

# **Draft Open Space Strategy**

for the Canterbury District

2014 to 2020

## **Contents**

1. Introduction .....	4	Appendix 5	
2. Achievements .....	5	Beaches.....	45
3. Vision, aims and strategic objectives.....	7	Appendix 6	
4. District summary.....	10	Cemeteries.....	47
5. Updates for 2014.....	12	Appendix 7	
6. Current issues.....	13	Civic Spaces.....	49
7. Canterbury district public open space standards .....	15	Appendix 8	
8. Audit, mapping and gap analysis .....	17	Play Area.....	52
9. Canterbury district best practice .....	18	Appendix 9	
10. Priority lists.....	19	Green Corridors .....	55
11. Performance Indicators, Action Plan, Monitor and Review.....	21	Appendix 10	
Acknowledgements .....	22	Parks and Gardens.....	58
Appendix 1		Appendix 11	
Summary of Open Space Strategy consultation .....	24	Outdoor Sports .....	60
Appendix 2		Appendix 12	
Desk top research review of strategies, policies and legislation.....	32	Semi Natural Open Space .....	63
Appendix 3		Appendix 13	
Amenity Green Spaces.....	40	Public open space in new housing developments best practice paper..	66
Appendix 4		Appendix 14	
Allotments .....	42	Amenity green spaces priority list 2014 – 2020 .....	72
		Appendix 15	
		Allotments priority list 2014 – 2020 .....	74

Appendix 16	
Cemeteries priority list 2014 – 2020 .....	77
Appendix 17	
Civic space priorities - 2014 – 2020.....	78
Appendix 18	
Playgrounds priority list 2014 – 2020 .....	79
Appendix 19	
Green corridors priority list 2014 – 2020.....	88
Appendix 20	
Parks and Gardens priority list 2014 – 2020 .....	90
Appendix 21	
Outdoor sports pitches priority list 2014 – 2020.....	91
Appendix 22	
Semi natural priority list 2014 – 2020 .....	95
Appendix 23	
Summary of Canterbury public open space priorities.....	98
Appendix 24	
Summary of Herne Bay open space priorities.....	102
Appendix 25	
Summary of Whitstable open space priorities – April 2014 .....	105
Appendix 26	
Open Space Strategy action plan 2014 -2020.....	109
Appendix 27	
Quality and value assessments criteria for public open space .....	115

Appendix 28	
The Law and Allotments.....	126
Appendix 29.....	131
List of sites protected for wildlife interest in the Canterbury District .....	131
Glossary .....	133

Open Space Maps:

- Canterbury map
- Herne Bay map
- Whitstable map
- Parish maps

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The definition of public open space is set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as being “any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground.”
- 1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that “Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities”.
- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) was not in place at the drafting of this document therefore national best practice PPG17 and its companion Guide, Assessing Needs and Opportunities, is used for the purposes of this strategy. Future strategies will be reviewed against current guidance.
- 1.4 The Open Space Strategy is a supporting document of, and defers to the Local Plan.
- 1.5 The design and detailing of public space is central to how it provides benefits for the wider community. The most successful spaces exhibit functional and attractive hard and soft landscaping, with well orientated and detailed routes and include facilities such as seats and play equipment.”
- 1.6 Open space is a key component for building healthy communities and it is key that all neighbourhoods in the Canterbury district have open spaces at their core.
- 1.7 Notable exclusions from public open space are educational open space such as school sports fields, as their primary function is to help deliver the school curriculum. The public can only access them at the discretion of the school. However it is recognised that such open space may have visual and wildlife value even though it may not be publically accessible to the wider public. Another exclusion, is sports and recreation clubs where you need to be a member to play. However, it is recognised that sports and recreation clubs play a major role in sports provision in the district.
- 1.8 The Open Space Strategy is based on community engagement, this includes consultation and participation in helping draft the strategy, summarised in appendix 1.
- 1.9 Community engagement and partnership working with local community groups, friends groups, and residents’ associations is a key aspect of delivering improvements to open space and ensuring that open space is nurtured and valued by the local communities who use it.
- 1.10 The Open Space Strategy incorporates and supersedes the following previous strategies:
- Play Strategy
  - Allotment Strategy
  - Playing Pitch Strategy

## 2. Achievements

2.1 In the last five years the previous Open Space Strategy helped achieve some outstanding results highlighted below:

### Play areas refurbished

- Hampton Pleasure Gardens play area, Herne Bay
- Ince Road play area, Canterbury
- Edgar Road play area, Canterbury
- Tennyson Avenue play area, Canterbury
- St Stephens Recreation Ground play area, Canterbury
- Cornwallis Circle play area, Whitstable
- Military Road play area, Canterbury
- Manor Court, Oxford Road play area, Canterbury
- Lucerne Drive play area, Whitstable
- Franklyn Road play area, Canterbury
- Westmeads Recreation Ground play area, Whitstable
- Thanington Recreation Ground play area, Canterbury
- Victoria Street play area, Whitstable

- Herne Bay Sea Front play area, Herne Bay
- Plough Lane play area, Swalecliffe, Whitstable
- Toddlers Cove play area, Canterbury

### New play areas

- Supported Bossingham Sports and Leisure Trust with provision of new play facilities in Bossingham Parish

### Park refurbishments

- Memorial Park Herne Bay
- Westgate Parks project – HLF ‘Parks for People’
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Fields projects – Herne Bay Coastal Park, Tankerton Coastal Park, Mariners View, Cherry Orchard, Cornwallis Circle, Prospect Field and Hollow Lane

### Allotment initiatives

- Establishment of a Canterbury district allotment forum
- Forming a ‘Canterbury Standard’

- Establishing a community garden at Stream Walk
- Assisting Herne PC with the establishment of a new site at Broomfield
- Refurbishment projects such as: improve access and parking at Broad Oak, new communal shed and improved water supply at Sturry Road, improved entrance gates and boundary work at Eddington.

### ‘In Bloom’

We have supported the following campaigns in the South and South East in Bloom:

- Herne Bay Gold and nationally Best in category (coastal town) 2012
- Memorial Park Herne Bay Gold 2013
- Reculver Country Park Gold and best in category 2013
- Canterbury City Centre Silver Gilt 2013
- Westgate Parks Silver gilt 2013
- Whitstable Silver 2013

# Aspire, Protect, Enhance and Promote

## Green Flag

We have achieved and retained Green Flag status at the following sites:

- Reculver Country Park
- Duncan Down
- Curtis Wood
- Whitstable Castle

## Quality Coastal Awards and Blue Flags

We achieved and retained Quality Coastal Awards and Blue Flags at:

- Tankerton Bay
- West Bay, Herne Bay
- Reculver

## Safer, cleaner greener

96% contract compliance

## Aspire

- 2.2 Working in partnership with the community, we have aspired to achieve nationally recognised standards and have been successful with one Purple Flag, three Quality Coastal Awards, three Blue Flags, four Green Flags and high

achievement in the Britain in Bloom initiative.

## Protection

- 2.3 We have protected significant parcels of land for public leisure and recreation. We achieved Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee status for seven sites: Herne Bay Coastal Park, Tankerton Coastal Park, Mariners View, Cornwallis Circle, Cherry Orchard, Prospect Field and Hollow Lane which protects these areas for leisure and recreation. In addition 35 sites across the district were appropriated to be held under the Public Health Act 1863, which protects them as public open spaces.

## Enhancement

- 2.4 Working in partnership with the community we have been able to adopt a series of management plans, namely Herne Bay Coastal Park, Mariners View, Prospect Field, Curtis Wood, Duncan Down, Westgate Parks and Tankerton Coastal Park is in the process of being adopted. We are currently working with community groups in central Canterbury and Kingsmead to bring forward management plans for the riverside in Canterbury.

- 2.5 These management plans have been essential in attracting over £1 million of external funding to improve and enhance open space in the area. For instance £770,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund to improve Westgate Parks, £50,000 from the Peoples Millions to improve the Herne Bay Coastal Park, £50,000 to improve Memorial Park Herne Bay, £10,000 for outdoor gyms in Toddlers Cove and £10,000 for outdoor gyms in Tankerton Slopes.

- 2.6 Biodiversity is an important consideration in all types of open space. Wherever appropriate, the council will seek to work with local people to enhance open spaces for their wildlife value, incorporating areas of habitat to benefit species, especially those of recognised/protected value. In producing management plans for open spaces, biodiversity improvements will be a key element, informed by surveys undertaken by appropriately qualified individuals, and existing local records obtained from Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre, where possible.

## Promotion

- 2.7 The management plans promote the use of public open space.

### 3. Vision, aims and strategic objectives

3.1 The strategic vision of the public Open Space Strategy is:

‘To develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces which meet the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury district’

3.2 This compliments and supports the National Planning Policy Framework, Corporate Plan, Local Plan, Transport Strategy, emerging Green Infrastructure Plan amongst others. The Open Space Strategy has links to a range of legislation and strategic documents, see **appendix 2**.

3.3 Public open space is often multi-functional and can serve a wide range of purposes, including:

- Creating or enhancing a distinct sense of place
- Provision of recreation opportunities

- Preservation and enhancement of biodiversity (and the added Value and benefits associated with ecosystem services)
- Supporting sustainable transport routes
- Improving water resource and flood management
- Contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation

3.4 The strategy’s overall aim is:

‘Aspire to protect and enhance the existing quality of our public open space and promote its usage’

3.5 Aspire to quality – Canterbury district has some high quality areas of public open space from Westgate Gardens in Canterbury City to The Blean Woodlands and the Coastal Parks.

3.6 It is important to aspire to deliver quality in the future and aspire to national standards such as Green Flag status, Quality Coastal Awards, community led In Bloom awards or designing in quality public open space in new developments.

All new proposals or enhancements should consider sustainability and quality in their design. The value of biodiversity cannot be overestimated in all types of public open space.

3.7 In new developments public open space provides the context for new housing; firstly the existing surrounding public open space and secondly the design of the public open space within the new development. It is important that the design of public open space sets the scene for the housing, that it is considered at the start and throughout the design process, not as an afterthought and should provide an attractive setting, as well as opportunities for leisure and recreation use.

3.8 **Protect** – The protection of existing public open space is important. The main mechanism for this is the draft Local Plan, Chapters 10 and 11 have a raft of policies to protect open space.

3.9 A number of our open spaces have been designated as QEII Jubilee Fields. This is a Field in Trust initiative which affords additional protection to open space to



## Aspire, Protect, Enhance and Promote

- preserve and protect it in-perpetuity for future generations.
- 3.10 A new planning protection designation has been introduced, 'Local Green Space', Policy OS1. The criteria for Local Green space designation is set out in paragraph 11.16 of the draft Local Plan.
- 3.11 Playing Fields are protected under Local Plan Policy OS2.
- 3.12 Open spaces in urban areas are protected by Protection of Existing Open Space, Policy OS9.
- 3.13 The Local Plan includes a Policy OS10, protection against the loss of open space.
- 3.14 Local Plan Policy OS11 aims to ensure that new provision of open space and play areas in new residential developments are provided and protected for the future.
- 3.15 In addition beaches and the coastline in rural areas can also be protected under the Local Plan Landscape and Biodiversity Policy LB3.
- 3.16 For further information on the protection of open space please read Chapters 10 and 11 of the Local Plan.
- 3.17 Apart from planning designations public open space can be protected in a number of other ways.
- Trusts – such as the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Trust, George V Field Trust
  - Town and Village Green Status can protect land for leisure and recreational use
  - European and national protection such as SSSI and SPAs give land a specific designation which includes protection.
- 3.18 **Enhance** – It is important to enhance public open space, as and when funding is available. We have undertaken an audit, assessed the various public open spaces and refreshed the priority list for each typology. This has identified some gaps in provision and highlighted areas that need enhancement.
- 3.19 The priority lists for each typology focuses resources of time, energy, funding and partnership working. The
- delivery of projects may be community led, partnership based or developed by the Council.
- 3.20 **Promote** – It is important that local people use their local public open space as well as promoting public open space to visitors. Recent visitor surveys have indicated that the public open space as the second highest tourist attraction, areas such as the coast or the Blean register highly. However this needs to be managed, we should enhance appropriate access, develop sites suitable for activity and promote appropriate use of the public open space in the district.
- 3.21 The fostering of 'community regeneration' is enabling and supporting community groups and working in partnership with the community to enhance public open space. This is an important part in developing this strategy and its delivery; it is a theme that runs through all the strategic aims and objectives. It is also part of a wider issue of developing community cohesion, civic pride and a sense of place.



## Objectives

3.22 The four aims flow into the objectives below.

### **Aspire for quality objectives**

- 1 Provide high quality open space
- 2 Provide quality open space fit for purpose
- 3 Maintain safe and accessible open space
- 4 Ensure high quality design in any major new development areas in the Local Plan

### **Protect objectives**

- 5 Protect existing open space through planning policy
- 6 Protect existing open space through general policy and strategic links

### **Enhance objectives**

- 7 Seek to enhance open space via use of the priority lists

- 8 Seek to develop partnerships to maximise opportunities to fill the gaps in provision and enhance open space

### **Promote objectives**

- 9 Actively promote appropriate usage of open space
- 10 Actively involve communities in decision making, developing and managing open space locally

## 4. District summary

### Unique character of the district

- 4.1 The district of Canterbury has an abundance of diverse quality public open space that is cherished by not only the local residents but also visitors.
- 4.2 The district comprises the historic city of Canterbury, two seaside towns in Herne Bay and Whitstable plus the rural villages set in a wonderful landscape that includes The Blean Woodland, the Kent Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Stour valley.
- 4.3 Canterbury District has 15 nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), three of which are internationally important as designated Ramsar and Special Protection Area sites (Thanet Coast, Stodmarsh, and The Swale) and two Special Area of Conservation sites (Stodmarsh and Blean). Stodmarsh and Blean Woods are also designated National Nature Reserves. East Blean Woods, Larkey Valley Wood, Yocketts Bank, West Blean and Thornden Woods, Stodmarsh, Ileden and Oxenden Woods, Tankerton Slopes, Thanet Coast, Church Woods, Sturry Pit, Preston Marshes, Lynsore Bottom, Ellenden Wood, Chequers and Old Park, and The Swale. In addition, there are a 49 Local Wildlife Sites of county importance which fall partly or wholly within the Canterbury District Area.
- 4.4 Canterbury City contains three World Heritage Sites and a high number of listed buildings with the cathedral at its core. It includes a network of green spaces, with Dane John and Westgate Gardens as two principal historic parks and has significant recreational space at Thanington, Victoria Recreation, St Stephens and the Sturry Road Community Park.
- 4.5 The Stour River provides a thread 'West to East' through the city of Canterbury.
- 4.6 The Victorians developed Herne Bay as a seaside resort. Within the town Memorial Park is a large central multi-purpose park, in addition the seafront and beach are highly valued by residents and visitors alike. On the fringe of Herne Bay there are three significant pieces of open space in Burton Downs, Hampton Pier and Reculver Country Park. In 2012 the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park was adopted from Hampton Pier Avenue to Reculver, this will further highlight the fantastic coastline.
- 4.7 Whitstable retains its distinctive, fishing and sailing village feel, it is a honey pot for tourists, especially in the summer months. The main town park is Whitstable Castle, which was upgraded in 2010. In 2012 the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park was adopted from the base of Whitstable Castle along the Tankerton Slopes to Swalecliffe, which emphasises that the beach and semi natural areas are special pieces of public open space.
- 4.8 In Whitstable there are three significant areas of recreational space: Cornwallis Circle, Columbia Avenue, and Westmeads Recreation Ground. Duncan Down (a Local Wildlife Site) is highly valued by local people as a large parcel of semi natural open space on the urban fringe of Whitstable. The QEII Tankerton Coastal Park provides a mix of recreational, semi natural and beach open space.

4.9 In the rural areas most villages contain a central open space, village green or recreation area, which provide opportunities for recreation sport and play. There is access to many areas of woodland, marshland, local nature reserves, general open space and a network of Rights of Way.

4.10 The District contains extensive woodland such as Bakers Wood, The Denge Wood whilst The Blean Woodland is of national importance due to its ancient woodland status. The area includes a number of sites protected for their wildlife interest. (see **appendix 29** which lists sites protected for wildlife interest)

### Profile of district

4.11 Compared with other parts of the country the district is generally wealthy, however, there are pockets of deprivation and Canterbury district has an aging population with fewer than average young people. The district’s estimated population is **153,400** (2012 Mid-year population estimates, KCC). The student population represents approximately one sixth of the Canterbury population. **Table 1**

illustrates the split in population geographically.

**Table 1 Canterbury area population**

	Population	% of total
Canterbury	58,100	38%
Herne Bay	38,800	25%
Whitstable	33,200	22%
Rural areas	23,300	15%

Source: 2012 Mid-year population estimates. KCC 2013

time. This number includes the three higher education institutes: Kent University, Christchurch University and University of Creative Arts and also the Girne American University. These figures do not include students at Canterbury College because its courses are primarily for students already based in Canterbury and East Kent who commute to the college. Many students live in or near the city and use its facilities. The student population places extra pressure on parks and open space within Canterbury City and affects the demographic profile of Canterbury.

4.12 The **Local Plan** allocates an extra 15,600 homes to the area by 2031. This will place additional pressure on land and general infrastructure such as transport, health services and schools. It will have a significant impact on existing open space and new open space provision will be required to meet the increased demand.

4.13 The city of Canterbury has a population of 58,100 (2012 mid-year population estimates). Canterbury has a high student population during term time. In the academic year 2013/14 there was 30,167 students of which 25,622 were full

## 5. Updates for 2014

5.1 This refresh of the Open Space Strategy in 2014 includes allotments, beaches, cemeteries and civic spaces.

### Allotments

5.2 The Open Space Strategy has incorporated the existing Allotments Strategy into it from 2014. The key allotment issues moving forward are

- A shortage of allotments in Herne Bay
- A shortage of allotments in Whitstable
- The move away from direct management of allotments by the Council to partnership arrangements with local allotment associations
- The adoption of a Canterbury Standard so that new housing areas can contribute to allotment provision.

5.3 Allotment provision is a statutory function for local authorities and Allotment Law is complex. In urban areas Canterbury City Council is responsible for the provision of allotments in rural areas it is the appropriate Parish Council's responsibility.

5.4 A summary of Allotment legislation is available as background information. Apart from Allotment legislation urban allotments are also protected under Protection of Existing Open Space Policy OS9 plus some specific Policies OS14 and OS15.

### Beaches

5.5 The Canterbury District has 14.5 miles of coast line and this is one of, if not the most, used type of open space in the district. The beaches are mixed ownership and are part of the Coastal Management Plan that helps protect the coastal towns. The primary function of beaches is coastal protection but it is recognised that beaches are a major contribution to the use of public open space.

5.6 The beaches are protected under the existing Protection of Existing Open Space Policy (OS9) and the Undeveloped Coastline Policy (LB3) plus international recognition of the special habitat value (Ramsar Sites), some areas are designated a Town and Village Green and West Beach, Whitstable is a proposed Local Green Space Policy (OS1), in the Local Plan.

5.7 Following consultation the 14.5 miles is designated as amenity public open space, but the key recreational locations are highlighted in the sports and recreational map: such as sailing clubs, public launch ramps and swimming areas.

### Cemeteries

5.8 Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds are considered to be part of the general public open space within an area. They can be formal or offer a range of alternative burial options such as woodland glades or green burial areas. Some sites are closed and can offer sanctuaries to wildlife or a quiet space in the urban area.

### Civic space

5.9 Civic space is often the "hard landscape" in urban areas and there is a need to incorporate this space into the Open Space Strategy as it is an integral part of the public open space network in the urban areas. They also need to be included in the overall regeneration of the urban areas; Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable.

## 6. Current issues

### Planning for sports provision

- 6.1 At the time of writing, Sport England is reviewing their 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance' on which the assessment of outdoor sports provision is based. Therefore we have updated the existing assessments for outdoor sports and will include an action to review this once Sports England has published their review.

### Promotion of sports and recreation clubs

- 6.2 Although sports and recreational clubs are technically not 'public open space' as you need to be a member of a club to play rather than just turn up and play, the consultation highlighted the value of these clubs and the need to promote them. We will map the sports and recreational clubs on the website.

### Rights of Way

- 6.3 The consultation highlighted the need to promote the Rights of Way network throughout the district. A link to the Kent County Council website with the Rights

of Way network will be available on the Canterbury City Council website.

### Canterbury Riverside

- 6.4 It has been long held aspiration to develop a 'Regional Park' along the riverside throughout Canterbury. We are working with agencies, partners and community groups to deliver the 'Regional Park', in three sections.

**Westgate Parks project** has successfully attracted external funding and is being enhanced in 2014. In addition we have further four years revenue funding to develop a programme of community events and activities.

**The Friends of the Riverside project** is working towards delivering the enhancements identified within the Riverside Strategy in a network of relatively small, but highly used and valued pockets of public open space between Westgate Bridge and Kingsmead Bridge.

**Kingsmead to Vauxhall area:** this is an emerging project based around local

community groups and the Kingsmead Regeneration project.

- 6.5 The Regional Park principle includes the Great Stour footpath cycle way from Westgate Parks to Chartham. In the longer term the aspiration is replicate this and extend eastwards from Vauxhall Avenue towards Fordwich.

- 6.6 A Riverside Strategy has been developed. This sets out:

- how the riverside between Westgate and Kingsmead bridges will be managed and developed,
- demonstrate the value of the space,
- how the council will work in partnership with the local community.

The Canterbury Riverside Strategy is a Supplementary Planning Document – indicating planning constraints and design specifications. The document is a supporting document to the Open Spaces Strategy.

## *Aspire, Protect, Enhance and Promote*

### Kingsmead Field

- 6.7 The majority of Kingsmead Field has been designated Protection of Existing Open Space, Policy OS9 in the draft Local plan. The same area is allocated as amenity public open space in the Open Space Strategy. We are working in partnership with the Friends of Kingsmead Field on making improvements to the open space and developing a joint management plan.

### Local plan

- 6.8 The Landscape Biodiversity chapter 10 and the Open Space chapter 11 are key elements of the Local Plan. The consultation on the Open Space Strategy highlighted the need for well-designed, good quality open space at the forefront of the design of new housing areas.
- 6.9 Therefore we have included best practice on designing public open space in new housing that focuses on the need to engage the local residents in the process, place public open space at the start and throughout the design of the development and design public open space to best practice standards.

### Funding constraints

- 6.10 On-going funding constraints for Local Authorities emphasises the need to maximise all resources to enhance and promote public open space. This could be developer contributions or fund raising or community groups or external funding.
- 6.11 The open space priority lists will feed into the Community Infrastructure Levy process that is evolving within the lifetime of this strategy.

## 7. Canterbury district public open space standards

7.1 The Canterbury district public open space standards are based on national best practice and consultation, they are set out below

Typology	Definition	Agreed thresholds	Justification of threshold	Local Standard
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>	Including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens.	2,000 metres	CABE guidance and consultation	0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m <sup>2</sup> /person)
<b>Green corridors</b>	Including rivers and canal banks, cycle ways and rights of way Plus accessible green space in urban fringe.	300 metres	Based on ANGST guidance and consultation results	1.3 –1.7 hectares per 1,000 people (1.3 –17 m <sup>2</sup> /person)
<b>Amenity green space</b>	Including informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing. Excludes domestic gardens.	1,000 metres	ANGST and consultation results	1.3 –1.7 hectares per 1,000 people (13 –17 m <sup>2</sup> /person)
<b>Fixed Play areas</b>	<b>Fields in Trust have refined these areas to:</b>			0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m <sup>2</sup> /person)
<b>LAPs</b> Facilities targeted at 0 to 5 year olds	Local Area of play space (LAP) – no equipment	100 metres /up to one minutes' walk	Based on FIT guidance and consultation results	Part of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m <sup>2</sup> / person)
<b>LEAPS</b> Facilities targeted at 5 to 12 year olds	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	400 metres /up to five minutes' walk	Based on FIT guidance and consultation results	Part of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m <sup>2</sup> / person)
<b>NEAPS</b> Facilities targeted at 12 to 18 year olds	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	1,000 metres/up to 15 minutes' walk	Based on FIT guidance and consultation results	Part of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m <sup>2</sup> /person)



Typology	Definition	Agreed thresholds	Justification of threshold	Local Standard
<b>Destination play facilities</b> targeted at 0 18 year olds	Play facilities have a distinctive feature and part of a larger facility	20 minutes' drive time	Based on FIT guidance	Part of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m <sup>2</sup> /person)
<b>Semi natural and natural open space</b>	Including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas – cliffs, quarries and pits	1,000 metres	Based on ANGST guidance and consultation results	4.0 hectares per 1,000 people (40m <sup>2</sup> /person)
<b>Outdoor sports pitches</b>	Including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses athletics tracks school and institutional playing fields and other outdoor sports areas. Excludes private clubs.	1,000 metres	Based on FIT guidance and consultation results	0.87 hectares per 1,000 people (9m <sup>2</sup> /person)
<b>Allotments</b>	An allotment is a piece of land approximately 250 square metres in size which can be rented out for growing fruit and vegetables predominantly.	NA	National Society for Allotments and Leisure Gardeners.	15 plots per 1,000 household or 1.56m <sup>2</sup> per household.
<b>Civic Space</b>	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians perform a range of recreation functions and are a key element of the civic environment.	TBC	CABE Space guidance	One major civic space per urban centre

**Note:**

CABE is the Commission Council for Architect and the Built Environment, also the Design Council

ANGST is Access to Natural Green Space standard

FIT is Fields in Trust

7.2 Beaches are considered as amenity public open space that have a unique character and have a mix of informal leisure, sporting activity and semi natural usage.

