



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Thursday 18 March 2021**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Virtual Meeting**

For any further information please contact:

Caroline McCleary

Democratic Services Officer

0115 901 3910

Cabinet

Membership

Chair Councillor John Clarke

Vice-Chair Councillor Michael Payne

Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor David Ellis
Councillor Gary Gregory
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
Councillor Viv McCrossen
Councillor Henry Wheeler

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AGENDA

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- 9 Any other items the Chair considers urgent.**

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MINUTES CABINET

Thursday 11 February 2021

Councillor John Clarke (Chair)

Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor David Ellis
Councillor Gary Gregory

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
Councillor Viv McCrossen
Councillor Henry Wheeler

77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

78 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

79 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors Clarke and Payne declared non-pecuniary interests in item 6 on the agenda in respect of land owned by Nottinghamshire County Council as County Councillors.

80 UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE POLICY ADVISORS

The Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, updating Members on the actions and activities that the Policy Advisors had undertaken since their appointment in May 2019.

The Leader moved an amended focus and remit of Policy Advisors and the Deputy Leader seconded this.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the content of the report; and
- 2) Note that the Leader has amended the focus and remit of the Policy Advisors as follows:

- Policy Advisor for Regeneration, Recovery and Rural Affairs - Councillor Julie Najuk
- Policy Advisor for Equalities, Diversity and Young People – Councillor Kathryn Fox
- Policy Advisor for Environment and Climate Change – Councillor Ron McCrossen
- Policy Advisor for Women, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime – Councillor Rosa Keneally
- Policy Advisor for Heritage and Homelessness – Councillor Des Gibbons

81 TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Head of Regeneration and Welfare introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, introducing Members to the Temporary Accommodation Options Appraisal findings and the proposed future approach to reduce B&B and nightly paid for accommodation usage.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the Temporary Accommodation Options Appraisal at Appendix A to the report, which sets out the preferred approach for the Council to reduce its use of B&B and nightly paid accommodation usage for temporary accommodation purposes;
- 2) Note that a request for approval of a Capital Budget of £1,154,000 has been included in the Capital Budget Report being presented to Members at this meeting, for referral to Council for approval on 4 March 2021, to allow for the purchasing 8 properties for use as temporary accommodation;
- 3) Note that a request for approval of a Capital Budget of £2,647,000 has been included in the Capital Budget Report being presented to Members at this meeting, for referral to Council for approval on 4 March 2021, for the development of Station Road and Burton Road sites; and
- 4) Note the achievements delivered by funding secured from the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) and the recent award from the Cold Weather Fund 2020.

82 GEDLING BOROUGH FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY ASSESSMENT 2020

The Planning Policy Manager introduced a report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, informing Members of the Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment.

RESOLVED to:

Note the Gedling Borough Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2020.

83

PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT (TMSS) 2021/22

The Director of Corporate Resources and S151 Officer introduced the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, presenting the Council's Prudential Code Indicators and Treasury Strategy for 2021/22.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22, which includes the key elements below, and refer it to Council on 4 March 2021 for approval:
 - a) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement (2.2);
 - b) The Borrowing Strategy (2.3.4);
 - c) The Annual Investment Strategy (2.3.8);
 - d) Capital Affordability Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 to 2023/24 (Appendix 1);
 - e) Treasury Indicators including affordability limits to borrowing for 2021/22 to 2023/24 (Appendix 1); and

- 2) Note the indicative Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2024/25 and 2025/26 (Appendix 1).

84

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Director of Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer introduced the Capital programme for the next financial year as well as an indicative capital spending strategy for the next five years.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the estimated capital financing available for 2021/22 to 2025/26;

- 2) Approve the Capital Investment Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26 detailed at Appendix 1 to the report and refer it to Council for approval on 4 March 2021;

- 3) Approve the Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 detailed at Appendix 2 to the report and refer it to Council for approval on 4 March 2021; and

4) Note the indicative Capital Programme for 2024/25 to 2025/26.

85 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2021/22

The Director for Corporate Resources and Section 151 Officer introduced the proposed 2021/22 general fund budget.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Approve a 3% discretionary income inflation increase for the individual portfolios as shown in the table at paragraph 2.5.5 of the report; and
- 2) To recommend to Council on 4 March 2021:
 - a) that the financial threshold above which decisions will be regarded as Key Decisions be set at £0.5m for 2021/22;
 - b) a Council Tax increase of 2.97% (£5.00) which balances the financing of a Net Council Tax Requirement of £6,471,100 in 2021/22;
 - c) that the detailed budget for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report is approved.

86 GEDLING PLAN 2021/22

The Chief Executive gave a review of the Gedling Plan for 2020-23 and sought approval for a number of amendments.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the review of the Gedling Plan 2020-23; and
- 2) Agree the amendments to objectives and actions contained in the Gedling Plan as set out in the report, for referral to Council on 4 March 2021.

87 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager, Democratic Services, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, detailing the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next four month period.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

88 ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

The meeting finished at 3.35 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:

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Report to: Cabinet

Subject: Gedling Plan Performance Indicators 2021/22

Date: 18 March 2021

Author: Senior Leadership Team

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the performance indicators against which progress of the Gedling Plan will be measured in 2021/22.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

1. The performance indicators and targets set out in Appendix 1 be approved for 2021/22.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Gedling Plan 2020-23 was approved by Cabinet on 13 February 2020 and Council on 5 March 2020. The Plan sets out the Council's strategic direction and the key strategic actions which will be delivered to meet the priority objectives until 2023. In addition the Gedling Plan was slightly updated for 2021/22 and approved by Council 4th March.
- 1.2 As Members are aware, performance indicators are used to monitor and measure progress against the Gedling Plan actions. Current performance indicators and targets have been reviewed by Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service to assess whether they are still appropriate to measure progress against the Plan.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the suite of performance indicators for 2021/22 at Appendix 1 are approved.
- 2.2 No new additional performance Indicators have been proposed. The following PI has been deleted as it does not provide enough context for useful management information. This is because there can be

significant variations in cost and timescale for each project and this is not determined within this headline number. It is also wholly dependent each year on finance being available to fund the capital programme.

- Number of new investments in Gedling for regeneration projects that the Council has facilitated.

2.3 At Cabinet on 6th August 2020 it was agreed to change a number of targets to tracking only due to the impact of Covid-19. Given the ongoing implications of the pandemic, all of these will remain as tracking only and where possible these targets will be reviewed during the year and reset where applicable.

2.4 The targets have been reviewed and in most cases remain the same to ensure that performance is maintained. In relation to the performance indicators which have continually exceeded targets, an increased target is proposed and are listed below:

- % of customers seen by customer Services Advisor within 15 minutes - A review of working practices in view of Covid related changes aims to improve/reduce waiting times.
- Number of social media followers - Significant increase being experienced year on year but there will come a point where the rate of increase slows down.
- Number of Keep Me Posted subscribers - Significant increase being experienced year on year but there will come a point where the rate of increase slows down.
- Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) - Expected higher delivery rates of affordable houses in the next financial year.

2.5 In relation to the following six performance indicators a reduced target is proposed to reflect that the target has not been met during 2020/21. However the proposed target still aims to secure an improvement on current performance:

- Average length of time spent in temporary accommodation - Although this target is higher than government guidance, it is a realistic target based on local circumstances. We will be working to reduce this back down over the next few years.
- Average time to process new HB Claims - The number of housing benefit claimants is increasing as an impact of Covid-19 and this is being recognised within this indicator.
- Percentage of Business Rates collected - Slight reduction in collection rates is expected due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on businesses
- Net additional homes - The Government has issued updated guidance for calculating the annual requirement for net additional new homes and the target has been adjusted in accordance with that revised methodology.
- Percentage of minor planning applications processed within 8 weeks - This target has been revised to take account of current

performance, but it is still above the MHCLG designated 70% threshold.

- Percentage of other planning applications within 8 weeks - This target has been revised to take account of current performance, but it is still above the MHCLG designated 70% threshold.

2.6 Members will note that these performance indicators contain a wide range of measures which are predominantly focused on outward facing priorities and which will be reported quarterly or annually or used for tracking purposes. Service Plans will capture the key operational performance indicators for each service area.

2.7 Progress against these performance indicators will be reported to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis and reports published on the Council's website in the usual way.

3. Alternative Options

Not to approve performance indicators for 2021/22. However, without performance information it will be difficult to assess the Council's performance against the Gedling Plan.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report

7. Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: Performance Indicators and Targets for 2021/22

9. Background Papers

There are no background papers

10. Reasons for Recommendations

To set service targets to ensure that performance is maximised for the benefit of residents and service users of the borough.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Monitoring Officer

Date:

9 March 2021

Approved by:

Chief Financial Officer

Date:

9 March 2021

Performance Indicators for 2021/22

Cohesive, Diverse and Safe COMMUNITIES			
Description	Service Area	Frequency	Target 21/22
No. of attendances at the Bonington Theatre	Head of Communities and Leisure	Quarterly	Tracking Only
Average length of time spent in temporary accommodation	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Quarterly	22 weeks
Average time to process new HB Claims	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Quarterly	14 days
Average time to process HB change in circumstances	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Quarterly	4 days
Level of All Crime across Gedling Borough rate (per 1000 population)	Head of Environment	Quarterly	Tracker Only
Level of recorded anti-social behaviour across Gedling Borough (per 1000 population)	Head of Environment	Quarterly	Tracker Only
Number of litter and dog fouling Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) served	Head of Environment	Quarterly	Tracker Only
Number of fly tipping and duty of care cases submitted to the Council's Legal Team (cumulative figure)	Head of Environment	Quarterly	Tracker Only
Percentage of fly tipping incidents removed within 4 working days	Head of Environment	Quarterly	98%
Number of reported fly tipping incidents	Head of Environment	Quarterly	Tracker Only
Number of placements for young people under the national supported internship programme	Head of Human Resources, Performance and Service Planning	Annual	3
Number of successful fly tipping and duty of care prosecutions	Head of Environment	Annual	4

High Performing COUNCIL

Description	Service Area	Frequency	Target 21/22
% of calls to the contact centre answered	Head of Governance and Customer Services	Quarterly	94%
% of customers that are satisfied with overall customer service	Head of Governance and Customer Services	Annual	93%
% of customers seen by customer Services Advisor within 15 minutes	Head of Governance and Customer Services	Quarterly	92%
Percentage of invoices paid within 30 days	Head of Finance and ICT	Quarterly	99%
Percentage of Council Tax collected	Head of Finance and ICT	Quarterly	98%
Percentage of Business Rates collected	Head of Finance and ICT	Quarterly	98.7%
Working Days Lost Due to Sickness Absence (rolling 12 month total)	Head of Human Resources, Performance and Service Planning	Quarterly	9 days
Number of social media followers	Communications Manager	Annual	38,000
Number of Keep Me Posted subscribers	Communications Manager	Annual	36,000
Percentage of employees that state they are happy working at the Council	Head of Human Resources, Performance and Service Planning	Yearly	73%

Vibrant ECONOMY

Description	Service Area	Frequency	Target 21/22
Net additional homes	Head of Development and Place	Quarterly	458
Percentage of Major planning applications processed within 13 weeks	Head of Development and Place	Quarterly	90%
Percentage of minor planning applications processed within 8 weeks	Head of Development and Place	Quarterly	88%
Percentage of other planning applications within 8 weeks	Head of Development and Place	Quarterly	83%
Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Quarterly	30
Delivery of school based employability events	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Quarterly	8
Number of school-age work experience placements hosted in Gedling Borough	Head of Human Resources, Performance and Service Planning	Quarterly	6
Delivery of employer based employability events	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Annual	2
Number of placements provided over the year across the council	Head of Human Resources, Performance and Service Planning	Annual	Tracking Only
Amount of employment land developed for the delivery of jobs	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Annual	2 Hectares

Vibrant ECONOMY			
Description	Service Area	Frequency	Target 21/22
Percentage of vacant properties along the high street	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Annual	Tracking Only
Percentage of occupancy for all GBC owned car parks in Arnold.	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Annual	Tracking Only
Number of 'change of use' requests received by the planning team within the primary shopping area for Arnold Town Centre.	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Annual	Tracking Only

Sustainable ENVIRONMENT			
Description	Service Areas	Frequency	Target 21/22
Number of Green Flag status parks	Head of Environment	Annual	4
Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	Head of Environment	Quarterly	36%
Number of garden waste customers	Head of Environment	Quarterly	17,000
Residual household waste per household in Kg	Head of Environment	Quarterly	560kg
Level of CO2 emissions from Council Buildings	Head of Regeneration and Welfare	Annual	Tracker Only

HEALTHY lifestyles			
Description	Service Area	Frequency	Target 21/22
Percentage of food premises scoring 4 or 5 in the food, health and safety rating scheme	Head of Environment	Quarterly	90%
Number of visits to leisure centres	Head of Communities and Leisure	Quarterly	Tracking Indicator
Number of people on the swim scheme	Head of Communities and Leisure	Quarterly	Retain as Tracking indicator
Number of DNA members (rolling 12 months average)	Leisure Services	Quarterly	Retain as Tracking indicator
Number of activities undertaken in our Parks including those that take place on Council owned sports pitches.	Head of Environment	Annual	1,100

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Provision of a new Toilet Block in King George V Park, Arnold

Date: 18 March 2021

Author: Head of Environment

Wards Affected

Daybrook & Ernhale

Purpose

To seek Cabinet approval to build a new toilet block with a changing places facility in the garden area of King George V Park, in Arnold as part of on-going green space improvements to parks facilities within the Borough.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the proposals for the new public toilet block and changing places facility in King George V Park in Arnold, as detailed in the report, subject to planning permission, further design amendments and costs remaining within the approved budget.**
- 2) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to approve the final design scheme for the toilet block and changing places facility for submission for planning permission.**
- 3) Allocates the current approved capital scheme for the provision of Public Toilets approved as part of the 2021/22 budget to the King George V Park Toilet Block.**

- 1.1 King George V Playing Field in Arnold was originally acquired by Arnold Urban District Council in two tranches. In 1950, Arnold Urban District Council were gifted part of the land (shown green in Appendix 1) (“the Land”) and in 1951 the second tranche was purchased by the Council. The 1950 conveyance provided that the then Arnold Urban District council, and now Gedling Borough Council must hold, manage and maintain the Land for the following purpose:
- Public recreation ground, playing field and rest garden for aged people which shall form part of the National Memorial to his late Majesty King George V under the provisions of King George’s Field Foundation.*
- 1.2 In 1988 the Land was registered as a charity with the sole Trustee of the charity being Gedling Borough Council. The object of the Charity was, as set out in the 1950 conveyance and detailed above. The Council, despite being landowner cannot unilaterally make decisions about the Land and must consider the views of the Charity who exist to protect the Land and the covenants placed on it. The Land must also be managed in a way that complies with the restrictions placed on it by the conveyance.
- 1.3 The King George V Playing Field charity met on 17th February 2021, and Councillors, in their capacity as Acting Trustees of the Charity, considered whether a proposal to develop a toilet and changing places facility on the park aligned with the object of the Charity and therefore was in accordance with the restrictions on the land from the 1950 conveyance.
- 1.4 The Charity determined that the development of a toilet and changing places facility on the land was considered to align with the object of the charity and the restrictions on the conveyance and agreed with the proposal for development on that basis.
- 1.5 King George V Park is central to Arnold and the town centre and adjacent to the new market development. Nearby toilets in Wood Street are internally in a poor state of repair and it is no longer possible to keep them properly clean and free from offensive odours. In this context and as part of on-going green space improvements to parks facilities within the Borough, a new toilet facility for both residents and visitors, to the park, offers a way forward. This project serves to keep the Land as a recreation ground, for the benefit of park users and the community/public at large, therefore, is a development which encourages use of the Land and provides benefits to park users and improves accessibility for all.
- 1.6 It is recognised that as with the King George V car park, the toilet facility is also likely to be used by people visiting the town centre,

indeed there is a demand for better public toilet provision in Arnold. It is hoped that by having this facility on the park, this will encourage those visitors to the town centre to utilise the park facilities as well.

1.7 Officers have undertaken a survey with park users in relation to the proposal to develop a toilet facility on the Land, the results of that consultation are shown at Appendix 2. The overwhelming response was positive with 38 out of the 39 surveyed indicating they were in favour of the facility. An indicative location of the facility was provided to those surveyed, this indicative location is shown at Appendix 3 with indicative designs at Appendix 4. 36 of those questioned agreed with the proposed location of the facility to the rear of the rest garden towards the front of the park. As detailed below this location was chosen following initial feasibility work by officers.

1.8 **Location**

Officers have completed a desk top feasibility study to consider the most appropriate location for the facility in the park, the main considerations were access to drainage for such a facility, impact on the street-scene, impact on the openness and current layout of the park and accessibility to the facility for the public. A number of locations were considered:

Car Park

As the car park is already developed, and given its location at the entrance to the park this was initially considered to be a possible location, however, development within the car park would reduce car parking space for park users, in addition the gradient of the car park and layout means it is quite difficult to navigate through safely by the public wanting to use the facility and in particular wheelchair access is not achievable. Drainage connection to a facility in the car park is also restricted. From a planning perspective, locating the facility in the car park was not considered advisable given its impact on the street-scene and openness of the park behind.

Within the playing field to the rear of the car park

Locating the facility here would set it back from the street scene whilst keeping it near to the entrance to the park. Any development within the open parkland however would significantly impact on the use and openness of the playing field area. Additional development in the form of footpaths to provide access to the facility in the park would be necessary at this location. Access to drainage is difficult within park land, in addition part of the park in this location is used as a football pitch which requires a surface water run off buffer around it for drainage purposes. This location was not therefore considered appropriate.

Within existing clubhouse

There is already some development on the park in the form of a clubhouse. It was suggested by the public during the survey that this might be a better site for the development as it is already developed land. This was not considered a suitable location for reasons of accessibility and links to drainage.

Proposed location

At this stage the most suitable location for the facility, taking into account accessibility by the public from the park land, car park and play park, impact on the street scene and park openness, and accessibility to drainage, is within the rest garden at the entrance to the park. The site is masked somewhat already from the street by foliage, and although some portion of the rest garden would have to be developed and therefore access to it reduced, this is only a part of the rest garden and the facility is considered to be of great benefit to park users.

1.9 **Planning and Design**

Indicative designs for the toilet are shown at Appendix 4 and include toilets and a changing places facility. Given the play park located close to the rest garden, a changing facility is considered to be beneficial within this location. Careful consideration has been given to the layout of the toilet facilities, in particular whether the toilets should be unisex, divided into male and female, separate disabled toilet provision or combined provision. The indicative designs offer the maximum accessibility for all users. The new facility requires planning permission and an application based on the position, design and layout is shortly to be submitted. Consideration is still being given as to whether a modular building may be suitable, but further investigation into this option will be undertaken as part of the planning process.

1.10 **Security and Maintenance**

Consideration has been given to the opening hours of the facility. The facility will be open during park opening times which will be slightly later in the summer months. The facility will be locked when the park is closed. Access to the cubicles will be free of charge and cleaning will be carried out twice per day. The location of the toilet is such that it is within the range of the CCTV camera located in the park. This gives the site protection from antisocial behaviour and incidents of vandalism as the camera will act as a deterrent.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Cabinet approve the proposal to develop a toilet and changing places facility within King George V park in line with the detail set out above. The facility will serve as a community asset, to allow visitors to enjoy both the open space, skate park, children's play area and garden whilst also providing a facility encouraging town centre visitors to the park. A facility that combines a changing places facility will 'inclusively' encourage more people into King George V for recreational and health purposes. Further approvals will be required to progress the toilet including planning permission following final design/drawings being prepared.
- 2.2 It is proposed that a delegation is given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to approve the final design scheme for submission for planning permission. This will ensure that if any changes are needed to the indicative designs these will have Executive oversight.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the agreed budget of £120,000 approved for public toilet provision be allocated to this scheme.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 (a) Not to build the toilet block

Advantage: Cost savings made.

Disadvantage: The local community asset would not be enhanced. The amount of visitors to the park may not increase and there would be no changes places facility to encourage inclusivity for the whole community.

In addition the availability of sufficient public toilet facilities within the borough continues to reduce and there is no suitable alternative in the vicinity of the same proposed standard.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 A £90,000 capital project budget was established in 2020/21 as a general provision for public toilets and this was approved for deferral to 2021/22 by Cabinet as part of quarter 3 budget monitoring report. An additional budget of £30,000 was approved by Budget Council on 4 March 2021 bringing the total approved budget for public toilet provision to £120,000.'
- 5.2 It is now proposed that the approved budget of £120,000 for the general provision of public toilets be allocated to the scheme identified at the site on King George V park. It is anticipated that the revenue running costs will be accommodated within the current

approved budget subject to a wider review of public toilet servicing requirements.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 As landowner, the Council is bound by the covenants in the 1950 conveyance and the park must be maintained as detailed in para 1.1. The addition of a toilet facility is considered to enhance the provision at the park and therefore align with the restrictions in the conveyance. Any proposed scheme will be subject to planning approval, any contractor appointed to develop the site will need to be procured in accordance with Contract Standing Orders.

7 Equalities Implications

- 7.1 The toilet block is being proposed in a location that will be easily accessible by all, be it by private vehicle, public transport, cycle and on foot. Its design will take into account people with disabilities to ensure inclusivity within a group setting and equality of access for all users.

All works undertaken in the delivery of this toilet block project should not have any adverse equalities implications. The Rest Garden for the elderly will be increased in size on the opposite side of the entrance to compensate for that lost by the imprint of the new toilet facility. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 5 to this report.

8 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 8.1 The design and construction should ensure that any greenspace and parkland either side the construction work is not affected and is protected as an ecological community. Tree roots will be identified and protected as appropriate. Carbon offsetting will be achieved by planting additional tree stocks in the greenspace concerned by way of mitigation.

On the build project, abatement of CO2 emissions will be achieved by using Green Power where available, and specific materials chosen, such as recycled materials. For example, recycled asphalt for path consolidation where appropriate.

Air quality assessments will be undertaken where necessary by calculating the changes in concentrations in nitrogen dioxide as a result of changes to traffic at sensitive human receptor locations such as nearby homes, and business premises. The impacts of dust from any construction phase will also be assessed, and water sprays used to damp down any arising dust where necessary. Trees will be identified as TPO'd or as growing in a Conservation Area, before

any works are undertaken.

9 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Plan of the park
- Appendix 2: Consultation responses from park users
- Appendix 3: Indicative location plan
- Appendix 4: Layout.
- Appendix 5: Equalities impact needs assessment

10 Background Papers

- 10.1 King George V Park, Arnold, Toilet Block Business Case

11 Reasons for Recommendations

- 11.1 This project meets the Gedling Plan objectives under Sustainable Environment of; Developing availability of and quality of Council public toilets, and 'Developing and implement a plan to enhance existing parks and open spaces. As part of on-going green space improvements to parks facilities within the Borough.
- 11.2 To ensure Executive oversight of the final design proposal.
- 11.3 To ensure budget allocation for the project.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date: 09/03/2021

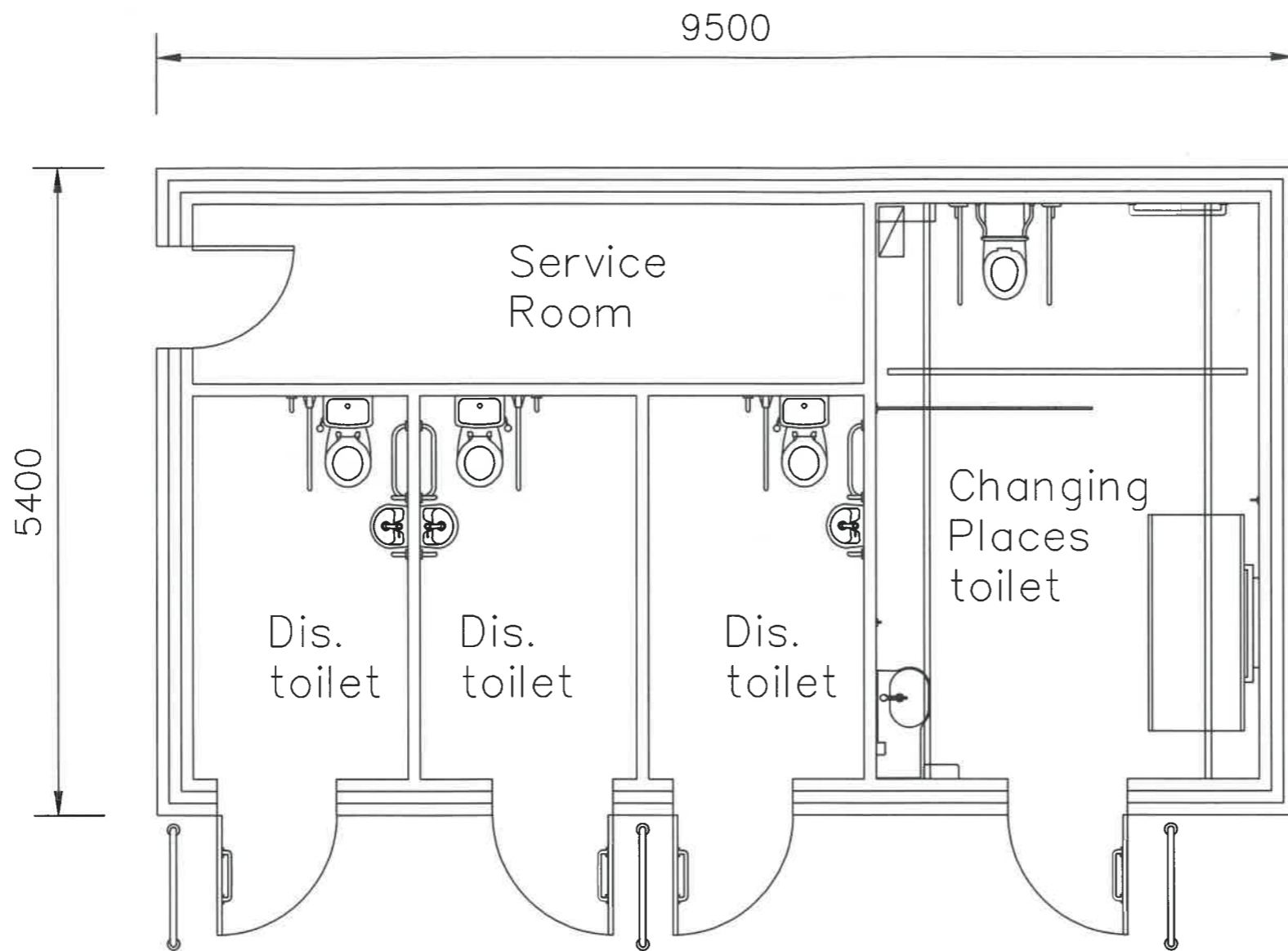
On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer


Approved by:

Date: 09/03/2021

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer

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DRAWN BY	P GOODWIN	SCALE	1/50 @ A3	SCHEME KING GEORGE V PROPOSED PUBLIC TOILETS PROPOSED BUILDING LAYOUT AND ELEVATIONS	CIVIC CENTRE, ARNOT HILL PARK ARNOLD NOTTINGHAM, NG5 6LU	 GEDLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
DATE DRAWN	18/11/2020	DRAWING NUMBER	G20/KGVPT/001			

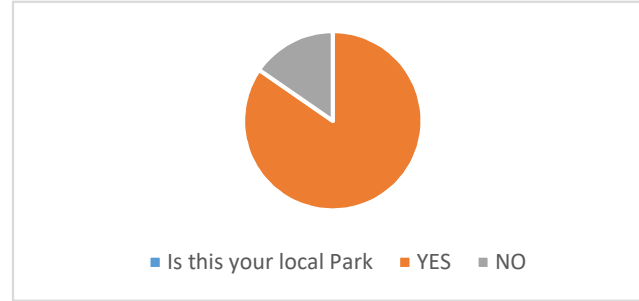
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King George V Recreation Ground Public Toilets Consultation

39 completed questionnaires

Is this your local Park

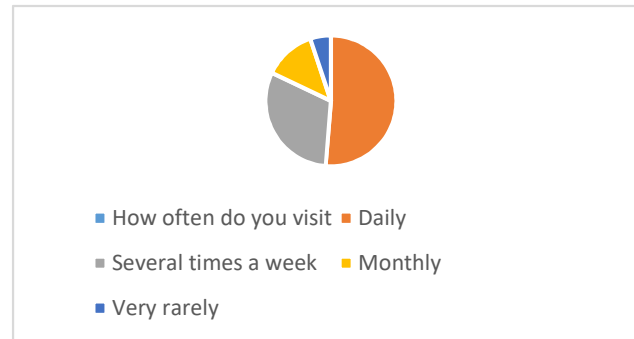
YES	33
NO	6



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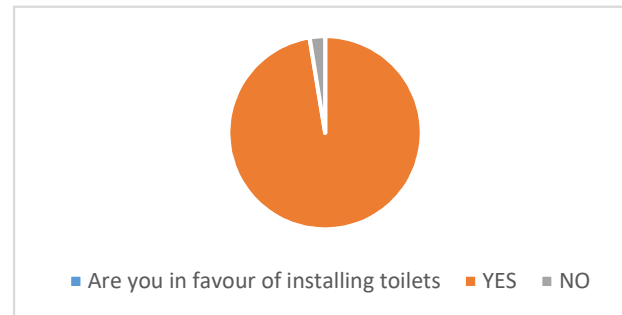
How often do you visit

Daily	20
Several times a week	12
Monthly	5
Very rarely	2



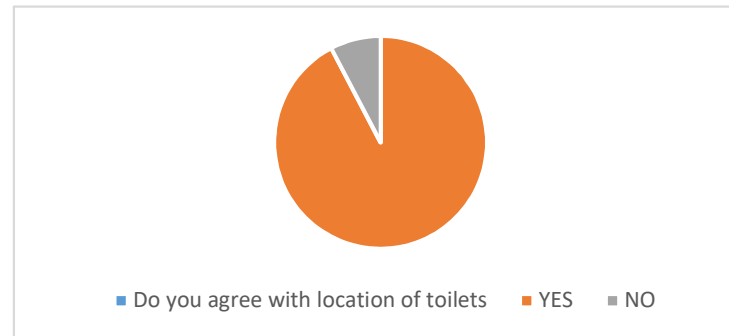
Are you in favour of installing toilets

YES	38
NO	1



Do you agree with location of toilets

YES 36
 NO 3



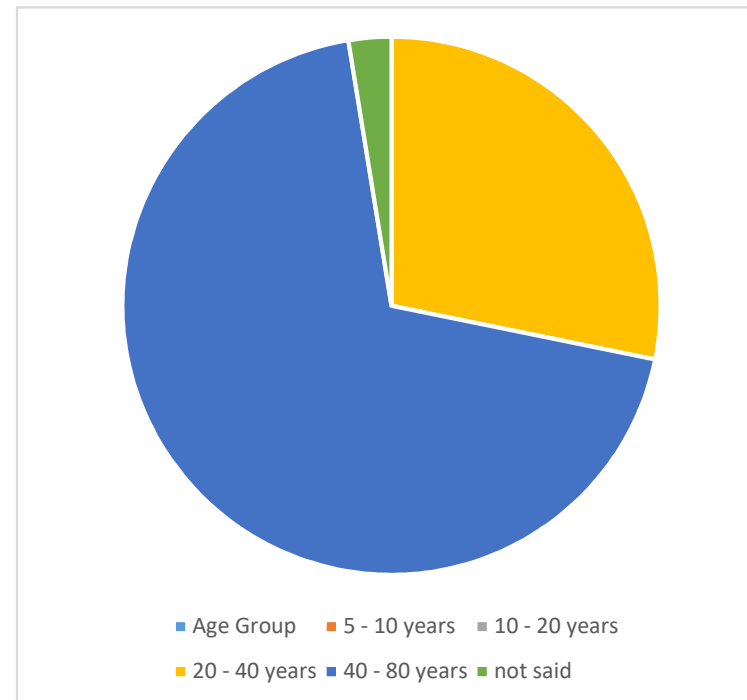
If no, reasons why

Nice peaceful and developed green spot. Seems a shame to locate it there but realise you need access to drainage etc. Encroaching into seating area, it smells, use existing club house instead.

