

Chichester District Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2017)



Community and Stakeholder Consultation FINAL

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Meaning
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Green Space Standard
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ATP	Artificial Turf Pitch
BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Area
CDC	Chichester District Council
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
EA	Environment Agency
FLOW	Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands
GI	Green Infrastructure
GLAM	Green Links across the Manhood
EHDC	East Hampshire District Council
GIIA	Green Infrastructure Investment Areas
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
LAF	Local Access Forum
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MPP	Manhood Peninsula Partnership
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NCMP	National Child Measurement Programme
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PC/TC	Parish Council/Town Council
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PROW	Public Rights of Way
RA	Ramblers Association
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SDNPA	South Downs National Park Authority
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WAST	Woodland Access Standard
WSCC	West Sussex County Council

Acknowledgments

Many individuals, groups and organisations have provided information, views and support in preparing this study. Input from these stakeholders is fundamental to the report, and provides the basis for the evidence in supporting the standards, options and recommendations in relation to open space, sport and recreation facilities. The study has been carried out by Ethos Environmental Planning in conjunction with associates Leisure and the Environment and RQA Leisure Management Consultancy.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is one of four reports provided within the overall *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study 2017*. It is a supporting document to the three main reports: The Open Spaces Study, the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and the Built Facilities study. It provides consultation findings from various stakeholders and feeds into other aspects of the study as explained below.

1.1 Study Overview

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to set out policies to help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation. These policies need to be based on a thorough understanding of local needs for such facilities and opportunities available for new provision.

In view of the above, in 2017 Chichester District Council appointed Ethos Environmental Planning to undertake an Open Space, Sport Facility, and Recreation Study (including indoor recreation) and a related Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The work involves reviewing and building upon the previous Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study published in 2013, and the previous Playing Pitch Strategy published in 2004.

The study includes a comprehensive appraisal of open space, sports pitches and indoor and outdoor sports in the area covered by the Local Plan (i.e. excluding the area within the South Downs National Park).

In summary the key outcomes anticipated from the study and associated strategies are to:

- Inform the Chichester Local Plan Review
- Increase participation in recreational activities
- Support community groups and others to access external funding

In order to meet this brief Ethos are providing:

- An Open Spaces audit and assessment¹
- A Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPS)
- A Built Facilities audit and assessment

As such the overall framework of the study will comprise of three main reports drawing upon an evidence base comprised of:

- Consultation and engagement with all relevant key stakeholders, agencies and organisations as well as the wider community and general public.
- A detailed audit of all facilities within the scope of the study.
- Analysis and assessment of the adequacy of current and future facility provision based on recommended methodologies such as Sport England's "Assessing Needs and Opportunities" national planning guidance and Playing Pitch Strategy guidance.

¹ Including play space and natural green space/recreation

1.2 The Community and Stakeholder Needs Assessment

This report makes a cross-cutting contribution to the overall study in providing evidence that will be used in all three of the main study reports². It primarily relates to the Open Spaces Study but relevant findings and information will also be carried forward in the PPS and Built Facilities Study.

In the three main reports the consultation findings will be combined with other evidence, findings and assessments such as that completed in the audit, mapping and analysis process.

Undertaking comprehensive consultation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders and the wider community is an essential part of the overall process. It is an expectation of the National Planning Policy Framework and is needed to ensure that the study is robust in relation to recommended national guidance such as that recommended by Sport England.

The report examines local need for a wide range of different kinds of open space, sport, and recreation facilities. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques including a review of consultation findings from relevant play, sports, leisure and open space studies. It outlines the community consultation and research process that has been undertaken as part of the study as well as the main findings.

The report is made up of 4 main sections:

- General community consultation
- Neighbouring local authorities; and town and parish councils
- Parks, green spaces, countryside, and rights of way
- Play and youth facilities

Each section provides additional detail on the consultation process relevant to that section and at the end of each section there is a short summary of the key findings.

The consultation and research programme was undertaken from June to September 2017. The extent of the research reflects the breadth and diversity of the study and a consequent need to engage with as wide a cross section of the community and stakeholders as possible³.

In summary, questionnaire surveys were undertaken as below:

- A general household survey (online)
- A survey of town and parish councils
- Local groups and organisations' surveys

In addition to the above a number of one to one stakeholder interviews/surveys were undertaken.

The result of this consultation and other analyses will help amongst other things to inform the content of the recommended local standards as appropriate. This will be explained further in the three main reports.

The consultation report also helps the study to understand stakeholder and local people's appreciation of open space, sport and recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure and the values attached by

² Additional consultation has also been undertaken in relation to pitch sports and indoor facilities as advised in Sport England guidance. These additional findings will be included in the main reports as appropriate.

³ It should be noted that this report provides consultation evidence in the form of the observations and views/opinions sourced from many different organisations, individuals and studies. On occasion the views and observations expressed by individuals and groups may not be consistent with each other, nor are such individual contributions necessarily accurate or up to date.

the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities. This appreciation will have clear implications for the way in which open space, sport and recreation facilities are considered as part of plan making as well as in dealing with planning applications.

2.0 GENERAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This section provides consultation findings that covered all aspects of open space, sport and recreation facility provision. It provides a useful overview across all these aspects rather than simply from groups and organisations with specific interests in just one aspect of open space, sport and outdoor recreation. This contrasts, for example, with the other sections of the report which supply findings from individuals, groups and organisations with specific interests in individual elements of open space, sport and recreation.

The section also includes engagement with public health stakeholders who have an interest running across all aspects of recreation facility provision, whatever activity that may be (in relation to encouraging an increase in physical activity - with associated health benefits).

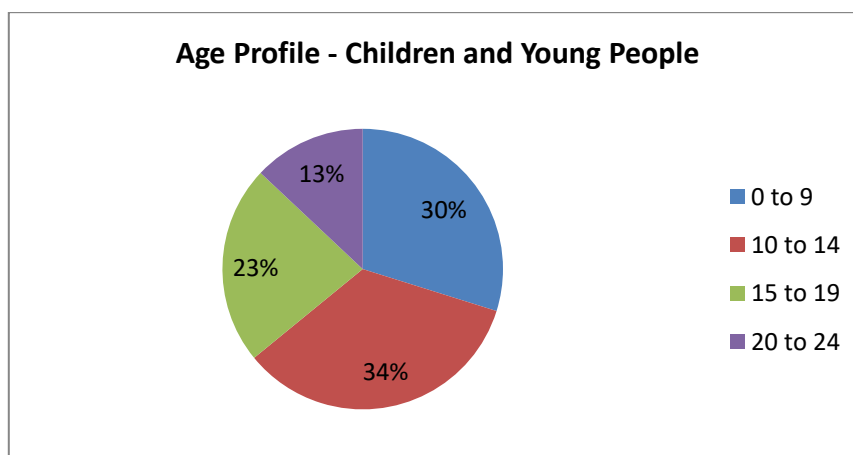
2.1 Residents Household Survey

2.1.1 Introduction

The Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study needs to secure a general understanding of how residents of Chichester District currently make use of the various kinds of open space, sport and recreation facilities; in particular whether they think there are enough of such facilities; what they think of the quality of those facilities; how accessible they are; and what kind of facilities they think are priorities for future development and improvement. A useful way of securing this general overview is to secure responses from a broad cross section of Chichester District households.

An online questionnaire survey was therefore designed by Ethos and promoted by the District Council Communications Team. Respondents were asked to respond to provide a view on behalf of their household, rather than simply as individuals. 424 surveys were completed. The total number of people represented through the household survey was 1187 and the average household size of the households was 2.8 - higher than the average for England and Wales (2.3) and that of Chichester District (2.2)⁴.

Just over half of the households who responded had children (representing household views on behalf of 362 children and young people) with ages well spread across the age range:



The full questionnaire is included in Appendix 2 and the following provides some of the key findings⁵.

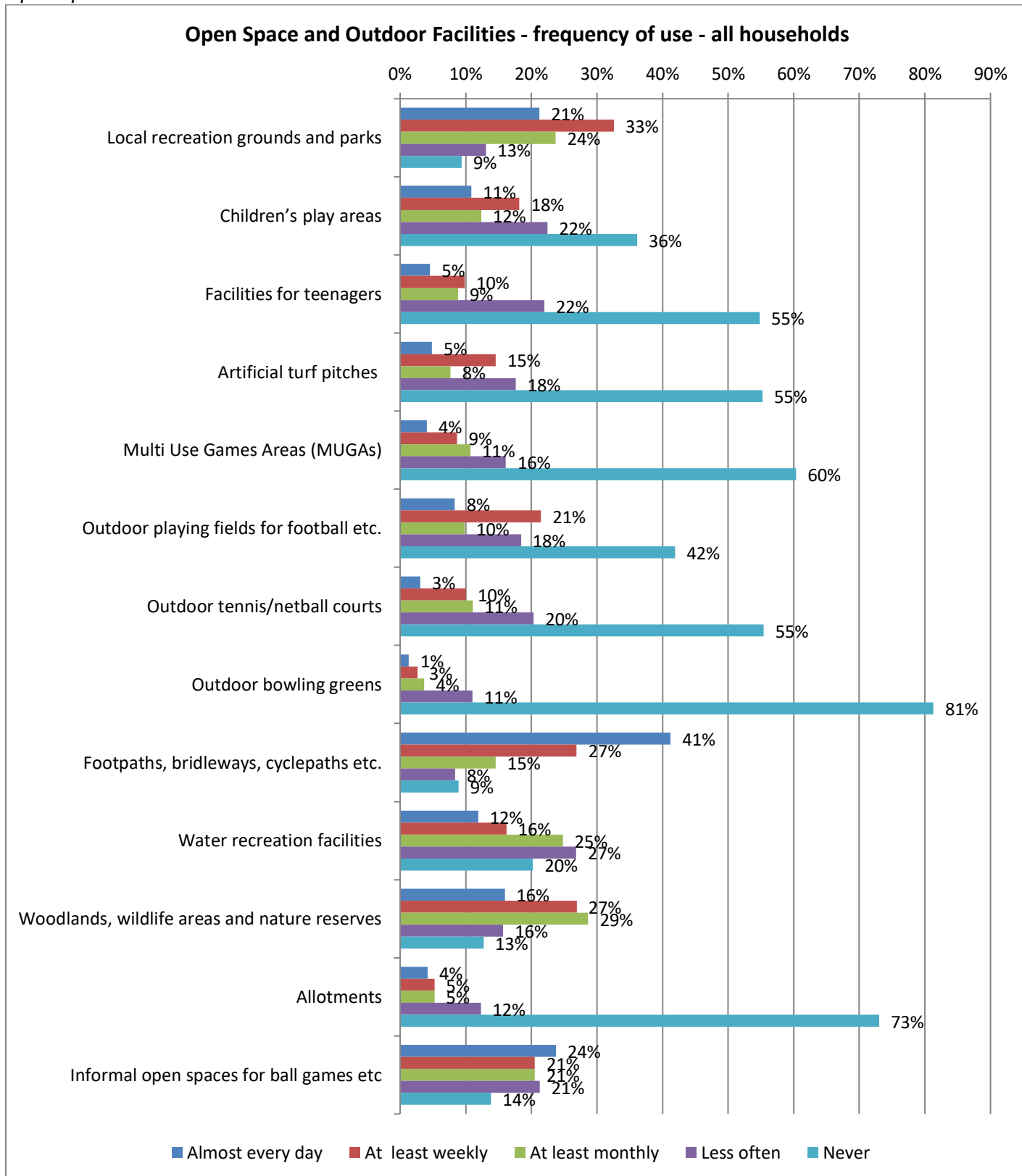
⁴ 2011 Census figures

⁵ The findings are further considered - in detail - in three main reports; along with consideration of regional and national participation frequencies from sources such as Sport England's Active people survey.

2.1.2 Frequency of use – All households

Respondents were asked to state how often they visited or used each of the following types of open space, sport and recreation facilities within the study area. The results are shown on the charts below:

Open Space and Outdoor Facilities



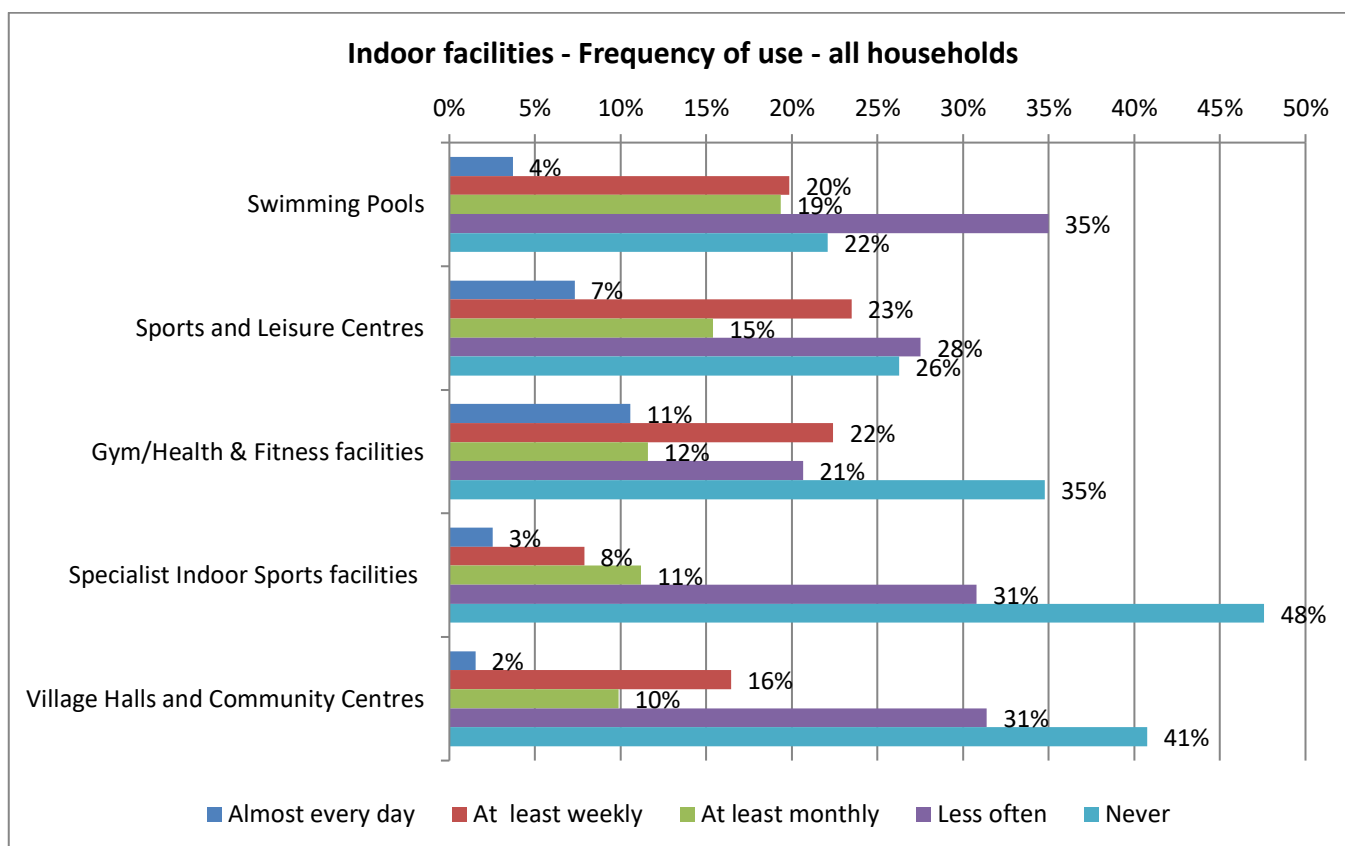
It is the District's footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths that are most commonly used by most households at least monthly (83%); followed by local parks and recreation grounds (78%); and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (72%). Rights of way and parks are also by far the most frequently used facility on both

a weekly and daily basis: 68% use rights of way at least weekly (of which 41% make use almost every day); and 53% visit parks and recreation grounds at least weekly (21% of which visit almost every day).

45% make use of informal open spaces - for ball games, picnics, hobbies, dog walking etc. at least weekly.

Areas for water recreation, play areas, and playing fields are also fairly frequently used but by fewer households. At least 39% use them on a regular basis - at least monthly (including those who are more regular users).

Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



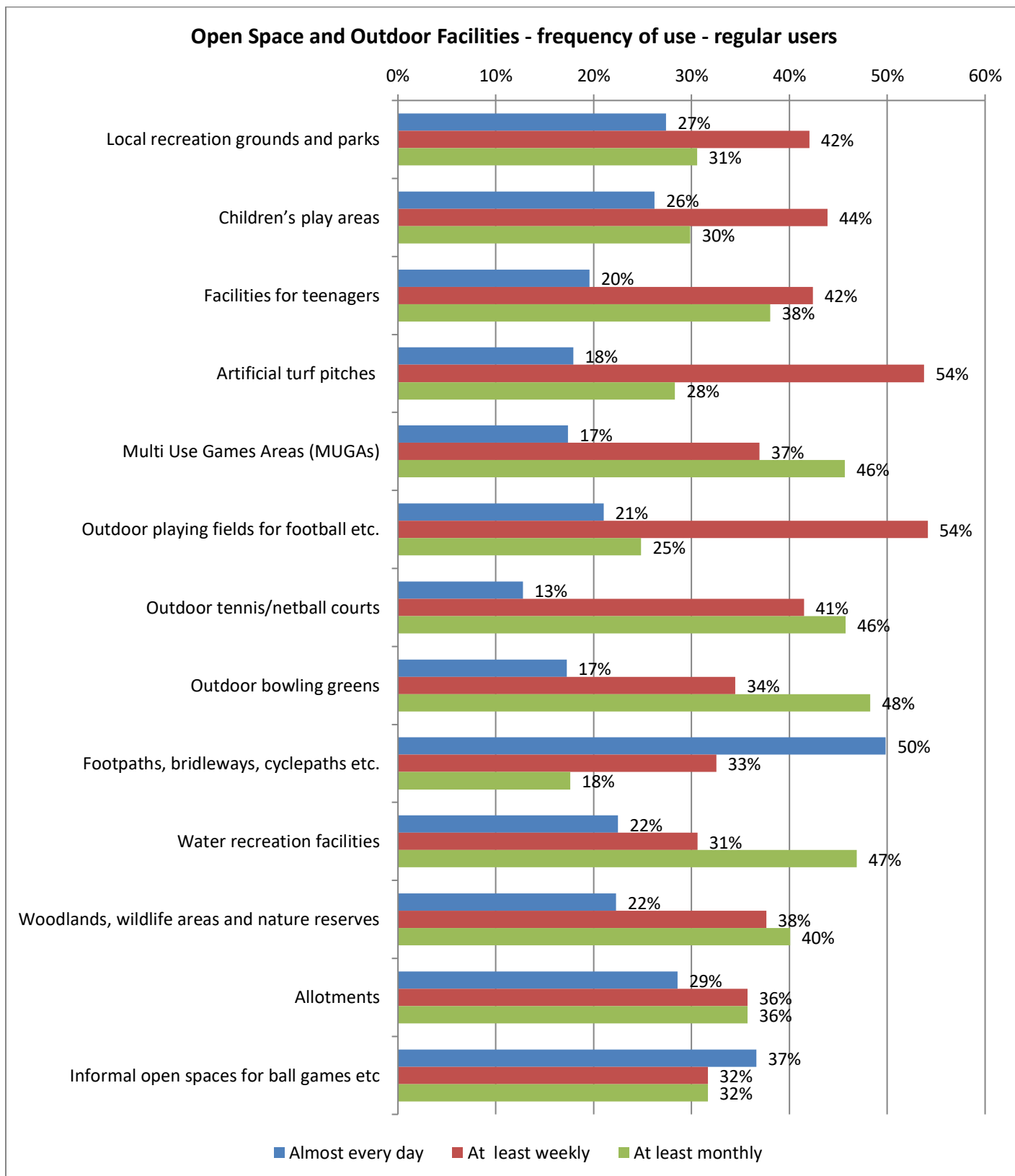
Gym/health and fitness facilities are used regularly by significant numbers (45% of households report using them at least monthly - many more regularly); as are the District's Sport and Leisure Centres (45%). 43% of respondent households make use of swimming pools at least monthly.

Sport/Leisure Centres and gym/health and fitness facilities are also the most frequently used on a weekly and daily basis (At least 30% of households report using them at least weekly – for gym/health and fitness facilities 11% report making use almost every day).

2.1.3 Frequency, regularity and times of use – Regular Users

It is interesting to look at the frequency with which regular users of facilities visit them as for some facilities this is not immediately obvious from looking at the overall figures.

Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

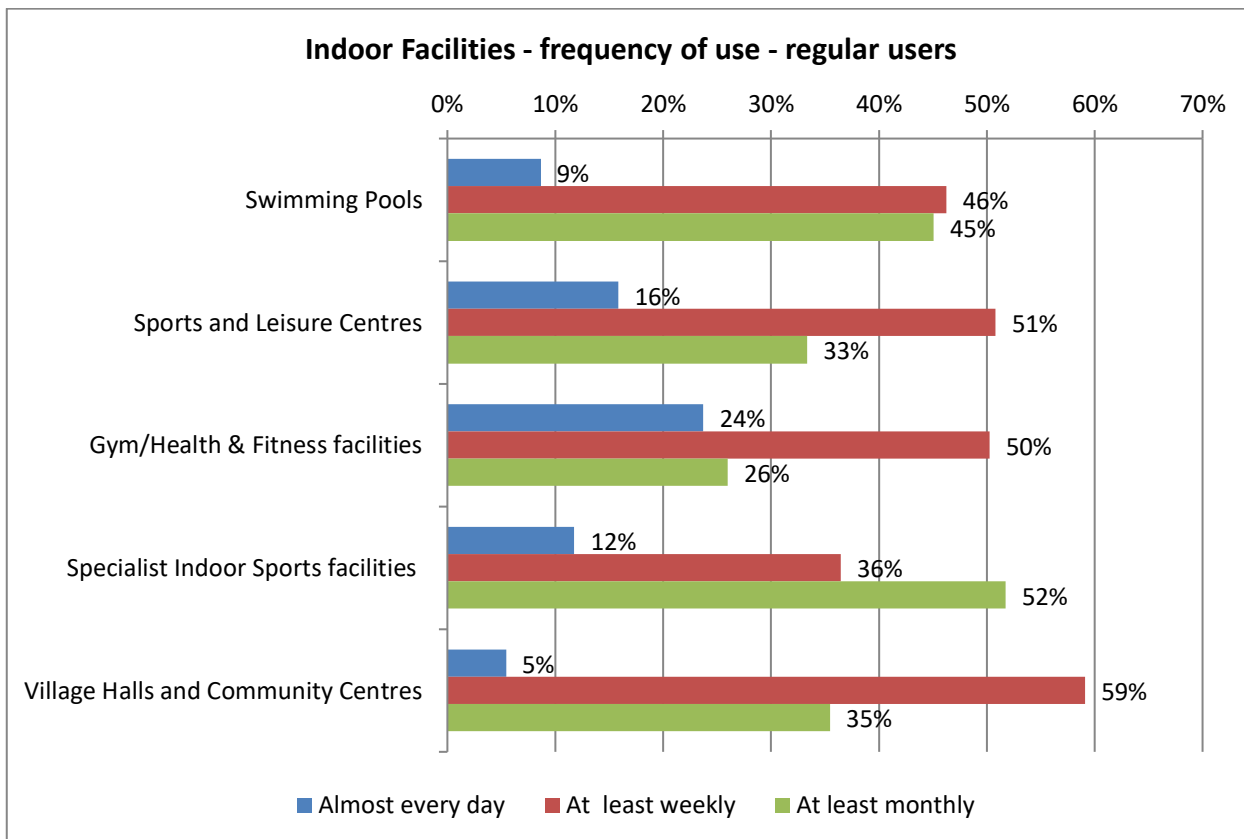


Many users of outdoor sports facilities use them at least weekly (72% for artificial-turf pitches, of which 18% use them nearly every day); 75% for grass pitches (21% nearly daily); and 51% for bowling greens (17% nearly daily).