## 8. Audit, mapping and gap analysis

- 8.1 The parcels of public open space have been audited and verified at community meetings. They are then mapped. Using the mapped open space, the Canterbury public open space standards and the local demographics from the 2011 census data, updated to mid-term point 2012 we are able to identify gaps in provision for each type of public open space.
- 8.2 The detailed maps of public open space are available on the website [canterbury.gov.uk/openspacestrategy](http://canterbury.gov.uk/openspacestrategy)
- 8.3 In 2014 the identified gaps in provision are:
- **Amenity green spaces** – Southern section of Wincheap ward and Barton ward in Canterbury plus coastal wards (Reculver, Heron, West Bay, Swalecliffe, Tankerton, Harbour, Seasalter) as beaches do not fulfil all the requirements of amenity open space.
  - **Green corridors** – Herne Bay to Canterbury, Faversham to Canterbury (via Blean) and Bridge to Canterbury

- **Fixed play areas** – Chislet and Lower Hardres in the rural areas plus Barton, Harbour and Reculver Wards
- **Outdoor sports pitches** – Canterbury (one adult, four junior/mini football and one rugby), Herne Bay (four junior football) and Whitstable (two junior and seven mini football)
- **Allotments** – Herne Bay and Whitstable

8.4 It has been recognised that the gaps in provision will be challenging to resolve. However land has been allocated to address the major deficiencies in the draft local plan. All new major developments will be required to progress through the usual planning permission process (subject to the normal consultation requirements and detailed assessments) and provide contributions in respect of on-site provision of open space, access to the countryside and mitigation for any impact on designated sites for wildlife (wardening and other provisions to ensure no net detriment to habitat/species of recognised value). Smaller developments will (through due

planning process) need to show how they will provide suitable community facilities reasonably expected as part of the development and if these cannot be supplied as part of the development, contributions to enhance the existing provision may be required.

- 8.5 In addition we have a link with the Kent County Council website for the map of 'Rights of Way'. [kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/rights-of-way-map](http://kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/rights-of-way-map)
- 8.6 We are developing a map of the sports and recreational clubs in the area.
- 8.7 We are developing a map of the open space protected by Trust status, Town and Village Green status and national designations.

## 9. Canterbury district best practice

9.1 The consultation highlighted the expectations for public open space:

- There should be partnership working between community, agencies and the council.
- There should be a high quality park in each urban area.
- There should be a range of appropriate licensed event spaces in each urban area – away from housing where possible.
- There should be one major civic space in each urban area.
- Everyone should have access to a public space where children can play within 400 metres of their home (this includes amenity open space) – although this is challenging to achieve in some established housing areas.
- Playgrounds should be designed to current national best practice.
- There should be 1.3 hectares of amenity open space for every thousand people – although this is challenging to achieve in some established housing areas.

- All public open spaces should be maintained at minimum quality standards – cleaner, safer, greener.
- Public open space and play spaces in new developments should be designed in context to the existing environment and to current national best practice.
- Aspire to high quality beaches.
- There should be 15 allotment plots per 1,000 head of population – although this is challenging in the Coastal Towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable.

- Equipped play areas (playgrounds) – **appendix 8**
- Green corridors – **appendix 9**
- Parks and Gardens – **appendix 10**
- Outdoor sports pitches – **appendix 11**
- Semi natural open space – **appendix 12**
- Public open space in new housing development best practice – **appendix 13**

### Best practice statements

9.2 The vision, aims, objectives and standards inform the suite of best practice statements for each type of public open space.

- Amenity open space – **appendix 3**
- Allotments – **appendix 4**
- Beaches – **appendix 5**
- Cemeteries – **appendix 6**
- Civic space – **appendix 7**

## 10. Priority lists

10.1 Although public open space is often multi-functional and primary function (typology) has been allocated to each parcel of land. Officers used national criteria to assess public open spaces on a 'value' and 'quality' basis.

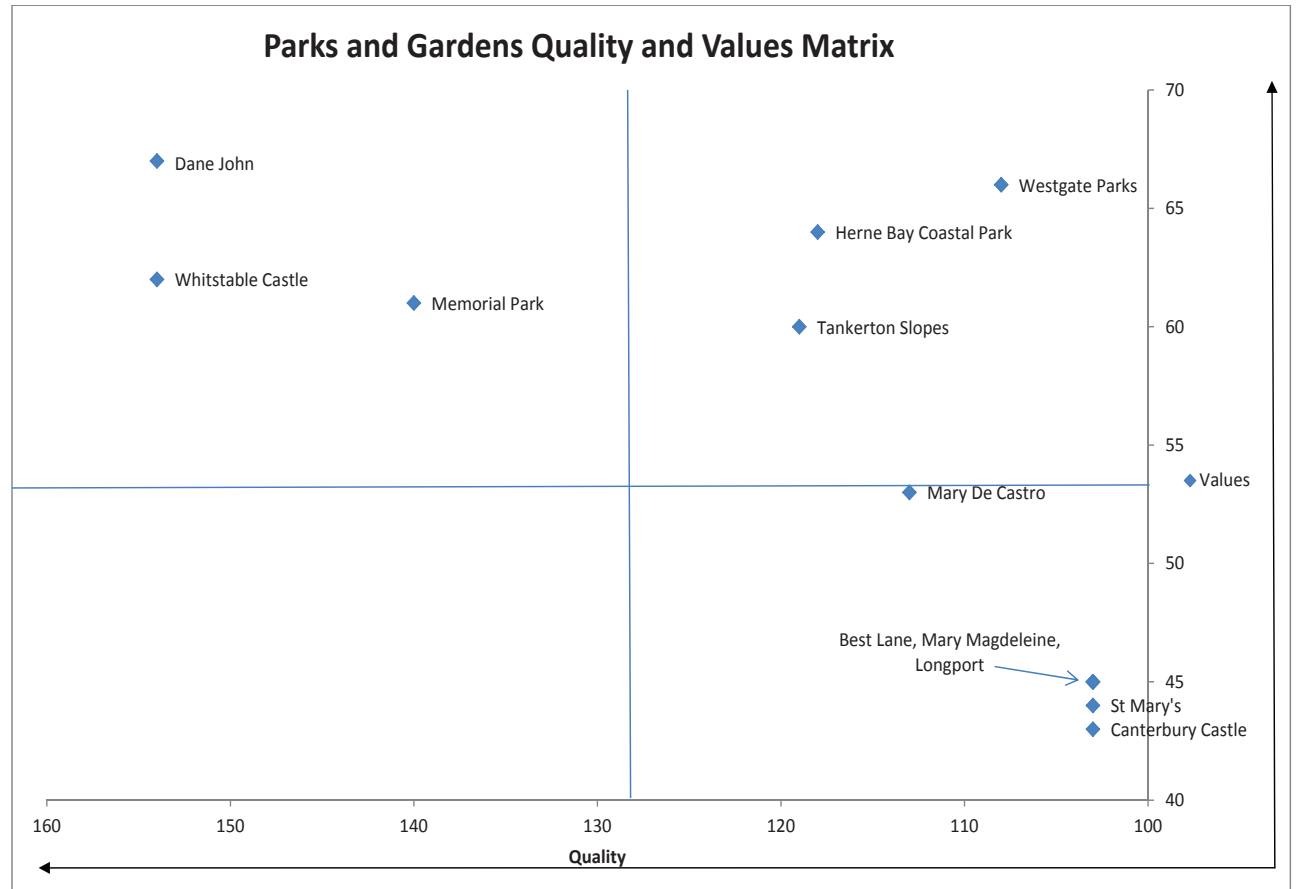
- All sites in each respective typology were assessed against a range of quality and value criteria, and scored from 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent)
- These totals were then plotted a single point chart matrix
- The matrix was divided into quadrants, with the dividing lines taken from the median value of the range of scores.

The assessment criteria is attached in **appendix 27**

10.2 The prioritisation is based upon the different quadrants

- High public value and low quality – invest to improve
- High public value and high quality – invest to maintain quality
- Low public value and low quality
- Low public value and high quality

10.3 An example of a typology matrix is set out below.



10.4 The priority lists for the various typologies are set out in the following appendices

- Amenity open space – **appendix 14**
- Allotments – **appendix 15**
- Cemeteries – **appendix 16**
- Civic space– **appendix 17**
- Equipped play areas (playgrounds) – **appendix 18**
- Green corridors – **appendix 19**
- Parks and Gardens – **appendix 20**
- Outdoor sports pitches – **appendix 21**
- Semi natural open space – **appendix 22**

10.5 At the time of writing ward boundaries are being reviewed. Therefore we have combined priority lists for Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable as geographic areas

- Canterbury – **appendix 23**
- Herne Bay – **appendix 24**

- Whitstable – **appendix 25**

10.6 The priority lists are used to help direct available resources such as capital funding, developer contributions, fund raising, a focus for seeking external funding and the valuable resource of time and energy of local people.

## 11. Performance Indicators, Action Plan, Monitor and Review

11.1 The performance indicators for the Open Space Strategy are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Performance indicators

No	Local Indicator	Lead	Reporting	Targets	Baseline 2014 figures
OSS 1	Obtain and retain a Green Flag for a park in each urban area	Transport and Environment	Annually	3 by 2015	1
OSS 2	Retain existing three Green Flags/In Bloom equivalent in urban and countryside open space	Transport and Environment	Annually	3	3
OSS 3	Retain three Quality Coastal Awards	Foreshore	Annually	3	3
OSS 4	Deliver a rolling programme of open space and fixed play enhancement via the priority lists	Transport and Environment	Annually	3 per year	3
OSS 5	Develop one new project with local communities and partners per year	Transport and Environment	Annually	1 per year	0
OSS 6	Monitor Grounds Maintenance and Associated Works contract to ensure high standards of maintenance and cleanliness for city council public open space and play areas	Commissioned Services	Annually	96%	95%
OSS 7	Support the implementation of the Developers Contribution Fund Supplementary Planning Document and CIL process	Planning	Annually	As required	-

No	Local Indicator	Lead	Reporting	Targets	Baseline 2014 figures
OSS 8	Incorporate Bio-diversity into the design of open space in appropriate developments	Transport and Environment	Annually	As required	1
OSS 9	Implement the agreement with RSPB to manage and enhance Seasalter Marshes	Transport and Environment	Annually	1 per year	1
OSS 10	Advise on implementation of statutory duty for biodiversity under NERC Act 2006	Transport and Environment	Annually	As required	1
OSS 11	Coordinate and promote concessions in open spaces	Commissioned Services	Annually	20 by 2020	15

11.2 The Open Space Strategy action plan is attached in **appendix 26**

11.3 The action plan will be on the website and progress updated every six months, the priority lists will be reviewed annually and the Open Space Strategy reviewed in 2020.

## **Acknowledgements**

To all those who have taken part in the open space workshops in the autumn 2013 and summer 2014.



# Appendices

Draft Open Space Strategy for the Canterbury District  
2014 to 2020

## Appendix 1

### Summary of Open Space Strategy consultation

#### Stage 1 initial consultation

#### Autumn 2013 community workshops

Canterbury workshop

#### General points

Need maps of public access routes

Need to protect route through Hambrook Marshes potential to develop Elham Valley line to Canterbury as green corridor

In the maps add River in blue throughout the city

Possible over reliance on developer contributions and then them not being developed as originally promised

Litter a major issue – one potential solution community clear ups

Need to clarify future use of Ridlands Farm now that it is not going to be a Football venue for Canterbury FC – Local residents undertake

a survey for proposed use and feed into the Local Plan.

The lack of open space in established housing areas – this is challenging to solve.

Potential changes in schools offers opportunity for public open space?

Way forward is partnership working

#### Open space in new housing developments

- Should be designed in sympathy to the existing open space/countryside, not parachuted in
- Open space should be designed at start rather than fitted in at end of design process
- Active open space requires a good buffer from housing
- Links/cycle routes/green corridors with existing links in area

#### Issues in Northgate Ward

Vauxhall Avenue – key space to be enhanced for that area of the city

Clarify way forward for illegal angling (Enforcement issue)

Kingsbrook Park – main open space along riverside going out of Canterbury to the east – attracting anti social behaviour

Kingsmead Field – local concerns to protect it as it is

High density student population – highlights need for active spaces

Active spaces need to be usable not small amenity spaces

The ward is divided into segments by some key barriers: Railway line, River, main Sturry Road

Sturry Community Park – on edge of city and poorly promoted/signposted – limited use.

#### Issues in Barton/Wincheap wards

If school relocate potential to retain sports pitches for community?

Lack of play and open space

What will happen to Ridlands Farm?

Can closed cemeteries be used as 'quiet space'?

Must have links to countryside if new developments happen

Howe Barracks – potential open space for community use

Lack of space near Querns and Spring lane

### Issues in Westgate ward

Is cathedral grounds part of open space (need to pay to enter therefore not include but wonderful open space for local residents – who can get a free pass)

Access routes / alley ways important – open up new housing access routes such as tannery

Herne Bay workshop

### Summary of discussion points

#### Open Space in new housing areas

- Open spaces for older children located away from housing – also need areas for toddlers
- Need smaller open spaces/trees – health and wellbeing, could include ponds/streams/plants

- Water Safety an issue especially for children
- Open space is often allocated in the flood plain (Which cannot be developed) – open space needs to be considered at the start of design process not as an after thought
- New housing in existing countryside means that residents give up their "own space" therefore open space in new housing needs to be openly accessible to all not tucked away within new housing

**Developer contributions** – off site – does not increase quantity but can be used to enhance what we already have.

#### School provision

- Encourage dual use of educational facilities for community eg STP, tennis courts. These have to have floodlights in or limited community value

**QEII coastal park** – Hampton – Reculver CP Trust protected forever, 10 year action plan developed. VOTE ON 26th NOVEMBER 2013 to support People's Millions Bid on ITV Meriden news. – **NOTE successful £50,000 bid**

- The People's Millions bid is to improve: disabled access, develop website, leaflet, signage, visitor info and mural on Nuns Huts (near Lane End)

- Central area playground, sea defence area, adjustments to car park, HBIB – shingle garden all progressing
- HLF clock tower bid in the autumn, decision in New Year 2014

### Beaches

Beaches are actually a coastal protection – Neptune Arms sea defence, shingle beaches etc. the just happen to provide a wonderful open space

- In OSS amenity open space – how are they used? Consider splitting into four sections
  1. Hampton – Nuns Huts - Leisure use section.
  2. Central – tourist/commercial section
  3. Neptune – Kings Hall – sailing club leisure
  4. The Downs – undeveloped coast – RAMSAR etc – natural environment

If develop areas need to consider amenities such as improve public toilets, interpretation, part of QEII action plan.

Alternatively retain as amenity and recognise leisure activities

## Central Pier

- Maximise pier facilities – opportunity for further projects to improve usage
- Pier is not shown – civic space/commercial use?
- CCC own and maintain pier
- Pier Trust manages 12 beach huts/option for 6 more
- Tenders for the various activities for end of the Pier– options for activities such as Mini golf to be assessed
- CCC make decision about what goes on the Pier in summer 2014
- In Local Plan Pier is down as commercial leisure – in open space strategy maybe civic space? Or recognise as a leisure activity.

## Beach huts in Herne Bay

Three phases agreed in 2011 beach Hut Option appraisal report

Phase one completed in Herne Bay – six infill beach huts in early 2013

Phase two – just starting Feasibility Study on area around Lane End – consult in new year

Phase three - Beach huts restored at pavilion sites past Kings Hall – Use of plinths/beach huts/garden/public toilets etc – some way off.

## Downs VG application

Awaiting KCC Regulations Committee meeting decision

## How will OSS 2014-18 be affected if CCC has to outsource?

- Outsourcing may occur as income from government to CCC to be cut by @50%
- Focus on partnership working/external funding – less CCC funding
- Community groups can access external funding easier than Council's
- More partnership working – managing expectation

## Civic space = hard landscape surfaces Events in Herne Bay

- Civic space eg clock tower plaza
- Market – move to Mortimer Street – Caroline Hicks contact at CCC – better footfall?? – options for 'boot fair' sites – Lions need an update about feasibility work – Caroline Hicks

- Event space in urban area – clock tower plaza – pier – beach
- Events in Wimereaux Gardens – small in past. Turn down effect? Might be more in Canterbury because of space available. Good to generate income
- Central Parade closed – funfair / festival - maybe do more often
- More use of Memorial Park – in summer but grass areas not appropriate for all events
- Bay Promo Team – sci-fi event very successful – 3,000+ - Zombie Crawl coming up
- Rolling calendar of events needs to be promoted
- Money needs to be raised to run the events
- Herne Bay Regatta – consider option to bring back

## Other issues

- Area south of bus station – relocate bus station – currently brownfield site?
- Cherry Orchard, Herne – application process for applying for events. Lots of forms to fill in, people give up – Need to make the process easier.

- Gap in allotments – option to include in new housing areas
- Gap in playground provision – Reculver. Reculver Country Park needs facilities but maybe an extra playground in the housing area as well.
- Gaps in amenity open space in established areas is challenging to overcome.
- Concern about grass cutting Near Sailing Club and along Spa Esplanade – forwarded comments to Contracts Section.

### Whitstable workshop

Initial discussion on definition of open space and concluded “publicly accessible open space” as part of the Open Space Strategy and focus on how the space is used, whilst protected open space should be dealt with via the Local Plan.

Need to consider the benefit of visual amenity for open space that is not accessible to the public and identify “recreational facilities” in open space

Clarify with national bodies.

### Beaches:

- Concern over the Local Plan term ‘undeveloped’ as it implies development could be permitted at a later stage. Would protected be a better term?
- Differentiate between casual and organised recreation

Prefer to retain beaches as “amenity” but indicate where organisations such as youth clubs, sailing clubs, private sports clubs etc. are located

### New Housing:

#### General discussion on open space in new housing – not potential new housing developments

- Provide usable larger communal open spaces, as opposed to smaller pocket spaces, as the larger space is more useable for a wider range of activities
- The Church Lane development is a good model for providing accessible open space
- Existing residents in a locality should be able to use new space provided in new developments
- Consider the values of open spaces and biological assets, not just monetary values

### Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Fields – Tankerton Slopes:

- Management plan in preparation, out to consultation in early 2014
- Funding approved and consultation on going via Whitstable Improvement Trust for outdoor gym

### Environmental issue

Southern Water: spillage and leak issues, need to contact the Environment Agency as the licensing authority.

### Planning

The new National Planning Policy Framework was deemed to be robust as it is simple and use friendly.

Several proposed Local Green Spaces coming forward

**Allotments:** issue with non-cultivation on council managed sites. Policy is being revised in the light of recent scrutiny review report and recommendation. How is the shortfall going to be tackled?

## Football pitches –

Current deficit 4 junior pitches – option of site in Bends near St Augustine’s Business Centre – identified in draft Local Plan as an option – no complaints

Any other opportunities are there for funding, and available land?

Church Street Playing Field – Whitstable. This is a KCC/school site.

Can it be brought back as football pitches as there is a deficit in Whitstable

Could the site come forward as a possible QEII field?

- The land is owned by KCC, they would need to apply for Trust status and the indication is they would not wish to do so. Also the prime use of the site is for education purposes.
- The QE II application process is now closed.

RG to clarify with school.

NOTE The school have confirmed that part of the site is currently used for Boot fairs. That the sports pitches are unusable – by the school or clubs. They have made enquiries about reinstating the area as sports pitches and that initial estimated cost was @£500,000 – due to repairing collapsed drains and levelling the site. Currently in consultation with Sports England and FA regarding funding opportunities.

## General points

It was pointed out there is also a deficit of designated and managed camp sites, which other tourism areas have in abundance.

Gaps in open space provision in established housing is challenging to resolve

## Rural workshop

## General points

Group discussed protection issues and AP explained the role of Village Green protection and how it can help with protection especially encroachment.

May be useful for a map with various levels of protection: such as Village greens, QEII Trust status, SSSI, ANOB etc

Agreed the need for public access route map – liaising with KCCC who have this data

Recognised that many villages have good portion of public open space.

Update on NPPF and group felt that this has under mined the protection of open space.

However, public open space does not include the general countryside. Many woodlands are privately owned and technically not public open space.

Also school pitches can be used by the public but as they are the discretion of the school they are not technically public open space.

The group split into three groups to consider specific issues in various areas of those attending. Main aim was to check all the public open space was identified and agree the “primary use” of the public open space. All recognise that often public open space as a range of uses but we need to identify the primary use.

### **Harbledown and Rough Common plus Hackington**

- Check woodland
- Add Jubilee Field
- Add local Wildlife area
- Further amendments on maps

### **Bridge plus Bekesbourne and Patrixbourne**

- Amend allotments and recreation ground
- Check woodland, much of it private
- Further amendments on maps

### **Littlebourne and Waltham**

- Check woodland on map, much of it private
- Further amendments on maps

### **Other general points**

Need to protect existing space – negotiations on leases and advice from Rural Local authorities

A debate about the ANOB and impact on rural areas

Exchange about inspection of playgrounds – potential opportunity for training local reps/ volunteers

Importance of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for a village – Local Plan process but can overlap into Open space Strategy

If any new housing then open space within new housing development is vital

- Should be designed in sympathy to the existing open space/countryside, not parachuted in
- Open space should be designed at start rather than fitted in at end of design process
- Active open space good buffer from housing
- Links/cycle routes/green corridors with existing links in area

In rural areas housing is often in small sites or infill projects. In these cases offsite developer contributions are made to CCC which are then past back to Parish Councils to use to enhance existing public open space.

### **Stage 2 consultation 5 June to 18 July 2014 (six weeks)**

Stage 2 consultation ran for six weeks during the period 5 June to 18 July. The consultation consisted web based consultation with the public, Members and Parish Councils. The following documents were consulted on:

- main strategy document
- Typology statements
- GIS open space mapping by town and rural parishes

Copies of the documents were also available in libraries and council offices for public comment.

Representations for stage 2 consultation were received from 21 individuals and organisations and approximately 122 separate comments recorded and an officer response for each comment noted.

## **Open Spaces Community and Members**

### **Conference – 7th July 2014**

Summary of key points discussed:

#### **Introduction and Welcome - Update on draft strategy**

Key differences from previous strategy:

- Combined Open Space, Allotments and Play strategies into one strategy document. Also included civic space and beaches.
- Included feedback from initial stage 1 consultation



- No longer categorised by ward. This will be reviewed following any changes by the Boundary Commission.
- Included 'areas of interest' – a snapshot of the key priorities in each town categorised by open space typology
- Included a list of open space improvements achieved since the last strategy
- Sports – provision and deficiencies are measured using current Sport England guidance. This is due to change shortly. The sports element of the strategy will be reviewed after the changes.
- Web format – adopted a more user friendly web format for viewing the document and appendices

### **Filling the Gaps in Provision - Summary of key points and comments**

Generally there is a deficiency in most open space typologies, due to pressure on land or development and agriculture.

We still refer to PPG 17 and other key documents such as "Design for Play" (Play England) and "Planning and design for outdoor sport and play" (Field in trust) referred to as industry standards. The guidelines and

recommendations inform the strategy's assessments and policies.

If the quantity of open space can't be addressed, then there is the need to improve quality and consider other uses.

### **Sports pitches**

May need to develop links with schools to encourage them to open up their grounds to wider community use. Need to recognise this brings additional wear and maintenance implications to the respective school, and that school grounds are provided for the teaching and recreation activities of school pupils, and not for public uses. This is changing as under the extended schools programme, schools are being encouraged to open up their resources and make available for wider community use.

Deficiency in youth football. Look at installing MUGA's when funding permits.

### **Allotments**

Provision uses NSALG guidelines as a benchmark.

Waiting lists are not reliable.

Adequate provision in Canterbury, but deficiencies in Herne Bay and Whitstable.

The deficiencies may be addressed if access to the Herne and Broomfield site was widened to accommodate applications from across the district.

There are potential new sites at Greenhill through planning gain, similarly at Whitstable, and the council already owns a plot of land adjacent to Wincheap allotment in Canterbury, and this will be commissioned if the fourth A2 slip road is ever built.

### **Landscape in new developments**

Through the planning process there is a need to ensure that new development provides adequate open space provision. This can be either enhancing off site provision, investing in the neighbouring open spaces, or by providing well designed, good quality multi-functional landscape as part of the development.

Any landscape provided as part of a new development must have wider community access, and be designed as such.

### **Area review – Review summary of key priorities for Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable.**

More detail required in some instances.

Gaps in provision are challenging to address.

Rural – the majority of the land is managed by parish councils or trusts. An appendix summary of rural priorities may need to be added into the strategy.

**Update on the QEII Tankerton Coastal Park**  
– consultation currently underway on Tankerton Slopes management plan, closes end of July 2014.

**Update on the QEII Herne Bay Coastal Park**  
– management plan in place and projects are being progressed. Additionally the Peoples Millions projects are progressing and being delivered.

### **Next steps**

Review of consultation comments / feedback

Report on consultation comments to Area Member Panels, Overview Committee.

Final comment and Report to Executive and Full Council for adoption of strategy in autumn/winter 2014.

## **Stage 3 consultation**

### **8 August to 5 September 2014**

Stage 3 was consultation on the Open Space Priority Lists and Action Plan and other appendices, and ran for a period of 4 weeks during 8th August to 5th September. This stage consisted of a web based consultation and specific consultation with respondents to stage 3 consultation, Members and Parish Councils.