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Age Group

5 - 10 years 0
 10 - 20 years 0
 20 - 40 years 11
 40 - 80 years 27
 not said 1



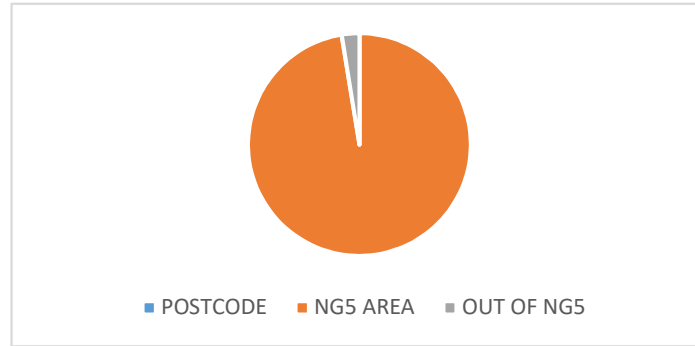
Postcode

NG5 7DH
NG5 6LL
NG5 6NW
NG5 6JE
NG5 6SY
NG5 6JH
NG5 6SH
NG5 8RP
NG5 7FT
BG5 7BA
NG5 7DD
NG5 3DE
NG5 6FQ
NG5 7FQ
NG5 7GL
NG5 7ER
NG5 5EH
NG5 7FP
NG5 7FD
NG5 7NF
NG5 6ES
NG5 8HY

NG11 9AJ
NG5 7JA
NG4 4HR
NG4 3NA
NG5 6PF
NG5 7AZ
NG5 7JN
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NG5 6LE
NG5 8AT
NG5 7LF

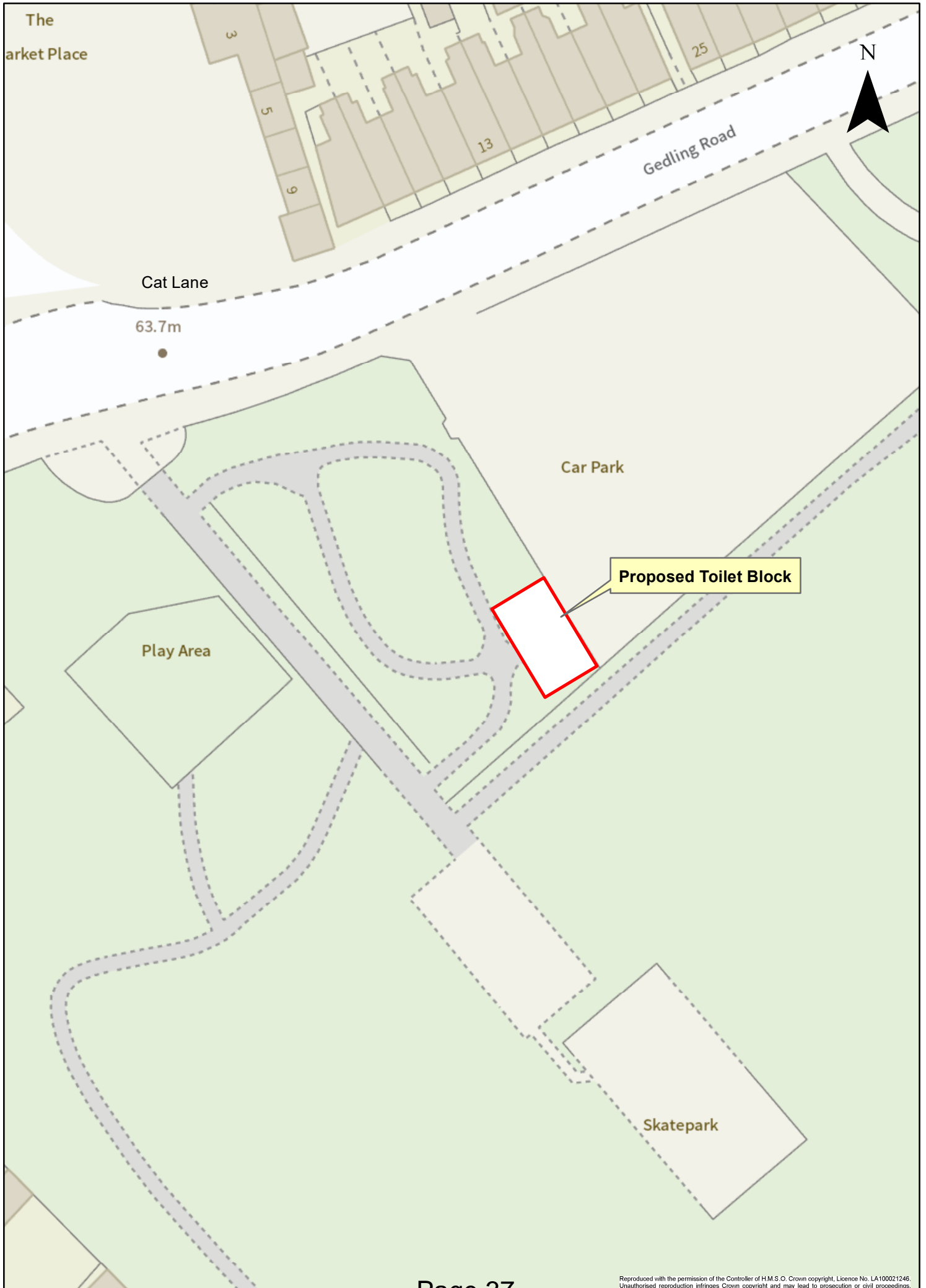
POSTCODE

NG5 AREA 38
OUT OF NG5 1



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EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Policy/Service/Procedure to be assessed	King George V Park Arnold, Toilet Block Development	
Assessment completed by:	Head of Environment Melvyn Cryer	Date: Feb 2021
Aims/objectives of the project		
To develop a toilet and changing places facility within King George V park. A facility that will serve as a community asset, to allow visitors to enjoy both the open space, skate park, children's play area and garden whilst also providing a facility encouraging town centre visitors to the park. The structure will combine a changing places facility that will 'inclusively' encourage more people into King George V for recreational and health purposes.		
Gedling Plan / Service Plan Key Performance Indicator	Current Performance	Target
This project meets the Gedling Plan objectives under Sustainable Environment of; Developing availability of and quality of Council public toilets, and 'Developing and implement a plan to enhance existing parks and open spaces. As part of on-going green space improvements to parks facilities within the Borough.	N/A	N/A

Who are the customers and stakeholders of this service?											
Residents of Gedling. parks user, visitors to the borough, local businesses, partnership organisations such as voluntary organisations, football and cricket clubs that use the park.											
Detail below what information you already have about the impact this strategy has on the following groups including results from consultation, complaints, census:											
Black and minority ethnic people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation survey results appear to show that there is no negative impact for this equality strand - Public consultation gathered information on this strand. No trends were noted. - The survey, demonstrates high percentage of satisfaction with this project. - Previous park complaints have not included any information that indicates ethnicity having any impact on the project being delivered. 	91.8% white British – no other significant groups									
Men/women and trans	<p>The profile of the parks users indicates there are slightly more males than females use the park (51% males).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The majority of activities in the park are child centric with the play area and the skate park. The football and cricket teams [males and young children] were consulted with and were positive about this new addition to the park. - Information on users of the sports pitches, - Public consultation which took place to inform the project gathered information on this strand. More people who responded to the questionnaire were female, however parks surveys were also completed which gathered information from residents that reflected the profile of the borough. 										
Disabled people	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Table 4: Residents with a limiting long term illness in Gedling Borough, 2011</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">Number</td> <td style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">Percentage</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Table 4: Residents with a limiting long term illness in Gedling Borough, 2011				Number	Percentage			
Table 4: Residents with a limiting long term illness in Gedling Borough, 2011											
	Number	Percentage									

	With a limiting long-term illness	20421	18%	
	Without a limiting long-term illness	91366	82%	
Source: Office of National Statistics, 2011				
The new facility will cater for disabled and severely disabled people with accessible toilets and a changing places facility. The facility will be accessible to all visitors to the park.				
Gay/Lesbian/bisexual People	There is little information of the impact that this strategy has on this equality strands			
People from different faiths	<p>There is 57.1% Christian 18.7% no religion in Gedling</p> <p>No other significant groups, so little information of the impact that this project has on this equality strand</p>			

People of different ages

Table 1: Age breakdown of Gedling Borough resident population, 2019

Year	0-16	16-24	24-65	65+
2019	17.9%	8.7%	52.4%	21.1%

Source: Office of National Statistics, 2019

Gedling Borough has a lower percentage of those aged 0–24 compared to Nottinghamshire and England, while the proportion of those who are over 25 in Gedling Borough is higher than that for the County and England.¹

The information above shows that the project will need to take account of the aging population of the borough. Because of the reduced footprint of the rest garden in the park because of the toilet structure a new section opposite will be developed by way of mitigation.

Research indicates that green spaces with good facilities help improve social integration for older and young people

Parks and Open Spaces Consultation

- Park survey, demonstrates high percentage of satisfaction rates
- This research identified a high usage of park by families and sports clubs who are able to identify their members by age
- Consultation took place to obtain the views of people of different ages, this included specific consultation with children and young people.

How will this event impact on the following groups:		
The Parks Development & the GBC Events Officer both take note of all complaints/compliments, but none received to date connected to equality issues in the park		
	Positive impact	Negative impact
Different racial groups	Park survey results highlight that satisfaction rates with parks amongst ethnic minorities are equal or higher than British white people of whom consists of 91.8% of the population. No issues highlighted with racial groups	No information available to indicate if language is an issue.
Men/women and trans	The new toilet facility will have unisex toilets to address the issue of queuing. Actions have already taken place to improve the feel of safety in the park, including the installation of a CCTV camera and the new facility will include additional lighting.	Consultation identified that issues around the feeling of safety in the park has a larger impact on females and young children who visit the park.
Disabled people	The project has taken account of this strand and delivers fully to it. With disable toilets and a changing places facility to enable all too safely access the park.	The project has highlighted that the needs of this strand are being met. Moving forwards we will work to address any accessibility issues
Gay/Lesbian/bi-sexual people	There is insufficient evidence to conclude whether this project is likely to have a differential impact on	There is insufficient evidence to conclude whether this project is likely to have a differential impact on lesbian, gay or bisexual people but differential impact is unlikely.

	lesbian, gay or bisexual people but differential impact is unlikely	A complaints system is in place and ways to report hate crime. There have been no reported cases of this.
People from different faiths	Work takes place in the parks which promotes diversity through the organisation of events. For example annual Chinese New Year celebrations	Moving forwards we will work to address any faith related issues.
People of different ages	Sports clubs which are adult dominated are already working towards youth participation. The park provide a range of facilities that meet the needs of different ages. This new facility will improve things even more.	<p>The Gedling Conversation survey 2019 highlights that 18-24 have a significantly lower satisfaction rate with parks than other age groups.</p> <p>The survey also highlights that more activities need to be put on for young people in parks.</p> <p>The project has taken account the affect that an aging population will have on use of the facility and the park.</p>

What changes could be made to the policy/service/procedure to address any negative impacts?

The assessment found that the park and new toilet facility will not adversely impact on any equalities group through discriminatory practices. However the assessment clearly identified that some vulnerable groups and individuals expect and need more from parks than currently delivered in order for them to be used more easily

The assessment found that individuals and communities identified by disability and age have needs that are not currently being met, but will be when this new facility is constructed.

The assessment found that the park does meet the needs for younger people, with increasing activities and facilities in the parks which has improved the offer. This new toilet facility will serve to improve the offer even more.

The assessment found that a differential impact on lesbian, gay or bisexual people is unlikely

The assessment found that there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether delivery of the project is likely to have a differential impact on communities that may be disadvantaged by where they live. But priority consideration will be given to this.

What monitoring will be carried out to ensure this policy/service/procedure meets diverse needs

Information will be periodically collected from a sample of the people who visit the park and attend park events and the sports clubs that use it. This information to be collected throughout the day, due to the different activities attracting different sections of the community. Data will also be collected from the Arnold town centre shop holders. This information will be collected using Apple tablet survey equipment. Consultation will take place to see if there is an actual need to provide information in other languages
Yearly review of the park event programme/services in line with Borough profile. Feedback from previous events in the park.

What actions will be included in your service plan arising from this assessment?

Action	Outcome	Date?	Who?
To conduct an accessibility audit on the park	Identification of any issues	See strategy	Parks Development Officer

Develop a network of contacts within the equalities strands to enhance consultation. With particular on young people	To highlight any possible equality issues on specific strands including sexual orientation or religion	See strategy	Parks Officer
Make better use of detached youth work teams in the park	Engage with young people	See strategy	Parks Officer
Increase the number of onsite staff to cleanse the toilet facility and provide more activities for young people in the park.	Increase in satisfaction rates in parks and opens spaces	See strategy	Parks Officer
To conduct an accessibility audit on King G V Park, Arnold.	Identification of potential issues	See strategy	Parks Officer
<p>Are you satisfied that all aspects of this policy/service/procedure have been thoroughly assessed for all the strands of diversity and that no further investigation is required? Y</p> <p>If no then a fuller impact assessment is required.</p>			

Signed..... (Manager)

Signed.....(Corporate Equality Representative)



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Green Space Strategy 2021-2026

Date: 18 March 2021

Author: Head of Environment

Wards Affected

All wards

Purpose

To adopt the Gedling Borough Green Space Strategy 2021 – 2026

Key Decision

This is a key decision as it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Cabinet:

- 1) **Approve the Green Space Strategy for Gedling 2021-2026 as set out in Appendix 1.**

1 Background

- 1.1 In 2012, Gedling Borough Council published its green space strategy, this lasted until 2017 when it was identified it needed a complete refresh and republication, that work has now been undertaken and a new all-encompassing revised Green Space Strategy document for the Borough's Green Spaces has now been produced.
- 1.2 Unlike Green Infrastructure Strategies, *Green Space* strategies work within the typology of public recreational, amenity and open spaces identified within policy LPD20 of the Gedling Local Planning document (2018).

- 1.3 They evaluate publicly accessible open space provision within set typologies at the local authority scale, noting issues in relation to condition, quality and access, this information informs the strategy and action plan that sets out future management and regeneration policies.
- 1.4 LDP20, is used to provide protection for parks and open spaces defined in the strategy in terms of development of those sites. LPD21 relates to the provision of new open space and the strategy assists in establishing need for open space and ensures there is robust evidence base to enable Section 106 (S106) monies to be used to improve a wider range of green spaces. It has also enabled standards to be set allowing for the monitoring of parks and open spaces over time.
- 1.5 The scope of the Green Space Strategy covers eight types of publicly accessible green space described in the Gedling Local Planning Document as:
- Parks and Gardens
 - Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces
 - Amenity Green Space
 - Provision for children and Young People
 - Outdoor Sports Facilities
 - Allotments and Community Gardens
 - Cemeteries and Churchyards
 - Green Corridors.

Audits of each based on quality, quantity and accessibility have been undertaken.

Standards have been set based on:

- a) An audit of the number and size of green spaces in the borough.
- b) Where possible site visits to assess the quality of each site.
- c) Community consultation to establish local views on the adequacy of what is provided at present.

In addition to this, the strategy sets out a vision for the Borough's Green Spaces and objectives and an action plan in terms of its delivery. It will also allow future work to be effectively prioritised.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 To approve the strategy and its action plan, instructing the Head of Environment to ensure the strategy is promoted and delivered. A full copy of the strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 (a) Not to adopt the Green Space Strategy and manage green spaces in an ad-hoc manner

Advantage: Potential cost savings made due to reduced maintenance and closure of some play areas.

Disadvantage: The Borough's Green Space infrastructure deteriorates over time, through lack of investment and development.

- (b) Do nothing.

Advantage: Potential cost savings made due to reduced maintenance and closure of some play areas.

Disadvantage: The Borough's Green Space infrastructure deteriorates rapidly, through lack of investment and development. Furthermore, in light of the Council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030, the value of green spaces will be pivotal in helping to support this transition and therefore doing nothing will work against this commitment.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The implementation of the strategy will be supported by the Council and by partners involved in the delivery of the Action Plan using funding provided by external grant funding, Section 106 (S106) commuted sums from developers and via the new Community Infrastructure Levy. Such funds will be used to enhance and improve existing and create new, open spaces and play areas.
- 4.2 The current ongoing maintenance of Green Spaces detailed in this strategy is included within Parks and Street Care approved annual base budget of c£1.1m each year. Any additional investment to enhance or create new open spaces and play areas will be subject to the completion of a Business Case for each project, which will consider any match funding requirements.
- 4.3 Due to the economic downturn, there will be limited revenue and capital resource available over the next few years to deliver the strategy, so efficiencies will have to be made. In light of this, a review of the Parks and Street Care staffing structure has recently taken place and some

structural changes are shortly to be carried out. Existing revenue funding has been identified for a permanent 'Tree Officer' post to enable this strategy to be effectively delivered.

- 4.4 Entrepreneurial skills will be required in the future in order to determine available external community funding pots such as Environmental Grants and Nottinghamshire County Council Local Improvement Scheme Funding via working with 'Friends of' and other 'community groups' to identify funding streams.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Green space strategies are essential in terms of the planning process which is reflected through the local plan. The strategy however is significant in respect of other functions that the Council undertakes for example in relation to public health and wellbeing, carbon reduction and public protection. The strategy also provides operationally a clear plan for maintenance and management of provision.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 This strategy will have many equalities implications, especially in terms of providing access for all. Be it by private vehicle, public transport, cycle and on foot, when accessing the Borough's greenspaces. Any proposed new developments, improvement projects, maintenance works and events and activities, will need to take account of people with disabilities to ensure inclusivity within a group setting and quality of access for all users.

All works undertaken in the delivery of this Green Space Strategy should not have any adverse equalities implications.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 Many projects will be delivered in the lifetime of this strategy. Their design and construction should ensure that any greenspace and parkland either side the construction work is not affected and is protected as an ecological community. Tree roots will be identified and protected as appropriate. Carbon offsetting will be achieved by planting additional tree stocks in the greenspace concerned by way of mitigation.

On all projects, abatement of CO2 emissions will be achieved by using Green Power where available, and specific materials chosen, such as recycled materials. For example, recycled asphalt for path consolidation where appropriate.

Air quality assessments will be undertaken where necessary by calculating the changes in concentrations in nitrogen dioxide as a result

of changes to traffic at sensitive human receptor locations such as nearby homes, and business premises. Disturbance at sensitive ecological sites will be minimal. The impacts of dust from any construction phase will also be assessed, and water sprays used to damp down any arising dust where necessary. Trees will be identified as TPO'd or as growing in a Conservation Area, before any works are undertaken.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Gedling Borough Council Green Space Strategy & Appendices.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified.

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To provide a future strategic framework against which to evidence, prioritise, consult upon and deliver Green Space improvements and developments in Gedling Borough.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by: Tina Adams
Date: 24 February 2021
On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by
Date: 26 February 2021
Monitoring Officer

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Gedling Borough Council's Green Space Strategy

2021-2026



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Foreword



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**Councillor John
Clarke**

Leader of the Council

“Gedling Borough contains an array of green spaces that can be enjoyed by all its residents. Green spaces are a valuable asset that bring a multitude of social, economic and environmental benefits to the borough. They provide places where children can play, promote community cohesion and contribute to positive health and wellbeing outcomes. In light of the borough’s commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, the role green spaces play in this transition cannot be ignored, therefore they must remain safeguarded.”

This green space strategy aims to protect and enhance the borough’s green spaces, setting ambitious standards for their improvement over the next five years by creating a network of ‘green lungs’ across the district. In doing so, we hope to also deliver on a number of the council’s strategic priorities, serving the borough’s ethos of ‘Serving People, Improving Lives’, this will ensure that Gedling continues to be a place where people choose to live, do business and spend their time. The maintenance of high-quality green spaces in the borough requires support from its residents. I hope you will join the council in helping to achieve our goals for green space within the borough, to ensure that they can continue to flourish for both present and future generations.”

Executive Summary

Gedling Borough has an array of superb green spaces where people of all ages can relax, play, enjoy nature and take part in sport and recreational activities. They incorporate important historic landscapes and include nature reserves, woodland and meadows that provide vital habitats, creating environments where biodiversity can flourish.

The borough's accessible green spaces which cover an area of 1,695.58 ha enhance its appeal and significantly add to resident's sense of fulfilment with their local area. The Gedling Conversation residents' satisfaction survey completed in 2019 revealed that 73% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in the borough¹.

The profile of green space in recent years has risen up the political agenda as its benefits and ability to deliver a range of corporate, strategic and community priorities at relatively low cost have been realised. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of green space, particularly in its contribution to improved health and wellbeing outcomes. It is estimated that equitable access to green space in England would result in health cost savings of around £2.1bn through higher levels of physical activity and consequent reductions in conditions such as obesity, stroke and coronary heart disease².

Green spaces play a significant role in enhancing the sustainability and resilience of cities and communities to climate-induced risks, which include flooding and elevated temperatures. The value of green space is recognised within recent policy, such as the Environment Bill which considers the enhancement of such spaces a key factor in the attainment of net-zero. Gedling Borough's 2019 climate emergency declaration will intensify action to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, a commitment with which green space will play a crucial role, through its ability to sequester atmospheric carbon, a primary contributor to global climate warming.

The resolve to preserve, protect and enhance Gedling's green spaces now and for future generations is further strengthened in light of population growth. Fields in Trust's Green Space Index (2020) reported that Britain's parks and green spaces are at 'significant risk of loss to development'³ and hence, with an estimated 2730 new homes planned for construction in Gedling by 2026⁴, it is vital to ensure that the borough's green spaces are not only protected but also enhanced. Therefore, this strategy is key for the management and continued improvement of green space within Gedling to ensure that such spaces meet the current and future needs of the borough's residents and its visitors.

This document sets out to review the green space strategy completed in 2012, assess the achievements delivered since and ensure that the strategy is underpinned by relevant policy and emerging issues. Outlined within the document are key priorities for the period 2021-2026 that will help to achieve the council's vision ***'to provide sufficient quality, inviting green spaces that are open and***

¹ Gedling Conversation: Satisfaction Survey Results 2019

² Public Health England: Improving Access to Greenspace – A New Review for 2020

³ Fields in Trust: Green Space Index, 2020

⁴ Gedling Borough Council: Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2020

accessible to all and that enhance the quality of life of everyone, living, working or visiting Gedling Borough.'



1 Introduction

1.1 What is Green Space?

Green space is defined as any area of vegetated land or water within an urban area⁵. However, it is important to note, that similar concepts are often described by different names, with terms such as open space, natural environment and green infrastructure used interchangeably.

1.2 The Importance of Green Space

Green spaces provide a multitude of benefits to human populations offering significant opportunities to develop the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of our community, supporting the delivery of the council's corporate plan.

1.2.1 Social

Green spaces:

- Combat loneliness through providing an environment for social interaction and community integration, in turn supporting an increased sense of belonging.
- Contribute to reductions in violence, stress and aggression, frequent precursors to crime.

Health

- Result in positive health outcomes due to increased physical activity. It is estimated that if everyone in England had good access to green spaces, a saving to health costs of £2.1bn could be made⁶.
- Contribute to improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes. Exposure to green space is associated with reduced levels of depression, anxiety and mental fatigue.

Education

- Provide opportunities for education and learning first-hand about the natural environment, providing a stimulus for many areas such as art and design.

1.2.2 Environmental

Green spaces:

- Mitigate and alleviate the effects of climate change.
- Contribute to the management of surface water runoff, playing an important role in flood alleviation and flood risk management.

⁵ Greenspace Scotland: What is Greenspace?

⁶ Public Health England: Improving access to greenspace – A review for 2020.

- The primary benefits of green spaces are rainfall interception from vegetation's canopy and stem areas, increased soil infiltration, water uptake and storage, which in turn, delay peak flows.
- Improve air quality, through the absorption of gaseous pollutants by vegetation.
- Provide habitats for biodiversity.

1.2.3 Economic

Green spaces:

- Enhance the value of nearby property - in England and Wales, houses and flats within 100m of public green space are an average of £2,500 more expensive than they would be if they were greater than 500m away⁷.
- Create and safeguard jobs.
- Generate revenue for local businesses.
- Provide employment and volunteering opportunities, in turn enabling the development of skills in a practical, work-based environment.
- Improve the image of an area and build the confidence and pride of communities, making them attractive places for households and businesses to invest and locate in, and for tourists to visit.



⁷ ONS (2019): Urban green spaces raise nearby house prices by an average of £2,500

1.3 Why do we need a Green Space Strategy?

Gedling Borough Council recognises the importance of green space and the contribution that it makes to the health, wellbeing, image and identity of the borough. In the face of climate change, population growth and consequent urbanisation, the resolve to maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of green space, alongside its accessibility are further enhanced.

This strategy is designed to enable long-term strategic planning and guides both the development and management of green spaces within the borough. It ensures they continue to evolve to meet the changing needs and aspirations of the community and are maintained to high standards against a backdrop of budgetary constraints resulting from the current recession.

As such, the purpose of the Borough's Green Spaces Strategy is to:

- Protect and improve Gedling Borough's accessible parks and open spaces to meet community needs and aspirations.
- Provide a strategic vision, aims, a robust evidence base and, a set of objectives that together provide a strategic framework for the planning, development and management of parks and open spaces.
- Provide the council with a robust basis for making development decisions and negotiating planning gain.
- Identify ways in which parks and open spaces can be improved in a coordinated way whilst providing value for money.
- Enable the council to prioritise, spend and plan resources across Gedling.
- Make an effective case for investment.

1.4 Progress following the 2012 Strategy

Since the publication of the last green space strategy in 2012, the following key achievements have been made:

- New green spaces have been created, for example, Gedling Colliery has been transformed into one of the borough's destination parks: Gedling Country Park, a 240ha site, offers opportunities for both recreation and play and has also been given a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status.
- Other LNR designations include the Hobbucks at Killisick and in terms of new semi natural green space, a nature trail at Burton Road Jubilee Park has been established, such sites offer green site respite within the urban conurbations of the borough.
- Increased the number of parks friends of groups and the amount of volunteering hours within our parks.
- Increased the number of Green Flag awarded parks in the borough, from one to four.

- The Cinder Path in Netherfield has been completely renovated and re-landscaped and now includes street lighting which illuminates the area, enhancing people's feelings of safety which allows for the site to be enjoyed for greater periods of time throughout the day.
- Three new play areas at Gedling Country Park, Haywood Road and Conway Recreation Ground have been created and the council has also refurbished a number of sites referenced within this document.
- Aligned to this strategy, the Playing Pitch Strategy 2016, identified a shortage of 3G pitches in the borough, overall, in terms of sports pitch provision, two new adult sized 3G pitches have been provided and the playing pitches and changing cabins at Lambley Lane Recreation Ground have both been improved and replaced.
- For those less able, we have reduced the size of some allotment plots, to enable them to be effectively maintained.
- An allotment forum has been established to share best practice and help in the overall management and administration of allotments borough wide.
- As Redhill Cemetery is reaching capacity for new burials, we have laid out new land for burials at Carlton Cemetery, which will ensure 25 years of additional burial space for the borough. Additionally, the council has extended the remembrance garden at the site.
- The number of activities undertaken in our parks has increased, including fitness boot camps, dog shows and orienteering events.
- Improvements to cycle ways in the borough that link green corridors have been made which help to reduce local congestion. New cycle lanes are planned to run alongside the Gedling Access Road, linking with Gedling Country Park. Such green corridors provide habitats and resources for wildlife, whilst providing urban populations mobility networks and access to green spaces.

1.5 Scope of the Strategy

As evidenced above in section 1.3, following the 2012 strategy, many improvements have been made to the borough's green spaces, however, several objectives need carrying over to this revised document. The 2021-2026 Green Space Strategy builds on the work of the previous 2012-2017 strategy, taking into account relevant national, regional and local policies.

For this review, the term green space is used generically to describe the network of open spaces that are freely available to the public irrespective of the landowner for outdoor recreation. However, the main impetus will be on those areas that are managed by Gedling Borough Council and therefore, this document excludes green spaces closed to the public such as private gardens.

The strategy considers eight typologies of green space that are protected under Policy LPD20 of Gedling's Local Planning Document; parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, amenity green space, play provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities, allotments and community gardens, cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors, these are defined in Section 3 of this document.

1.6 Limitations of the Strategy

It should be noted that the Green Space Strategy has a specific scope and therefore has the following limitations:

- It is not a day-to-day guide to service management and therefore will not set out policies relevant to green space.
- It is not an investment programme and therefore will not set out specific investment projects, these are instead, delivered via authorised business plans laid out within annual service plans. However, it is envisaged that the Green Space Strategy will serve as a critical decision-making framework within which investment decisions are made.

The strategy focuses primarily on questions of adequate provision and projected demand, setting the strategic direction for community engagement concerning both the improvement and maintenance of the borough's green spaces. The strategy does not cover commercial events held in parks and open spaces.

1.7 Our Vision for Green Space

“To provide sufficient quality, inviting green spaces that are open and accessible to all and that enhance the quality of life of everyone living, working or visiting Gedling Borough.”

This vision will be achieved by focusing on the following priorities, in order to provide a range of green spaces and recreational experiences over the next five years up to 2026:

- To enhance people’s quality of life through the provision of sufficient, accessible and attractive green spaces.
- To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the borough’s biodiversity, sustainability and heritage.
- To provide green spaces and play and sports facilities to enable residents to undertake a wide range of recreational and educational activities for healthy living.
- To actively involve the community in their local green spaces.
- To increase participation in green spaces for sport and recreation.



1.8 How have we developed the Strategy?

An audit of green space alongside extensive consultation are seen as crucial elements in the development of the borough's Green Space Strategy. These have been undertaken to devise local standards for the provision of green space within the borough and enables for the identification of surpluses or deficiencies in provision.

The previous 2012-2017 strategy document undertook an audit of green space typologies outlined within Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) to assess the quality, quantity and accessibility of Gedling's green spaces. However, PPG17 typologies have now been superseded by those contained within policy LPD20 of the Gedling Local Planning document, where the typologies have been updated but not radically changed.

