



Draft Open Space Strategy for the Canterbury District 2014 to 2019

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Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Achievements.....	1
3.	Vision, aims and strategic objectives	4
4.	District summary	6
5.	Updates for 2014	8
6.	Current issues	10
7.	Canterbury public open space standards	11
8.	Audit, mapping and gap analysis	13
9.	Canterbury best practice	14
10.	Priority lists	15
11.	Performance Indicators, Action Plan, Monitor and Review	17
	Acknowledgements.....	18

Appendices

1	Summary of consultation
2	Desk top review of legislation and links to other strategies
3	Amenity open space statement
4	Allotments statement
5	Beaches statement
6	Cemeteries statement
7	Civic space statement
8	Equipped play areas (playgrounds) statement

- 9 Green corridors statement
- 10 Parks and Gardens statement
- 11 Outdoor sports pitches statement
- 12 Semi natural open space statement
- 13 Public open space in new housing development best practice
- 14 Amenity open space priority list
- 15 Allotments priority list
- 16 Cemeteries priority list
- 17 Civic space priority list
- 18 Equipped play areas (playgrounds) priority list
- 19 Green corridors priority list
- 20 Parks and Gardens priority list
- 21 Outdoor sports pitches priority list
- 22 Semi natural open space priority list
- 23 Canterbury – combined summary of priority lists
- 24 Herne Bay – combined summary of priority lists
- 25 Whitstable – combined summary of priority lists
- 26 Action plan
- 27 Open spaces assessment criteria
- 28 Allotment Law – a plain English summary

Glossary

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 (2012) 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 It continues to emphasize the importance of Public Open Space “Public spaces are available for everyone to see, use, enjoy, and have free and legal access to (e.g. streets, squares and parks). They help bring neighborhoods together, and provide access, light, air and the setting for neighbouring buildings.
- 1.4 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.”
- 1.5 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. 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.
- 1.6 The Open Space Strategy is based on community engagement, this includes consultation and participation in helping draft the strategy, summarised in **appendix 1**

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

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 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.

Promotion:

2.6 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, draft Local Plan, draft Transport Strategy, emerging Green Infrastructure Plan and Environment Strategy 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
- 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 new planning protection designation has been introduced, “Local Green Space”, Policy OS1. The criteria for Local Green space designation is set out in paragraph 11.15 and 11.16 of the draft Local Plan.
- 3.10 Playing Fields are protected under draft Local Plan Policy OS2.
- 3.11 Open spaces in urban areas are protected by Protection of Existing Open Space, Policy OS9.
- 3.12 The draft Local Plan includes a Policy OS10, protection against the loss of open space.
- 3.13 A new planning policy is draft Planning Policy OS11, which aims to ensure that new provision of open space and play areas in new residential developments are provided and protected for the future.
- 3.14 In addition beaches and the coastline in rural areas can also be protected under the draft Local Plan Landscape and Biodiversity Policy LB3.
- 3.15 For further information on the protection of open space please read Chapters 10 and 11 of the draft Local Plan.
- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 **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.
- 3.18 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.
- 3.19 **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.

- 3.20 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

- 3.21 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 two 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 – 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 is highly valued by local people as a large parcel of semi natural open space on the urban fringe of Whitstable.
- 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.

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). **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

- 4.12 The **draft 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 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.

5. Updates for 2014

- 5.1 This refresh of the Open Space Strategy in 2014 has included 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 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 draft 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 along 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 enhancements 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 is being developed. This will indicate:

- 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 will be an appendix to the Open Spaces Strategy. It is currently being reviewed.

Kingsmead Field

- 6.7 The majority of Kingsmead Field has been designated Protection of Existing Open Space, Policy OS1 in the draft Local plan. The same area is allocated as amenity public open space in the Open Space Strategy. We are liaising with local community groups to develop a joint management plan. At the time of writing an outstanding Town and Village Green application is awaiting a decision.

Local plan

- 6.8 The draft Local Plan is progressing in 2014; Landscape Biodiversity and chapter 10 the Open Space chapter 11 are key elements of the draft 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 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
Parks and Gardens	Including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens.	2,000 metres	CABE guidance and consultation	0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m ² / person)

Typology	Definition	Agreed thresholds	Justification of threshold	Local Standard
Green corridors	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 (13 –17 m ² / person)
Amenity green space	Including informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing.	1,000 metres	ANGST and consultation results	1.3 –1.7 hectares per 1,000 people (13 –17 m ² / person)
Fixed Play areas	<i>Fields in Trust have refined these areas to:</i>			0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m ² / person)
LAPs Facilities targeted at 0 to 5 year olds	Local Area of play space (LAP) – no equipment	100 metres /up to 1 minutes' walk	Based on FIT guidance and consultation results	Part of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m ² / person)
LEAPS Facilities targeted at 5 to 12 year olds	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	400 metres /up to 5 minutes' walk	Based on FIT guidance and consultation results	Part of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 people (3m ² / person)
NEAPS 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 ² / person)
Destination play facilities targeted at 0 to 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 ² / person)
Semi natural and natural open space	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 ² / person)

Typology	Definition	Agreed thresholds	Justification of threshold	Local Standard
Outdoor sports pitches	Including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses athletics tracks school and institutional playing fields and other outdoor sports areas.	1,000 metres	Based on FIT guidance and consultation results	0.87 hectares per 1,000 people (9m ² / person)
Allotments	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 ² per household.
Civic Space	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 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

www.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, Bossingham, and Lower Hardres in the rural areas plus Barton, Harbour and Reculver Wards
- **Outdoor sports pitches** – Canterbury (one adult, four junior football and one rugby), Herne Bay (four junior football) and Whitstable (four junior football)
- **Allotments** – Herne Bay and Whitstable

8.4 It has been recognised that the gaps in provision will be challenging to resolve.

8.5 In addition we have a link with the Kent County Council website for the map of 'Rights of Way'.

www.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 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 300 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.

