sup>.
- 7.18 The 1969 Thorpe Report recommended a minimum provision equivalent to 15 plots per 1,000 households<sup>14</sup>, which equates to 6.5 plots per 1,000 population or 0.16 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.19 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) recommends a minimum level of provision of 20 allotment plots<sup>15</sup> per 1,000 households, which equates to 8.7 plots per 1,000 population or 0.21 ha per 1,000 population. NSALG advises that the standard plot size is 250 sq. metres.
- 7.20 A Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council<sup>16</sup>, stated that there is difficulty in considering a standard of provision based on household given the trend of falling household size since the 1950s. The report referenced the Survey of Allotments, Community Gardens and City Farms, carried out by the University of Derby on behalf of Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in 2006, which showed that the national average provision was 7 plots per 1,000 population, which equates to 0.175 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.21 In the FiT Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play Review, Phase 2 Survey Findings for England and Wales (2014), the median level of provision for allotments, community gardens and urban farms was 0.3 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.22 A summary of national benchmark standards for allotments is provided in Table 25.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.allotmoreallotments.org.uk/legislation.html>

<sup>14</sup> Average Household size in England & Wales is 2.3 (2011 Census)

<sup>15</sup> Based on a standard plot of 250 m<sup>2</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Review of Allotment Provision for Cambridge City Council (Ashley Godfrey Associates, January 2010)

Table 25: Summary of National Benchmark Standards for Allotments

	No. of households	No. of Allotment plots per 1,000 household	Population (based on household size of 2.3)	Hectare (based on plot size of 250m <sup>2</sup> )
Thorpe Report 1969	1,000	15	2,300	0.375
	-	6.5	1,000	0.16
NSALG	1,000	20	2,300	0.5
	-	8.7	1,000	0.21
University of Derby	-	7	1,000	0.175
	-	-	1,000	0.3

## Proposed Standards

### Quantity

- 7.23 The proposed quantity standards are based on a review of the existing quantity provision in Harborough District. The context of open space provision in Harborough District is a strong consideration in setting standards, since the standards should be locally derived based on supply and demand; as well as consideration of the differing nature of the sub-areas across Harborough District.
- 7.24 These considerations lean towards protecting the existing amount of open space through setting standards which align with existing provision, rather than standards which require the provision of more open space, which may be less achievable due to land and funding required to implement new open space.

### *Allotments*

- 7.25 The proposed standard is to retain the existing standard at 0.35 ha per 1,000 population. There is no FiT benchmark standard for Allotments, but the FiT survey to inform the Guidance states that the median level of provision across local authorities was 0.3 hectares per 1,000.
- 7.26 See Table 25 for further information on benchmark Allotment standards.

### *Amenity Greenspace*

- 7.27 The proposed standard is to retain the existing adopted standard at 0.9 ha per 1,000. The existing Amenity Greenspace standard is higher than the FiT standard of 0.6 ha per 1000 at 0.9 ha per 1,000 but this is reasonable and there is currently a surplus of Amenity Greenspace in the District.



### *Cemeteries and Burial Grounds*

- 7.28 There is no FiT benchmark standard because Cemeteries and Burial Ground provision cannot be quantified in this way as their provision is not led by the need for open space and recreation, even though it is acknowledged that they contribute to the overall open space provision of an area.
- 7.29 The standard for Cemeteries and Burial Grounds is based on the Harborough Cemetery and Burial Strategy 2016<sup>17</sup> which is 0.35 ha per 1,000.
- 7.30 Cemeteries and Religious Grounds analysis is based on the size (hectares) of the site. Analysis of this typology does not consider the capacity of the sites or death rates which is covered in the Cemeteries and Burial Strategy.

### *Civic Space*

- 7.31 There is no FiT Benchmark Standard as Civic Space provision cannot be quantified in this way as their provision is not led by the need for open space and recreation, even though it is acknowledged that they contribute to the overall open space provision of an area.

### *Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace*

- 7.32 The proposed standard retains the 'country' standard of 8.5 ha per 1,000 population for the District as a whole.
- 7.33 Although the country (rural) standard is significantly higher than the national benchmark of 1.8 ha per 1,000, it is considered an appropriate standard given the rural nature of the District. It will also ensure that the rural nature of towns and villages within the District retain their sensitive interface with surrounding open countryside.
- 7.34 It is acknowledged that the standard may not be achieved within the urban areas.

### *Parks and Gardens*

- 7.35 The proposed standard of 0.8 ha per 1,000 population is an increase to the existing standard (0.4 ha per 1,000 population) to meet the FiT National Benchmark.
- 7.36 The consultation identified that there is a perceived need for new parkland areas including a new country park within the District, as many residents currently travel to Northamptonshire to visit large country parks in the neighbouring County.

### *Provision for Children and Young People*

- 7.37 The proposed standard is to reduce the existing standard of 0.3 ha per 1,000 population to 0.25 ha per 1,000 population, which aligns with the national benchmark of 0.25 ha per 1,000 population.
- 7.38 There is currently a slight deficiency in the Provision for Children and Young People, however the consultation identified that stakeholders, the community and developers would prefer that the current provision for Children and Young People is retained and the quality is improved rather than additional facilities being provided.

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<sup>17</sup> [https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/download/1110/harborough\\_cemetery\\_and\\_burial\\_strategy](https://www.harborough.gov.uk/downloads/download/1110/harborough_cemetery_and_burial_strategy)

Table 26: Proposed Quantity Standards for Harborough

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	National Benchmark	Existing Standard (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standards (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.24	No Standard	0.35	0.35
Amenity Greenspace	1.17	0.6	0.9	0.9
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.46	No Standard	0.35	0.35
Civic Spaces	0.01	No Standard	No Standard	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	9.29	1.8	8.5 (country) 1.5 (town/city)	8.5 (District-wide)
Parks and Gardens	0.41	0.8	0.4	0.8
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.11	0.25	0.3	0.25
Greenways	7.51km/1,000	No Standard	3.3km/1,000	3.3km/1,000

### Surplus and Deficiencies by Quantity Standard

7.39 Table 27 compares the existing quantity provision against the proposed quantity standard for Harborough District to show the surplus and deficiency for the current population 2019 (based on ONS MSOA estimates for 2019).

Table 27: Existing Quantity Provision against the Proposed Quantity Standard

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.24	0.35	-0.11

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Amenity Greenspace	1.17	0.9	0.27
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.46	0.35	0.11
Civic Spaces	0.01	No Standard	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	9.29	8.5 (District-wide)	0.79 (District-wide)
Parks and Gardens	0.41	0.8	-0.39
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.11	0.25	-0.14
<b>Total rounded to two decimal places</b>	<b>11.69</b>	<b>11.15</b>	<b>0.53</b>
Greenways	7.51km/1,000	3.3km/1,000	4.21 (km/1,000)

7.40 Table 28 compares the future quantity provision against the proposed quantity standard for Harborough District to show surplus and deficiency for the future projected population of 108,872 by 2036 based on ONS MSOA 2019 population figures and forecast population increase of 16.06%.

*Table 28: Future Quantity Provision against the proposed standard*

Open Space Typology	Future Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Allotments and Community Gardens	0.21	0.35	-0.14
Amenity Greenspace	1.01	0.90	0.11
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.40	0.35	0.05

Open Space Typology	Future Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Surplus/Deficiency (ha)
Civic Spaces	0.01	No Standard	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	8.01	8.50 (District-wide)	-0.49 (District-wide)
Parks and Gardens	0.35	0.80	-0.45
Provisions for Children and Young People	0.09	0.25	-0.16
<b>Total rounded to two decimal places</b>	<b>10.08</b>	<b>11.15</b>	<b>-1.08</b>
Greenways	6.53km per/1,000	3.3km/1,000	3.23km/1,000

### Accessibility

- 7.41 The accessibility standards in the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 are to be retained because they reflect the needs of the potential users. These are summarised in Table 29.

*Table 29: Existing Accessibility Standards*

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Adopted Accessibility Standard
Allotments and Community Gardens	No Standard	4.0km (10 minutes bus/drive)
Amenity Greenspace	480 metres (10 mins walk)	800m (10 mins walk)
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	No Standard	2km (5 mins drive/bus)
Civic Spaces	No Standard	No Standard
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	720 metres (10 mins walk)	1.6km (20 mins walk)
Parks and Gardens	710 metres (15 mins walk)	4.0km (10 mins drive/bus)

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Adopted Accessibility Standard
Provision for Children and Young People	LAP - 100m (2-3 mins walk) LEAP - 400m (20 mins walk) NEAP - 1000m (20 mins walk)	400-800m (5-10 minute walk)
Greenways	No Standard	20 minutes drive time (Taken from BSFS)

### Quality

- 7.42 The proposed quality standard for open space across Harborough District is based on the Green Flag Award criteria (used to complete the quality audits). A Green Flag would be awarded to a site which passes a full assessment award criteria which is based on official standards set and recognised in the United Kingdom and internationally.
- 7.43 The Green Flag Award Raising the Standard manual has eight sections of assessment, however for the purposes of the Harborough District Open Spaces Strategy, Section 1: A Welcoming Place, Section 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure and Section 3: Well Maintained, were used to audit each site and assess each open space typology. The assessment criteria selected is appropriate to apply to all typologies of open space. Section 1 assesses the signage, accessibility for a wide range of visitors, entrance presentation and the maintenance and definition of boundaries. Section 2 takes into consideration the safety and security of facilities, shelter from the weather, lighting and clear sightlines. Section 3 considers the overall cleanliness of the site and the soft and hard landscaping features present.
- 7.44 The bandings for the quality audits are as follows:
- Excellent - 90% to 100%
  - Very Good - 80% to 89%
  - Good - 70% to 79%
  - Fair - 50% to 69%
  - Poor - 0% to 49%
- 7.45 There are no existing quality open space standards but the Open Spaces Strategy 2016 does states the open spaces should be *"clean, litter free and dog fouling free area that has appropriate facilities, amenities, habitat and biodiversity that are maintained appropriately, accessible and in a usable condition"*.

**The proposed quality standard of 70% ensures that all sites achieve at least a Good quality score.**

7.46 The national benchmark standards and proposed standards for the Harborough District are set out in Table 30.

*Table 30: Existing and Proposed Quality Standard*

Open Space Typology	National Benchmark Standard	Proposed Standard
Parks and Gardens	Parks to be of Green Flag status.	The national benchmark based on the Green Flag Award should be applied so that sites obtain a Quality Score of 70% to ensure all sites achieve a Good Quality Score or above.
Amenity Greenspace	Appropriately landscaped. Positive management.	
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	Provision of footpaths. Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.	
Allotments and Community Gardens	No standard in the guidance, but it can be assumed the same standards as above apply to other types of green space.	
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	No standard in the guidance, but it can be assumed the same standards as above apply to other types of green space.	
Civic Space	No standard in the guidance, but it can be assumed the same standards as above apply to other types of green space.	
Provision for Children and Young People	Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards. Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.	