The following documents were consulted on:

- Appendix 2 - Desktop research review of legislation and links to other strategies
- Appendix 13 - Public open space in new housing development best practice (revised)
- Appendix 14 - Amenity open space priority list
- Appendix 15 - Allotments list
- Appendix 16 - Cemeteries priority list
- Appendix 17 - Civic space priority list
- Appendix 18 - Equipped play area (playgrounds) priority list
- Appendix 19 - Green corridors priority list
- Appendix 20 - Parks and gardens priority list

- Appendix 21 - Outdoor sports priority list
- Appendix 22 - Semi-natural open space priority list
- Appendix 23 - Canterbury summary of key priorities
- Appendix 24 - Herne Bay summary of key priorities
- Appendix 25 - Whitstable summary of key priorities
- Appendix 26 - Action plan
- Appendix 27 - Open space quality and value assessment criteria
- Appendix 28 - The law and allotments summary
- Glossary

Representations for stage 3 consultation were received from 8 individuals and organisations and approximately 48 separate comments recorded and an officer response for each noted.

## Appendix 2

### Desk top research review of strategies, policies and legislation

The legislation policies and strategies that impact on open space have been reviewed to determine the most appropriate and relevant.

#### 1. National Policies

The **Local Government Act (2000)** directs promotion of the 'well-being' of local authority areas, including the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area via Community Strategies.

**The natural choice: securing the value of nature, 2011** is the government's white paper for the natural environment which seeks to place the value of nature at the centre of decision making for the environment, economic growth and personal wellbeing.

**UK Biodiversity Action Plan** and Steering Group Report (1994, 1995) describes the UK commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Earth Summit), Rio de Janeiro, 1992. Describes UK vision for implementing protection

and enhancement of habitats and species of national conservation concern.

#### 2. Canterbury City Council Strategies / Policies

The Canterbury City Council Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020 was adopted in 2016 and has open space embedded in it; most prominently the Places theme “we make the most of our unique and natural environment” with the aims of making our city, town and villages places to be proud of, keeping the district clean and protecting and enhancing our open spaces, heritage and wildlife..

**The Corporate plan 2016 – 2020** has incorporated the Environment Strategy and the Equalities Strategy into its principles

Principle 8 We will be as sensitive as possible about our own environmental impact and work with others to do the same.

Principle 9 We will deliver all our services and treat everyone without discrimination or inequality

The strategy also has links with a significant number of other strategies.

**The Canterbury Cultural and Economy Policies 2011 - 2016** highlights amongst others the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Kent Downs, the Reculver Site of Special Scientific Interest, the ancient woodland in Blean Woods and has an objective of Enhancing, protecting and promoting public spaces.

This links very closely to the Open Space Strategy by including landscape, ecology, biodiversity and countryside. It is currently being reviewed.

The positive links between open spaces and health and well being are well known. In September 2017 the Government set up a 'Parks Action Group' The announcement was made as the charity Fields in Trust, who will be

represented on the group, released new research demonstrating a 'direct and statistically significant' link between publicly accessible parks and green spaces and health and well being.

Based on new analysis of existing data from Defra and Natural England and a new primary data (sample size 4,033), the charity found, on average, the more frequently park/green space trips are made, the higher an individual's wellbeing.

They also found green spaces were good for producing community connections and helping to reduce the risk of loneliness.

'Our ongoing research recognises how these spaces help to address significant public policy issues including health and wellbeing and community integration.

'We are looking forward to furthering our work with colleagues across the sector to ensure that we value parks and green spaces and take account of the vital contribution they make to local communities.' Stated Helen Griffiths

A Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) report into the state of the UK's parks published last year found that Government cuts were impacting upon the running of parks.

The charity also noted its agreement with the report which stated: 'continued local authority leadership is needed. As owners of most public parks and green spaces, councils have a pivotal role in ensuring the continued provision of quality parks.

#### **The Canterbury District Transport Strategy** key aim is to:

"to improve access to services, goods and opportunities, and tackle the negative impacts of traffic by promoting sustainable modes of transport, achieving reliable vehicle journey times and supporting sustainable development."

**The Canterbury Community Safety Partnership** is the joint approach to addressing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The areas of focus for the 2017 - 2018 CCSP Partnership Plan are:

- Manage the Evening and Night Time Economy

- Assisting local delivery of key county initiatives Inc. Integrated Offender Management; Kent Alcohol Strategy; Preventing Fires; Road Safety; KCC Education and Young Peoples' Services
- Reduce incidents of reported ASB & Support people vulnerable to becoming a victim, or perpetrator, of crime & ASB
- Strengthen local response to serious and organised crime

Context to this: Manage the Evening and Night Time Economy – recognises that good management of the NTE keeps it vibrant, safe, reduces incidents of crime and helps build upon positive initiatives such as Purple Flag.

Reduce incidents of reported ASB – tackling ASB is a core element of Community Safety Partnerships acknowledging that ASB is a volume issue and it can greatly affect members of the community.

Assisting local delivery of key county initiatives Inc. Integrated Offender Management; Kent Alcohol Strategy; Preventing Fires; Road Safety; KCC Education and Young Peoples' Services

(previously only Troubled Families was highlighted) - These are areas of work initiated at a county level where locally we are open to find mechanisms to support their delivery where there is potential that the CCSP can provide added value and a better outcome.

Support people vulnerable to becoming a victim, or perpetrator, of crime & ASB – there are individuals and areas within our district with higher incidents of crimes and ASB because of particular susceptibilities. We will work to identify these and support individuals to build resilience to crime and ASB preventing them becoming victims.

Strengthen local response to serious and organised crime – it is increasingly acknowledged that serious and organised crime has far reaching effects on local and national security and impacts on individual's, community and economic well-being. Preventing Violent Extremism will be an element of this priority area.

Further to this as a new development, with a growing collaboration across the Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing agendas, particularly around

vulnerabilities and cross over areas such as alcohol misuse, there are possibly benefits to see where joint working on their respective plans can be achieved.

Some of the other national strategies and initiatives are

- 'Walking into Health' campaign underway with the aim of encouraging one third of the population in England to walk at least 1000 or more steps daily by 2012
- 'Fair Play – a consultation on the play strategy' (Department for Children, Schools and Families 2008)
- Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and the Primary Capital Strategy recognise the important role that school grounds can play

In conclusion, there is a clear message from central Government that clean, green, accessible open space is now more important than ever before. The need to respond to the challenges of an economic slowdown, evolving climate and an increasing obesity crisis will see open space become 'critical green infrastructure' in new developments and in the regeneration of existing urban environments.

### 3. The Local Plan

The main role of the planning system is to ensure there is sufficient open space in the right places. There is a need also to ensure they are of high quality, attractive to users and well managed and maintained.

#### **National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012. DCLG)**

The NPPF presumes sustainable development. It aims to protect and invest in the natural environment and green spaces, in consultation and partnership with local communities. It seeks to secure high quality design and good standard of amenity.

Sustainable development has three main principles: Economic, Social and Environment. Development should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promote the vitality of our main urban areas, protect the Green Belts around them, recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it, and to conserve heritage assets.

The NPPF also seeks to provide safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

It also seeks to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, and guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs

It notes that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the

local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

#### **National Planning Policy Guidance**

The NPPG states that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 73-74).

Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 114), as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development (see National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 6-10).

It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

#### **Town and Country Planning Act 1990 section 106**

This is particularly relevant for generating income for project improvements. The council's planning authority may enter into a planning obligation with any person interested in land in their area,



inter alia, restricting the development or use of the land in any specified way, requiring the land to be used in any specified way, or requiring a sum or sums to be paid to the authority on a specified date (i.e. may comprise positive as well as restrictive covenants and allow a developer to contribute financially to off-site infrastructure).

This represents a mechanism to target investment and to provide a means of match funding for external grants from, for example, the ODPM, Big Lottery, or Landfill Tax Credit schemes. This is still current but at some stage will be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy.

**The Planning and Compensation Act (1991)** Schedule 12 requires local planning authorities to include in their development plans policies for “the conservation of the natural beauty and amenity of land and the improvement of the physical environment.

### **Management plans**

Development of green open spaces should be in conjunction with supportive management plans and sub-strategies where these exist. (e.g. Riverside Strategy,

Reculver Masterplan, Duncan Down Village Green, Curtis Wood and Prospect Field) PPG3 create sustainable mixed communities rural and urban areas. PPS1 the strategic role of planning in delivering sustainable development.

The previous national guidance for open space **PPG17 - Planning for Open Space, Sports and Recreation** has been superseded by NPPG. However at the time of the writing of this strategy NPPG was not in place and therefore PPG17 is used a best practice for the purposes of this strategy.

Open space is defined in PPG17 as “parts of the urban area, which contribute to its amenity either visually or by contributing positively to the urban landscape, or by virtue of public access”. Within this definition there are two key types of open space:

Urban green space – “land that consists predominately of permeable, soft surfaces such as soil, grass, shrubs or trees”.

Public open space- “both green spaces and hard ‘civic’ spaces, to which there is

public access, even though the land may not necessarily be in public ownership”.

The adopted Local Plan policies for open space are:

Policy DBE3 – principles of design

Policy DBE5 – Inclusive Design

Policy DBE7 – Public Realm

Policy DBE8 – Public Open Space

Policy DBE9 – Outdoor Lighting

Policy OS2 – Loss of Playing Fields

Policy OS3 – land for future use as public playing fields at Greenhill Policy

Policy OS4 – Land allocated at St Augustine’s Business Park Swalecliffe for junior football pitches

Policy OS5 – Land allocated at Stuppington Lane, Canterbury for informal public recreational uses including public playing fields

Policy OS6 – Green Gaps

Policy OS7 – Herne Bay and Whitstable Green Gaps



Policy OS8 – Sports and Recreation in the Countryside

Policy OS9 – Protection of Existing Open Space

Policy OS10 – Loss of Open Space

Policy OS11 – Outdoor Space provision.

Policy OS12 – Green Infrastructure

Policy OS13 – Riverside Strategy

Policy OS14 – Land allocated at Lime Kiln Road, Canterbury for future allotments/ community gardens

Policy OS15 – Loss of existing allotments

Policy LB7 – Locally Designated sites

Policy LB8 – Landscape Scale Biodiversity Networks

Policy LB9 Protection, Mitigation, Enhancement and Increases Connectivity for Species and Habitats of Principal Importance

Policy LB10 – Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland

Policy LB11 – The Blean Complex

Policy LB12 – Seasalter

Policy LB13 River Corridors

Policy TV6 – Reculver Country Park

Policy HE13 – Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens

There may be other policies that may be relevant to specific sites and the Local Plan should be read in its entirety.

#### 4. Parks and Open Spaces

##### **Occupier's Liability Act 1957 section 2**

Common duty of care owed by all occupiers, including authorities responsible for parks, pleasure gardens and other open spaces, to all visitors. These spaces must be kept maintained in a condition where they are fit for use.

##### **Local Government Act 1972**

The local authority has the power to provide entertainment of any nature and to set aside any part of a park or pleasure ground for that purpose.

##### **Town Gardens Protection Act 1863 section 35**

Any person who throws rubbish in or gets over the fence and damages the

plants or commits a nuisance is guilty of an offence punishable by a fine of up to £500.

##### **Open Spaces Act 1906:**

- **Section 10** – The local authority has a duty to hold and administer the open space for the enjoyment of the public under proper control and regulation, and to maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.
- **Section 12** – The local authority has the power to enclose an open space with railings, may drain, level, lay out, turf, plant, ornament, light, provide with seats and otherwise improve it.
- **Section 14** – The local authority has the power to acquire open space and to lay out, plant, improve and maintain public walkways and pleasure grounds.
- **Section 15** – The local authority has the power to make byelaws for the regulation of the open space

##### **Public Health Acts Amendments 1907 section 76**

A local authority has the power to enclose parts of parks and pleasure grounds for specific sports or activities,

including the provision of related buildings. A local authority also has the power to allow exclusive use of such an enclosed area for any sport or recreation club

## 5. Environment and Biodiversity

### **Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)**

states 'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'. The council must consider biodiversity in all of its relevant functions.

### **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/access/prow/nerc06.htm>

This has raised the profile and importance of addressing biodiversity issues in open space since the last strategy and The **Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (2005)** illustrates local priorities for delivering the UK BAP with actions for habitats and species of local conservation importance

### **Kent Biodiversity Action Plan**

<http://www.kentbap.org.uk>

The **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2006)** will play a key role in creating a cleaner, safer, greener community. It deals with many of the problems affecting the quality of the local environment, which forms part of a continuum of anti-social behaviour, vandalism, disorder and levels of crime.

### **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2006)**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea>

It also provides local authorities with more effective powers and tools to tackle poor environmental quality and anti-social behaviour. In particular the Act includes sections on crime and disorder, nuisance and abandoned vehicles, litter, graffiti, waste, noise and dogs.

### **The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949)**

Confers powers on the Nature Conservancy Council and local authorities to create and maintain nature resources and to preserve natural beauty.

### **The Wild Birds Directive (1979)**

provides protection at European level specifically for birds through recognition of habitat designated as SPA and Ramsar, especially wetlands for migratory species. Amended in 2009, it became the Directive 2009/147/EC . Habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds. The Directive therefore places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered and migratory species. It establishes a network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) including all the most suitable territories for these species. Since 1994, all SPAs are included in the Natura 2000 ecological network, set up under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Directive was amended in 1997 by a technical adaptation Directive. The annexes were further amended by the Environment Chapter of the Treaty of Accession 2003 and in 2007 when Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU. This legislation is transposed from EU law to UK legislation by means of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 which is a consolidation of all the various amendments made to the original Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.)

Regulations 1994 transposed Regulations. This applies to land and to territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles from the coast. For UK offshore waters (ie from 12 nautical miles from the coast out to 200nm or to the limit of the UK Continental Shelf Designated Area), the Habitats Directive is transposed into UK law by the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

The **Habitats Regulations (2010)** makes provision for implementing Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) into domestic legislation on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and provides for the protection of species listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations and plants listed in Schedule 4. The Habitats Directive also provides for the consideration of planning applications affecting European Sites important for nature (SACs and SPAs) as set out in Regulations 48-53. Encourages positive management of landscape features as valuable 'corridors' and 'stepping stones' for wildlife.

### **Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended)**

It is a criminal offence to release into the wild certain specified plants.

It provides for, amongst other things, the protection of birds and a number of other animal and plant species, and the prevention of the introduction of non-native species. This act also sets up the notification process for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). (The Act is amended by the **Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW 2000)** and the **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)** The NERC Act supersedes and replaces Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

**Local Government Act 1988** Requires local authorities to subject grounds maintenance to competitive tender. Has subsequently be rescinded and now grounds maintenance is subject to 'best value'.

### **Environmental Protection Act 1990**

There is a direct connection between the quality of life in communities, and clean and safe public spaces. Public space issues worry people of all ages in all areas. Litter, graffiti, fly-tipping,

abandoned cars, the loss of play areas and footpaths are, for many, the top public service priority; and everyone has a part to play.

- It is the duty of the Local Authority to keep its relevant land clear of Litter and Refuse - though it is also the responsibility of all of us, as individuals, to play our part in helping local authorities and Government to achieve a clean and safe environment.

The Protection of Badgers Act (1992) provides protection for both badgers and their setts. The Act makes it an offence to wilfully kill or injure badgers or interfere with their setts, except under the terms of licence

The **Hedgerow Regulations (1997)** provides protection against damage to significant lengths of hedgerow.

## **6. Allotments**

Refer to Appendix 28: The Law and Allotments Summary.

## Appendix 3

### Amenity Green Spaces Draft summary – May 2014

#### Definition

National best practice (PPG 17) defines amenity green space most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas – as including informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens. It therefore performs a valuable function as an area of public open space for people living within close proximity to it.

#### Consultation

The autumn 2013 community open space workshops highlighted the need to retain amenity public open space but emphasised the need for larger amenity spaces away from housing for kick about spaces.

It was also recognised that existing gaps in amenity green provision in established housing areas will be challenging to resolve.

#### Protection

Amenity Green Spaces are included in the open spaces typologies based on national best practice (formerly PPG 17) identified in the council's existing and proposed Local Plan, contributing towards the diversity of open spaces provided within the District.

The Council's vision for open spaces is to "Develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces and green infrastructure which meets the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District".

The Council has a desire for quality open space and to protect, enhance and promote the use of open spaces. Open space provides for a wide range of formal and informal, passive and active leisure, sport, recreational and play activity. High quality, well designed and managed open space makes a valuable contribution to quality of life.

In the Draft Local Plan Policy OS9 Protection of Existing Open Space "Development which would involve the loss of open spaces and play areas within residential areas which contribute to the visual or recreational amenity of the area will be refused".

The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well being of communities".

#### Benefits

Amenity open spaces fulfil a number of visual, recreational and amenity functions that help to improve quality of life, the urban fabric and provide accessible informal recreation facilities. In addition, they can help meet wider sustainability objectives, such as enhancing biodiversity, protecting natural resources, improving the permeability of land for storm drainage and promoting the growth of a diverse economy.

Amenity Green Spaces can not only look good, but they add to the character of an area, provide oases, wildlife refuges and ecological services. The National Ecosystem Assessment (May 2011) notes that they provide the benefits of recreation, aesthetics, physical and mental health, neighbourhood development, noise regulation and air pollution reduction. It also notes that they contribute towards local economic activity in that if an area looks good then people are happy to work, visit and live there and so spend in the local economy.

### Thresholds, Standards and Expectations

The Canterbury Standard is based on national best practice and there should be 1.3 – 1.7 hectares of amenity open space per 1,000 people or 13m<sup>2</sup> - 17m<sup>2</sup> per person and a threshold of 1,000 metres. However it is recognised that this aspiration will be challenging to rectify in established housing areas where there is a historic lack of provision.

### Summary of Local Provision

The district is generally well served by amenity open space. In some established housing areas, especially Barton and Wincheap wards, there is a historic lack of amenity open space that will be challenging to overcome.

In addition beaches are considered amenity open space obviously they have a range of uses but not fully the traditional use of amenity open space. Therefore there is an identified gap of amenity green space in the coastal wards: Reculver, Heron, West Bay, Chestfield and Swalecliffe, Tankerton, Harbour and Seasalter.

### Link to open space maps featuring amenity open space

### Opportunities and partnerships

There are a number of opportunities in enhancing and developing amenity open space. Often developers provide amenity space in new housing developments – and it is important that local people have an input into the design and layout.

### Management

Contracts carry out the day-to-day management function which includes managing and supervising the grounds maintenance contract and ensuring contract compliance, liaising with the grounds maintenance contractor, site inspections, managing small works and site supervision.

### Actions

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan to be completed in the summer 2014.

### Sources

Greenflag: [www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org)

National ecosystem Assessment (DEFRA 2011)

Open Space Strategies: best Practice Guidance (CABEsapce 2009)

Urban Green Spaces (CABEsapce 2010)

## Appendix 4

### Allotments

#### Draft summary – May 2014

##### Definition

An allotment is a piece of land approximately 250 square metres in size (Full size plot) which can be rented out for growing fruit and vegetables predominantly and to a lesser degree for growing ornamental plants.

##### Consultation

The allotments statement is based on consultation in the drafting of the allotment strategy, regular forums with allotment associations, community open space workshops in autumn 2013 and consultation in the Scrutiny Review 2013 of allotment provision. The consultation highlighted need for new allotment sites in Herne Bay and Whitstable.

##### Protection

The provision of allotments is a statutory service for local authorities. Canterbury City Council's responsibilities in urban areas are to advertise allotments, satisfy the demand as

much as possible, provide a tenant agreement with compensation should the council wish to close a site, and to provide sites that are fit for purpose.

The Parish Council have the same requirement in rural areas.

##### Principle allotment legislation

1. The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 – placed a duty on authorities to provide sufficient allotments due to demand. It also enables local authorities to purchase land compulsorily in order to provide allotments.
2. The Allotments Act 1922 – provided allotment holders with a security of tenure and greater compensation should their tenancy be terminated. It also specified that plots should be mostly used for growing food.
3. The Allotments Act 1925 – established the need for local authorities to

incorporate allotment provision into town planning.

4. The Allotments Act 1950 – made changes to rental charges and introduced a minimum period of notice to quit of 12 months and compensation payable to allotment holders should the land be needed for other purposes by local authorities.

In addition the National Planning Policy Framework states that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities".

The draft Local Plan protects "urban" allotments in the Protection of Existing Open Space Policy OS9.

In addition there are a number of specific allotment policies in the draft Local Plan – Policy OS14 and OS15.



## Benefits

The benefits of allotments are:

- Opportunity to grow fresh healthy food all year round at an affordable price.
- Provide a sustainable food supply
- Give a healthy activity
- Foster community development and cohesiveness
- Act as an educational resource
- Provide access to nature and wildlife, and acting as a resource for biodiversity
- Give open spaces for local communities
- Reduce carbon emissions through avoiding the long-distance transport of food, reducing food miles

## Allotments as community gardens

These garden areas can take many forms but are characterised by people working together for mutual benefit and help to others. They can help to regenerate neighbourhoods, strengthen community bonds, produce food in a sustainable fashion, promote gardening as physical and mental health therapies, and recreation and training for the socially disadvantaged. They have no particular legal

status, so land and agreements must be in accordance with allotment law.

Members of the collective need to be aware of their obligations, and contingencies need to be in place should the leader move on, or the scheme folds. Surplus produce can go towards a community café, or sold to raise funds via a 'farmers' market'. Such schemes could be linked with training projects.

Community Gardens, due to the wider benefits they provide, are more likely to attract external funding.

Refer to the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.  
([www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk))

## Thresholds, standards and expectations

Local authorities are required to ensure that enough allotment plots are supplied to satisfy demand. This requirement is underpinned by the national standard for allotments provision (as recommended by the National Association for Allotments and Leisure Gardeners) which is 15 plots per 1,000 households. This equates to 1.56m<sup>2</sup> per person.

The second factor is determined by how far people have to reasonably travel. In the 2009 user survey the average travelling distance for

plot holders is 1.6 miles, and this would be a reasonable distance to use.

## Summary of local provision

The Canterbury District has approximately 61,670 households and 787 allotment plots spread across 14 urban sites and 5 rural sites. Based on national guidance there is a shortage of approximately 113 plots in Whitstable, 80 plots in Herne Bay, and 92 plots in rural parishes. Canterbury City currently has no shortfall in provision. District wide provision is calculated in full plots (250m<sup>2</sup>) but this may be comprised of half plots (125m<sup>2</sup>) and smaller size plots, which are available on most allotment sites. Additionally, we have 1 community garden in Whitstable.

As of January 2013, the number of people on the waiting lists per 100 plots is 10 in Canterbury, 37 in Herne Bay, and 169+ in Whitstable. This indicates demand is higher than supply which correlates with the shortage of supply, particularly in Whitstable, which exceeds the national average.

Waiting list can be unreliable due to people adding their name to several lists, people no longer requiring them and not removing their names, or waiting lists being closed due to



demand. However they do remain an indicator of demand.

Consideration has been given in the draft Local Plan in terms of extending existing sites where possible and catering for new sites in the larger housing developments.

Link to open space strategy maps that include allotment sites

### Opportunities and partnerships

There are a number of opportunities in enhancing and developing allotments we work in partnership with the Allotment Associations and Allotment forum. In addition potential new sites are being allocated in the Local Plan and we are working to ensure a "Canterbury Standard" is adopted by developers in providing new allotment sites.

### Management

There are three allotment management structures within the Canterbury District:

- Directly managed – the council is responsible for site management including waiting lists, plot inspection, setting and collection of rents and general maintenance.

- Leased – allotment association manages one or more sites. Association is responsible for managing waiting lists, setting and collection of rents and maintenance. Associations may be responsible for larger maintenance issues and applying for external funding.
- Partnership – association collects rents of which it keeps 10% for investing in the site. The council is responsible for maintenance although in practice the associations may carry out general day-to-day upkeep.

Partnership or leased management structure are the preferred option as they encourage people from the local community to become directly involved in looking after allotments, and they are able to apply for external funding. However it should be noted the lease and partnership structures do rely on the goodwill of volunteers.

All sites regardless of management, offer a number of plot sizes from full plots to half plots and other sizes.

### Actions in 2014

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan to be completed in summer 2014.

### Sources:

The Supply and Management of Allotments (CCC April 2013)

The Allotment Strategy for the Canterbury District (CCC 2010 – 2014)

Growing in the Community (LGA 2008)

A Place to Grow (LGA 2010)

## Appendix 5

### Beaches

#### Draft summary – May 2014

##### Definition

Beaches have a range of technical definitions and mean different things to different people. Some use mean low water, but this can be up to a kilometre out to sea in places and includes mudflats. Therefore the proposed definition for the Beach in the open space strategy is “from the toe of the beach, the edge of the shingle/sand, back to the base of the sea wall/foot of a cliff/promenade”.

With the exception of the coastline at Reculver Country Park, where there are no sea defences, the entire coastline is actually dominated by sea defences and the shingle beaches are part of the sea defence network, the link to the Shoreline Management Plan is attached

If necessary, sea defence will take a priority over any open space usage issues.

##### Consultation

In the autumn 2013 Open Space Strategy community workshops were held with

community groups and the coastal workshops raised two main points about beaches: the need to retain beaches as amenity space but highlight the “active areas or clubs”, such as the designated swim areas, sailing clubs, public launch ramps etc. This will be linked to the mapping of sports and recreation clubs.

##### Protection status

In the draft Local Plan beaches are protected in a number of ways, all the beaches are Protected of Existing Open Space Policy OS9.