70% of households using play areas visit at least weekly (of which 26% make use nearly every day).

65% of allotment holders visit their allotment at least weekly (of which 29% visit almost every day).

Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



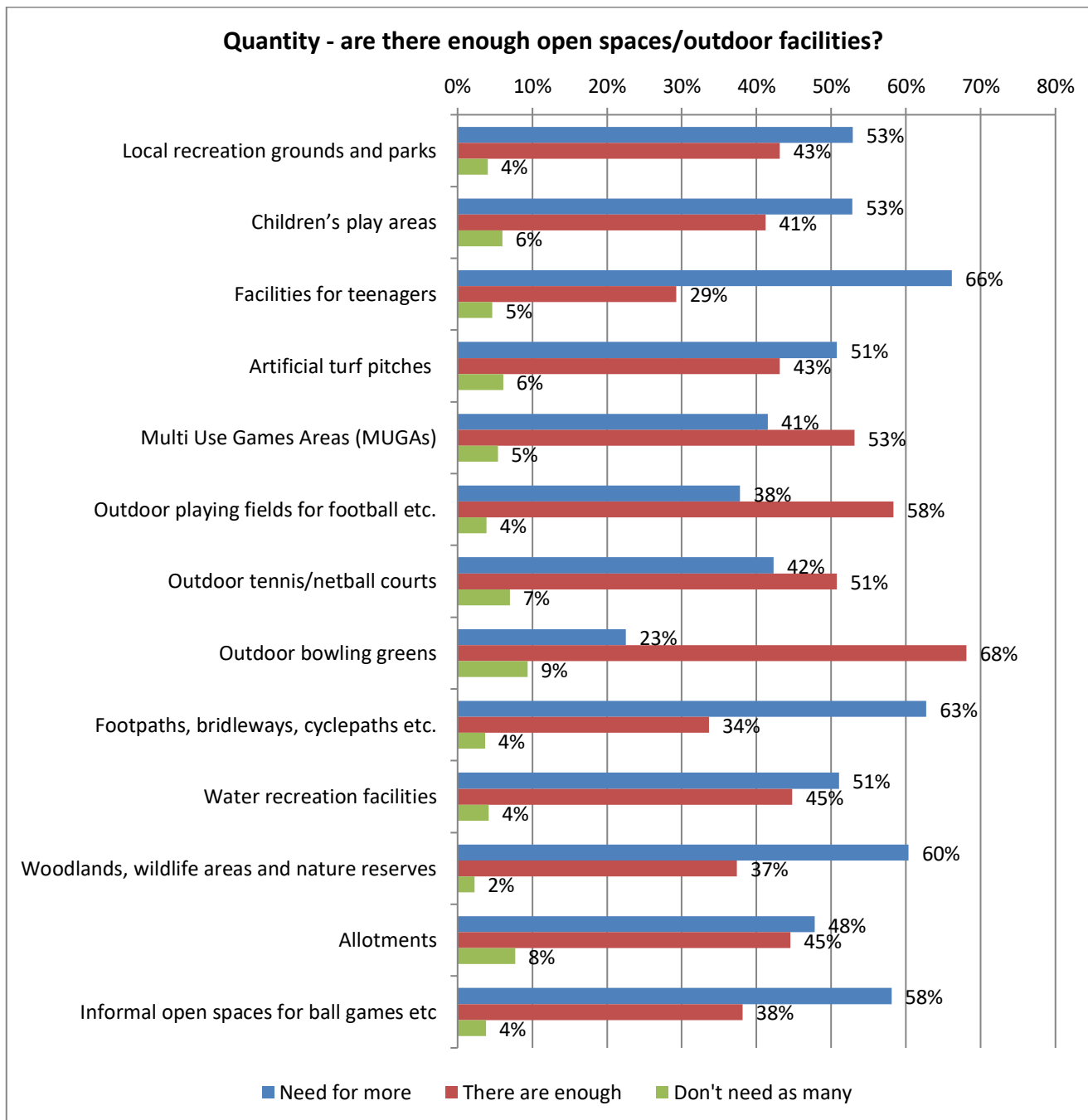
In terms of indoor facilities the most frequently visited by regular users (at least weekly) are the gym/health and fitness facilities (74% use these at least weekly of which 24% make use almost every day).

In addition, 64% use village halls and Community Centres at least weekly (of which 5% use them nearly daily).

2.1.4 Quantity of open space, sport and recreation facilities

Residents were asked if they needed more, the same or fewer of different types of open space and recreational facilities. Findings are illustrated in the chart below and will influence the “quantity” component of local standards as appropriate (this will be explained further in the 3 main reports).

Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

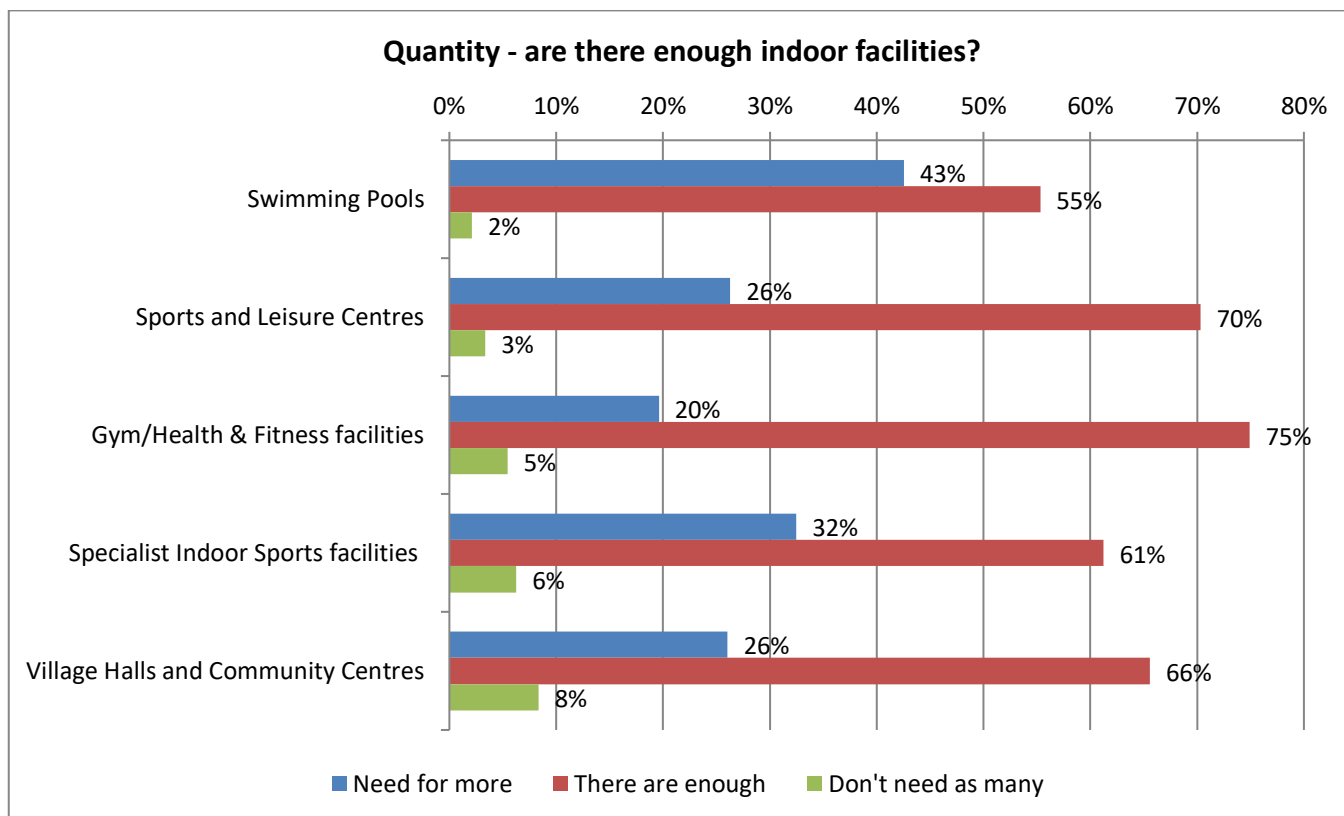


There are a number of open space typologies that respondents suggest there is a general need for more. 60% or more suggest a shortfall of facilities for teenagers (66%); footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths etc (63%); and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (60%).

Following this, other aspects where there was considered to be an overall shortfall by a majority were: informal open spaces (58%); children's play areas (53%); local parks and recreation grounds (53%); water recreation facilities (51%); and artificial turf pitches (51%).

A large majority thought that overall there are enough outdoor bowling greens (77%) of which 9% said that there are more than enough. Clear majorities also think that in general there are enough grass playing fields (62%); MUGAs (58%); and tennis courts (58%)⁶.

Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



A clear majority of households reported that overall there are currently enough of all of the various kinds of indoor sport and leisure facilities; most notably in relation to gym/health and fitness facilities (80%); sports and leisure centres (73%); and village halls/community sports centres (74%).

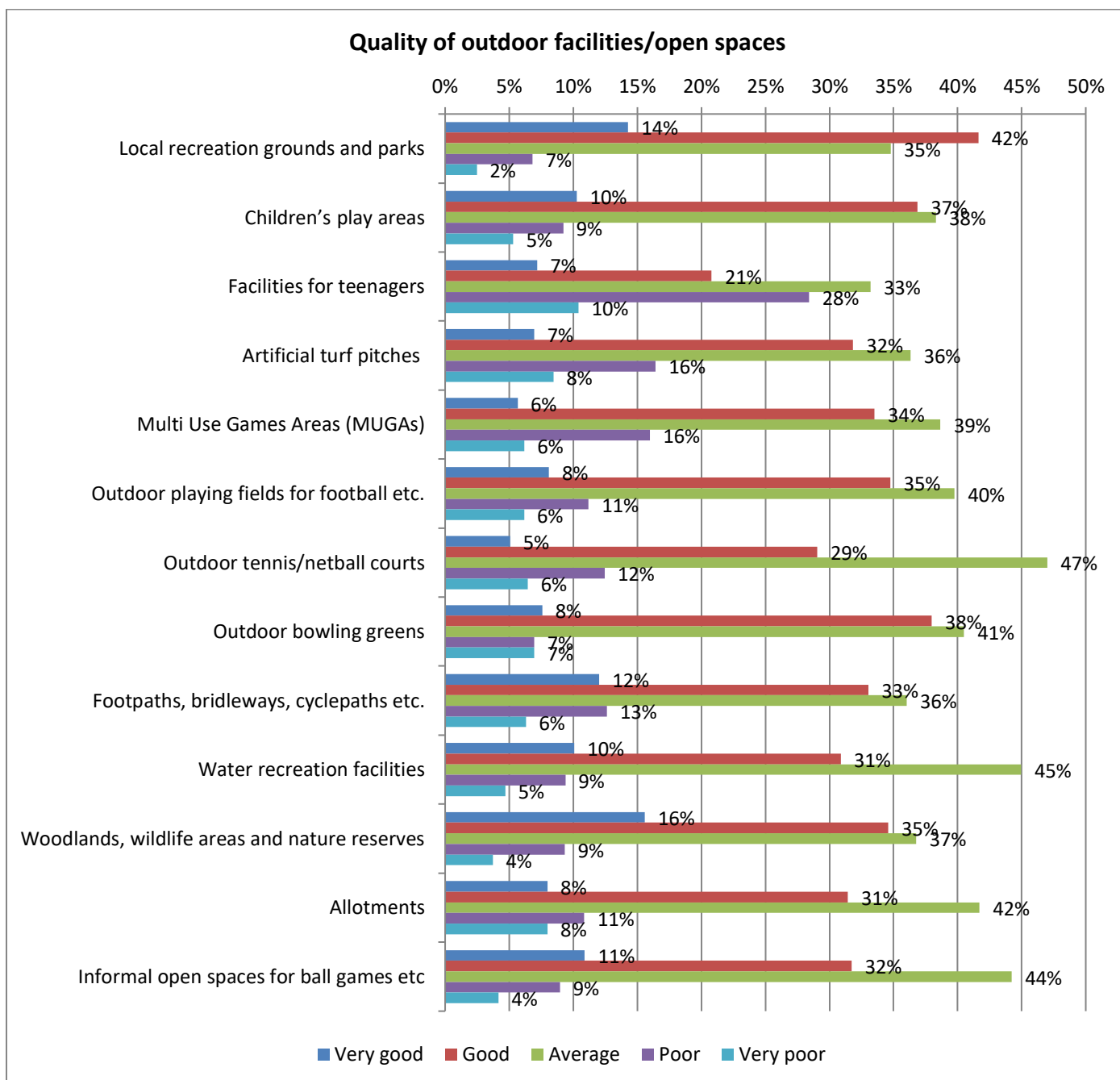
The two kinds of facility where a significant minority of respondent households believe that overall there is a need for more are swimming pools (43%) and specialist indoor sports centres (32%).

⁶ These figures also include households who said that the District doesn't need as many as it already has.

2.1.5 Quality of open space, sport and recreation facilities

Respondents were asked how they rated various types of facilities in the study area in terms of quality. The responses of those expressing an opinion on specific categories of facility are illustrated below:

Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

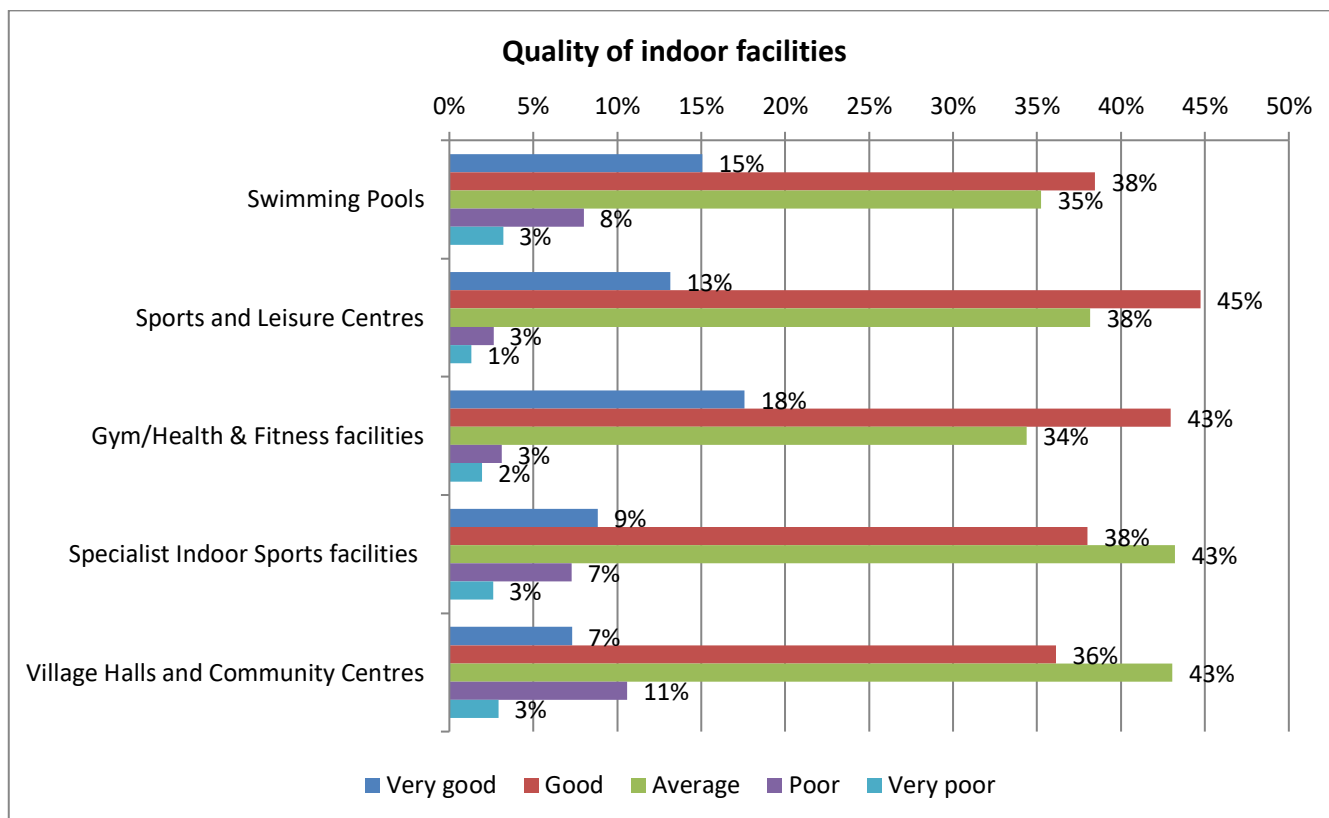


For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of average or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "average"). However, for some typologies there were notable levels of dissatisfaction with general levels of quality as noted below.

38% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor. The quality of MUGAs and artificial turf pitches - was rated as poor or worse by at least 22% of respondents.

In contrast some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated relatively highly in terms of quality. These include: parks and recreation grounds (56% rate quality in general as being good or very good); woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (51% similarly); play areas (47%); and rights of way (45%).

Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



In broad terms respondent households appear quite satisfied with the quality of indoor sports and recreation provision. All are commonly rated as being of average or better quality.

The indoor facilities most commonly regarded as being of good or very good quality are swimming pools (53%); sport and leisure centres (58%); and gym/health and fitness facilities (61%).

The quality of specialist sports centres was not rated quite as highly (47% being rated as good or very good). Similarly for village halls and community centres (43%).

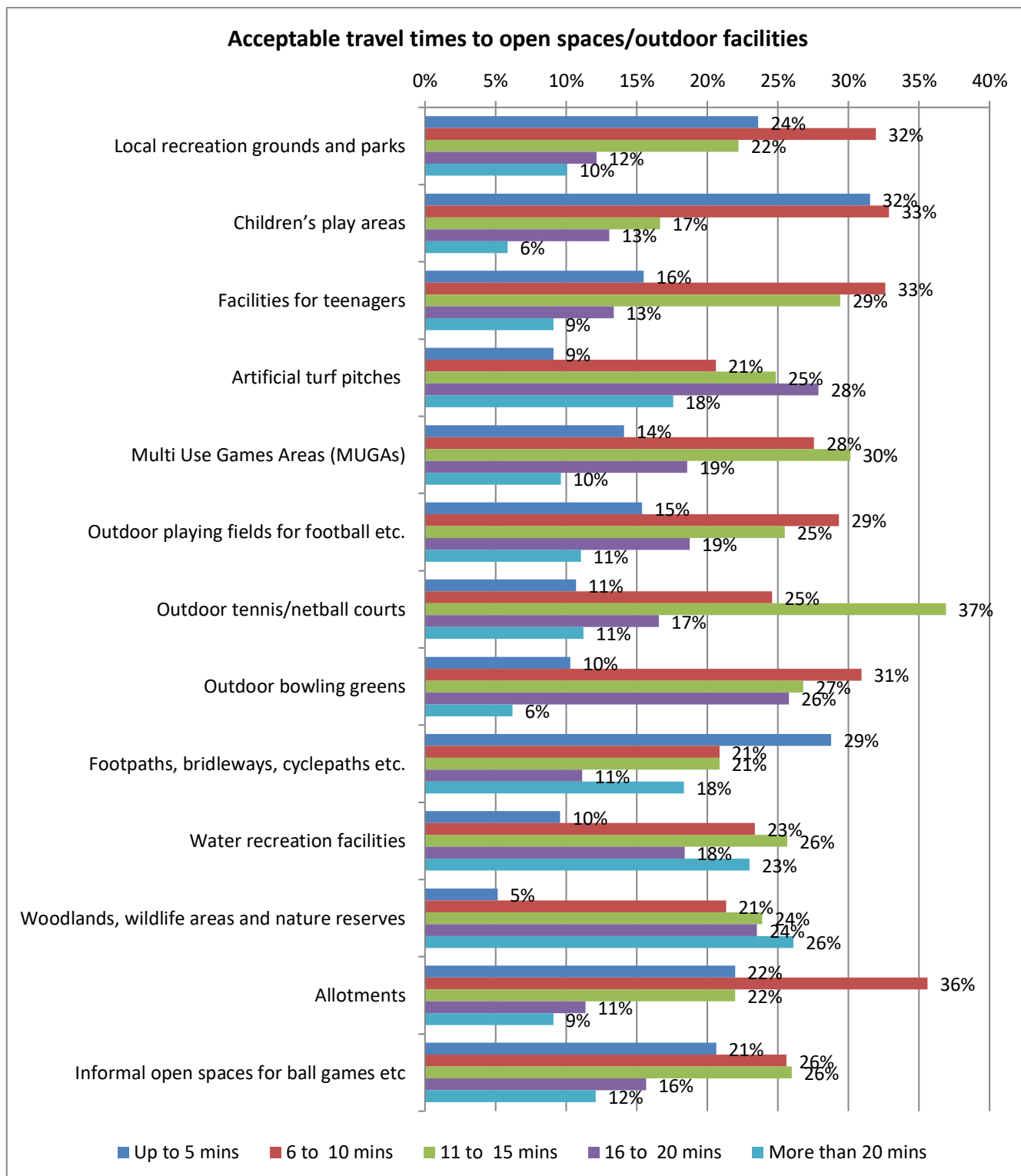
The detailed findings regarding quality will be useful in relation to reviewing the “quality” aspect of local standards.

2.1.6 Access Issues (Geographical)

An important component of this study is to develop and recommend a series of local standards of provision for different types of open space, sport and recreation opportunity. The following provides a means to gauge people’s willingness to travel to use different types of opportunity (which might be by car, foot, bike, public transport etc). Where appropriate, these results will feed into the determination of the “access” element of local standards.

In looking at the travel times in the first set of charts below it should be noted that these do not specify the mode of preferred travel (this is covered by the next set of charts).