### Greenways

7.47 In accordance with the Built Sports Facilities Strategy it is recommended that developer contributions are sought towards improvements in the network of cycle and walking routes; on site to connect the development to the wider network, and off-site to identified projects within a 20-minute drive time catchment.

Value

- 7.48 Value was not assessed in the Open Spaces Strategy 2016. The proposed value standard for open spaces in Harborough District is based on 'Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17<sup>11</sup> (September 2002).
- 7.49 The bandings for the open space value audits are as follows:
- High - 60 to 100%
  - Medium - 40 to 59%
  - Low - 0 to 39%

**The proposed Value Standard of 60% ensures that all sites achieve a High value score.**

- 7.50 Adding value to open space is very important as it enables them to provide more ecosystem services and the benefits that can be derived from them. Value can be added in a multitude of ways to draw out their contextual, heritage, local amenity/ sense of place, recreation, play and ecological value.

*Table 31: Value Standards for Harborough by Open Space Typology*

Open Space Typology	Proposed Standard
Parks and Gardens	Sites obtain a Value score of 60% and above to ensure all sites achieve a High Value score.
Amenity Greenspace	
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	
Allotments and Community Gardens	
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	
Civic Space	
Provision for Children and Young People	

## 8.0 Applying Standards

- 8.1 This Chapter analyses the open space provision in each of the three sub-areas across the District. This includes details on each open space typology, including quantity, quality and accessibility. Considering the existing provision against the individual characteristics of each sub-area, including the socio-economic factors, will help inform the most appropriate means of future open space provision. Whilst analysis at a sub-area level provides a level of detail to help decision making, it is not the intention that each sub-area should have equal provision due to differences in population.
- 8.2 Tables in each section provide a breakdown of open space provision by sub-area as well as where the proposed open space quantity standards are being met. Additional commentary is provided about whether there is access to open space, as quantity should not be considered as the only measure of provision, particularly at a sub-area level as people access open spaces regardless of the geographical sub-area boundaries.
- 8.3 Open space data was provided by the Council at the outset of the project. Analysis in this Strategy is based on a snapshot in time. This assessment accounts for a forecasted population increase of 16.06% between 2019 - 2036 based on ONS data.

### **East**

#### Sub-Area Analysis

- 8.4 The East Sub-Area is in the eastern part of the Harborough District Council administrative boundary and includes the urban areas of Thurnby and Busby, and Scraftoft, which are part of the Leicester Principal Urban Area (PUA). It also includes the rural centres of Billesdon, Great Glen, Houghton-on-the-Hill and The Kibworths.
- 8.5 The East Sub-Area is the most rural area in the District but also has the largest supply of open space per 1,000 population (2019, 30.07 ha/1,000 and 2036, 26.6 ha/1,000). A comparison in current and future provision can be seen in plans G8202.014 and G8202.015. There is a surplus of Natural and Semi-Natural open space currently and in the future. There is also surplus of Amenity Greenspace and Cemeteries and Religious Grounds.
- 8.6 Open Spaces such as Tugby Recreation Area provide accessible open space for residents and visitors even in the rural parts of the District.
- 8.7 G8202.002A shows open space typologies across the East sub-area.
- 8.8 Table 32 shows a breakdown of current and future provision by typology in the East sub-area as well as any surplus and deficiencies. The future provision is based on the future population derived forecast population increase of 16.06% by ONS.



Table 32: East Open Space Provision by Typology

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	2036 Provision (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	3.05	0.35	0.12	0.10
Amenity Greenspace	34.99	0.9	1.33	1.15
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	16.85	0.35	0.64	0.55
Civic Spaces	0	No Standard	0	0
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	703.66	8.5	26.83	23.12
Parks and Gardens	20.36	0.8	0.78	0.67
Provisions for Children and Young People	2.94	0.25	0.11	0.10

#### Accessibility Analysis

- 8.9 The East sub-area has good accessibility to Cemeteries and Burial Grounds, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.
- 8.10 There is little access to Parks and Gardens and gaps in accessibility to Amenity Greenspace and Provision for Children and Young People due to the rural and scattered nature of settlements within the sub-area.

#### Quality Analysis

- 8.11 G8202.007 shows each open space and the Quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.12 The majority (88) sites within the East sub-area scored Good, Very Good or Excellent, including seven Amenity Greenspaces in The Kibworths which scored 100%. Details of these sites can be found in Appendix D.
- 8.13 27 sites were Fair, whilst 1 site was Poor Quality (Open space between cemetery and St. Andrews Close Great Easton).

### Value Analysis

- 8.14 G8202.016 shows each open space and the Value score from the open space audits.
- 8.15 Open space within the East sub-area ranged from Low to High Value. Billesdon Woodland and Lake has the highest value score out of all of the open spaces within the sub-area.

### Future Provision

- 8.16 Table 33 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within the East sub-area. There is a population trajectory in the East Sub-Area of 30,440 by 2036 (based on ONS MSOA 2019 population figures and a percentage forecast change from ONS of 16.06% between 2019 and 2036).

*Table 33: East Sub-Area Open Space Provision Current and Future*

Open Space Typology	Current (2020) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2036) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	-0.23	-0.25
Amenity Greenspace	0.43	0.25
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.29	0.20
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	18.33	14.62
Parks and Gardens	-0.02	-0.13
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.14	-0.15

## **Middle**

### Sub-Area Analysis

- 8.17 The Middle Sub-Area is south of Leicester and includes the sub-regional centre of Market Harborough and rural centre of Fleckney and Husbands Bosworth.
- 8.18 The Middle Sub-Area currently has the largest population of the sub-areas with a current population of 38,193 (4.12 ha per 1,000) and a future population of 44,327 (3.56 ha per 1,000). The Local Plan also plans for significant growth of Market Harborough and Fleckney, including Overstone Park (600 dwellings), land at Blackberry Grange (350), Burnmill farm (128 dwellings) and Land at Arnesby Road, Fleckney (130 dwellings).

- 8.19 There is good range of quality open space typologies in Market Harborough including Welland Park which provides access to recreational opportunities, informal play areas, social fitness zones, café and rose gardens. Welland Park also links to the Riverside Walk West which provides connectivity through the town.
- 8.20 Due to the population increase there will be a deficiency in all typologies apart from Amenity Greenspace, which has a current surplus of 0.31 ha per 1,000 and future surplus of 0.15 ha per 1,000.
- 8.21 G8202.002A shows open space typologies across the Middle sub-area.
- 8.22 Table 34 shows a breakdown of current and future provision by typology in the Middle sub-area. The Future provision is based on the future population derived forecast population increase of 16.06% by ONS.

*Table 34: Middle Open Space Provision by Typology*

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	2036 provision (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	10.01	0.26	0.35	0.23
Amenity Greenspace	46.37	1.21	0.9	1.05
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	13.17	0.34	0.35	0.30
Civic Spaces	0.79	0.02	No Standard	0.02
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	74.38	1.95	8.5	1.68
Parks and Gardens	8.69	0.23	0.8	0.20
Provisions for Children and Young People	3.04	0.08	0.25	0.07

#### Accessibility Analysis

- 8.23 The Middle sub-area has good accessibility to Allotments, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace.

8.24 There is good also accessibility to Amenity Greenspace within Market Harborough itself as well as Parks and Gardens with Welland Park providing for much of Market Harborough.

8.25 There are gaps in the provision of Provision for Children and Young People in the sub-area including Market Harborough town.

Quality Analysis

8.26 G8202.007 shows each open space and the Quality score from the open space audits.

8.27 Quality scores within the Middle sub-area ranged from Poor to Excellent. 30 sites are Excellent quality, with four of these scoring 100% including Softwell at Foxton, Mowsley Parish Burial Ground, Saddington Churchyard and Saint Nicholas Churchyard.

8.28 Only one site within the sub-area, a Provision for Children and Young People site known as Tarmac Area, Coleman Road - Fleckney is Poor quality.

8.29 Further details of Quality scores can be found in Appendix D.

Value Analysis

8.30 G8202.016 shows each open space and the Value score from the open space audits.

8.31 Open space within the Middle sub-area ranged from Low to High Value. 50 sites are of Low Value, 37 are Medium Value and 8 High Value, including Welland Park which has the highest Value across the District.

Future Provision

8.32 Table 35 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within the Middle sub-area. There is a population trajectory in the Middle Sub-Area of 44,327 by 2036 (based on ONS MSOA 2019 population figures and a percentage forecast change from ONS of 16.06% between 2019 and 2036).

*Table 35: Middle Sub-Area Open Space Provision Current and Future*

Open Space Typology	Current (2020) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2036) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	-0.09	-0.12
Amenity Greenspace	0.31	0.15
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	-0.01	-0.05
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a

Open Space Typology	Current (2020) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)	Future (by 2036) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	-6.55	-6.82
Parks and Gardens	-0.57	-0.60
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.17	-0.18

## West

### Sub-Area Analysis

- 8.33 The West Sub-Area lies in the western part of the District. The West Sub-Area is south west of Leicester and includes the key centres of Lutterworth and Broughton Astley, and the rural centre of Ullesthorpe.
- 8.34 The West Sub-Area has a current population of 29,386 (5.49 ha/1,000) and a future population of 34,105 (4.68 ha/1,000). There is a surplus of Amenity Greenspace and Cemeteries and Religious Grounds currently (2019) and surplus of Cemeteries and Religious Grounds in the future (2036).
- 8.35 There is a good range of open space especially within Lutterworth and Broughton Astley including Lutterworth Country Park with Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace and Allotments in Broughton Astley and on Dunton Road.
- 8.36 G8202.002A shows open space typologies across the West sub-area.
- 8.37 Table 36 shows a breakdown of current and future provision by typology in the West sub-area. The Future provision is based on the future population derived forecast population increase of 16.06% by ONS.