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**
- 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**

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.

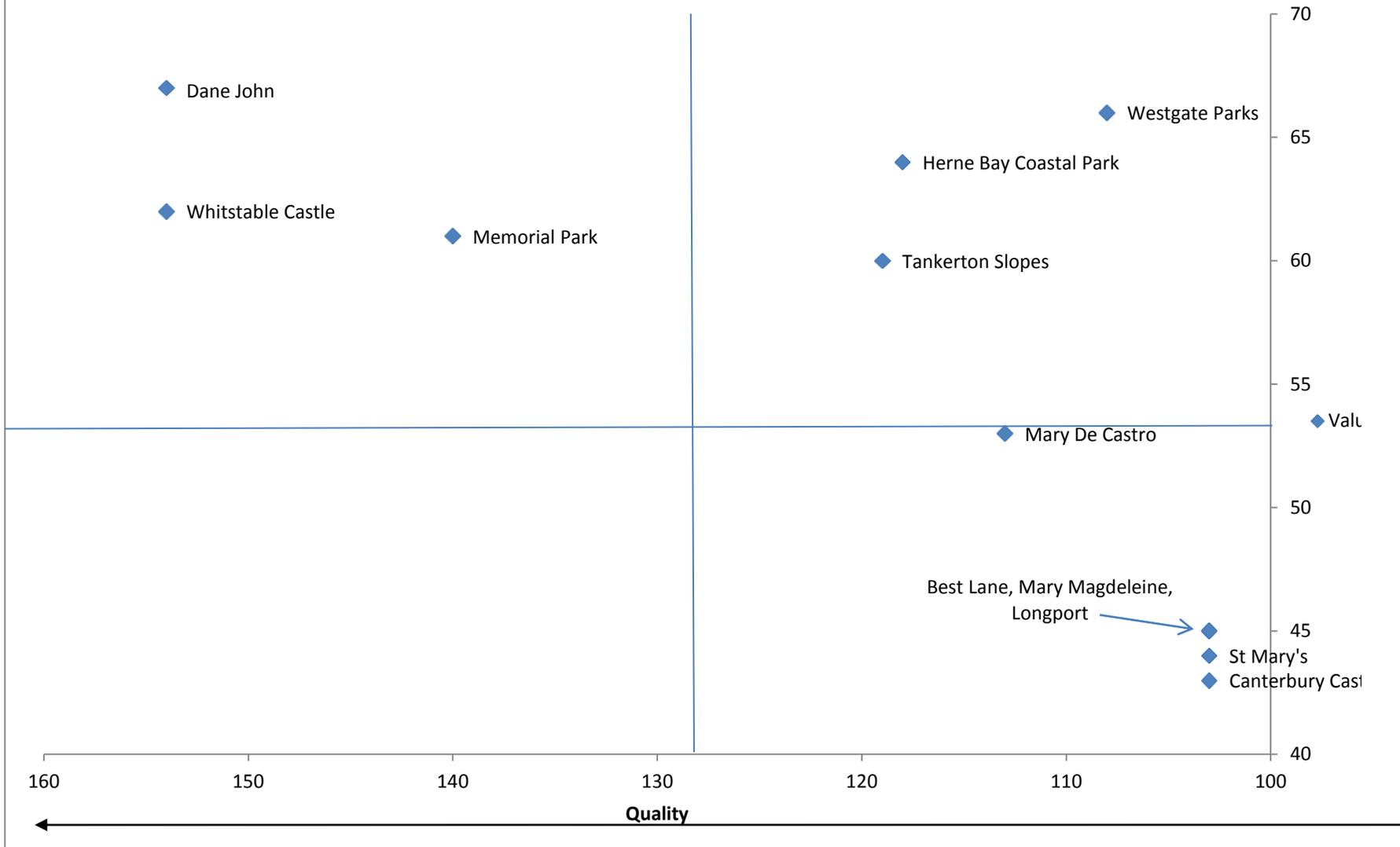
The assessment criteria is attached in **appendix 27**

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 high quality
- Low public value and low quality

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

Parks and Gardens Quality and Values Matrix



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 3 Green Flags / In Bloom equivalent in urban and countryside open space	Transport and Environment	Annually	3	3
OSS 3	Retain 3 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

No	Local Indicator	Lead	Reporting	Targets	Baseline 2014 figures
OSS 5	Develop 1 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	-
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 2019	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 is updated every six months, the aim is to review the Open Space Strategy in five year times.

Acknowledgements

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