In the more rural areas beaches can also be protected Un-developed coastline LB3 “Development will not be permitted if it detracts from the un-spoilt scenic quality or scientific value of the undeveloped coast as shown on the Proposals Map”.

In addition there are a number of European levels of protection – Special Protected Areas, (SPA) RAMSAR / Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) Marine Protection Zone.

In addition some of the beaches are also in the Herne Bay and Whitstable conservation areas, West Bay beach in Whitstable is protected as a Town and Village Green and plus a proposed Local Green Space.

##### Benefits

Much of the coastline is actually dominated by sea defence and the shingle beaches are part of the sea defence work – certainly in the Whitstable and Herne Bay areas.

However, Beaches are also an element of public open space and have a number of benefits; a venue for relaxation and leisure, tourist attraction, sporting activity, a wonderful natural public open space, a network of green space with significant wildlife value.

The beaches are a significant part of the ‘coastal offer’ to tourists and have a significant economic benefit, especially to the coastal towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable.

It is important that the benefits of beaches are not lost in the wider context of public open space. In a good summer the beaches can be the most used type of public open space.

### **Threshold, Standards and expectations**

Rather than place a threshold or standards for beaches the 14.5 miles of coastline is designated as amenity open space – but we have highlighted recreational clubs such as sailing clubs, or water sports clubs, public launch ramps and leisure areas such as swimming zones and Whitstable Harbour.

The Quality Coastal Awards are the national standards for the management of beaches; we currently have three coastal awards: Tankerton Bay, Herne Bay and Reculver plus four beaches making the Good Beach Guide – West bay and Tankerton Bay in Whitstable plus Herne Bay central and Herne Bay – Neptune Arm to the Kings Hall.

### **Summary of local provision**

The beaches cover 14.5 miles along the coast. The website has a beach map, highlighting recreation clubs.

Link to open space maps that include beaches and active clubs

One of the issues with beaches is that they are highly valued by locals but they do not fully function as amenity open space. The knock on effect of this is that there are gaps in local amenity open space in coastal wards.

### **Opportunities**

This is the opportunity to refocus resources at a challenging time onto different sections of the beach, improve interpretation of the beaches and promote appropriate use and in some areas dissuade inappropriate use. A potential driver for this is the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park at Tankerton and Herne Bay

### **Partner organisations**

Partners vary depending on the section of beach but some notable partners are: Whitstable and Herne Bay Water Safety Committee Beach Hut Owners Associations, Environment Agency, Natural England, RNLI, North East Kent Marine Protected Areas (SSSI sites) Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Kent Wildlife Trust amongst others

### **Management**

The beaches are a mix of private and public ownership. The council manages the beaches through a range of mechanisms; the grounds

maintenance contract and service specific delivery in relation to public safety. In addition the council works with the community to add value with Clean a Beach campaigns and environmental education projects. The council links closely with Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

### **Actions – moving forward**

There is a need to focus on working in partnership and obtaining a balance between promoting the usage of the beaches and protecting the sensitive nature of the beaches:

- Retaining coastal awards
- Adopting and implementing the Tankerton Coastal Park action plan
- Implementing the Herne Bay Coastal Park action plan
- Support accredited local clubs
- Protect the environmental sensitive areas of beaches
- Promote environmental education projects

## Appendix 6

### Cemeteries Draft Summary – May 2014

#### Definition

Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds are considered to be part of the general open space within an area. They can be formal or offer a range of alternative burial options such as woodland glades or green burial areas. Some sites are closed and can offer sanctuaries to wildlife or a quiet space in the urban area.

The definitions are:

- Cemetery: Municipal burial ground. Not owned by a 'church'
- Churchyard: Burial ground around a functioning church.
- Closed churchyard: Burial ground around a church closed to new burials. Can still reopen a grave or commit ashes.
- Redundant churchyard: Burial ground where the church is no longer consecrated or missing.

Many of the closed or redundant church yards and burial grounds are still owned by a church organisation but have been handed over to the City Council to manage on a day to day basis.

#### Consultation

The feedback from the autumn 2013 open space workshops was that the closed burial grounds were more likely to take on a small informal / quiet space function. There could be an opportunity to develop interpretation boards of the historical significance in partnership with the Church and local community.

In addition some closed burial grounds could also have a high habitat value.

#### Protection

In the draft Local Plan cemeteries and closed burial grounds are protected under Protection of Existing Open Space Policy OS9, "Development which would involve the loss of

open spaces and play areas within residential areas which contribute to the visual or recreational amenity of the area will be refused".

In addition many closed cemeteries have added protection by being located in conservation areas. It is proposed that all of these protections are carried forward in the draft Local Plan

#### Benefits

Cemeteries and burial grounds are required to provide a dignified resting place for the deceased and for the benefit of the bereaved.

In addition many have significant historical importance, are valued by the local community and can have a positive input into a diverse habitat. A closed burial ground can be an important habitat resource in urban areas.

### **Threshold, Standards and expectations**

There is not a national guidance on number of cemetery plots per 1,000 population, however Canterbury as an area currently has enough cemetery plots for the foreseeable future.

Summary of local provision

Each of the main urban areas has a large cemetery with spare capacity for the foreseeable future. All of the Parishes have church yards. There are no proposed new cemeteries in the draft Local Plan.

In the district there are 3 cemeteries, 18 closed burial grounds and 9 redundant burial grounds.

Link to open space strategy maps that includes cemeteries

### **Opportunities**

There is an opportunity to offer interpretation information in closed burial grounds.

### **Partner organisations**

We work closely with church organisations and parishes.

### **Management**

The Cemeteries service is managed by the Council and on-going maintenance of the sites is through the grounds maintenance contract.

### **Actions 2014/15**

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan to be completed in the summer 2014.

## Appendix 7

### Civic Spaces Draft summary – May 2014

#### Definition

National best practice (formerly PPG 17) defines civic spaces as “civic and market squares, and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians” Civic spaces are usually in urban areas and are often multi-functional – retail, events, quiet spaces etc They play a major role in developing a sense of place for an urban community.

#### Consultation

The autumn 2013 Open Space Strategy community workshops highlighted the need to improve civic spaces and emphasised the need for usable civic spaces larger enough and designed for events. It also recognised that many civic spaces are in conservation areas and any enhancement would need to be sympathetic to the surroundings.

It is recognised that civic spaces are part of the network of open spaces within an urban area.

#### Protection

Civic Spaces are included in the open spaces typologies based on national best practice identified in the council’s existing and proposed Local Plan, contributing towards the diversity of open spaces provided within the District.

The Council’s vision for open spaces is to “Develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces and green infrastructure which meets the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District”.

The Council has a desire for quality open space and to protect, enhance and promote the use of open spaces. Open space provides for a wide range of formal and informal, passive and active leisure, sport, recreational and play activity. High quality, well designed and managed open space makes a valuable contribution to quality of life.

In the Draft Local Plan, Policy DBE11 Public Realm sets out the requirements for high quality design of the public realm. Policy DBE12 Public Open Space ensures that “functional visually successful open space is created with a strong sense of place as part of new development”. Draft Local Plan Policy OS10, Protection of existing Open Space states “Development which would involve the loss of open spaces and play areas within residential areas which contribute to the visual or recreational amenity of the area will be refused”.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that “Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well being of communities”.

#### Benefits

Civic spaces fulfil a number of visual, recreational and amenity functions that help to improve quality of life, usually in the urban

areas. They provide the hard surface infrastructure and can be multi-functional by providing gathering points, entertainment areas, retail opportunities or part of the street infrastructure.

Civic Spaces can not only look good, but they add to the character of an area, provide a sense of place and raise the quality of an area. It is important that they are well maintained and that they contribute towards local economic activity in that if an area looks good then people are happy to work, visit and live there and so spend in the local economy.

Often civic spaces are in conservation areas and they add to the cultural offer of the urban area. Civic spaces such as the Buttermarket at the entrance to Canterbury Cathedral are integral to the cultural offer of the City or the Whitefriars civic space is central to the retail shopping experience in Canterbury.

### **Thresholds, Standards and Expectations**

The Canterbury Standard is based on national best practice of one good quality licensed civic space per urban area. However it is recognised that this aspiration will be challenging to rectify in Whitstable where there is a historic lack of civic space provision.

### **Summary of Local Provision**

The urban areas in the district have a mix of civic spaces.

Canterbury has a range of historic civic space: Buttermarket, St Georges Street, the High Street, Long Market square, Best Lane and modern civic spaces such as the Marlowe and Whitefriars. They complement the green spaces in the city to make a diverse network of public open spaces in the city. The challenge is to sympathetically enhance these spaces.

Herne Bay is laid out in a grid system and has two main civic spaces: the Seafront promenade with a series of interlinking small civic spaces such as the Clock Tower Plaza or the Plaza at the Pier entrance plus the central area called Wimereux Gardens.

They are linked with a series of pedestrianized streets and civic spaces: Mortimer Street, William Street and Beach Street.

The challenge moving forward is to enhance the linkages, clarify the functions -Location of the market - and then enhance them appropriately.

Whitstable is a historic fishing village and does not have a traditional main civic space. There is a small civic space near the library and the

largest space used for events is the Harbour and associated promenades spaces.

[Link to open space maps featuring civic space](#)

### **Opportunities and partnerships**

There are a number of opportunities in enhancing and developing civic space. Often developers provide civic space in new housing developments – and it is important that local people have an input into the design and layout. In addition there are opportunities to work with partner agencies, resident associations, local business to enhance existing spaces by pooling resources, expertise and knowledge plus improve the chances of obtaining external funding.

Public realm standards were established several years ago and with the improvements in technology it may be an opportunity to review the Public Realm standards for Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable.

### **Management**

The day-to-day management function has been contracted out: grounds maintenance, street cleansing and litter bins. The Council manages and supervises these contracts and ensures contract compliance, liaising with the contractor, site inspections, managing small



works and site supervision. Often a major issue in civic spaces is litter after a function / event. The drive for dealing with these issues in Canterbury has been the Purple Flag Award which recognises national standards in public realm.

### **Actions**

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan to be completed in the summer 2014.

### Sources

Open Space Strategies: best Practice Guidance (CABESpace 2009)

Urban Green Spaces (CABESpace 2010)

## Appendix 8

### Play Area Draft summary – May 2014

#### Definition

“Every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts” (Article 31 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

A successful play area will:

1. Offer movement and physical activity with space and features that allow a range of energetic and strength building play experiences
2. Stimulate the five senses and possibly provide access to music and sound, and different smells made by plants and leaves
3. Be good places for social interactions allowing children to choose whether and when to play alone or with others, to negotiate, to cooperate, compete and resolve conflicts. Allow children of different ages to play together
4. Allow children to manipulate natural and fabricated materials, to use tools, and have access to bits and pieces of all kinds
5. Offer children risk, challenge and activities that test the limits of their capabilities, including rough and tumble, sports and games, and opportunities to climb and stretch
6. A space in its own right, especially designed for its location, in such a way as to provide as much play value as possible
7. Bespoke – designed to enhance its setting
8. Well located – in the best possible place
9. Use of natural elements – close to nature
10. Accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
11. Meet community needs – valued and liked by the community
12. Sustainable and appropriately maintained – maintained for play value and environmental sustainability
13. Allow for change and evolution - evolves as children grow
14. Play equipment will be supplies to EN 1176 and 1177

(Play England Guidance 2008)

#### Consultation

Children and young people plus the neighbouring community are consulted as part of any play area refurbishment, or design of new play areas. Part of this process also includes a post installation satisfaction survey.

In the autumn 2013 Open Space Strategy community workshops there was support for retaining existing playgrounds and play areas, it was recognised that existing gaps in provision in established housing areas will be challenging to resolve.

#### Protection

Play areas are included in the open spaces typologies based on national best practice (formerly PPG 17) identified in the council's existing and proposed Local Plan.

### *Provision for children and young people*

- In providing open space for children and young people. In terms of appropriate forms of provision, this could include, for example, equipped play areas and skateboard areas for children and young people.

Play areas are protected in the Draft Local Plan Policy OS10 “Development which would involve the loss of open spaces and play areas within residential areas which contribute to the visual or recreational amenity of the area will be refused”.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that “Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities”.

### **Benefits**

**Health benefits** include the development of motor skills and co-ordination. Active play has a positive impact on a child’s physical health and tackles obesity. Exploring through play allows children to identify and stretch their strengths and limitations. Quiet play provides relaxation, which has a positive impact on physical and mental health.

**Social and emotional benefits** include opportunities to engage in and develop social interaction and integration – constructing social networks and promoting social inclusion.

**Educational benefits** include stimulating the capacity to learn, problem solving and promoting creativity – through putting control of the learning in the child’s hands and allowing them to learn at their own pace.

**Community safety** – because play is a diversionary activity, it provides opportunities to work closely with children and young people at risk of offending.

**Environment** – the design and maintenance of play areas and open spaces have an impact on the aesthetics of an area. Research shows that children who are able to play and interact with ‘natural’ landscapes are more likely to develop an interest and respect for wildlife and the environment in later life. Families tend to want to move to areas that are well served by play facilities, others don’t want children playing outside their homes.

### **Thresholds, Standards and Expectations**

Play areas standard is 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population and are split into various categories based upon Fields in Trust national guidance, these are set out below:

Type of space	Distance Criteria (metres) and travel distance Walking Straight line
The Canterbury District standard is based on the Fields in Trust national standard.	
Local areas for play or “door step” spaces – for play and informal recreation (LAPs)	100m / 1 minutes’ walk
Local equipped, or local landscaped areas for play – for play and informal recreation (LEAPs)	400 m / 5 minutes’ walk
Neighbourhood equipped areas for play - for play and informal recreation, and for provision of children and young people (NEAPs)	1,000m / 15 minutes’ walk
Destination play areas : Key destination sites and features in themselves Forming part of a larger attraction Enhance visitor experience Aims to attract family and other groups for longer visits Important family facility Free of charge at point of use Should not be a replacement for local play areas	No specific accessibility criteria, but ideally 20 minutes’ drive time

The aspirations for play area provision are

- Everyone should have access to a space where children can play within 400m of their home, although this is challenging in established housing areas with a historic lack of open space.
- Play areas should be designed to current national best practice, such as Fields in Trust

### Summary of local Provision

There are 93 play areas in the district. The council is responsible for 53 play areas across the urban areas of the district, this includes 35 play areas managed internally (including 2 skate parks), and 21 managed by East Kent Housing.

Parish councils and village trusts are responsible for 30 play areas in the rural areas, and two within the urban area, and 13 play areas are managed by management companies and housing associations in housing developments.

There are a number of gaps in playground provision:

- Barton ward - Canterbury
- Reculver ward – Herne Bay

- Harbour ward – Whitstable
- Chislet
- Lower Hardres

It has to be recognised that a historic lack of play areas in established housing areas in Barton, Reculver and Harbour Wards will be challenging to resolve. The map found on the web site indicates the location of play areas.

Link to open space maps which illustrate play areas

### Opportunities and partnerships

There are a number of opportunities in enhancing and developing play areas. Often developers provide play areas in new housing developments – and it is important that local people have an input into the design and layout. In addition Parish Councils are responsible for providing play areas in rural areas, and we often work with them to help in design/ layout and obtain external funding. The fundamental theme is working in partnership to enhance the play areas.

### Management

The day to day maintenance and inspection of 53 play areas are carried out by the council's contract section, via the grounds maintenance

contract. There is also an annual ROSPA high level safety and compliance inspection. There is a reactive maintenance regime in place to resolve problems as they occur.

### Actions

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan to be completed in summer 2014

### Sources

Play England: Design for Play (2008)

Fields in Trust: Planning and Design for Sport and Outdoor Play (2008)

## Appendix 9

### Green Corridors Draft summary – May 2014

#### Definition

National best practice (formerly PPG 17) identifies Green Corridors – as including river and canal banks, cycle ways and rights of ways, and fulfilling the following functions:

- strategic functions: defining and separating urban areas; better linking of town and country; and providing for recreational needs over a wide area
- urban quality: helping to support regeneration and improving quality of life for communities by providing visually attractive green spaces close to where people live
- promoting health and well-being: providing opportunities to people of all ages for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or ride within parks and open spaces or along paths, bridleways and canal banks
- havens and habitats for flora and fauna: sites may also have potential to be corridors or stepping stones from one habitat to

another and may contribute towards achieving objectives set out in local biodiversity action plans

- serving as a visual amenity

#### Consultation

The autumn 2013 open space workshops highlighted the need to retain existing green corridors and attempt to enhance or extend them where possible. It emphasised the value of “linkages both for walking and cycling but also for habitats”.

It was also recognised that green corridors would be important in the design of any new strategic housing developments allocated through the Local Plan.

#### Protection

Green Corridors are included in the open spaces typologies based on national best practice and identified in the council’s Local

Plan, contributing towards the diversity of open spaces provided within the District.

The Council’s vision for open spaces is to “Develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces and green infrastructure which meets the needs of local people, and makes a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District”.

The Council has a desire for quality open space, and to protect, enhance and promote the use of open spaces. Open space provides for a wide range of formal and informal, passive and active leisure, sport, recreational and play activity. High quality, well designed and managed open space makes a valuable contribution to quality of life.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that “Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities”.

Green corridors are protected in Local Plan Policy OS12 – green infrastructure.

In addition Green Corridors in urban areas are also protected in the Local Plan policy OS9 Protection of Existing Open Space which states “Development which would involve the loss of open spaces and play areas provided as part of new residential developments which contribute to the visual or recreational amenity of the area will be refused”.

### Benefits

They fulfil a number of visual, recreational and amenity functions that help to improve quality of life, the urban fabric and provide accessible recreation facilities. In addition, they can help meet wider sustainability objectives, such as enhancing biodiversity, protecting natural resources, improving the permeability of land for storm drainage and promoting the growth of a diverse economy. They also provide a means of sustainable transport between points that support and encourage walking and cycling.

### Biodiversity

Green Corridors have the potential to offer great value for biodiversity, providing key linkages between areas of habitat along which

wildlife may pass. Examples of green corridors for wildlife include busy motorway, quieter road and pathway verges, grassed pathway edges cut on a longer rotation, hedgerows and lines of scrub, trees or screening vegetation, and banks to rivers and streams. Some protected animals such as water voles, need a suitably managed, connected steep edged river bank in order to survive, and protected dormice will only travel through a connected canopy, and will need a connected series of hedgerow and woodland to develop a wider range. Fruiting and flowering plants as well as insects, will thrive particularly in mixed native planting of green corridors, and provide a food source for other birds and mammals. Standing deadwood tree specimens, log piles or hibernacula wildlife refuges will further enhance the value of a green corridor for wildlife, especially insects and the birds and animals that feed on them. Of course, log piles should be carefully located, and not next to a busy pathway or river where the logs are likely to be pushed across the pathway to cause an obstruction, or into a water course where they may block the drainage channel.

All species of bat and their roosts are protected in the UK. Bats will use a linear vegetated route or green corridor, especially next to a river or water course, to commute from one area to another, feeding on insects along the

way. Pedestrian pathways and cycleways that are located alongside linear routes alongside a river or green corridor used by bats, must be unlit or sensitively lit to avoid disturbance to bats and the insects that they feed on. Artificial lights shining on bat roosts, their access points and the flight paths away from the roost must always be avoided in order to comply with UK and EU legislation. Where lighting is necessary on pathways frequented after dark in inner-urban areas, it must be directed away from the tree line and any river edges, and from structures such as bridges, or buildings which may contain a bat roost. Lighting should be timed to avoid bat emergence and activity periods and avoid direction on to reflective surfaces, and also avoid white and blue UV light (warmer tones being less intrusive).

The Bat Conservation Trust publications should be consulted in designing accessible green corridors responsibly – see [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk).

### Quality Guidelines

The Green Flag standard provides a benchmark as to what constitutes good quality Green Corridors, as they can be integral to the access to, from and within many parks and gardens. They should be a welcoming place; healthy safe and secure; well maintained and



clean; environmentally sustainable; support biodiversity and heritage; involving the community and recognising its achievements. The criteria are open to external verification via the Green Flag award scheme.

### Thresholds, Standards and Expectations

The Canterbury Standard for Green Corridors is a threshold of 300m (this includes amenity open space and 1.3 – 1.7 hectares per 1,000 people, between 13m<sup>2</sup> and 17m<sup>2</sup> per person.

- There should be access to high quality green corridors in each urban area
- These should function to support biodiversity and sustainable transport

### Summary of Local Provision

Green corridors are generally well provided however a number gaps in provision exist in the following areas: Chartham to Canterbury, Herne Bay to Canterbury, Faversham to Canterbury (Via Blean) and Bridge to Canterbury.

### Opportunities and partnerships

Developers in new housing developments are required to provide green corridors and link to existing green corridors under draft Local Plan

policy OS12. This is an opportunity to enhance green corridors. It is important that local people have an input into the design and layout through the planning process. Opportunities for extending and enhancing existing green corridors also exist in the council's Walking and Cycling Strategy, and in projects that may be developed for open space, funded by developer contributions, external grant funding and any capital investments from the council (such as improvements to pathways at Westgate Parks, with Heritage Lottery Fund and council money in 2012-2017; and proposed improvements to pathways in the Dane John in 2019-2020).

### Management

Contracts carry out the day-to-day management function on green corridors on council land which includes managing and supervising the grounds maintenance, waste and bin contracts. They ensure contract compliance, by liaising with contractors, site inspections, managing small works and site supervision. Many council-owned parks and gardens or semi-natural spaces are supported by residents or voluntary groups, often working in agreement with the city council under a Memorandum of Understanding to help with achieving excellent standards of maintenance and cleanliness. Privately owned

green corridors may be managed by a management company or Trust, or subject to upkeep by volunteers, residents or PROW groups. KCC are responsible for parts of the PROW network of paths.

### Key Actions

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan..

### Sources

Greenflag: [www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org)

National ecosystem Assessment (DEFRA 2011)

Open Space Strategies: best Practice Guidance (CABESpace 2009)

Urban Green Spaces (CABESpace 2010)



## Appendix 10

### Parks and Gardens Draft summary – May 2014

#### Definition

A park is an area of open space provided for recreational use. It can be in its natural or semi-natural state, or planted in a formal style, and is set aside for human enjoyment or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats. It may contain rocks, soil, water, flora and fauna and grass areas, but may also contain buildings heritage artefacts or leisure facilities such as play grounds or sports pitches.

There are five attributes of parks - accessibility, quality, multi-functionality, primary purpose and quantity.

#### Consultation

Finding out what local communities, visitors and park users need and how they experience and use parks is an important process in managing and developing a park or garden. It is also important to involve them in decision making, developing and looking after their local parks and gardens. The council uses a

variety of methods such as Friends Groups, Forums and surveys.

In the autumn 2013 Open Space Strategy community workshops it was felt that Parks and gardens were generally good and recent work to improve Westgate Parks, Memorial Park and Whitstable Castle Park was welcomed. The issues of ongoing maintenance and supervision of parks was raised as a concern

#### Protection

Parks and Gardens are included in the open spaces typologies based on national best practice (formerly PPG 17) identified in the council's existing and proposed Local Plan, contributing towards the diversity of open spaces provided within the District.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities".

This is emphasised in the draft local plan policy OS10 "Development which would involve the loss of open spaces and play areas within residential areas which contribute to the visual or recreational amenity of the area will be refused."

#### Benefits

Parks and open spaces were the most frequently used service of all the public services tracked as part of the Place Survey in 2011, with respondents reporting higher use of parks than the other cultural and leisure services such as sport and leisure facilities and libraries.

Parks and gardens not only look good, but they add to the character of an area, provide oases, wildlife refuges and ecological services. The National Ecosystem Assessment (May 2011) notes that parks and gardens provide the benefits of recreation, aesthetics, physical and mental health, neighbourhood development, noise regulation and air

pollution reduction. It also notes that they contribute towards local economic activity in that if an area looks good then people are happy to work, visit and live there and so spend in the local economy.

### Thresholds, Standards and Expectations

The Canterbury Standard for parks and gardens is based on national CABE guidance, a threshold of 2,000 metres, 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people or 3m<sup>2</sup> per person and there should be a high quality park with licensed event space in each urban area. The aim is to achieve Green Flag standards for major parks that is: should be a welcoming place; healthy safe and secure; well maintained and clean; environmentally sustainable; support biodiversity and heritage; involving the community and recognising its achievements. The criteria are open to external verification via the Green Flag award scheme.

### Summary of Local Provision

Across the district there are a number of parks and gardens predominantly in the urban areas. The strategically important parks and gardens are:

**Canterbury:** Dane John Gardens, Westgate Gardens/Parks, Sturry Road Community Park (trust managed), Riverside Walk. There are also

a number of small parks and gardens in Canterbury City centre that contribute to a green space network of Canterbury City.

**Herne Bay:** War Memorial Park, Herne Bay Seafront and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park.

**Whitstable:** Castle Gardens (trust managed), Tankerton Slopes Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park.

In conclusion the Canterbury District urban areas are well served by parks and gardens. Link to open space maps featuring parks and gardens

### Opportunities and partnerships

There are a number of opportunities in enhancing and developing parks and gardens: working with community Friends groups, local business, developers and agencies. The fundamental theme is working in partnership to enhance the parks and gardens.

### Management

The key parks and gardens have friends group, or community group that acts as a conduit between the council, local community and park users. These groups act as critical friend, provide advice, arrange community events and look after volunteer activities.

The Sturry Road Community Park and Whitstable Castle are managed by trusts.

The Council plays a strategic management function which includes the preparation of management plans, strategic documents, planning advice, capital projects, supporting community groups, project management and funding applications.