Open Space and Outdoor Facilities



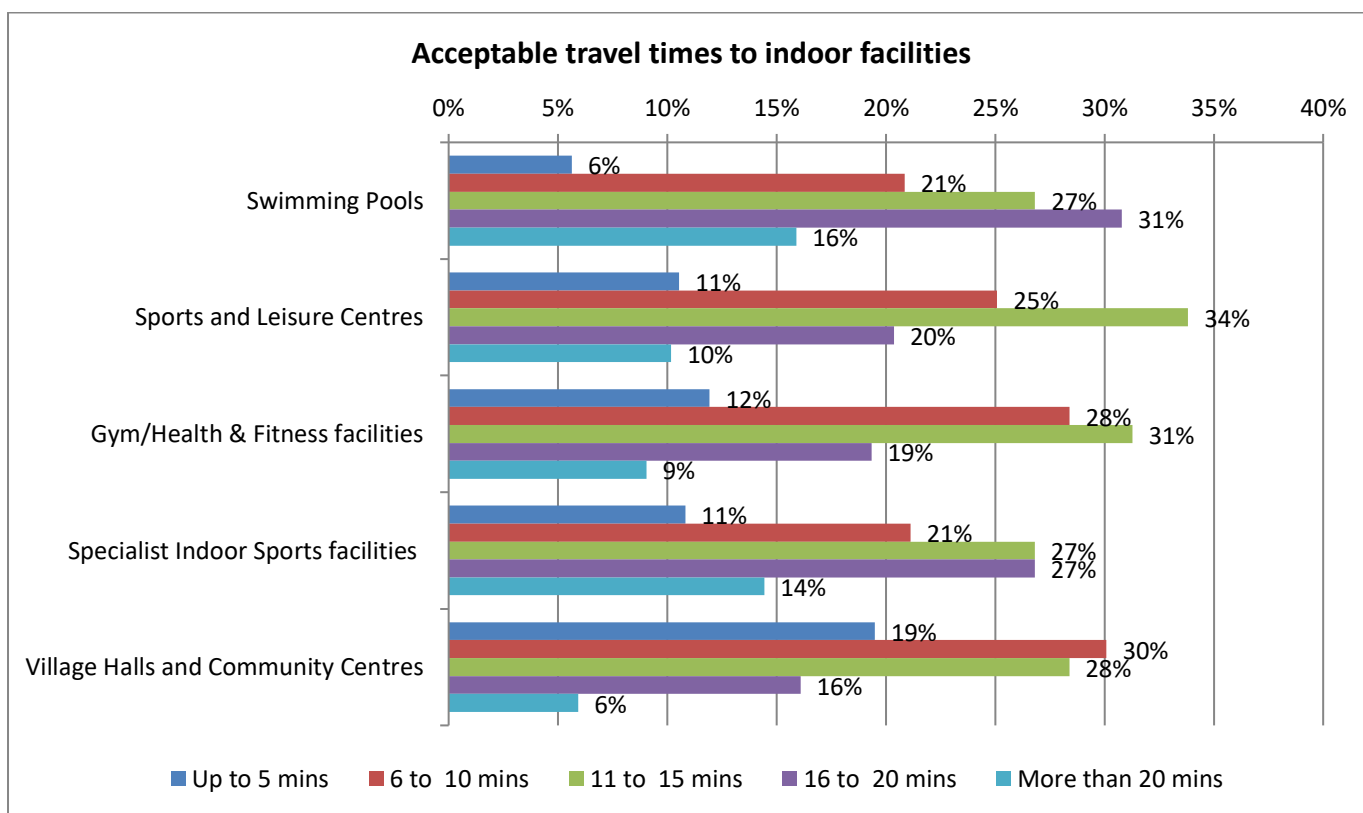
In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.

For example, 50% of user households are prepared to travel 16 minutes or more to visit woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves; 46% of households are prepared to travel that long to make use of use of artificial turf pitches; and 41% to access water recreation facilities;

In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, play areas, parks and recreation grounds, and informal open space areas - for ball games, picnics, hobbies, dog walking etc).

- 65% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 32% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 58% of users would expect allotments to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 22% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 56% of users would expect local parks/recreation grounds to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 24% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



Where households make use of the opportunities identified 74% of respondents are prepared to travel up to 15 minutes to make use of swimming pools; 31% would travel up to 20 minutes and 16% more than 20 minutes.

68% are prepared to travel up to 15 minutes to use specialist indoor sports facilities. 27% of these would travel up to 20 minutes and 14% more than 20 minutes.

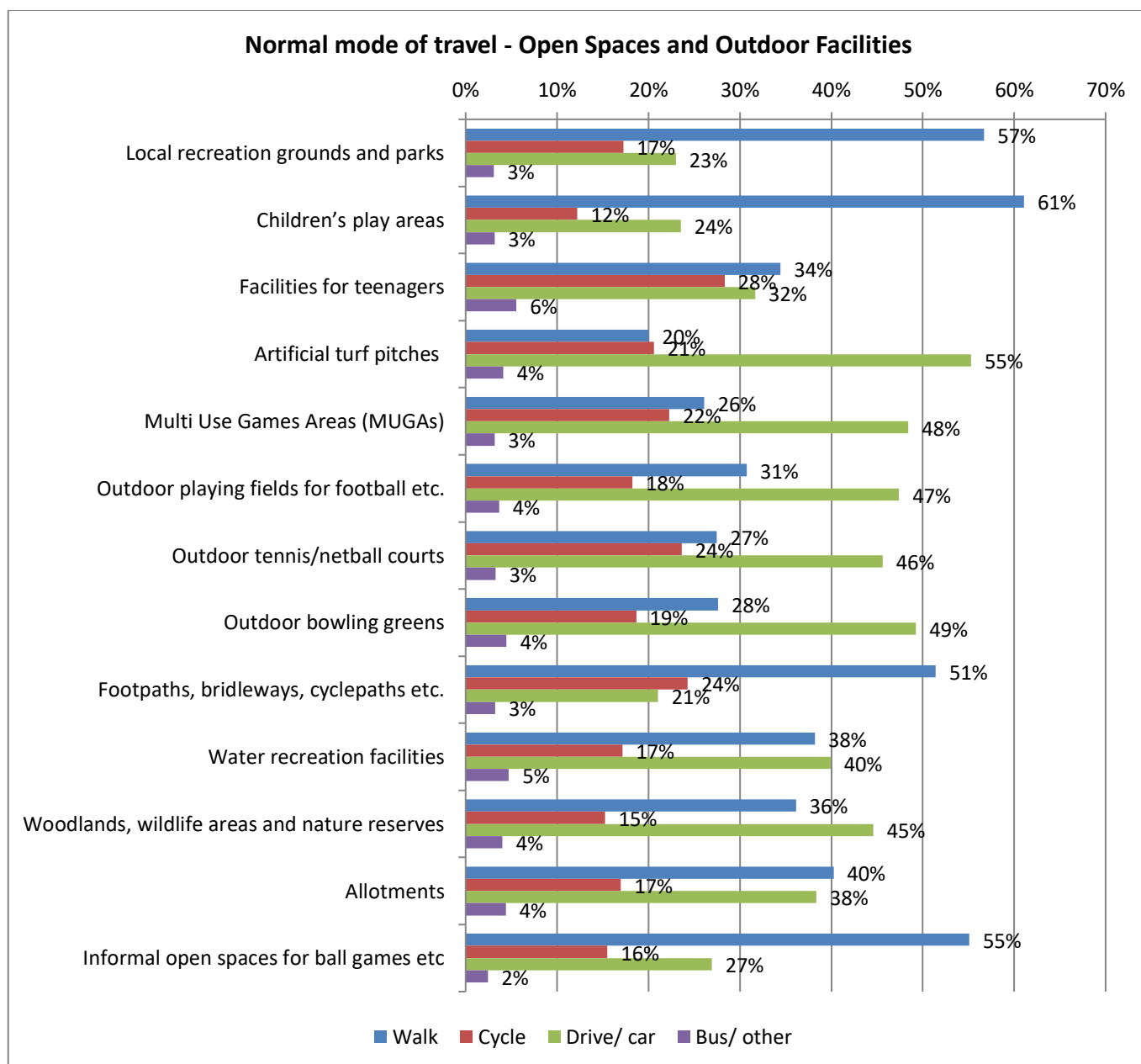
For sports/leisure centres 64% of users are prepared to travel up to 15 minutes to make use of such facilities; 20% would travel up to 20 minutes and 10% more than 20 minutes.

In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, some indoor facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used. For example 49% of users of village halls and community centres would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes, of which 19% would expect to travel 5 minutes or less.

It is clear from the above that for both indoor and outdoor facilities there is great variance in respondents' apparent willingness to spend time travelling to different types of opportunity. In drawing up the "access" element of specific local standards for different kinds of open space/facility it is clearly very important to take careful note of all of these findings (combined with the preferred mode of travel options discussed below).

An accompanying question asked what mode of transport respondents were likely to use to get to such opportunities (where they would use them).

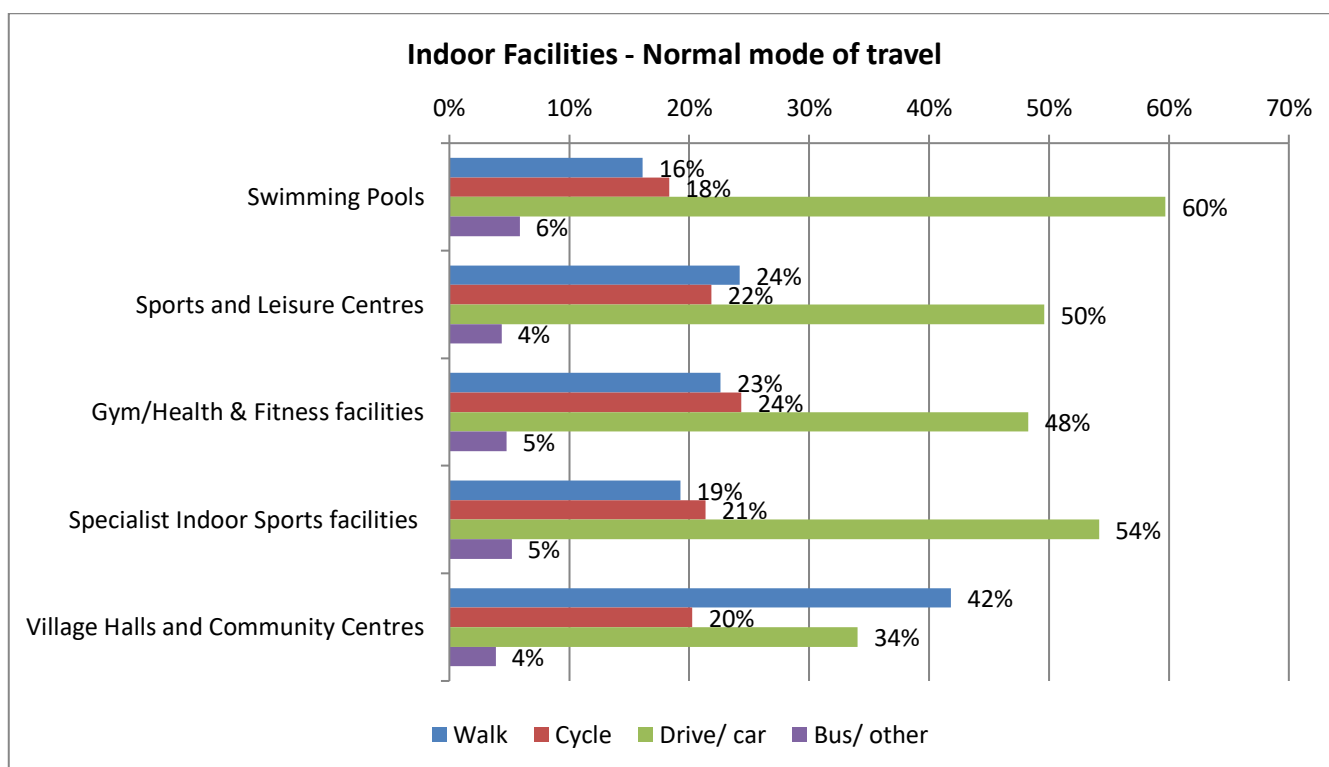
Open Space and Outdoor Facilities



For most typologies walking/cycling is the norm, most notably for facilities such as play areas (73%); footpaths/bridleways and cycle paths (75%); parks and recreation grounds (74%); and informal open spaces (71%).

However, a majority of respondent households would normally drive to artificial turf pitches (55%)

Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



In relation to indoor sports and recreation facilities respondents are more likely than not to drive to all facilities except village halls and community centres; most notably in the cases of swimming pools (60%) and specialist sports facilities (54%).

Walking/cycling is the preferred mode of travel for a clear majority of respondent households accessing village halls and community centres (62%).

For a small but significant minority access by cycling is important. For example, over 20 % prefer to cycle to their local sport/leisure centre, gym, and specialist indoor sports centre. 6% make use of the bus/other transport mode to visit a swimming pool.

It is not of course surprising that in broad terms walking is the predominant mode of travel to facilities such as local parks, children’s play areas, recreation grounds, and other informal recreation areas. In contrast, motorised transport is more common for larger and more specialised facilities such as swimming pools and leisure centres which may be some distance removed from many potential users. It is however of great importance when it comes to drawing up the access element of local standards in terms of whether access thresholds should primarily be provided in terms of walking or drive times.

The main implications for deriving access standards are that, in general, walk times would be more appropriate for:

- Parks and recreation grounds
- Informal open space
- Play areas for children
- Teenage facilities
- Woodlands and wildlife/nature areas
- Allotments
- Rights of way
- Village halls/community centres

Based on the above drive times would, in general, be more appropriate for:

- Swimming pools and leisure centres
- Specialist sports facilities
- Gym/health and fitness facilities
- Artificial turf pitches
- Tennis courts and bowling greens

The 3 main reports will also discuss in detail the way different typologies should be treated in relation to spatial planning standards. For example, recommendations for rights of way may not be focused on specific quantity or distance/time threshold standards.

Importance of Footpath/cycle access

Residents were asked if they would cycle or walk further or more often if the quality of their journey by foot or bike to a nearby open space or facility was improved.

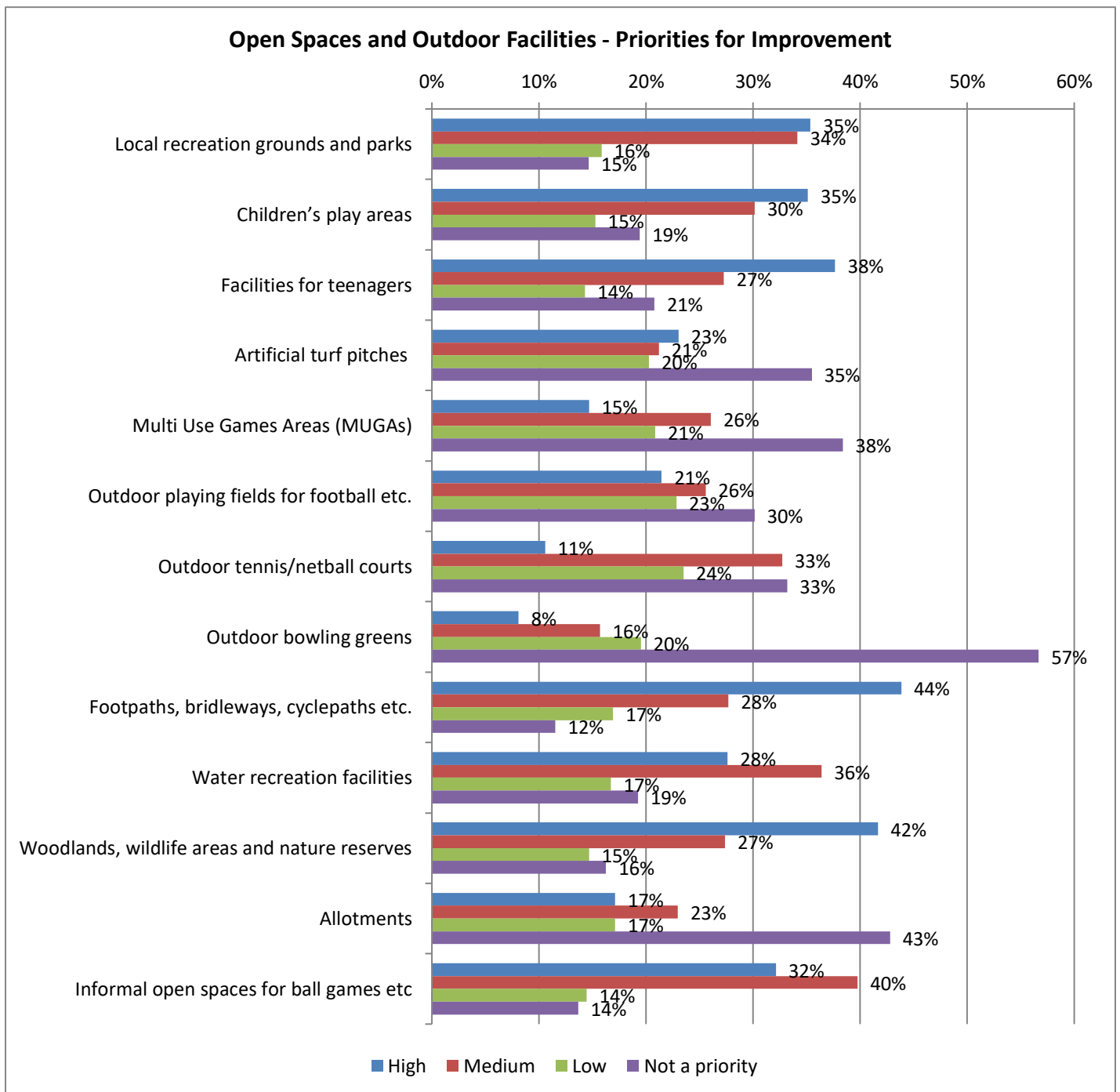
- 84% of households confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved
- 85% also said that if the quality of the route was improved they would make the journey more often.

This is a significant finding in terms of illustrating the potential benefit of ensuring good foot and cycle path access to facilities.

The detailed findings from this section will be used when drawing up the access elements of relevant standards for different kinds of open space elsewhere in the study.

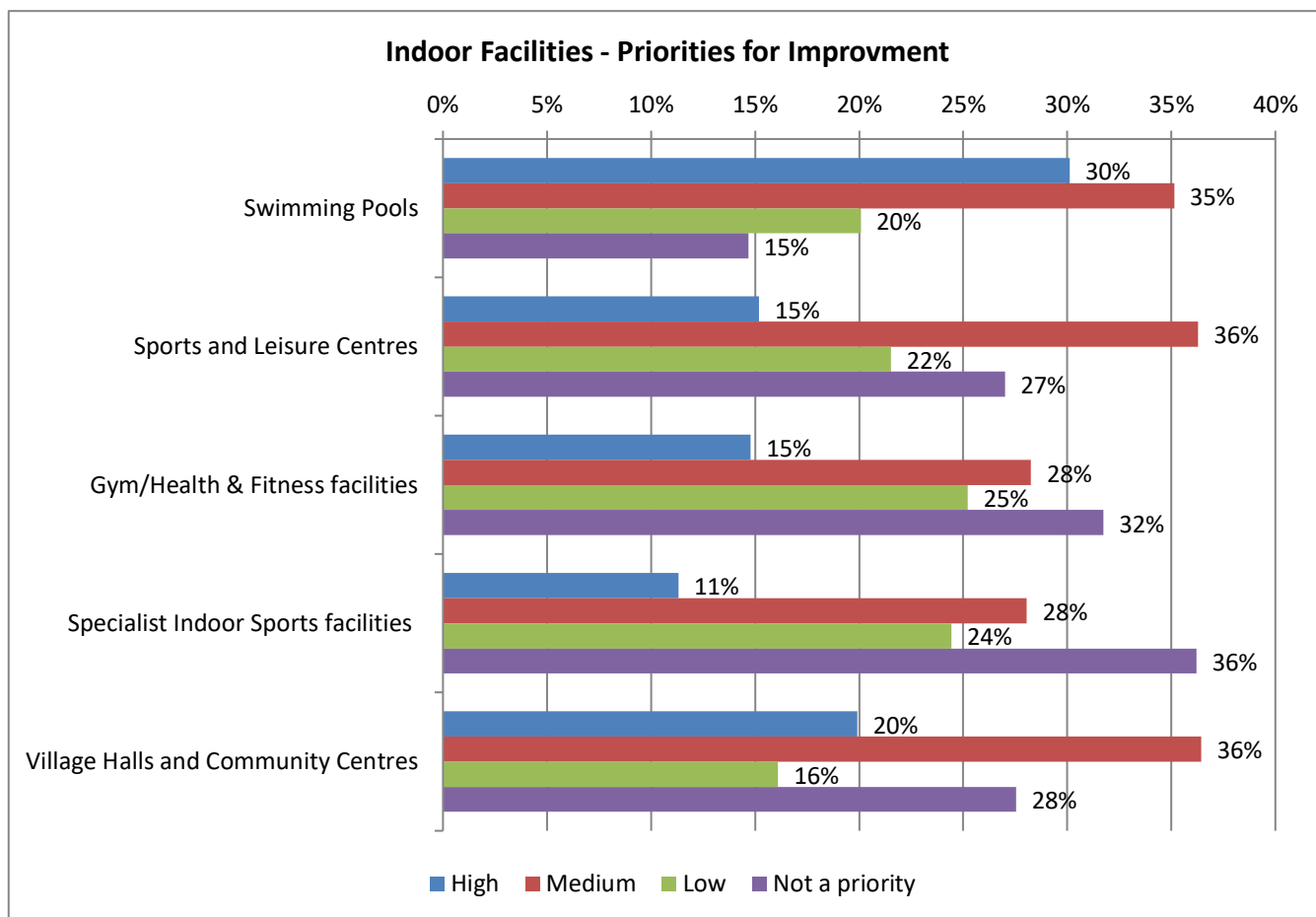
2.1.7 Key Issues and priorities for improvement

Households were also asked what their priorities for improvement in provision were. Findings are illustrated in the table below. Respondents were asked to rate the need for new or improved facilities by indicating priorities at three levels – high, medium or low.



In relation to Open Space and Outdoor Facilities the category highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was better footpaths, bridleway and cyclepath provision (44%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (42%) followed by improved provision for teenagers (38%).

Other notable high priorities for improvement noted by significant numbers were play areas; parks and local recreation grounds (35%); and informal open space.



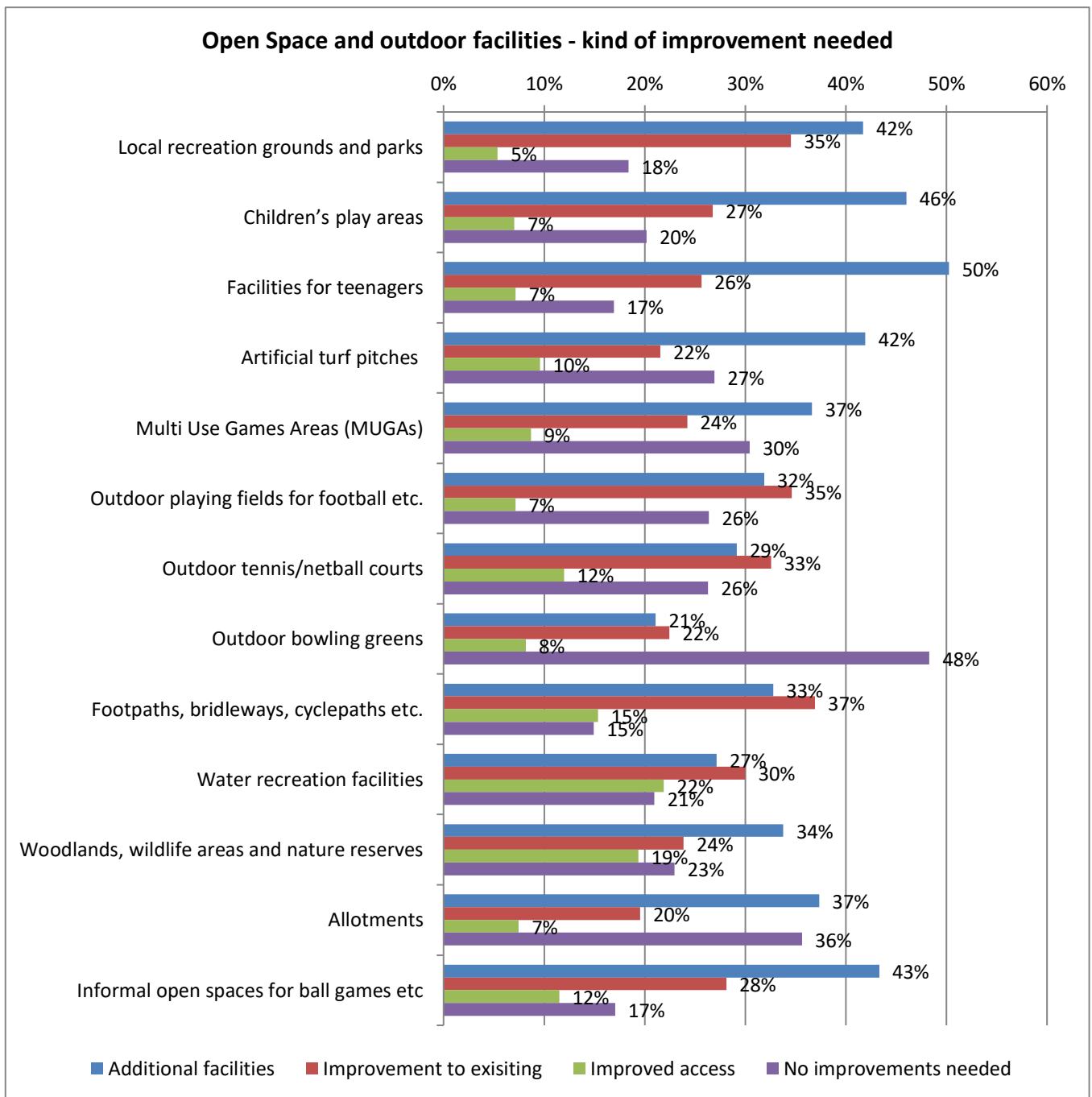
For indoor sports and leisure facilities in general, fewer households highlighted high priority needs. Improvements to swimming pool provision gained the highest proportion of high priority ratings (30%) along with an additional 35% of medium priority ratings.