To achieve a balanced and co-ordinated approach that ensures maximum public participation, a series of consultations were carried out over a phased period with the local community. This was conducted to establish the views on green space provision among users and non-users within Gedling Borough. The public consultation survey set out to identify and establish the following:

- The usage of green space, sport and community recreational facilities by residents within the borough.
- The value local people attach to green space, sport and community recreational facilities and their attitudes towards these.
- The attitudes to the level of existing provision and facilities.
- The frequency residents use the differing types of provision.
- The primary mode of transport used to access green space, sport and community recreational facilities.
- The views of residents on the accessibility of green space, sport and community recreational facilities.
- The barriers that prevent or reduce local use of green space, sport and community recreational facilities.
- Local needs and expectations.



The key methods used were:

Public consultation surveys: Questionnaires were distributed to every household within the borough to assess residents' views on the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces and sports facilities.

Door to door survey of residents: Residents from door-to-door surveys were asked questions about the parks and open spaces within the borough.

Surveys conducted with users of the parks: To inform the green space audit, nine parks across the borough were surveyed individually to ascertain user's frequency of visits, length of stay, methods of travel, activities undertaken and the quality of the park.

Young people's survey: All schools in the borough were invited to participate in a survey on the frequency of children and young people's visits to parks and green spaces and their opinion of the quality of facilities in their area.

Sports club survey: As part of the Playing Pitch Strategy published in 2016, surveys were sent to all sports clubs using outdoor sports facilities in the borough, questions were related to the quality and the sufficiency of open space facilities used.

Allotment association survey: Surveys concerning the range of facilities provided, quality, current usage, the main issues, future priorities were sent to five allotment associations in the borough.

Friends of groups survey: Questionnaires about the quality and future plans for their associated park were sent to Friends of Groups.

Parish council survey: Questionnaires were sent to Parish Councils to determine the level of usage, condition and identify any future aspirations of the parishes.

School survey: Questionnaires were forwarded to all primary and secondary schools in the borough, with schools being asked to rate the quality of their facilities.

Internal consultation: Internal consultation was carried out with council officers, from Planning, Direct services and Leisure Services to ensure that internal officers and council members were aware of the developments of the assessment and strategy.

The main findings were:

- The most frequently used green spaces were parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural green space, whilst the least used were allotments and cemeteries.

- The most common method of travel to green spaces is by foot or car. Significantly more people walk to parks and gardens, natural green space, amenity green space, provision for children and young people, school playing fields and green corridors than drive.
- 97% of responders felt that the travelling time to green spaces was acceptable.
- 79% of respondents thought there were sufficient publicly accessible green space in the borough whilst 16% did not.
- Across the type of green spaces, the quality in the borough is considered as good. Parks and Gardens were considered as very good.
- Cleanliness was rated as the best aspect of green spaces with 67% of respondents considering it as good or better.
- The primary reasons for visiting green space in Gedling were to go for a walk, to relax, to improve health and to visit with the family.
- Barriers relating to quality were higher priorities than barriers relating to access. The most common reason given as a barrier was dog fouling, with 14% of respondents feeling this was an issue.

For full details on the consultation process and the results obtained, please refer to Appendix 1.

Lastly, to understand the context of green space in Gedling, the updated strategy has been developed in accordance with relevant national, regional and local policies to ensure all pertinent elements that apply to the management, protection and enhancement of the borough's green spaces are considered.





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2 Context

2.1 About Gedling Borough

Gedling Borough is located in the heart of Nottinghamshire and includes a substantial part of the Greater Nottingham conurbation. It borders Sherwood Forest to the north, the River Trent to the south-east and the City of Nottingham to the south-west. The name is derived from the present-day suburban village of Gedling, which was referred to as Ghellinge in the Domesday survey of 1086.



The borough has a distinctive mix of urban and rural areas. It is comprised of Greater Nottingham's north and eastern suburbs and villages located in some of Nottinghamshire's most picturesque countryside. It covers an area of 120km², with a large proportion situated on undulating terrain.



In 2019, the estimated population of the borough was 117,896⁸, with the majority of residents living in the main suburban areas of Arnold, Carlton, Gedling, Mapperley and Netherfield. The remainder live in the ten rural parishes of Bestwood Village, Burton Joyce, Calverton, Lambley, Linby, Newstead, Papplewick, Ravenshead, Stoke Bardolph and Woodborough. The borough's eleventh parish, Colwick, forms part of the suburban area.

The borough's industrial heritage is based on textiles and coal, but both industries have now all but disappeared. The entire borough falls within the principal economic area of Greater Nottingham, which also includes the City of Nottingham, the boroughs of Broxtowe and Rushcliffe, and the town of Hucknall. As a result, the majority of the borough's residents look to Greater Nottingham for employment.

2.1.1 Gedling's Green Spaces

Green spaces in this strategy document are defined as areas of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, lakes, canals and reservoirs) which offer vital opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity. Gedling Borough has 1,695.58 hectares of community green spaces, with the majority being owned and managed by the council. Gedling's parks and green spaces are popular with residents and visitors to the borough. Their broad appeal is reflected in resident surveys, which reveal high satisfaction ratings. Results from the Gedling Conversation survey conducted in 2019, revealed that 73% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in the borough⁹.

2.1.2 Challenges to Gedling's Green Space

One of the greatest challenges likely to affect both the quantity and quality of green spaces within the borough pertains to budgetary constraints resulting from austerity spending cuts. Over the past 10 years, the borough's budget for green spaces has decreased by £448,100. This has led to a variety of impacts, including changes to grounds maintenance specification in open grassland habitats, reductions in floral displays and, due to a halving of summer agency labour, a significant reduction in mowing cycles. It is anticipated that budgets for green spaces will come under increased pressure, which therefore heightens the need to set out how we, as a council will help ensure that the borough's green spaces are maintained for Gedling's residents, both now and in the future.

⁸ ONS (2020) United Kingdom population mid-year estimate 2019

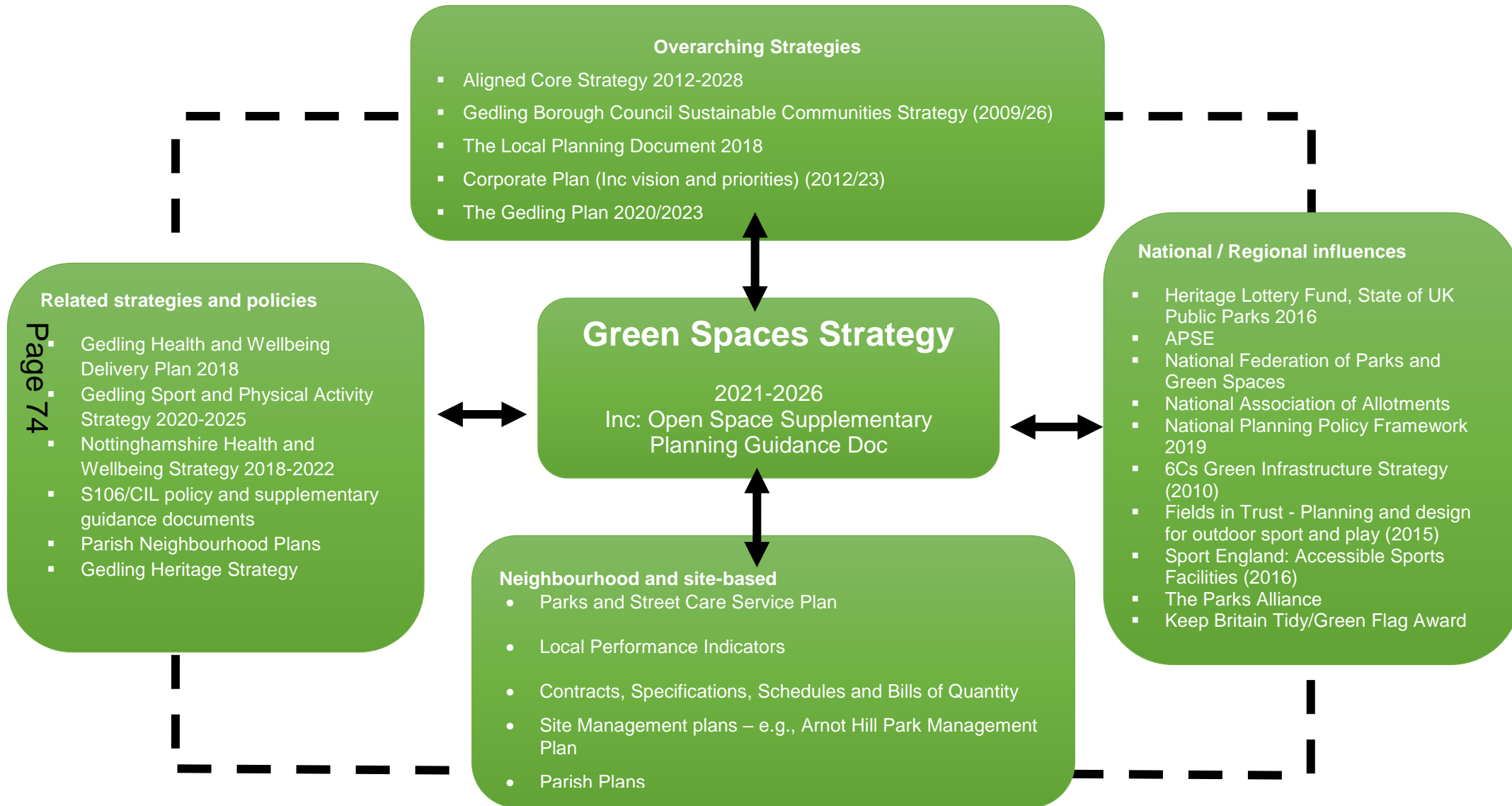
⁹ Gedling Conversation – Satisfaction Survey Results 2019

2.2 Policy Context

In developing a green space strategy, it is important to consider the strategic factors that will influence the strategy both internally from existing policies and practices within Gedling Borough Council and externally by identifying the implications from strategies and policies of key government departments and other agencies.

The legislation and policies have three levels national, regional and local. Within this context, there are different types of legislation and policy: those that are directly concerned with green space provision and those where green space makes a contribution, but is not the principal subject of a wider policy initiative.

2.2.1 Diagram linking strategies and policies



2.2.2 National

National Planning Policy Framework, 2019 - The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out government planning policy for England and how this is expected to be applied. The NPPF states that the planning system should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, of which there are three dimensions; economic, social and environmental. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for development can be produced. The framework acknowledges the need for high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation in its contribution to both the health and wellbeing of communities. The importance of open spaces is also highlighted in terms of its contribution to biodiversity provision and climate change adaptation and resilience. The NPPF refers to open space as opposed to green space, however, in the context of this strategy, the two terms can be considered interchangeable.

Localism Act 2011 - The Localism Act seeks to decentralise power, placing it back into the hands of local councils, communities and individuals to act on local priorities. Under the act, new rights and powers were introduced for local people. The first; right to challenge, gives local people the opportunity to become more involved in the running of local services, and the second; right to bid, gives local communities greater ability to protect local buildings and land that are valued as community assets.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation, 2016-2021 - Sport England's Towards an Active Nation is a strategy that goes beyond participation and acknowledges how sport can change lives and become a force for good, contributing to improvements in physical and mental health. It has five outcomes at its core: Physical wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. This document was used in the production of the Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough (2016).

Heritage Lottery Fund: State of UK Parks, 2016 - The Heritage Lottery Fund's report on the State of UK Parks, through nationally undertaken surveys provides an analysis and overview of the state of the UK's public parks in 2016. The report highlights the growing deficit between the rising usage of UK parks and the declining resources available to manage them.



Public Health England: Improving Access to Greenspace, 2020 – This recently published document reviews the health benefits of living in greener communities and provides a set of recommendations to assist local authorities, policymakers and developers in maintaining, and increasing the provision of green space.

Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play; Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015) - Fields in Trust provides benchmark standards on the provision of outdoor space for sport and recreation which are recommended as a tool for assisting in the development of local standards.

Fields in Trust: Green Spaces for Good (2018-2022) – This strategy acknowledges the benefits green space provides in the delivery of positive social outcomes and seeks to change the conversation around parks and green spaces and how their contribution to communities are measured. Fields in Trust has developed a new method of financially quantifying the critical importance of green spaces to the communities in which they are located.

Natural England: Accessible Natural Green Space Standards – Provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to green spaces near to where people live.

Communities and Local Government Committee: Public Parks, 2017 – The Communities and Local Government Committee launched a Public Parks Inquiry in 2016 to assess the challenges facing the parks sector, including local budget cuts. It acknowledges the contribution of parks to important strategic objectives comprising climate change mitigation, public health and community integration, and offers subsequent recommendations on how to secure a sustainable future for UK parks.

Nesta: Learning to Rethink Parks, 2016 – This report reviews the impact of Rethinking Parks – a project established to find, support and test new approaches to raising income and reducing costs for UK Public Parks to ensure that they remain free, open and valued assets.



Green Flag Award - An internationally recognised awards scheme that recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting a benchmark against which the quality of freely accessible provision can be measured. It is based on eight broad criteria which were defined after extensive consultation with organisations concerned with nature conservation, public safety, community health, education and children's play. They are that parks and green spaces should:

- Be welcoming
- Be healthy, safe and secure
- Be clean and well maintained
- Be managed in a sustainable manner
- Promote the conservation of wildlife and the built heritage
- Reflect community needs and promote community involvement
- Be well marketed in accordance with a marketing plan
- Be well managed in accordance with a clear management plan



2.2.3 Regional

Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan 1998 - The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) published in response to the 1994 UK BAP, outlines how the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group will work to conserve, enhance and promote biodiversity in the area.

Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies: Part 1 Local Plan, 2014 – Prepared in accordance with the NPPF, the Aligned Core Strategy forms Part 1 of the Local Plan for Gedling Borough Council and provides the strategic planning framework for the Part 2 Local Planning Document for Gedling Borough. The Strategy provides a broad guide to development and growth in the areas and includes strategic planning policies to guide and control the overall scale, type and location of development, including the allocation of strategic sites. The Local Planning Document recognises that each Council has local issues and priorities and hence more detailed planning policies are included within the Local Planning Document for Gedling Borough.

2.2.4 Local

Gedling Borough Local Planning Document, Part 2 Local Plan (2018) - Sets out the economic, social and environmental priorities for development within the borough and, in accordance with the NPPF, contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

Gedling Plan 2020-2023 - The Borough Council Plan’s 2020-2023 vision is *“serving people, improving lives.”*

The Council’s corporate priorities are listed below and serve as drivers to the Green Space Strategy:

- **Cohesive, Diverse and Safe Communities**
- **High Performing Council**
- **Vibrant Economy**
- **Sustainable Environment**
- **Healthy Lifestyles**

Table 1 below illustrates the association between the priorities and objectives of the council’s corporate plan to the relevance of green spaces in helping to deliver those objectives. It also identifies the corporate portfolio.

Table 1: The link between the priorities and objectives of the council’s corporate plan and the significance of green space

Priorities	Objectives	Green Space Link	Corporate Portfolio
Cohesive, Diverse and Safe Communities	Promote and encourage pride, good citizenship and participation	<i>Well managed green spaces provide an excellent venue for community and volunteer events.</i>	Community Development
	Reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime	<i>Well-designed and maintained green spaces can help reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.</i>	Public Protection

<p>High Performing Council</p>	<p>Improve the customer experience of engaging with the council</p> <p>Maintain a positive and supportive working environment and strong employee morale</p>	<p>On a bi-annual basis, Gedling Borough Council seeks the views of its residents through the residents' satisfaction survey, the parks department scores highly. In 2019, 73% of residents reported being satisfied with the quality of parks and open spaces in the borough.</p> <p><i>Well trained and motivated Parks and Street Cleansing Staff who have a positive attitude create a good impression with our customers, who are both residents and visitors to the borough.</i></p>	<p>Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Leader of the Council</p>
<p>Vibrant Economy</p>	<p>Creative thriving and vibrant town and local centres</p>	<p><i>Well managed green spaces are attractive venues for events and festivals, for example, Arnold Carnival held in Arnot Hill Park. Such green spaces attract a suite of businesses and employment opportunities and increase visitor footfall to the borough, thereby improving the local economy.</i></p>	<p>Growth and Regeneration</p>
<p>Sustainable Environment</p>	<p>Provide an attractive and sustainable local environment that local people can enjoy</p> <p>Improve transport infrastructure and connectivity</p> <p>Conserve, enhance, promote and celebrate our heritage</p> <p>Promote and protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste and becoming carbon neutral</p>	<p><i>Well managed green spaces help to create a good image and give a sense of 'place'.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces and well-connected green corridors make walking and cycling more pleasant and therefore encourage active travel, in turn reducing the carbon footprint of the borough.</i></p> <p><i>The borough's green spaces include Bestwood and Gedling Country Parks, which have significant heritage connections. Gedling Country Park, our flagship park has strong links to the borough's mining heritage and is instrumental as a focal point for the borough's heritage activity.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces provide green lungs to mitigate against climate change and provide a haven for wildlife. Enforce the Council ban on the use of neonicotinoids and glyphosate on Council owned land.</i></p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Community Development</p> <p>Environment</p>

<p>Healthy Lifestyles</p>	<p>Support physically active lifestyles</p> <p>Increase recreational activities</p> <p>Reduce levels of loneliness and isolation</p>	<p><i>Well managed green spaces facilitate physically active lifestyles through the provision of sports pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces provide recreational areas for people of all ages.</i></p> <p><i>The presence of green space encourages positive social interactions and provide the opportunity to participate in shared social activities.</i></p>	<p>Housing, Health and Well-being</p>
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The Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Project for Gedling Borough – A document which highlights where the greatest opportunities are for nature in the borough. This document should be considered during review of the borough’s green space management plans, and where possible, depending on the resources available the opportunities outlined should be delivered.



2.3 Green Space Typologies

The key national planning document for the previous Green Space Strategy of 2012-2017 was Planning Policy Guidance PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002). In 2018, this was superseded by the Gedling Local Planning Document, within which Policy LDP20, recommends that the protection of open space includes:

- Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space
- Amenity Green Space
- Play Provision for Children and Young People
- Outdoor Sport Facilities
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Green Corridors

Table 2 below illustrates the land typologies with descriptions and examples.

Table 2: Details of the land typologies found within Gedling Borough, with corresponding examples

Type	Description	Examples from Gedling Borough Council
Parks and Gardens	Including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens	Arnot Hill Park
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	Including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas – cliffs, quarries and pits	Burnstump Country Park, Netherfield Lagoons, Gedling House Woods
Amenity Green Space	Including informal recreational spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens	Gedling Road, opposite the arrow pub
Provision for Children and Young People	Including play areas, skate parks, outdoor basketball hoops, ball courts and other informal areas (teenage hanging out areas and shelters)	Church Lane Play Area Papplewick Play Area

Outdoor Sport Facilities, including School Playing Fields (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned)	Including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields and other outdoor sporting areas	Burton Road Jubilee Park, Conway Recreation Ground
Allotments and Community Gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	Killisick & Robin Hood Allotments
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.	Carlton & Redhill Cemetery
Green Corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.	The River Trent

A wide, green lawn with a line of trees in the background under a blue sky.

3 Green Space Provision and Deficiencies

Sections 4 to 11 outline the main findings from both the public consultation and audit of current provision for each green space typology. Locally determined green space standards were then devised through a process of assessing the current provision of green space against national and local standards whilst accounting for local needs. The application of standards enables for the identification of surpluses and deficiencies in green space, so as to ensure that there is an adequate provision of accessible, high-quality green spaces located throughout the borough.

There are three distinct components to Gedling Borough Council's green space standards:

Quantity Standard: the 'ideal' quantity of a specific green space typology expressed in terms of ha per 1,000 head of population.

Quality Standard: a measure of the condition of green spaces.

Accessibility Standard: the reasonable distance residents should expect to travel to a green space, expressed as average walking times. In this document, it is assumed that the average person walks 100m in 1 minute 15 seconds (equivalent to a speed of 3mph). For driving, the assumption has been made that on average, it will take drivers 1 minute 33 seconds to cover a distance of 1km (equivalent to a speed of 24mph). Please note, equivalent distances for travel times have been rounded to the nearest ten.

It is important to note that the standards outlined in this strategy should be considered a guide to minimum provision rather than used as an absolute rule. There will be a need to apply the standards with a degree of flexibility on occasions due to geographical or demographical reasons.

In the sections below, the following assumptions have been applied:

- To calculate the population within the borough's urban and rural areas, the proportion of urban (80.3%) and rural (19.7%) residents from the 2012 green space strategy has been applied to the 2019 ONS mid-year population estimate for Gedling Borough of 117,896¹⁰. Therefore, the assumption has been made that 94,670 people reside within the urban areas of the borough, whilst the remaining 23,226 residents are located within the rural areas.

Population forecasts for 2026 were calculated from the borough's annual housing requirement within the Five-Year Housing Lands Supply Assessment 2020¹¹, which indicates that by 2026, 2,730 new homes are to be built. Based on an average dwelling occupation of two people per household (2.37 being the average household in the UK¹²), a total population increase of 5,460 can be estimated, resulting in a total population of 123,356.

It is worth noting that when compared to the ONS 2018-based subnational population projections, which forecasts a 3,144 rise in population between 2021 and 2026, the population growth projection of 5,460 used in this document may be at the higher end of the growth range. Although use of a lower population growth projection would help to alleviate deficiencies in green space provision, the ONS estimate does not account for new housing development

¹⁰ ONS (2020) United Kingdom population mid-year estimate 2019

¹¹ Gedling Borough Council: Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2020

¹² ONS (2019) Families and Households

4 Parks and Gardens

4.1 Definition

Parks and gardens contain grass and trees as a minimum and are defined as formalised outdoor spaces set aside for human leisure and recreation or the protection of wildlife and natural habitats. They may include play spaces, wildlife areas, woodland, cafes, flower beds, landscaped areas and water features¹³.

4.2 Context

Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document¹⁴ describes parks and gardens as areas including urban parks, formal gardens and country parks which provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community activity. The State of UK Public Parks report published in 2016¹⁵ considers parks as an integral part of human life that provide places where people can relax, play, and exercise. The report recognises the importance of such spaces in their contribution to long-term physical and mental wellbeing, supporting community cohesion and enhancing biodiversity.



¹³ Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC: Open Space Categories

¹⁴ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

¹⁵ Heritage Lottery Fund: State of UK Public Parks

4.3 Where are we now?

4.3.1 Quantity

The audit recorded 708ha of parks and gardens in the borough. These sites vary considerably in size and include small areas such as the garden accompanying Woodthorpe Library and much larger sites, for example, Bestwood Country Park. For the full quantity audit of the sites in the borough with a primary function of a park and garden, please refer to Appendix 2a.

With a population of 117,896, the current provision of parks and gardens in the borough equates to 6ha per 1,000. This is comprised of 0.6ha per 1,000 in the urban areas and 7.3ha per 1,000 in the rural areas of the borough, indicating that there is an uneven distribution in the provision of such spaces. However, a larger number of sites are in fact located within the urban areas, with the disparity in provision resulting from the classification of the larger country parks as being within the rural areas, on the edge of the conurbation.

Public consultation highlighted that although the number of parks and gardens in the borough is deemed adequate, the council needs to remain vigilant and ensure that this valuable space is not reduced.

4.3.2 Quality

4.3.2.1 Consultation

Public consultation results revealed that the overall quality rating of parks and gardens was very good, with 84% of responders rating these spaces within the borough as good or better (as per Table 3). However, several individual comments concerning the quality of parks and gardens in the borough were provided. The most frequent comments related to:

- litter and dog fouling
- car parking
- safety and concern regarding gangs and unleashed dogs
- wheelchair access

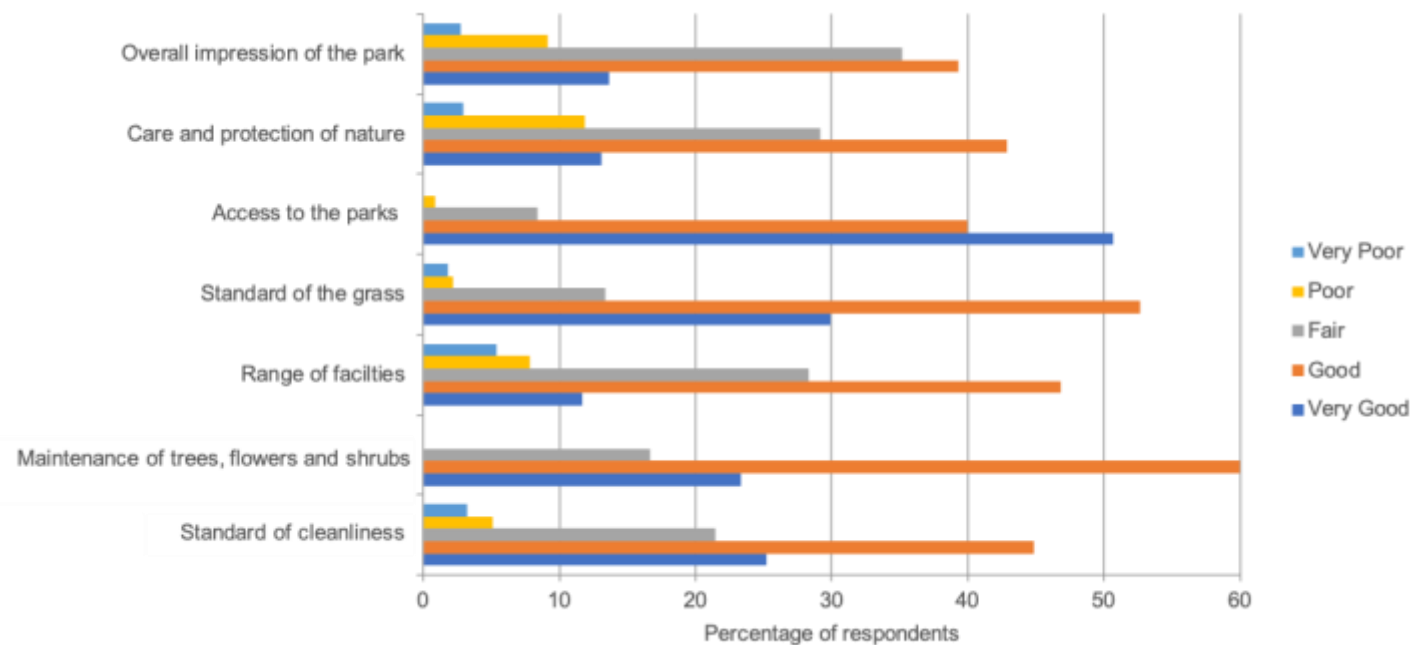
Table 3: Public consultation quality rating of parks and gardens

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
45%	39%	14%	2%	0%

User consultation was held at all the green spaces across the borough categorised as a park and garden using the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) classifications. Appendix 2b contains details of the APSE classification categories.

As evidenced by Figure 1, the standard of grass and maintenance of trees, flowers and shrubs were rated as the best aspects of the parks and gardens throughout Gedling borough, with 83% of respondents rating these factors as either good or better. Cleanliness also rated well, with 70% of respondents deeming this to be of a good standard or better throughout the parks and gardens in the borough. Consultation results concerning the quality of individual parks and gardens can be viewed in Appendix 2c.

Figure 1: Overall quality of parks and gardens



4.3.2.2 Site Quality Assessments

Site quality assessments of parks and gardens classified under APSE categories A, B, C and D were undertaken based on the Green Flag Award criteria¹⁶ outlined below:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Well Maintained and Clean

¹⁶ Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual (2016) Pages 12-14

- Environmental Management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing and Communication
- Management

Note: Detailed criteria of the Green Flag Award are provided in Appendix 2d.

According to the criteria above, parks and gardens were then scored a value between 0-10 as per Figure 2.

Figure 2: Green Flag Award scoring line

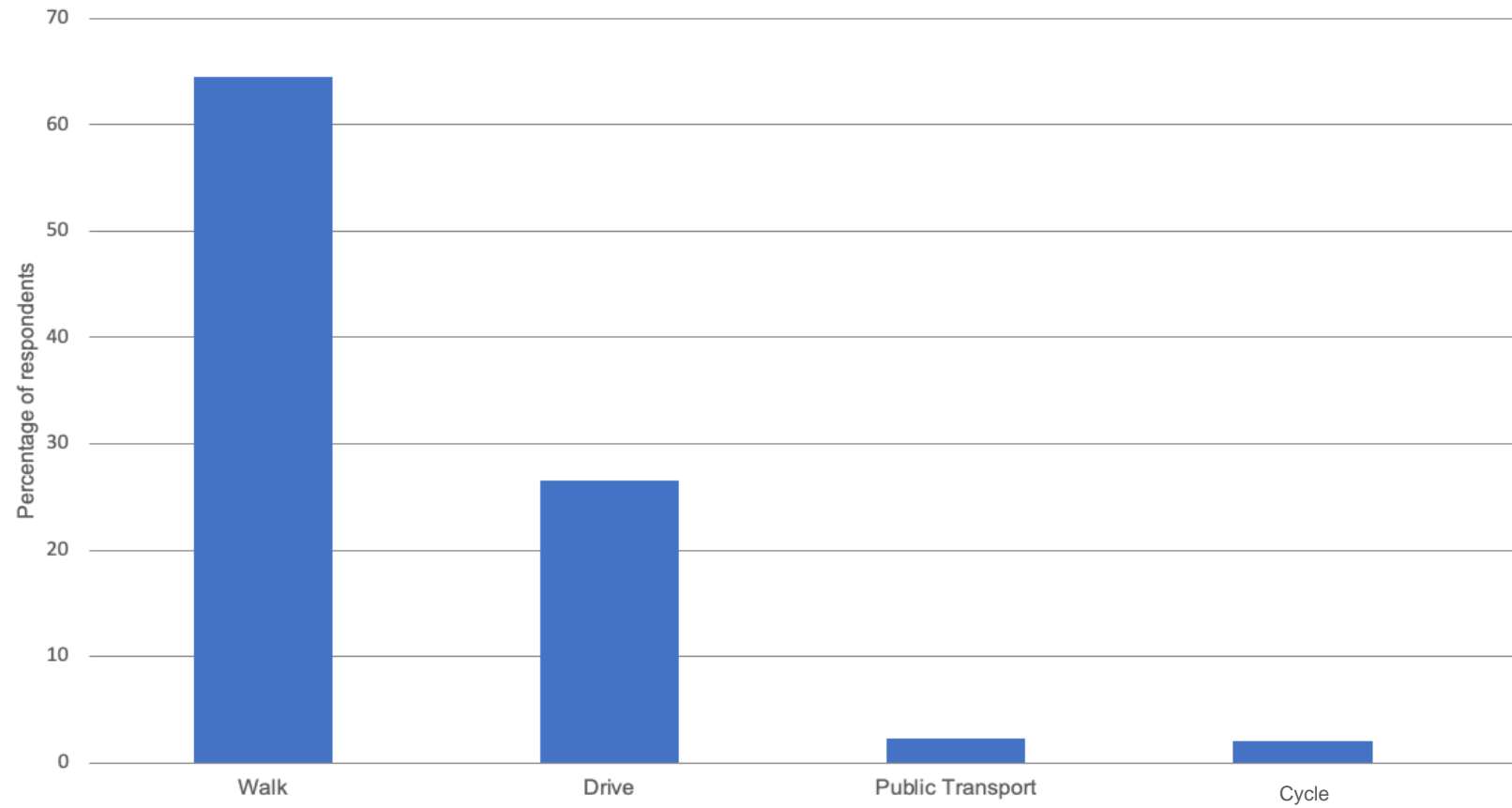


The average quality score for the borough was 6.1% which, according to Figure 2 above, is classified as 'fair'. The highest scoring site was Arnot Hill Park, which received a score of 8.4, whilst the lowest scoring site was Lambley Lane South which scored a value of 5.2. Included in Appendix 2e are the results of the specific site quality assessment.