Contracts carry out the day-to-day management function which includes managing and supervising the grounds maintenance contract and ensuring contract compliance, liaising with the Grounds Maintenance contractor, site inspections, managing small works and site supervision.

### Actions

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan to be completed in summer 2014

### Sources

Greenflag: [www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org)  
National ecosystem Assessment (DEFRA 2011)  
Open Space Strategies: best Practice Guidance (CABESpace 2009)  
Urban Green Spaces (CABESpace 2010)

## Appendix 11

### Outdoor Sports Draft summary – May 2014

#### Definition

Our definition of outdoor sports pitches reflects that of Sport England's definition of a playing field. "the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch", which in itself is an area used for a recognised sporting activity. Sport England's policy is to protect all parts of a playing field, not just those which happen, for the time being, to be laid out as pitches. This is because those other parts of a playing field are a resource which may be needed, now or in the future, and it is important that they be afforded the same protection. Playing pitches may have a grass or synthetic turf surface.

For the purposes of the strategy the council is not including golf courses, tennis courts in private clubs and bowling greens where club membership is required and as such are not freely accessible to all comers.

We are using the Sport England Planning for Sport Model that includes; audit facilities/

provision, Active People usage data and local demographics; liaison with Governing Bodies of sport and community to clarify demand, match against supply and identify gaps in provision. However at the time of writing Sport England were revising their guidance and the aim is to refine the outdoor sports pitch work when Sport England publish their revised planning for sport and facilities planning model guidance.

#### Consultation

The key points that came out of the Open Space Strategy community consultation in the autumn 2013 were the need to highlight or list the sports facilities and clubs that do not technically meet the "public accessible criteria". This is because sports clubs play a major part in the mix of sports provision.

Secondly that a big effort needs to be made for schools/education sports pitches to be opened up for community use, an example quoted in consultation was Church Lane in Whitstable.

This is backed up by Sport England's 2012-2017 strategy to help secondary schools open up their sports facilities for local community use.

#### Protection

By virtue of a statutory instrument made in 1996, Sport England is a statutory consultee on proposals for development which affect playing fields; land used for playing fields at any time in the last five years which remains undeveloped; or land which is identified for use as a playing field in a development plan. This means that they must be notified by the local planning authority when a relevant planning application is received, and any objections they raise must be considered.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities".

This is emphasised in the draft Local Plan Policy OS2 Protection of playing fields.

This policy seeks to support the protection of playing fields wherever possible to help reverse the cycle of inactivity that has become normalised over the last couple of generations.

### Benefits

Outdoor sports pitches are fundamental to a healthy vibrant community and a balanced sustainable community. They provide the valuable space required to maintain and enhance opportunities for people to take part in both formal team sports and other more active informal recreation.

Along with sporting benefits, good quality accessible playing fields can also contribute to healthy and active communities and secure wider reaching benefits.

### Threshold, standards and expectations

Using Fields in Trust national guidance the threshold for sports pitches is a 1,000m and the local standard is 0.87 hectares per 1,000 population or 9m<sup>2</sup> per person.

### Summary of local provision

The area has a mix of private and public outdoor sports provision. The larger villages are generally well catered for and the main areas of concern are the gaps in provision in

Herne Bay, Whitstable and Canterbury for junior football.

One issue that constantly comes up is the potential use by the public of educational sports grounds such as schools and universities. It may well be that an individual school / university has an agreement with a club to hire their facilities. However, the curriculum need has to come first and often grass sports pitches are not hired out or the hires will cease if there is a problem with ground conditions. Therefore school / university sports grounds are not defined as public outdoor sports pitches

The current local policy on Synthetic Turf Pitches (STP) is that they are best placed on school sites with dual use agreements so that schools can use them in the day / school time and the community clubs in the evenings and at weekends. However due to the technical advances in STP, such as 3G targeting football and rugby usage, we feel there is need to refine this work further when the Sport England revised guidance is published.

Although location of the pitches are secondary to the number of pitches per population, there are areas across the district that are further from sports pitches than others and this should be a consideration in the future.

The audit has highlighted several gaps in local provision. Mostly around junior and youth sports provision:

### Football

- Canterbury – 4 junior/mini pitches and one adult pitch
- Whitstable – 2 junior and 7 mini pitches
- Herne Bay – 4 junior pitches
- General enhancement of changing rooms

### Cricket

- Work with clubs and Kent Cricket Board to develop facilities in Whitstable

### Hockey

- Concern about existing quality of STP in Herne Bay but appears to meet demand elsewhere

### Rugby

- Work to support clubs in Canterbury and Whitstable to develop junior pitches

### Synthetic Turf Pitches

- Generally meets demand but any future enhancements/developments should be

linked to schools/educational facilities to maximise use.

Link to open space maps highlighting public sports pitches and sports clubs

### Opportunities

We are working with developers and the community to address the shortfall in sports provision. At the time of writing a number of potential developments may come through the Local Plan to help address shortfalls junior football in Herne Bay, Whitstable and Canterbury.

### Partner organisations

We are working with local clubs, national governing bodies of sport such as Sport England, Kent County Football Association, England Hockey, Kent Rugby Football Union and the Lawn Tennis Association to try and bring forward solutions to the gaps in sports provision.

### Management

The Council's grounds maintenance contract will be used to manage the Council sports pitches. However we are seeking to work in partnership by leasing land to community groups/clubs whilst retaining the land as open

space. A recent example is Burton Down has been leased to Herne Bay Cricket Club to develop as a site for cricket in Herne Bay.

Similar agreements can be put in place for Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable to address sports pitch shortfalls.

### Actions

The actions moving forward are twin tracked.

- In 2014/15 the aim is to deliver as many of the sites as possible based on the 2014 priority list.
- Secondly, once Sport England publish the revised Sport England guidance the aim is to refine the outdoor sports pitch work, take on board advances in technology regarding provision of synthetic turf pitches and by April 2015 update the outdoor sports pitch summary sheet and priority list.

### Sources

Local Plan, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport guidance etc.

## Appendix 12

### Semi Natural Open Space Draft summary – May 2014

#### Definition

National best practice (formerly PPG 17) defines natural and semi-natural green spaces, (including urban woodland) as incorporating areas for wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness, such as woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (eg downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (eg cliffs, quarries and pits).

It therefore performs a valuable function as an area of open space for wildlife and a place for people to appreciate nature and undertake sensitive recreational activity.

#### Consultation

The autumn 2013 open space workshops highlighted the need to:

- Protect routes through semi natural open spaces eg Hambrook Marshes

- Promote links to the wider countryside
- Consider the values of open spaces and biological assets, not just monetary values
- Consider management/designation of semi natural greenspace eg Church Lane, Seasalter, Whitstable
- Recognise the accessibility of open space
- Value areas of open space for character and setting of the locality

#### Protection

Semi natural green spaces are included in the open spaces typologies based on national best practice (formerly PPG17) identified in the council's existing and proposed Local Plan, contributing towards the diversity of open spaces provided within the District.

The Council's vision for open spaces as set out in the Local Plan, is to "Develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces and green infrastructure which meets the needs of local people and

make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury District".

The Council has a desire for quality open space and to protect, enhance and promote the use of open spaces. Open space provides for a wide range of formal and informal, passive and active leisure, sport, recreational and play activity. High quality, well designed and managed open space makes a valuable contribution to quality of life.

The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities".

The draft Local Plan has a number of policies targeted at protecting semi natural open space.

Draft Local Plan Policy OS6 and OS7 protect land designated as Green Gap against inappropriate development and draft Local



Plan Policy OS8 protects the countryside against inappropriate development.

Other policies reflect the importance and value of semi natural greenspaces:

LB1 Conservation of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

LB2 Protection of the character of Areas of High Landscape Value (AHLV)

LB4 Conservation of landscape character

LB5, LB6, LB7 protect sites of international, national and local value for wildlife

LB8 protects against fragmentation of habitats and supports links between habitats

LB9 protects habitats and species of principal conservation importance

LB10 protects woodland and hedgerow habitat

LB11 and LB12 protect the potential habitat value of the Blean woodland and Seasalter Levels wetland marshes.

In addition any semi natural open space in the urban areas is protected under draft Local Plan Policy OS09.

## Benefits

Semi natural green spaces fulfil a number of visual, recreational and amenity functions that help to improve quality of life, the urban fabric and provide accessible recreation facilities. In addition, they can help meet wider sustainability objectives, such as enhancing biodiversity, protecting natural resources, improving the permeability of land for storm drainage and promoting the growth of a diverse economy.

Semi natural green spaces can not only look good, but they add to the character of an area, provide oases, wildlife refuges and ecological services. The National Ecosystem Assessment (May 2011) notes that they provide the benefits of recreation, aesthetics, physical and mental health, neighbourhood development, noise regulation and air pollution reduction. It also notes that they contribute towards local economic activity in that if an area looks good then people are happy to work, visit and live there and so spend in the local economy.

## Thresholds, Standards and Expectations

The Canterbury Standard is based on national best practice below :

- There should be 4 hectares of semi natural open space for every 1,000 people in urban areas and 25 hectares of semi natural open space for every 1,000 people in rural areas
- There should be at least one area of semi natural open space within 1km of all residents

## Summary of Local Provision

The district is well served by semi natural open space, including the largest woodland complex in the south east, wetlands and grasslands.

Enhanced ecological management, connectivity between existing habitats, and sensitive and appropriate access should be promoted and encouraged.

Link to open space maps featuring semi natural open space

## Management

Various agencies work independently and in partnership with the council to manage publicly accessible areas of semi natural green space. Organisations include:

- Parish Councils
- Woodland Trust



- Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership
- Blean Initiative
- RSPB
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Community groups and trusts
- Forestry Commission
- Kent County Council

### **Key Actions**

The actions moving forward will be based on the priority lists and the open space action plan to be completed in the summer 2014.

### **Sources**

Canterbury City Council draft Local Plan

Greenflag: [www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org)

National ecosystem Assessment (DEFRA 2011)

Open Space Strategies: best Practice Guidance (CABEspace 2009)

## Appendix 13

### Public open space in new housing developments best practice paper

#### (The design and layout of open space and play environments in new residential developments)

##### Importance of public open space

As described in the National Planning Policy Framework (2102) a developer is required to provide the appropriate amount and mix of public open space for the size of the development, however each development is different and can have a mix of public open space provision within the development or off – site developer contributions to help enhance neighbouring existing public open space.

Access to well-designed public open space is a key contributor to quality of life and personal well-being. In the draft Local Plan public open space is required in all new developments. Canterbury City Council’s public open space strategy sets out local provision standards which are used to determine the minimum quantity of public open space required in new developments based on the number of new inhabitants. The Development Contributions – use of Planning obligations for the provision

of community infrastructure – Supplementary Planning document sets out developer contributions.

Off-site developer contributions to enhance existing open space are only appropriate if there is sufficient open space in the local area to serve both existing and new population. Otherwise additional space should be either provided by the developer or acquired at the developer’s expense.

##### The different types of open space

Public open space should be seen as an integrated, connected system of green spaces, acting as a haven for wildlife providing a natural habitat and for leisure amenity and recreational use. It may take the form of woodland, scrub or grassland managed for wildlife, open grass space used for informal recreation or play, equipped play areas, allotment and community gardens, pocket

parks or linear green corridors serving as connecting walking and cycling routes. Ideally, a combination of several different types of open space should be the aim of any development plan.

The Open Space Strategy provides more detail on the different types of open space as categorised in National Best Practice guidance.

##### Consultation

In the autumn of 2013, the Open Space Strategy community workshops discussed public open space in new housing developments. The following key principles emerged:

- Public open space should be designed at the start rather than fitted in at end of the design process

- New developments should be designed in sympathy with the existing public open space/countryside, not parachuted in
- Existing links/cycle routes/green corridors should be maintained and flow through the new area as part of the infrastructure
- New housing in existing countryside means that existing residents may have given up their “own public open space” therefore public open space in new housing needs to be openly accessible to all; not tucked away within new housing developments
- New residential streets to be tree-lined where possible
- Active public open space, for older children, requires a good buffer zone from housing
- There is a need for separate toddlers spaces
- There is a need for smaller public open spaces/trees/habitats – as this supports health and wellbeing. These could include ponds/streams/plants
- Should avoid allocating public open space in the flood plain, as this may have limited use as public open space
- Public open space often important to alleviate surface water run-off and flooding

### Protection of open space in new housing areas

When public open space in new housing areas is completed in the future, it will be mapped in GIS and protected through the new draft Local Plan Policy OS11.

“New housing development shall make provision for appropriate outdoor space, including semi-natural areas, strategic urban parks and green corridors, amenity greenspace, children’s play areas, open space for sport, allotments or community gardens proportionate to the likely number of people who will live there.

Where the development does not allow for the provision of such open space on site, developers will be expected to make financial contribution towards the provision of new or improvement of open space or recreational facilities elsewhere in the locality, through entering into a legal agreement or another suitable mechanism. New open space that is created through new developments will automatically be protected and Policy OS9 will apply.”

The draft Local Plan Policy OS12 – green infrastructure aims to provide and enhance green infrastructure network, this reflects the

importance of linking new public open space into the existing public open space

### Design principles

The landscape framework and open space planning

The layout of open space needs to be a component part of a landscape framework plan for the new development. This is a very important plan which needs to be formulated at the beginning of the design process. Draft Local Plan Policies DBE3, DBE11 and DBE12 reinforce this key principle.

Often sites will have important existing natural features such as woodland, hedgerows, earth banks and changes in level, ponds and watercourses, existing individual trees etc. By designing the open space framework first there is greater opportunity to conserve as many of these elements as possible. Good design will carefully integrate such elements into the overall landscape framework. If this is done well the end result will be a development with a strong local character and sense of place. It will also provide a greater range of habitats for wildlife and richer play environment for children.

Opportunities to link into the wider landscape and townscape via green corridor walking and cycling routes and public rights of way, should be considered early in the design process. If connections do not exist the creation of new routes should be investigated. Public open spaces should be part of a network and have added value when they are connected and people can walk or cycle between them.

### The design of active open space

Experience has demonstrated that instead of providing several medium sized active spaces targeted at teenagers and young people within housing there are clear advantages of providing a single large public open space on the edge of a development with a range of associated, grouped play spaces comprised of the following components:

- large flat open grass area (minimum size: 140 x 100m) fringed with planting (4-5m wide) suitable for ball games and informal recreation such as kite flying, frisbee playing, jogging, picnicking etc;
- equipped play spaces for all age groups (0 – 18 years);
- multi-games court (football, basketball and cricket etc minimum size: 18 x 30m); possibly with floodlighting and,

- area for wheeled play, eg. skateboards and BMX bikes
- a minimum buffer zone of 30m

### The design of play environments

The characteristics of successful play environments are set out below:

- Areas large enough to divide up into different types of space including large open spaces and smaller enclosed spaces;
- Areas which are sunny and shaded;
- Areas where children can experience different textures, sounds, smells, shapes forms and colours and tastes;
- Easily recognisable by children as a place primarily for them to play;
- The space invites children to explore the area, looking for new and different experiences;
- The space offers opportunities for different physical actions such as swinging, rocking, climbing, sliding, rolling, jumping, running;
- There are curving lines, flowing, waving or snake-like forms, as well as straighter forms and bars more attractive to an adult's perception;

- Places where adults can see and be seen but are not intruding on the children's spaces;
- Variations in the ground elevation and texture;
- Good hiding and 'secret' places (Hendricks, 2001)

Young children and teenagers are one social group that will benefit from well-designed open space within a new development. Open grass areas will attract children of all ages and adults to play ball games. It is vital to include such spaces in larger new developments. Careful site selection and design is required to provide a generous landscape buffer (minimum of 30m) between any ball game area and adjacent dwellings. A balance will need to be achieved between providing natural surveillance from path routes and dwellings and incorporating screen planting reinforced with earth contouring.

The principle of grouping play facilities should be followed. There should not be strong segregation of spaces for different age groups using fences or railings. Subtle space separation involving changes in level reinforced with planting should be considered as an appropriate landscape treatment.

Research shows that children only spend a small percentage (9%) of their playing time in equipped play areas. Their sphere of travel from the home varies with age and depends on the freedom permitted by parents. Typically, children soon become bored with fixed play equipment and are always looking for variety and change.

Children and young people get the best play experiences if they can choose from a variety of activities and have access to equipment and environments that are able to be manipulated. Simple structures, for example, slides, swings and see-saws have one obvious use and encourage one type of activity with few opportunities for the children to improvise or manipulate the units. Complex environments may include these simple structures but also have additional elements including, for example, water and sand, different heights and levels, natural and built features, and fixed and moveable items. These more complex environments allow children and young people to be more imaginative in the way they play (Stine, 1997).

This is why landscape-led designs featuring loose play materials such as soil, sand, bark and water as well as equipment provide the greatest play value (Design for Play, 2008).

Toddlers play space design should include a range of play equipment aimed at providing swinging, rotating, climbing, balancing and sliding movements to facilitate the physical and cognitive development of children aged 2 – 6 years. Children of this age often feel more secure in smaller sized spaces with edge enclosure and space for groups to sit and socialise. Enclosure can take the form of low timber walls, changes in level, boulders and planting. A degree of challenge and risk needs to be designed into the layout appropriate to the age group. Space for parents and supervising adults to meet and talk and sit and picnic in close proximity to the play space is very important (Design for Play, 2008).

In instances where there may be a hazard (such as a road, watercourse or steep change in level) close to the play area, it may be necessary to consider a fence, and or hedge surround.

The design for young children (6-12 years) and teenagers will differ from the more intimate toddler space. Play equipment needs to provide for swinging, rotating, climbing and sliding movement with an appropriate degree of challenge and risk built into the design. Equipment needs to be robust. Children of this age soon become bored with fixed play equipment. They tend to be more interested in

ball games and wheeled play. An open, flat grass space should be provided together with a multi-games court and, ideally wheeled play space for skateboards and BMX bikes.

A varied open space system comprising areas of scrub and woodland combined with open grass areas with equipped play spaces and areas for ball games (both grass and surfaced) where noise and stray balls will not cause disturbance to residents is key to a successful new development.

Ideally play spaces should be overlooked from pathways and dwellings wherever possible to provide a degree of natural surveillance.

Play England's award winning publication entitled 'Design for Play: A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces aims to transform the design of play spaces. Importantly it explains how good play spaces can give children and young people the freedom to play creatively, while allowing them to experience risk, challenge and excitement. It also emphasises the value of play spaces being designed by qualified landscape architects (Design for Play, 2008).

It is important to note that technical design guidance evolves and it is recommended that

national standards are used at the time a site is developed.

### Design process

It is important that the developer involve a chartered landscape architect, or suitably qualified person, in the design process which will include site selection, landscape planning (production of a landscape framework / open space plan) and detailed design. Similarly, within the city council a suitably qualified officer will lead a multi-disciplinary team of officers (such as planning, children and youth, housing, community safety, contract management and others involved and experienced in managing open space) in the assessment process.

As the design of public open space will impact on neighbouring communities, in-line with the NPPF (2012) it is important, where practical, to consult with existing local residents at an early stage in the design process. The consultation highlighted in this document can also be used.

On some large developments the development can evolve following planning permission and the public may be living in part of the site whilst other sections of the site are still being designed. If this occurs amendments in design / layout of open space should follow

best practice and include consultation with local residents similar to consultation on enhancements to existing playgrounds / open space.

In addition it is important that good urban design principles are used to help design out crime in open spaces. It is important that traffic calming is considered at key access points to open space.

As stated in The Kent Design Guide 2005 (p. 100) it is imperative that developers and local authorities do not permit properties on new developments to be occupied before the necessary open space infrastructure, especially play areas and ball courts, are in place. This is to avoid the practice whereby developers sell most of the properties on a site and then provide a play area too close to housing or the open space is the very last element of the development to be delivered.

In addition some developers have sold houses claiming that the public open space is reserved for the residents only and almost creating a "gated community". It is important that this does not take place, When the public open space is completed and handed over it becomes part of the integrated network of public open space in the area available for all to use.

### Management

The provision of public open space is usually triggered in accordance with the phased delivery of a development. If the city council are to adopt public open space in new housing developments it is a requirement that the new landscape is managed by the developer for a specified period (often 24 months) to ensure successful establishment is achieved.

There are two options for the future management of public open space in new housing developments: either it is handed over to the council with a commuted sum to help with long term maintenance or the developer sets up a "Management Company" where the residents within the development become members of the management company and pay an annual sum to fund future management of the public open space.

### References

Draft Local Plan, April 2014

National Planning Policy Framework - 2012

Fields in Trust Planning and design for Outdoor Sport and Play

Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17 (2002). Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Stine, S (1997) Landscapes for Learning. John Wiley and Sons Inc, New York

Hendricks,B (2001) Designing for Play. Ashgate Publishing Ltd

Shackell, A; Butler, N; Doyle,P and Ball, D (2008) Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces. DfE PublicationsLtd

Kent Design Initiative (2005) The Kent Design Guide. Kent County Council



## Appendix 14

### Amenity green spaces priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Project	Management
1 =	Develop new open space	Barton	Canterbury	Develop new amenity open space	To be confirmed
1 =	Develop new open space	South Wincheap	Canterbury	Develop new amenity open space	To be confirmed
1 =	Develop new amenity open space in coastal wards as beaches do not fulfil all amenity open space needs	Reculver, Heron, West Bay, Swalecliffe, Tankerton, Harbour, and Seasalter	Herne bay and Whitstable	Develop new amenity open space	To be confirmed
4	Vauxhall Avenue	Northgate	Canterbury	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment / EKHS
5	Long Meadow Way/Hales Place Pond	St Stephens	Canterbury	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment / EKHS
6	Kingsmead Field	Northgate	Canterbury	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment and community partners
7 =	Columbia Avenue	Seasalter	Whitstable	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
7 =	Cornwallis Circle	Harbour	Whitstable	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
7 =	Broomfield Community Park	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	Parish Council

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Project	Management
7 =	King George V Field	Barton	Canterbury	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
7 =	Rough Common OS	Harbledown	Harbledown & Rough Common	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
8 =	Chestfield Rd	Chestfield & Swalecliffe	Whitstable	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
8 =	Beverley Meadow	St Stephens	Canterbury	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
8 =	Hollow Lane OS	Wincheap	Canterbury	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
8 =	Mariner's View	Seasalter	Whitstable	Enhance and refurbish as per Management Plan	CCC - Transport and Environment and Friends of Mariner's View
9 =	Westcliffe Meadow	Harbour	Whitstable	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
9 =	Savernake Drive	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
9 =	Bakery Green Mill Rd	Sturry North	Sturry	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	Parish Council
9 =	Oxford Rd	Wincheap	Canterbury	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
10	Green Gap	Tankerton	Whitstable	Enhance and refurbish - project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment

## Appendix 15

### Allotments priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Parish/town	Management	Project to enhance
1 =	Herne Bay – develop new allotments	Any	Herne Bay	To be confirmed but likely Allotment Association/ CCC partnership	To be identified
1 =	Whitstable – develop new allotments	Any	Whitstable	To be confirmed but likely Allotment Association/ CCC partnership	To be identified
3 =	Broad Oak	St Stephen's	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Enhance infrastructure and facilities: noticeboards; toilets and new gates
3 =	Millstrood Road	Gorrell	Whitstable	Partnership - CCC and Association	Install toilets
3 =	Ham Shades Lane	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Whitstable	Partnership - CCC and Association	Drainage ditch clearance
6 =	Station Road	Heron	Herne Bay	Leased to association	Enhance infrastructure and facilities.
6 =	Victoria Park	Westgate	Canterbury	Leased to association	Enhance infrastructure and facilities.
8 =	Eddington Lane	Greenhill and Eddington	Herne Bay	Leased to association	Association working on project to install additional toilets

Rank	Site name	Ward	Parish/town	Management	Project to enhance
8 =	Pilgrims Way	Barton	Canterbury	Leased to association	Enhance infrastructure and facilities. Seek to improve water pressure. Additional hard standing area for car parking
10 =	Joy Lane	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Clear drainage ditch to improve site drainage. Improve site approach road surface. Seek to improve low water pressure. Install toilets. New entrance gates.
10 =	Whitehall Road	Westgate	Canterbury	Leased to association	Enhance infrastructure and facilities. Improvement to boundary with private land.
10 =	Wincheap	Wincheap	Canterbury	Leased to association	Enhance infrastructure and facilities. Install toilets
10 =	Cross Street	West Bay	Herne Bay	Leased to association	Association working party working on project to enhance area at front of site
10 =	Sturry Road	Northgate	Canterbury	Leased to association	Enhance infrastructure and facilities. Install toilets. New entrance gates
15 =	Mandeville Road	St Stephen's	Canterbury	Leased to association	Install toilet

Rank	Site name	Ward	Parish/town	Management	Project to enhance
15 =	Thanington	Wincheap	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Enhance infrastructure and facilities. Install toilet. Supply replacement communal storage with shipping container
16	Stream Walk Community Garden	Gorrell	Whitstable	Leased to Trust	KET project to create additional raised beds, produce gardening items using local timber. Volunteer led craft woodwork workshop.