Following this, improvements to Village Halls and Community Centres were rated as a high priority by 20% with an additional 36% of medium priority ratings.

Sports and leisure centres were rated as a high priority by 15% with an additional 36% of medium priority ratings

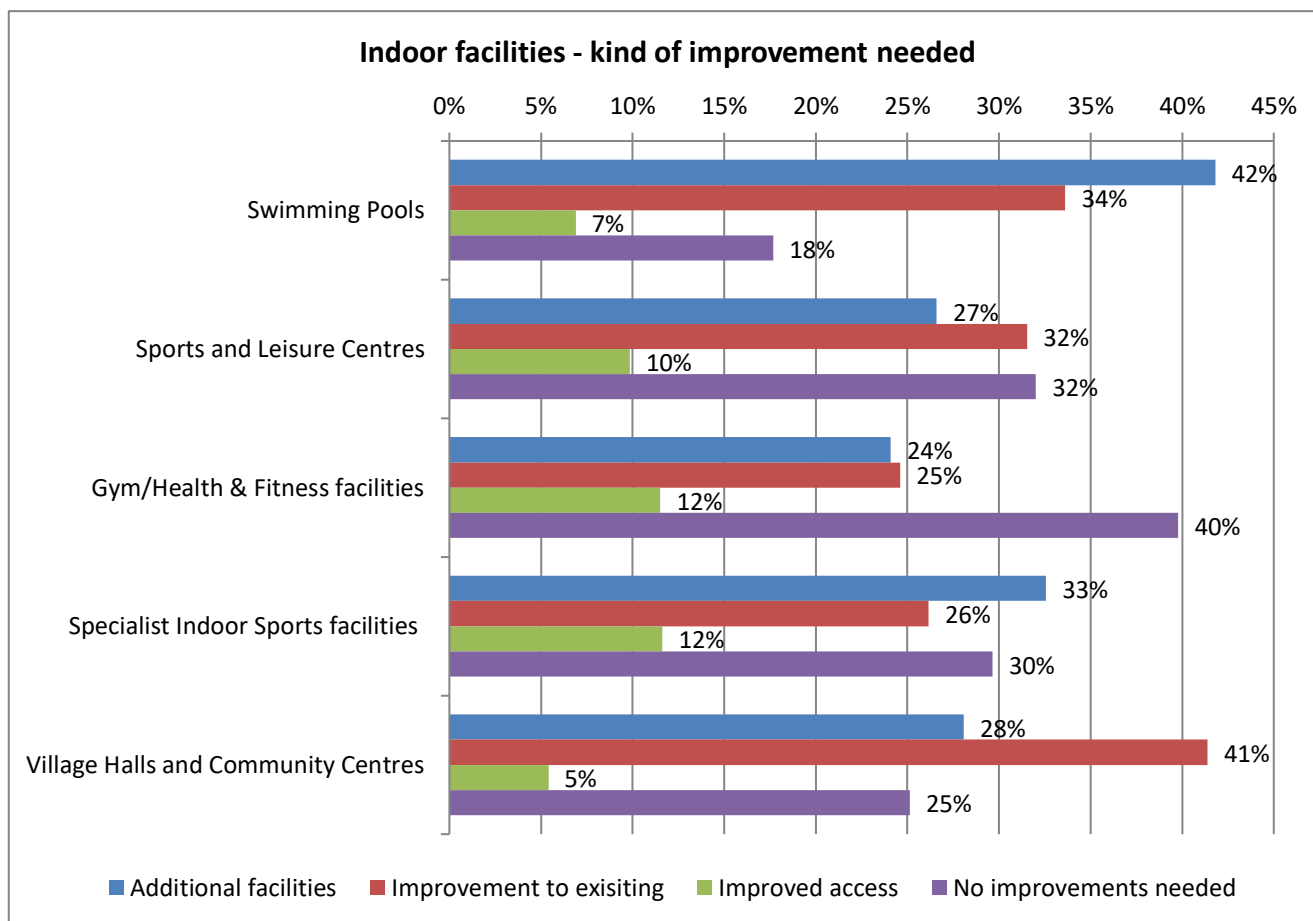
Kind of Improvement Needed

Associated questions asked households to indicate whether the kind of priority need was primarily for more facilities, improved quality of existing, or improved access. In relation to the priorities noted above these findings are shown in the charts below:



From this it can be seen that:

- The category where it is particularly clear cut that the primary need identified is for more facilities is provision for teenagers.
- Other typologies with a high proportion indicating a need for more rather than improvements in quality include: children's play areas; parks and recreation grounds; artificial turf pitches; and informal open spaces.
- For some typologies quality improvements to existing provision is the more common kind of improvement need suggested e.g. playing fields, tennis courts, rights of way, and water/coastal recreation sites.
- Nearly half of respondents (48%) thought that no improvements were needed for bowling greens.



From this it can be seen that:

- For swimming pools more respondents think the primary need is for additional facilities rather than improvements to existing (42% to 34%). Similarly for specialist facilities (33% to 26%).
- For other facilities more think that improvements to existing provision is most important, most notably for Village Halls and Community Centres (41% to 28%).
- 40% think that no improvements are needed in relation to gym/health and fitness facilities.

2.2 Stakeholder Views - Public Health

2.2.1 Introduction - the general value of open spaces and physical activity to health

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have pointed out that "physical activity is not only fun and enjoyable, it is essential for good health, helping to prevent or manage over 20 conditions and diseases. This includes heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and obesity. It can also help improve people's mental health and wellbeing⁷."

NICE Local Authority Briefing - Public health

Supporting people of all ages to be more physically active can help local authorities meet their new public health responsibilities. Specifically, it will impact on a range of indicators identified in the public health and the adult social care outcomes frameworks including:

- use of green space for exercise/health reasons
- child development
- excess weight in children and adults
- proportion of physically active and inactive adults
- self-reported wellbeing and health-related quality of life
- falls and injuries in the over-65s
- mortality from cardiovascular diseases (including heart disease and stroke), cancer and respiratory diseases.

More specifically in relation to the Open Spaces Study, Public Health England has provided a health equity briefing: *Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces.*

Public Health England - health equity briefing: Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces. Summary of key points

- There is significant and growing evidence on the health benefits of access to good quality green spaces. The benefits include better self-rated health; lower body mass index, overweight and obesity levels; improved mental health and wellbeing; increased longevity.
- There is unequal access to green space across England. People living in the most deprived areas are less likely to live near green spaces and will therefore have fewer opportunities to experience the health benefits of green space compared with people living in less deprived areas.
- Increasing the use of good quality green space for all social groups is likely to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities. It can also bring other benefits such as greater community cohesion and reduced social isolation.
- Local authorities play a vital role in protecting, maintaining and improving local green spaces and can create new areas of green space to improve access for all communities. Such efforts require joint work across different parts of the local authority and beyond, particularly public health, planning, transport, and parks and leisure.

Providing opportunities for physical activity by developing and maintaining appropriate facilities such as parks and open spaces is therefore very important in relation to promoting better public health. Public Health services nationally therefore tend to have an interest in all aspects of active recreation facility provision; and this is reflected in the views of the team in Chichester District.

⁷ NICE Local government briefing [LGB3] - April 2013

2.2.2 Chichester District Council Public Health - Community Wellbeing Manager

Chichester District Council recognises the value of open space, sport and leisure in relation to promoting health and wellbeing and public health objectives. The Community Wellbeing Manager noted that:

- From a strategic Public Health point of view having access to open space and leisure facilities is essential for good physical and mental health and whilst the Council does not have a specific public health strategy they have a work stream within the corporate plan that supports the health and wellbeing of Council staff and local communities.
- Of significance is the Chichester Wellbeing Service which the Council provides. This service aims to support adults to lead healthy lifestyles including being more active. A big part of being active is to help people understand how they can introduce activity into their daily lives and having access to parks and green spaces and leisure facilities is a big part of this.
- In addition Chichester Wellbeing commissions a service from Westgate leisure called *First Steps to Fitness* which provides support to inactive members of our population to increase their activity levels.
- Leisure Services are important because they are available to everyone and subsidised to targeted groups. In Chichester there is access to some beautiful parks where the Council delivers running sessions, public events etc.

2.2.3 West Sussex County Council – Public Health Lead for Healthy Lifestyles

County Council Public Health welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study. The Public Health Lead noted that the County Council is currently undertaking a physical activity needs assessment which will provide more local information which can then be used to inform local strategies.

The Public Health Lead highlighted the national research and guidance noted in 2.2.1 above and also noted additional research highlighted on the Active Sussex website regarding public health and outdoor recreation.

In particular, regarding children and young people, she noted that:

- Whilst outdoor recreation contributes widely to health and wellbeing, and should be encouraged regardless of body weight, the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) provides data, at a district level on the weight of children in Reception and year 6. The most recent figures show that in Chichester District 19% of those in reception are above a healthy weight. In Year 6 this figure is 29.7%.
- Since 2006/07, the prevalence of overweight and obese reception children in West Sussex has been generally below that of England. The prevalence of overweight and obese year 6 children in West Sussex has been consistently lower than that reported for England since 2006/07, and this remains the case for the measurements taken in the 2015/16 school year.
- Prevalence of obesity is significantly higher among boys than girls in both school years. Prevalence of obesity is strongly related to deprivation.

The West Sussex County Council Executive Members Task and Finish Group on child obesity recommended additional promotion of the level 3 Bikeability courses⁸, and other outdoor activity.

The County Council has undertaken some relevant county-wide surveys with young people in West Sussex. Some findings are noted below⁹:

⁸ Bikeability is a school based cycle training programme aimed at providing children with practical skills and understanding how to cycle safely on roads. There are three Bikeability levels taking trainees from the basics of balance and control, to planning and making an independent journey on busier roads.

⁹ From the Lifestyles Survey of 14-15 Year Olds (Survey 2014 and report 2015)

Activity levels appear to have fallen in young people over recent years:

- A lower proportion of 14-15 year olds undertook 30 minutes of exercise on five days a week in 2014 than 2009 (22% compared with 30%).
- 14-15 year olds reporting being 'not at all active' rose from 9% in 2006 to 18% in 2014.

Other findings highlighted were:

- In general 14-15 year old boys tended to be more physically active than girls.
- Activity levels were associated with self-perceived health – 14-15 year olds who said they never took part in any physical activities were more likely to say they were in poor health.
- 14-15 year olds who were more active were less likely to be stressed, depressed, lonely or report low self-esteem.
- 14-15 year olds reporting low levels of physical activity were more likely to be regular smokers, drinkers and cannabis users.

Earlier this year the Council also completed a *Health and Happiness Survey* of 10-11year olds.

- On average 10-11 year olds took part in the recommended 60 minutes or more physical activity a day on 3.8 days per week.
- Nearly all 10-11 year olds reported undertaking 60 minutes or more on at least one day a week.
- Both surveys found that boys tend to undertake more physical activity as well as more intense physical activity than girls.
- Older children tended to be less active than younger children – 29% of 14-15 year olds said they were very active compared with 50% of 10-11year olds.

2.3 General Community – Key Findings

This section provides some key consultation findings from the Chichester District household survey and public health stakeholders.

Quantity

Open Space

- There are a number of open space typologies that respondents suggest there is a general need for more. 60% or more suggest a shortfall of facilities for teenagers (66%); footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths etc (63%); and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (60%).
- Following this, other aspects where there was considered to be an overall shortfall by a majority were: informal open spaces (58%); children's play areas (53%); local parks and recreation grounds (53%); water recreation facilities (51%); and artificial turf pitches (51%).
- A large majority thought that overall there are enough outdoor bowling greens (77%) of which 9% said that there are more than enough. Clear majorities also think that in general there are enough grass playing fields (62%); MUGAs (58%); and tennis courts (58%).

Indoor Facilities

- A clear majority of households reported that overall there are currently enough of all of the various kinds of indoor sport and leisure facilities; most notably in relation to gym/health and fitness facilities (80%); sports and leisure centres (73%); and village halls/community sports centres (66%).
- The two kinds of facility where a significant minority of respondent households believe that overall there is a need for more are swimming pools (43%) and specialist indoor sports centres (32%).

Quality

Open Space

- For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of average or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "average").
- However, for some typologies there were notable levels of dissatisfaction with general levels of quality as noted below.
 - 38% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor.
 - The quality of MUGAs and artificial turf pitches - was rated as poor or worse by at least 22% of respondents.
- Some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated relatively highly in terms of quality. These include: parks and recreation grounds (56% rate quality in general as being good or very good); woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (51% similarly); play areas (47%); and rights of way (45%).

Indoor Facilities

- In broad terms respondent households appear quite satisfied with the quality of indoor sports and recreation provision. All are commonly rated as being of average or better quality.
- The indoor facilities most commonly regarded as being of good or very good quality are swimming pools (53%); sport and leisure centres (58%); and gym/health and fitness facilities (61%).

- The quality of specialist sports centres was not rated quite as highly (47% being rated as good or very good). Similarly for village halls and community centres (43%).

Access

Open Space

In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.

For example, 50% of user households are prepared to travel 16 minutes or more to visit woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves; 46% of households are prepared to travel that long to make use of use of artificial turf pitches; and 41% to access water recreation facilities;

In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, play areas, parks and recreation grounds, and informal open space areas - for ball games, picnics, hobbies, dog walking etc).

- 65% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 32% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 58% of users would expect allotments to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 22% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 56% of users would expect local parks/recreation grounds to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 24% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

For most typologies walking/cycling is the norm, most notably for facilities such as play areas (73%); footpaths/bridleways and cycle paths (75%); parks and recreation grounds (74%); and informal open spaces (71%). However, a majority of respondent households would normally drive to artificial turf pitches (55%)

Indoor Facilities

- 74% of respondents are prepared to travel up to 15 minutes to make use of swimming pools; 31% of these would travel up to 20 minutes and 16% more than 20 minutes.
- 68% are prepared to travel up to 15 minutes to use specialist indoor sports facilities. 27% of these would travel up to 20 minutes and 14% more than 20 minutes.
- For sports/leisure centres 64% of users are prepared to travel up to 15 minutes to make use of such facilities; 20% of these would travel up to 20 minutes and 10% more than 20 minutes.
- In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, some indoor facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used. For example 49% of users of village halls and community centres would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes, of which 19% would expect to travel 5 minutes or less.

In relation to indoor sports and recreation facilities respondents are more likely than not to drive to all facilities except village halls and community centres; most notably in the cases of swimming pools (60%) and specialist sports facilities (54%). Walking/cycling is the preferred mode of travel for a clear majority of respondent households accessing village halls and community centres (62%).

Importance of footpath/cycle access

- 84% of households confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved. 85% also said that if the quality of the route was improved they would make the journey more often.

Priorities

Open Space

- The category highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was better footpaths, bridleway and cyclepath provision (44%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (42%) followed by improved provision for teenagers (38%).
- Other notable high priorities for improvement noted by significant numbers were play areas; parks and local recreation grounds (35%); and informal open space.

Indoor facilities

- For indoor sports and leisure facilities in general, fewer households highlighted high priority needs.
- Improvements to swimming pool provision gained the highest proportion of high priority ratings (30%) along with an additional 35% of medium priority ratings.
- Following this, improvements to Village Halls and Community Centres were rated as a high priority by 20% with an additional 36% of medium priority ratings.
- Sports and leisure centres were rated as a high priority by 15% with an additional 36% of medium priority ratings

Public Health and other issues

- Chichester District Council recognises the value and importance of access to open space, outdoor recreation facilities and indoor leisure facilities, in relation to improving health and wellbeing and in relation to residents' quality of life.
- Whilst the Council does not have a specific public health strategy they have a work stream within the corporate plan that supports the health and wellbeing of Council staff and local communities.
- The District Council Wellbeing Service aims to support adults to lead healthy lifestyles including being more active. A big part of being active is to help people understand how they can introduce activity into their daily lives and having access to parks and green spaces and leisure facilities is a key element of this.
- In addition Chichester Wellbeing commissions a service from Westgate leisure called First Steps to Fitness which provides support to inactive members of our population to increase their activity levels.
- The West Sussex County Council Public Health lead officer highlighted the general importance of open space, sport and recreation in relation to supporting a number of objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board. A particular focus highlighted was the potential of open space and leisure services to help reduce child obesity levels.
- Some sectors of the community face particular barriers to access such as disabled people; children and young people; households in the more isolated rural areas and those in the more deprived wards of the study area

3. NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES AND TOWN/PARISH COUNCILS

3.1 Introduction

This section provides information and feedback from neighbouring local authorities and local town and parish councils. It is important to consult with neighbouring local authorities under the "duty to co-operate" requirement. This places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to "engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters"¹⁰.

The need to consult and engage with local parish councils arises from the fact that many parish councils are responsible for the management of open spaces, play areas and recreation grounds; and the local councils also tend to have a good understanding of local needs and priorities in relation to local sport, play and recreation facilities.

Section three is comprised of two main sub-sections:

- Neighbouring Authorities - Cross-boundary and strategic issues
- Parish Councils

There is a summary of key issues at the end of the section. The information and findings of this section will be taken forward in the main reports.

3.2 Neighbouring authorities - Cross boundary and strategic issues

3.2.1 Overview – Chichester District Council Planning Policy

Chichester District Council Planning Authority shares borders with Arun, East Hampshire, Havant, Horsham, Waverley and the South Downs National Park.

The Chichester District Council Principal Planning officer (Planning Policy) consulted with Chichester District planning colleagues and confirmed that currently no specific cross boundary and strategic planning issues of relevance to this study have been identified.

3.2.2 Neighbouring Local Authorities

Planning policy officers were also contacted from the six authorities noted above to check if they had identified any cross border issues that they thought should be taken into account. Comments and observations from officers of these authorities are provided below¹¹.

Arun District Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border issues ¹²
Green Infrastructure	Arun Green Infrastructure Study completed June 2012.	Cross-boundary working with Chichester, on the Coastal Plain part of the SDNPA GI Framework. This is still a draft. The SDNPA GI Framework evidence report, Table 5 on page 114 is handy both in terms of figures but Theme IV is handy.

¹⁰ See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/duty-to-cooperate>

¹¹ The officer responses were collected via an emailed pro-forma.

¹² These comments will be taken forward and considered in the main reports.

		<p>There are 3 main Green Infrastructure Investment Areas (GIIA) and analysis tables from page 158 onwards. There are 3 of these that cover Arun essentially, these are 8 Coastal Plain; 9 Arun Blue-Green Corridor and 12 Coastal Communities. The tables are located on pages 161-62; 164-65 and 165-66. Potential Strategic Actions are then from page 167 to the end.</p> <p>In terms of the GI framework, the main issues are under the Key Findings part on pages 12-13, with the most critical part at the end where it goes through the GIAs and lists the opportunities for them.</p> <p>Two things of relevance to GI, one being Pagham specific and the other more general, is about urban greening that is also contained in the SDNP GI Framework. In terms of the urban greening this also links to the BOA policy, as there is one called Chichester Coastal Plain, which is around Pagham Rife and then there is also a Lidsey Rife one that covers the area north east of Enterprise Bognor Regis and has a north western offshoot that creeps towards Barham / Eastergate / Westergate's southern boundary. It is in close proximity to the area EA talked about as being the off-site SUDS position. At Pagham, it is simpler as the strategic approach is focused at Pagham Nature Reserve and the only bit that is close to 'hard' infrastructure would be signage/interpretation aspects (replacement or redirection), which is why doesn't get caught by the pooling restrictions.</p>
Open Space/PPG17 study	Open Space Assessment (KKP); Open Space Standards paper (KKP). July 2016.	None specific highlighted.
Sport/Recreation strategy	Indoor and Built Facilities Assessment / Strategy (KKP). August 2016.	None specific highlighted.
Playing Pitch Study	Playing Pitch Assessment / Strategy (KKP). August 2016.	Barnham Trojans FC have teams which are displaced, in some form, from the Arun area (not including demand playing in South Downs National Park). The Club's U16s teams train outside of Arun, at the University of Chichester (Chichester campus), as it feels that there are not enough appropriate facilities in the area to accommodate its training needs.
Play /Youth Facility Strategy	Play Strategy 2011-2016; Updated Play Strategy currently out for consultation until 9 th July 2017.	None specific highlighted.
Any other relevant studies/strategies?	Leisure and Cultural Strategy 2013-2028; Littlehampton	None specific highlighted.

	Swimming and Sports Centre feasibility Study (September 2015)	
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Other comments:

There are three Arun based Cricket clubs which access secondary venues in neighbouring local authorities. This is either due to a lack of capacity at their preferred grounds or to protect quality. Bognor Regis CC fields one senior team in Chichester, whereas Findon CC and Littlehampton CC field teams in Worthing. All three clubs are happy with this arrangement as the pitches are within close proximity and the quality is perceived to be good. As such, none of the clubs express a need for the demand to return to Arun.

East Hampshire District Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure Study for EHDC – Looks at parishes only (2011). EHDC Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011 – 2028 adopted alongside the Joint Core Strategy, strategic GI document.	None specifically identified.
Open Space/PPG17 study	2008 study - Combined with sport/recreation strategy – outdated. Update: Anticipated Completion December 2017	2008 study - Only limited outward migration of use identified
Sport/Recreation strategy	2008 study - Combined with open space – outdated (scrutinised by Sport England) Update: Anticipated Completion December 2017.	2008 study - Only limited outward migration of use identified.
Playing Pitch Study	Outdated Anticipated Completion December 2017	2008 study did not consider cross boundary.
Any other relevant studies/strategies?	Southern Parishes – Leisure Needs Assessment	None specifically identified.

Havant Borough Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	Green Infrastructure for Havant (2012)	None specifically identified.
Open Space/PPG17 study	Havant Open Spaces Plan and PPG15 Assessment (January 2006)	None specifically identified.
Sport/Recreation strategy	Study currently being undertaken by consultants (4 global) which will look at open space, sports and recreation facilities including indoor and outdoor sports facilities, playing pitches, playing fields and play space.	Study underway.