4.3.3 Accessibility

From a user's perspective, access to the parks and gardens was one of the most highly rated aspects of the green space consultation, with 91% of respondents deeming access to be either good or better. Figure 3 shows that the most popular mode of transport to parks and gardens was on foot, justifying the case to set a walking accessibility standard.

Figure 3: Preferred mode of transport used to access parks and gardens



4.4 Setting the Standard

4.4.1 Quantity

Fields in Trust¹⁷ provides a national benchmark quantity standard for parks and gardens of 0.8 ha per 1,000 population, which would require that Gedling Borough had 94.3ha of such spaces. However, public consultation revealed satisfaction with the current level of supply and therefore, the quantity standard for the borough remains 613.7ha higher than that of the national standard, reducing pressure on the council in terms of provision.

Quantity Standard
6ha per 1,000 population

4.4.2 Quality

Taking into account public consultation and the Green Flag quality assessment scores, the following quality standard for parks and gardens has been set.

Quality Standard
A welcoming, clean, well maintained site that is free from vandalism and dog fouling. That not only provides a range of facilities for all users, but creates a feeling of safety⁶
All destination parks to achieve a Green Flag Standard score of at least 8, whilst all other parks and gardens to achieve a standard of 5 or above.

4.4.3 Accessibility

Fields in Trust¹⁴ provides the national benchmark accessibility standards for parks and gardens, stating that they should be within a 710m walking distance or a 9-minute walk away from residents' homes. However, across the borough, in consultation, 75% of respondents believe that a reasonable travel time is a 15-minute walk to parks and gardens and therefore this is the standard that has been set.

Accessibility Standard
15-minute walk/1210m

¹⁷ Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

4.5 Application of Standards

To ensure that local need is met, we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together. The quantity standards enable the identification of areas that do not meet the minimum provision standards, whilst the accessibility standards help to determine where those deficiencies are of high importance.

According to Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment published in 2020¹⁸, an additional 2,730 homes are required in the period 2020 to 2026. Therefore, based on an average dwelling occupation of two people per household (2.37 being the average household in the UK¹⁹), an estimated total population increase of 5,460 can be calculated, resulting in a total population of 123,356. If no additional parks and gardens are provided, provision will be reduced to 5.7ha per 1,000 by 2026, a shortfall of 32.8ha. However through Policy 21 of the Local Planning Document¹⁴ we will ensure that new developments are built with the correct amount of green space, which requires all sites of 0.4ha and above to provide a minimum of 10% open space, meaning provision will not fall significantly below that of the local standard. This Policy also extends to Provision and Young People and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Figure 4A below shows the location of the parks and gardens included in the quantity audit and their 15-minute walking distance catchment areas. It excludes Newstead Abbey located to the west of Ravenshead due to the access charge for vehicles, which limits public accessibility. When using this data, several areas with a deficiency in provision are apparent, however, it is worth noting that this map does not account for the following:

- Parks and gardens located within the boundaries of neighbouring authorities that could fall within the catchment area of Gedling Borough's residents.
- Small gardens will not have the same catchment area as a large municipal park.
- Many parks have been excluded from this map due to holding an alternative primary function despite residents recognising them as a park and garden. For example, Lambley Lane playing field has been audited as an outdoor sports facility because of its primary use as a football pitch.

¹⁸ Gedling Borough Council: Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2020

¹⁹ ONS (2019) Families and Households

Such sites include facilities for sports such as grass pitches, tennis or bowls, whilst others provide fixed play equipment or multi-use courts for children and young people. These are reflected in Figure 4B as APSE A, B, C & D Category parks and hence, this map shows a more realistic coverage of what residents would consider to be a local 'park or garden' in their local area.

Figure 4A: A map of parks and gardens included in the quantity audit and their 15-minute walking distance catchment areas

Figure 4B: Map of parks and gardens, including those considered as APSE A, B, C and D category parks and their catchment areas

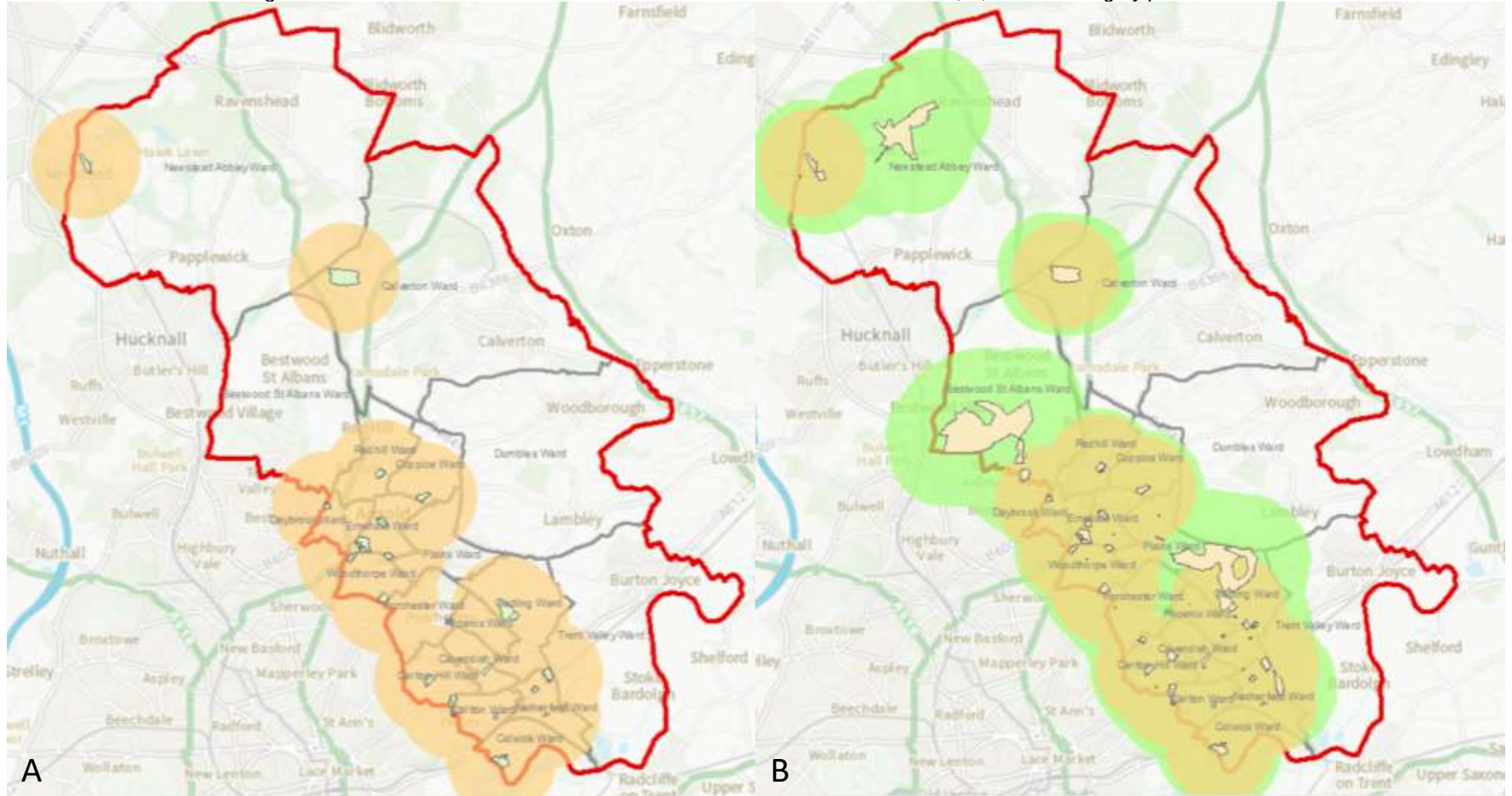


Figure 4.4A above displays the walking catchments of green spaces with a primary purpose of a park and garden and 4.4B displays those green spaces with the APSE parks and gardens classification of A, B, C and D.

These parks and gardens provide a wide range of facilities and are capable of providing space for a large number of people and activities as well as attracting visitors from outside the borough. As public consultation recognised the importance of having these spaces within walking distance from their homes, the map only displays the walking catchments of parks and gardens. However, it must be noted that the larger municipal parks are more attractive to access by vehicle as they offer a greater range of facilities.

Figure 4A and 4B show that despite the Carlton area being the most comprehensively covered location for parks and gardens in Gedling, there remain pockets of areas without provision. Other deficiency areas include Bonington, St Mary's and the boundary between Woodthorpe and Porchester wards. Both Figure 4A and 4B indicate that there is a large deficiency of parks and gardens in the rural areas, however, many of these areas contain natural and semi-natural green space. Therefore, only the rural areas considered deficient in both natural and semi-natural green space and parks and gardens should be considered areas for improvement.

4.6 Cross Boundary Analysis

Green spaces provided by the City Council are within the catchment areas of some residents of Gedling Borough, these include:

- Woodthorpe Grange Park
- Colwick Country Park
- Parks and gardens on Valley Road

4.7 Summary

Parks and gardens are valued assets and are often integral to the lives of the communities in which they are located. They provide places for leisure, relaxation and exercise, but are also fundamental to community cohesion, health and wellbeing and support biodiversity. It is, therefore, essential that they are both protected and enhanced and that additional Green Flag parks in the borough are established.

4.8 Recommendations

- When enhancing provision, ensure that priority is made in the urban areas of deficiency, as these contain the largest concentration of residents.
- The council should aspire to maintain Green Flag status at Arnot Hill Park, Gedling and Bestwood Country Parks, Burton Road Jubilee Park and aspire to establish another site as a Green Flag destination park.
- To make improvements in the quality and diversity of existing provision, in particular the protection and enhancement of wildlife where possible.
- To prioritise improvement to parks and gardens based on the Green Flag Award criteria.



5 Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space



5.1 Definition

Natural and semi-natural green spaces can be defined as land, water and geological features naturally colonised by plants and animals that are accessible on foot to large numbers of residents²⁰.

5.2 Context

Within Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document²¹, natural and semi-natural green spaces are referred to as areas with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity which include woodlands, urban forestry, shrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, nature reserves and previously developed land.

Natural and semi-natural green spaces exist as a distinct typology but also as discrete areas within the majority of other green space typologies, ranging from small areas amongst housing estates to those situated in country parks. They deliver a form of ecological, structural and landscaping benefits such as providing a buffer between housing and other areas.

²⁰ Harrison, C, Burgess, J, Millward, A, and Dawe, G (1995) Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities English Nature Research Report 153, English Nature

²¹ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

5.3 Where are we now?

5.3.1 Quantity

An audit of natural and semi-natural green space revealed that there is a total of 549ha across the borough, with 91.7% of sites located in the rural areas. This includes Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and other areas within Gedling that, through consultation have been classified as natural or semi-natural green space.

143ha of the natural and semi-natural green space in the audit displayed in Appendix 3 is also classified under other typologies such as cemeteries but have been included due to being defined as a LWS. A remaining 406ha of natural and semi-natural green space is not classified under any other typology. With a current population estimate of 117,896 and a total of 549ha of natural and semi-natural green space, the current provision equates to 4.7ha per 1,000 population.

Public consultation suggests the current level of provision is substantial, with 90% of respondents believing that there were enough natural and semi-natural green spaces within the borough.



5.3.2 Quality

Public consultation revealed that the overall quality rating of natural and semi-natural green space from those who responded was good. Table 4 below shows that 81% of responders felt the standard was either good or better.

Table 4: Public consultation quality rating of natural and semi-natural green space

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
37%	44%	16%	2%	1%

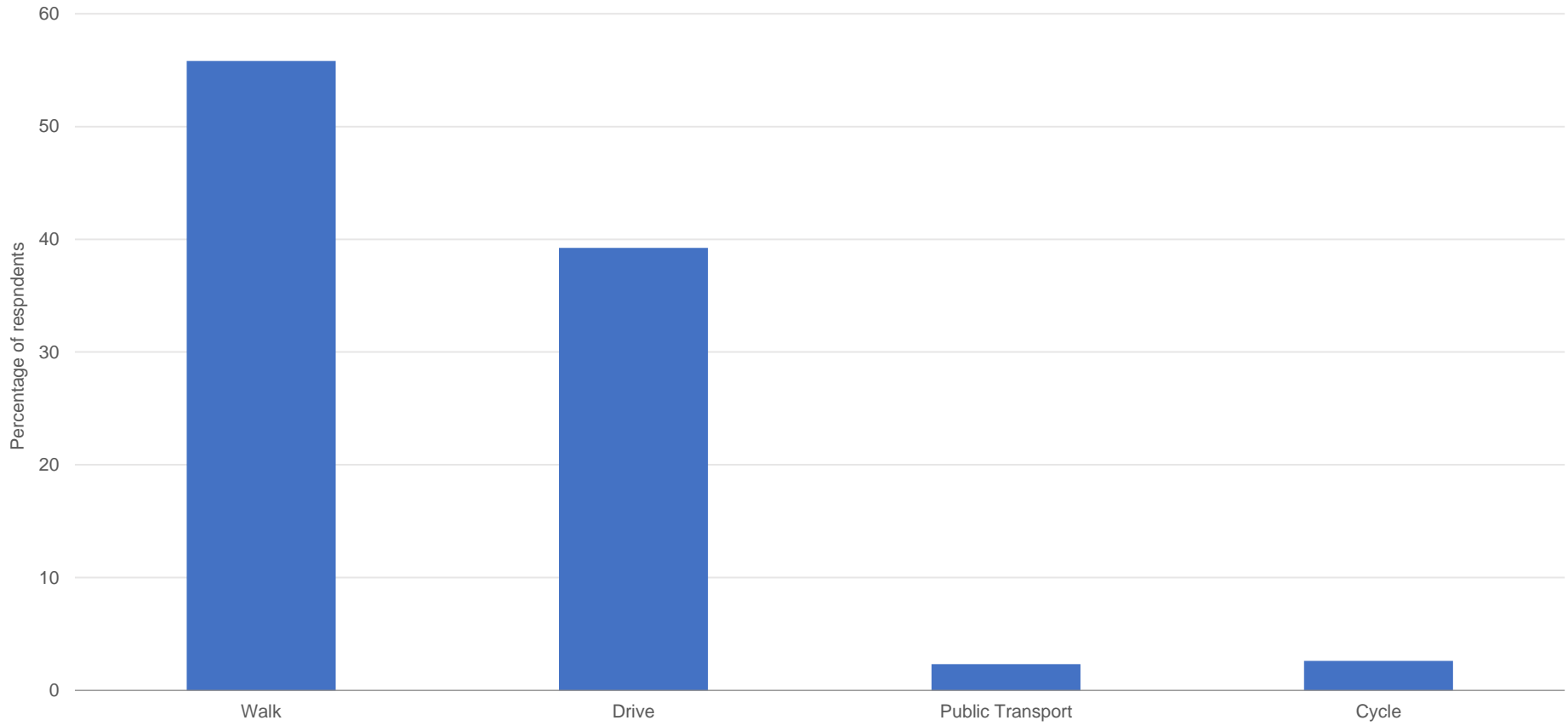
Individual comments concerning the quality of natural and semi-natural green spaces in the borough were provided by public consultation. These were not always areas classified primarily as a natural and semi-natural green space.

It is useful to note that user consultation revealed that one of the highest demands for improvement to green spaces was to the care and protection of nature and the environment. This implies that there is a need to maintain the current level of natural and semi-natural green space whilst improving both the care and protection of nature and wildlife in all green spaces across the borough.

5.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 56% of respondents across the borough preferred walking to natural and semi-natural green space, with 75% of those who use these spaces at least once per week opting to walk (see Figure 5). This information indicates a requirement to set a walking accessibility standard. Across the borough, 75% of respondents believed that a reasonable travel time to a natural and semi-natural green space is 15 minutes.

Figure 5: Preferred mode of transport used to access natural and semi-natural green space



5.4 Setting the standard

5.4.1 Quantity

Despite there being a national quantity standard for natural and semi-natural green space of 1.8ha per 1,000 set by Fields in Trust²², the recommended local quantity standard for the borough has been derived from public consultation and the audit of provision. As such, the current provision of natural and semi-natural green space is 337ha greater than the national quantity standard.

Quantity Standard
4.7ha per 1,000 population

5.4.2 Quality

The local quality standard set is based on public aspirations and reflects the quality guideline outlined by Fields in Trust²⁰.

Quality Standard
A publicly accessible, spacious, clean and litter-free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourages wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Sites should be maintained to protect nature conservation interest with interpretative signage and safety features where appropriate.

5.2.3 Accessibility

Natural England's Nature Nearby²³ provides a range of benchmark accessibility standards for natural and semi-natural green spaces, these include:

- an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size, no more than 300m (3 minute 44 second walk) from home
- at least one accessible 20-hectare site within 2000m of home
- one accessible 100 ha site within 5000m of home
- one accessible 500 ha site within 10,000m of home

²² Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

²³ Natural England (2010): 'Nature Nearby' Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance

Due to the historic density of the housing within the Nottingham conurbation, Gedling Borough Council cannot offer natural and semi-natural green space within a 4-minute walk from all households. Therefore, upon consultation, which revealed that 75% of respondents believed that a 15-minute walk was acceptable, we have created our own local standard of a 15-minute walk to a 2ha site (1210m distance) to reflect the localised accessibility to natural and semi-natural green space.

Accessibility Standard
2ha: 15-minute walk/1210m
20ha: 34-minute walk/2740m

5.5 Application of Standards

5.5.1 Quantity

Utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in the parks and gardens typology section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise to 123,356, reducing the provision of natural and semi-natural green space to 4.45ha per 1,000. Therefore, in order to maintain the current level of provision, an additional 25.4ha of natural and semi-natural green space will need to be allocated.

5.5.2 Accessibility

Figure 6A displays the 15-minute walking distance threshold to designated LWSs and LNRs. The buffer zones of the LWSs and LNRs are displayed in green and purple respectively. The maps show that there is a good provision of LWSs in the rural areas and LNRs in the south of the borough. In addition to the LWSs and LNRs, there are other green spaces considered to contain valuable natural or semi-natural green space, these spaces, however, are classified under other typologies and therefore are not displayed on the map, however, have been taken into account when identifying areas of deficiency.

Figure 6: Maps of natural and semi-natural green space in Gedling, where A, depicts a 15-minute walking catchment from natural and semi-natural green space and B, natural and semi natural green space over 20ha with a 2,740m catchment.

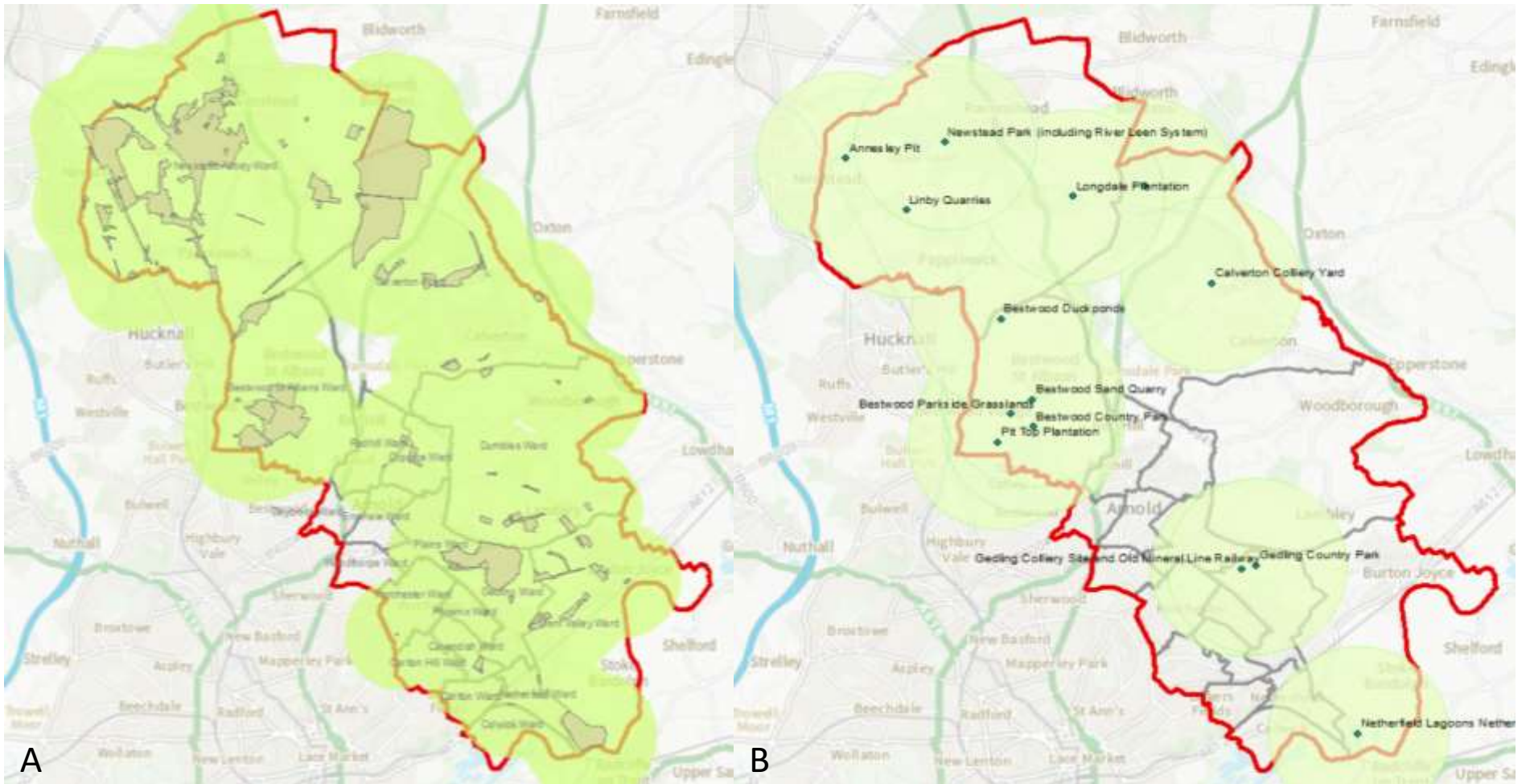


Figure 6B displays the 2,740m catchment of the natural and semi natural green spaces in the borough that have a site of over 20ha. It is evident that when considering both maps, there are large areas where there is currently no provision of natural and semi-natural green space. In the rural areas, this includes the north of Ravenshead and the north of Calverton. This conclusion is supported by responses provided during the public consultation where Ravenshead was perceived as having a lack of natural and semi-natural green space, likely due to Newstead Abbey not being freely accessible due to the requirement of visitors to pay to access the site.

In the urban areas, the main deficiencies are located in the central wards of the borough. Particular wards in the urban conurbation with a deficiency include Bonington, Daybrook, Woodthorpe, Mapperley Plains, St Mary`s Ward, Carlton and Carlton Hill. For these deficiencies to be addressed, natural and semi-natural green space will need to be created in the wards mentioned above, however, due to limited available green space, the opportunities for further creation are expected to be restricted.

5.6 Summary

Natural and semi-natural green spaces play a critical role in biodiversity and wildlife conservation. Although the quantity of natural and semi-natural green space in the borough is considered sufficient and exceeds the national standard, when assessing accessibility to such green spaces, it is evident that there are deficiencies in the urban conurbation and the northeast of Ravenshead village. It is therefore these areas where the council should prioritise new provision, providing there is land available to do so.

5.7 Recommendations

- Protect the current level of provision of natural and semi-natural sites across both the rural and urban areas of Gedling, including those which are LWSs or LNRs.
- To conduct a quality audit of natural and semi-natural green space in the borough.
- Consult with Natural England on potential sites for LNR status and consider LNR status for Bestwood Country Park.
- Analyse urban deficiency areas to assess whether other types of green space can fulfil the natural and semi-natural function, or whether new provision is required in certain areas providing there is space available.

6 Amenity Green Space



6.1 Definition

Amenity green space is defined as open land, often landscaped and situated in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens ‘that makes a positive contribution to the appearance of an area or improves the quality of the lives of people living or working within the locality²⁴.’

6.2 Context

Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document²⁵ describes amenity green space as land most commonly found within areas of housing, including informal recreation spaces and green spaces which provide opportunities for informal activities or enhance the appearance of residential areas. Amenity green space can also serve other important functions, such as reducing noise from busy roads or providing shelter from prevailing winds²².

²⁴ Planning Portal; Amenity Green-space

²⁵ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

6.3 Where are we now?

6.3.1 Quantity

The audit of amenity green space recorded a total of 59ha of such spaces within the borough, equivalent to 0.5ha per 1,000 population. This is comprised of 38ha of amenity green space within the urban conurbation, equating to 0.40ha per 1,000 population and 21ha within the rural areas, equating to 0.90ha per 1,000. This indicates that a disproportionate amount of amenity green space is located within the rural areas of the borough, which encompass the four large country parks within the borough boundary. Despite being within the rural boundary, these parks are accessed by the urban population via vehicle as opposed to on foot and hence the figures do not reflect in reality, the usage of these spaces. A full site audit of amenity green space in the borough is provided in Appendix 4.

Please note: Amenity green space sites under 0.2ha are considered by the council to have insufficient recreational value and, for the purpose of this strategy, these areas have been excluded.

Public consultation revealed an overall satisfaction with the current quantity of amenity green space in the borough, however, Ravenshead and Newstead were areas perceived as having a lack of amenity green space.

6.3.2 Quality

According to the public consultation, the overall quality of amenity green space across the district is perceived as good, with 68% of respondents deeming the quality standards as either good or better. Dog fouling and littering, however, were considered critical issues across the whole of the borough, with the highest rated aspirations for amenity green space being that they are clean and litter-free.

6.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 70% of respondents felt that it was appropriate to be able to walk to amenity green space, with a walking time of 8-minutes considered as acceptable.

6.4 Setting the Standard

6.4.1 Quantity

Fields in Trust²⁶ recommends a benchmark quantity standard of 0.6ha per 1,000 population of amenity green space. As such, the quantitative standard for amenity greenspace has been set at 0.6ha per 1,000 population, this would help to improve public levels of satisfaction with amenity green space provision.

Quantity Standard
0.6ha per 1,000 population

6.4.2 Quality

Fields in Trust²⁴ provides the national benchmark quality standard for amenity green space which requires that such spaces are to be appropriately landscaped, positively managed, provide footpaths and designed to be free of the fear of harm or crime. This criterion, in turn, reflects Green Flag quality standards and has been adopted as the local quality standard.

Quality Standard
Amenity green spaces should be planned and designed to be free of the fear of crime and meet local needs, aiming for Green Flag status as a quality benchmark. They should be appropriately landscaped, positively managed and should be provided with good access footpaths, be clean and litter free and be appropriately landscaped with shrubs, trees and flowers.

6.4.3 Accessibility

Accessibility standards have been adopted from the Fields in Trust²⁴ recommended benchmark guidance, which states that households should be within a 480m walking distance or a 6-minute walk from amenity green space.