## Appendix 16

### Cemeteries priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Parish/town	Management	Project to enhance
1	Herne Bay	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	CCC	Improve signage and notice boards
2	Herne Bay	Herne and Broomfield	Herne bay	CCC	Promote natural burial ground
3	Herne Bay	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	CCC	Enhance woodland area for ashes
4	Canterbury	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC	Replace Pergolas
5	Canterbury	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC	Improve signage and notice boards
6	Whitstable	Gorrell	Whitstable	CCC	Improve signage and notice boards
7	Whitstable	Gorrell	Whitstable	CCC	Improve access by creating access onto Bellevue Rd
8	Various closed burial grounds	Various	Various	Various	Develop interpretation boards with local community and relevant church to inform public of the history of the areas

## Appendix 17

### Civic space priorities - 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Parish / town	Management	Project to enhance
1	St George Street and High Street	Westgate	Canterbury	KCC	Major enhancement project
2	Wimereux Gardens	Heron	Herne Bay	CCC	Create a civic square
3	Whitstable Library Forecourt	Harbour	Whitstable	CCC	Enhancement works by KCC
4	William Street/Mortimer Street	Heron	Herne Bay	CCC	Enhance
5	Clock Tower Plaza	Heron	Herne Bay	CCC	Enhance after Clock Tower project completed



## Appendix 18

### Playgrounds priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
1=	Chislet	Marshside	Chislet CP	Chislet Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
1=	Harbour Area of Whitstable	Harbour	Whitstable	TBC	Need to find a potential location
1=	Lower Hardres	Chatham and Stone Street	Lower Hardres CP	Lower Hardres Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
1=	Beltinge	Reculver	Herne Bay	TBC	Need to find a potential location
1=	Reculver Country Park	Reculver	Herne Bay	CCC – Transport and Environment	Part of Management Plan
1=	Barton	Barton	Canterbury	TBC	Need to find a potential location
2	Vauxhall Avenue Ball Court & Kickabout	Northgate	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Part of project to enhance Riverside
3	Querns Road Play Area and Ball Court	Barton	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Seek to enhance in 2015/16
4=	Columbia Avenue Play Area	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Seek to enhance in 2015/16
4=	Victoria Recreation Ground Play Area	St Stephens	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Seek to enhance in 2015/16

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
5=	Burton Downs Play Area	Reculver	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment	Seek to enhance in 2016/17
5=	Favourite Road	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Consider when funding available
5=	Long Meadow Way Play Area, Hales Place Pond	Saint Stephens	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Seek to enhance in 2015/16
5=	Speedwell Road Play Area	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Consider when funding available
5=	The Elders Play Area	Little Stour	Rural	East Kent Housing Services	Seek to enhance in 2016/17
5=	Wincheap Play Area	Wincheap	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Consider for 2016/17 when funding confirmed
6=	Adisham Recreation Ground Play Area	Barham Downs	Adisham CP	Adisham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
6=	Barham Play Area, Brickfield Road	Barham Downs	Barham CP	Barham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
6=	Bishops Way Play Area	Westgate	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Seek to enhance 2017/18
6=	Collins Road Play Area	Greenhill & Eddington	Herne Bay	East Kent Housing Services	Seek to enhance in 2018/20
6=	St andrews Close Kickabout	Gorrell	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Consider for 2016/17 when funding confirmed
6=	The Dane John Play Area	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Consider for 2016/17 when funding confirmed

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
7=	Beverley Meadow Kickabout	Saint Stephens	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Consider for 2016/17 when funding confirmed
7=	Petham Recreation Ground Play Area , Town Road	Chartham and Stone Street	Petham CP	Petham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
7=	Rowland Drive Ball Court	Greenhill & Eddington	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment	Consider for 2016/17 when funding confirmed
8==	Broomfield BMX, Ford Road	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	Herne and Broomfield Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
8=	Chartham Hatch Recreation Ground Play Area, Bigbury Road	Harbledown	Chartham CP	Chartham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
8=	Cheyney Field, Dukes Meadow Play Area, London Road, Upper Harbledown	Harbledown	Harbledown and Rough Common CP	Harbledown Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
8=	Hersden Play Area, Ball Courts (X2) and BMX Track	Marshside	Canterbury	Hersden Neighbourhood Centre/Sturry Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
8=	Hoath Play Area, School Lane	Marshside	Hoath CP	Hoath Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
8=	Kingston King George V Playing Field Play Area	Barham Downs	Kingston CP	Kingston Parish Council - Village Hall Trust	Liaise with Parish

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
8=	Long Meadow Way Ball Court	Saint Stephens	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
8=	Military Road Play Area	Northgate	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
8=	Sturry Park View Play Area and Kickabout	Sturry North	Canterbury	Sturry Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
8=	Sturry Road Community Garden Play Area, Skatepark, Bmx Track and Kickabout Area	Northgate	Canterbury	Sturry Road Garden Trustgroup	Liaise with Trust
8=	Swalecliffe Skate Park	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
8=	Wickhambreaux Playing Field Play Area , Seaton Road	Little Stour	Wickhambraeux CP	Wickhambreaux Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
8=	Woolage Village Play Area, Nethersole Road	Barham Downs	Womenswold CP	Womenswold Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
9=	Barham Play Area , Valley Road	Barham Downs	Barham CP	Barham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
9=	Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Play Area, Old Palace Road	North Nailbourne	Bekesbourne With Patrixbourne CP	Bekesbourne & Patrixboune Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
9=	Bishopsbourne Neame Meadow Play Area	North Nailbourne	Bishopsbourne CP	Bishopsbourne Parish Council	Liaise with Parish

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
9=	Bossingham Village Hall Play Area	Chartham and Stone Street	Upper Hardres CP	Upper Hardres Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
9=	Chartham Memorial playing Field Play Area	Chartham and Stone Street	Chartham CP	Chartham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
9=	Chestfield Rec Play Area and Kickabout	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
9=	Field Avenue Kickabout Area	Northgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
9=	Hollow Lane Play Area	Wincheap	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
9=	Ibis Close Play Area	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider =enhancement when required.
9=	Lime Kiln Road Ball Court/Kickabout	Wincheap	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
9=	Portlight Place	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
9=	Rough Common Village Hall Play Area, Rough Common Road	Harbledown	Harbledown and Rough Common CP	Harbledown Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
9=	Seeshill Close Play Area	Gorrell	Whitstable	East Kent Housing Services	Liaise with Parish
9=	Thistle Drive	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
9=	Trilby Way Play Area and Ball Court	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
9=	Waltham Park Recreation Field Play Area	Chartham and Stone Street	Waltham CP	Waltham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
9=	War Memorial Park Play Area and Ball Court	Heron	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
9=	Westmeads Recreation Ground Play Area and Ball Court	Harbour	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
10=	Chartham Beech Avenue Senior Play Area	Chartham and Stone Street	Chartham CP	Chartham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
10=	Chartham Beech Avenue Junior Play Area	Chartham and Stone Street	Chartham CP	Chartham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
10=	Cherry Orchard Play Area and Ball Court	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment/Herne & Broomfield P C	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
10=	Edgar Road Play Area	Barton	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
10=	Franklyn Road Play Area and Kickabout	Westgate	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
10=	Hampton Recreation Grounds Play Area	West Bay	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
10=	Honeysuckle Way Play Area	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
10=	Laurel Way Play Area, Chartham	Chartham and Stone Street	Chartham CP	Chartham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
10=	Littlebourne Recreation Ground Play Area	Little Stour	Littlebourn CP	Littlebourne Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
10=	Manor Court, Oxford Road Play Area	Wincheap	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
10=	Mariner's View	Seasalter	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
10=	Russett Road Play Area and Ball Court	Barton	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020



Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
10=	Shalmsford Street Recreation Ground Play Area	Chartham and Stone Street	Chartham CP	Chartham Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
10=	Suffolk Road Play Area	Barton	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
10=	Tillard Close Play Area and Kickabout	Chartham and Stone Street	Rural	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
11=	Hawes Close Play Area	Saint Stephens	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
11=	Herne Bay Sea Front Play Area	Heron	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
11=	Ince Road Play Area	Sturry North	Rural	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
11=	Lucerne Drive Ball Court	Seasalter	Whitstable	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
11=	Lucerne Drive Play Area	Seasalter	Whitstable	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
11=	Pine Meadow Play Area, London Road, Upper Harbledown	Harbledown	Harbledown and Rough Common CP	Harbledown Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
11=	Toddlers Cove Play Area and Kickabout	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
11=	Tyler Hill Recreation Ground Play Area	Blean Forest	Hackington CP	Tyler Hill Memorial Hall Trust	Liaise with Trust
12=	Blean Recreation Ground Play Area, School Lane	Blean Forest	St Cosmus & St Damian In The Blean CP	Blean Parish Council	Liaise with Parish

Rank	Site	Ward	Town/Parish	Management	Project to Enhance
12=	Bridge Recreation Ground Play Area , Patrixbourne Road	North Nailbourne	Bridge CP	Bridge Parish Council	Liaise with Parish
12=	Chineham Way Play Area	Wincheap	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
12=	Cornwallis Circle Play Area	Harbour	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
12=	St Stephens Churchfield Play Area and Kickabout	Saint Stephens	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
12=	Thanington Recreation Ground Play Area, Ball Court and Skate Park	Wincheap	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
13=	Plough Lane Play Area and Ball Court	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
13=	Tennyson Avenue Play Area	Northgate	Canterbury	East Kent Housing Services	Enhance after 2020
14=	Kingsbrook Park Play Area	Northgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.
14=	Victoria Street Play Area	Harbour	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Keep under review and consider enhancement when required.

## Appendix 19

### Green corridors priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town/Parish	From/To	Project	Management
1	Develop green corridor from Herne Bay to Canterbury	Various	Herne Bay / Canterbury	Herne bay / Canterbury	Develop new cycle link	CCC - Transport and Environment
1	Develop green corridor from Faversham to Canterbury	Various	Blean to Canterbury	Blean to Canterbury	Develop new cycle link	CCC - Transport and Environment
1	Develop green corridor from Bridge to Canterbury	Various	Bridge to Canterbury	Bridge to Canterbury	Enhance and develop new links	CCC - Transport and Environment
4	Stour Riverside walk	Westgate / Northgate	Canterbury	Westgate Gardens to Kingsmead Bridge	Provide cycleway and upgrade habitats	CCC - Transport and Environment
5	Stour Riverside walk	Northgate	Canterbury	Kingsmead Bridge via Barton Mill to Vauxhall Avenue	Provide cycleway and upgrade habitats	CCC - Transport and Environment
6	Falala Way	Northgate	Canterbury	Military Road through Craddock Drive to Old Ruttington Lane	Enhance	CCC - Transport and Environment

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town/Parish	From/To	Project	Management
7	Tourtel Road	Northgate	Canterbury	Military Road roundabout to Kingsmead roundabout	Enhance	CCC - Transport and Environment
8	Old Thanet Way	Herne and Broomfield, Gorrell Harbour	Herne Bay to Whitstable	Greenhill to Chestfield section	Upgrade cycleway	CCC - Transport and Environment
9	Stream Walk	Harbour	Whitstable	Stream Walk to Old Bridge Road	Enhance and upgrade	CCC - Transport and Environment
10	Hambrook Marsh (6 metre strip of Green corridor)	Westgate, Wincheap	Canterbury		Enhance and upgrade as required	Love Hambrook Marshes Trust

## Appendix 20

### Parks and Gardens priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Parish/town	Management	Project
1	Westgate Gardens	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Deliver management action plan
2	Herne Bay QE II Coastal Park	West Bay, Heron and Reculver	Herne Bay	CCC Transport and Environment	Deliver management action plan
3	Tankerton QEII Coastal Park	Tankerton / Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Whitstable	CCC - Transport and Environment	Deliver management action plan
4	Memorial Park	Heron	Herne Bay	CCC - Transport and Environment	Deliver management action plan
5	Whitstable Castle	Tankerton	Whitstable	Trust	Deliver management action plan
6	Dane John Gardens	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Review and bring forward management plan
7	St Mary De Castro	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed
8 =	Best Lane Gardens – Three Cities Garden	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed
8 =	St Mildred's	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed
8 =	Canterbury Norman Castle	Westgate	Canterbury	CCC - Transport and Environment	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed

## Appendix 21

### Outdoor sports pitches priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Sport	Project	Management
1 =	Option appraisal required	To be confirmed	Canterbury	Football	Work with clubs, FA and partners to develop new junior and mini football pitches as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	If council owned site aim for lease with club
1 =	Option appraisal completed preferred site feeding into Local Plan	To be confirmed	Herne Bay	Football/Cricket	Work with clubs, FA and partners to develop new junior and mini football pitches as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	If council owned site aim for lease with club
1 =	Option appraisal completed preferred site feeding into Local Plan	To be confirmed	Whitstable	Football/Cricket	Work with clubs, FA and partners to develop new junior and mini football pitches as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	If council owned site aim for lease with club

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Sport	Project	Management
4	Options appraisal required	To be confirmed	Whitstable	Rugby	Work with clubs, FA and partners to develop new junior and mini football pitches as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	To be confirmed, linked to club
5	Cherry Orchard Recreation Ground	Herne and Broomfield	Herne Bay	Football/Cricket	Upgraded pavilion	CCC - Transport and Environment / CCC Contracts
6	Memorial Park	Heron	Herne Bay	Football	Upgraded pavilion	CCC - Transport and Environment / CCC Contracts
7	Radfall Recreation Ground	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Chestfield	Football/Cricket	Upgraded pavilion	CCC - Transport and Environment / CCC Contracts
8	Swalecliffe Recreation Ground, Plough Lane	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Whitstable	Football	Upgraded pavilion	CCC - Transport and Environment / CCC Contracts
9	Burton Down Recreation Ground	Reculver	Herne Bay	Cricket	Upgrade cricket provision for Herne Bay	Support Herne Bay Cricket Club
10	Hersden Recreation Ground	Marshside	Sturry	Football/Cricket	Upgraded pavilion	Kent County Council



Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Sport	Project	Management
11	Westmeads Recreation Ground	Harbour	Whitstable	Football	Upgraded pavilion	Canterbury City
12	Victoria Recreation Ground	Westgate	Canterbury	Football/Cricket	Upgraded pavilion	CCC - Transport and Environment / CCC Contracts
13	Thanington Recreation Ground	Wincheap	Canterbury	Football	Upgrade playing surface	CCC - Transport and Environment / CCC Contracts
14 =	Adisham Recreation Ground	Barham Down	Adisham	Football	Upgraded pavilion	Parish Council
14 =	Blean Recreation Ground	Blean Forest	Blean	Football	Upgraded pavilion	Parish Council
14 =	Park View Recreation Ground	Sturry North	Sturry	Football	Upgraded pavilion	Parish Council
17	Littlebourne Recreation Ground	Little Stour	Littlebourne	Football	Upgraded pavilion	Parish Council
18 =	Barham Recreation Ground	Barham Downs	Barham	Football	To be decided	Parish Council
18 =	Bekesbourne Recreation Ground	North Nailbourne	Bekesbourne / Patrixbourne	Football	To be Decided	Parish Council
20 =	Chalfont park	North Nailbourne	Bishopsbourne	Cricket	To be decided	Parish Council
20 =	Bridge Recreation Ground	North Nailbourne	Bridge	Football/cricket	To be decided	Parish Council

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Sport	Project	Management
20 =	Chartham Memorial playing field	Chartham and Stone Street	Chartham	Football	To be decided	Parish Council
20 =	Tyler hill Recreation Ground	Blean Forest	Hackington	Football	To be decided	Parish Council
20 =	Rough Common Recreation Ground	Harbledown	Harbledown and Rough common	Football	To be decided	Parish Council
20 =	King George V playing Field	Barham Downs	Kingston	Football	To be decided	Parish Council/ Village Trust
20 =	Street End playing field	Chartham and Stone Street	Lower Hardres	Cricket	To be decided	Parish Council
20 =	Petham Recreation Ground	Chartham and Stone Street	Petham	Football	To be decided	Parish Council
20 =	School Meadow	Chartham and Stone Street	Upper Hardres	Cricket	To be decided	Parish Council
20 =	Wickhambreaux Playing Field	Little Stour	Wickhambeaux	Football	To be decided	Parish Council

## Appendix 22

### Semi natural priority list 2014 – 2020

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Habitat/Type	Project	Management
1	Wraik Hill	Seasalter	Seasalter/ Whitstable	Grassland, Woodland	Fencing, Grassland reinstatement works, enhancement of entrance point at Wraik Hill	CCC - Transport and Environment
2	Reculver Country Park	Reculver	Reculver/ Herne Bay	Grassland/Amenity Greenspace	Redevelopment of caravan park and play area. Repair and reinstatement of pedestrian path at Bishopstone.	CCC - Transport and Environment
3	Sturry Road Community Park	Northgate	Canterbury	Amenity Green space	Review management plan with Trust	Sturry Road Community Park Trust
4	Riverside - central	Westgate, Northgate, St Stephens,	Canterbury	Green Corridor/ Amenity Greenspace/	Work with Friends Group to enhance in 2014/15	CCC - Transport and Environment
5	Riverside – Kingsmead to Vauxhall	Northgate	Canterbury	Green Corridor/ Amenity Greenspace / grassland	Work with partners and community to improve footpath / cycle route and habitat	CCC - Transport and Environment

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Habitat/Type	Project	Management
6	Seasalter Levels	Seasalter	Whitstable	Grazing marsh	Habitat Management, acquisition plotlands	Seasalter Partnership (CCC, SBC, RSPB, NE)
7	Duncan Down	Gorrell	Whitstable	Grassland, Scrub, Woodland, Stream	Habitat and Access Management	Council with Friends of Duncan Down
8	The Blean complex	Harbledown, Blean Forest, Seasalter, Chestfield & Swalecliffe, Greenhill & Eddington,	Blean, Hackington, Harbledown and Rough Common, Herne and Broomfield, Hoath	Woodland	Promotion, Cycle route development, Visitor Centre feasibility study	Blean Initiative
9	Old Park	Barton	Canterbury/ Fordwich	Acid Grassland	Habitat and Access Management	Canterbury Golf Course/Natural England
10	Fordwich Lakes	Sturry South/ Marshside	Fordwich/ Westbere	Wet Grassland	Access cycle / pedestrian routes	Privately owned with KCC footpath
11	Larkey Valley Wood	Wincheap/ Chartham	Thanington/ Chartham	Woodland	Renew waymarkers	CCC - Transport and Environment
12	Curtis Wood	Herne & Broomfield	Herne Bay	Grassland/ Woodland	Signs, bollards, waymarkers, kissing gate, bollards	CCC - Transport and Environment

Rank	Site name	Ward	Town / Parish	Habitat/Type	Project	Management
13	Tankerton Slopes	Tankerton	Whitstable	Grassland	Manage SSSI sites as part of QEII Coastal Park	CCC - Transport and Environment
14	Clowes Wood	Blean Forest	Hackington and Blean	Woodland	Part of Blean Complex	Forestry Commission
15 =	Bus Company Island	Northgate	Canterbury	Grassland, Scrub, Woodland	Tree works to boundary	CCC - Transport and Environment
15 =	Hambrook Marshes	Westgate, Wincheap	Canterbury	Grassland	Enhance	Love Hambrook Marshes Trust
16 =	Earley Wood	Chartham	Petham	Woodland	To be developed	Parish Council
16 =	Bakers Wood	Chartham	Chartham	Woodland	To be developed	Parish Council
16 =	Long Rock	Chestfield & Swalecliffe	Whitstable	Grassland, Intertidal	To be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment
16 =	Blean Recreation Ground	Blean Forest	Blean	Grassland/Amenity Greenspace	To be developed	Parish Council
16 =	No Mans Orchard	Chartham and Stone Street	Chartham	Woodland	To be developed	Parish Council
16 =	Tyler Hill nature reserve	Blean Forest	Hacklington	Grassland/Amenity Greenspace	To be developed	Parish Council
16 =	Turners Orchard	Little Stour	Littlebourne	Woodland	To be developed	Parish Council
16 =	Centenary Woodland	Sturry North	Sturry	Woodland	To be developed	Parish Council

## Appendix 23

### Summary of Canterbury public open space priorities

As the ward boundaries are being reviewed we have summarised the key priorities in the city of Canterbury based upon the consultation and assessments.

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
Amenity open space				
1 =	Barton	Barton	Seek to develop new amenity open space as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	To be confirmed
1 =	South Wincheap	Wincheap	Seek to develop new amenity open space as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	To be confirmed
2	Beverley Meadow	St Stephens	Seek to enhance in 2014/15	CCC
3	King George V	Barton	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed	CCC
4	Long Meadow Way/Hales Place	St Stephens	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed	CCC
5	Kingsmead Field	Northgate	Enhance and refurbish – project to be developed	CCC - Transport and Environment and community partners

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
Allotments				
1	Broad Oak	Northgate	Enhance infrastructure, facilities, noticeboard, toilets and new gate	CCC
2	Pilgrims Way	Barton	Improve water pressure and additional hard standing for parking	Association
3	Victoria Park	Westgate	Enhance infrastructure	Association
4	Whitehall Rd	Westgate	Improvements to boundary with neighbouring private land	Association
5	Wincheap	Wincheap	Install toilets	Association
Cemeteries				
1	Canterbury	Westgate	Replace Pergolas	CCC
2	Canterbury	Westgate	Improve signage and notice boards	CCC
Civic spaces / public realm				
1	St Georges Street / High Street	Westgate	Upgrade existing street scape	KCC
Play areas				
1	Barton	Barton	Seek to develop new playground as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	To be confirmed
2	Vauxhall Avenue ball court	Northgate	Seek to develop as part of Riverside project	East Kent Housing Services
3	Querns Road Ball court and play area	Barton	Seek to enhance in 2015/16	East Kent Housing Services



Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
4	Victoria Recreation Ground play area	Westgate	Seek to enhance in 2015/16	CCC
5	Long Meadow Way Play area	St Stephens	Seek to enhance in 2015/16	East Kent Housing Services
6	Wincheap play area	Wincheap	Seek to enhance in 2016/17	CCC
<b>Green Corridors</b>				
1	Develop green corridor from Herne bay to Canterbury	Various	Seek to develop cycle way	Various
2	Develop green corridor from Faversham to Canterbury	Various	Seek to develop cycle way	Various
3	Develop green corridor from Bridge to Canterbury	Various	Seek to develop cycle way	Various
4	Stour Riverside – Westgate Bridge to Kingsmead Bridge	Westgate Northgate	Work with Friends Groups and partners to enhance area in 2014/15	CCC
5	Kingsmead Bridge - Vauxhall	Northgate	Work with partners and friends groups to enhance habitat and cycle / footpath	CCC
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>				
1	Dane John Gardens	Westgate	Review in 2014/15 and bring forward management plan	CCC
2	Westgate Gardens	Westgate	Complete upgrade in 2014/15, seek Green Flag and deliver management plan	CCC
3	St Mary De Castro	Westgate	Consider management plan	CCC

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
4	Three Cities Garden, Best Lane	Westgate	Consider management plan	CCC
5	St Mildred's	Westgate	Consider Management plan	CCC
Outdoor sports pitches				
1	Canterbury	To be confirmed	Seek to develop new sports provision for mini football as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	To be confirmed
2	Victoria Recreation Ground	Westgate	Seek to enhance pavilion	CCC
Semi Natural / Natural				
1	Sturry Road Community Park	Northgate	Review management plan with Trust	Sturry Rd Community Park Trust
2	Riverside – Westgate Bridge to Kingsmead Bridge	Westgate/ Northgate	Work with Friends Group and partners to enhance network of spaces in 2014/15	CCC
3	Riverside Kingsmead - Vauxhall	Northgate	Work with partners and community to enhance area	Various
4	Old park	Barton / South Sturry	Work with partners to enhance area	Various
5	Bus Company island	Northgate	Tree management to boundary	CCC

## Appendix 24

### Summary of Herne Bay open space priorities

As the ward boundaries are being reviewed we have summarised the key priorities in Herne Bay based upon the consultation and assessment.

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
Amenity open space				
1	Coastal areas	Reculver, Heron and West Bay	Seek to develop new amenity open space as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	CCC
2	Savernake Drive	Herne and Broomfield	Consider enhancements	CCC
3	Oxenden Square	Heron	Consider enhancements	CCC
4	Broomfield Community Park	Herne and Broomfield	Consider enhancements	Parish Council
Allotments				
1	Station Road	Heron	Enhance infrastructure	Association
2	Eddington Lane	Heron	Install additional toilets	Association
3	Cross Street	Heron	Enhance area at front of site	Association
Beaches				
1	Herne Bay QEII Coastal Park	Reculver, Heron and West Bay	Deliver Coastal Park management plan	CCC
Cemeteries				
1	Herne Bay	Herne and Broomfield	Improve signage and notice boards	CCC

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
2	Herne Bay	Herne and Broomfield	Promote natural burial ground	CCC
3	Herne Bay	Herne and Broomfield	Enhance woodland for ashes	CCC
Civic spaces / public realm				
1	Wimereux Gardens	Heron	Create a civic square	CCC
2	Clock Tower Plaza	Heron	Enhance after Clock Tower project completed	CCC
Play areas				
1	Beltinge area	Reculver	Seek to develop new playground as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	To be confirmed
2	Reculver Country Park	Reculver	Seek to develop new playground as there is currently a gap in provision	CCC
3	Burton Down play area	Reculver	Seek to enhance in 2016/17	CCC
4	Collins Rd play area	Greenhill and Eddington	Seek to enhance in 2018/19	East Kent Housing Services
5	Rowland Drive ball court	Greenhill & Eddington	Consider in 2016/17	CCC
Green Corridors				
1	Develop green corridor form Herne bay to Canterbury	various	Seek to develop cycle link	Various
2	Old Thanet Way – Herne bay to Whitstable	various	Seek to develop cycle link	Various

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
Parks and Gardens				
1	Herne Bay QE II Coastal Park	West Bay, Heron and Reculver	Deliver management plan	CCC
2	Memorial Park	Heron	Deliver management plan and seek Green Flag	CCC
Outdoor sports pitches				
1	Herne Bay	Herne Bay	Work with clubs, FA and partners to develop new junior football pitches as there is currently a gap in provision, this will be challenging to achieve	To be confirmed
2	Cherry Orchard	Herne and Broomfield	Enhance pavilion	CCC
3	Memorial Park	Heron	Enhance pavilion	CCC
Semi Natural/Natural				
1	Reculver Country Park	Reculver	Redevelop old caravan park as part of the Country park and create a new play area	CCC
2	Blean Complex	Herne and Broomfield	Enhance as part of Blean Initiative	Various
3	Curtis Wood	Herne and Broomfield	Enhance as per management plan	CCC

## Appendix 25

### Summary of Whitstable open space priorities – April 2014

As the ward boundaries are being reviewed we have summarised the key priorities in Whitstable based upon the consultation and assessments.