*Table 36: West Open Space Provision by Typology*

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	2036 provision (ha/1,000)
Allotments and Community Gardens	9.79	0.33	0.35	0.29
Amenity Greenspace	28.59	0.97	0.9	0.84

Open Space Typology	Existing Provision (ha)	Existing Provision (ha/1,000)	Proposed Standard (ha/1,000)	2036 provision (ha/1,000)
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	13.48	0.46	0.35	0.40
Civic Spaces	0.26	0.01	No Standard	0.01
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	93.79	3.19	8.5	2.75
Parks and Gardens	9.00	0.31	0.8	0.26
Provisions for Children and Young People	4.36	0.15	0.25	0.13

#### Accessibility Analysis

- 8.38 The West sub-area has good accessibility to Churchyards and Burial Grounds.
- 8.39 There is also good accessibility to Allotments, Amenity Greenspace, Parks and Gardens and Provision for Children and Young People in Broughton Astley and Lutterworth.
- 8.40 There are gaps in the provision of Allotments and Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace in the southern part of the sub-area.

#### Quality Analysis

- 8.41 G8202.007 shows each open space and the Quality score from the open space audits.
- 8.42 Quality scores within the West sub-area ranged from Poor to Excellent. 44 sites are Excellent quality, with 8 of these scoring 100% including Guthlaxton Avenue Amenity Greenspace, Holbeck Drive, Broughton Astley Amenity Greenspace and Poppy Road Play Area.
- 8.43 Only one site within the sub-area, a Provision for Children and Young People site known as Bike Track, Bruntingthorpe is Poor quality.
- 8.44 Further details of Quality scores can be found in Appendix D.

### Value Analysis

- 8.45 G8202.016 shows each open space and the Value score from the open space audits. Open space within the West sub-area ranged from Low to High Value. 65 sites are of Low Value, 21 are Medium Value and 2 High Value, including Woodway Road Amenity Greenspace which has the highest Value across the sub-area, and Lutterworth Country Park.

### Future Provision

- 8.46 Table 37 below shows the current and future provision for each open space typology within the West sub-area. There is a population trajectory in the West Sub-Area of 34,105 by 2036 (based on ONS MSOA 2019 population figures and a percentage forecast change from ONS of 16.06% between 2019 and 2036).

*Table 37: West Sub-Area Open Space Provision Current and Future*

<b>Open Space Typology</b>	<b>Current (2020) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)</b>	<b>Future (by 2036) Surplus/Deficiency (ha/1,000)</b>
Allotments and Community Gardens	-0.02	-0.06
Amenity Greenspace	0.07	-0.06
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	0.11	0.05
Civic Spaces	n/a	n/a
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas Greenspace	-5.31	-5.75
Parks and Gardens	-0.49	-0.54
Provisions for Children and Young People	-0.10	-0.12

## 9.0 Recommendations and Strategy

### Adopt the Recommended Standards

- 9.1 This Open Spaces Strategy is in line with the NPPF (2019) and PPG for Open Space, which have replaced PPG 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (2002) and its Companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to PPG 17 (2002). Whilst the Companion Guide to PPG17 has been superseded, the principles and approach within this guidance have not been replaced and remain relevant.
- 9.2 This Open Spaces Strategy has reviewed local open space provision within Harborough District, including the quantity, accessibility, quality and value.
- 9.3 This Open Spaces Strategy has resulted in recommendations for standards which are robust and can form a basis for addressing any deficiencies resulting from proposed development and population increase.
- 9.4 It is recommended that the new open space standards set out in the new Strategy replace the standards in the existing strategy and thereby support the implementation of current local plan policy GI2..

### Standards and New Development

- 9.5 Local Plan, Policy GI2, states that all development of more than 10 dwellings which would result in deficiencies in the quantity, accessibility and/or quality of existing open space, sport and recreational facilities should contribute towards:
- the provision of specific new open space, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with local standards; and/or
  - the enhancement of identified existing facilities to meet the relevant local standards.
- 9.6 There is a growing emphasis on open space to help tackle climate change, create flood risk resilience, reverse biodiversity decline and provide many health and wellbeing benefits for the immediate and wider community. Furthermore new development is required to provide measurable net gain for biodiversity under the NPPF (paragraph 174) and the Natural Environment PPG. All new development of more than 10 dwellings should continue to provide new open space, but this should be regardless of deficiencies.
- 9.7 The results of this Open Spaces Strategy should be used to identify which typology(ies) should be included as part of new development, however due to the rural nature of the District and the feedback from the community, stakeholders and developers, Amenity Greenspace, Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Parks and Gardens should be prioritised.
- 9.8 Funding through planning obligations should be used to improve the quality of open space such as Provision for Children and Young People and Allotments, as well as improving walking and cycling accessibility to open spaces through provision of improved Greenways and connectivity. A developer's contribution calculator will assist with the open space requirements associated with new development.



## Open Space Guidance Documents

- 9.9 Within the 2015 Open Spaces Assessment the Council increased the commuted sum period for maintenance per hectare of open space transferred to the Council ownership from 15 years to 30 years.
- 9.10 The commuted sum period for maintenance per hectare of open space transferred to the Council ownership will be retained at 30 years.

### Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

- 9.11 SPD's cover a wide range of issues giving detailed guidance on how policies or proposals in development plan documents will be implemented. An SPD can take the form of a design guide, development brief, masterplan or an issue-based document.
- 9.12 An SPD could be published to outline the open space requirements of new developments to:
- protect, replace or enhance open spaces impacted by development proposals;
  - Implement standards proposed in this Open Spaces Strategy; and
  - Review local open space provision in regards to the increase in population.

### Updated Planning Obligations SPD (Draft Consultation 2020)

- 9.13 The SPD will be used to inform developers, landowners, infrastructure providers and local communities about the approach District Council takes to secure community infrastructure and affordable housing through planning obligations.
- 9.14 The SPD will provide an update to the HDC Planning Obligations SPD (Jan 2017 updates in 2021), and will be informed by the recommendations and developer contribution calculator set out in this Open Spaces Strategy.
- 9.15 The SPD will set out Harborough District Council's policies and procedures for securing developer contributions; explain the relationship between CIL and Section 106 planning obligations; and provide clear guidance to development, landowners and stakeholders on the scope and scale of planning obligations likely to be sought for different developments.
- 9.16 The SPD should outline how Section 106 Agreement monies in relation to open space should be calculated.

## Multi-functional Open Space

- 9.17 Local Plan Key Issue 5: Green Infrastructure identified that provision of multifunctional green space including a range of habitats and linkages to established habitats as part of new development is essential for tackling the biodiversity deficit in the District. However open spaces are also important for health and wellbeing and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Wherever possible, the Council should look to open spaces to deliver multiple functions, including:
- Recreation;
  - Green travel route;

- Aesthetic;
- Shading from the sun;
- Evaporative cooling;
- Trapping air pollutants;
- Noise absorption;
- Habitat for wildlife;
- Connectivity for wildlife;
- Heritage;
- Cultural;
- Carbon storage;
- Food production;
- Wind shelter;
- Education;
- Water storage;
- Water infiltration; and
- Water interception.

9.18 Further to consultation and analysis as part of this Strategy, it is acknowledged that the District has a shortage of suitable country parks. It is recommended that the feasibility of a new country park for the District is researched further including the viability of sites and funding available.

9.19 It is also recommended that in line with the Built Sports Facilities Strategy Greenways contributions are used to improve and connect the existing network, providing access to open spaces whilst also connecting wildlife corridors.

## **Long-Term Management of Open Spaces for New Development**

### Application of Standards

9.20 It is recommended that the new open space standards set out in the new Strategy replace the standards in the existing strategy and thereby support the implementation of current local plan policy GI2. New development should use the standards outlined in this document to integrate well designed, quality open space which are accessible for all communities, taking into consideration different age groups, abilities, ethnicities and gender.

### Management of Open Space

9.21 Once development has been granted planning permission, implemented on the site and practical completion has been achieved, the open space on site is usually either transferred to the District Council, Parish Council or managing organisation (e.g. third party Management Company, or resident led Management Company).

9.22 A Landscape Management Plan is essential for the long-term management of open space and should be produced prior to the transfer of open space. A Landscape Management Plan should provide the following minimum information:

- Desktop review of the site including context, designations and history;
- Site specific information including ecology, arboriculture and public rights of way;
- Aims and objective for the management of the Site;

- Management organisation who will be responsible for the open space post-practical completion;
  - Funding of long term maintenance of the Site; and
  - Procedure of review and monitoring of the open space and the Landscape Management Plan.
- 9.23 It is the developer's responsibility to inform buyers of new properties of the requirement to pay for an annual maintenance contribution (Service Charge/Estate Fee).
- 9.24 Once open space has been transferred to a management organisation, the Council or other organisation it is no longer the developer's responsibility to manage the open space. Any costs or other resident commitments in relation to the management of open space on new developments (e.g. service charge) should also be flagged by the appointed solicitor during the conveyancing process to residents.
- 9.25 Harborough District Council will not routinely adopt open space provided as part of new development. The Council may adopt open space which has strategic value within the District, e.g. those which draw visitors from further afield.
- 9.26 Where the management organisation or other managing body does not adhere to the maintenance objectives and operations outlined in the Landscape Management Plan, issues should be escalated with the relevant organisation. The process is broadly outlined in Appendix E.

#### Open Space Adoption by Harborough District Council/Parish Councils

- 9.27 The Corporate Property Strategy, Supplementary Policy and Procedures Disposal & Acquisition Procedure provides a mechanism for adoption of open space. Appendix C, Section 5: Adoption of Public Space of the Corporate Property Strategy outlines the criteria under which HDC will adopt Public Open Space. The Council will not adopt areas of Public Open Space unless one of the following applies:
- A commuted payment is available from the developer in accordance with extant Planning Guidance for developer contributions;
  - The area is of interest to a charitable trust or a Parish Council which will maintain the land; or
  - The Council will utilise an Assessment Toolkit to determine whether the land will be accepted by the Council as shown in the Appendix. A score below 30 is likely to be considered unsuitable for adoption.
- 9.28 However exceptional circumstances will be considered after other options have been considered e.g. community organisation of Parish Council maintenance where there is an overriding public interest. These exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis without precedent.
- 9.29 Open spaces may be transferred to a local Parish Council subject to the developer paying a commuted sum to cover the cost of future maintenance. The commuted sum should typically cover a period of 30 years, however Parish Councils may provide the opportunity for a local agreement and revised commuted sum period. This will be considered on a case by case basis to ensure open spaces provide for the community they serve and continue to be maintained to a safe and functional standard.