Playing Pitch Study	Study currently being undertaken by consultants (4 global) which will look at open space, sports and recreation facilities including indoor and outdoor sports facilities, playing pitches, playing fields and play space.	Study underway.
Play /Youth Facility Strategy	Study currently being undertaken by consultants (4 global) which will look at open space, sports and recreation facilities including indoor and outdoor sports facilities, playing pitches, playing fields and play space.	Study underway.

Other comments:

We have identified a strategic site relatively close to the border with Chichester (land between Denvilles and Emsworth - please see <https://www.havant.gov.uk/local-plan-2036/denvilles-emsworth-masterplan> for more information). This will include green infrastructure and possibly playing pitches as well.

Horsham District Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	Completed in April 2014	No specific issues identified.
Open Space/PPG17 study	Completed in February 2014. Planning Officers use “Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment”	Don’t know if cross border issues identified.
Sport/Recreation strategy	Completed in February 2014. Planning Officers use “Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment”	No specific issues identified.
Playing Pitch Study	Completed in February 2014. Planning Officers use “Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment”	No specific issues identified.
Play /Youth Facility Strategy	Completed in February 2014. Planning Officers use “Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment”	No specific issues identified.

Other comments:

Horsham DC is reviewing its Local Plan. In 2018 it will be looking at open space standards and producing revised guidance to update the current 2014 Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment.

Waverley Borough Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border issues
Open Space/PPG17 study	Completed 2012 - Useful assessment of provision against typologies. Minimal use as pre-NPPF.	None specifically identified.
Sport/Recreation strategy	New Leisure Strategy being developed by Leisure Services.	Study underway.
Playing Pitch Study	Completed 2013 - Available on our website.	None specifically identified.

Play /Youth Facility Strategy	Play Area Strategy 2017, Available on our website	Awaiting review.
Any other relevant studies/strategies?	Waverley Cultural Strategy (adopted 2017) Available on our website	None specifically identified.

South Downs National Park

The South Downs National Park confirmed that it is not preparing its own Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study. It notes that it is working with some District Councils (who have a sports/leisure provider function that they do not), with whom they overlap. Their emerging Local Plan policy will reference the standards recommended by such studies that cover whole districts including those areas which fall with the National Park planning area.

They note that the scope of the Chichester Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study does not cover the national park area but do not further explain their approach to the area within Chichester District for which the South Downs National Park Planning Authority is responsible.

The South Downs National Park highlight a number of areas of common interest as noted below:

Green Infrastructure is a key cross boundary issue and we are in the process of working on a Green Infrastructure Framework with our partner authorities – this consists of a large evidence base document and summary report. The most recent version circulated is provided. It sets out a series of key principles and has identified some investment opportunities – the most relevant for your work will be those identified for The Coastal Plain – however please do note that this is a draft version and we are looking to finalise in the coming months.

Other evidence which may be of interest is our Access Network and Accessible Natural Greenspace Study here: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/national-park-local-plan/evidence-and-supporting-documents/access-network-and-accessible-natural-green-space-study/>

Landscape and views are also key cross boundary issues – especially if the remit of this study includes recommendations for sites to meet any identified needs. Useful evidence for this can be found in our Integrated Landscape Character Assessment <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-advice/landscape/> and Viewshed Study <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/national-park-local-plan/evidence-and-supporting-documents/viewshed-analysis/> .

3.3 Town/Parish Councils

The Chichester District Local Plan area covers 34 parishes (i.e. it excludes parishes in the District that sit wholly within the South Downs National Park Planning Authority area). Surveys were sent to the 34 local councils in the study area followed up by reminders and phone calls as needed. The following 24 city/town and parish councils responded:

- Bosham PC
- Boxgrove PC
- Chichester City Council
- Chidham & Hambrook PC
- Donnington PC
- East Wittering & Bracklesham PC
- Ebernoe PC
- Fishbourne PC
- Lodsworth PC
- Lurgashall PC
- North Mundham PC
- Northchapel PC
- Petworth Town Council
- Plaistow and Ifold PC
- Selsey Town Council
- Sidlesham PC
- Southbourne PC
- Stoughton PC
- Tangmere PC
- West Itchenor PC
- West Wittering PC
- Westbourne PC
- Westhampnett PC
- Wisborough Green PC

3.3.1 Responses overview

Some broad findings from the survey were that:

- 20 of the 24 town/parish councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and outdoor recreational facilities. Only five managed indoor halls.
- 14 of the local councils who responded noted that there was a need for additional or improved open space, play, sport and recreation facilities within their town or parish.
- The sectors of the community most commonly identified as being poorly served in relation to their needs were children, young people/teenagers and various sports teams/clubs.

Quality factors - open space provision

We asked the local councils to highlight what they thought, in general, were high priorities as regards qualitative factors of recreational open spaces. The quality factors most commonly deemed to be of a high priority as regards recreational public open spaces are that:

- They should be easy to get to for all members of the community; and internally they should be easy to get around.
- They should be safe and secure for those using them.
- Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained - they should be clean and free from litter and graffiti.
- Spaces need to be designed and managed so that noise and antisocial behaviour is minimised.

Other factors specifically highlighted included:

- Design and management of open spaces should encourage biodiversity
- Provision of useful information and Interpretation is important, particularly for sites with environmental and heritage interest.
- Accessibility for disabled people and mobility scooters
- Provision of adequate car parking

- The recent drive towards leaving entire open space areas as ‘Wild Flower Meadows’ with just mown paths can present difficulties as in practice these areas can be unmanageable, unusable and unsightly. It can take many years of careful management to create a successful wild flower meadow when starting from an area which is in a poor state to begin with. When outdoor space is limited in a Parish this may not represent the best use of that entire open space area and be of the best benefit of the residents.

Summary of Identified needs for improvement

The table below covers issues of quantity, quality and access for a range of facilities. An “X” in a box indicates an identified need for improvement/lack of provision.

Town/Parish Councils	Indoor Facilities	Winter pitches - football/rugby	Cricket pitches	Tennis courts	Multi-Use Games Areas	Bowling greens	Children's play areas	Teenage facilities (e.g. skateparks)	Allotments	Parks, rec. grounds, village greens etc.	Wildlife areas, nature reserves	Footpath/bridleway/cycleways
Bosham	X	X		X			X		X	X		X
Boxgrove												
Chichester City									X			
Chidham & Hambrook	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Donnington												
East Wittering & Bracklesham												X
Ebernoe	X										X	
Fishbourne												
Lodsworth												
Lurgashall												
North Mundham	X				X		X	X		X		X
Northchapel												
Petworth Town	X											
Plaistow & Ifold									X	X		
Selsey Town							X	X				
Sidlesham	X		X		X							
Southbourne		X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X
Stoughton												
Tangmere	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
West Itchenor												
West Wittering												

Westbourne				X		X						X
Westhampnett	X	X			X				X	X		X
Wisborough Green	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	
TOTALS	9	6	5	5	6	1	7	6	6	8	4	8

The needs of individual parishes are quite varied. The more frequently highlighted typologies are:

- Indoor facilities – varied needs including village hall improvements, additional storage space, sports halls and swimming pools.
- Parks and recreation grounds – mainly highlighting a need for additional space for such provision in relation to population/housing growth.
- Play areas, youth facilities and MUGAs – a mix of new provision and refurbishments and improvement to existing facilities.

3.3.2 Parish specific issues

Unmet needs and aspirations for improvement

As part of the survey we also asked the open questions "are you aware of any particular groups within your community whose needs are not currently met" and "if you have, or are aware of, any specific projects, plans and aspirations for improving open space and outdoor recreation facilities in the Parish please tell us". Individual town/parish responses are shown in the table below.

Local Council	Groups whose needs not being met	Current plans and known aspirations
Bosham	The Football Club is restricted by use of current recreation ground because it is unable to accept promotion due to lack of lights/ stands etc. which cannot go on the current ground. School is also restricted for space. Upper Bosham (Broadbridge area) requires children play area.	Neighbourhood Plan recognises the need to update St Nicholas Church Hall, provision of footpath down Walton Lane and extension to Taylor's Lane footpath as well as the re-siting of football pitch.
Boxgrove	Cricket club and football club have the pitch but not the pavilion. Currently trying to get funding to restore the pavilion.	The village needs a hub for its sports teams which will also encourage other sports to come and play (stoolball for example). This lack of a hub means that locals go and play for other villages. Restoring of cricket pavilion

Chichester City	Chichester City Band need a city based band practice room for use twice a week and with associated storage facilities.	None specifically highlighted.
Chidham & Hambrook	Children and young people aged 8 and upwards have no formal sport/recreational facilities. There are no facilities for formal sport/recreational activities for anyone over the age of eight. There are no facilities for cricket or football or tennis. Also there are no open space areas where young people can kick a football or throw a frisbee, fly a kite or even just run about.	There are two areas of land in Broad Road, Hambrook due to be transferred to the Parish Council under S106 agreements for use as Open Spaces. The first of these has an overhead pylon crossing the middle limiting use of the area. The transfer of the second of these open spaces is threatened by the developer having gone into administration. This opens space area was due to have allotments and community orchard as well. The Parish is very keen to secure a recreational area where facilities for over eights and teenagers such as appropriate play equipment, a MUGA and skate park can be located as well as space for playing football and cricket and to locate a sports pavilion. Ideally also a tennis court. There needs also to be adequate provision for off road parking. The Parish Council would like to see successful transferal of the ownership of both the two open space areas in Broad Road to the Parish Council. There is the need for a Village Green with a pond. The local cricket club wishes to secure a ground within the Parish itself so it no longer has to share facilities with adjacent parishes.
Donnington	None specifically identified.	We are improving the play area at the park through grant funding and upgrading the goalposts via s106 funds.
East Wittering & Bracklesham	Walkers and dog walkers are concerned that the open spaces will be eroded away limiting the walking use. Although we have a beach it is only accessible to the very able due to a high bank of stones and of course only at low tide. A skatepark group wants a new skatepark but the Parish Council has limited land and has suggested to them to look at new developments.	The Parish Council would like to improve and enhance the seafront at the end of Shore Road. A skate park group would like a larger skate facility but finding a suitable location is difficult as the Parish Council managed areas do not have enough room. The Council is considering fenced off areas for dog walkers.
Ebernoe	Groups visiting the nature reserve have no indoor area suitable for their use (this is	To further develop use of the church building to become a Community Centre. Plan to refurbish Cricket Pavilion is not at present being progressed because of lack of funding.

	because of lack of toilet facilities at the church and no running water).	
Fishbourne	Adult and senior adult: outdoor gym to be provided by end of 2017.	Outdoor gym project currently being progressed by the Parish Council. Lighting along Emperor Way being considered to promote cycling etc. Tennis Club fundraising for floodlighting for the Tennis Courts. S106 monies being used by football club to improve changing facilities.
Lodsworth	None specifically identified.	Better rural transport provision needed.
North Mundham	None specifically identified.	Provision of Marsh Lane to Runcton Farmshop multi use path Extension of Village Hall Extension of Parking provision in association with the playing field, pavilion and village hall. Provision of additional play equipment. Provision of outdoor gym equipment.
Petworth Town	At present young people are poorly served with regard to recreational facilities. There is very limited public transport to other venues.	Petworth TC has been working for many years to provide a skatepark. The money is being held by CDC but there has been considerable difficulty in identifying a suitable site. This may now have been resolved but there is still much to be done. Cricket has been revived after a period of inactivity.
Plaistow & Ifold	Ifold (with nearly 500 dwellings) only has a village hall. As the most densely populated area within the parish it is missing a recreational facility with a pavilion or similar for sporting or local events that could be accessed by Ifold residents by foot or bicycle or mobility scooter.	To retain existing facilities within the parish and to much improve facilities for Ifold are mentioned in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the local plan consultation comments submitted 3/8/2017.
Selsey Town	There is a need for accessible play equipment for those with disabilities and more shelters for young people.	Funds have been ring-fenced for accessible playground equipment - location to be confirmed. The skatepark social group continues to work with the TC regarding a potential shelter at the skatepark site. The Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group, East Beach Pond Volunteers, Sensory Garden Volunteers and St Peters Church (Norton) volunteer group all continue to effect improvements to open spaces in the town.

Sidlesham	A larger, better equipped village community sport and recreation hall could provide space for many sporting activities. The PC has had enquiries about archery, ping pong, dancing, judo, yoga, tennis and netball. There are no sporting facilities, apart from football, for young people. The planned Chichester to Selsey Greenway Cycle Route will go past the entrance to the playing field.	The Parish Council is working towards building a sport and recreation hall on its Memorial Playing Field. This would include refurbishing/rebuilding the existing Football Clubhouse as a multi-sport hub with recreation hall for village activities.
Southbourne	Modern play equipment and a skate park for older children (9+) and young people . Improved pavilion and football pitch for an expanding, successful football team	The Parish Council is looking at improving the play equipment for older children and young people and the feasibility of a Skate Park on the Recreation Ground. Both will require substantial investment through Council Tax, CIL or National Lottery (Sport England) or all three funding sources. The Council is also considering improvements to the Pavilion
Stoughton	Not aware of any	Maintaining and keeping the current provision.
Tangmere	Tennis (one court permanently available in one side of MUGA). Recreation field does not allow simultaneous cricket/football matches and only one set of changing rooms. Lack of provision of play equipment for older children.	Community Facilities Audit and Infrastructure Business Plan projects supplied.
West Itchenor	None specifically identified.	We currently have no plans for sports facilities on open spaces
West Wittering	Adult football	None specifically highlighted.
Westbourne	None specifically identified.	It is likely that the Westbourne Club, which is housed in buildings owned by the parish, may soon cease operating. The parish feels the facilities the Club currently provides must be retained.

		Refurbishment of a somewhat dilapidated Scout Hut, with asbestos in the roof, owned by Chichester District Council.
Westhampnett	When the Neighbourhood plan questionnaires were initially sent out, the youth certainly wanted a MUGA, football pitch and badminton. We also had requests for bowls, an area for youths to play. There were also requests for a communal orchard and allotments.	Again, the desire for an area for community fitness and allotments etc has been quashed by the development of WSCC. Unfortunately we do not have any other large enough green space to accommodate the growing Westhampnett community.
Wisborough Green	The Village Green is used to capacity and as such, additional practice areas would be welcomed. The Cricket Club has previously entered into a short term lease for a nearby field, but this lease is due to expire. There is a children's playground which was upgraded in 2012. Limited opportunities for teenagers.	<p>Village Hall - modernisation to upgrade facilities to be DDA compliant and provide additional storage to better serve the community - pre-application advice sought from CDC and planning application to be submitted shortly.</p> <p>Sports Pavilion on Village Green - plans to re-build due to age and deterioration of present building - to modernise the facilities to meet the sporting and access for all requirements. Pre-application advice sought from CDC.</p> <p>Sports Pitch Provision - provide additional practice facilities to reduce pressure on the use of the Village Green.</p> <p>Playground Surfacing - to provide wetpour safety surfacing under junior swing unit and see-saw to remove current wear and compaction concerns.</p> <p>Village Green Drainage - to make area more usable for recreational purposes, sport as well as general recreation.</p> <p>Open space as part of new development - Winterfold - provision of nature area, circular walk and possibly a fitness trail - land is to be given to the Parish Council - details yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>Local wildlife group has been established to promote conservation and wildlife monitoring.</p>

The specific town/parish responses relating to aspects of quantity, quality and access re: the various elements are provided in the table below.

Parish/town	Need for new/improved provision and typology specific comments
Bosham	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> Refurbishment of St Nicholas Village Hall.</p> <p><i>Winter pitches:</i> Need for own land which does not restrict the number of games or teams, allows for training and enhanced facilities such as lights, gates and stand to allow promotion.</p> <p><i>Tennis:</i> We have a bequeathed amount for tennis provision but no land.</p> <p><i>Play Areas:</i> north of the A259</p> <p><i>Allotments:</i> land required</p> <p><i>Parks/recreation grounds:</i> new recreation ground would potentially free up current facility for school playing field.</p> <p><i>Paths etc:</i> provision of footpath down Walton lane to allow children from north A259 to school - extension of Taylors Lane footpath</p>
Chichester City	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> A number of community halls being provided via new development.</p> <p><i>Allotments:</i> Our allotments only have very short waiting lists, if at all, but more private allotment provision would be welcome in new developments.</p>
Chidham & Hambrook	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> there are none at present</p> <p><i>Winter and cricket pitches; and tennis courts:</i> there are none at present.</p> <p><i>MUGAs and skate Parks:</i> : there are none at present - would like to see a MUGA or Skate Park</p> <p><i>Play areas:</i> needed for over eights</p> <p><i>Allotments:</i> these were due to be provided under a S106 agreement with a local developer however the developer has gone into administration and the Parish are waiting to find out what is happening with the allotments.</p> <p><i>Parks and recreation grounds:</i> significant need for facilities in the Parish.</p> <p><i>Paths etc:</i> there is a need for cycleways and improvements to footpaths and bridleways.</p>
East Wittering & Bracklesham	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> We already have Bracklesham Barn community centre, East Wittering Village Hall and the new Youth and Community Centre which is under construction.</p> <p><i>Winter pitches:</i> We have professionally drained pitches at Bracklesham Park suitable for all year round use.</p> <p><i>Cricket pitch:</i> Nearest cricket pitch is in West Wittering, approx.2 miles away.</p> <p><i>Tennis Courts:</i> Nearest courts are at West Wittering, approx. 2 miles way</p> <p><i>MUGAs:</i> We have one at Bracklesham Park</p> <p><i>Bowling Greens:</i> We have one at Downview Public Open space</p> <p><i>Play Areas:</i> We have one at Downview Public Open Space and also at Bracklesham Park</p> <p><i>Youth facilities:</i> We have a new skate ramp, half pipe at Downview Public Open Space and a teen shelter at Bracklesham Park.</p> <p><i>Allotments:</i> Nearest is West Wittering and currently there are vacancies.</p> <p><i>Parks and recreation grounds:</i> Downview Public Open Space and Bracklesham Park</p> <p><i>Wildlife/nature areas:</i> We have a wildlife corridor on the southern edge of Bracklesham Park incorporating a small ditch containing water voles.</p> <p><i>Paths etc:</i> details provided of various paths but no specific improvement needs highlighted.</p>
Ebernoe	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> cricket pavilion needs refurbishment (especially roof). Church needs access to running water and toilet facilities</p> <p><i>Wildlife/nature areas:</i> car park which is shared between church and visitors to nature reserve is too small and muddy in winter.</p>

North Mundham	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> need for facilities. MUGAs: Insufficient. <i>Croquet greens:</i> no requests have been made for a bowling green but requests have been made for croquet green. <i>Play areas and youth facilities:</i> Insufficient and out of date <i>Parks and recreation grounds:</i> Insufficient <i>Paths etc:</i> Marsh Lane to Runcton Farmshop shared usage path required</p>
Petworth Town	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> need for swimming pool; and indoor sports facility <i>Youth facilities:</i> skate park needed. <i>Neighbourhood Plan:</i> lodged with SDNP under regulation 14. Please see details.</p>
Plaistow & Ifold	<p><i>Allotments:</i> The allotments in Plaistow were used to build a rural exception housing site (Ashfield). The garages in Plaistow were used to build a rural exception housing site (Cedar Terrace) <i>Parks and recreation grounds:</i> Ifold has no village green or recreational grounds. Residents have little or no facilities. This should be improved. <i>Paths etc:</i> There is an abundance of such. However, the Plaistow Road through Ifold is hazardous as it is 40mph. A speed reduction would be welcome.</p>
Selsey Town	<p><i>Play areas:</i> More accessible equipment for those with disabilities. <i>Youth facilities:</i> need for youth shelters.</p>
Sidlesham	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> The Church Hall is small and not in good condition. There is a need for a newer, better equipped Recreation Hall. <i>Tennis courts:</i> Have received requests for tennis court. MUGAs: The installation of a multi-use games area is an aim of the PC. <i>Play areas:</i> Have an excellent children's playground <i>Parks and recreation grounds:</i> Have recreation ground. <i>Wildlife/nature areas:</i> Pagham Harbour and Medmerry Nature Reserve is managed by RSPB.</p>
Southbourne	<p><i>Winter pitches:</i> Only one football pitch is practical on the existing recreation ground and AFC Southbourne is expanding and playing more games in 2017/18 season. No facilities at all for rugby. <i>Cricknet pitches and tennis courts:</i> None in the parish – unless there are any at the Community College <i>Artificial turf pitches:</i> Bourne Community College Trust is seeking Sport England funding for an all-weather Pitch. <i>Play areas:</i> On Recreation Ground only at the moment. New housing developments will have small play areas as part of those schemes but there may be a need for more equipment at an alternative location for older children/young people in the future. Old play equipment available on the Recreation Ground needs replacing. <i>Youth facilities:</i> There continues to be demand for a skate park. Parks and recreation grounds: If Southbourne continues to increase in size, more green spaces will be required for recreational purposes but not necessarily provided within future developments. <i>Wildlife/nature areas:</i> As part of the made Southbourne Parish Neighbourhood Plan a "Green Ring" is to be developed around the parish either by land acquisitions or by agreement with land owners. The intention is to alleviate the pressure on the Harbour AONB from the additional housing. <i>Paths etc:</i> See Green Ring above "ChemRoute" on the A259 is listed in CDC's IBP.</p>
Tangmere	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> Currently nil indoor sports facilities. Require hall large enough for at least Short Mat bowls. Though Badminton desirable, height of hall</p>

	<p>required poses heating/maintenance issues which may be difficult to justify given potential level of use for badminton vs other community uses.</p> <p><i>Winter pitches:</i> Football. Need to provide for simultaneous playing of football and cricket as football now almost year round game. Improved drainage of current pitch required to maximize availability and quality.</p> <p><i>Cricket pitches:</i> Current 9 pitch square adequate size, however pitch quality and drainage around square requires improvement to maximize availability, attractiveness to play on and facilitate maintenance. See also comments re football above. Separation of pitches would improve cricket outfield and avoid football boot damage to square.</p> <p><i>Tennis Courts:</i> Only one court permanently available in one half of MUGA on recreation field, other half fitted for but kept primarily for informal youth use. Inhibits development of Tennis Club and casual use for tennis as only one group can use at time. Need separate two court facility.</p> <p><i>MUGAs:</i> Informal games use of MUGA by youths incompatible with tennis and only one group of youths can use at one time.</p> <p><i>Play areas:</i> See additional doc. re overall shortfall in equipped playspace area for expected (non SDL) population."</p> <p><i>Bowling greens:</i> Though no current known demand in village, intentions can change (especially with an expanding population) and therefore maybe worth considering need further.</p> <p><i>Youth facilities:</i> Other than four items on recreation field skate park, no activity equipment in village for older children.</p> <p><i>Allotments:</i> See Tangmere Neighbourhood Plan Policies 2 & 6 re relocation of some existing allotments to SDL to enable Museum expansion.</p> <p><i>Parks and Recreation grounds:</i> See additional doc. re overall shortfall in Parks/ Recreation field area for expected.</p> <p><i>Wildlife/nature areas:</i> See Tangmere Neighbourhood Plan Policy 8 (Green Infrastructure).</p> <p><i>Paths etc:</i> See Tangmere Neighbourhood Plan Policy 9 (Sustainable Transport).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection (alongside Aldingbourne Rife) between Marsh Lane Bridleway 292 and permissive path around WSCC Solar Farm to improve connectivity and leisure route options along existing desire line. • Foot/cycleway around old airfield perimeter track connecting to Bridleway 3581 and Footpath 3582 to formalize existing permissive circular route and E/W out of Parish connectivity. • Connection between End of Bridleway 3581 Southwards along old airfield perimeter track to Church Lane/old Oving Road (restoring original Tangmere Road link) to formalize existing desire line and S'ward out of Parish connectivity. • Upgrade Footpath 3582 to bridleway/cycleway to formalize existing use as part of circular (around old airfield) route and E/W out of Parish connectivity. • New cycleway parallel to S side of A27 from A285/A27 Temple Bar junction to Coach Road to provide direct off road connection between Tangmere and Chichester via Shopwyke Lakes foot/cycle infrastructure.
Westbourne	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> Village halls for associated village groups</p> <p><i>Tennis courts:</i> Much local interest in tennis facilities</p> <p><i>Bowling greens:</i> local interest in a bowling green</p> <p><i>Paths etc:</i> Overhaul and enhancement of existing network</p>
Westhampnett	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> We are in the process of trying to use 106 money to build a community hall that will hopefully include a badminton court.</p>

	<p><i>Winter pitches:</i> We have been unable to identify a large enough piece of land.</p> <p><i>MUGAs:</i> In our NP, we envisaged that the new housing site in Maudlin would have a small MUGA which would then lead onto another piece of land, which we had hoped would be a community walking area and eventually have a track for running/ general fitness. Unfortunately WSCC have started installing solar panels on it so we have run out of green space.</p> <p><i>Allotments:</i> See comment in MUGA</p> <p><i>Parks and recreation grounds:</i> See comment in MUGA</p> <p><i>Paths etc:</i> WPC are in talks with Highways to improve some of our pathways that link the three villages. They are very narrow and not suitable for bikes or pushchairs.</p>
Wisborough Green	<p><i>Indoor facilities:</i> Village Hall - access and storage issues - working within limitations of Listed Building. New Sports Pavilion needed due to age and deterioration of present building.</p> <p><i>Winter pitches:</i> Village Green drainage - waterlogging in winter. Overuse. Further drainage required.</p> <p><i>Cricket pitches:</i> Uneven surface of outfield.</p> <p><i>MUGAs:</i> Have previously looked at provision but no suitable area available. Area of land in new development to potentially include fitness trail.</p> <p><i>Play areas:</i> Refurbished in 2012 - additional surfacing required due to waterlogging in winter.</p> <p><i>Youth facilities:</i> No provision. Area of land in new development to potentially include fitness trail.</p> <p><i>Allotments:</i> Allotments all worked and no waiting list at present.</p> <p><i>Wildlife/nature areas:</i> Area of land in new development to include nature areas.</p> <p><i>Paths etc:</i> Many local walks and bridleways. Cycling is on local roads which are getting busier.</p> <p><i>Other:</i> Scout Hut - old building - on-going maintenance requirements.</p>

Town/Parish Councils – other comments

The survey also provided the opportunity to raise any other issues or to make other points:

Parish/town	Other Comments
Chidham & Hambrook	The Parish of Chidham & Hambrook is in urgent need of recreational and leisure facilities for all. Currently the only provision is a small play area for under eights. The recent increase in the number of houses in the Parish has emphasised the need even further.
East Wittering and Bracklesham	<p>This Parish depends on tourism for its economic survival. We have a very safe seaside here which is ideal for families. Our residents increase approximately 5 times down here in the summer yet the access to the beach is extremely poor, not only for the less able but for families with young children.</p> <p>There is also a notable market for watersports – such as kite surfing, paddleboarding, dinghy sailing, rowing etc etc. Facilities and access points are required in certain locations to support these activities’.</p>
Westbourne Parish Council	Please invest more heavily in our facilities - Community Orchard and biodiversity areas.