Accessibility Standard
6-minute walk/482m

²⁶ Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

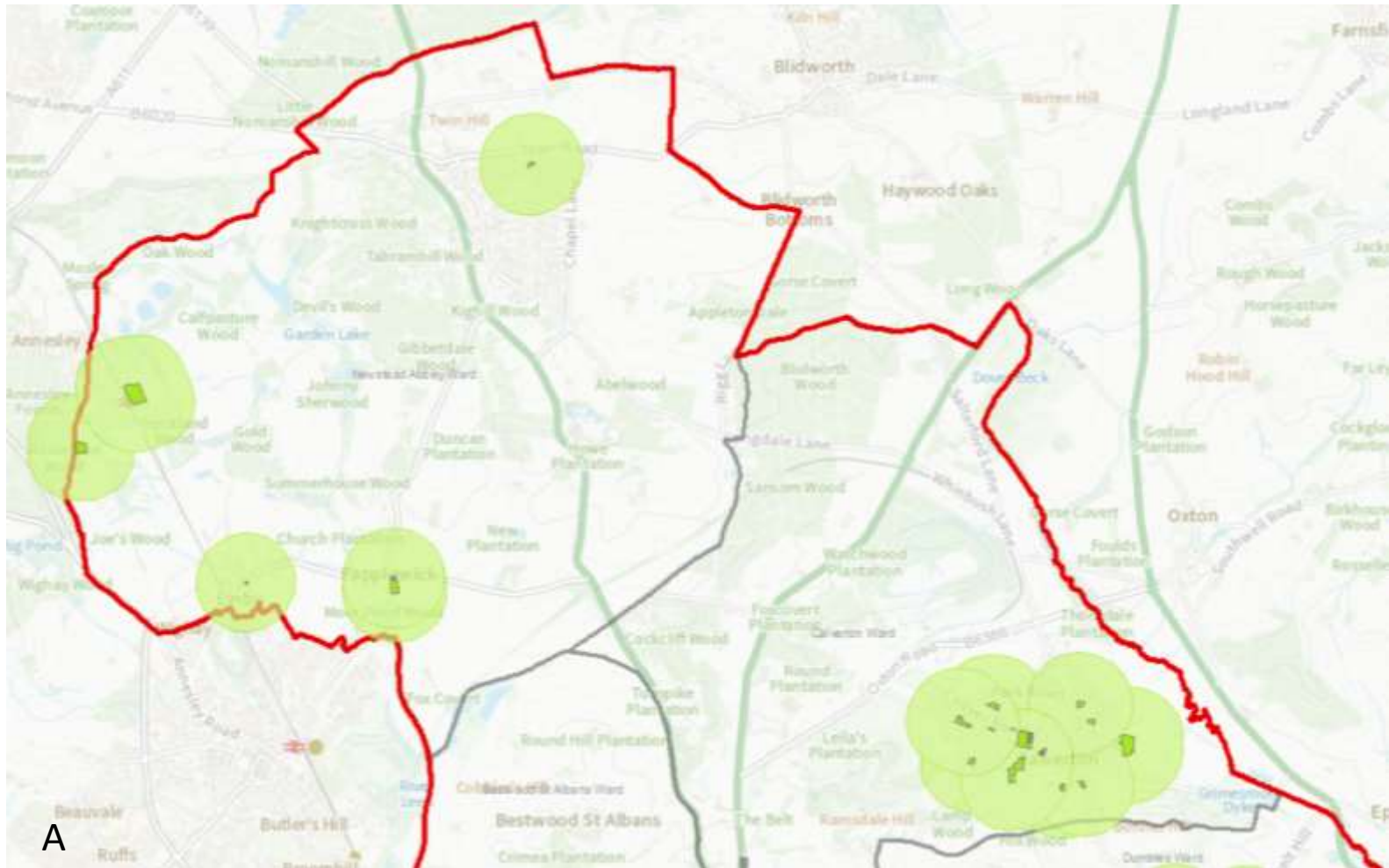
6.5 Application of Standards

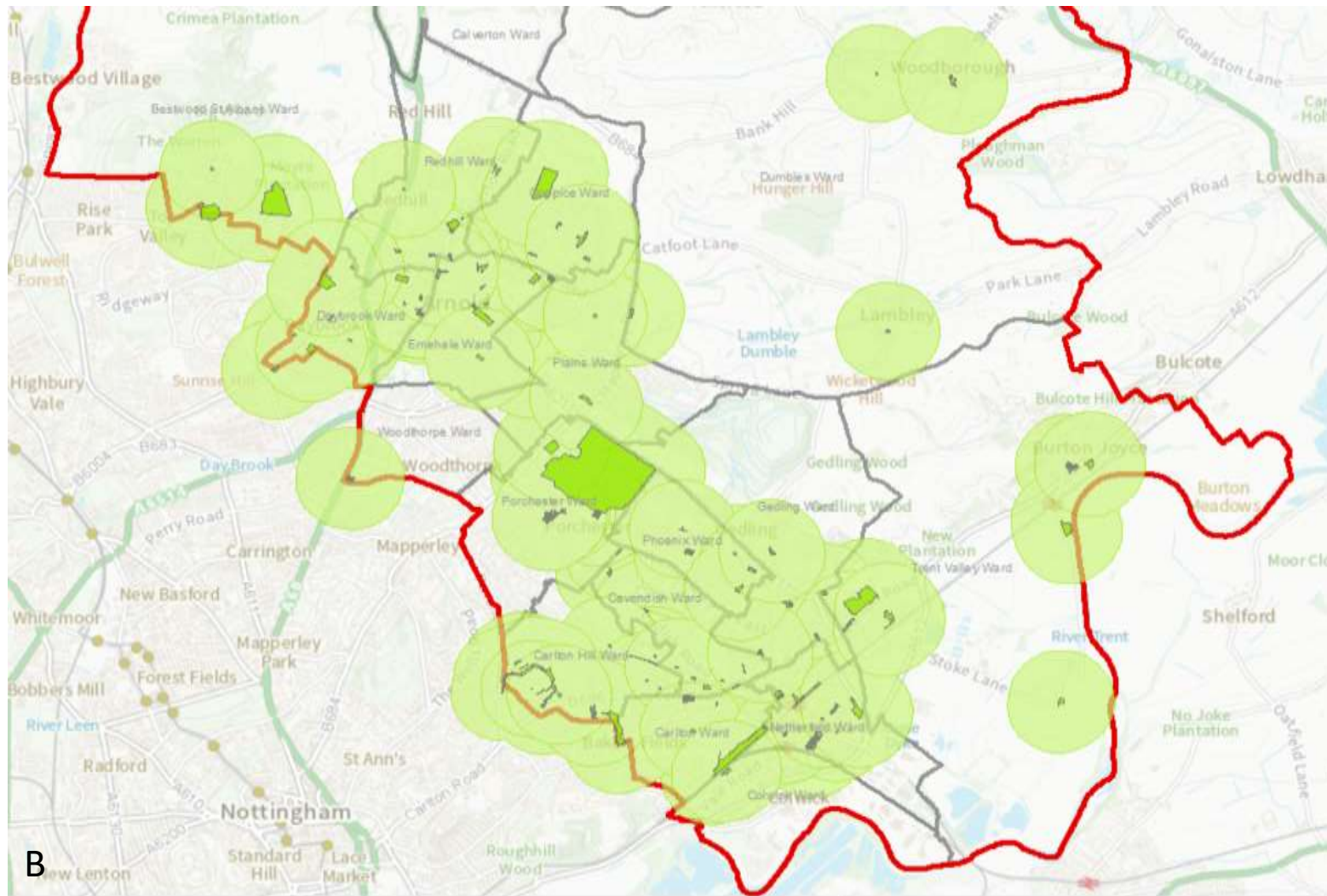
To attain the local quantity standard, an additional 11.7ha of amenity green space is required. Furthermore, utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise to 123,356, which will consequently reduce the provision of amenity green space to 0.48ha per 1000. Therefore, in order to ensure that the recommended quantity provision is maintained, an additional 3.27ha of amenity green space is required by 2026.

To identify deficiencies in amenity green space within the borough, we apply both the quantity and accessibility standards together as per Figure 7. However, when assessing levels of provision, it is important to consider the other typologies of green space within an area. For example, in Bestwood Village, there is an abundance of alternative green space typologies within the specified 6-minute accessibility standard, which include outdoor sports provision and Bestwood Country Park. Therefore, when accounting for other green space typologies, the areas in Gedling considered to have a deficiency in amenity green space are:

- The north-west of Ravenshead Village.
- The south-west of Porchester Ward.
- The northern corner of St James Ward.

Figure 7: Maps of amenity green space over 0.2 ha with a 6-minute walk where map A displays the north of the borough and B the south





6.6 Summary

Amenity green space sites vary in value, due to their differing sizes which in turn, determine their purpose. They range from large areas of land to small pockets found within housing estates that may be too small to have any significant recreational value. However, in most cases, they serve as valued functional areas, particularly within the urban wards of the borough, facilitating informal activities and social interaction, whilst significantly enhancing the appearance of residential areas. Although the overall quantity of amenity greenspace across the borough is considered to be sufficient, the accessibility maps demonstrate that some areas lack this type of green space and hence, it is at these locations, where the council should prioritise new provision, provided there is land available to do so.

6.7 Recommendations

- Protect and enhance all amenity green space in the district if it is considered to hold recreational value (over 0.2ha).
- Ensure that all new developments located in areas without amenity green space allow for the establishment of such areas, except where residents are within accessible distance to other types of green space which can also fulfil its role.
- When amenity green space is provided, ensure that is located as a focal amenity for the local community.
- Establish a measurable quality standard for amenity green space which will allow for comparison of standards over time and more accurately identify recreational value for each site.

7 Provision for Children and Young People

7.1 Definition

Play has been defined by Play England²⁷ as ‘what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons.’

7.2 Context

Under the Children’s Act²⁸, local authorities have a responsibility to provide appropriate provision for children and young people, to support their development and deliver on the key outcomes of the act. This includes addressing community safety needs, by providing safe and secure play facilities for children and young people.

Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document²⁹ categorises equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters as the green space typology ‘provision for children and young people’. These areas provide opportunities for social interaction and physical activity which, in turn, can provide the following benefits outlined by Play England²⁵:

- Develop children’s language and reasoning skills.
- Improve children’s physical and mental health.
- Promote children’s imagination, independence and creativity.
- Provide opportunities for developing social skills and learning.
- Reduce the involvement of children and young people in anti-social behaviour, helping to facilitate social cohesion.
- Builds resilience through risk-taking and challenge, problem-solving and dealing with novel situations.

²⁷ Play England (2020); Why play is important

²⁸ Legislation.gov.uk; Children Act 1989

²⁹ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan



In order to appropriately assess children's play areas, it is important to categorise the facilities based on their main characteristics. Children's play areas in Gedling have been sub-divided into the following categories in line with the Fields in Trust Beyond the Six Acre Standard³⁰ and additional details are provided in Table 5:

- **Local Area for Play (LAP)** - aimed at very young children (up to 5 years), with a minimum size of 100m² and a 5m separation between the activity zone and nearest property containing a dwelling (also known as a buffer zone).

³⁰ Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

- **Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)** - aimed at children who can go out to play independently (6-8 years), with a minimum size of 400m² and a 20m buffer zone.
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)** - aimed at older children (9-12) and young adults, with a minimum size of 1000m² and a 30m buffer zone.

Note: LAP, LEAP and NEAP are the subcategories contained within the broader Equipped/Designated Play Area Category

- **Informal Play Facilities** (equivalent to Other Outdoor Provision within Fields in Trust) - these include multi-use games areas (MUGA), skateboard parks, outdoor gym equipment and teen shelters, aimed at teenagers and young adults, with a minimum size of 800m² and a 30m buffer zone.

Further details on the characteristics of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs are provided in Appendix 5a.

Table 5: Gedling Borough Council play area categories (the minimum number of play units is dependent on the size of the play facility)

Play area type	Min. size equipped play area	Min. no. of play units	Age
LAP	100m ²	Less than 5 types of play unit	Up to 5 years
LEAP	400m ² , 600m ² and 800m ²	5, 6 and 7 types of play unit	6-8 years
NEAP	1,000m ² , 1,200m ² and 1,400m ²	8, 9 and 10 types of play unit	9-12 years
Informal Play Facilities	800m ²	N/A	Teenagers and Young Adults

Note: For planning purposes, the same equipped play area designations are used for calculating section 106 and community infrastructure levy contributions from new housing developments for open space provision including children's play areas and informal sports facilities. Such calculations can be found within the supplementary planning guidance for open space provision published by the council.

7.3 Where are we now?

7.3.1 Quantity

Table 6 below shows that there are a total of 50 equipped play areas in the borough, covering an area of 7.57ha. This comprises 3.87ha of Gedling Borough Council owned facilities, 3.6ha of Parish owned facilities and 0.1ha of joint use play areas. Taking into account the population of children up to the age of 18, who comprise 24,722 or 20.9% of the borough's overall population³¹, the provision of equipped play facilities in the borough equates to 0.3ha per 1,000 population. Across the borough, there are a total of 53 informal play facilities that include MUGAs, skateboard parks, outdoor gym equipment and teen shelters, covering an area of 5ha. The provision of informal play facilities equates to 0.2ha per 1,000 population of children up to 18-years of age.

Table 6: Summary of the number and area of equipped and informal play facilities in the borough

Equipped Play Facilities	Quantity	Total Area (ha)
LAP	12	0.71
LEAP	22	2.95
NEAP	16	3.91
Total	50	7.57
Informal Play Facilities	Quantity	Total Area (ha)
MUGA	29	4.45
Skateboard Parks	10	0.56
Outdoor Gym Equipment	6	0.006
Teen Shelters	8	0.0008
Total	53	5
Overall Total	103	12.1

³¹ ONS (2019) Families and Households

Table 7 below shows that, overall, there is a greater number of play facilities within the urban conurbation of the borough. However, when comparing the distribution of equipped play facilities per population up to the age of 18 between the rural and urban areas, there is an uneven distribution. This results in a provision of 0.19 and 0.68ha per 1,000 population in the respective urban and rural wards of the borough. The allocation of informal play facilities, however, is spread more evenly between the rural and urban areas, with a 0.04ha per 1,000 population lower provision in the rural areas compared to the urban conurbation. The disparity in the per population provision of play facilities across the borough is related to density of the urban conurbation, which means that the establishment of play facilities within these wards is a priority.

Note: The population of the rural and urban areas has been calculated using the methodology outlined in section 3, and, in order to derive a population estimate for those up to the ages of 18, their proportion of the total overall population for the borough (20.9%) has been applied to the rural and urban population estimates. This results in a population of 19,786 in the urban, and 4,854 in the rural areas of the borough.

Previous consultation concerning children's play provision was conducted as part of the public consultation and children and young people's consultation. At the time this revealed a lack of provision in the Mapperley Plains area, and therefore, in order to reduce this deficiency, a play facility on Bailey Drive at the top of Arnold Lane was installed, in addition, a facility on Haywood road has been built using S106 funds. There was also demand for more play provision in Calverton and following the publication of the 2012 green space strategy, an equipped play facility was created at Stonebridge Way. In addition to the three play facilities mentioned above, a further four have been installed, these are located at Ley Street, Conway Road, Gelding Country Park and Ashington Drive. The Council is currently reviewing its Supplementary Planning Guidance for Open Space Provision (2001), the new document will indicate what open space is required in new development proposals and guidance on the S106 financial contributions required.

The feedback from the consultation suggested that the largest deficiency in provision was for play facilities aimed at older children and consequently, new skate park facilities have been installed at Burton Road Jubilee Park, Colwick Recreation Ground and King George V Park in Arnold. Furthermore, new multi-use games courts have been provided at Bestwood Village, Queensbower, Muirfield and Onchan Park Recreation Grounds.

Table 7: Audit of equipped and informal play facilities in the borough

Equipped Play Facilities

	Ward	Location	Category	Ha
Urban	Phoenix	Adbolton/Phoenix Avenue	LAP	0.04
		Stanhope School	LEAP	0.05
	Carlton	Oakdale Road Rec/Onchan Park	LEAP	0.7
	Carlton Hill	Albert Avenue/Carlton Hill	LEAP	0.06
		Carnarvon Grove	LAP	0.08
		Valley Road, Carlton	LEAP	0.05
		King George V, Standhill Rec	NEAP	0.08
	Ernehale	Arnot Hill Park	NEAP	0.12
		Arno Vale Road	NEAP	0.07
		King George V, Arnold	LEAP	0.04
	Porchester	Bailey Drive, Plains Road	LAP	0.04
		Digby Avenue/Golf Course	NEAP	0.04
		Haywood Road	LAP	0.08
	Woodthorpe	Breckhill Road	LEAP	0.12
		Thakerays Lane	LEAP	0.03
	Gedling	Burton Road	NEAP	0.5
		Lambley Lane Youth Area	NEAP	0.08
		Lambley Lane Children's Area	LAP	0.05
		Willow Park	LEAP	0.01
	Plains	Edison Way	LAP	0.03
		Coppice Farm	LEAP	0.05
	Cavendish	Cavendish Road	NEAP	0.6
	Redhill	Church Lane	LEAP	0.08
		Ashington Drive, The Point	LEAP	0.05
	Colwick	Colwick Rectory	NEAP	0.17
		Valeside Gardens	LAP	0.07
	Netherfield	Conway Road Rec/Carlton	LAP	0.12

		Jackie Bells Field	NEAP	0.08
		Ley Street	LAP	0.05
	Coppice	Killisick Rec	NEAP	0.06
	St Albans	Muirfield Road	LEAP	0.05
	Daybrook Road	Queensbower	NEAP	0.05
		Salop Street/Shelley Street	LEAP	0.05
Urban Total				3.75
Rural	Gedling/Plains	Gedling Country Park	NEAP	0.1
	Bestwood	Bestwood The Square	LEAP	0.1
		Bestwood Country Park Teenage	NEAP	0.08
		Bestwood Country Park Play Area	LEAP	0.06
	Calverton	Stonebridge Way, Calverton	LEAP	0.12
		James Seeley Park, Calverton	LAP	0.04
		William Lee Memorial Park	NEAP	0.07
	Ravenshead	Newstead School	LEAP	0.07
		Newstead Teenage	NEAP	0.06
		Linby Village Hall	LEAP	0.5
		Ravenshead Milton Drive	LEAP	0.01
		Ravenshead Haddon Road	LEAP	0.2
		Ravenshead Swallow Crescent	LAP	0.01
	Woodborough	Lingwood Lane	NEAP	1.75
	Dumbles	Catfoot Lane	LEAP	0.05
	Trent Valley	Stoke Lane	LAP	0.1
Roberts Recreation Ground		LEAP	0.5	
Rural Total				3.82
Total Equipped Play Areas				7.57

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Informal Play Facilities

	Ward	Skatepark	Ha
Urban	Ernehale	Arnot Hill Park	0.06
		King George V, Arnold	0.06
	Gedling	Burton Road	0.05
		Lambley Lane	0.03
	Carlton Hill	King George V, Standill Rec	0.07
	Netherfield	Jackie Bells	0.03
	Colwick	Colwick Rec	0.1
Urban Total			0.4
Rural	Bestwood	Bestwood BMX, Bestwood Country Park Teenage (x2)	0.03
	Calverton	William Lee Memorial	0.07
	Newstead	Newstead Teenage	0.06
Rural Total			0.16
Overall Total Skateparks			0.56
	Ward	MUGA	Ha
Urban	Ernehale	Arno Vale	0.04
		Arnot Hill Park	0.04
	Coppice	Killisick Road	0.04
	Netherfield	Jackie Bells Field	0.04
		Conway Road Rec	0.04

		Deabil Street	0.04
	Cavendish	Cavendish Road	0.04
	Porchester	Digby Park	0.04
	Daybrook	Queensbower	0.04
	St Albans	Muirfield Road	0.04
	Redhill	Church Lane	0.04
		Redhill Academy	1
	Carlton	Oakdale Rec MUGA, Tennis Court and Table Tennis	0.2
	Carlton Hill	Valley Road	0.04
	Trent Valley	Carlton Le Willows	1
	Plains	Arnold Hill Academy (X 6)	1
	Colwick	Colwick Rec	0.04
	Gedling	Lambley Lane	0.04
Urban Total			3.8
Rural	Bestwood	Bestwood CP	0.14
	Calverton	William Lee Memorial	0.04
	Newstead	Newstead MUGA	0.05
		Ravenshead Leisure Centre (X 3)	0.42
Rural Total			0.65
Overall Total MUGA			4.45
	Ward	Gym Equipment	Ha
Urban	Killisick	Killisick Rec	0.001
	Ernehale	King George V Arnold	0.001

	St Albans	Muirfield Road	0.001
	Gedling	Burton Road	0.001
	Carlton Hill	Honeywood Estate	0.001
Urban Total			0.005
Rural	Bestwood	Bestwood CP	0.001
Rural Total			0.001
Overall Total Gym Equipment			0.006
	Ward	Youth Shelter	Ha
Urban	Ernhale	Arnot Hill Park	0.0001
	Gedling	Lambley Lane Rec	0.0001
	Colwick	Colwick Rec 1	0.0001
		Colwick Rec 2	0.0001
	Netherfield	Jackie Bells Field	0.0001
	Porchester	Digby Avenue	0.0001
	Carlton Hill	King George V, Standill Rec	0.0001
Urban Total			0.0007
Rural	Newstead	Newstead	0.0001
Rural Total			0.0001

Overall Total Youth Shelters	0.0008
Total Informal Play (Sports Facilities): Urban: 4.2 Rural: 0.81	5

7.2.2 Quality

Public consultation results revealed that the overall quality rating of children's play areas from those who responded was good. Table 8 below shows that 67% of responders felt the standard was either good or better. Although this is considered as very positive, when comparing respondent's perception of the quality of children's provision to other typologies, it was rated as the 6th highest in quality, indicating that there are still improvements to be made.

Table 8: Public consultation ratings of children's play areas

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
23%	44%	26%	6%	1%

Since the 2012 public consultation, which returned comments on play facilities considered by respondents in need of updating, Bestwood Country Park, Muirfield Road Recreation Ground, Valeside Gardens, King George V, Arnot Hill Park, Salop Street, Carnarvon Grove Play Area and Burton Road Jubilee Park have all been refurbished, including the addition of a new Skate Park and Outdoor Gym Facility at Burton Road Jubilee Park. Breckhill Recreation Ground is shortly to be refurbished (Spring 2021) and depending on a current funding bid (Summer 2021), Killisick Recreation Ground is pending.

Following comments pertaining to a lack of facilities for particular age groups, Church Lane has been refurbished with new equipment to cater for both a younger and older demographic and Breckhill is soon to be. Arnovale has now been equipped with a multi-use games area for older children. In terms of facilities suitable for children with disabilities being made more accessible, Queensbower and Muirfield Road Recreation

Grounds have had wheelchair accessible paths installed to facilitate access to the playground facilities, whilst, Gedling Country Park, Arnot Hill Park, Haywood Road Recreation Ground, King George V Arnold and Conway Road Rec have all had play equipment installed suitable for those with disabilities.

Play areas should be designed to reduce situations that may be perceived by some as threatening and, therefore, the factors in Figure 8 below need careful consideration. Public consultation and the children's consultation reported issues concerning antisocial behaviour, including vandalism to play areas and the presence of gangs, who have been known to congregate in certain areas. However, this is addressed by the presence of community wardens and police community support officers in the borough.

Figure 8: What prevents children from feeling safe

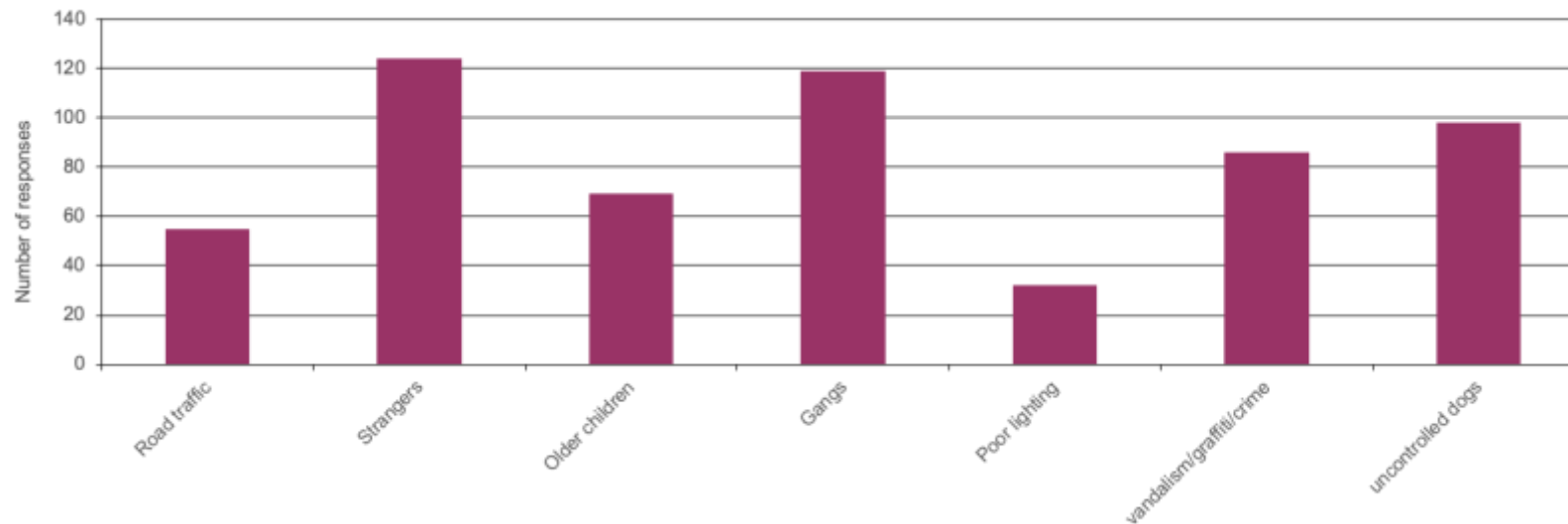
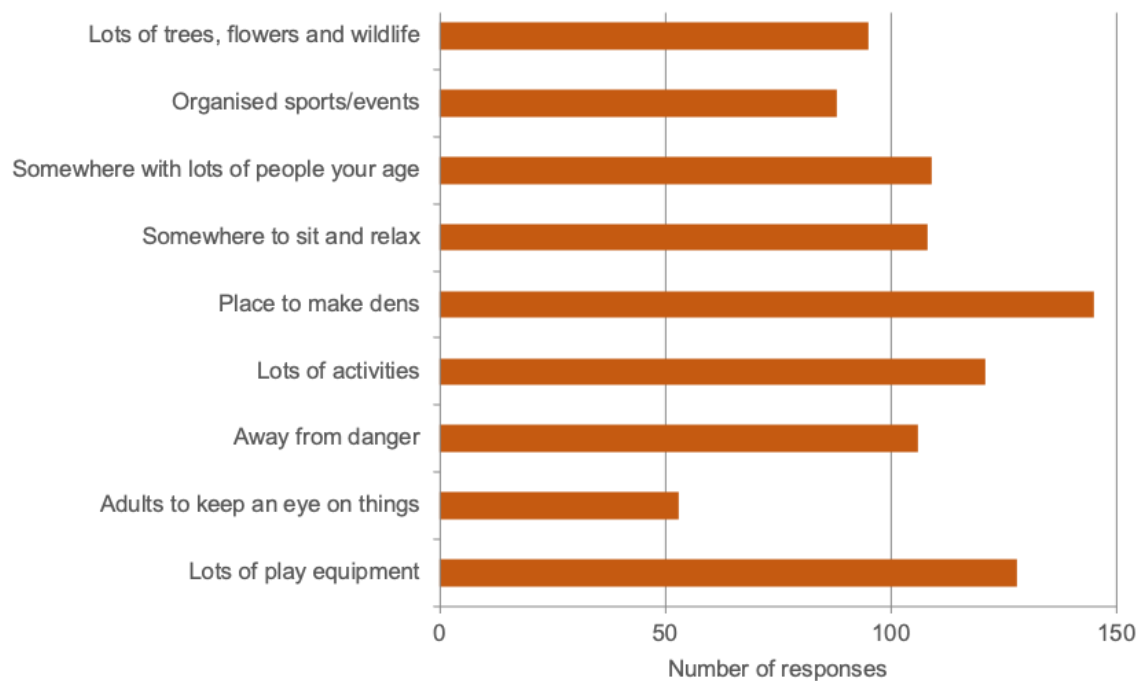


Figure 8 displays the results from the children's consultation, where children reported strangers and gangs as being the most significant issues preventing them from feeling safe when playing outside. In addition to what prevents children from feeling safe, the children were asked several questions concerning play spaces within the borough. The key findings are outlined below:

- 40% of children chose playing in the playgrounds or play areas as one of their most popular activities.
- 70% of children enjoy playing in large play areas compared to 30% of children who enjoy playing in small play areas.

Children were asked what improvements could be made to the play facilities in their area, the results are displayed in Figure 9. The most popular responses were 'places to make dens' and 'lots of play equipment'. Qualitative responses revealed a demand for new facilities which increase the element of risk through adventure and natural play such as woodland and rocks.

Figure 9: Improvements that children believed could be made to play facilities in the borough



7.2.2.1 Site Quality Audits

All fixed play areas in Gedling were audited taking account of Play England, Fields in Trust and ROSPA guidelines in order to establish local standards for the quality of play areas. This has enabled a quality score to be derived, which, depending on the attainment of certain criteria outlined within Appendix 5b, ranks facilities as poor, below average, average, good or excellent. This then allowed for children’s play areas to be benchmarked across the borough.

Overall, 52% of the borough owned equipped play facilities are categorised as good or better, 29% rated as average, whilst the remaining 19% of play facilities fall below the 46% quality threshold, placing them into a category that falls below average. Based on the results of the quality audit, it is recommended that in order to improve the overall quality rating score in of Gedling borough-owned facilities, focus should be placed on those play facilities which have a score of below 46%.

Table 9: Value line analysis of play area quality for Gedling Borough Council owned sites

<30% Poor	31%-45% Below Average	46%-60% Average	61%-75% Good	76%< Excellent
Oakdale Play Area	Colwick Rectory Play Area	Newstead Village Play Areas	Digby Ave Play Area	Carnarvon Grove Play Area
Willow Park	Killisick Rec Play Area	Cavendish Rec Play Area	Coppice Farm Play Area	Salop Street Play Area
Edison Way Play Area		Adbolton Play Area	Stanhope School Play Area	Muirfield Rec Play Area
Lambley Lane Play Area		Arno-Vale Play Area	Albert Ave Play Area	Gedling Country Park Play Area
Jackie Bells Field Play Area		Standhill Rec Play Area	Arnot Hill Park Play Area	Haywood Road Play Area
		Church Lane Play Area	King George V Arnold	Breckhill Play Area
		Queens Bower Play area	Burton Road Rec Play Area	Ashington Drive/The Point
		Valley Road Play Area	Bailey Drive Play Area	Conway Road Rec
		Thackeray's Lane Play Area	Ley Street Play Area	
			Stonebridge Way Play Area	
			Bestwood Country Park Play Area	
			Valeside Gardens Play Area	

7.3 Accessibility

Fields in Trust advises that where possible, actual walking distance should be used to determine the catchment area of a particular play facility. This is supported by the public consultation, where 75% of respondents preferred to walk or cycle to such sites.

It is important that younger children have access to play space that is within an average of a 10-minute walking distance from home and that teenagers, who would be prepared to walk further to bigger and better facilities, have access to spaces to hang out independently with friends. Those children with a disability have identified a range of access needs which will be taken into consideration as part of any new area design and installation.

Public consultation revealed that the majority of respondents were satisfied with the distance they have to travel to play areas within the borough. 44% of respondents reported it took them less than five minutes to reach their nearest play facility, with 82% of respondents falling within a 10-minute travelling distance threshold, a time which resident's expressed satisfaction.



7.4 Setting the Standard

7.4.1 Quantity

For planning purposes, the recommended local standards are shown below, of which the standard for equipped play facilities reflect the recommended benchmark guidelines outlined by Fields in Trust²⁸. For informal play facilities, the fields in trust recommended benchmark standard will be taken into consideration, however, the local standard chosen directly reflects the current provision of such facilities across the borough. This is because the density of the urban fabric will limit expansion of such provision, however, the council aspires to enhance provision where possible and in new housing developments.

Quantity Standard
 LAP, LEAP, NEAP: 0.25ha per 1,000
 population
 Informal Play Facilities: 0.2ha per 1,000
 population

7.4.2 Quality

The local quality standard set reflects the recommendations outlined within Play England's Quality in Play framework document³², which, in turn, will help ensure high levels of resident satisfaction.

Quality Standard

A site providing a suitable mix of well-maintained formal equipment which provides an enriched play environment to encourage both formal and informal play and recreation by children and young people. A clean, safe and secure location with good access that includes ancillary facilities such as teen shelters, ball courts and skateboard areas and seating where appropriate. To strive for all play sites to have a quality assessment score of 46% or above.

³² Play England (2020); Quality in Play

6.4.3 Accessibility

Fields in Trust²⁸ recommends that equipped play areas should be located within a range of 100m to 1,000m walking distance from people's homes (LAPs = 100m, LEAPs = 400m and NEAPs = 1,000m), whilst other outdoor play facilities, a 700m walking distance away. Whilst the local accessibility standard has been influenced by the national benchmark standard, due to the urban housing in the borough, these national standards cannot always be met, and this has been reflected in the local accessibility standards set. These standards also account for local expectations and hence, the selected standards incorporate the findings derived from public consultation.

Accessibility Standard
All residents are to have access to a site with provision for children and young people within the distances stated below
LAP, LEAP: 5-minute walk/400m
NEAP: 15-minute walk/1,210m
Informal Play Facilities: 15-minute walk/1,210m

7.6 Application of Standards

Utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise by 2.3% to 123,356. Applying this percentage rise to the population of those in the borough below 18 years of age, we can estimate that the population of children will increase by 569 to 25,291 in 2026. This rise in population will not affect the provision of equipped nor informal play facilities in the borough, requiring no additional land to be allocated to the establishment of such facilities.