### Harborough Council Enforcement Team

- 9.30 The Harborough District Council Enforcement Team is in place to investigate and resolve any breaches in planning control. A breach of planning control is defined in Section 171a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as:
- The carrying out of development without the required planning permission;  
or
  - Failing to comply with any condition or limitation subject to which planning permission has been granted.
- 9.31 Harborough District Council has a responsibility for taking whatever enforcement action may be necessary, in the public interest and where necessary work closely with the police.
- 9.32 However it is important that all alleged breaches in planning control are resolved in a proportionate way and formal enforcement may not always be required. Addressing breaches of planning control without formal enforcement action can often be the quickest and most cost effective way.
- 9.33 Once open space has been transferred to a management organisation, concerns or complaints regarding the long-term management of open spaces should be referred to the management organisations in the first instance. It is the management organisation who are responsible for dealing with all ongoing maintenance and whom residents have a contractual agreement with. The enforcement team should only be contacted if there is a serious breach of planning control and as a last resort.

### **Delivery Plan**

- 9.34 It is recommended that Harborough District Council produce a Delivery Plan to address the recommendations in this Open Spaces Strategy. Furthermore the Delivery Plan should look at actions to improve open space sites scoring low quality and/or low value.

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## APPENDIX A: SUB-AREA BREAKDOWN

**Appendix A - Sub Area Breakdown**

East		
Parishes		MSOA
Allexton		Harborough 002
Billesdon		Harborough 003
Blaston		Harborough 011
Brighthurst		
Burton Overy		
Carlton Curlieu		
Cold Newton		
Cranoe		
Drayton		
East Norton		
Frisby		
Gaulby		
Glooston		
Goadby		
Great Easton		
Great Glen		
Hallaton		
Horninghold		
Houghton on the Hill		
Hungatron		
Ilston on the Hill		
Keyham		
Kibworth Beauchamp		
Kibworth Harcourt (part of)		
King's Norton		
Launde		
Little Stretton		
Loddington		
Lowesby		
Marefield		
Medbourne		
Nevill Holt		
Noseley		
Owston and Newbold		
Rolleston		
Scraptoft		
Skeffington		
Slawston		
Smeeton Westerby		
Stockerston		
Stonton Wyville		
Stoughton		
Thurnby and Bushby		
Tilton		
Tugby and Keythorpe		
Welham		
Wistow		
Withcote		

Middle		
Parishes		MSOA
East Langton		Harborough 005
Fleckney		Harborough 007
Foxton		Harborough 008
Great Bowden		Harborough 009
Gumley		
Husbands Bosworth		
Kibworth Harcourt (part of)		
Knaptoft		
Laughton		
Lubenham		
Market Harborough Town		
Mowsley		
North Kilworth		
Saddington		
Shangton		
South Kilworth		
Theddingworth		
Thorpe Langton		
Tur Langton		
West Langton		

West		
Parishes		MSOA
Arnesby		Harborough 004
Ashby Magna		Harborough 006
Ashby Parva		Harborough 010
Bitteswell		
Broughton Astley		
Bruntingthorpe		
Claybrooke Magna		
Claybrooke Parva		
Cotesbach		
Dunton Bassett, Catthorpe		
Frolesworth		
Gilmorton		
Kimcote and Walton		
Leire		
Lutterworth		
Misterton and Walcote		
Peatling Magna		
Peatling Parva		
Shawell		
Shearsby		
Swinford		
Ullesthorpe		
Westrill and Starmore		
Willoughby Waterleys		

## **APPENDIX B: CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### Usage

What type(s) of Open Space do you frequently use?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Public Parks and Gardens	93.00%	186
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	77.00%	154
Amenity Greenspace	40.00%	80
Provision for Children and Young People	43.50%	87
Allotments and Community Gardens	19.50%	39
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	62.50%	125
Green Corridors	39.00%	78
Churchyards and Cemeteries	30.00%	60
Civic Spaces	24.50%	49
Educational Grounds	20.50%	41
Other (please specify):	9.00%	18

How frequently do you use each type of Open Space?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less than once a month	Never
Public Parks and Gardens	71	97	22	7	3
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	66	88	26	15	5
Amenity Greenspace	33	66	35	35	31
Provision for Children and Young People	22	55	25	44	54
Allotments and Community Gardens	10	22	10	20	12
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	41	74	39	25	21
Green Corridors	30	45	34	47	44
Churchyards and Cemeteries	8	33	23	63	73
Civic Spaces	9	44	40	47	60
Educational Grounds	24	18	20	47	91
Other (please specify):	10	20	0	10	18

### Accessibility

How accessible are the open spaces that you use in relation to walking, cycling, driving and public transport ?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Walking	97	73	24	5	1
Cycling	43	65	62	18	12
Driving	36	81	70	8	5
Public Transport	6	23	83	44	44

How accessible are the open spaces across the district as a whole in relation to walking, cycling, driving and public transport ?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Walking	59	90	40	8	3
Cycling	34	64	70	21	10
Driving	26	85	77	8	4
Public Transport	4	22	82	55	37

### Quality

How would you rate the quality of open space that you use?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Excellent	22.50%	45
Good	57.00%	114
Average	16.50%	33
Below Average	3.00%	6
Poor	1.00%	2



## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### How would you rate the quality of open space across the district as a whole?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Excellent	11.50%	23
Good	52.50%	105
Average	29.00%	58
Below Average	4.00%	8
Poor	3.00%	6

### Quantity

#### How would you rate the quantity of open space you use?

	More than enough	Enough	Not enough	Not applicable
Public Parks and Gardens	14	113	71	2
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	8	50	133	9
Amenity Greenspace	3	74	89	34
Provision for Children and Young People	5	75	79	41
Allotments and Community Gardens	1	54	74	71
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	5	89	103	23
Green Corridors	1	38	117	44
Churchyards and Cemeteries	7	93	27	73
Civic Spaces	1	72	50	77
Educational Grounds	4	48	74	74

#### How would you rate the quantity of open space across the District as a whole?

	More than enough	Enough	Not enough
Public Parks and Gardens	6	103	91
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	5	62	133
Amenity Greenspace	2	93	105
Provision for Children and Young People	2	84	114
Allotments and Community Gardens	2	86	112
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	4	76	120
Green Corridors	2	67	131
Churchyards and Cemeteries	13	151	36
Civic Spaces	6	133	61
Educational Grounds	3	100	97

### Play Space

#### Do you use local playgrounds and/or adventure playground?

	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Playground within 10 minutes walk of your home	116	35	49
Adventure playground within the district	79	58	63

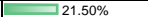


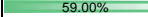
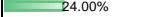

#### Please provide your view on play spaces within the District.

	Response Percent	Response Total
I don't think there are enough playgrounds.	30.50%	61
If the current facilities are improved there would be no need for new playgrounds.	41.50%	83
Removal of playgrounds would be acceptable if other playground facilities were expanded and improved.	1.50%	3
I don't agree with any of the statements above.	26.50%	53

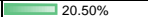
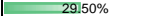

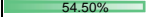
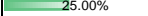

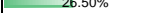
## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### Improvements

What improvements would you like to see to open spaces you use?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Better Entrances	 21.50%	43
Landscaping	 33.50%	67
Better Access (footpaths, etc.)	 52.50%	105
More Facilities (seating, play etc.)	 59.00%	118
More Information (boards, etc.)	 24.00%	48
Better Maintenance (litter, etc.)	 62.00%	124

What improvements would you like to see to open space across the District as a whole?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Better Entrances	 20.50%	41
Landscaping	 29.50%	59
Better Access (footpaths, etc.)	 56.50%	113
More Facilities (seating, play etc.)	 54.50%	109
More Information (boards, etc.)	 25.00%	50
Better Maintenance (litter, etc.)	 60.00%	120
Other (please specify):	 26.50%	53

## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### Developer Consultation

What type(s) of Open Space do you or your organisation use and/or manage? Tick all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Total
Public Parks and Gardens	20.00%	1
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	80.00%	4
Amenity Greenspace	100.00%	5
Provision for Children and Young People	80.00%	4
Allotments and Community Gardens	60.00%	3
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	20.00%	1
Green Corridors	20.00%	1
Churchyards and Cemeteries	20.00%	1
Civic Spaces	0.00%	0
Educational Grounds	0.00%	0
Other (please specify):	0.00%	0

What type(s) of Open Space do you prefer to provide as part of new development? Tick all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Total
Public Parks and Gardens	0.00%	0
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	100.00%	5
Amenity Greenspace	100.00%	5
Provision for Children and Young People	40.00%	2
Allotments and Community Gardens	20.00%	1
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	20.00%	1
Green Corridors	20.00%	1
Churchyards and Cemeteries	0.00%	0
Civic Spaces	0.00%	0
Educational Grounds	20.00%	1

How do you manage Open Spaces post development?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Transfer to Local Authority	40.00%	2
Transfer to an external management company	60.00%	3
Establishment of an internal management company	0.00%	0

#### Additional Comments

One developer aims to have a mixture of Transfer to Local Authority and to an external management organisation, although aims to transfer the majority to local authority.

One developer commented that resident owned entities are set up at the outset with a managing agent undertaking maintenance

One developer noted that Management Companies generally seem to be the only option, although they would prefer to transfer to District or Parish Councils. In addition, another developer noted that they hope any POS is adopted by the District/Parish Council as these bodies are more reliable and less likely to fall away by future residents - as well as commenting on that residents to not have to fund the ongoing cost of maintenance

## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### Developer Consultation

If you answered Transfer to Local Authority to the above question please tick N/A. If you answered with an alternative response please identify the barriers to transferring Open Space to Harborough District Council

	Response Percent	Response Total
Financial	0.00%	0
Value of the commuted sum	20.00%	1
Length of the commuted sum	0.00%	0
Process of transfer	60.00%	3
N/A	20.00%	2

#### Additional Comments

One developer noted that the cost of the commuted sum can be the difference between winning or losing a site.

Other responses included that transfer to Local Authority has historically not been available, or that the process has been unclear on steps to be taken or who is responsible for driving the process forward, the timescales involved and the value of commuted sums.

Harborough District Council are interested to hear whether developers would favour a number of units threshold below which play provisions are not required in a new development. Tick applicable response

	Response Percent	Response Total
Would Favour	100%	5
Would Oppose	0.00%	0

#### Additional Comments

Developers noted that typologies must have clear thresholds to provide consistency and clarity, one developer stated that this should be set out in a policy or SPD.

Do you currently use the Open Space Study (2016) to inform the design of your proposed developments?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes	60.00%	3
No	40.00%	2

#### Additional Comments

One developer noted that there should be consistency in the way the SPD is applied to ensure any contribution or inclusion of POS is proportionate.

## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### Key Stakeholder Consultation

#### Usage

What type(s) of Open Space do you or your organisation use and/or manage? Tick all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Total
Public Parks and Gardens	48.15%	13
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	48.15%	13
Amenity Greenspace	29.63%	8
Provision for Children and Young People	55.56%	15
Allotments and Community Gardens	37.04%	10
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	29.63%	8
Green Corridors	22.22%	6
Churchyards and Cemeteries	37.04%	10
Civic Spaces	18.52%	5
Educational Grounds	3.70%	1
Other (please specify):	22.22%	6

#### Accessibility

How accessible are the open spaces that you and/or your organisation use and manage in relation to walking, cycling, driving and public transport?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Walking	15	10	2	0	0
Cycling	7	11	6	2	1
Driving	5	15	6	1	0
Public Transport	0	6	9	5	7

How accessible are the open spaces across the district as a whole in relation to walking, cycling, driving and public transport ?

	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
Walking	6	12	8	0	1
Cycling	4	10	5	5	3
Driving	1	18	7	1	0
Public Transport	0	5	10	6	6

#### Quality

How would you rate the quality of open space that you and/or your organisation use and manage?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Excellent	22.22%	6
Good	62.96%	17
Average	11.11%	3
Below Average	0.00%	0
Poor	3.70%	1

How would you rate the quality of open space across the district as a whole?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Excellent	7.41%	2
Good	40.74%	11
Average	51.85%	14
Below Average	0.00%	0
Poor	0.00%	0

## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### Key Stakeholder Consultation

#### Quantity

How would you rate the quantity (amount) of open space you use and/or manage?

	More than enough	Enough	Not enough	Not applicable
Public Parks and Gardens	1	12	9	5
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	2	7	14	4
Amenity Greenspace	0	11	6	10
Provision for Children and Young People	2	9	11	5
Allotments and Community Gardens	0	9	11	7
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	0	9	9	9
Green Corridors	0	4	14	9
Churchyards and Cemeteries	1	16	4	6
Civic Spaces	0	12	3	12
Educational Grounds	0	4	10	13

How would you rate the quantity of open space across the District as a whole?

	More than enough	Enough	Not enough
Public Parks and Gardens	1	15	11
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace	0	13	14
Amenity Greenspace	1	16	10
Provision for Children and Young People	0	13	14
Allotments and Community Gardens	0	14	13
Accessible Areas of Countryside on the Urban Fringe	2	12	13
Green Corridors	0	11	16
Churchyards and Cemeteries	0	16	11
Civic Spaces	0	19	8
Educational Grounds	0	16	11

## APPENDIX B - CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### Key Stakeholder Consultation

#### Play Space

How important do you or your organisation feel that play space is accessible within a 10 minute walk from someone's home?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Very Important	81.48%	22
Somewhat important	18.52%	5
Not important	0.00%	0

Play space is generally considered to be the most expensive open space typology to manage. Tick the statement which is most applicable below.

	Response Percent	Response Total
I don't think there are enough playgrounds.	25.93%	7
If the current facilities were improved there would be no need for additional playground facilities.	44.44%	12
Removal of playgrounds would be acceptable if other playground facilities were expanded and improved.	0.00%	0
I don't agree with any of the statements above.	29.63%	8

#### Improvements

What improvements would you like to see to open spaces that you and/or your organisation use and manage?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Better Entrances	25.93%	7
Landscaping	33.33%	9
Better Access (footpaths, etc.)	29.63%	8
More Facilities (seating, play etc.)	40.74%	11
More Information (boards, etc.)	25.93%	7
Better Maintenance (litter, etc.)	33.33%	9
Not applicable	22.22%	6

What improvements would you like to see to open space across the District as a whole?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Better Entrances	7.41%	2
Landscaping	33.33%	9
Better Access (footpaths, etc.)	40.74%	11
More Facilities (seating, play etc.)	33.33%	9
More Information (boards, etc.)	25.93%	7
Better Maintenance (litter, etc.)	44.44%	12
Other (please specify):	25.93%	7

## **APPENDIX C: RESIDENT ASSOCIATION CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES**



## Appendix C - Open Spaces Strategy Consultation- Residents Meeting

1 December 2020 4:00pm till 5:45pm – MS Teams

### Attendees:

Harborough District Council (HDC) - Matt Bills (MB), Lesley Aspinall (LA)

The Environment Partnership (TEP) - Rebecca Martin (RM)

Residents

### Notes:

All welcomed and introductions were made. Welcome input at this stage and will be fed back to HDC and considered as part of the Strategy. Council is facing financial pressures and ultimately it will be for Councillors to decide on approach to Public Open Space (POS).

TEP commissioned in early 2020 to carry out Open Spaces Strategy which will eventually replace the current strategy. Will establish robust evidence base, assessing the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space across the district and set standards for future provision.

Planning policy review section already complete along with audit of sites. In addition to this meeting, 3 consultations already undertaken:

- Public questionnaire (over 200 responses)
- Key stakeholders (parish councils, councillors and community groups)
- Developers (given that adoption of open space is an issue)

1. Residents raised lack of a country park. There is focus on Welland Park but there nothing on a strategic scale.
2. In relation to Farndon Fields, flooding was raised as a recurrent problem in the use and enjoyment of the open spaces with the development. Nothing has been done to address the issue. Remedial action needed to address what is essentially a surface water run-off issue.
3. Broughton Astley (BA) fortunate to have a lot of open space which is well maintained by the Parish Council (PC) with good facilities, particularly the recreation ground. HDC open space, while not having many facilities, is well maintained.
4. Open space on Jelson site in BA was not transferred to HDC and was auctioned off to private individuals. Purchasers may have believed it could be developed. Having failed to get planning permission owner/s don't maintain the POS and it is left unkempt/overgrown, presenting growing driver and pedestrian safety issues.
5. Acknowledgement that Jelson site is a problem. It was Jelson decision to sell the open spaces. HDC don't have enforcement powers in this case as the land is not considered 'dilapidated'. Generally need to look into enforcement issues going forward and working with a range of partners given that not all POS is owned by HDC.
6. The lack of consistency in approach to owning/managing POS creates a confusing picture for residents. This is exacerbated where there are several developers on a development site.
7. Residents raised the possibility of including some sort of model landscape/maintenance manual or schedule in the Open Spaces Strategy (OSS) to encourage a consistent

- approach. Developers/management companies could then be sign-posted to this to see what is expected by way of maintaining POS.
8. Possibility of including an indicative draft maintenance schedule as an appendix to the OSS to be considered. Also HDC to look at enforcement of landscape plans given they are a condition of the planning permission.
  9. Residents had perception that that there was no enforcement. Once landscaping is signed off at Management Company (ManCo) managed POS it is a matter for residents and ManCo.
  10. There was a feeling that while it may be possible to clarify approach going forward, it doesn't help sort out problems in relation to POS as being experienced on Jelson site (BA).
  11. HDC acknowledged that it has limited powers where POS is privately owned. Where owned by HDC there is accountability.
  12. Regarding play areas, residents felt that it was better to have fewer, larger play areas. Anecdotal evidence that a significant part of charge goes on maintaining small playgrounds. They are expensive for residents.
  13. Off-site contributions to existing (possibly larger) playgrounds may be a better option. Accessibility criteria will be reviewed as part of OSS.
  14. It was noted that Farndon Fields play areas are well used despite relatively close proximity to Welland Park.
  15. Playgrounds in BA considered to be well-positioned and well-used, with provision being good and well-maintained by the PC.
  16. Potential to tap into PC's more and encourage them to take more of an active role. Management is best done locally. There was recognition that this is not an option in Market Harborough as there is no town/parish council.
  17. The importance of open areas as places to just sit in was raised. This has become particularly apparent through lockdown. Important to consider how open space is used by adults as well as children. It is a very important balance and open spaces are needed for a range of users as part of new development.
  18. Residents recognised not all POS is owned and managed by HDC.
  19. Residents felt that new POS should, by default, be transferred to the Council for maintenance.
  20. Management Companies should be a last resort for maintaining POS.
  21. A mechanism to be adopted by HDC to, at least, encourage developers to transfer to Council or, at best, force developers to transfer to HDC.
  22. HDC should recognise that motivation for directors of resident management companies may decrease over time and therefore residents affected may be further exposed to issues as part of POS maintenance.
  23. The task of running a residents management company is a thankless one for resident directors. There has been no help from the Council in terms of legal advice or contract advice or for setting up a residents management company. Residents clearly wanted more assistance from HDC with regards to this but it is not something that can be readily included in the Open Spaces Strategy. MB will feed this back to the Council.
  24. Better communications were needed between HDC, Residents and ManCos as part of POS maintenance.
  25. Residents were unhappy that when the POS had been transferred to ManCo then the Council was not interested in issues residents were facing
  26. Residents suggested that householders should be included in the sign off process for POS, especially if it is being transferred to a ManCo.
  27. Residents considered that the enforcement of POS maintenance should be better. Residents were concerned that the enforcement by HDC officers was ineffective. MB