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
Amenity open space				
1	Gap in amenity provision	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	It is challenging to identify opportunities to increase amenity provision	To be confirmed
1	Gap in amenity provision	Tankerton	It is challenging to identify opportunities to increase amenity provision	To be confirmed
1	Gap in amenity provision	Harbour	It is challenging to identify opportunities to increase amenity provision	To be confirmed
1	Gap in amenity provision	Seasalter	It is challenging to identify opportunities to increase amenity provision	To be confirmed
5	Columbia Avenue	Seasalter	Consider enhancements	CCC
6	Chestfield Rd	Chestfield and Seasalter	Consider enhancements	CCC

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
Allotments				
1	Ham Shades Lane	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Clear drainage ditch	Association
2	Joy lane	Seasalter	Clear drainage ditch, improve water pressure install toilets and new gate	CCC
3	Stream walk Community Garden	Gorrell	Create additional raised beds and volunteers	Kent Enterprise Trust (KET)
Beaches				
1	QE II Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park	Tankerton	Deliver Coastal Park Management Plan	CCC
Cemeteries				
1	Whitstable	Gorrell	Improve signage and notice boards	CCC
2	Whitstable	Gorrell	Enhance woodland areas	CCC
Civic spaces/public realm				
1	Library forecourt	Harbour	Enhancement works	KCC
Play areas				
1	Gap in provision	Harbour	Challenging to find an appropriate space in established housing	TBC
2	Columbia Avenue	Seasalter	Seek to enhance in 2015/16	CCC



Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
3	Favourite Rd	Seasalter	Seek to enhance when funding available	CCC
4	Speedwell Road	Seasalter	Seek to enhance when funding available	CCC
5	St Andrews Close – kick about	Gorrell	Seek to enhance when funding available	CCC
<b>Green Corridors</b>				
1	Old Thanet Way	Herne Bay - Whistable	Seek to enhance and upgrade cycleway	CCC
<b>Parks and Gardens</b>				
1	Tankerton QE II Coastal Park	Tankerton, Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Deliver management plan	CCC
2	Whitstable Castle	Tankerton	Deliver management plan	Whitstable Castle Trust
<b>Outdoor sports pitches</b>				
1	Gap in provision – mini and junior football	Whitstable area	Work with FA, local clubs and partners to increase mini and junior football pitch provision	TBC
2	Rugby pitch	Whitstable area	Work with RFU, local clubs and partners to increase football	TBC
3	Plough Lane	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Upgrade pavilion – 2014/15	CCC
4	Westmeads Recreation Ground	Harbour	Once parking issues have been resolved upgrade pavilion	CCC

Rank	Site name	Ward	Project	Management
Semi Natural/Natural				
1	Wraik Hill	Seasalter	Enhance grassland, fencing and entrance point to Wraik Hill	CCC
2	Seasalter levels	Seasalter	Acquire plotlands and manage habitat	CCC
3	Duncan Down	Gorrell	Manage habitat	CCC
4	Tankerton Slopes	Tankerton	Manage as part of SSSI management plan	CCC
5	Long Rock	Chestfield and Swalecliffe	Manage intertidal grassland as part of SSSI management plan	CCC

## Appendix 26

### Open Space Strategy action plan 2014 -2020

No	Action	Target	Start date	Due date	Lead
1	Provide high quality open space				
1.1	Ensure that new and enhanced open space and fixed play areas are designed to best practice standards.	Use of Play England 'Design guide for play, FIT Guidance, CABE Space, Sports England etc best practice to be used	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
1.2	Increase biodiversity value on existing sites	Enhance open space biodiversity as opportunities arise	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
1.3	Biodiversity value built into new open space provision / new development	All new open space development	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
1.4	Retain 3 Green Flag / In Bloom equivalent status in countryside open space	Retain existing 3 and obtain a further 2 by 2020	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
1.5	Retain 3 Quality Coastal Awards for beaches	Retain existing 3 through to 2020	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
2	Provide quality open space fit for purpose				
2.1	Ensure crime prevention in the design of open space	All design briefs	April 2014	March 2020	NS
2.2	Ensure that new developments are designed to fit in and link with the surrounding environment	Part of design process for all new developments	April 2014	March 2020	T&E / NS

No	Action	Target	Start date	Due date	Lead
2.3	Inclusive equipment to be included in all new and refurbished play areas	Inclusive equipment installed in 100% of new and refurbished playgrounds	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
2.4	Review outdoor sports provision following updated guidance from Sport England	Adopt revised outdoor sports priority list within one year of national review being published	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
2.5	Work with partners to develop mini/adult football provision in Canterbury	4 junior/mini pitches 1 adult pitch	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
2.6	Work with partners to develop youth and mini/junior football provision in the Whitstable area	2 junior pitches 7 mini pitches	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
2.7	Work with partners to develop junior football provision in the Herne Bay area.	4 junior pitches	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
2.8	Work with partners and education to develop Synthetic Turf Pitch (STP) provision and maximise usage.	Seek to deliver following outdoor sports provision review - Adopt revised outdoor sports priority list within one year of national review being published	April 2015	March 2020	T&E
3	Maintain safe and accessible open space				
3.1	Monitor Environmental Services Contract to ensure high standards of maintenance and cleanliness for city council open space and play areas	97% compliance	April 2014	March 2020	NS

No	Action	Target	Start date	Due date	Lead
3.2	Maintain quality signage at play areas/ parks to encourage reporting of graffiti/ damage/litter etc – linked to 'fix my street' initiative	Signage installed at all city council play areas	April 2014	March 2020	NS
3.3	Work with stakeholders, business, partner agencies to enforce community safety in open space	Support partners to enforce legislation where appropriate	April 2014	March 2020	NS
4	Protect existing open space through planning policy				
4.1	Ensure that Open Space Strategy issues feed into the Local Plan	Open Space Strategy embedded into Local Plan when it is adopted	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
4.2	Ensure value of open space continues to be recognised in key strategic documents and the planning process	Ensure that open space strategy prioritises are considered through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process.	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
4.3	Complete Riverside Strategy SPD	Adopted by March 2015 Seek to deliver actions by March 2020	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
4.4	Ensure any new open space is mapped on GIS and protected	Protection of new public open space as it occurs. New open space is adopted as Protected Open Space	April 2014	March 2020	T&E

No	Action	Target	Start date	Due date	Lead
5	Protect existing open space through general policy and strategic links				
5.1	Work with partners to protect SSSI sites in district	Help safe guard existing sites	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
5.2	Work with The Blean Woodland Initiative project to protect and enhance the Blean woods	Active member of project board	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
5.3	Work with RSPB to manage Seasalter Marshes	Support delivery of action plan. 2 Steering group meetings per year.	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
6	Seek to enhance open space via use of priority lists				
6.1	Deliver a rolling programme of enhancements to open space based on priority lists	3 areas per year subject to funding	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
6.2	Use national standards and assessment criteria to consider any new public open space sites.	Assess and feed into the priority plans and maps as required.	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
7	Seek to develop partnerships to maximise opportunities to fill the gaps in provision and enhance open space				
7.1	Seek opportunities with developers to introduce new open space/fixd play areas to fill identified gaps in provision	Developers engaged, as opportunities arise	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
7.2	Work with the community and partners to deliver Herne Bay QEII Coastal Park management plan	Deliver Peoples Millions actions by March 2015. Seek to deliver other actions by 2020	April 2014	March 2020	T&E

No	Action	Target	Start date	Due date	Lead
7.3	Work with the community and partners to deliver Tankerton QEII Coastal Park management plan	Adopt Management Plan by autumn 2014. Work with community to deliver it by 2020	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
7.4	Work with the community and partners to deliver Friends of Riverside's action goals	Adopt action plan for central area by autumn 2014 and deliver it by March 2016	April 2014	March 2016	T&E
8	Actively promote appropriate usage of open space				
8.1	Update websites: canterbury.gov.uk, notbored.net , canterbury.co.uk	Update website as required, every 6 months as a minimum	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
8.2	Work in partnership to take action where required on reported anti-social behaviour (ASB)	Joint enforcement, as necessary	April 2014	March 2020	NS
8.3	Work with health agency partners to promote healthy activities in open space	1 project per year	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
8.4	Promote appropriate concessions in open space	Review and consider concessions every 5 years and as new concessions arise.	April 2014	March 2020	Commissioning
9	Actively involve communities in decision making, developing and managing open space locally				
9.1	Engage children, young people and local residents in the design of new and refurbished play areas and open space.	Children and young people engaged in design of all new and refurbished play areas – 100 per year	April 2014	March 2020	T&E

No	Action	Target	Start date	Due date	Lead
9.2	Facilitate community led management plans for open space	As opportunities arise	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
9.3	Support community led In Bloom entries in the district	1 per year	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
10	Recognise and reward community led projects				
10.2	'Celebrate' community led projects at open space events.	1 open space workshop event held every two years	April 2014	March 2020	T&E
11	Assess and evaluate				
11.1	Assess and evaluate completed projects			On completion of project	T&E



## Appendix 27

### Quality and value assessments criteria for public open space

#### 3.1 Introduction

The Quality and Value of the major open spaces in each of the typologies were assessed according to a set of criteria related to the proposed standards for each typology. These standards were in turn derived from best practice guidance including Green Flag Criteria and the Countryside Commission Visitors Welcome pack.

City council officers responsible for the management of open spaces assessed the sites.

They included city council owned sites, community sites and other agencies sites.

#### 3.2 Assessment Rationale

**Value categories** are standard for each site. Each attribute is scored out of 5 where 5 is excellent and 1 is very poor. There may be more than one attribute per category. The total score for each category is shown in brackets. (This is the total number of attributes multiplied by 5) The total score of all categories is 65.

**Quality categories** vary according to each typology. For example there are 15 categories for quality assessment of Parks and Gardens, but only 10 categories for Natural Green space. This is because elements that require assessment differ according to the

type of site. For example, Parks are assessed for facilities, features, activity range, ball games and events, which are seen to be less relevant in a semi natural space. Similarly, Natural Green space is assessed for 'conservation designation', but this is not relevant to the Parks and Garden assessment.

In the same way, when the same category applies to different typologies the assessed item may be scored in a different way appropriate to each site. For example, both Parks and Gardens, and Natural Green space are assessed for 'Management'. However, for Natural Green space the mark is out of 5 for "Effective management of soft and hard landscape to control of litter, graffiti, dogs, petty vandalism etc."; and the mark for Parks and Gardens is out of 10, where there are 5 marks for the assessment above, and 5 marks for "Unobtrusive management of people and events to minimise possible conflict." As such total qualitative scores vary within typologies from 155 to 50. Where an attribute or category is not relevant to a site, it has been removed and the total score has been reduced accordingly.

The Quality and Value assessments are correlated and the various sites of open space are categorised:

High quality/low value  
High quality/high value  
Low quality/low value  
Low quality/high value

The aim is for a priority list to seek to develop and improve the sites. The focus is on the low quality/high value sites.

The assessment can also lead to 'priority lists'. These can be used to develop a programme of works to enhance the existing provision.

### 3.3 Officer Qualitative assessment

The total number of attributes within the categories of a typology make up the observable characteristics for each typology studied.

#### 3.31 Parks and Gardens

##### Accessibility

- Ease of access for all
- Ease of access from nearby residential areas
- Ease of access from public transport
- Availability of parking provision in park or close by

##### Entrances

- Appropriate design, inviting and visible
- Able to be used by all
- Safe to use

##### Boundaries

- All clearly defined and well maintained

- Well designed planting to effectively screen neighbouring land uses and frame important views
- Ability to close park at night

##### Path Network

- Variety of paths (direct and indirect)
- Consistent, attractive/functional surface treatment
- Main paths feel safe to use by day
- No conflict between cyclists and pedestrians

##### Facilities

- Where appropriate facilities such as the following are well sited, designed and in good condition; refreshment outlet, children's play area (two to five years or five to 12 years), activity areas for older children (12 years plus), sports facilities, events stage, toilets, drinking fountains etc.

##### Features

- Where appropriate, features such as the following are well sited, designed and in good condition: water features, art works, monuments, sensory garden etc

##### Furniture

- Adequate provision, appropriate co-ordinated colour and design of well sited bins, seats and lighting columns

## **Vegetation**

- Structural and decorative planting (trees, shrubs, herbaceous, bedding, bulbs and grass), well laid out in terms of function and aesthetics
- All soft landscape in good condition and well maintained

## **Signage**

- Information sign at each entrance point providing: welcome, location point, byelaw details, contact number
- Directional fingerpost signs at appropriate locations
- Interpretation signage as appropriate relating to history, wildlife, horticulture, arboriculture etc
- All well designed and colour coordinated with furniture

## **Spatial Variety**

- An attractive, well designed and sited range of spaces with different moods for a range of different uses – active and quiet, high and low maintenance, open and enclosed etc

## **Activity Range**

- Good range of activities accommodated in well designed layout to minimise conflict - quiet sitting, walking, cycling, sport, children's play, teenage play, events etc
- Degree to which different age groups use park

## **Safety and Security**

- Strength of feeling of safety and security when using the park during the day. Consider presence of the following: passive surveillance, CCTV, dedicated park staff, open character of park

## **Management**

- Unobtrusive management of people and events to minimise possible conflict.
- Effective management and maintenance of soft and hard landscape to control litter, graffiti, dogs, petty vandalism etc

## **Events**

- Existence of a suitable stage, power, lighting and chair storage to stage events

## **Ball Games**

- Ability of informal ball games to be played without danger and disturbance to others

### **3.3.2 Green Corridors**

## **Accessibility**

- Ease of access for all
- Ease of access from adjacent land uses (note if signs present and condition/quality)
- Accommodation for pedestrians and cyclists with minimum conflict

## **Boundaries**

- Well designed planting to provide green character without making the route appear dangerous during daylight hours
- Advantage taken of 'passive surveillance' where possible
- Ability of planting on boundaries and within the site to positively enhance the visual appearance of adjacent areas

## **Paths**

- Surfaced paths, well routed and of suitable width and gradient (pedestrians and cyclists)
- Direct yet visually interesting alignment

## **Lighting**

- If lighting present is it well designed? Design style fits locality, well sited, colour co-ordinated with other furniture (bins, seats), vandal resistant, relatively unobtrusive by day, well maintained and in working order.
- If lighting absent is it required?

## **Furniture**

- Where appropriate adequate provision of well sited, well designed (colour and design co-ordinated) seats, and bins

## **Vegetation**

- Structural and decorative planting (trees, shrubs, grass) well laid out

- All soft landscape in good condition and well maintained

## **Safety and security**

- Strength of feeling of safety and security when using the space during the day

## **Signage**

- If signage (directional fingerposts and feature information boards) present are signs well designed? Clear and visually accessible to all, design style fits locality, well-sited, colour coordinated with other furniture (bins, seats, lighting, railings etc) vandal resistant, well maintained
- If signage absent is it required?

## **Management**

- Effective management of soft and hard landscape to control litter, graffiti, dogs, petty vandalism, etc.

### **3.3.3 Amenity Green space**

#### **Accessibility**

- Ease of access for all
- Ease of access from nearby residential areas (note if signs present and condition/quality)

#### **Boundaries**

- Well designed planting to effectively screen neighbouring land uses and frame important views

- Ability of planting on boundaries and within site to positively enhance the visual appearance of adjacent areas

### **Paths**

- Surfaced paths, well routed and of suitable width where obvious well-used desire lines exist

### **Furniture**

- Where appropriate, adequate provision of well-sited, well designed (colour and design co-ordinated) seats, bins, and lighting columns (note if toilets present and condition/quality)

### **Vegetation**

- Structural and decorative planting (trees, shrubs, grass) well laid out in terms of function and aesthetics
- All soft landscape in good condition and well maintained

### **Safety and Security**

- Strength of feeling of safety and security when using the space during the day

### **Management**

- Effective management of soft and hard landscape to control litter, graffiti, dogs, petty vandalism etc

### **Ball Games**

- Ability for informal ball games to be played without danger and disturbance to others

### **3.3.4 Fixed Play Areas – assessment criteria**

The following criteria will be used to assess fixed play areas. Provision will be assessed within the age bands used by Fields In Trust, to try to ensure that all ages are catered for.

#### **Criteria:**

#### **A – gaps in provision**

All play areas in the district have been mapped and the catchment for each has been identified, using information from the play strategy about how far different age groups are willing to travel to access play.

National research by Fields in Trust suggest that the following provision is appropriate:

**Local Area for Play (LAP):** Age group (primarily up to 5 years). Children will travel up to 1 minute, or 100m to reach equipped play area.

**Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP):** Age group (children who are beginning to go out and play independently i.e. 5-12 years). Children will travel up to 5 minutes, or 400m to reach equipped play area.

**\*Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP):** Age group (older children of relative independence, who have freedom to travel further from home i.e. 12-18 years). Children will travel up to 15 minutes, or 1000m to reach equipped play area.

**Destination Area for Play:** Age group (all age ranges), no specific accessibility criteria, but ideally 20 minutes drive time.

\* Rural village play areas will be classified as NEAPs

Each age group will be accessed using the following:	Score
Under 25% of households without access to play	1
25 to 49% of household without access to play	2
50 to 74% of households without access to play area	3
75% or more households without access to play area	4
No play provision	5

## B – play value

High play value is important to maintain child interest and provide the kind of activities that stimulates physical and mental development appropriate to age group.

Basic criteria to be used:

**LAP:** A small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live.

Demonstrative features to encourage play. Small space to enable young children to play near where they live. Encourage informal play and interaction. Ease of observation and supervision. Site to a minimum of 3 pieces of equipment.

**LEAP:** An area of open space designated and laid out for children who can go out and play independently, close to where they live. Site to contain a minimum of 6 pieces of equipment to provide: Balancing, climbing, rocking, overhead activity, sliding, swinging, jumping, crawling, rotating, imaginative play, social play, natural materials.

**NEAP:** An area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped for older children, but with opportunities for younger children. Site to contain a minimum of 9 pieces of equipment to provide: Balancing, climbing, rocking, overhead activity, sliding, swinging, jumping, crawling, rotating, imaginative play, social play, natural materials. Wider range of activities.

**Destination:** Key destination sites and features in themselves.

Forming part of a larger attraction. Enhance visitor experience. Aims to attract family and other groups for longer visits. Greater variety of fixed equipment Facilities such as cafeteria and toilets. Has car-parking facilities.

	Score
Meets required standard	1
50-99% of required standard and contains multi-use item on site	2
50-99% of required standard but does not contain multi-use item	3
Fails required standard by at least 50% but has some functional equipment	4
All equipment de-commissioned/non-repairable	5

### C – Disability access

It is difficult to assess this criterion, as there are so many differing needs. However, a basic assessment is the accessibility to the site, and the number of different pieces of equipment that can be used by a child with disabilities.

	Score
Site accessible (wide gates, no cattle grids, suitable parking nearby etc) and 3 or more pieces of equipment that can be used by both disabled and able bodied children	1
Site accessible and 1-2 suitable piece of equipment	2
Site accessible, but no suitable equipment or	
Accessible with some difficulty and 1-2 pieces of equipment	3
Site accessible with some difficulty, no suitable equipment	4
Site not accessible and no suitable equipment	5

### D – Risk

Play areas are assessed in accordance with ROSPA guidelines and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Where no ROSPA assessment is available, the assessment will be made by an Outdoor Leisure officer.

	Score
Very low risk	1
Low risk	2
Medium risk	3
High risk	4
Unacceptable risk	5

### E – Child poverty

Wards will be prioritised against the Child Poverty Index – those in the 20% most deprived will score 5, the next 20% will score 4, and so on.

### F – Level of community interest in establishing or improving play areas

The likelihood of the community successfully leading the development of new play areas, or improvements to existing areas tends to be determined by how well organised the community is in order to be able to achieve it. For example, there would need to be a constituted group to apply for external funding.

	Score
No interest from the community	5
Interested individual residents, but no existing organised group	4
Interested organised group – not constituted	3
Interested constituted group	2
Interested constituted group with wider community support	1

## G – Value

There are sometimes factors that may increase or decrease the value of a play area.

	Score
Value increased by specific factors	1
	2
	3
	4
Value impacted by specific factors	5

### Overall play area matrix

Once the above criteria have been assessed, they will be fed into the overall matrix for play areas, below, to establish their score and then tabled so that the priorities are easily identifiable.

### 3.3.5 Natural and Semi Natural Green space

#### Accessibility

- Ease of access for all

#### Paths

- Surfaced paths, promenades wide enough to accommodate both walkers and cyclists with minimum conflict

#### Parking

- Adequate parking (roadside and car parks) to accommodate large numbers of seasonal visitors

#### Furniture

- Where appropriate, adequate provision of well sited, well designed (vandal and marine proof and colour co-ordinated) seats, bins, lighting columns (note if toilets present and condition/quality)

#### Signage

- Where necessary, well sited and designed

#### Visual Simplicity

- A high quality environment is characterised by being free of unnecessary structures (especially away from built-up areas) such as lighting columns, telegraph poles, signs, barriers etc

#### Safety and Security

- Strength of feeling of safety and security when using the space during the day

#### Management

- Effective management of soft and hard landscape to control litter, graffiti, dogs, petty vandalism, etc



## **Conservation designation**

- International SSSI, SNCI and BAP species plus semi-natural habitat

### **3.3.6 Outdoor Sports Facilities**

#### **Accessibility**

- All paths and buildings fully accessible to all

#### **Boundaries**

- Strong indigenous structure planting around perimeter of site (designed as buffer planting to reduce wind on pitches and noise or light spill as appropriate to adjoining properties or roads)
- Ability of the planting on boundaries and within site to positively enhance the visual appearance of adjacent areas

#### **Paths**

- Path layout approximating to desire lines for those crossing the site, but avoiding straight lines wherever possible
- Path layout appropriate to the circulation needs of players within the site, with hard surfaces in heavily trafficked areas (to avoid constant muddy areas)
- Good connections to paths and cycling routes in the vicinity of the site

## **Furniture**

- Where appropriate, adequate provision of well sited, well designed (colour and design co-ordinated) seats, bins, and lighting columns

#### **Vegetation**

- Structural and decorative planting (trees, shrubs, grass) well laid out in terms of function and aesthetics
- Differential mowing between playing and other areas

#### **Car Parking Areas**

- Open to surveillance but screened for visual buffering
- Integrated into the landform through grading and planting
- Located close to the entrance and changing room building
- Hard-surfaced path connections to buildings and pitches

#### **Changing Pavilions**

- Pitch sport sites to have team changing rooms (number appropriate to the number of pitches or other facilities on site) consisting of changing spaces, showers, and drying area, plus separate changing for match officials
- Capacity for simultaneous male and female team and/or officials use
- First Aid room (essential only for pitch sports and athletics)
- Space for refreshments with kitchen

## Layout

- Correct orientation pitches generally between 35 degrees west and 20 degrees east of N-S
- Playing facilities meet relevant governing bodies requirements in terms of length, width, evenness of surface and side clearances or safety margins
- No end to end slope on pitches greater than 1:80; no side to side slope greater than 1:50 (1:60 preferable)
- No facility more than 200m from nearest changing pavilion

## Management

- Effective management of soft and hard landscape to control litter, graffiti, dogs, petty vandalism, etc.

## Ball games

- Ability for formal ball games to be played without danger and disturbance to others

## 3.4 Officer Value Assessment

Value was scored using the following consistent categories and attributes for each site:

### Accessibility of Location

How accessible is the space from nearby residential areas?

- Easy unrestricted pedestrian and cycle access (please note any barriers to access, eg roads, railway lines, watercourses etc)
- Ability of site to function as a green pedestrian/cycle route, for instance home to school/shops

### Level of use according to site primary purpose

- Level of use
- Ability for children and teenagers to use space for noisy, boisterous activities likely to be unsociable in restricted residential areas without causing conflict

### Structural and landscape benefits:

- Ability of green space to visually separate one adjacent area from another

### Ecological benefits:

- Ability of green space to provide a habitat for a diverse range of wildlife
- To reduce surface water run-off and ameliorate air, water and noise pollution

### Education benefits:

- Ability of green space to serve as an 'outdoor classroom'

### Social inclusion and health benefits:

- Ability of green space to be used by all members of the community

- Opportunity provided for exercise to promote a healthy lifestyle and well-being

**Cultural and heritage benefits:**

- Ability of inherent historic value of green space to provide a link to the past
- Ability of green space to host cultural events

**Amenity benefits and a 'sense of place':**

- Ability of the green space to enhance the visual attractiveness and physical comfort of the locality
- Ability of the green space to contribute to a special sense of place for the locality

**Economic benefits:**

- Ability or potential of green space to promote economic development/ regeneration in the locality
- Ability of the existence of the green space to affect the value of nearby property

### **3.5 Site information tables and priority lists**

The ratings have been used for site information tables show the comparative rating categories for quality and value. The rating of the various sites has been used to create priority lists for

## Appendix 28

### The Law and Allotments

#### Introduction to the Law and Allotments

Understanding the legislation applying to allotments can be a major hurdle for local authorities wanting to tackle their allotment responsibilities in a comprehensive way. All of the statutes need to be used if local authority roles and responsibilities are to be carried out effectively. It can be difficult to determine whether allotment sites are statutory or temporary and what status and protection is afforded to statutory and temporary allotments. The processes governing the disposal of allotment land, the framework within which the demand for allotments is met, and the regulations governing plot use are the major concerns of allotment holders and local authorities.