The local accessibility standards have been applied to each play facility in the borough and the results are displayed in the figures below. Comparing Figure 10A and 10B, it is evident that due to the density of the Nottingham conurbation, the south of the borough contains a greater number of play facilities than in the rural north. From Figure 10B, it is apparent that the walking distance catchment for equipped play facilities encompasses the majority of the urban areas, with some parts of the borough falling within the catchment area of more than one equipped play facility. Porchester is the only ward within the Nottingham conurbation containing a small zone of land that does not fall within the walking distance catchment for LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs. However, due to the larger walking distance catchment for informal play facilities, this area is covered by the catchment for informal play facilities, which cover a greater proportion of the borough.

Figure 10: Overview of the catchment area of equipped play areas in the borough using the local accessibility standard, where A, displays the north of the borough, and B, the south



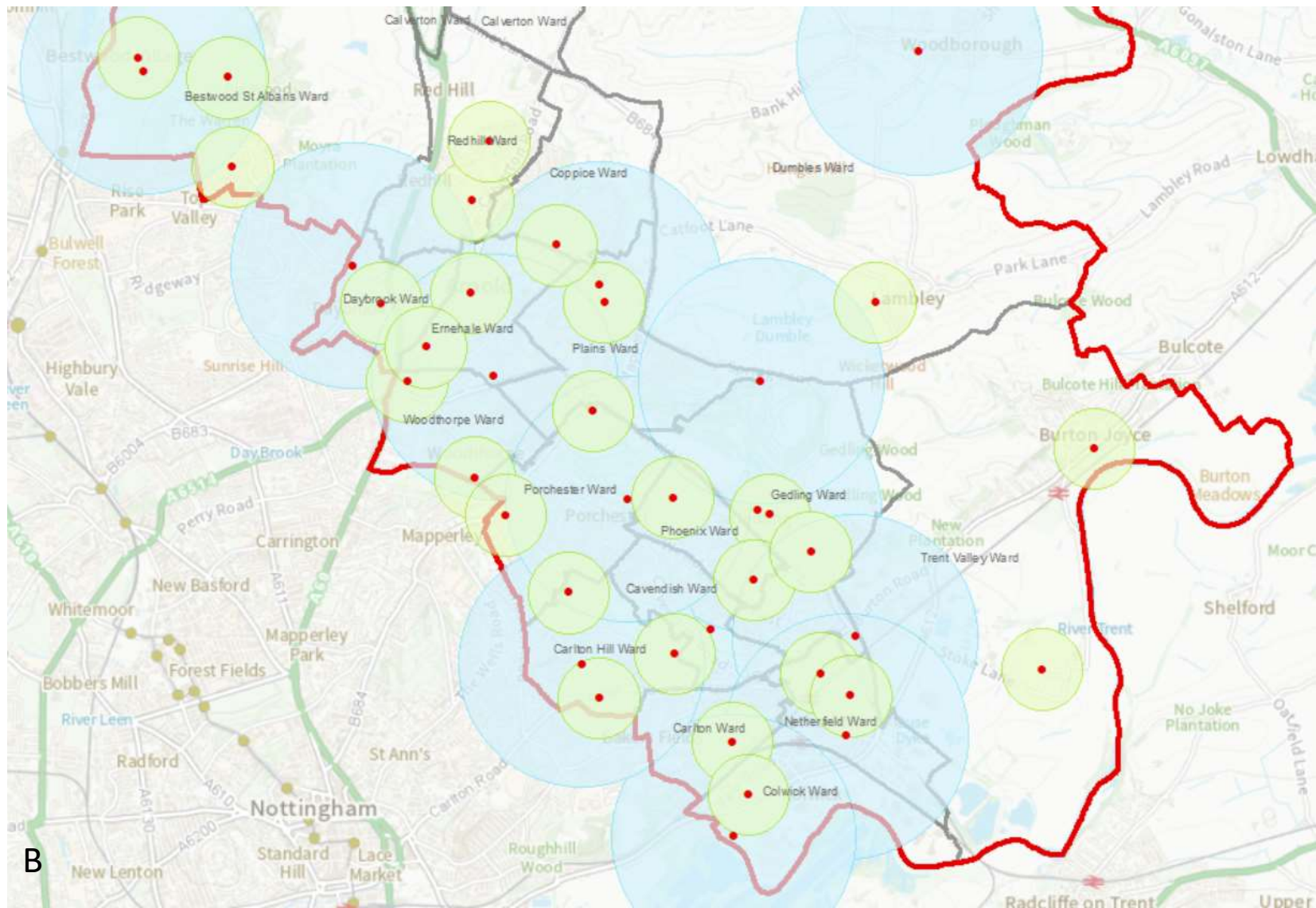


Figure 11: A map of the informal play facilities in the borough displaying the local accessibility catchment, where A, depicts the north of the borough, and B, the south



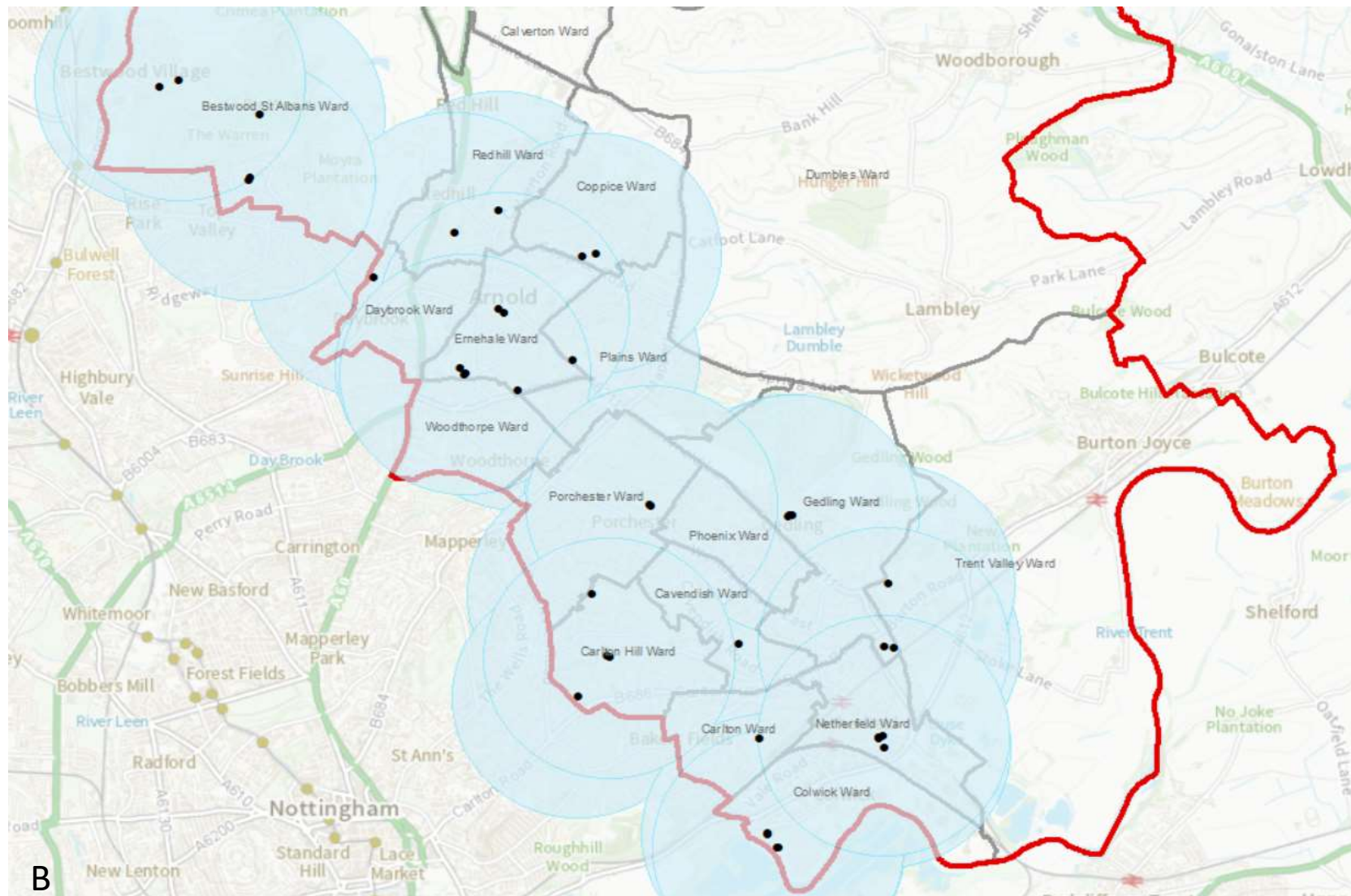
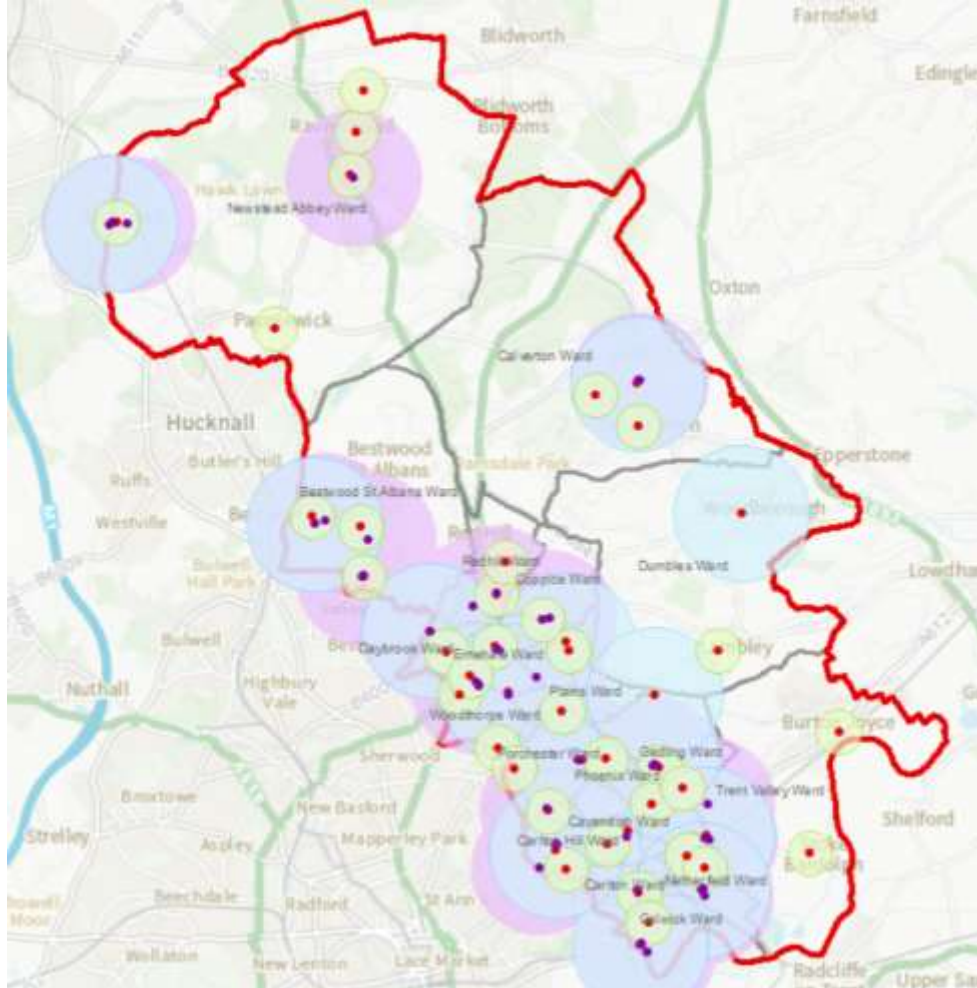


Figure 12 below combines all the equipped and informal play facilities in the borough, applying the local accessibility catchment area standards to each facility. When prioritising areas for new play provision, it is recommended to ensure there are sufficient facilities in all new housing developments which will serve to improve play provision in any deficient areas accordingly. For example, Ashington Drive play area. This new facility now serves to fill a deficiency in provision in the Redhill ward area.

Figure 12: All fixed play areas in the borough displaying the local accessibility catchment areas



7.6 Summary

The Council appreciates the benefits of play to a child or young person's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being and therefore seeks to ensure the adequate provision and maintenance of play facilities in the borough, accounting for resident's aspirations.

The majority of provision for children and young people in the borough is of a satisfactory quality and easily accessible. However, it should be a priority of the council, working in partnership with the borough's parish council's to not only maintain, but to improve the quality of all located sites falling below a quality score of 46%.

Accounting for local needs, it may be possible where appropriate to construct play areas within sites where there are no such facilities, for example, within amenity green space and park and gardens. Although this would help achieve the local standard for this typology, it would reduce the hectareage of the other typologies, however, this is not considered to be a significant issue and therefore, it is recommended that each site is individually assessed to ensure that the provision for other typologies is maintained. To meet the aspirations of young people in the borough and combat vandalism and misuse, the use of natural features rather than traditional equipped play facilities should also be considered.

7.7 Recommendations

- Continue to maintain and enhance all children and young person's sites in the borough.
- Develop an action plan to upgrade all sites that fall below a 40% quality score, whilst striving to improve children and young people's experiences through landscape design and natural play.
- Investigate whether any amenity green space or park and garden site in areas where there is a deficiency of play equipment could be used to locate a play facility. When doing this, consideration needs to be given to deficiencies between different age groups.
- When constructing new play areas, ensure the Fields in Trust minimum acceptable size requirements are applied to guarantee that the correct area of play space is provided.
- Offer support to Parish Councils to help improve play provision in their area.
- Subject to the land being available, investigate the possibility for the provision of new play areas.

8 Outdoor Sports Facilities

8.1 Definition

Outdoor sports refer to physical activities undertaken in an open-air setting. The Council of Europe describes sport as ‘all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels³³.’

8.2 Context

Outdoor sports facilities are described within the Gedling Local Planning Document as areas including natural surfaces, both publicly and privately owned which are used for sport and recreation. Examples include school playing fields, playing pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts³⁴. Sport England highlights the value of sporting activities in their ability to contribute to physical and mental wellbeing, individual and economic development³⁵. In its recently published strategy ‘Uniting the Movement’, Sport England³⁶ highlights the role that sport and physical activity has to the creation of ‘a nation of more equal, inclusive and connected communities’, where people can lead happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

Outdoor sports facilities within strategy document include:

- Football Pitches
- Cricket Pitches
- Rugby Union Pitches
- Artificial Grass Pitches
- Hockey
- Bowling Greens
- Tennis Courts
- Netball
- Athletics

³³ Council of Europe (2001); Committee of Ministers; Recommendation No. R (92) 13 REV of the committee of ministers to member states on the revised European sports charter

³⁴ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

³⁵ Sport England (2015) Getting Active Outdoors A study of Demography, Motivation, Participation and Provision in Outdoor Sport and Recreation in England

³⁶ Sport England (2021): Uniting the Movement

- Softball
- Golf Courses

8.3 Where are we now?

8.3.1 Quantity

The overall amount of land dedicated to outdoor sports facilities across the borough equates to 396ha, this is spread over a total of 92 sites. Of these 92 sites, 30 do not allow any form of community access. In addition to the fact that many sites do not allow for community access, it is important to consider that the total amount of hectares account for the whole of the recreation site which, in many cases incorporates facilities within other typologies such as provision for children and young people. Therefore, following Fields in Trust³⁷ standards, the data has been adjusted to take into account the footprint of the outdoor facility and only include those facilities which allow for community access. This results in a total of 306ha available for outdoor sports use as per Table 10, equating to 2.6ha per 1,000 population.

Table 10: Audit of outdoor sports facilities available for community use, a list of these sites is included in Appendix 6

Sport	No of Pitches	Total Area (ha)
Football (grass pitches)	106	90
Football & Hockey (3G ATP's)	13	3
Cricket	15	5.16
Rugby Union	12	14
Hockey	3	1.5
Bowling Greens	8	1.2
Tennis Courts	48	1.25
Netball	33	1.54
Athletics	1	0.14
Softball	1	0.5
Golf Courses	3	186.8

³⁷ Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)

Total	243	306
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Public consultation indicates that there is a sufficient quantity of outdoor sports facilities in the borough.

8.3.1.1 Assessment of local demand

An audit of sports demand was undertaken in 2016 by the consultancy Knight Kavanagh and Page to develop the Gedling's Playing Pitch Strategy³⁸, this involved consultation with sports clubs across the borough. Table 11 below provides a summary of the provisional shortfalls.

Table 11: Audit of the quantitative provisional shortfalls for outdoor sports facilities in the borough

Sport	Provisional Shortfall	Future Demand
Football (grass pitches)	11.25 adult match sessions 1.5 youth 11v11 match sessions 2 Youth 9v9 match sessions	13.75 adult match sessions 7 youth 11v11 match sessions 6.5 youth 9v9 match sessions
Football (3G AGPs)	5 full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting	
Cricket	Demand is currently met	Demand can be met
Rugby Union	5.25 senior match sessions	7.75 senior match sessions
Hockey	1 full sized AGP (given existing pitches are condemned)	1 full sized AGP (given existing pitches are condemned)
Bowling Greens	Demand is currently met	Demand can be met
Tennis Courts	Demand is currently met	Demand can be met

8.3.2 Quality

A non-technical visual pitch quality assessment was carried out based the scoring standards outlined in Table 12, derived from the NPFA (Field in Trust) guidelines which covered a basic assessment of the following:

- Grass Length/Sward Height Assessment
- Surface Drainage

³⁸ Gedling Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan August 2016

- Surface Hardness
- Pitch Markings
- Performance Quality Standards
- Sward Assessment
- Surface Level Assessment
- Pitch Dimensions and Orientation Assessment

Based on the facilities meeting the criteria above, sports facilities were then categorised into good, standard or poor-quality ratings as per Table 13.

Table 12: Local non-technical quality scoring standards based on the NPFA (Fields in Trust) guidance.

<15%	16%-30%	31%-45%	46%-60%	61%-75%	76%<
Very Poor	Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent

Note: Where very poor, poor and below average equate to poor quality. Average and good, equates to standard quality. Excellent equates to good quality.

The rating of standard and good quality has been applied to pitches that have a good maintenance regime coupled with good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, under these standards, quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking. Poor quality, in contrast, refers to pitches that have poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to the inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior.

Table 13: Results of local non-technical visual pitch quality assessment based on NPFA (Field in Trust) quality scoring standards.

Sports	Good Quality	Standard Quality	Poor Quality
Football (grass pitches)	16%	71%	13%
Football (3G AGPs)	33%	15%	51%
Cricket	33.3%	53.3%	13.3%
Rugby Union	0%	70.6%	29.4%
Hockey	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Bowling Greens	66.7%	0%	33.3%

Tennis	33%	38%	29%
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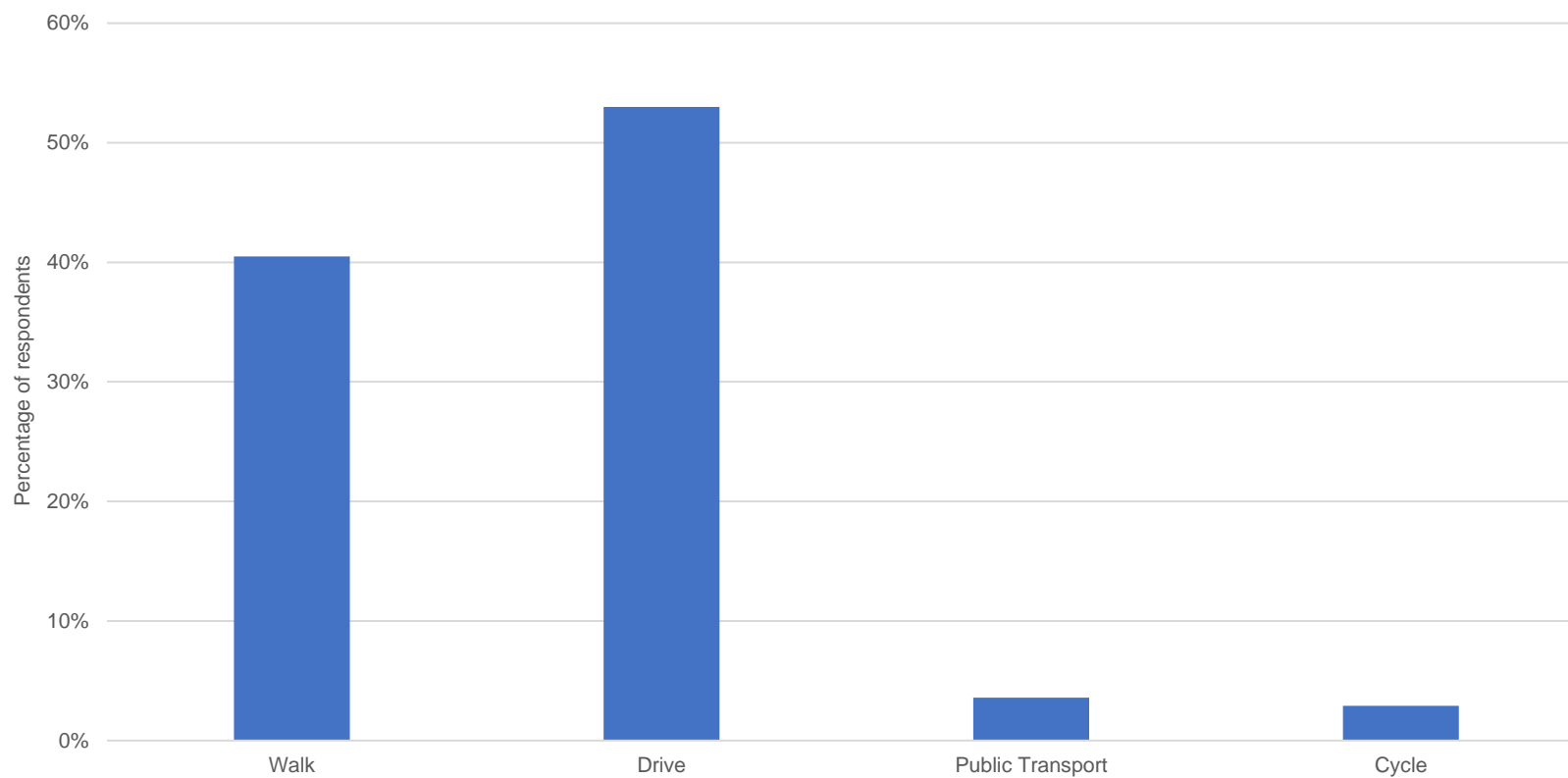
The main quality issues emerging from the Playing Pitch Strategy audit indirectly influence this strategy, however, the council does not own some of these facilities and can only improve quality where it is able.

- In terms of public and private changing facilities, there is a limited number, particularly to accommodate female football and rugby.
- At several public football pitches, poor playing surfaces were found due to overplay, poor drainage and limited maintenance due to council budgetary reductions.
- In the case of privately-run hockey facilities, the quality of the playing surface is affected by the age of pitches.
- In general, there is a lack of maintenance on both private and public bowling, cricket, rugby and football facilities across the borough.

8.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 99% of respondents felt that outdoor sports facilities were within an acceptable travelling distance from their homes. The 53% of respondents as per Table 13, who expressed a preference to travel by car to access outdoor sports facilities reported a desire to be within a distance of no less than 15 minutes' drive, whilst the 41% who preferred to travel by foot deemed a 10-minute or less walk as satisfactory.

Figure 13: Preferred mode of transport used to access outdoor sports facilities



8.4 Setting the Standard

8.4.1 Quantity

The recommended local quantity standard for outdoor sports facilities has been derived from the local needs consultation, audit of provision and the national benchmark quantity standard provided by Fields in Trust³⁵ of 1.6ha per 1,000 population. However, this standard should be applied for broad planning purposes only and used to determine the amount of space that should be set aside for outdoor sports facilities. Localised decisions as to the type of facilities that are required should instead then be taken.

Quantity Standard
2.6ha per 1,000 population

8.4.2 Quality

The quality standard has been set based on the key aspirations of existing users, through quality assessments of each site and informed by the quality guideline outlined by Fields in Trust³⁵.

Quality Standard
All outdoor sports facilities should be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter, with level, well-drained and good quality surfaces. Sites should provide good quality ancillary facilities, where appropriate, including changing accommodation, toilets, car parking and facilities for a range of age groups. The maintenance and management of sites should continue to ensure safety and effective usage. Gedling Borough Council owned facilities should aim to meet the outdoor facility standard score of 60% as per the Fields in Trust national methodology for scoring quality standards.

8.4.3 Accessibility

The national accessibility benchmark standard for outdoor sports facilities is set by Fields in Trust³⁵, which recommends that such facilities are to be within a 1,200m distance or 15-minute walk of people's homes. However, local consultation results revealed a threshold of a 10-minute walk as the time people were comfortable to travel to an outdoor sports facility. This is reflective of the fact that a large area of the borough is covered by the Nottingham conurbation and therefore, a local walking accessibility standard of 10-minutes has been selected – a value below that of the recommended national standard.

Accessibility Standard
10-minute walk/800m
15-minute drive/9660m (6 miles)

8.5 Application of Standards

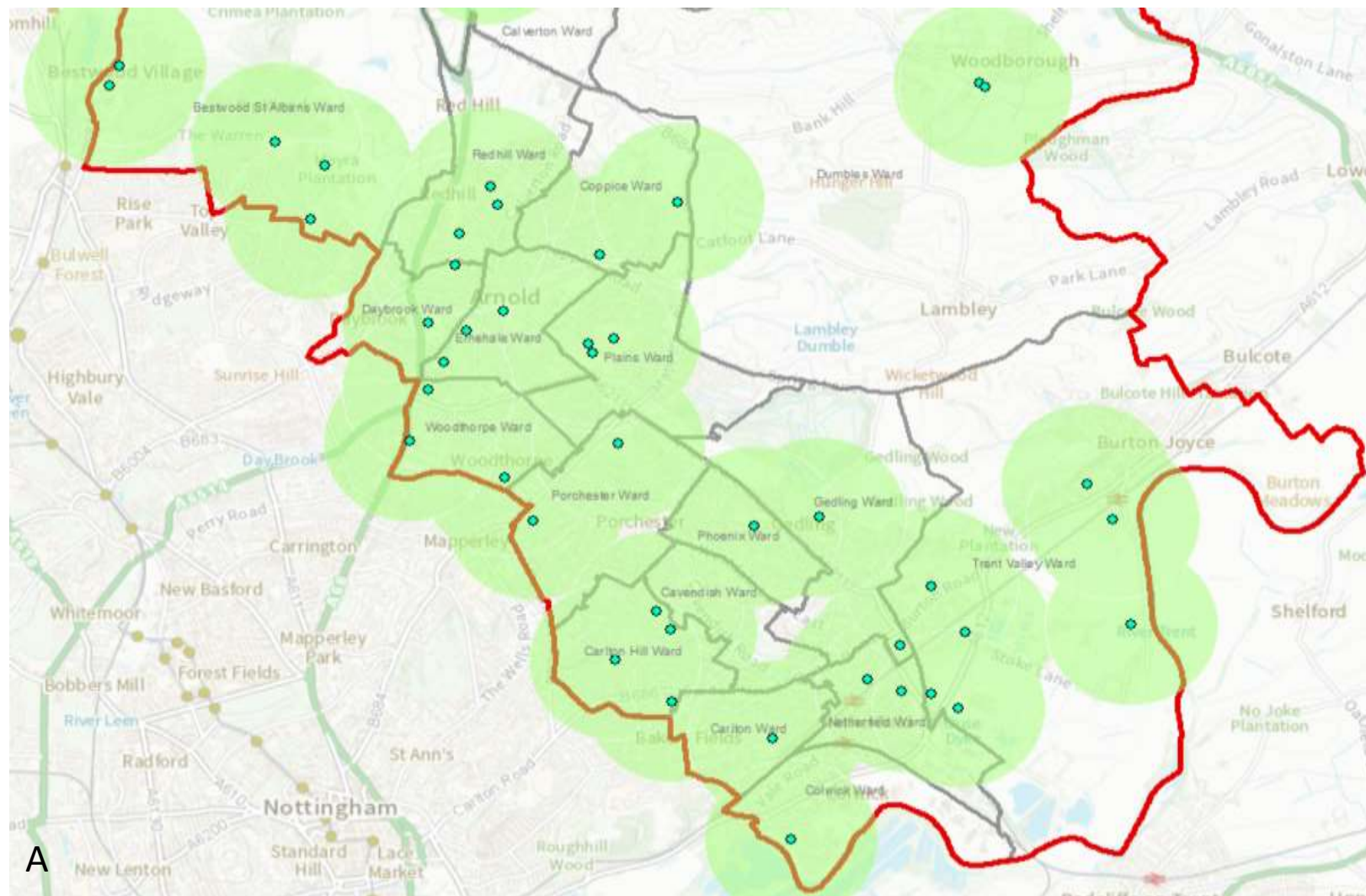
Utilising the information provided in Gedling Borough's Five-Year Lands Supply Assessment as referenced in the parks and gardens section 4, it is expected that the population in 2026 will rise to 123,356. Therefore, if no additional outdoor sports facilities are provided, provision will be reduced to 2.48ha per 1,000, requiring an additional 14.2ha to be provided to maintain the local standard. The Local Football Facility Plan³⁹ for Gedling Borough has identified opportunities to target investment in 4 full-size 3G pitches, 7 small sided facilities, in addition to the improvement works to 46 grass pitches and the creation of 3 additional changing rooms/pavilions/clubhouses. If these projects are delivered, not only will the identified deficiencies in the supply of football pitches be alleviated, but quality will be significantly improved.