3.4 Neighbouring Local Authorities and Parish Councils - Observations and key issues

Neighbouring Local Authorities – Cross Boundary Issues

Section 3.2 above briefly reviewed feedback from neighbouring Local Authorities in relation to the status of their open space strategies/associated studies and any cross border issues of significance. The variety of documents and strategies in place (and their relevance to current planning policy) is considerable, embracing green infrastructure studies, open space strategies, and sport, recreation and play strategies. The approach adopted by each authority is very much locally derived.

Arun District Council highlighted joint work with CDC on the Coastal Plain element of the SDNPA GI Framework; and a number of cross-border sports pitch issues. The South Downs National Park also highlights joint working on this aspect. Otherwise few cross border and wider strategic issues have been identified. There may be scope for other neighbouring local authorities to work more together to make the most of accessible natural green space resources and to develop additional common themes and agendas.

It is notable that many authorities are currently involved with commissioning new open space related studies or updating previous strategies that are out of date.

The South Downs National Park noted that it is not preparing its own Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study. They note that they are working with some Districts (who have a sports/leisure provider function that they do not) with whom they overlap. They note that their emerging Local Plan policy will reference the standards recommended by such studies that cover whole districts including those areas which fall with the National Park planning area. However, this leaves the position in relation to National Park parishes within CDC unclear.

Parish Councils

Section 3.3 above provided findings from the parish councils' survey undertaken for the study. 20 of the 24 local town and parish councils responded.

General Overview

- 20 of the 24 town/parish councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and outdoor recreational facilities. Only five managed indoor halls.
- 14 of the local councils who responded noted that there was a need for additional or improved open space, play, sport and recreation facilities within their town or parish.
- The sectors of the community most commonly identified as being poorly served in relation to their needs were children, young people/teenagers and various sports teams/clubs.

Common areas of concern

The needs and aspirations that individual parishes identified were very varied. The more frequently highlighted typologies are:

- Indoor facilities – varied needs including village hall improvements, additional storage space, sports halls and swimming pools.

- Parks and recreation grounds – mainly highlighting a need for additional space for such provision in relation to population/housing growth.
- Play areas, youth facilities and MUGAs – a mix of new provision and refurbishments and improvement to existing facilities.

Quality factors - open space provision

The quality factors most commonly deemed to be of a high priority as regards recreational public open spaces are that:

- They should be easy to get to for all members of the community; and internally they should be easy to get around.
- They should be safe and secure for those using them.
- Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained - they should be clean and free from litter and graffiti.
- Spaces need to be designed and managed so that noise and antisocial behaviour is minimised.

Other factors specifically highlighted included:

- Design and management of open spaces should encourage biodiversity
- Provision of useful information and Interpretation is important, particularly for sites with environmental and heritage interest.
- Accessibility for disabled people and mobility scooters
- Provision of adequate car parking
- The recent drive towards leaving entire open space areas as 'Wild Flower Meadows' with just mown paths can present difficulties as in practice these areas can be unmanageable, unusable and unsightly. It can take many years of careful management to create a successful wild flower meadow when starting from an area which in is a poor state to begin with. When outdoor space is limited in a Parish this may not represent the best use of that entire open space area and be of the best benefit of the residents.

Detailed responses on open space typologies

The parish councils provided detailed responses relating to aspects of quantity, quality and access for the various elements of open spaces surveyed.

4.0 PARKS, NATURAL GREEN SPACE AND GREEN CORRIDORS

4.1 Introduction

This section covers consultation responses and findings in relation to non-sporting recreational open spaces, including parks and recreation grounds, natural green spaces, water/coastal recreation, allotments and rights of way.

Consultation undertaken for this section included key stakeholder surveys, and a survey of relevant (non-sports) groups and organisations.

The information and findings from this section will be taken forward in the Open Space Study main report.

This section is comprised of seven main sections:

- Review of policy and strategy
- Key Stakeholders - strategic context and overview
- Parks, gardens and recreation grounds
- Allotments
- Natural green space – e.g. wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands
- Water/Coastal recreation
- Green Corridors - footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths.

There is a summary of key points and issues at the end of the section.

4.2 Review of policy and strategy – Chichester District Council

This section provides a brief overview of relevant City council policy and strategy documents, helping provide a well-established framework and context for future open space planning.

4.2.1 Chichester District Council Corporate Plan (2015-2018)

The Council's Key Corporate Objectives for 2015/2018 are:

1. Improve the provision of and access to suitable housing.
2. Support our communities.
3. Manage our built and natural environments.
4. Improve and support the local economy.
5. Prudent management of the Council's finances

The most relevant objective for the Open Space, Sport and Recreation study is Objective 3, but Objectives 2 and 4 are also supported through the provision of appropriate open spaces and sport/recreation facilities.

More specific objectives within the Corporate Plan relevant to this study are noted below:

Support our communities

- Help our communities to be healthy and active.
- Work together to help people feel safe.

Manage our built and natural environments

- Promote quality development and recognise the importance of the natural environment.
- Maintain clean, pleasant and safe public places.
- Support the provision of essential infrastructure.

Improve and support the local economy

- Promote Chichester District as a visitor and cultural destination.

4.2.2 Chichester Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (2013 - 29)

The 2013 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study provided a detailed assessment of existing open space provision, and a review of the qualitative and quantitative need for additional provision in 2013 and in the future. The study presented the findings of the assessment and provided advice and recommendations for the development of the Local Plan.

The study followed guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework, and the key aim of the study was ‘to evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and recreational land provision in Chichester District Council (excluding the South Downs National Park) and to recommend standards and effective mechanisms in order for appropriate provision to be secured to meet future needs.’

Local Standards

The evidence gathered through the local needs assessment, and the local provision analysis was used along with national benchmarks to develop a set of standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities. The standards proposed were subject to scrutiny and agreement through a working party of council members and officers. A summary of the standards recommended is provided below:

Typology	Quantity standards		Access standard
	Main settlements & Housing Growth Areas	Parishes	
Allotments	0.4	0.3	480 metres or 10 minute walk time
Amenity Open Space	0.5	0.5	480 metres or 10 minutes walk
Natural/Semi-Natural Green Space	1.00	1.00	960 metres or 20 minutes walk. Analysis will also include ANGSt
Parks, Sport and Recreation Grounds	1.60	1.60	600 metres or 12-13 minutes walk
- <i>Park and Recreation Ground</i>	0.15	0.15	
Total	3.65	3.55	

Overall, the district was found to have a shortfall in the provision of all types of open space, with the exception of natural and semi-natural greenspace which is abundant throughout much of the district. The table below summarises the overall supply across the district:

Typology Existing supply (ha)	Typology Existing supply (ha)
Allotments	- 16.32
Amenity Open Space	-12.09
Parks, Sport & Recreation Grounds	-21.57
Natural Green Space	11,566

The study also recommended Quality Standards in relation to the different typologies.

The 2013 standards and findings will be reviewed and new standards proposed in the current study. The new standards will then be applied across the District.

4.3 Key Stakeholders - strategic context and overview

This section includes general comments from the key stakeholders consulted. Responses specific to individual typologies from the stakeholders consulted will be noted under each of the focused topic headings.

4.3.1 Chichester District Council

Parks and Green Space Service

The District Council's Green Spaces Officer was interviewed and provided an overview of Open Space provision in Chichester district. Key issues regarding parks and green spaces across the District were discussed; particularly in relation to Chichester City for which the District own and manage the majority of the public open space. Overall, in terms of parks and green spaces provision there is no significant shortfall in the quantity of provision but quality is very variable – need for improvement in many areas.

The parks and green spaces managed by the Council include:

- Priory Park
- Oaklands Park
- Jubilee Park
- Lifeboat Green, Selsey
- East Beach, Selsey
- Florence Park
- Whyke Amphitheatre
- Whyke Oval
- Bishops Palace Gardens
- New Park Road Park
- Sherborne Road Park
- St Anne's Hill, Midhurst
- Foreshore
- Ten cemeteries – two operational and eight closed. All have public access

Issues raised included.

Parks and Gardens

- There are Friends of the parks/volunteer groups at:
 - Bishops Palace Gardens
 - Florence Park

- Priory Park and Jubilee Gardens
 - Brandy Hole Copse
 - East Beach Pond
- Priory Park has the potential to be developed and improved further to become a flagship park for the city. Currently there is an aspiration to repair and relocate a historic statue within the park (to be sited under cover) though significant funds would be needed.
 - Florence Park is a good example of a planned community approach. It has toilets, an on-site café, a good play area and a community room. The Friends of Group is very active.
 - In general terms over all the Council's parks, play areas and green spaces it would be useful to develop a strategic plan to prioritise needs for development, refurbishment and maintenance. Currently however due to reducing budgets the primary aim is simply to maintain the quality of existing facilities.
 - Pedestrian and cycle access to parks in Chichester is generally good – and over recent years a number of paths have been repaired and resurfaced. Car parking is generally reasonable (Priory Park less good). The bowls club members drive into the park and this informal agreement is sometimes abused.
 - There is a general no cycling policy within the parks. This could be reviewed on a site by site basis as there would be little problem with allowing cycling access within some of the parks.
 - Some of the parks e.g. Bishops Palace and Priory have a no dogs policy. This could be reviewed.
 - A review of fencing with the parks would be useful (on a site by site basis) as some seems unnecessary and can make it unclear as to what is meant to be accessible to the public.

Other issues

- The Council would benefit from a review of the management of parks and green spaces with a view to develop more diversity in its approach. E.g. to manage some areas for greater biodiversity i.e. to create more areas for wildflowers, wildlife habitats. This would require adding interpretation boards etc, to explain this approach to the general public.
- The signage within many parks and play areas could be improved to be more welcoming and less negative.
- Oakland Park would benefit from public toilet provision. Where there are no toilets signing should indicate where the nearest are e.g. in Bishops Palace Gardens – no signs.

Additional points relating to the various typologies can be found in the appropriate sections later in the report.

4.3.2 Strategic Organisations

Natural England – Focus Area Advisor

Management of Local Sites

Natural England is responsible for the management of Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve.

Outdoor recreation in environmentally 'sensitive areas'

If people have access to high quality open space near their homes, it can reduce pressure on sensitive sites. There are strong links between access to nature and people's health and wellbeing.

The Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership and Pagham Harbour Mitigation project are already in place in order that people are still able to visit the Special Protection Areas within Chichester District without significant effect.

The importance of Biodiversity and multi-functional open spaces

Chichester District Council has the opportunity to deliver positive biodiversity outcomes by having a strategy that links the current and any proposed open spaces. Ecological Networking should be used to link many of the open spaces outlined within the topics. An ecological network is a network of high quality sites, protected by buffer zones, and connected by wildlife corridors and smaller, but still wildlife-rich, 'stepping-stone' sites. Ecological networks generally have five components.

- **Core areas of high nature conservation value** which contain rare or important habitats or ecosystem services. They include protected wildlife sites and other semi-natural areas of high ecological quality.
- **Corridors and 'stepping stones'** enabling species to move between core areas. These can be made up of a number of small sites acting as 'stepping stones' or a mosaic of habitats that allows species to move and supports ecosystem functions.
- **Restoration areas**, where strategies are put in place to create high value areas (the 'core areas' of the future), restoring ecological functions and wildlife.
- **Buffer zones**, that protect core areas, restoration areas, and 'stepping stones' from adverse impacts in the wider environment.
- **Sustainable use areas**, areas of surrounding land that are managed in a sustainable and wildlife friendly way.

Further information about Ecological networks is noted below:

Ecological networks – “The integration of cultural values in nature conservation is essential in a general sense, as well as more specifically in the design of a more sustainable future that supports both species conservation and people's use, within the context of a changing environment. This is why such future design should include cultural values and should provide cultural services as well¹³”.

Standards of provision

Natural England has proposed standards for provision of natural green space, the Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGSt) standard. These standards recommend that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural green space:

¹³ “Econets, Landscape and People” Natural England (2015)
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6172716216352768>

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minute's walk) from home
- At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- Statutory local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population

Natural England suggest that these standards should be a target to achieve; and particularly that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural green spaces of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes from home).

The Woodland Trust - Regional and External Affairs Officer

The Woodland Trust noted that they appreciate the opportunity to input into this document. They highlighted that proximity and access to woodland is a key issue linking the environment with health and wellbeing provision.

Management of Local Sites

The Woodland Trust does not manage any sites within Chichester District.

Spatial Planning Standards

The Woodland Trust has researched and developed the Woodland Access Standard (WAS_t) for local authorities to aim for, encapsulated in our ***Space for People*** publication. We believe that the WAS_t can be an important policy tool complimenting other access standards used in delivering green infrastructure for health benefits.

The WAS_t is complimentary to Natural England's ANGST+ and is endorsed by Natural England. The Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standard recommends:

- **that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size**
- **that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people's homes.**

Applying this standard in Chichester, with a comparison against West Sussex County Council and England as a whole, gives the following figures (see table below). It shows that Chichester exhibits below average access to both woodland size categories.

This presents an excellent opportunity for creating more accessible woodland to improve health & wellbeing opportunities for sustainable communities and neighbourhoods.

The data used can be supplied free of charge by the Woodland Trust both in map and in numerical/GIS form.

Accessibility to Woodland in Chichester using the Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standard

		Chichester	West Sussex	England
Accessible woods	% population with access to 2ha+ wood within 500m	14.6%	16.9%	18%
	% population with access to 20ha+ wood within 4km	42.1%	56.3%	67.9%

The importance of biodiversity and multi-functional open space

The Case for Trees: Forestry Commission (2010)

Trees enhance biodiversity. A mature oak can host up to 5,000 species of invertebrate that will form the basis for a healthy food chain that benefits birds and mammals. As a platform for biodiversity trees can link pockets of wildlife that, in time, helps to increase it and thus bring people closer to nature.

The Trust would wish to highlight the importance of ancient woodland.

Ancient woods are irreplaceable. They are our richest terrestrial wildlife habitats, with complex ecological communities that have developed over centuries, and contain a high proportion of rare and threatened species, many of which are dependent on the particular conditions that this habitat affords. For this reason, ancient woods are reservoirs of biodiversity, but because the resource is limited and highly fragmented, they and their associated wildlife are particularly vulnerable.

Their long continuity and lack of disturbance means ancient woods are often also living history books, preserving archaeological features and evidence of past land use, from earthworks to charcoal pits. They are also places of great aesthetic appeal, making them attractive for recreation and the many benefits this can bring in terms of health and wellbeing.

The Trust would wish to see ancient woodland protected from development and buffered accordingly.

Other information/points raised

- Our document 'Residential developments and trees' may be useful: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2015/07/residential-developments-and-trees/>
- The **Trees or Turf (2011)** report outlines the benefits of converting selected areas of intensively mown grassland to woodland, and in particular the cost savings which can be made.
- The Trust supplied a number of additional typology based comments noted in the appropriate sections below.

Historic England - Planning Adviser

Historic England note that some open space will have historical significance which should be recognised and taken into account in future planning and management. This is the case even if not formally designated as a Registered Park and Garden or Conservation Area or contain a Listed Building or Scheduled Monument.

Sussex Wildlife Trust – Conservation Officer

Management of Local Sites

The trust has a specific interest in the following sites within Chichester District:

- Cooksbridge Meadow – Owned
- Ebernoe Common – Owned – SSSI,SNCI,SAC,NNR
- The Mens – Owned (some leased) - SSSI,SNCI,SAC
- Iping and Stedham – Owned (some leased) – SSSI, LNR, SAC
- Graffham Common – Owned (some leased) – SNCI (part)
- Burton and Chingford Ponds – Owned (Burton Pond) SSSI, LNR
- West Dean Woods – Leased by SWT (from estate)- SSSI (only footpath)
- Levin Down – Leased by SWT (from Goodwood estate)- SSSI
- Leythorne Meadow – Owned – SNCI (access by permit only)
- Ferry Field and Mill Marsh Pond – Owned – (but managed by RSPB) LNR, SSSI

The trust has management plans for all of the nature reserves that they manage and can supply copies of such plans if needed.

Outdoor recreation in environmentally ‘sensitive areas’

Whilst we encourage access to nature there should be an acknowledgement that in some areas this might not be appropriate. Some habitats and locations are much more vulnerable to recreational disturbance, in particular coastal habitats, wetlands and heathland. Given the large amount of development planned in Chichester District and neighbouring Districts, the quality of internationally designated sites must be protected and enhanced. The zone of influence for sensitive areas will vary and this must be accounted for.

The Trust supplied additional typology based comments noted in the appropriate sections below.

Manhood Peninsula Partnership (MPP)

The Manhood Peninsula Partnership (MPP) is a Standing Conference for the Manhood Peninsula. Its aim is to promote, develop and support initiatives that deliver economic, social and environmental benefits, all of which affect, or are influenced by, the natural environment and open spaces on the peninsula.

The peninsula is known for blue skies, open countryside, beaches and clean water. It is home to a thriving range of businesses, most importantly: tourism; leisure; agriculture and horticulture; and manufacturing. The marine environment fosters diverse economic activities including fishing and water sports. Increasingly, energy generation is being regarded as having economic potential on the peninsula. There is a small office and commercial market and significant self-employment. The interests of each sector must be balanced with the need to protect the special environmental qualities and distinctive character of the peninsula.

It is important that this study and its conclusions reflect the existing and potential mosaic of green infrastructure in the Manhood peninsula together with the more recognised open space and sporting facilities.

Management of Local Sites

To further the MPP aims a number of key statements on issues and opportunities for the peninsula have been produced, and sub-groups of the partnership are working on projects in consultation with representatives from peninsula parishes and the local community.

Key Statements:

[Key Statement on The Economy of the Manhood Peninsula](#)

[Key Statement on Green Links across the Manhood Peninsula \(GLaM\)](#) and [GLaM map](#)

[Key Statement on Surface Water Management across the Manhood Peninsula](#)

The Manhood Peninsula is rich in environmental assets, but is also a fragile environment. An Integrated Coastal Zone Management plan, *Towards ICZM*, was devised. In 2011 during the Defra funded Coastal Change Pathfinder Project. This suggests ways to ensure it has a sustainable future and crystalizes the thoughts expressed in parish plans and Village Design Statements:

[Towards ICZM on the Manhood Peninsula](#)

The MPP sub-groups involved in projects developing and delivering the aspirations as tangible projects are:
GLaM – Green Links across the Manhood:

<http://peninsulapartnership.org.uk/projects/green-links-around-medmerry/>

SWISH – Surface Water Issues and Solutions:

<http://peninsulapartnership.org.uk/projects/swish/>

Selsey Haven – a proposal for a small harbour that will affect marine open spaces:

<http://peninsulapartnership.org.uk/projects/selsey-haven/>

The importance of biodiversity and multi-functional open space

The Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group works extensively with volunteers to ensure hedgerows, ponds, rifes and other natural areas are maintained for now and for the generations to follow. The importance of this from the perspective of natural capital, and health and wellbeing cannot be understated. For more information see their website:

<https://mwhg.org.uk/>

Outdoor recreation in environmentally 'sensitive areas'

Outdoor recreation in environmentally sensitive areas is acceptable provided it does not disturb the environment in which it takes place. In order to make this work economically the MPP produced a Destination Management plan during the Coastal Change Pathfinder Project in 2011 promoting the idea that expanding the tourism season, rather than increasing visitor numbers, was the sustainable way forward. This was endorsed by the RSPB, managers of [Pagham Harbour](#) and [Medmerry](#).

The MPP supplied additional typology based comments noted in the appropriate sections below.

The National Trust – Area Ranger

The Trust have published a national strategic document: *A shared purpose for our countryside - Our part in restoring a healthier, more beautiful natural environment*

Management of Local Sites

The Trust owns and manages both East Head (nr West Wittering beach) and Bosham Quay Meadow which are both used by general public including for recreation. Both sites experience high footfall, as are popular visitor destinations for tourists and locals alike.

The importance of biodiversity and multi-functional open space

The nature of both East Head and Bosham Quay Meadow being small sites, demonstrates that to achieve tangible levels of biodiversity as well as offer multi-functional use, it is important to keep open spaces as large as possible, rather than have multiple small sites. This allows spreading room for recreational users, but also gives escape and sanctuary to vulnerable species.