- and RM to seek meeting with Enforcement team to determine how enforcement issues can be included in the new Strategy.
28. The current HDC commuted sum for 'play areas' covers both soft and hard surfaces. As soft surfaces require almost daily raking, this results in a very high commuted sum. Given that most small development site 'play areas' have 'hard surfaces' (which require significantly fewer attendances) it is recommended by residents that the 'play area' element of the commuted sum is re-evaluated to reflect the surface type. (i.e. one for hard and one for soft surfaces).
  29. Suggestion that a template maintenance specification document should be included in the Strategy to ensure consistency of maintenance across new development.
  30. Template document may also assist enforcement of things go wrong.
  31. Some concern that 30 years commuted sum for maintenance is deterring developers transferring to HDC. A lower amount was needed
  32. Conversely, there was also some feeling the commuted sum for maintenance period did not matter as the land owner paid, not the developer.
  33. Residents felt that PCs should be encouraged to take on POS in their parishes.
  34. Recognition that this did not help in Market Harborough as this was unparished
  35. In negotiating a S106 residents felt the LPA (Local Planning Authority) should insist that commuted sums for maintenance were the default option. Only in exceptional circumstances should this be deviated from.
  36. Para 7 of the current Open Spaces Strategy deals with skills and knowledge of PCs to adopt POS. Also, robust control measures are mentioned but it is not clear what these are. In the next iteration of the OSS this needs to be cleared up so that residents, PCs and officers have clear understanding of what will be done and by whom to ensure adequate management and maintenance of POS.
  37. Residents highlighted the terminology around 'Residents Management Companies' (which generally applies to flats/lease hold properties) for which there are some regulations, a right of appeal and a professional body, as opposed to 'Landscape Management Companies' (which generally applies to freehold properties maintaining the open spaces at their development), and for which there are no regulations, right of appeal or professional body.
  38. Residents highlighted that mortgage lenders are increasingly refusing to lend on properties with uncapped service charges (Banks refuse mortgages to new builds) this will significantly impact the ability of the Developer to sell their properties, and as a consequence drive Developers back to paying the commuted sums.
  39. Suggestion from residents that HDC set up a not for profit organisation that could charge and 'at cost' fee for maintenance, paid by residents. The contractor would be accountable to officers and ultimately members. This would give residents assurance that satisfactory maintenance would be undertaken at a consistent standard across the District
  40. Residents were keen to ensure that the Open Space Strategy was as good as it can be and robust to ensure that open space issues can be effectively dealt with. Recognition by residents that if issues continue then more officer time will be taken up trying to resolve these than by delivering other parts of the service
  41. Next steps of Strategy are:
    - a. Receive draft from TEP (Dec 2020)
    - b. MB to report outcomes of Strategy to CMT (Jan 2021)
    - c. Feedback to TEP comments from CMT
    - d. Present draft Strategy to Scrutiny Panel (TEP and MB – Feb 2021)
    - e. Report to Cabinet and then Council (March 2021)

Meeting ends 5:45pm

## **APPENDIX D: AUDIT RESULTS**

Appendix D - Audit Results - Full Quality Audits

Site Name	Typology	Sub-Area	Area (Ha)	Quality Score (%)	Quality Banding	Value Score (%)	Value Banding
Amenity Greenspaces							
Turville Road, Gilmorton	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.01109	100	Excellent	2	Low
Rochester Close, Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.09483	100	Excellent	32	Low
Holbeck Drive, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.01002	100	Excellent	10	Low
Warwick Road AGS 1 Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.53578	100	Excellent	40	Medium
Warwick Road AGS 2 Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.19534	100	Excellent	40	Medium
Thackney Leys AGS Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.33843	100	Excellent	40	Medium
Milday Close AGS Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.09332	100	Excellent	40	Medium
Haymes Close AGS Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.01708	100	Excellent	40	Medium
Dairy Way 2 AGS Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05033	100	Excellent	40	Medium
<Null>	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.00570	100	Excellent	19	Low
LGS/DB/C - Wild Area nxt to Leicestershire Round Footpath	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.06370	100	Excellent	21	Low
Foxglove Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.14145	100	Excellent	23	Low
<Null>	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.08497	100	Excellent	24	Low
Guthlaxton Avenue, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.04362	100	Excellent	25	Low
Poppy Road Play Area	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.11465	100	Excellent	37	Low
Burnside Road, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.01675	99	Excellent	15	Low
Finch Road AGS Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.08416	99	Excellent	40	Medium
Paget Road, Lubenham	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.02049	99	Excellent	21	Low
Laughton Village Green	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.08926	99	Excellent	30	Low
Juniper Close, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.02429	98	Excellent	19	Low
Macaulay Road, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.18052	98	Excellent	23	Low
Macaulay Road, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.01724	98	Excellent	23	Low
Macaulay Road - Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.03575	98	Excellent	23	Low
Village Hall - Cotesbach	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.10921	98	Excellent	26	Low
Macaulay Road, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.12121	98	Excellent	26	Low
Village Green, Church Lane - South Kilworth	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.01884	98	Excellent	44	Medium
Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	1.05260	98	Excellent	44	Medium
Longgrey Amenity Green Space Fleckney	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03753	97	Excellent	25	Low
Amsden Rise, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.09704	97	Excellent	31	Low
St Peters Close Amenity Green Space - Leire	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.05399	97	Excellent	34	Low
LGS/NK/3 - The Village Green North Kilworth	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.05103	97	Excellent	49	Medium
St Wilfrids Close, Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.08281	96	Excellent	19	Low
LGS/SME/W/4 - Traffic Island Smeeton Westeryby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.00346	96	Excellent	19	Low
Folley Road, Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.07603	96	Excellent	38	Low
Edward Road, Fleckney	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.06041	96	Excellent	16	Low
Townsend Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.03298	96	Excellent	16	Low
Hall Farm Crescent, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.02638	96	Excellent	19	Low
Speedwell Drive, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.17061	96	Excellent	28	Low
Cotton Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.04983	96	Excellent	30	Low
Peatling Road / Main Street AGS- Peatling Parva	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.03289	96	Excellent	31	Low
Gorham Rise, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.10282	96	Excellent	35	Low
Village Green 3 - Husbands Bosworth	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.04343	96	Excellent	44	Medium
Crossleys, Fleckney	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.04476	95	Excellent	18	Low
Dairy Way 1 AGS Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.10284	95	Excellent	40	Medium
Polwell Road AGS Kibworth Harcourt	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.26129	95	Excellent	42	Medium
Netherfield Close POS	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.05277	95	Excellent	21	Low
LGS/FLECK/2 - Amenity Area, Priest meadow Estate	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.11616	95	Excellent	23	Low
Forge Close, Fleckney	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.04522	95	Excellent	29	Low
Lodge Road, Fleckney	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03792	94	Excellent	19	Low
Blenheim Crescent Amenity Green - Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.07174	94	Excellent	29	Low
Coventry Road Sports Centre AGS - Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.10188	93	Excellent	20	Low
Claybrooke Magna Village Green	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.05247	93	Excellent	36	Low
Cordonnier Close POS	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.06045	92	Excellent	33	Low
Millennium Green - North Kilworth	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	1.17509	92	Excellent	57	Medium
Leicester Road, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.13391	91	Excellent	24	Low
Falcon Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.09386	91	Excellent	28	Low
Manton Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.10580	91	Excellent	29	Low
Village Green 2 - Husbands Bosworth	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03082	91	Excellent	42	Medium
LGS/LAUGH/1 - Village Hall Green/ Paddock	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.08642	90	Excellent	28	Low
Almond Way, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.08149	90	Excellent	37	Low
Angell Drive Play Area	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.40550	90	Excellent	48	Medium
Malling Avenue, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.06475	89	Very Good	20	Low
Orchid Place, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.05306	88	Very Good	24	Low
Church Road Bank, Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05128	88	Very Good	8	Low
Facers Lane, Scraptoft	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.14306	87	Very Good	0	Low
Bradgate Close AGS Thurnby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.10617	87	Very Good	28	Low
Fairway Meadows	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.16854	87	Very Good	49	Medium
Lutterworth Country Park	Amenity Greenspace	West	7.15482	87	Very Good	61	High
Pine Close, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.04866	86	Very Good	39	Low
The Green - Thurnby and Bushby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.07075	86	Very Good	52	Medium
Woodway Road AGS - Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.47410	86	Very Good	62	High
Chapel Fields, Swinford	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.06886	85	Very Good	19	Low
Millennium Sign and Green - Gilmorton	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.01770	85	Very Good	24	Low
Mulberry Close AGS	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.46316	85	Very Good	45	Medium
Kiln Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.24365	85	Very Good	47	Medium
LGS/BO/6 - Traffic island bearing village sign	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.00258	85	Very Good	17	Low
Devana Way AGS Great Glen	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.56033	85	Very Good	52	Medium
Memorial Green Stonehall Court Flats - Great Glen	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.16607	85	Very Good	56	Medium
Croft Way, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.15708	84	Very Good	20	Low
Marylebone Drive, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.07299	84	Very Good	26	Low
Bruntingthorpe Village Green	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.14646	84	Very Good	28	Low
LGS/THUR/1 - Green in front of Rose and Crown 1	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.04998	84	Very Good	41	Medium
LGS/THUR/1 - Green in front of Rose and Crown 2	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05391	84	Very Good	44	Medium
Covert Lane, Scraptoft	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.55557	84	Very Good	48	Medium
Tilton Old School	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.39458	84	Very Good	53	Medium
Marmion Drive / Charley Close POS	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	1.39390	84	Very Good	65	High
Butler Gardens Amenity Green Space, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.08858	83	Very Good	31	Low
Coventry Road/ Brookfield Way Junction AGS - Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.52700	83	Very Good	35	Low
Sitch Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.08934	83	Very Good	37	Low
Harris Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.14659	83	Very Good	45	Medium
Harris Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.11409	83	Very Good	45	Medium
Shrub Bank - Billesdon	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05305	83	Very Good	17	Low
<Null>	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.53777	83	Very Good	40	Medium
Shearsby Village Green	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.29037	83	Very Good	53	Medium
Village Green at Billesdon	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05963	83	Very Good	52	Medium
Grassland to South Acorn Close - Lubenham	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.14825	82	Very Good	54	Medium
Fiona Drive AGS Thurnby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.06824	82	Very Good	47	Medium
Clarkes Piece Recreation Ground Great Easton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.72222	82	Very Good	62	High
Wyvern Close, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.19403	81	Very Good	38	Low
Kingston Way, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.04918	80	Very Good	32	Low
Fleckney Green - Bachelor Road	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.24027	80	Very Good	36	Low
Chandler Way POS	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.15308	80	Very Good	42	Medium
High Street to Church Bank AGS Gt Easton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.14609	80	Very Good	22	Low
694 to 702 Uppingham Road Thurnby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.10989	80	Very Good	35	Low
The Cross Amenity Green Space - Hallaton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.07910	80	Very Good	36	Low
Somerby Road Open Space - Thurnby and Bushby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.37526	80	Very Good	54	Medium
Mitchell Grove, Scraptoft	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.57291	80	Very Good	65	High
Village Green	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	1.31129	80	Very Good	61	High
Orchid Place, Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.04115	79	Good	17	Low
Verge in Shangton	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03412	79	Good	21	Low
Village Pond in Cotesbach	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.11516	79	Good	29	Low
Saw Pit Lane/ Louins Crescent Verges - Gt Easton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.01931	79	Good	14	Low
LGS/BO/7a - The Old Heather Garden	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.10268	79	Good	39	Low
Birdie Close, Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.09773	79	Good	49	Medium
Ashby Magna Open Space	Amenity Greenspace	West	1.28364	79	Good	52	Medium
Albany Road, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03922	78	Good	32	Low
Scott Close, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.09949	78	Good	33	Low
Hollies Way AGS 2 Thurnby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.03460	78	Good	21	Low
Village Hall Field Houghton on the Hill	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.28705	78	Good	63	High