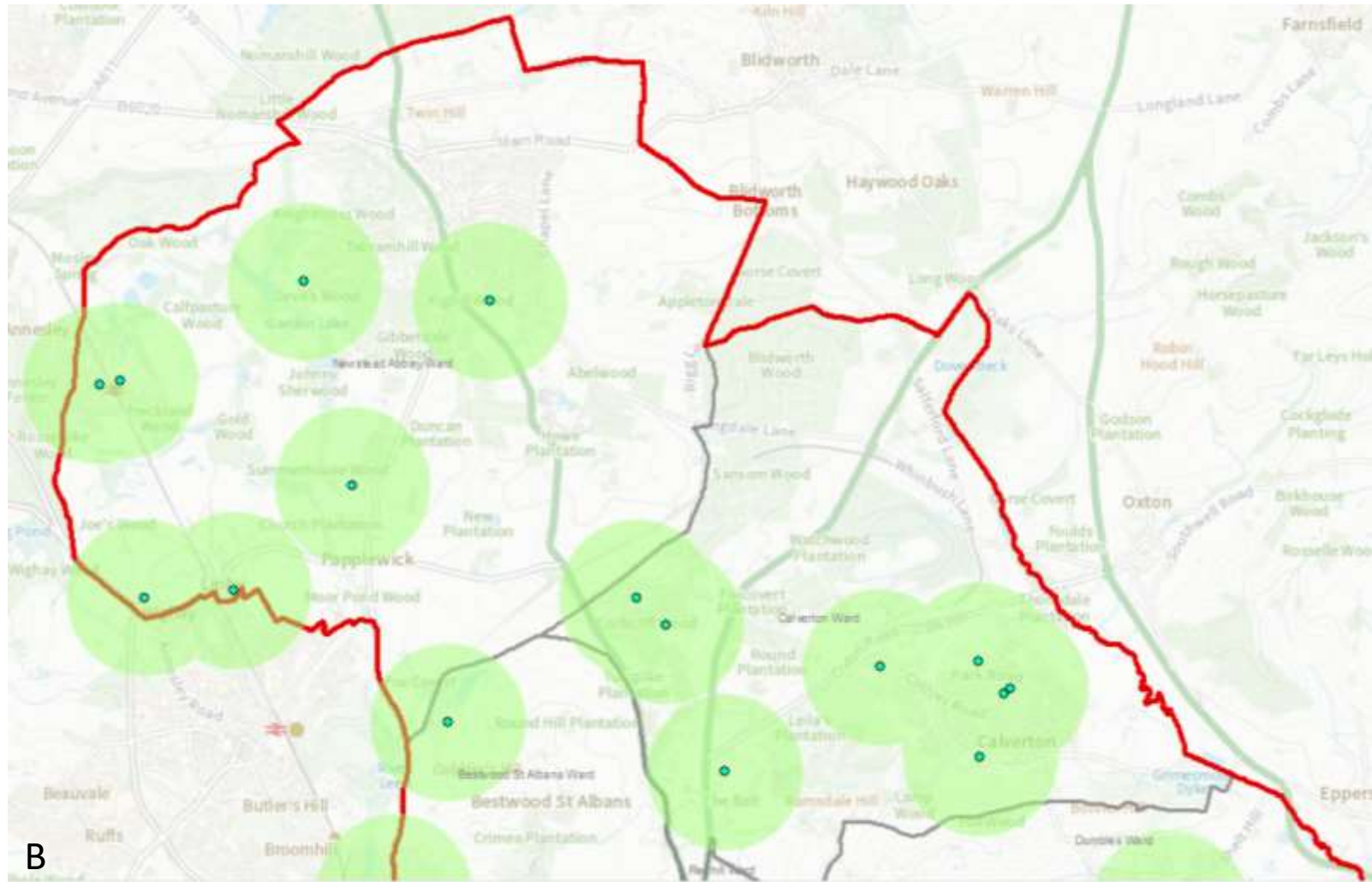
To identify geographical areas of importance and those areas with unmet local needs, we apply only the accessibility standard for this typology. This is because a quantity standard for outdoor sports provision can be misleading as different outdoor sporting facilities have differing hectares, e.g., a golf course is incomparable with an outdoor bowling facility in terms of size. A 15-minute drive has been based on driving 24 miles per hour which equates to 6 miles. Within a 15-minute drive, a person can travel across a large proportion of the borough and therefore, without using a geographical information system, it is evident that there is an adequate supply of outdoor sports provision across the borough available for community use, with no areas in the borough that do not fall within the 15-minute catchment drive to an outdoor sports facility.

Figure 14A and 14B show that several areas within the borough are not within the 10-minute walking catchment of community outdoor sports facilities. The main areas include the north of Ravenshead ward, Mapperley Plains south, the south of Kingswell ward and the majority of the Porchester ward. The only outdoor provision located outside of the borough boundaries that are within a walking distance from Gedling borough residents are those located at Woodthorpe Grange. Consultation with sports clubs shows that for those who belong to a club, travelling distance from home to the outdoor sports facility varies. Generally, the acceptable travelling time is longer than that obtained during the public consultation and therefore, it is recommended that this is considered when identifying suitable locations for sports clubs in the future.

³⁹ Football Foundation (2019) Gedling Local Football Facility Action Plan

Figure 14: Maps displaying a ten-minute walking catchment distance from outdoor sports facilities, excluding inaccessible facilities for clubs audited in A, the south of the borough and B, the north of the borough





8.6 Summary

The provision of outdoor sports facilities creates an environment that promotes physical activity and active lifestyles which in turn, help to contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes and fosters social and community development. Across the borough, sports clubs report a static or steady increase in membership, however the need for a specific type of pitch varies throughout.

Initial findings justify the case for seeking additional playing pitches from new development. The 2016 Playing Pitch strategy revised in 2018, evidences that some demand is now being met through the recently funded 3G sports facilities at both Redhill Leisure Centre and Carlton Le Willows Academy. Additionally, the borough's academies have realised the benefit of offering their pitches at weekends and in the evenings when they are not in use, as an income-generating initiative. This has resulted in Gedling Southbank Football Club, in particular, relocating from existing borough pitches to use the academy facilities, which has freed up some short-term capacity. Work has also been undertaken to improve the quality of existing outdoor sports provision, particularly at Breckhill and is ongoing at Lambley Lane Recreation Grounds. The strategic site allocations in the Aligned Core Strategy and non –strategic site allocations in the local planning document indicate that contributions will be sought for open space, which may include on or off site provision for sports pitches. This in turn, should help encourage greater participation in sport and recreation.

8.7 Recommendations

- Protect existing sports and recreation facilities from redevelopment.
- Improve the quality of sports pitches through improved maintenance regimes.
- Acquire new sports facilities on larger developments e.g., the forthcoming Teal Close football pitches.
- Develop and ensure access to sufficient changing provision particularly at Rugby and Football facilities e.g., Lambley Lane.
- Work with educational establishments to maximise and secure access to pitches on education sites in order to help address future demand for pitches for the local community.
- Continue to seek funding opportunities for the provision of 3G playing surfaces taking into account future demand for football in the south of the borough and meet the demands for rugby in the north of the borough.

9 Allotments and Community Gardens



9.1 Definition

The Allotments Act 1925 defines the term allotment as 'an allotment garden, or any parcel of land not more than five acres in extent cultivated or intended to be cultivated as a garden farm, or partly as a garden farm and partly as a farm.' An 'allotment garden' is defined in the Allotments Act 1922 as 'an allotment not exceeding 40 poles (or 1,000m²) which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of fruit or vegetables for consumption by himself and his family⁴⁰.'

9.2 Context

Like other green space typologies, allotments can provide several wider benefits to the community as well as the primary use of growing produce. Within Policy LPD20 of the Local Planning Document⁴¹, allotment and community gardens are described as areas of land that provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion, which may also include urban farms. The wider benefits include:

⁴⁰ Memorandum by the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions (AL 23): The Future for Allotments (1998)

⁴¹ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

- bringing together people of different cultural backgrounds, in turn, promoting social cohesion
- improving physical and mental health
- providing a source of recreation
- providing a wider contribution to green space within the borough

The benefits outlined above are recognised within the Local Government Association Document - Growing in the community⁴², published to 'assist those responsible for managing allotments to work efficiently and effectively by emulating examples of good practice.' The document also seeks to support allotment stakeholders to understand the opportunities that allotments provide for the attainment of multiple and inter-related benefits.

9.3 Where are we now?

9.3.1 Quantity

Overall, as per Table 14, there are fourteen allotment sites in the borough, consisting of 862 allotment plots covering an estimated 29.32ha. Following the recommendations of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners⁴³, provision is measured on a per household basis which assumes that two people reside in a single household. The current population of the borough is 117,896 which when divided by two to account for two person households, results in a current provision of 14.6 allotments per 1,000 households.

Table 14: Audit of allotments in the borough

Allotment Name and Area	Urban/Rural	Management and Responsibility	Site Area (ha)	Number of Plots
Arnold & Redhill				
Gedling Grove	Urban	Trustees	1.28	46
Howbeck Road	Urban	GBC	0.55	20

⁴² Local Government Association (2015) Growing in the community (second edition)

⁴³ The National Allotment Society; How to get an allotment

Killisick, Hawthorn Crescent	Urban	GBC	0.84	27
Leapool, Redhill	Urban	Trustees	2.61	97
Rookery Gardens	Urban	GBC	0.17	9
Burton Joyce				
Crifftin Road/ Trent Lane	Rural	Parish	4.3	89
Calverton				
Bonner Lane/ Paddock Close	Rural	Parish	2.5	60
Collyer Road	Rural	Parish	1.89	66
Carlton				
Robin Hood Cavendish Road/ Huckerbys Field	Urban	Trustees	4.69	130
Gedling				
Stoke Lane & Victoria Allotments	Urban	Trustees	5.43	209
Netherfield				
Chandos Street	Urban	Trustees	1.76	56
Newstead				
Tilford	Rural	Parish	0.05	8
Botton Gardens	Rural	Parish	2.25	15
Woodborough				
Foxwood Lane	Rural	Parish	1	30
Total			29.32	862

Gedling Borough Council is responsible for eight allotment sites within the urban conurbation, comprised of 579 allotment plots, which occupy an area of 17.3ha. Leapool, Gedling Grove, Chandos Street, Robin Hood and Stoke Lane allotments are operated through self-managed trustee associations. Those at Killisick, Howbeck Road and Rookery Gardens are managed directly by Gedling Borough Council PASC services. Allotments within the rural areas of the borough are managed by the parish councils at Bonner Lane, Collyer Road, Trent Lane, Tilford Road, Botton Gardens and Foxwood Lane. These are comprised of a total of 262 occupying an area of 12ha. Out of the rural wards, there is no provision of allotments within the catchments of Ravenshead and Lambley. Lambley village, however, is within the driving catchment area of Woodborough's parish council's allotment provision and those in the urban conurbation of the borough. Based on a household count of 58,948 in the urban areas of the borough and a total of 870 allotment plots, the current provision of allotments equates to 15 allotments per 1,000 households.

Conversation with the parishes, allotment trustees and council owned allotment plot holders evidenced that demand is outstripping supply for allotment plots. This is shown by the waiting list figures displayed within Table 15. Allotment sites with the greatest demand are found at Stoke Lane and Howbeck in Arnold. It is important to note, however, that residents often apply for plots at various sites simultaneously and therefore, the exact level of demand may be difficult to ascertain. Furthermore, allotment demand has seen a significant increase during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to question whether or not this trend is likely to continue.

Table 15: September 2020 allotment waiting list figures

Allotment Site	Waiting List Totals
Stoke Lane	29
Robin Hood	9
Gedling Grove	7
Leapool	9
Chandos Street	8
Killisick	18
Howbeck	27
Rookery Gardens	18
Parishes	30
Total	155

9.3.2 Quality

Public consultation revealed that the overall quality of allotments was good, with 67% of respondents rating the quality of allotments as good or better (as per Table 16).

Table 16: Public consultation quality rating of allotments and community gardens

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
29%	38%	27%	3%	3%

Allotment plot holders were asked how they would rate the quality of their allotments, as evidenced from Table 17 below, all sites in the borough except for Newstead were rated at a minimum standard of good.

Table 17: Allotment plot holders' quality rating

Allotment Site	Standard Rating
Leapool	Good
Stoke Lane	Good
Chandos	Excellent
Gedling Grove	Good
Howbeck Allotment Site	Good
Killisick Allotment	Good
Rookery Gardens	Good
Robin Hood	Good
Trent Lane	Good
Newstead (*2)	Average
Calverton (*2)	Good
Woodborough	Good

The main issues raised by those who manage the allotments in the borough and what the managers felt should be the priorities for future are listed below:

- No Toilets (Collyer Road)
- Vandalism (Chandos, Stoke Lane, Robin Hood, Collyer Road, Newstead)
- Availability of land
- Expectations of new allotment holders – turnover among new plot holders remains high due to plot condition on starting and an underestimation of the time and hard work involved in allotment gardening
- Poor service from the council concerning repairs (Chandos, Stoke Lane) and identifying more land
- Water supply (Trent Lane, Robin Hood, Newstead)
- Poor dissemination of good practice
- Voluntary nature of allotment committees

For additional details about the facilities at each allotment site, please refer to Appendix 7.

9.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 68% of users are within an average of a 10-minute driving distance from their allotment site, with 76% of non-regular users stating that they similarly within a 10-minute drive to an allotment site. This indicates that there are no significant issues with the current location of allotments.

9.4 Setting the standard

9.4.1 Quantity

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners⁴² recommends that the minimum provision of allotments should be 20 standard plots of 250m² per 1,000 households or 1 plot per every 50 households. This information has been used to set the quantity standard for Gedling.

Quantity Standard
20 allotment plots per 1,000 households

9.4.2 Quality

There are no definitive national or local standards for allotment quality provision and, therefore, consultation has informed the borough's allotment quality standards.

Quality Standard
A clean, well-kept and secure site with clearly marked pathways to and within the site that encourages sustainable communities, biodiversity and healthy living with appropriate ancillary facilities to meet local needs.

9.4.3 Accessibility

Two accessibility standards have been set, as the vast majority of plot holders either drive or walk to their allotments. As there are no definitive national and local accessibility standards for allotments, the standard has been derived from consultation findings, where allotment users reported a driving time between 5-10 minutes and walking time of 10-20 minutes, therefore the upper bounds of these ranges have been selected.

Accessibility Standard
20-minute walk/1610m
10-minute drive/6440m (4 miles)

9.5 Application of standards

9.5.1 Quantity

Upon application of the proposed quantity standards, it is evident that there is a deficiency in the number of allotments within the borough. To satisfy the proposed quantity standard based on the current number of households within the borough, a total of 1,179 allotment plots are required, meaning an additional 317 plots are needed, which would encompass an estimated area of 7.9ha (based on each allotment plot being 250m²).

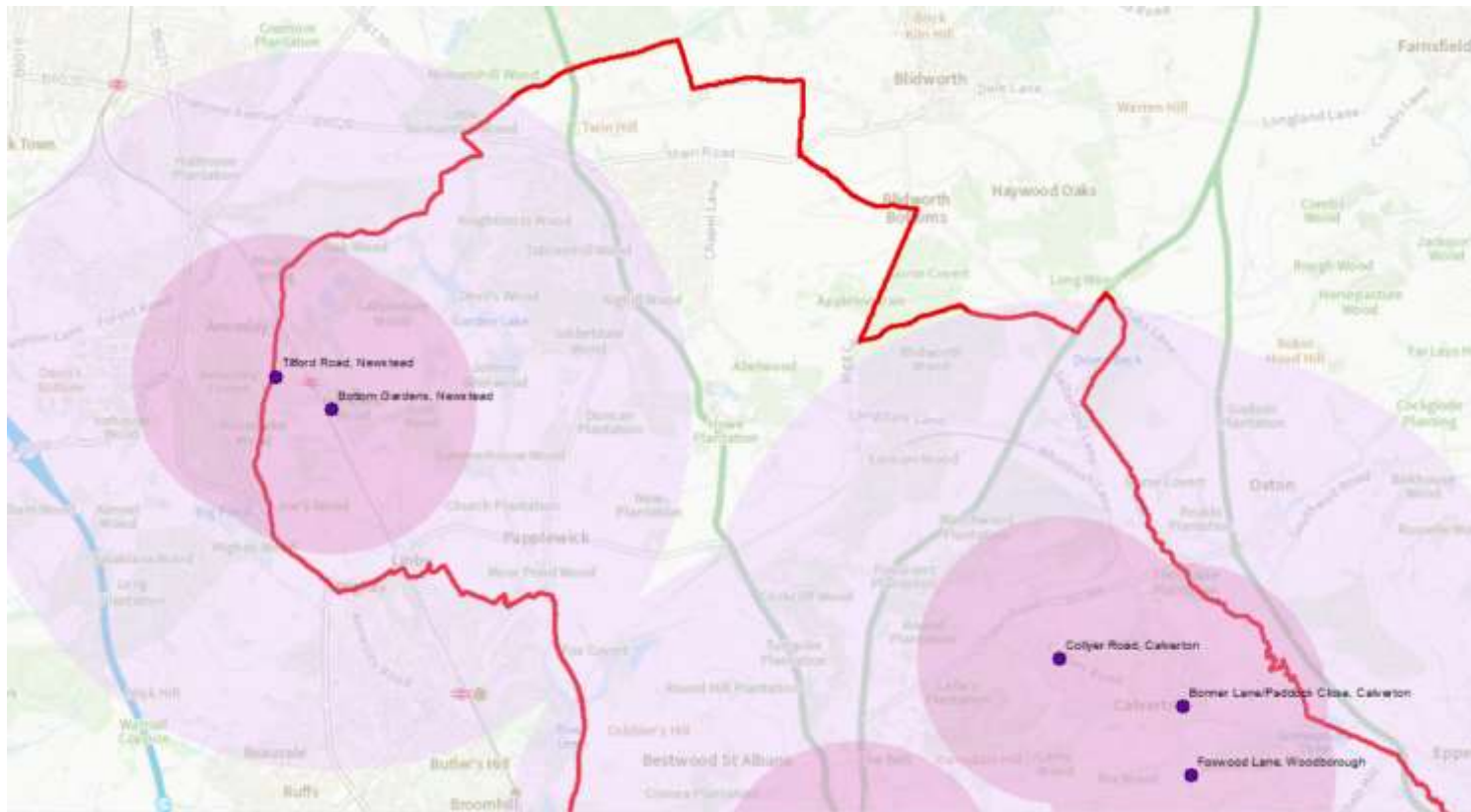
To account for the 2,730 increase in households expected in the borough by 2026, 55 allotment plots are required to maintain the quantity standard. Therefore, in total, 372 allotment plots need to be created to meet the quantity standard by 2026, if each allotment plot is 250m², this will equate to a total area of 9.3ha.

Clearly there is a shortfall in the supply of allotment plots. Some future demand could be met through a reduction in allotment plot size as many residents on the waiting list are wanting to take on smaller plots. Current demand within the parishes is difficult to accurately ascertain, particularly as housing developments come online. Therefore, it is necessary that close consultation is held with the parishes to ensure green space provision and in particular, allotment provision is accounted for. Gedling Borough Council has ensured that future developments at Teal Close, Top Wighay and Bestwood have been fully consulted to guarantee that allotments are provided for new residents.

9.5.2 Accessibility

Figures 15 and 16 below identify the accessibility boundaries of each site based on a 20-minute walk and a 10-minute drive. The purple and light blue shading denote the respective driving and walking catchment areas.

Figure 15: Allotments and threshold areas in the north of the borough



Upon assessment of Figure 15, it is evident that:

- Residents who live in Ravenshead do not have an allotment site within an acceptable travelling distance.
- Despite Bestwood village being within the driving catchment area of the Leapool allotment site, this is only approachable by road and hence it is considered to be an area of deficiency.
- Due to the location of the allotments in Woodborough, the majority of its residents do not have access to an allotment within the walking distance standard. However current usage indicates that the majority are willing to drive.
- Residents in Lambley have accessibility issues concerning being able to walk to allotments, however, they are within the driving accessibility standard of other sites in the urban areas of the borough such as Stoke Lane and Howbeck. Note: only Woodborough residents are allowed access to plots at Woodborough allotments due to parish policy.
- Within the urban areas, residents who live in the Bonington ward and on the west side of Daybrook ward do not have an allotment within the walking distance standard, however, are within a driving distance.



Figure 16: Allotments and threshold areas in the south of the borough

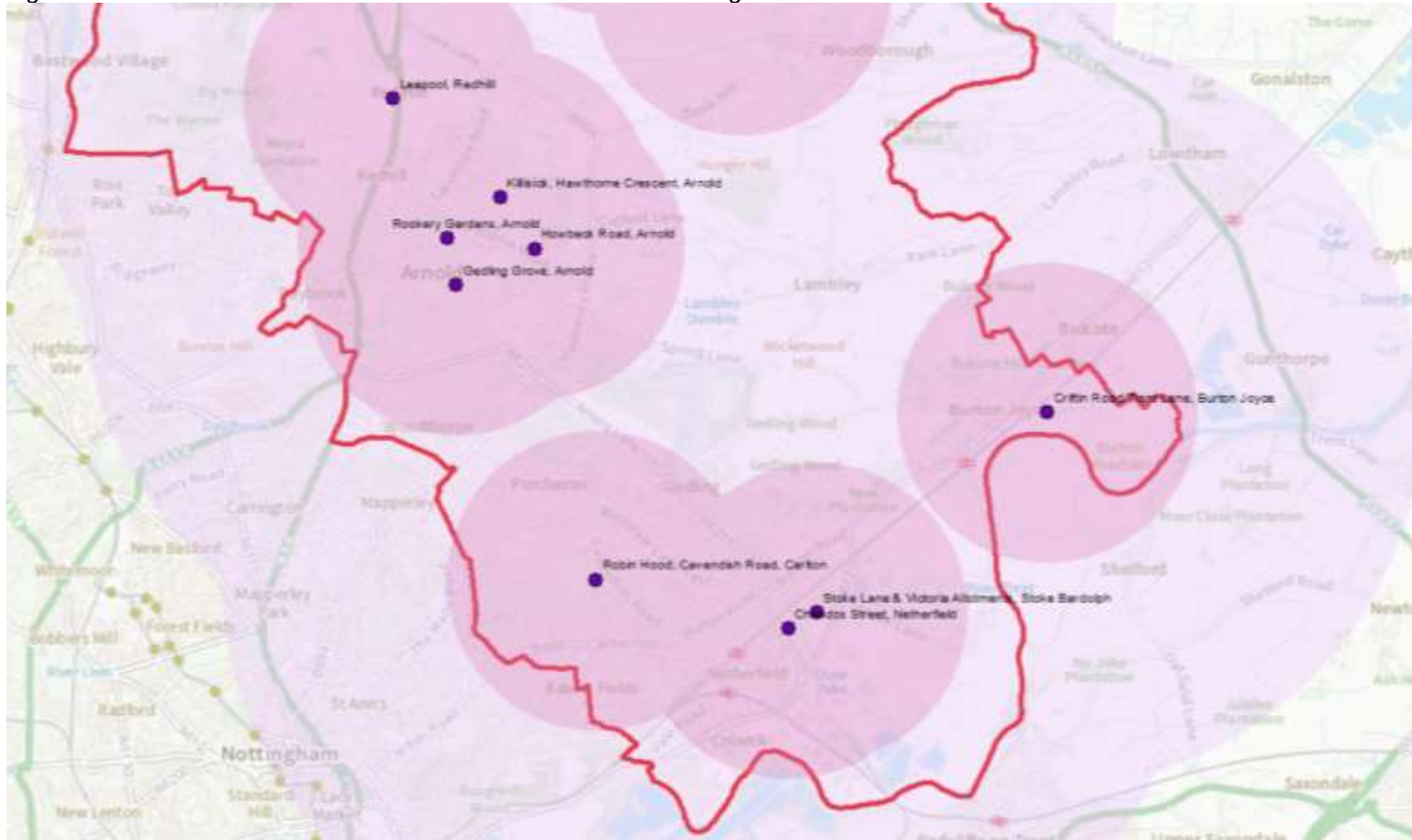


Figure 16 indicates that in the south of the borough, Gedling, Netherfield, Colwick, Porchester and Woodthorpe are highlighted as the areas that do not meet the walking accessibility threshold standard and are only considered accessible via vehicle, meeting the driving accessibility standard. In addition, the location of the allotments within Burton Joyce means that some areas of Burton Joyce are not within a 20-minute walking distance.

Deficiencies in allotment space have been identified throughout the borough by applying the local accessibility standards. The majority of these deficiencies arise from the allotments not being within the 20-minute walking distance threshold. However, public consultation revealed that

accessibility to the current provision of allotment plots in the borough is considered as acceptable. Taking this into account, it can be concluded that driving to allotment sites is an acceptable option but having an allotment site within walking distance is preferred.

9.6 Cross Boundary Analysis

When assessing the deficiencies in the provision of allotments, it is useful to identify whether there is scope to alleviate provisional deficiencies via the application of accessibility thresholds to sites across borough boundaries. The neighbouring borough councils of Nottingham City, Ashfield District and Newark and Sherwood all contain allotments which fall within the borough's walking and driving thresholds. However, these local authorities have policies that only permit their residents to use their allotment plots. Despite there being a possibility for applications from Gedling Borough's residents to be accepted, it is important to note that the residents of the neighbouring boroughs will always be prioritised.

9.7 Summary

Allotments and community gardens deliver a wide variety of benefits to plot holders, which in turn, are likely to improve physical and mental wellbeing outcomes. These include but are not limited to reduced levels of loneliness through the provision of community engagement opportunities, reductions in levels of stress and fatigue through contact with nature and, increased levels of physical activity. Furthermore, in the face of a growing population and climate change, allotments will increasingly provide a source of food security. These benefits strengthen the need for securing allotment provision in the borough, where currently, the demand for allotment plots is outpacing supply. All allotment sites should therefore be protected from development unless:

- Long term poor usage is shown, and an alternative location exists for site relocation.
- Alternative land can be utilised for allotment provision.

9.8 Recommendations

- Identify additional land for allotment provision, extensions to sites at Leapool on the north side of the borough and Stoke Lane in the south is recommended.
- Support Newstead and Lambley Parish Councils in meeting their current level of demand for allotment provision.
- Introduce a policy allowing one community allotment plot per Gedling Borough Council owned site.
- Assist allotment associations and parishes in site quality improvements, including seeking external funding.

10 Cemeteries and Churchyards



10.1 Definition

Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and are commonly used for burial purposes, whilst cemeteries are larger burial grounds located outside the confines of a church⁴⁴.

10.2 Context

Although the primary purpose of cemeteries and churchyards is for the burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, these areas can provide a significant amount of green space, particularly in rural areas⁴³. In other locations, they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of land but can provide areas of nature conservation and are often among the few areas of green space where the local community is able to have some contact with the natural world. Many cemeteries and churchyards have restricted access and as a result, due to being relatively undisturbed compared to other types of green space, a wide variety of flora and fauna can flourish⁴⁵. Additionally, many burial grounds have architectural and

⁴⁴ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

⁴⁵ Department for Constitutional Affairs (2005); Guide for Burial Ground Managers

landscape interest, shedding light on a time gone by and they, therefore, can be considered as an irreplaceable historical resource⁴⁶. Table 10.1 shows that, in Gedling, eight churches have listed status and hold heritage protection.

10.3 Where are we now?

10.3.1 Quantity

Within Gedling Borough, there are eight cemeteries and nine Church of England churchyards covering a total of 40.7ha. Of this total, Parish Councils are responsible for five cemeteries located at Woodborough, Lambley, Calverton, Burton Joyce and Newstead. The remaining three cemeteries are found at Gedling, Carlton and Redhill and owned by Gedling Borough Council. The churchyards in the borough are found within the churches listed below in Table 18. Maintenance at All Hallows, St Helen's, St Wilfred's, Holy Trinity and St Swithun falls to the responsibility of Gedling Borough Council as these are now closed to burials. St Mary's is also closed; however, Gedling Borough Council is only responsible for the maintenance of hedges at the site.

Table 18: Churchyards in Gedling and their listed status

Churchyards in Gedling Borough	Listed Status
All Hallows, Gedling	Grade 1
St Michael's, Linby	Grade 2
St James', Papplewick	Grade 1
St Helen's, Burton Joyce	Grade 1
St Luke's, Stoke Bardolph	Not Listed
St Wilfrid's, Calverton	Grade 2
Holy Trinity, Lambley	Grade 1
St Swithun Woodborough	Grade 2
St Mary's, Arnold	Grade 2

⁴⁶ CABE SPACE (2007); Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds

10.3.1.1 Demand for cemeteries

Upon examination of data related to population, burial rate and existing burial space capacity, the council can approximate the amount of land that is required for the burial of the borough's current and future population.

The ONS 2018 mid-year population estimates⁴⁷ indicate that the average mortality rate in England and Wales equates to 8.2 deaths per 1,000 population. Assessment of the population profile of Gedling demonstrates that it is comparable to that of England and Wales (see Table 19) and hence it is likely that the death rates for both regions are similar.

Table 19: Population profile of Gedling Borough and England and Wales, 2019 from ONS mid-year estimates

Age Group	Gedling	England and Wales
Under 16	17.9%	19.4%
16-24	8.7%	10.7%
25-64	52.4%	52.3%
65+	21.1%	18.8%

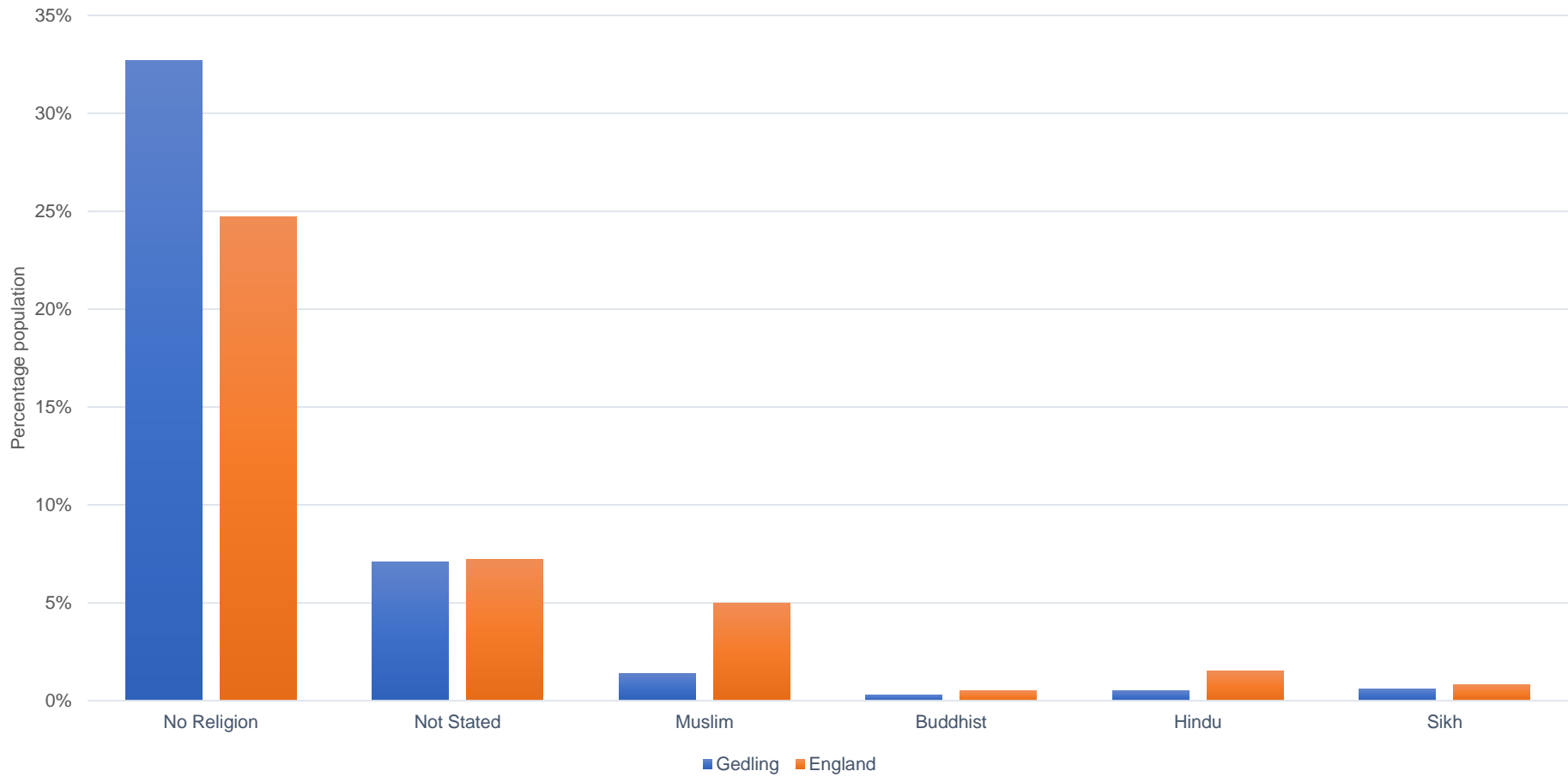
Further to this, when assessing the future need for cemeteries and burial space, it is important to consider the proportion of individuals with religious affiliations within the borough. Table 20 shows that there is a low proportion of individuals of Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths who typically desire cremation and hence, this is unlikely to have a significant impact on the burial space required. However, since the opening of Gedling Crematorium on Catfoot Lane in Lambley, the borough now has an operational crematorium. This is expected to have some impact on burial requirements, as cremation is becoming a popular alternative to traditional burial due to religious and personal reasons.