Outdoor recreation in environmentally 'sensitive areas'

East Head, in particular, is a sensitive site with a number of ecological designations, visitor pressure is being anecdotally recognised as increasing, this is expected to reach tipping point in the near future for the protection of vulnerable habitat and wildlife if it continues at the same pace. East Head sees recreational use all year round. There is heavy use by dog walkers throughout the year, this has significant impacts to the overwintering bird life for which the area is designated an SPA. Similarly, the disturbance by dogs greatly impacts the success of the area as nesting site for the resident ground nesting bird species found there. The Trust supplied additional typology-based comments noted in the appropriate sections below.

RSPB - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - Conservation Officer

Management of Local Sites

The RSPB manages Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve and the Medmerry Nature Reserve.

Link to the Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve Management Plan:

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/local-nature-reserve-management-plan.pdf>

The management plan for Medmerry is awaiting final sign off before being made available.

The importance of biodiversity and multi-functional open space

The delivery, protection and enhancement of biodiversity lies at the heart of what the RSPB is all about. By managing the estuaries, saltmarsh, shingle islands, surrounding meadows, hedgerows, reedbed and woodland all aspects of wildlife are catered for.

Both nature reserves deliver multi-function open space. Medmerry provides access for cyclists, horse riders, people with mobility issues (although this part of the scheme is still being delivered by EA). Pagham has an easy-access route and a new bird hide (construction due October 2017) which will be wheelchair/mobility scooter accessible.

Outdoor recreation in environmentally 'sensitive areas'

The RSPB is responsible for managing some of the most sensitive areas on the peninsula. For the most part, outdoor recreational pursuits do not impact greatly on these sites. However, there are issues that we endeavour to manage. These include contract dog walkers with large numbers of dogs, not picking up their waste; dog walkers ignoring the sensitivities around bird nesting season and allowing dogs to disturb ground-nesting birds; swimmers and kayakers accessing bird nesting areas during the nesting period, committing offences of disturbance; and angling – especially the taking of illegal numbers/size of sea fish. Other activities that have an impact include hare-coursing, deer poaching, fly-tipping, fly-grazing (the illegal release of stock onto someone else's land – especially horses), general littering, the unauthorised flying of drones, and the general disturbance of either nesting birds or large flocks of overwintering birds.

The RSPB supplied additional typology based comments noted in the appropriate sections below.

4.4 Community Organisations Survey (non-sports): overview

An online survey was set up for local organisations with an interest in green spaces (non-sporting). Responses were received from the British Horse Society; Chichester Conservation Volunteers; Chichester Organic Gardening Society; Friends of Bishop's Palace Garden; Friends of Brandy Hole Copse; Friends of Priory Park; Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group; and Transition Chichester. Detailed comments from the groups are found in the typology based sections 4.5 to 4.9 below.

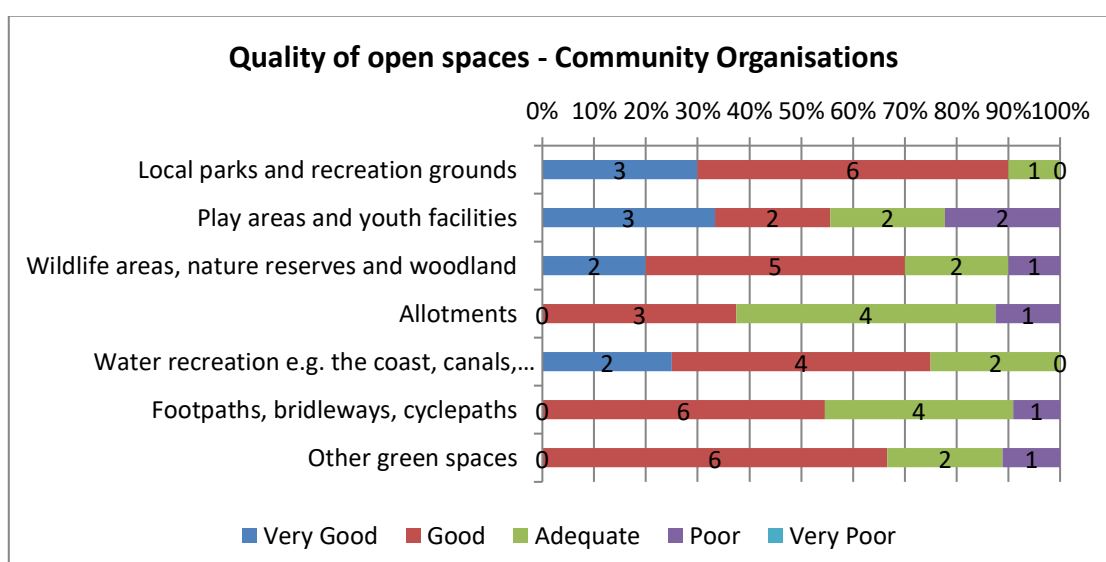
Quantity

- All of respondents reported that their organisations make direct use of open space or outdoor recreation facilities.
- A number of groups commented on a need for additional open space and outdoor facilities as noted below:

Group	Need for more open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities – comments
British Horse Society	There are not enough bridleways to form a comprehensive, linked network. The network is fragmented, and in many cases busy and dangerous roads have to be used to link bridleways.
Chichester Organic Gardening Society	For us as a group, yes there is enough space. But we are anxious collectively and individually about any encroachment upon open spaces which are vitally needed as the city is increased in size.
Chichester Organic Gardening Society	More of our members would like allotments which are not available at present.
Friends of Brandy Hole Copse	We are keen to ensure that the two fields just south of the Copse are retained as open spaces, once the planned Whitehouse Farm housing development is underway.
Friends of Priory Park	Better sports facility buildings are needed.
Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group	There can never be too many outdoor spaces for people to get involved in and improve - a greater range of accessible space for communities is vital for good health and wellbeing.

Quality

The general views of these local community organisations who expressed an opinion as regards the overall quality of the different types of outdoor recreational provision in Chichester District are summarised in the chart and information below:



- All but one of the groups suggested that the quality of parks and recreation grounds is either good or very good (the other rating them as adequate).
- Similarly the quality of water recreation facilities including beaches, the coast, canals, lakes etc; and wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands was rated highly by a clear majority.
- Opinion on the quality of play areas is more varied with a majority rating them on general as good or very good but some rated them as poor or only adequate.
- The quality of footpaths bridleways and cyclepaths is rated as at least adequate with more rating them as good than adequate. Similarly for amenity green spaces such as grassed areas for dog walking, informal games, picnics etc.
- Groups are generally less happy with the quality of allotments with more rating them as adequate or poor than rating them as good.

Access

Respondents were asked whether their group faced any access issues in relation to open space and recreational facilities:

Three of the groups commented on access issues as noted below:

- *British Horse Society* - Equestrians on the Coastal Plain have very few bridleways, and are unable to safely cross the A27 to get to the National Park where there is a good network of safe routes. Riders who are able to box their horses over the A27, but this is costly and many riders have to use the busy roads.
- *Chichester Organic Gardening Society* - it has been pointed out that walks locally organised, which are excellent (Heart Smart) are too often inaccessible by bus.
- *Friends of Priory Park* - poor toilets and sporting facilities in the pavilion for Cricket. Lack of adequate facilities for the Bowling Club and no drinking fountain.

Sport and Recreation in environmentally sensitive areas

The question posed was: 'Should we have more or less areas for activities that are noisy? If so, where should they go? Is countryside or wildlife damaged by sport and recreational activity?'

The following points were raised by respondents:

- The countryside should be mainly used for quiet, informal recreation.
- Several footpaths are damaged by horse riders and cyclists.
- Motor bikes cause damage to bridleways.
- Always a difficult balance but in the case of Priory Park by excluding dogs and cyclists it means that we attract mother and infants, families for picnics who all feel safe in the Park.
- Outdoor recreation can be damaging to the countryside and wildlife. Areas that are opened up and new footpaths (e.g new Medmerry) instantly attract litter and dog faeces as there is no enforcement of bylaws to prevent this.
- Needs to be a big education campaign on the effects of dogs and 'noisy' recreation on wildlife - there shouldn't be a right of access everywhere - some areas of tranquility should still exist. This also covers low level light aircraft continually buzzing Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve and Medmerry - important wildlife areas that are disturbed all the time by planes.
- Noisy Recreation could be pursued in more built up areas of parks - do not ruin the countryside - it is under pressure from agriculture, commercial buildings and housing.

Other Issues and Observations

The survey provided an opportunity to highlight any other issues that didn't specifically fall into observations on particular typology types. Comments are noted below:

- Chichester DC should be looking for opportunities in all strategic developments to create multi-use off-road public rights of way for the benefit of all users. Development brings more and more vehicles onto the roads as they are becoming increasingly dangerous for horse riders to use, especially on the Coastal Plain.
- We deplore the allocation of prime agricultural land to building. We are told that more 'affordable' houses are needed. These must be in accessible places. 'Brownfield' sites should be chosen first. And surely all new builds should be given solar panels and the latest technology for saving fuel and water.
- It is crucial that all the housing development envisaged in the CDC Local Plan ensure adequate provision of open spaces for recreational activities
- Just to say how much valued are the Parks particularly the Urban parks. Priory Park is the most visited attraction in Chichester and really is our Village Green.

4.5 Parks and Recreation Grounds

4.5.1 Chichester District Council Green Space Manager

General

- There are Friends of the parks/volunteer groups at:
 - Bishops Palace Gardens
 - Florence Park
 - Priory Park and Jubilee Gardens
 - Brandy Hole Copse
 - East Beach Pond
- Priory Park has the potential to be developed and improved further to become a flagship park for the city. Currently there is an aspiration to repair and relocate a historic statue within the park (to be sited under cover) though significant funds would be needed.
- Florence Park is a good example of a planned community approach. It has toilets, an on-site café, a good play area and a community room. The Friends of Group is very active.
- In general terms over all the Council's parks, play areas and green spaces it would be useful to develop a strategic plan to prioritise needs for development, refurbishment and maintenance. Currently however due to reducing budgets the primary aim is simply to maintain the quality of existing facilities.
- Pedestrian and cycle access to parks in Chichester is generally good – and over recent years a number of paths have been repaired and resurfaced. Car parking is generally reasonable (Priory Park less good). The bowls club members drive into the park and this informal agreement is sometimes abused.
- There is a general no cycling policy within the parks. This could be reviewed on a site by site basis as there would be little problem with allowing cycling access within some of the parks.
- Some of the parks e.g. Bishops Palace and Priory have a no dogs policy. This could be reviewed.
- A review of fencing with the parks would be useful (on a site by site basis) as some seems unnecessary and can make it unclear as to what is meant to be accessible to the public.

Tennis

- The tennis facilities at Oaklands Park are reasonable (some floodlit) but probably under-used. They are leased to the Tennis club. Some pay and play available but potential for easing access e.g. some programming for free use by children and young people?

Bowls

- There is a strong and well supported Bowls Club at Priory Park. The green is in excellent condition and there is access to the pavilion on site which is also in good condition.

4.5.2 Strategic Organisations

The Woodland Trust

- We would wish to see an aim to increase tree cover.
- Trees provide multiple benefits. These include biodiversity, quality of life (eg improving air quality, reducing noise pollution) and climate change (eg flood amelioration and urban cooling).
- It is important that the threat of tree disease is taken into account. Planting a range of new native trees will help to compensate for any losses.

4.5.3 Community Organisations Survey

Comments from the Community Organisations Survey in relation to parks and recreation grounds are noted below:

Group	Comments
Chichester Organic Gardening Society	Very important not to lose any we already have. We would like the use of pesticide to cease and spaces to be managed organically.
Friends of Priory Park	There is excellent maintenance of pitches and the grounds in Priory Park but a lack of investment to date on the buildings particularly the toilets. The hedge and chestnut paling fence has long been inadequate for security but there are actions in place to put in railings.
Transition Chichester	Chichester has excellent provision of parks and open spaces.

4.6 Allotment Provision

Chichester District Council does not manage any allotments. In the main these are managed by Chichester City Council and the Town/Parish Councils. City, Town and Parish Council views on allotments can be found in Section 3.3.2 above.

4.6.1 Community Organisations Survey

Comments from the Community Organisations Survey in relation to allotments are noted below:

Group	Comments
Chichester Organic Gardening Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More are needed to cope with demand. Organic practices should be encouraged and supported by the council. Those not using their allotments should be given notice. There should be more education in organic practices. • Absolutely vital. They are a lifeline to many people who want to grow their own. They also allow a breathing space and exercise where there is not enough space among housing complexes. • Socially they provide meeting areas and shared interest; allotment holders form friendships and support each other physically and socially. • As the population expands we have a greater need to encourage growing of our own food; children are being encouraged to do this in school, and there must be enough space and provision for them to continue when they are older. • Allotment growing does not necessarily 'save money' in the short term, but has a beneficial effect on people's health and general wellbeing, which in turn must save the nhs a great deal of time and money (which latter point is one that is much regarded these days). • There is no substitute for fresh air and exercise, added to the satisfaction of producing something with one's own efforts; this is all the more important as the emphasis elsewhere is upon computer use etc. and a lack of contact with the real world.
Friends of Priory Park	The allotments in Chichester are well managed by the City Council
Transition Chichester	The waiting list for allotments is too long.

4.7 Natural green space, wildlife areas and woodlands

The District Council are not the primary managers of natural green space, wildlife areas and woodlands across the District and the main sites are managed by the strategic organisations, local organisations, and town and parish councils.

4.7.2 Strategic Organisations

The Woodland Trust

It is important that ancient woodland is protected and buffered from any threats (eg nearby development).

Ancient woodland is defined as land that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600, though many ancient woods are much older than this, and some may even form a link with the primeval woodland that covered the UK after the last Ice Age.

Ancient woods are irreplaceable. They are our richest terrestrial wildlife habitats, with complex ecological communities that have developed over centuries, and contain a high proportion of rare and threatened species, many of which are dependent on the particular conditions that this habitat affords. For this reason, ancient woods are reservoirs of biodiversity, but because the resource is limited and highly fragmented, they and their associated wildlife are particularly vulnerable.

Their long continuity and lack of disturbance means ancient woods are often also living history books, preserving archaeological features and evidence of past land use, from earthworks to charcoal pits. They are also places of great aesthetic appeal, making them attractive for recreation and the many benefits this can bring in terms of health and wellbeing.

With only 2.4% of the land area in Great Britain covered by ancient woodland, it is essential that no more of this finite resource is lost. This means that ancient woodland must be protected absolutely from permanent clearance, but also that it must be protected from damaging effects of adjacent and nearby land-use that could threaten the integrity of the habitat and survival of its special characteristics.

Sussex Wildlife Trust

It is difficult for the Trust to comment on the quality or quantity of areas outside our own land holdings, as we don't have on the ground detailed knowledge of the district. It would be helpful to see existing areas mapped as this might highlight missing areas in relation to open space provision and ecological connectivity.

Whilst SWT's nature reserves are primarily open access, there are many areas which will be important for biodiversity and ecosystem services that may not have public access. Local Wildlife Sites in particular will contribute to the natural capital of the district, but may not be open to the public.

Chichester District Council should have access to data on designated sites and priority habitat, however if anything is missing you should contact the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. Neighbourhood Plans should also be assessed as they often include open space designations and biodiversity.

Manhood Peninsula Partnership

One of the MPP partners, the Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group, is a significant local environmental group whose main aims are to promote the conservation, protection and improvement the natural environment.

Project FLOW (Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands), their current project, has received major funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to fulfil these aims. Their most recent document is the FLOW 2017 Wetland Habitat Assessment & Improvement Plan:

<https://mwhg.org.uk/flow-2017-wetland-habitat-assessment-and-improvement-plan/>

The National Trust

East Head is a SSSI, designated for both the habitat features and for its geomorphological dynamics. It is currently in an unfavourable – recovering status, this is in part due to the impact of high visitor numbers. Its move towards recovering is down to visitor management techniques which are being utilised on site, but these will only remain effective with its current level of use, further visitor impact would likely cause a return to an unfavourable – declining SSSI status.

RSPB

Since taking over the management of the Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve and its visitor centre the RSPB have been working towards improvements to the infrastructure for visitors and educational groups.

Current projects, as part of our Uplift programme, include recently installed toilet facilities, with improved accessibility. A new bird viewing facility, accessible by wheelchairs, and an improved wildlife area, with more surfaced paths, are due to commence construction this Autumn.

At the Medmerry reserve we are working with the Environment Agency to deliver improved access path from the Easton Road car park, due for the winter of 2017.

4.7.3 Community Organisation Survey

Respondents' views in relation to Wildlife Areas, Nature Reserves and Woodlands are noted below:

Group	Comments
British Horse Society	Where there are woodlands that allow horse riding (Forestry Commission, Goodwood, National Trust) these are very good. However, access to them is often difficult and riders are forced to box their horses to these facilities.
Chichester Conservation Volunteers	There are many wildlife areas, reserves and woodlands, which are well managed but underused by the general public.
Chichester Organic Gardening Society	Also very important to preserve - voluntary organisations are doing great work.
Friends of Brandy Hole Copse	We are keen to work with the developers of Whitehouse Farm to create two wildflower meadows in the two fields just to the south of Brandy Hole Copse.
Friends of Priory Park	In general these are well looked after. Brandy Hole Nature reserve with the City limits is well used and looked after by volunteers
Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group	There should be more of these areas and they should be valued and ring fenced from development. Wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands should be linked and these green corridors viewed as valuable - not isolated islands. More interpretation would educate the public on the value of these spaces. Selsey.....concerns over the expansion of housing to the north of the town. Hard surfacing replacing the previous open space will possibly lead to an increase in poor water quality entering the catchment at East Beach Pond. This fresh water site is already vulnerable.

Transition Chichester	Within the city we need more wildlife corridors and unmown areas for biodiversity and to encourage pollination
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4.8 Water and Coastal Recreation

4.8.1 Chichester District Council

Foreshore Service

There are about 14 miles of coast line within the District of which the Council manages nine miles from Pagham Harbour to Chichester Harbour. The coastline is important for migrating birds and between Selsey and Bracklesham there is a Site of Specific Interest (SSSI). There are sandy beaches at West Wittering (private) and East Head (National Trust) which are busy in the summer. Bracklesham and Selsey also have popular beaches. The area provides for a wide range of water sports including swimming, sailing, windsurfing, sea fishing, surfing and diving. There are many different coastal based clubs in the area. Horses are permitted throughout the year from the entrance to Pagham Harbour to the Council's boundary edge at Shore Road in Wittering.

There are several caravan and camping sites in the area and the village of East Wittering has local shops, cafes and restaurants. There are three main car parks along the council's stretch of coast. Parking is available at East Beach and Hillfield Road in Selsey. Parking is also available adjacent to the Bracklesham Bay foreshore office.

The Council operates a foreshore service along the coast from Pagham Harbour to Chichester Harbour from Easter to the end of September to enforce local byelaws and ensure public safety. The service is based at the Bracklesham Bay Boat Office.

Chichester Harbour is a major centre for sailing and water recreation. The Chichester Harbour Conservancy also provides a wide range of educational and recreational opportunities including facilities and paths for wheelchair users and disabled people.

The Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve is popular and is managed by the RSPB. The RSPB also manage another important local nature reserve on the coast – Medberry LNR.

- The beaches and coast are valuable recreational assets to the District providing free access to physical activity opportunities for both local people and visitors. This is very important in relation to promoting public health and wellbeing.
- The beaches and coast are also significant in terms of local tourism and the wider local economy as evidenced through research undertaken by Tourism South East.
- There is a need to improve basic facilities such as toilets, car parks, slipways etc. but resources are limited. Car parking is insufficient to cater for the number of visitors.
- There is growing interest in kite surfing and access to the beach and coast for such activity is important. Divers and surfers have expressed needs for changing, showering and storage facilities at appropriate coastal locations e.g. Bracklesham.
- Poor access to the beaches for wheelchair users and families with push chairs etc. due to steps and shingles preventing access. This could be improved with investment though currently resources are very limited.
- There is potential to create better linked footpaths/bridleways/cyclepaths around the coast e.g. to provide links to the nature reserves.
- Traffic is a problem – particularly for accessing West Wittering beach in the summer. Little opportunity to managing this better, however, due to the road network.

Leisure Services

- Inland water recreation e.g. canoeing and kayaking – the canals are important and access and facilities relating to such need to be considered. Lakes and their potential for developing rowing as a sporting activity is also a consideration.
- The Chichester Water Sports Centre is based on a lake next to the A27 in Westhamptnett. It is one of the main centres for water activities on the South Coast, including windsurfing, wakeboarding, waterskiing. It is also a SBDA Boat Drivers Award Test Centre.
- The Canoe Club have expressed a need for storage and changing facilities at the Canal basin. They no longer have access to a base at the High School.

4.8.3 Strategic Organisations

Manhood Peninsula Partnership

Chichester Canal occupies the northern part of the Manhood Peninsula, and is classified as a Local Nature Reserve. The canal links Chichester City to Chichester Harbour by means of the old tow path along which walkers and cyclists are able to enjoy the rural setting of the canal. Barges carry passengers along the canal itself on organised boat trips. Although man-made, it is essential to preserve the canal and its banks as natural habitat and a recreation space. The canal also has an important function as a visitor attraction, and an open air amenity for local people enabling them to reap the health benefits of the great outdoors. Because the tow path is flat and surfaced, it provides those who need wheels to get about to also take advantage.

RSPB

The RSPB believes access to the coast should be extended, as one mechanism for enhancing public awareness of birds and the value of the natural environment. In addition, the legislation adds to the toolkit for addressing problems arising from current de facto access. The coast is very important for wildlife. Delivering access through statutory means offers explicit safeguards for wildlife. In England, work is underway preparing reports for a further 10 stretches of coast; a further 40 or so remain to be done over the next decade. We can expect interest to surge locally as the process reaches particular areas: in some instances, we can expect impacts on wildlife to be a focus of concern. The RSPB continues to be closely involved with the implementation process to ensure that wildlife is protected whilst delivering enhanced access.

4.8.3 Parish Councils and Community Organisations

East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish council

- The Parish depends on tourism for its economic survival. We have a very safe seaside here which is ideal for families. Our residents increase approximately 5 times down here in the summer yet the access to the beach is extremely poor, not only for the less able but for families with young children.
- There is also a notable market for watersports – such as kite surfing, paddleboarding, dinghy sailing, rowing etc etc. Facilities and access points are required in certain locations to support these activities.

Bracklesham Boardriders

Poor quality foreshores at Bracklesham, no lifeguards, no beach designations during busy periods, toilet blocks are old & dirty, not even a simple freshwater cold tap or shower present for beach users. The redevelopment of the kiosk was supposed to provide these new amenities as part of its contract, yet hasn't. Foreshores patrol only present for 6 months of the year. Ticket machines rusting into the ground. Carpark not litter-picked often enough. A 'dodgy' burger van parked in the carpark, and general unloved and rundown look to the whole area. Quite simply a massive waste of what could be an incredible place.

4.9 Rights of Way - Footpaths, Cycling and Bridleways

In relation to the open spaces study it is important to consider the provision of and need for linear recreational open space in the form of rights of way such as footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths. For this reason, footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths are included in the typologies of open space considered.

4.9.1 Chichester District Council – Cycle Group

The group takes the public on guided cycle rides within the District and are keen for the cycling network to be expanded and improved where possible. Any opportunities for off-road cycle links are welcomed.