Statutory sites are those that a local authority has acquired for the purpose of allotment gardening, whilst temporary sites have been acquired for other purposes and are being used as allotments in the interim. Statutory sites have legal protection whilst temporary ones do not. Some allotments may have been in use for years and the reason for acquisition

in the first place forgotten. Their legal status and level of protection may be uncertain. However if a site has been in continued use for a number of years as an allotment site, it ? be treated as a statutory site.

Present allotment law is set in statutes that were passed in the period from 1819 to 1950. Requests for overhauling the legislation have not been complied with. Legal requirements, a combination of existing legislation, planning issues and sustainable development needs should be the approach taken to ensure compliance.

#### Major Legislation:

The first **Public Act** to make specific reference to the provision of allotments for the poor came in **1819**. The Act empowered parish wardens to let up to eight hectares (20 acres) of parish land to individuals at a reasonable rent. The common feature of early allotment campaigns was the emphasis on the relief of rural poverty. By 1850 allotments were recognized as areas of land provided by individuals or public bodies as acts of charity

on which the labouring poor might supplement their low income by cultivating fruit and vegetables or carrying out stock keeping in their spare time.

Against a backdrop of oppression and civil unrest the **General Enclosure Act of 1845** made a serious attempt to set aside land as allotments for the labouring poor.

During the period 1850-1870 the establishment of urban and rural allotments continued mainly as a result of private and charitable initiatives. **The Allotment Act of 1887** was the first to compel local authorities to provide allotments where a demand was known to exist.

#### Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 -

This Act consolidated the allotment acts dating from 1887, 1890 and 1907. The 1908 Act regulates the provision of allotments and the amount of compensation payable to tenants on termination of their tenancies. Sites should be suitable with sufficiently sized plots, and with adequate facilities.

**Section 22 of the Act** covers use. It defines an 'allotment garden' as "not exceeding 40 poles (1,012 square metres) in extent, which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable and fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family." This precludes the use of an allotment garden for carrying out any trade or business, but provided that it is cultivated mainly for growing fruit and vegetables, other activities are not prohibited. These include:

- The use of a plot as a leisure garden – There is no legal restraint on using part of the plot as a leisure garden for recreation or for growing flowers or crops that take longer than twelve months to mature.
- Limited sale of surplus produce – provided that the allotment is mainly cultivated for consumption by the plot holder and their family there is no legal constraint on selling surplus produce.
- Use of part of a plot for keeping livestock – permitted by section 12 of the Allotments Act (1950), but not in such a manner as to create a nuisance. The 1950 Act also allows for the construction or erection of shelters for hens and rabbits.

**Section 23.** This requires that authorities are duty bound to provide allotments for residents if they consider there is a demand for them.

**Section 27.** This provides for the temporary use of allotment land for other purposes if it cannot be let as allotments. However, if the land is subsequently required for allotment use, the authority must be able to regain possession by giving no more than twelve months notice.

**Section 32.** Revenue obtained from the sale or exchange of statutory allotment land must be spent on discharging debts associated with the acquisition of allotment land, acquiring new land for use as allotments, or improving the existing stock of allotments. Only the surplus may be used for other purposes.

### Allotment Act, 1922

This Act covered the release of land requisitioned for allotment use during the First World War. The Act also gave some measure of security of tenure to tenants of allotment gardens and improved rights of tenants to compensation on termination. The Act has since been amended by the Local Government Act 1972. Allotment committees are no longer compulsory for urban authorities.

### Allotment Act, 1925

Required town planning authorities to give special consideration to allotments when preparing town planning schemes. This safeguard was removed by the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

### Smallholding and Allotment Act, 1926

This Act made a number of improvements to the 1925 and preceding acts.

- The provisions relating to rents that may be charged for allotments was amended.
- The period of notice to quit was extended to 12 months as far as allotment gardens were concerned.
- Compensation should be payable to an allotment-holder at whatever season of the year a tenancy terminates.
- Allotment-holders who have allowed their allotment plot to deteriorate through neglect should be made liable to pay compensation for dilapidation and quitting.

### Allotments Act 1950

Section 10 – fixing of rents. Although there is no requirement to exact a full fair rent, land let by a council for the purposes of allotment

gardening shall be let at such a rent “as a tenant may reasonably be expected to pay for the land taking into account the proposed letting terms. This section also has provision for reduced payments of rent in special circumstances, which might include retired, elderly, unemployed, or disabled tenants, or tenant of long standing, or any other circumstances the authority may see fit.

### **Town and Country Planning Act, 1971**

This Act covered forward planning of allotments.

**Local Government Planning and Land Act, 1980 and Local Government and Planning (Amendment) Act 1981** – Consolidated planning legislation which has further influenced the forward planning of allotments. The Council must safeguard existing land used as allotments. Development proposals resulting in the loss of allotments should only be considered where:

1. There is evidence of long-term insufficient demand for continued use of land as allotments
2. Suitable land is made available, either by retention or relocation, to replace allotments that are in use

3. Where it is necessary to develop a site for other purposes, suitable sites are made available to relocate tenants
4. Any proceeds from land sale is re-invested in developing the allotment service.

### **Allotments Act 1925: Section 8 Consents – Assessment Criteria.**

This Act states that statutory allotment land may only be disposed of with the Secretary of State’s consent, which will not be given unless the Minister is satisfied that adequate provision will be made for allotment holders displaced by the action of the local authority or that such provision is unnecessary or not reasonably practicable. The consent may be subject to conditions.

The Revised Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 17: Sport, Open Spaces and Recreation recommends the following criteria against which applications for consent to dispose of statutory allotments are determined.

The revised criteria are that:

- The allotment in question is not necessary and is surplus to requirements.

- Consent of the secretary of state is required for the erection of any dwellings (but not sheds or greenhouses) by the council on allotment land (Land Settlement (Facilities) Act 1919).
- Adequate provision will be made for displaced plot holders, or that such provision is not necessary or is impracticable.
- The number of people on the waiting list has been taken into account.
- The authority has actively promoted and publicised the availability of allotment sites and has consulted the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
- The implication of disposal for other relevant policies, in particular development plan policies, has been taken into account.

### **Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 17: Sport, Open Spaces and Recreation**

Annex 3 of PPG 17 includes allotments as a specific category in the classification of open space. PPG 17 places an obligation on local authorities to undertake assessments of need for all open space classifications, combined with an audit of existing provision, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative criteria. These should feed into the

establishment of local standards for provision, and the preparation of a strategy ensuring these local standards are met before any surplus land can be released. Plots that are well maintained and in full use, delivering the full range of benefits to the local community are likely to enjoy strong protection under the planning system. Development that would result in the loss of allotments should not be permitted unless replacement allotment sites are provided, and these should be of acceptable quality:

1. Be comparable in terms of size, accessibility and convenience, and should not normally be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the centre of demand
2. Have a soil quality and condition comparable or superior to that of the existing allotments
3. Avoid detrimental impact on landscape character and other landscape features.

### Notices to quit

**Allotment Act, 1922 – Section 1** – tenancies of allotment gardens can be terminated by giving twelve months or more notice to quit. This must expire on or before 6 April, or on or after 29 September in any year, otherwise it

will be invalid. The authority has the power of re-entry after 3 months notice if the land is required for “building, mining or any other industrial purposes, or for roads or sewers necessary in connection with any of these purposes.”

### Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908

– Section 30 – the authority has the power to determine the tenancy on giving one month’s notice if:

- The rent is unpaid for 40 days or longer.
- The plot is not cultivated to the required standard for 3 months after commencement of the tenancy.
- Conditions of the tenancy have been breached.

An allotment authority needs to provide allotments only to the residents of its district. A tenancy agreement can be terminated on a month’s notice if the tenant becomes resident more than a mile outside the district. However, if there is adequate provision, there is no reason why an allotment plot should not be provided to a resident outside the area.

### Occupiers’ Liability Act (1957)

Places a common duty of care on anyone involved in allotment management to ensure

their allotment site(s) is run in as safe and appropriate manner as possible

### Summary

There are essentially 4 key requirements on a local authority in relation to allotments. It needs to ensure that it is:

- 1) Advertising allotment provision
- 2) Supplying enough plots to satisfy demand
- 3) Providing a tenancy agreement with a compensation clause
- 4) Keeping allotment sites in a “fit for use” condition.

There is no generally accepted procedure for assessing the gap between current use levels and the potential need for allotments that would be realized if the allotments were actively promoted. Planners will have to work with the allotment management to generate the assessments required by planning policy. In areas where open space is deficient, any developments on allotment land must include an element of open space. A council’s policy for the management of its allotments should be linked to other leisure and recreation strategies.



If allotment land is made redundant, it should be considered what alternative uses the site could be put to. If allotment land is genuinely surplus due to falling demand, and the council is unable to promote sufficient level of allotment use to secure proper management of a particular site, then consideration must be given to alternative community based, sustainable land based activities. For example community gardens, city farms, nature reserves, but provision must be made for converting back if demand increases.

Allotments provide a much-needed facility especially in areas where private gardens are limited and should be protected as above. If planning permission is granted for other forms of development on part of or whole of the site, this should be subject to providing an appropriate community recreational benefit, or improving the allotment service generally.

Where new sites are proposed, future conversions to other acceptable activities should be born in mind. So new sites should, if possible, be provided next to existing open spaces to facilitate conversion (in either direction), as well as to encourage passive security for the open space as a whole. If future demand on un-let plots is uncertain, then minimal maintenance, such as strimming vegetation, must be encouraged.

Relocation to a new site provides an opportunity to start afresh, with new layout and facilities. The design must be carried out in consultation with the plot holders and their association, the National society of allotment and leisure gardeners (NSALG) and should be ready before the old site is disposed of. Many plot holders have invested a lot of time and effort in their plots, and have emotional ties to their plots, so any consultations must be handled sympathetically, and assistance with relocation and possibly smaller plots should be considered. The active promotion of allotment and conversion of latent demand into new tenancies, two key components of the strategy, are essential to underpin the safeguarding of allotment land within the planning system.

### Challenges:

1. Ensure that publicity is adequate
2. Carry out thorough assessment of need, to assess gaps in the service.
3. Better use of section 106 agreements for allotment provision and development
4. Using surplus land as temporary allotments rather than mothballing it.

5. Ensure that the management of allotments is linked to other council strategies
6. Ensure surplus land is put to alternative uses rather than disposal
7. Regularly consult with users
8. Install a compensation system
9. Develop an allotments charter
10. Recognise demand in planning policy



## Appendix 29

### List of sites protected for wildlife interest in the Canterbury District

#### SSSI – National Status

Sites also recognised internationally - as wetland reserves under the Ramsar convention, or as Special Protection Areas (SPA), or Special Areas for Conservation (SAC) - are noted as such, although the mechanism for protection is transposed in legislation at national level, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) by virtue of all of these sites also being recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). National Nature Reserves are also shown as such (NNR).

- East Blean Woods (SAC, NNR)
- Larkey Valley Wood
- Yockletts Bank
- West Blean and Thornden Woods
- Stodmarsh (Ramsar, SPA, SAC, NNR)
- Ileden and Oxenden Woods
- Tankerton Slopes (Ramsar, SPA)
- Thanet Coast (Ramsar, SPA)

- Church Woods
- Sturry Pit
- Preston Marshes
- Lynsore Bottom
- Ellenden Wood
- Chequers and Old Park
- The Swale (Ramsar, SPA)

#### LNR and LWS – Local Status

LNR – council owned Local Nature Reserves

- Bishopstone Cliffs
- Bus Company Island
- Curtis Wood
- Foxes Cross Bottom
- Larkey Valley Wood
- Jumping Downs
- No Mans Orchard
- South Bank of The Swale
- Seasalter Levels

- Tyler Hill Meadow
- Whitehall Meadows

#### LWS – Local Wildlife Sites

Sites entirely situated in the Canterbury District have the prefix 'CA' whilst sites shared/ situated on the boundary with other authority areas have alternative abbreviation codes.

AS50	Huntstreet Woods and Pasture
CA01	St Joseph's Church, Chestfield
CA02	Convict's Wood, Chestfield
CA08	Red House Farm Pasture, Chestfield
CA11	Pasture at Chestfield and Greenhill, Thanet Way
CA12	Duncan Down, Seasalter
CA14	Tyler Hill Pastures
CA15	Blean Pastures
CA18	Little Hall and Kemberland Woods and Pasture
CA19	Cattshill Wood & Well Wood, Lower Hardres

CA21	Early Wood, Petham	CA45	Disused Railway Line, Bishopsbourne-Kingston	CA38	Syngate Wood, Stone Street
CA22	Whitehill Wood, Lower Hardres			CA07	Thornden Pasture and Crow Park
CA23	Seaton Pits and Wenderton Manor Pits	CA46	Covert Wood and Pasture, Kingston		
CA24	Woods South of Snowdown	CA48	Adisham Churchyard		
CA25	Gorsley Wood, Pett Bottom	CA49	Quilters Wood, Lynsore Bottom		
CA26	Walderchain to Bedlam Woods, Barham Valley	CA52	St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury		
CA28	Trenley Park Wood, Fordwich	CA54	Meadow near Yocketts Bank		
CA29	Swanton Aerial Site, Littlebourne	CA56	Chislet Marshes, Sarre Penn and Preston Marshes		
CA30	Littlebourne Stream	CA57	Former Hersden Colliery		
CA31	River Nail Bourne, Bourne Park	SH36	Baldock and Palmtree Down, Wingmore		
CA32	Iffin Wood and Little Iffin Wood, Street End	AS42	Denge Wood Complex		
CA33	Petham Churchyard	AS27	Great Stour, Ashford to Fordwich		
CA34	Blean Woods, Harbledown to Dunkirk (extra to SSSI)	SW17	Blean Woods South		
CA35	Bursted Wood, Upper Hardres	CA16	Clowes Wood and Marley Wood		
CA37	Upper Hardres Wood, Bossingham	CA39	Little Westwood Wood, Lynsore Bottom		
CA40	Manns Wood, Lynsore Bottom	CA55	Meadows and Woodland near Waltham		
CA43	Woolwich Wood and Well Wood, Woolage Green	CA53	Fields near Marley, Kingston		
CA44	Bavinge Wood, Hastingleigh	CA47	Hobday's Wood etc., Anvil Green		
		CA20	Buckholt Wood, Petham		
		CA06	Seasalter Dairy Farm		

## Glossary

**Acid Grassland** acid grassland occurs on free draining, nutrient poor soils and is characterised by specific plant species. It is a priority habitat for conservation in the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan.

**ANGST** Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard developed by Natural England to assess the provision of a range types of Open Spaces.

**Applying Local Provision** applying local standards against national benchmarks

**Big Lottery Play Programme** a fund administered by the Big Lottery Fund to allocate funding to play areas

**Biodiversity** the number and variety of plant and animal species that exist in a particular environment

**Blue Flag** the award is a measure of the quality of beaches and the coastline, it is recognised as a global standard in 37 countries

**Bylaws** a law made by local government that only relates to its particular area.

**CABE** is the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, and is the government's

advisor on architecture, urban design and public space

**Calcareous grassland** calcareous grassland occurs on lime-rich grassland derived from lime or chalky soils and is characterised by specific plant. Species. It is a priority habitat for conservation in the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan.

**Charter Marks** standards of excellence with measured indicators of success

**Children and Youth** the Children and Youth section of Canterbury City Council

**Civic Spaces** those spaces belonging to the town that may not be green open areas but those that are also widely used by the public e.g. shopping precinct

**Conservation Area** areas identified by the local authority which may have extra and more specific requirements for maintenance or planning due to their historical nature

**Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000** provides for pedestrian access to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases protection for nationally and internationally important Sites

of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

**Coppice** an area of woodland that is specifically managed by periodically cutting the trees to provide woodland products or to manage the woodland for its species

**Demographic profile** an analysis to showing how the population is made up of varying age groups, occupations etc

**Developers Contribution Fund Supplementary Planning Document**

**Dual Use Equipment** play equipment that is suitable for those with and without disability

**Ecosystem services** are the natural systems which provide 'natural produce' or 'added Value and Benefits' associated with different types of open space which include:

- Provisioning services (e.g. food, water, genetic resources produced on the land)
- Regulating services (e.g. climate regulation such as provision of shade and drainage, pollination opportunities by insects, disease

and pest control by virtue of natural competition by wildlife intrinsic to the land)

- Supporting services (e.g. soil creation, nutrient and water cycling managed by virtue of the composition of the land and its environmental context)
- Cultural services (e.g. heritage, recreation, landscapes of high aesthetic or social value)

**EMAS principle** the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme, is a voluntary initiative designed to improve companies' environmental performance. It was initially established by European Regulation 1836/93, although this has been replaced by Council Regulation 761/01. Essentially it is concerned with reducing the environmental impact and enhancing environmental performance of an organisation.

**Fixed Play Areas** play areas consisting of equipment such as swings and climbing frames

**Football Hub** a place which is the centre for football to cater for a wide area

**Gaps in Provision** areas that may not have a certain typology or facility e.g. a play area once certain thresholds have been applied to the area

**Geographical Information Services** computerised maps

**Green Flag** a way of measuring the quality and facilities provided by parks and open spaces. An annual award administered by Greenspaces, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Royal Horticultural Society, and Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS).

**Green Infrastructure** the network created by green spaces, parks and any other type of green or natural feature making up the wider landscape

**Green Spaces** is a collective term that encompasses all typologies of landscape irrespective of whether they are part of the built or natural environment.

**Habitats Regulations 2010** The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations (2010) is a European lead legislation providing a greater level of protection to some species and natural habitats.

**Interpretation** interpretation refers to ways that users can access information about a site for example on site information panels and signage or activities that occur on the site such as guided walks it also refers to information

that can be sourced away from the site such as leaflets or websites.

**Kent Agreement 2** is an agreement between central government and local authorities in Kent and their partners to improve services in Kent by working collectively over three years from 2008 to 2011, in line with the Vision for Kent

**Kent Coastal Strategy** This project is being coordinated by the Kent Coastal Network and carried forward by a steering group made up of a mixture of coastal practitioners from Kent. The aim is to gain consensus for a well-informed Action Plan, which will be the catalyst for a greater degree of integrated working on the Kent coast.

**Landfill Tax Credits** a scheme introduced to taxed landfill waste with the tax used to enhance the environment.

**Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal** Landscape character is defined as 'a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse'. Put simply, landscape character is that which makes an area unique. Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is an approach to understanding the differences

between landscapes, and can serve as a framework for decision-making that respects local distinctiveness. It is a way of 'unpacking' the landscape and understanding how its distinctive elements contribute to sense of place.

**LAPS** Local Area for Play

**LEAPS** Local Equipped Area for Play

**Local Area Agreements** Local Area Agreements (LAAs) set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership) and other key partners at the local level. LAAs simplify some central funding, help join up public services more effectively and allow greater flexibility for local solutions to local circumstances.

**Local Development Framework** The document which will supersede the council's Local Plan to guide development considerations in the district

**Local Wildlife Sites** formally Site of Nature Conservation Interest, not a statutory declaration

**Multifunctional open space** green spaces which provide more than one service for

example a park providing a formal area, an area for wildlife and a safe transport route

**Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006** (section 40) states 'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'

**National Indicator 197** One of 198 national indicators, which the council reports on to central government. This is the first and only national biodiversity indicator, which is based on the number of locally important Local Wildlife Sites in positive conservation management. It has also been chosen by the Kent Agreement 2 partnership as one of several optional indicators.

**National Nature Reserves** the highest level of conservation protection in UK law. Habitats are deemed to be the best example of their type for example Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve

**Natural and Semi-Natural Space** Has a public value including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running

water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (eg cliffs, quarries and pits).

**National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF)** is the national planning policy guidance issued by Central Government, which has replaced Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) and Planning Policy Statements (PPS).

**National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)** is a web-based resource National Planning Practice Guidance launched in March 2014, which brings together, condenses and represents all planning practice guidance. It is linked to the National Planning Policy Framework, in a new usable and accessible format available entirely online.

**NEAPS** Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play

**NEK** Natural East Kent

**Open Spaces** defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land which is a disused burial ground. All open space of public value should include not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs, which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.

**Parish Council** is the first tier of local government, parish councils are statutory bodies. Members are elected for 4 years, parish councils are funded by an annual precept but may apply to funding bodies or other institutions for funding.

**Park** a defined and usually, but not always enclosed, area of land set aside for leisure and recreation, and usually subject to formal landscape and management regimes. Country Parks can be included in this category.

**Performance Indicators** a way of measuring the success of a project or programme by considering what is happening in reality over a set period of time with a desirable target decided at the outset of the project or programme

**Planning Policy Statements (PPS)** are central government produced guidance documents that describe how local authorities and other public bodies must make statutory provisions and create policies to determine local development and land use

**Play Provider Network** A network of play providers and services in the Canterbury area.

**Play value** the social and physical, educational and developmental benefits of playing with an item of play equipment

**Playing Pitch Strategy** a strategy to assess playing pitch use and provision in the Canterbury District

**Primary Care Trust** the provider and commissioning body of healthcare within the National Health Service (NHS)

**Provision Standards** local agreed quantity standards for each type of open space.

**Public Realm** Publicly owned streets, pedestrian areas, rights-of-ways, parks and other publicly accessible open spaces, and public and civic buildings and facilities.

**Public Right of Way** public rights of way consist of footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic and restricted byways

**Quality** Can be defined as meeting and exceeding customer expectations in a learning environment. There are many tools to measure this, currently CABE advocate "Towards and excellent Service" (TAES)

**Section 106 Agreement** the agreement a developer enters into with a local authority to provide either facilities or funds to provide

facilities to improve services resulting from an increased demand from the development e.g. a new school or road. The s.106 agreement also relates to facilities within the development for example play areas and landscaping

**SMART** Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic Timely

**SNAAP** Special Needs Advisory and Activities Project, a group that offers family support for children with special needs and also provides advisory information on the DDA act (Disability Discrimination Act).

**Special Areas of Conservation** are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended). The listed habitat types and species are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Of the Annex I habitat types, 78 are believed to occur in the UK. Of the Annex II species, 43 are native to, and normally resident in, the UK.



**Special Landscape Area** is a non-statutory conservation designation used by local government in some parts of the United Kingdom to categorise sensitive landscapes which are, either legally or as a matter of policy, protected from development or other man-made influences

**Sport England** creates opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to play sport in every community. Sport England is the brand name for the English Sports Council and is a non-departmental public body under the Department for Culture, Media and Sport known as the DCM and S. Its role is to build the foundations of a world-class community sport system by working with national governing bodies of sport, and other funded partners, to grow the number of people doing sport; sustain participation levels; and help more talented people from all backgrounds excel by identifying them early, nurturing them, and helping them move up to the elite level. Sport England has two statutory functions: (1) a lottery distributor for sport; and (2) the protection of playing fields, through its role as a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect playing fields

**SSSI** Site of Special Scientific Interest

**STP** Synthetic Turf Pitch

**Student Impact Assessment** a study carried out by Canterbury City Council to assess the impact of students on services required in the city.

**Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** adds further detail to the policies included in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design.

**Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)** non-statutory guidance that is used to inform existing policies

**Thresholds** a measure relating to a specific unit used to assess provision of facilities i.e. play areas

**Towards Excellent Service** [www.cabe.org.uk/public-space/parks/taes](http://www.cabe.org.uk/public-space/parks/taes)

TAES has been developed and adopted by the parks and open spaces, sport and recreation and wider cultural services industries to underpin continuous improvement. It supports organisations and partnerships to carry out cyclical self-assessment and to plan and implement improvements as part of service planning. This helps the organisations and partnerships to improve all aspects of the way

they work in a sustainable way, leading to improved results.

**Tree Protection Orders** A tree preservation order (TPO) is an order made by a local planning authority ('LPA') in respect of trees or woodlands. The principal effect of a TPO is to prohibit the:

- (1) cutting down,
- (2) uprooting,
- (3) topping,
- (4) lopping,
- (5) wilful damage, or
- (6) wilful destruction

of trees without the LPA's consent. The cutting of roots, although not expressly covered, is potentially damaging and so, in the Secretary of State's view, requires the LPA's consent.

**Typologies** the types of Open Space described by Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) for example semi-natural areas or amenity open space

**UK statute laws** created by parliament in the form of legislation, and forms the basis of primary legislation in the UK, to which all other legislation defers.

**Value** the measure of worth to people of parks and open spaces assets, including the financial, social-spiritual, economic, scientific, and intrinsic. All local authorities will, eventually, need to prepare to move from historic cost accounting to recording and valuing their park assets. The government is introducing an accounting methodology called whole of government accounts across the public sector.

**Ward** the Canterbury District is split up into wards, these are distinct areas following administrative boundaries, each ward has a representative elected Councillor(s).

**Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** protects birds and a number of other animal and plant species, and the prevention of the introduction of non-native species. (As amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act).

**World Heritage Site** sites that are designated by UNESCO as globally important for their heritage value for example Canterbury Cathedral and precincts.