Site Name	Typology	Sub-Area	Area (Ha)	Quality Score (%)	Quality Banding	Value Score (%)	Value Banding
Doddridge Road B, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.01765	77	Good	21	Low
Hollies Way 6	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.04866	77	Good	20	Low
Smeaton Road Amenity Green Space - Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.12716	77	Good	41	Medium
Monroe Close, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.19469	77	Good	44	Medium
St Catharines Green - Houghton on the Hill	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.36999	77	Good	57	Medium
Davies Close, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.28034	77	Good	46	Medium
Roman Way Recreation Ground	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.64391	77	Good	52	Medium
Doddridge Road A, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03114	76	Good	22	Low
Kings Norton Village Green 3	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.01445	76	Good	16	Low
Brookfield Way, Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.07766	76	Good	33	Low
Smeaton Road Recreation Ground - Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	1.10105	76	Good	35	Low
LGS/MED/8 - Springbank Medbourne	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.06623	76	Good	36	Low
LGS/MED/6a and 6b - Tow path and Gardens Medbourne	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.48802	76	Good	45	Medium
Great Bowden Village Green 2	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.02300	75	Good	22	Low
LGS/THEDD/3 - Jubilee Area Theddinworth	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03351	75	Good	28	Low
Lounis Crescent Verges 2 -Gt Easton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.02225	75	Good	13	Low
Verge at Alexton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05829	75	Good	20	Low
Village Green, St Peters Road - Arnesby	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.15553	75	Good	38	Low
Kibworth Golf Club Road Amenity Green Space	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.02227	75	Good	28	Low
Weare Close Landscape Buffer, Billesdon	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.53441	75	Good	48	Medium
Monroe Close, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.03600	74	Good	15	Low
Dunmore Road, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.02946	74	Good	18	Low
Hollies Way 3	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05496	74	Good	16	Low
LGS/GRTG/2 - Grassed Area outside Chemist GG	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.02324	74	Good	30	Low
Willow Crescent, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.17524	74	Good	43	Medium
Billesdon Woodland and Lake	Amenity Greenspace	East	3.10053	74	Good	67	High
Middlebrook Green, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.48479	74	Good	49	Medium
Fairfield Close Open Space, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.15467	74	Good	63	High
Faringdon Avenue, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.05937	73	Good	23	Low
Hollies Way 4	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.02411	73	Good	17	Low
Rookery Close, Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.11682	73	Good	22	Low
Strawberry Fields AGS	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.74396	73	Good	45	Medium
Coulter Close - Scraftoft	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.28941	73	Good	50	Medium
Farmdale View Balancing Lagoon, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.38859	73	Good	45	Medium
Logan Street Recreation Ground, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	1.57130	73	Good	65	High
May Fair Field	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.23326	72	Good	28	Low
Riverside Walk [east], Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.35552	72	Good	31	Low
Burton Street POS	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.07641	72	Good	38	Low
Village Green - Goadby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.07089	72	Good	37	Low
Leicester Road, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.30862	72	Good	44	Medium
Stamp Close POS	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	1.01090	72	Good	65	High
Arkwright Farm, Burnside Road Balancing Lagoon	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.55857	71	Good	28	Low
Hollies Way AGS 3 Thurnby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.04416	71	Good	19	Low
Weare Close, Billesdon	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.21758	71	Good	55	Medium
Fleckney Village Green	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.12722	71	Good	49	Medium
Medora Close POS	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.18240	71	Good	56	Medium
The Hollow - Medbourne	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.55684	71	Good	65	High
Mill Grove Play Area, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.09444	70	Good	16	Low
Recreation Ground - Lubenham	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.18078	70	Good	27	Low
Broctone Close POS	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.13067	70	Good	30	Low
Telford Way AGS Thurnby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.09634	70	Good	27	Low
LGS/ALL/1 - Village Green Allexton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.03219	70	Good	29	Low
St Catharines/Chapel Close Green - Houghton on the Hill	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.11991	70	Good	54	Medium
Stamp Close Balancing lagoon	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.10827	70	Good	44	Medium
Green Lane, Rear of Tungston Factory, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.32434	70	Good	47	Medium
Hollies Way AGS 1 Thurnby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.03301	69	Fair	18	Low
Larkwood AGS Kibworth Beauchamp	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.09901	69	Fair	31	Low
LGS/GRTG/1 - Post Office Green Great Glen	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.05343	69	Fair	39	Low
Manor Field Park - Thurnby and Bushby	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.43266	69	Fair	46	Medium
Stockwell Close, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.15671	69	Fair	48	Medium
Saddington Road, Fleckney	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.55264	69	Fair	51	Medium
Vicarage Close - Billesdon	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.07483	68	Fair	20	Low
LGS/THUR/4 - Embankments on Station Road 2	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.13930	68	Fair	23	Low
Village Green Church Langton - East Langton	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.06921	68	Fair	30	Low
Little Bowden Recreation Ground	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	3.13258	68	Fair	66	High
Burford Green Recreation Ground	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	2.11058	68	Fair	47	Medium
LGS/THUR/4 - Embankments on Station Road 1	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.10661	67	Fair	23	Low
LGS/SRAPS/5 - Stocks Road Scraftoft	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.11546	67	Fair	32	Low
Church Gate, Lutterworth	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.05789	67	Fair	27	Low
Bridgewater Drive Amenity Green Space - Great Glen	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.69677	67	Fair	51	Medium
<Null>	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	9.27518	67	Fair	72	High
Village Green Mill Hill Road - Arnesby	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.05470	66	Fair	28	Low
Blackberry Grange POS	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.85227	66	Fair	47	Medium
Common Land - Goadby Road Hallaton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.10134	65	Fair	34	Low
Erringtons Close, Great Glen	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.18630	64	Fair	41	Medium
Warwick Road Recreation Ground - Kibworth	Amenity Greenspace	East	1.19593	63	Fair	44	Medium
LGS/ARN/10 - Stoneleigh Arnesby	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.12453	61	Fair	46	Medium
Pulford Drive, Scraftoft	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.22470	60	Fair	50	Medium
LGS/BO/2 - Pasture land east of Scotland Lane	Amenity Greenspace	East	1.01251	59	Fair	38	Low
LGS/BIL/1 - Billesdon Brook	Amenity Greenspace	East	5.16519	59	Fair	45	Medium
Bellfield Recreation Ground AGS, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.15757	58	Fair	48	Medium
Rectory Lane Open Space, MH	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.45002	58	Fair	56	Medium
LGS/KIN/2 - Land Adjacent to Grange Farm Kings Norton	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.65517	55	Fair	24	Low
LGS/BO/3 - Main Street Spinney	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.06711	54	Fair	38	Low
Croft Way/Swanington Road - Broughton Astley	Amenity Greenspace	West	0.23522	54	Fair	35	Low
Rolleston Close, Market Harborough	Amenity Greenspace	Middle	0.29506	54	Fair	42	Medium
LGS/BO/1 - Main Street Pasture	Amenity Greenspace	East	0.24044	53	Fair	27	Low

Site Name	Typology	Sub-Area	Area (Ha)	Quality Score (%)	Quality Banding	Value Score (%)	Value Banding
<b>Churchyards</b>							
Saint Nicholas Churchyard - (closed) - Mowsley	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.12196	100	Excellent	44	Low
Mowsley Parish Burial Ground	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.13060	100	Excellent	44	Low
Saddington Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.19805	100	Excellent	44	Low
St Peters Churchyard - Leire	Cemetaries and churchyards	West	0.19507	99	Excellent	48	Low
Knaptoft Church Ruins and Garden	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.05897	99	Excellent	22	Low
Theddingworth Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.17586	99	Excellent	45	Low
St Mary's Churchyard - Willoughby	Cemetaries and churchyards	West	0.14942	95	Excellent	45	Low
Churchyard in Swinford	Cemetaries and churchyards	West	0.15964	95	Excellent	41	Low
Saddington Cemetery	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.08929	94	Excellent	19	Low
Foxton Cemetery	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.08162	93	Excellent	16	Low
Frolesworth Road Cemetery - Broughton Astley	Cemetaries and churchyards	West	0.78799	90	Excellent	28	Low
Cemetery at Leire	Cemetaries and churchyards	West	0.09597	88	Very Good	31	Low
St Nicholas Church - Bringham	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.19462	87	Very Good	61	High
St Joseph's Churchyard, MH	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.05579	85	Very Good	46	Low
Baptist Cemetery - Foxton	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.06368	83	Very Good	29	Low
Keyham Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.04350	82	Very Good	49	Low
Baptist Chapel Garden - Billesdon	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.14641	81	Very Good	39	Low
Kings Norton Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.16827	79	Good	44	Low
St Andrews Cemetery/Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.17865	78	Good	54	Medium
Theddingworth Cemetery	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.10878	78	Good	10	Low
St Giles Church - Bloston	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.05427	76	Good	52	Medium
Churchyard - Shangton	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.14227	74	Good	48	Low
Church in Glosston	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.17921	74	Good	59	Medium
Bringham Cemetery	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.11017	72	Good	41	Low
Skeffington Graveyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.08541	72	Good	53	Medium
St Andrew Church - Welham	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.19562	70	Good	49	Low
Stanton Wyville Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.18780	64	Fair	52	Medium
Back of Church - Thorpe Langton	Cemetaries and churchyards	Middle	0.08367	62	Fair	37	Low
Alexton Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.09808	62	Fair	60	High
Skaflington Churchyard	Cemetaries and churchyards	East	0.13451	61	Fair	41	Low

Site Name	Typology	Sub-Area	Area (Ha)	Quality Score (%)	Quality Banding	Value Score (%)	Value Banding
<b>Civic Spaces</b>							
War Memorial - Lubenham	Civic Spaces	Middle	0.10816	98	Excellent	42	Low

Site Name	Typology	Sub-Area	Area (Ha)	Quality Score (%)	Quality Banding	Value Score (%)	Value Banding
Devil Way (Community Facility) - Broughton Astley	Civic Spaces	West	0.112348	85	Very Good	47	Low
The Square	Civic Spaces	Middle	0.24411	84	Very Good	39	Low
Church Square, MH	Civic Spaces	Middle	0.17158	81	Very Good	42	Low

**Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces**

Softwell at Foxton	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.04147	100	Excellent	12	Low
Land at Leire Lane - Dunton Bassett	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	West	0.112348	99	Excellent	16	Low
School Spinney - Claybrooke Parva	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	West	0.08308	95	Excellent	43	Low
Milestone Hollow - Claybrooke Magna	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	West	0.05302	95	Excellent	23	Low
Fleckny Duckpond	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.12020	95	Excellent	32	Low
North Kilworth Bogs	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.06960	93	Excellent	38	Low
Flood Relief Area 2 - Fleckney	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.13194	88	Very Good	25	Low
Natural Area Beside Stream - Fleckney	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.08088	85	Very Good	27	Low
Roadside Woodland Belt 2, Welford Road - Husbands Bo	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.15292	83	Very Good	25	Low
Vicarage Lane - Great Easton	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	East	0.01900	79	Good	16	Low
Manor Road Open Space - Great Bowden	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.06845	79	Good	27	Low
Victoria Avenue, Market Harborough	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.11729	73	Good	45	Low
Hackluts Pond	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	East	0.16689	67	Fair	38	Low
Park Drive, Market Harborough	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.03842	65	Fair	38	Low
Brook Lane verges and stream banks Gt Easton	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	East	0.13901	63	Fair	17	Low
Moulds Lane great Easton	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	East	0.03140	60	Fair	27	Low
Hollands Lane - footpath Great Easton	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	East	0.01761	60	Fair	28	Low
Launde Park, MH	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Middle	0.04811	59	Fair	32	Low
Ullesthorpe Railway	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	West	1.77008	51	Fair	50	Medium
Open space between cemetery and St Andrews Close gt Easton	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	East	0.05691	46	Poor	23	Low

**Parks and Gardens**

Memorial Gardens - Broughton Astley	Parks and Gardens	West	0.07942	96	Excellent	44	Medium
LGS/LUTT/8 - The Memorial Gardens Lutterworth	Parks and Gardens	West	0.04501	93	Excellent	54	Medium
Memorial Gardens, MH	Parks and Gardens	Middle	0.11483	81	Very Good	45	Medium
Welland Park, MH	Parks and Gardens	Middle	8.57690	80	Very Good	80	High

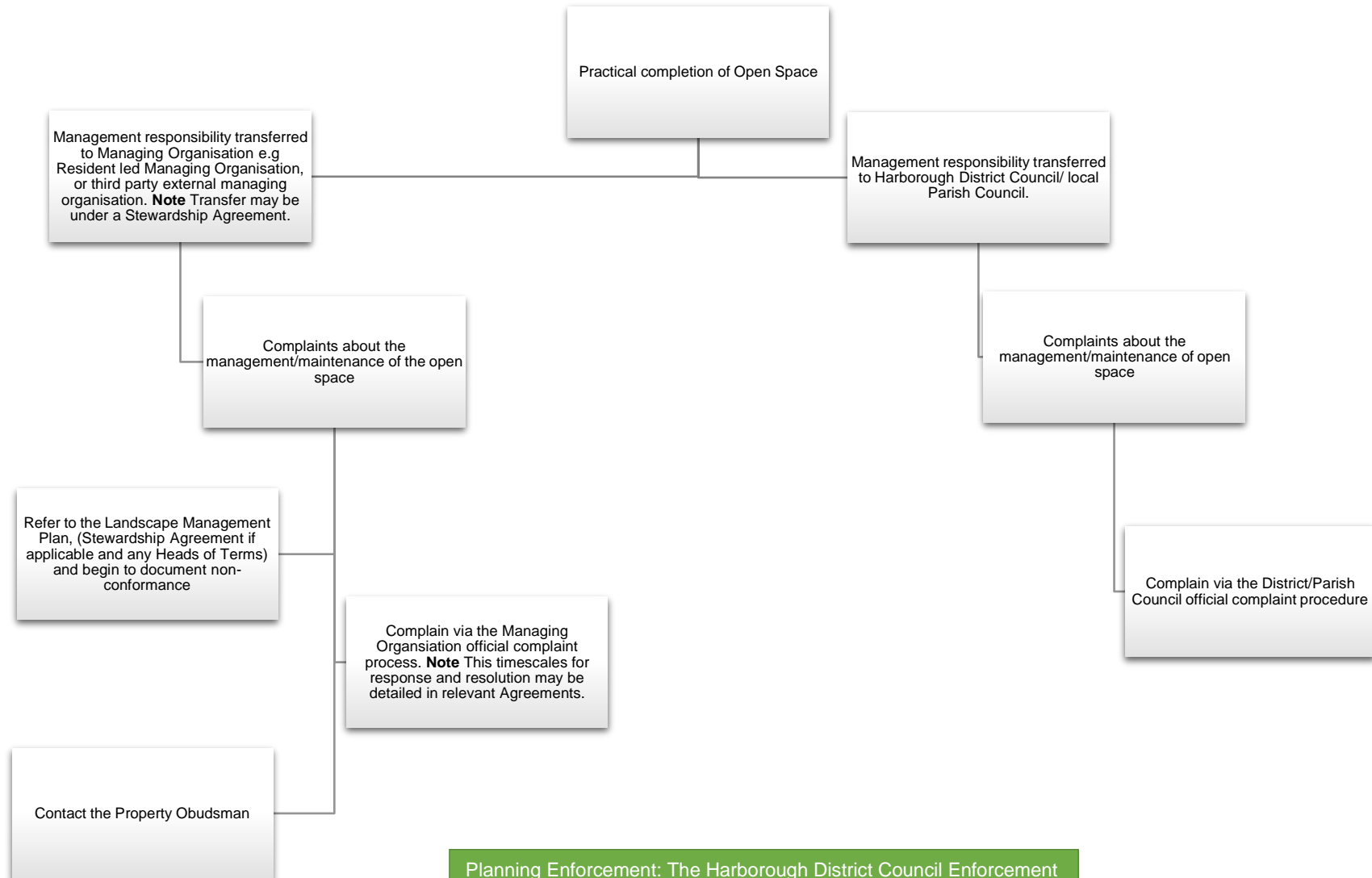
**Provision for Children and Young People**

Site Name	Type	Location	Area (Ha)	Quality Score (%)	Quality Banding	Value Score (%)	Value Banding
Village Hall and Playground - Wloughby	Young People and Children	West	0.03040	99	Excellent	27	Low
Folly Field Play Area - Mowsley	Young People and Children	Middle	0.16749	99	Excellent	32	Low
Smeeton Road Play Area	Young People and Children	East	0.06974	98	Excellent	32	Low
Childrens Play Area, Skate Board Park - Husbands B	Young People and Children	Middle	0.27783	98	Excellent	23	Low
Bulfton Playground - Misterton with Walcote	Young People and Children	West	0.13203	97	Excellent	38	Low
Edward Road Play Area - Fleckney	Young People and Children	Middle	0.17533	95	Excellent	38	Low
Childrens Play Area - Lubenham	Young People and Children	Middle	0.06371	91	Excellent	32	Low
Folwell Road Play Area - Kibworth Harcourt	Young People and Children	East	0.04685	89	Very Good	40	Low
Coventry Road Recreation Ground Play Area	Young People and Children	West	0.18502	89	Very Good	27	Low
Childrens Play Area - Leire	Young People and Children	West	0.07655	88	Very Good	19	Low
Mulberry Close Play Area	Young People and Children	West	0.09742	85	Very Good	41	Low
Clarkes Piece Play Area - Great Easton	Young People and Children	East	0.02060	85	Very Good	34	Low
Childrens Play Area - Fleckney	Young People and Children	Middle	0.16339	85	Very Good	27	Low
Robert Monk Play Area - Foxton	Young People and Children	Middle	0.10825	83	Very Good	34	Low
Warwick Road Youth Area	Young People and Children	East	0.18736	82	Very Good	20	Low
Cromwell Road Play Area - Great Glen	Young People and Children	East	0.04779	82	Very Good	33	Low
Great Glen Recreation Ground Play Area	Young People and Children	East	0.23004	82	Very Good	42	Low
Houghton on the Hill Playing Field Play Area	Young People and Children	East	0.12062	81	Very Good	41	Low
Play Area - Medbourne	Young People and Children	East	0.06026	80	Very Good	44	Low
Great Easton Village hall Play Area	Young People and Children	East	0.02574	79	Good	47	Low
Wadkins Play Area - Thurnby and Bushby	Young People and Children	East	0.16305	78	Good	0	Low
Village Hall Play Area - Lubenham	Young People and Children	Middle	0.11470	78	Good	17	Low
Crescent Road Play Area - Lutterworth	Young People and Children	West	0.32848	78	Good	6	Low
Queens Head Paddock - Billesdon	Young People and Children	East	0.27097	76	Good	38	Low
Logan Street Recreation Play Area, MH	Young People and Children	Middle	0.13767	73	Good	34	Low
Hallaton Play Area	Young People and Children	East	0.11251	70	Good	27	Low
Tugby Play Area	Young People and Children	East	0.03672	70	Good	27	Low
Village Play Area, Gaulby Way - Stoughton	Young People and Children	East	0.31525	69	Fair	40	Low
Play Area in Gilmorton	Young People and Children	West	0.09668	68	Fair	36	Low
Byre Crescent, Play Area - Broughton Astley	Young People and Children	West	0.41674	67	Fair	50	Medium
Village Hall and Small Play Area - Little Stritton	Young People and Children	East	0.12841	65	Fair	58	Medium
Cottage Lane Play Area - Broughton Astley	Young People and Children	West	0.52291	61	Fair	50	Medium
Bellfields Road Recreation Play Area, MH	Young People and Children	Middle	0.29968	59	Fair	50	Medium
Tarmac Area, Coleman Road - Fleckney	Young People and Children	Middle	0.05072	41	Poor	8	Low
Bike Track in Bruntingthorpe	Young People and Children	West	0.23916	34	Poor	9	Low

## **APPENDIX E: COMPLAINT PROCESS FOR OPEN SPACE MANAGING ORGANISATIONS**



## Appendix E – Complaints process for the Management of Open Space



Planning Enforcement: The Harborough District Council Enforcement Team is in place to investigate and resolve any breaches in planning control. The enforcement team should only be contacted if there is a serious breach of planning control and as a last resort.

## Appendix E – Complaints process for the Management of Open Space Useful links

### Property Ombudsman

[The Property Ombudsman scheme: free, fair & impartial redress \(tpos.co.uk\)](https://www.tpos.co.uk)

The Property Ombudsman is a not-for-profit independent company which offers a free, impartial and independent service, resolving disputes between Consumers and Property Agents.

### Harborough District Council

Park and Open Spaces managed by the District Council

[Parks and open spaces in Harborough district | Harborough District Council](#)

### Contact the Council

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## Appendix E – Complaints process for the Management of Open Space

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