4.9.2 Strategic Organisations

West Sussex Local Access Forum (LAF)

The primary strategic document for the LAF is the West Sussex County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The Rights of Way network is generally fragmented both in terms of lack of continuity between paths and between the urban areas and the countryside. The lack of continuity of the bridleway network, particularly on the Coastal Plain requires NMUs (Non-Motorised Users) to use busy and heavily trafficked roads, which restricts usage. Off road safe links between paths/bridleways are required.

Parts of the network are either unusable or unattractive to use at times due to seasonal factors such as vegetation growth and wet/muddy surface conditions. Additional resources for path maintenance would improve the condition of these paths allowing all-year use.

Manhood Peninsula Partnership

It is essential to ensure that the peninsula continues to build on its green links between the important habitat and environmental areas - which include Chichester Harbour, the beaches, Medmerry, Pagham, and the Canal. The water ways/ditches throughout the peninsula provide important wildlife corridors between all these areas. Meanwhile, the quiet back roads and foot and cycle paths linking the 16 small settlements and the important wildlife sites on the peninsula provide opportunities for residents and visitors to travel across and explore the area by foot and cycle. The GLaM project aims to explore these ideas:

<http://peninsulapartnership.org.uk/projects/green-links-around-medmerry/>

MPP supports and advocates the improvement of rights of way and other pedestrian, cycle and equestrian routes across the peninsula. The MPP wants to work with and to bring together route advocates, route providers and route funders to achieve a superb network of green links across the Manhood – the GLaM network.

The GLaM Key Statement will shortly be revised to reflect

- the announcement by Natural England of the proposed route of the National Coastal Path;
- the proposed Chichester to Selsey Greenway;
- and to make the GLaM routes appear more as a network than a number of apparently disjointed proposals.

Achieving an improved network of routes is relevant to your study because of the health and well-being benefits and because of the opportunities to link open space and other facilities in a more sustainable manner.

The National Trust

General observation: There is a lack of safe cycle routes in the West Wittering area, the southern end of the Salterns Way path finishes off on the main West Wittering road which is particularly congested and potentially dangerous at peak summer season.

RSPB

We do receive comments from members of the public about rights of way, not on the reserves, which get blocked by vegetation. We pass these onto WSCC Highways, as the managing authority. In addition we are working with WSCC and Southern Water on the delivery of the Cycleway from Pagham Harbour nature Reserve Visitor Centre, to the Medmerry reserve. This will provide a really useful link across the peninsula for walkers and cyclists alike.

4.9.2 Community Organisations Survey

Respondents' views in relation to footpaths, cycling and bridleway provision are noted below:

Group	Comments
British Horse Society	Where multi-use public rights of way exist (bridleways, byways), these are very well used and excellent safe off-road paths for horse riders. However the network is fragmented and riders are forced to use busy and dangerous roads to access them.
Chichester Conservation Volunteers	Lots of footpaths are overgrown and not well managed by landowners.
Chichester Organic Gardening Society	Footpaths need more maintenance. When reported, broken stiles etc are usually repaired but there seems to be little maintenance of the foot way and little cutting back of intrusive vegetation. Signage could be improved. We do need to preserve and extend cyclepaths. Some routes are dangerous for cyclists
Friends of Brandy Hole Copse	An initiative to extend Centurion Way northwards to Cocking Hill on the South Downs Way would be greatly appreciated by walkers and cyclists.
Manhood Riding Club	Horse riding and cycling are popular outdoor activities in the area but are constricted in places, especially on the Manhood Peninsula, by the need to use often busy, narrow lanes to access bridleways/cycle paths. It would be advantageous if provision for offroad links could be built into the infra structure of future developments and/or road improvement schemes.

4.10 Parks, Natural Green Space and Rights of Way: Key Findings

Overview

- Public Health leads at both the District and County Council highlight the important role that open space provision can have in relation to improving health and wellbeing.
- Providing and maintaining sufficient good quality open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities supports a number of objectives in the District Council Corporate Plan.
- The importance of partnership working, both with strategic organisations, local groups and through town and parish councils etc. is highlighted.
- Priory Park has the potential to be developed and improved further to become a flagship park for the city. Florence Park is a good example of a planned community approach. It has toilets, an on-site café, a good play area and a community room. The Friends of Group is very active.
- Natural England suggests that the ANGst standard should be a starting point for developing a standard for natural and semi natural green space. Variations from this standard should be justified.
- The Woodland Trust Woodland Access Standard (WAS - endorsed by Natural England) provides guidance on access to Woodland, which should also be taken into consideration.
- Many stakeholders highlight the importance of biodiversity and having multi-functional open spaces that take biodiversity into account in relation to design and maintenance. A number of stakeholders also note the need to balance access and outdoor recreation with conservation in environmentally sensitive areas.
- The importance of biodiversity, ecological networks and the health and wellbeing benefits associated with access to good quality open space were key issues highlighted throughout the consultation.

Quantity

- The District Council Green Space Officer suggested that overall in terms of parks and green space in Chichester City there is no obvious shortfall in the quantity of provision; but quality is variable – need for improvement in some areas.
- He also noted that while the District Council manages many sites in Chichester City elsewhere across the District the key managers of open spaces tend to strategic organisations such as the RSPB, National Trust, Wildlife Trust and town and parish councils.

Household Survey:

- 60% or more of respondents suggest a need for more footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths; and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves.
- Other aspects where there was considered to be an overall shortfall by a majority were: informal open spaces, local parks and recreation grounds and water/coastal recreation sites.

Quality

- The District Council Green Space Manager notes that generally quality is quite good though budgets for maintenance have been reduced over recent years meaning that there is little scope for new or significant refurbishment of existing provision without significant funding being secured.
- He also noted that it would be useful to develop a strategic plan to prioritise needs for development, refurbishment and maintenance. Currently however due to reducing budgets the primary aim is simply to maintain the quality of existing facilities.

Household survey:

- For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of average or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "average").
- Some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated highly in terms of quality. These include: parks and recreation grounds; woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves; and rights of way.

Community group survey:

- Nearly all of the groups suggested that the quality of parks and recreation grounds is either good or very good.
- Similarly the quality of water recreation facilities including beaches, the coast, canals, lakes etc; and wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands were rated highly by a clear majority.
- The quality of footpaths bridleways and cyclepaths is rated as at least adequate with more rating them as good than adequate. Similarly for amenity green spaces such as grassed areas for dog walking, informal games, picnics etc.
- Groups are generally less happy with the quality of allotments with more rating them as adequate or poor than rating them as good.

Access

Household survey:

- In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.
- The detailed findings relating to acceptable access times to the various typologies will be considered in detail to help determine the access elements of relevant standards for different kinds of open space.
- 84% of households confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved. 85% said that if the quality of the route was improved they would make the journey more often.

Other points raised

- Some sectors of the community face particular barriers to access such as disabled people; children and young people; households in the more isolated rural areas and those in the more deprived areas of the District.
- The District Council Green Space Manager noted that for District Council sites access for disabled people is generally good and care is taken to maximise access in line with the good practice guidance relating to the different kinds of open space/facility.

5.0 OUTDOOR PLAY AND YOUTH FACILITIES

This section provides feedback and information relating to outdoor play and youth facilities. It considers information and views provided by various stakeholders including the District Council, strategic organisations and local groups.

The section is structured into two main parts:

- Review of local Policy and Strategy
- Youth and Play – stakeholder feedback

There is a summary of key points and issues at the end of the section.

5.1 Review of Policy and Strategy

5.1.1 Chichester District Open Space Study (2013)

Local Standards

The 2013 Study proposes a local standard for play space and youth facility provision as noted below.

Typology	Quantity standards		Access standard
	Main settlements & Housing Growth Areas	Parishes	
Play Space	0.15	0.15	<i>Child space:</i> 480 metres or 10 minute walk <i>Teenage space:</i> 600 metres or 12-13 minute walk

Overall, the district was found to have a shortfall in the provision of play space

Typology Existing supply (ha)	Typology Existing supply (ha)
Play Space	-9.53

The summary of the 2013 study regarding play space quality and key issues is noted below:

Quality of play space

- **Children's play space.** The quality of children's play space varies considerably across the district from very poor to very good. In general, the majority of provision is average, with equipment and facilities which are rather outdated and not in line with more creative and imaginative play provision being promoted by Play England. There are of course exceptions to this, with some recent play areas showing more imaginative provision (for example Fishbourne Recreation Ground and Priory Park, Chichester). In some of the parishes there has been partial investment in new items of equipment, but few examples of a more holistic approach to play and play design. This is a major issue for consideration in the future provision of new play spaces, and in improvements of existing spaces.
- **Youth provision.** Within this typology is included MUGA's, BMX, skate parks and basketball. The quality of provision was generally found to be good, although the number of facilities was considerably lacking. Where provision has been made, it is relatively new, fit for purpose and on site

observations found facilities to be well used. There was also little evidence of vandalism or antisocial behaviour compared to similar facilities in other study areas. Further assessment on the provision of MUGAs is made in section 4 of this report.

Summary/key issues – play space

- Only five parishes meet the recommended quantity standard for play provision. Across the district, there is a need for an additional 5.34 hectares of play space to meet the existing standard.
- Access to children's play space is quite good, with only a few gaps in access, most notably parts of Chichester City. In contrast access to youth provision is very poor, with significant gaps in many of the settlements.
- The quality of children's play space was found to be average overall, with few examples of designed imaginative play spaces. The provision of youth facilities, although lacking in numbers was generally good, with most facilities being relatively new (compared with children's play spaces).

5.1.2 Chichester Play Strategy (2007-2012)

The Chichester Open Space Assessment Study also makes reference to an earlier District Play Strategy (2007-2012) which though out of date is still of interest. Some of the main findings from the strategy of relevance are noted below:

Key Findings

- Ownership of play sites across the district is varied including CDC, Parish Councils, registered social landlords and management committees.
- There is a lot of provision for young children, but very limited provision for older young people.
- There are few play areas of any significant size provided in the district.
- Consultation with the providers of fixed equipped play areas showed that there is a large variance between the parishes in terms of their current knowledge, skills, and ability to provide play opportunities. Some parishes clearly have more capacity than others, but all are in need of a person, or organisation, at District level or higher, that can provide a co-ordinating, strategic role to deliver play across the district.
- In relation to the demographics of the area it showed that there were some gaps in provision in some rural locations but the Parish Council's in those areas were not in a position financially or otherwise to provide fixed play provision

Policy

Play Policy statements/aims within the strategy of relevance to this study are:

- Develop a strategic approach to play provision throughout the District, through partnership working.
- Improve some of the existing play facilities to challenge, interest and increase enjoyment and fun for children and young people.
- Increase provision of, and access to, play facilities and opportunities for older children and young people.
- Support existing play provision for children and young people, including those with disabilities.

5.1.3 Play England

Play England have some broad observations about overall policy direction and advice on local standards as summarised below.

Quantity

Play England recommend provision of a range of play spaces in all urban environments:

- A Doorstep spaces close to home
- B Local play spaces – larger areas within easy walking distance
- C Neighbourhood spaces for play – larger spaces within walking distance
- D Destination/family sites; accessible by bicycle, public transport and with car parking

They emphasise that play spaces do not just mean formal play areas. While these are included play spaces cover all areas of public open spaces that are "playable" e.g. spaces that are accessible, safe, appropriate for play and where play use is welcomed and encouraged.

They also point out the need for standards for smaller settlements and rural areas where the doorstep, local, neighbourhood, and destination hierarchy is unlikely to be appropriate.

Quality

Play England would like the Play England Design Guide *Design for Play* to be referenced and added as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Play England have developed a *Quality Assessment Tool* that can be used to judge the quality of individual play spaces. They recommend that local authorities consider adopting this as a means of assessing the quality of play spaces in the local area.

Access

Access is the key element for Play England as referred to in the Quantity section – a range of doorstep, local, neighbourhood, and destination play spaces with appropriate catchments. Disability access is also an important issue for Play England and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS publication *Inclusion by Design* as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Priorities

Play England have a guidance document: *Better Places to Play through Planning*. The publication gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space. It also shows how provision for better play opportunities can be promoted in planning policies and processes; giving detail of how local development frameworks and planning control can be utilised in favour of child-friendly communities. They recommended that local authorities adopt this guidance generally in terms of play and spatial planning.

5.2 Youth and Play facilities – Stakeholders

5.2.1 Chichester District Council

Green Space Manager

The Green Space Manager noted that the District Council managed seven play areas in Chichester which are located at:

- Amphitheatre play area - Velyn Avenue
- Florence Park play area - Florence Road
- Oaklands Park play area - Wellington Road
- Oaklands Park play area - College Lane
- Priory Park play area - Priory Park
- Sherborne Road play area - Sherborne Road
- Whyke Oval play Area - Whyke Oval

Florence Road and Whyke Oval also include a multi-use games area. The Council operates Westgate Skate Park, behind Westgate Leisure in Chichester (managed by the Leisure Centre).

He also highlighted that:

- The play area at Priory Park is a good example of the standard the Council should be aiming at in terms of quality/design etc. Whyke Oval has recently been provided with improved facilities for young children (teenage facilities are good).
- The Amphitheatre play area in Velyn Avenue, Chichester would benefit from a refurbishment but this is difficult to achieve due to its Heritage status; and there have been problems with anti-social behaviour. Sherborne Rd. Play area is in reasonable condition.

Sport and Leisure Development Manager

- There is a need for more and better play facilities across the district, particularly for older children. A lot of play areas are of poor quality when looked at in relation to the design recommendations from Play England.
- Overall there is still a shortage overall of teenage play provision, adventurous and challenging play etc. There is limited provision of wheeled sports facilities. There is no dedicated official facility for BMX. There is demand but insufficient provision.
- A new skatepark was opened in 2015 at Selsey. A teen shelter has been provided by East Wittering and Bracklesham parish. There is also a strong local group aiming for an extensive skatepark facility but the parish council note that space is not currently available.
- MUGAs – there is provision at Sherborne, Whyke, Tangmere, Summersdale and Bracklesham. Overall there seem to be insufficient MUGAs across the district.
- There is potential for an indoor skatepark within the district but no specific project in place to advance this. Demand could be said to be illustrated by the current use of the indoor multi-story car park in Chichester by skateboarders.
- In Florence Park in Chichester there has been demand for wheelchair swing. This provision is currently being considered.
- There is potential for a “Go Ape” type facility (high ropes course) but this would probably be best located within the national park.

Community & Partnerships Support Manager

The Community & Partnerships team covers various aspects relevant to the OSS including youth engagement, liaison with the voluntary and community sector, and community/village halls. This includes liaison with planning in relation to community needs for facilities, CIL etc.

Provision of open space and play facilities through planning are covered by the sport and leisure section. The main focus of discussions related to community facilities in particular Community/Village halls¹⁴ and youth engagement. Points and issues raised in relation to Youth Engagement are noted below:

- County Youth services have been significantly reduced over recent years with little emphasis currently on a universal youth services offer and support to general youth clubs.
- Sussex Clubs for Young People is a youth organisation that works to support youth clubs and may be able to help circulate a survey to clubs: admin@sussexcyp.org.uk
- VAAC May be able to circulate an online survey link to local organisations.
- CDC have two part time youth engagement officers in David's team but their work is very focussed on two particular projects in targeted areas: *Ideas into Action* – working with children in schools (Y5) in the more deprived wards; and *Five Ways to Wellbeing* – a “low level” preventative mental health initiative aimed at building resilience etc.

As a result of the discussion contact was made with Sussex Clubs for Young People and VAAC who helped to promote the community surveys.

5.2.2 Town and Parish Councils

Town and Parish Councils are also key owners and managers of local play areas and youth facilities. Many town and parish councils highlight needs for improvements. Comments on play and youth facilities from individual parishes are provided in the table below:

Parish	Comments
Bosham Parish Council	Upper Bosham (Broadbridge area) requires a children play area.
Chidham & Hambrook PC	Children and young people aged 8 and upwards have no formal sport/recreational facilities. There are no open space areas where young people can kick a football or throw a frisbee, fly a kite or even just run about. The Parish is very keen to secure a recreational area where facilities for over eights and teenagers such as appropriate play equipment, a MUGA and skate park can be located. <i>MUGAs and skate Parks:</i> : there are none at present - would like to see a MUGA or Skate Park <i>Play areas:</i> needed for over eights
Donnington Parish Council	We are improving the play area at the park through grant funding and upgrading the goalposts via s106 funds.
East Wittering & Bracklesham PC	<i>MUGAs:</i> We have one at Bracklesham Park <i>Bowling Greens:</i> We have one at Downview Public Open space <i>Play Areas:</i> We have one at Downview Public Open Space and also at Bracklesham Park <i>Youth facilities:</i> We have a new skate ramp, half pipe at Downview Public Open Space and a teen shelter at Bracklesham Park. A skatepark group wants a new skatepark but the Parish Council has limited land and has suggested to them to look at new developments.

¹⁴ Notes relating to Village and Community Halls will be covered in the associated Built Facilities Study

North Mundham PC	Provision of additional play equipment needed. <i>Play areas and youth facilities:</i> Insufficient and out of date
Petworth Town Council	At present young people are poorly served with regard to recreational facilities. PTC has been working for many years to provide a skatepark. The money is being held by CDC but there has been considerable difficulty in identifying a suitable site. This may now have been resolved but there is still much to be done. <i>Youth facilities:</i> skate park needed.
Selsey Town Council	There is a need for accessible play equipment for those with disabilities and more shelters for young people. <i>Play areas:</i> More accessible equipment for those with disabilities. <i>Youth facilities:</i> need for youth shelters.
Sidlesham PC	<i>MUGAs:</i> The installation of a multi-use games area is an aim of the PC. <i>Play areas:</i> Have an excellent children's playground
Southbourne PC	Modern play equipment and a skate park for older children (9+) and young people needed. The Parish Council is looking at improving the play equipment for older children and young people and the feasibility of a Skate Park on the Recreation Ground. Both will require substantial investment through Council Tax, CIL or National Lottery (Sport England) or all three funding sources. <i>Play areas:</i> On Recreation Ground only at the moment. New housing developments will have small play areas as part of those schemes but there may be a need for more equipment at an alternative location for older children/young people in the future. Old play equipment available on the Recreation Ground needs replacing. <i>Youth facilities:</i> There continues to be demand for a skate park.
Tangmere PC	Lack of provision of play equipment for older children. <i>MUGAs:</i> Informal games use of MUGA by youths incompatible with tennis and only one group of youths can use at one time. <i>Play areas:</i> overall shortfall in equipped playspace area for expected population <i>Youth facilities:</i> Other than four items on recreation field skate park, no activity equipment in village for older children.
Westhampnett Parish Council	When the Neighbourhood plan questionnaires were initially sent out, the youth certainly wanted a MUGA and an area for youths to play. <i>MUGAs:</i> In our NP, we envisaged that the new housing site in Maudlin would have a small MUGA which would then lead onto another piece of land, which we had hoped would be a community walking area and eventually have a track for running/ general fitness. Unfortunately WSCC have started installing solar panels on it so we have run out of green space.
Wisborough Green Parish Council	Limited opportunities for teenagers. Playground Surfacing - to provide wetpour safety surfacing under junior swing unit and see-saw to remove current wear and compaction concerns. <i>MUGAs:</i> Have previously looked at provision but no suitable area available. Area of land in new development to potentially include fitness trail. <i>Play areas:</i> Refurbished in 2012 - additional surfacing required due to waterlogging in winter. <i>Youth facilities:</i> No provision. Area of land in new development to potentially include fitness trail.

5.2.3 West Sussex County Council – Public Health

The West Sussex Public Health lead highlighted the importance of providing access to outdoor play space and youth facilities in relation to meeting targets for reducing obesity levels in children and young people, encouraging achievement of a healthy weight, and developing resilience from providing challenging play facilities. She noted that the West Sussex County Council Executive Members Task and Finish Group on child obesity recommended additional promotion of additional outdoor activity for children and young people.

5.2.4 The National Trust

The National Trust note that encouraging youngsters out into the countryside is one of the Trust's key objectives (50 things to do before you are 11 ^¾ campaign). Where possible the Trust is keen that these play spaces are as natural as possible making use of what is already there.

5.2.4 Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust highlight that woods are important spaces for informal play.

"As highlighted in the **Public Health White Paper** (Healthy Lives, Healthy People; Nov 2010) there are tremendous opportunities for native woodland to contribute positively towards delivering improved mental and physical health for children and young people. Research shows that woodland can provide benefits for air quality, urban heat island cooling, physical exercise provision and relief from mental illness".

5.2.5 Community Organisations Survey

Opinion from community organisations on the quality of play areas and youth facilities was quite varied with a majority rating them in general as being good or very good; but some rated them as poor or only adequate. The Friends of Priory Park specifically noted that the toddlers and children's areas in the park are very popular and well used.

5.3 Play and Youth Facilities - Key Findings

Quantity

The District Council Sport & Leisure Development Manager noted that:

- There is a need for more and better play facilities across the district, particularly for older children.
- Overall there is still a shortage overall of teenage play provision, adventurous and challenging play etc. There is limited provision of wheeled sports facilities. There is no dedicated official facility for BMX. There is demand but insufficient provision.

Residents survey

- A clear majority (66%) of household suggest that overall there are not enough facilities for teenagers across the District.
- A small majority (53%) also thought that overall there is a shortfall in children's play areas.

Quality

The District Council Green Space Officer noted that:

- The play area at Priory Park is a good example of the standard the Council should be aiming at in terms of quality/design etc. Whyke Oval has recently been provided with improved facilities for young children (teenage facilities are also good).
- Many play areas across the District are of quite poor quality when looked at in relation to the design recommendations from Play England.
- The Amphitheatre play area in Velyn Avenue, Chichester would benefit from a refurbishment but this is difficult to achieve due to its Heritage status.

Residents survey

- 38% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor; 28% rate them as good or very good.
- This contrasts with children's play areas where 47% rate them as being good or very good compared to 14% rating them as poor or very poor.

Access

District Council Green Space and Leisure Officers noted that:

- Pedestrian and cycle access to parks in Chichester is generally good – and over recent years a number of paths have been repaired and resurfaced.
- In Florence Park (Chichester) there has been demand for wheelchair swing. This provision is currently being considered.

Residents survey

- 65% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 32% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

- 78% of users would expect youth facilities to be within a 15 minute travel time; of which 33% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes, and 16% no more than 5 minutes.

Community Organisations Survey

- A number of organisations commented on the need for improved access for disabled children and young people.

Other Issues / General Observations

- The District Council Green Space Officer noted the difficulty in maintaining the quality and adequate maintenance of play and youth facilities when budgets are reducing; and that a number of sites are still in need of refurbishment.
- Many town and parish councils manage play areas and youth facilities and have aspirations for improved provision.
- The value of play in relation to improvements to children and young people's health and wellbeing was highlighted by a number of stakeholders.
- Stakeholders noted the need for well-designed play and youth facilities, the value of consultation with young people and the wider community in that process, and the potential for natural landscaped play areas in which play equipment may not be necessary or simply be a small element of the overall design.
- Play England provide useful guidance on play and spatial planning; play space design; and managing risk in play. Some of these could be adopted as guidance and Supplementary Planning Documents.

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The survey work, stakeholder consultation, desk-based research and group sessions have highlighted a wide range of issues of value to the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study. There is a strong degree of consistency across the various sources on key areas of local need and aspiration from which we can be confident that the findings are robust and reliable, providing a strong evidence base to be combined with the detailed facilities audit.

The information and findings from the *Community and Stakeholder Consultation* report will be taken forward primarily in the *Open Space Assessment* report. Relevant findings will also feed into the *Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy* and the *Built Facilities Assessment*.