The Cremation Society⁴⁸ calculated that in the UK, the proportion of deaths in 2018 that resulted in cremation equated to 78.1%. However, as the borough contains a lower proportion of residents of faiths which typically prefer cremation, a 70% cremation estimate has been applied to the borough. Further to this, the ethnic origin of the population also affects demand for burial space and therefore, the proportion of different ethnicities in the borough has been presented in Appendix 8.

⁴⁷ ONS (2019) Families and Households

⁴⁸ The Cremation Society; United Kingdom 2019

Table 20: The proportion of residents belonging to particular religious faiths in the borough (this excludes those residents with Christian faith who comprise of 57.1% of Gedling's and 59.4% of the UK's population), from Gedling Borough Council Equality Information 2019/20



10.3.1.2 Existing Burial Space

The burial space audit displayed in Table 21 revealed an 18-year average burial capacity in the borough, ranging from less than a year at Linby, Woodborough and Calverton to 50 years at Burton Joyce. This accounts for the burial rate in the cemeteries and churchyards, including those in re-opened graves and the total number of unused plots. Across the borough's open cemeteries and churchyards, the total number of unused plots equates to 2,261, covering an area of 1.9 acres (0.8ha). 97% of this available space (2,200 plots) is located within the borough's eight cemeteries, whilst the remaining 3% is found at the churches of St Luke's in Stoke Bardolph and St James' in Papplewick. St Michael's in Linby is considered open, however only to one re-open burial, where an existing family grave containing space can be 're-opened' to take a further interment. The potential for increased capacity at these churchyards has been explored, however grave excavation at these sites is somewhat challenging due to:

- Rock at 350mm depth at St Michael's, Linby
- A high-water table at St James', Papplewick restricting the churchyard to graves of a single depth.
- A high-water table at St Luke's, Stoke Bardolph restricting the churchyard to graves of a single depth.

Therefore, it is likely that once capacity is reached at these locations, the churchyards will be closed to burials and maintenance of the sites will either then fall to the responsibility of the local Parish Councils or Gedling Borough Council.

Table 21: Burial space audit conducted at the borough's open Church of England churchyards and Parish and Council owned cemeteries

	Size of Cemetery (ha)	Unused Plots	Total Plots	Burials per year			Years left
				New	Reopen	Total	
GBC-owned							
Gedling	0.73	90	1457	7	3	10	10
Carlton	9.162	1,500	14,691	50	80	130	25
Redhill	6.03	25	12,036	35	128	163	6 months
Parish Churchyards							
Linby	0.4	-	370	-	1	1	-
Papplewick	0.51	52	442	1	1	2	40
Stoke Bardolph	0.08	9	97	1-2	-	2	32
Parish Cemeteries							
Woodborough	0.2	150	1,287	6	-	6	-
Lambley	0.05	35	380	3-4	2	5-6	10
Calverton	3.9	20	2,495	11	13	24	-
Burton Joyce	1.15	180	375	8	-	8	50
Newstead	0.9	200	-	5-6	-	5-6	30
Total	23	2,261	33,630	129	228	357	18-year average remaining capacity

10.3.1.3 Future burial space requirement for Gedling

As a burial authority, we need to ensure that there is enough burial space to meet the requirements of the current and future population of Gedling, this includes taking into account the provision available outside of the local authorities' ownership.

Various factors can be used to calculate the burial provision that Gedling should provide for its resident population. Table 22 contains data required to calculate the future provision for 25 years.

Table 22: Future burial provision for 25 years

Factor	Calculation	Notes
Population of the area	117,896	Office of National Statistics 2019
Death rate per 1,000 per annum	8.2	ONS 2018 Mid-year estimates
Cremation rate in the area	70.0%	Estimate based on the rate in UK being 78% (2018), but Gedling has a lower proportion of faiths who typically opt for cremation
Percentage of burials in existing grave	33%	Based over an averaged three-year period (2008-2010)
Grave space size	9ft x 4ft (36ft ²)	Standard plot size
Number of burial plots required for projected use Equivalent area	4,858 4 acres/1.6ha	Projected figure

Figure 21 shows that there are currently 2,261 unused plots in the borough's cemeteries, equating to an area of 1.9 acres. Therefore, with a projected 25-year requirement for 4,858 grave spaces (as per Table 22), requiring 4.02 acres, a deficiency of 2.15 acres can be calculated. Further, allocating for roads and landscaping within cemeteries which are estimated to account for an average of 30% of a cemeteries' footprint, an additional 0.65 acres is required. Therefore, unless additional cemetery spaces are provided in the borough within the next 25 years, we expect a shortfall of 2.95 acres or 1.2ha.

10.3.2 Quality

Public consultation revealed that 68% of respondents felt that the standard of cemeteries and churchyards in the borough was either good or better, with 29% of respondents categorising the quality as average (as per Table 23).

Table 23: Public consultation quality rating of cemeteries and churchyards

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
24%	44%	29%	2%	1%

Public consultation produced only one comment concerning cemeteries which requested they were kept open for longer and that additional lighting was provided.

10.3.3 Accessibility

Public consultation revealed that 98.5% of residents felt cemeteries and churchyards were within an acceptable travelling distance. 83% of respondents reported a travelling distance of fewer than 20 minutes, and 50% stated there was a cemetery or churchyard within a 10-minute travelling distance from their home. These percentages were similar when comparing those who used cemeteries and those who did not, indicating that residents feel there are no significant issues with the current location of these facilities.

Cemetery users were asked what their most frequent mode of transport was to their local cemetery or churchyard. 45% of users walk, 51% drive, 3% cycle and 1% travel by bus. When comparing the preferred mode of transport to travelling time in Table 24, it is evident that there is a minor difference between the travelling time and mode of transport. Consultation of cemetery and churchyard users revealed that the majority of respondents preferred a travelling distance of fewer than 20 minutes.

Table 24: The percentage of respondents who either walk or drive to cemeteries and churchyards within a certain time range

	Less than 5-minutes %	6-10 minutes %	11 to 20 minutes %	21 to 30 minutes %	31-60 minutes %	More than 60 minutes %
Walk	30	28	30	10	2	0
Drive	28	28	30	11	3	0

10.4 Setting the Standard

10.4.1 Quantity

With regards to quantity, there are no definitive national or local standards for cemeteries and churchyards. Despite there being few opportunities to have a strategic influence over these types of areas, there is a future need for burial space within the borough. Therefore, a quantity standard for cemeteries and churchyards has been set based on an evaluation of population and burial patterns.

Quantity Standard

4858 burial plots, equating to
4.02 acres or 1.6 hectares.

10.4.2 Quality

There are no definitive national or local standards for the quality of cemeteries and churchyards. However, the quality standard has been informed by the Green Flag Award criterion.

Quality Standard

A well maintained, clean and safe site with the provision of seating areas, clear footpaths and car parking either on site or nearby. The site will encourage biodiversity by providing varied vegetation and aim to be an oasis for personal quiet contemplation.

10.4.3 Accessibility

With regards to accessibility, there are no definitive national or local standards and no requirement to set catchments for cemeteries and churchyards. This is because there is little opportunity to have a strategic influence over this type of green space. However, consultation revealed that a travelling distance time of fewer than 20 minutes was considered as acceptable and hence this is the standard that has been selected.

Accessibility Standard

Less than a 20-minute walk/drive – Walk: 1610m and
Drive: 12870m (8 miles)
(including access to public transport)

10.5 Application of Standards

The location of existing cemeteries and churchyards across the borough is meeting residents' expectations. However, burial spaces in the north of the borough are becoming limited due to Redhill Cemetery forecasted to be at capacity within one year, highlighting an urgent need for a new burial ground in the area. There is currently an approved planning application in place for a cemetery facility on George's Lane, north of Arnold, totalling 5.5ha that will incorporate traditional, natural and woodland burial space, with ancillary facilities. This cemetery is expected to provide 7,200 additional burial spaces, which will help fulfil the cultural and religious requirements of the local community. Additionally, this cemetery would alleviate the shortfall of 2.95 acres projected to arise in 25 years, based on a calculation that incorporates a number of factors including the death and cremation rates in the borough as per Table 10.5.

Following consultation, most residents were satisfied with a 20-minute drive to their local cemetery, fortunately, the borough is currently well provisioned, and this is facilitated. Due to the limited availability of land for prospective cemeteries, the only obtainable spaces will be those located on the outside of the urban area. As this will likely restrict resident's ability to walk, car parking facilities must be provided in addition to a preference for sites close to public transport links. It is recommended that the Accessible Settlements Study for Greater Nottingham⁴⁹ is considered when locating a new cemetery, as this report highlights the areas that are within a 5-minute walk (400m) from public transport facilities which operate at an hourly or better service.

⁴⁹ Accessible Settlements Study for Greater Nottingham (2010)

10.6 Summary

As a burial authority, we need to anticipate future demand alongside current provision to ensure that there are sufficient, high quality burial spaces in the borough. Therefore, the standards outlined in section 10.6 should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the borough.

Although a necessity for the burial of the dead, cemeteries and churchyards provide green space that can be used on an opportunity-led basis – i.e., where there are churchyards and cemeteries, there are opportunities for wildlife and use of the space by the public for walking and relaxing. This must be taken into account when applying provision standards across the borough for other types of green space due to land having multiple purposes, for example, cemeteries can also provide an area of natural green space.

10.7 Recommendations

- Seek additional land for cemeteries, taking into account the burial spaces in the borough that will reach capacity in the next 30 years. This includes Redhill, Carlton, Gedling cemeteries, parish council-owned sites and privately-owned burial spaces.
- Continue with the current pricing policy for non-residents.
- Conduct site audits of the cemeteries using the Green Flag quality assessment model resulting in a measurable quality standard for each cemetery. This should be used to maintain the cemeteries at their current standard.
- Conduct consultation with users of cemeteries by holding annual surveys, allowing users to provide feedback on the service and facilities.
- Conduct a burial space audit for the borough as this was last completed in March 2004 and consequently requires updating.

11 Green Corridors



11.1 Definition

Green corridors are described by Designing Buildings as linear routes of land ‘established to enable the bridging of habitat populations that have been split by human development such as a road, settlement or other human activity⁵⁰.’

⁵⁰ Designing Buildings Wiki, Green Corridor (2021)

11.2 Context

Green corridors include towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycle ways, rights of way and disused railway lines. Their primary purpose is to provide opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration⁵¹. The importance of green corridors is recognised by Forest Research⁵² which highlights the following functions of green corridors:

- Assists the movement of wildlife and reverse the effects of habitat fragmentation.
- Promotes environmentally sustainable forms of transport, such as walking and cycling, in turn, improving health and well-being.
- Aids connectivity to a wide range of green spaces via a network of footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways from doorstep to the countryside, in turn, providing opportunities to link green spaces within urban areas, and to urban areas with the countryside.

The Council's Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) (Policy 18) ensures priority for the location of new or enhanced green infrastructure to locations for major residential development identified in Policy 2 of the same document. These are the strategic river corridors of the Trent, Erewash and Leen Rivers, Canal Corridors, the Greenwood Community Forest and urban fringe areas. Work has commenced on review of the ACS which will be supported by new green and blue infrastructure strategies. These will identify strategic and non-strategic green and blue infrastructure corridors and opportunities through the plan making process to deliver development alongside the creation of multi-functional and accessible green and blue infrastructure. Gedling borough already has a wealth of green and blue infrastructure assets, which also includes our country parks, numerous formal parks and open spaces and extensive rights of way networks that link the city and rural settlements to the wider countryside. Such corridors cross local authority boundaries, including the Bestwood to Newstead corridor, incorporating country parks, parts of the River Leen and National Cycle Route 6, which all could be priorities for future enhancements.

⁵¹ Gedling Borough (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan

⁵² Forest Research (2021) Urban Green Networks, Corridors and Linkages

11.3 Where are we now?

11.3.1 Quantity

For this report, all corridors including public rights of way have been included.

Gedling falls within a high-pressure area for traffic because it lies between the city of Nottingham and Mansfield, situated to the north of the borough. The urban nature of the borough creates substantial pressure on the remaining countryside and in particular, public rights of way, of which there are 800. The council has re-examined and updated the green corridor network assessment undertaken for the original green space strategy in 2012. It was found that this assessment is still fit for purpose and accurately reflects the borough's existing network, which is included within the 'Heels, Wheels and Hooves' booklet.

Table 25: The proportionate spread of rights of way in the borough which equate to 1.03 ha

Definitive Classification	Length (kilometres)
Byways	0.32km
Footpaths	103.176km
Bridleways	17.869km

Figure 17 shows that numerous bridleways and footpaths are located in the rural areas of the borough. Although these are not all interconnected, the council's series of circular walks and rides aim to improve access opportunities and form some useful links with the river Trent and natural and semi-natural green space.

Figure 17: The public rights of way in the borough

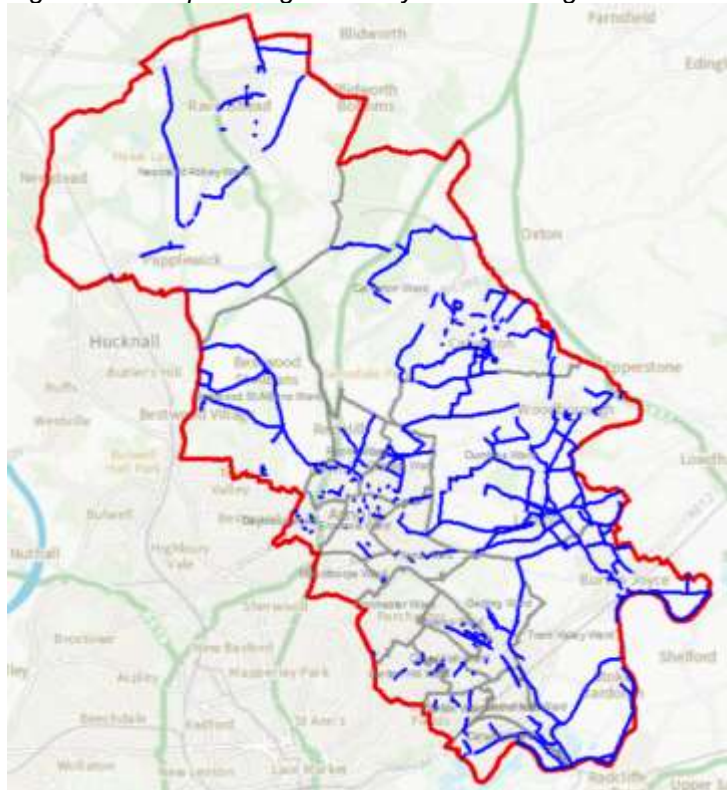


Figure 18 shows that there are very few public rights of way located within the urban conurbation and, where they exist, these are very often over a small distance and do not connect with other green spaces. However, due to the density of the urban conurbation, there is limited opportunity to develop any green corridors in these areas. It is important to note that Figure 18 does not display all the paths in the urban conurbation, it excludes those that do not have a primary purpose of a green corridor. For example, the stretch of land running from the traffic lights at the bottom of Gedling Road to the Mapperley Plains has been classified as amenity green space and therefore is not visible within the map below.

Figure 18: Public rights of way within the urban conurbation of the borough

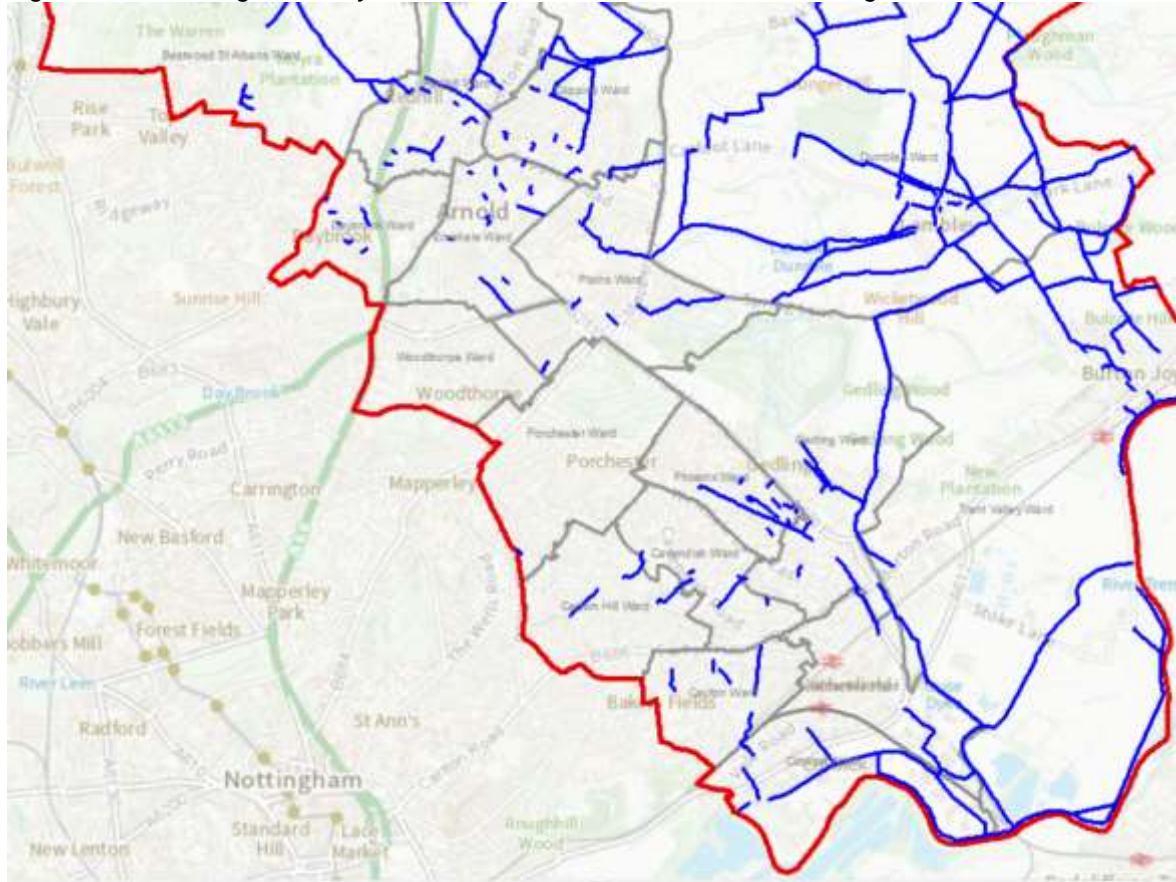
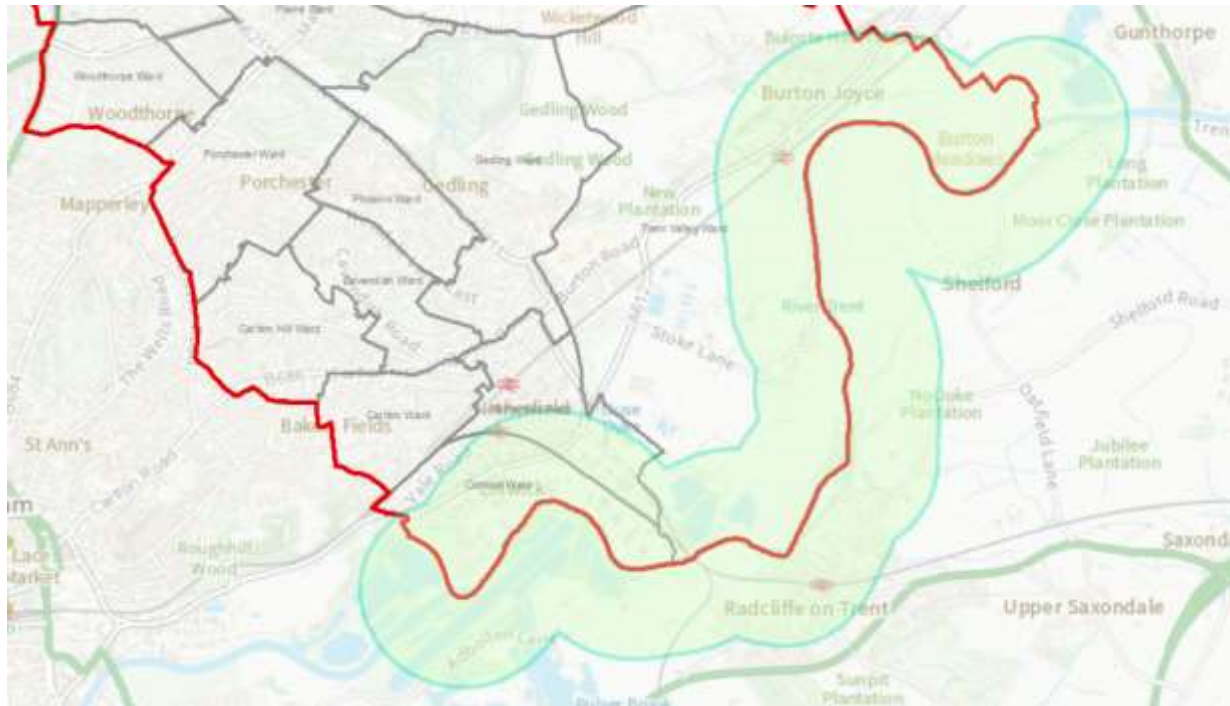


Figure 19 below displays the 10-minute walking distance catchment area for Gedling's only formalised recognised green corridor situated along the river Trent. However, few residential areas are located within this catchment and hence, this corridor does not provide a transport link between facilities.

Figure 19: A 10-minute walking distance catchment area for the River Trent corridor (as highlighted by the light blue line)



11.3.2 Quality

Public consultation results revealed that the overall quality rating of green corridors from those who responded was good, with 67% of respondents rating the standard as either good or better (as per Table 26).

Table 26: Public consultation quality rating of green corridors

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
19%	49%	27%	5%	0%

11.3.3 Accessibility

There is no real requirement to set catchments for green corridors as they cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation and are very much opportunity-led rather than demand-led. Given that, it is not appropriate to set any local quantity or accessibility standards or state areas of deficiency and/or need and therefore, current accessibility has not been assessed.

11.4 Setting the Standard

11.4.1 Quantity

No quantity standards have been set for green corridors as quantity is not a key determinant of adequate provision of green corridors.

Quantity Standard
No local standard to be set

11.4.2 Quality

The quality standard outlined below reflects the issues outlined during the public consultation.

Quality Standard

Clean, well maintained, safe and secure routes with clear, level and well drained paths, which are provided with the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation. The green corridor should provide links to major green spaces, urban areas and community facilities. Sites should provide a natural wildlife and accommodation such as seating, toilets cyclist provision where appropriate.

11.4.3 Accessibility

Accessibility Standard
No local standard to be set

11.5 Summary

Gedling borough is fortunate to have a key green corridor that stretches the length of the district. Although this corridor is located on the southern border of the borough, it provides opportunities for informal recreation, including walking and cycling. However, with the current location of green corridors in the borough, there is limited opportunity to incorporate this into everyday routines such as travelling to work. Therefore, the development of a green corridor network will not only help to provide opportunities for informal recreation but through the promotion of environmentally sustainable forms of transport, improve the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Future development needs to encompass linkage provision between large areas of green space, create opportunities to develop the green corridor network and utilise potential development sites such as dismantled railway lines and public rights of way that already exist. For example the planned green corridor linking Digby Park next to Mapperley Golf Course over Arnold Lane via the new housing development into Gedling Country Park.

11.6 Recommendations

- Continue with local planning protection policies to stop inappropriate development at green corridor sites. This includes the protection of disused railways, such as the Mineral Line, as they are key to the transport policies affecting green space, sport and recreation facilities.
- Ensure that appropriate green corridor linkages and improvements are central to all new large housing sites where possible.
- Adopt the quality standard for all current and future green corridors and conduct a quality audit on green corridors.
- Improve the promotion of green corridors and circular routes around the borough with aspirations of developing disused railways into formal pathways.

12 Summary

12.1 Introduction

Green spaces provide a multitude of benefits that ensure both human populations and nature can flourish. This in turn, contributes to a sustainable society, resilient to the risks posed by climate change. The benefits of restoring and enhancing nature and green spaces are recognised within the policy statement of the Environment Bill 2020 and, in light of climate change, will help deliver upon both the Government's and Gedling Borough Council's ambitious net-zero commitment, through the contribution of green space to carbon sequestration.

This strategy has been designed to enable long-term strategic planning. It guides both the development and management of green spaces within the borough, ensuring they continue to evolve to meet the changing needs and aspirations of the community and are maintained to high standards. The 2021-2026 Green Space Strategy reflects upon previous audits and strategies related to the borough's green space. There is a total of 1,695.58 ha of community green space audited under the typologies of parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, amenity green space, provision for children and young people, outdoor sports facilities, allotments and community gardens, cemeteries and churchyards and green corridors.

The overall aim of the project was to:

- Conduct an audit of green space across the borough.
- Identify local needs through consultation.
- Audit all public and private existing green space, sport and recreational facilities within the district, including school sites, allotments and built facilities.
- Set and apply local provision standards.
- Produce a series of recommendations through an assessment of current provision.

This section summarises the key findings for each green space typology.

12.2 Overview of Quantity analysis

Table 27 below provides a summary of the quantitative findings of green space based on its primary typology, of which, in total equates to 1,705ha. Areas of green space may contain several typologies, for example, a park may include a children’s play area and a sports pitch, however, the green space may have been classified by the typology which accounts for a higher percentage of the total area. The only exception to this are children’s play areas, where all play facilities have been included despite being accounted for on a site classified under a different typology. Although this has resulted in duplication, the impact is minimal as only 7.07 ha has been classified as fixed play areas.

Table 27: Overview of the quantitative findings of green space typologies within Gedling

Typology	Total Area (ha)	Current Provision	National Guidelines	Proposed Local Standard	Justification
Parks and Gardens	708	6ha per 1,000 population	0.8ha per 1,000 Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	6ha per 1000 population	Public consultation revealed high satisfaction with the quantity of parks and gardens within the borough and therefore the current provision was selected as the standard.
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	549	4.7ha per 1,000 population Local Nature Reserve 0.51 per 1000 population	1.8ha per 1,000 Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	4.7ha per 1000 population	The local needs consultation and audit of provision informed the local standard.
Amenity Green Space	59	0.5ha per 1,000 population	0.6ha per 1,000 population Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	0.6ha per 1000 population	Guided by the national benchmark standard.

Provision for Children and Young People	12.1 Of which 7.57ha is comprised of equipped play facilities and 5ha of informal play facilities	Equipped play areas: 0.31ha per 1,000 population of children between 0-18-years of age Informal Play Facilities: 0.2ha per 1,000 population of children between 0-18-years of age	Equipped play areas: 0.25ha per 1,000 population Other outdoor provision: 0.3ha per 1,000 population Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	LAP, LEAP, NEAP: 0.25ha per 1,000 population Informal Outdoor Provision: 0.20ha per 1000 population	Guided by the recommended benchmark guidelines outlined by Fields in Trust, whilst accounting for the density of the urban fabric.
Outdoor Sports Facilities	306	2.6ha per 1,000 community use	1.6ha per 1000 population Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2018)	2.6ha per 1,000 population	Derived from the local needs consultation and the audit of provision.
Allotments and Community Gardens	29.3	14.6 allotment plots per 1,000 households.	20 allotment plots per 1,000 households The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners	20 allotments plots per 1,000 households	Guided by the recommendations of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.
Cemeteries and Churchyards	40.7	N/A	N/A	4858 burial plots, equating to 4.02 acres or 1.6 hectares, based on the forecasted requirement by 2026	N/A

Green Corridors	1.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	1,705				

12.3 Quality standards

Quality standards have been set and where possible, have been made measurable to improve the ability of the council to monitor improvements.

Parks and Gardens

A welcoming, clean, well maintained site that is free from vandalism and dog fouling. That not only provides a range of facilities for all users but creates a feeling of safety. All destination parks to achieve a Green Flag Standard score of at least 8, whilst all other parks and gardens to achieve a standard of 5 or above.

Natural and Semi Natural Green Space

A publicly accessible, spacious, clean and litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourage wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Sites should be maintained to protect nature conservation interest with interpretative signage and safety features where appropriate.

Amenity Green Space

Amenity green spaces should be planned and designed to be free of the fear of crime and meet local needs, aiming for Green Flag status as a quality benchmark. They should be appropriately landscaped, positively managed and should be provided with good access footpaths, be clean and litter free and be appropriately landscaped with shrubs, trees and flowers.

Provision for Children and Young People

A site providing a suitable mix of well-maintained formal equipment which provides an enriched play environment to encourage both formal and informal play and recreation by children and young people. A clean, safe and secure location with good access that includes ancillary facilities such as teen shelters, ball courts and skateboard areas and seating where appropriate. To strive for all play sites to have a quality assessment score of 46% or above.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

All outdoor sports facilities should be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter, with level, well drained and good quality surfaces. Sites should provide good quality ancillary facilities, where appropriate, including changing accommodation, toilets, car parking and facilities for a range of age groups. The maintenance and management of sites should continue to ensure safety and effective usage. Gedling Borough Council owned

facilities should aim to meet the outdoor facility standard score of 60% as per the Fields in Trust national methodology for scoring quality standards.

Allotments and Community Gardens

A clean, well-kept and secure site with clearly marked pathways to and within the site that encourages sustainable communities, biodiversity and healthy living with appropriate ancillary facilities to meet local needs

Cemeteries and Churchyards

A well maintained, clean and safe site with the provision of seating areas, clear footpaths and car parking either on site or nearby. The site will encourage biodiversity by providing varied vegetation and aim to be an oasis for personal quiet contemplation.

Green Corridors

Clean, well maintained, safe and secure routes with clear, level and well drained paths, which are provided the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation. The green corridor should provide links to major green spaces, urban areas and community facilities. Sites should provide a natural wildlife and accommodation such as seating, toilets cyclist provision where appropriate.

12.4 Recommendations

The following summarises the key findings by typology.

Parks and Gardens

- When enhancing provision, ensure that priority is given to urban areas of deficiency, as this covers the largest concentration of residents.
- The council should aspire to maintaining Green Flag status at Arnot Hill Park, Gedling and Bestwood Country Parks and Burton Road Jubilee Park, seeking to establishing another site as a Green Flag destination park.
- To make improvements in the quality and diversity of existing provision, in particular the protection and enhancement of wildlife where possible.
- To prioritise improvement to parks and gardens based on the Green Flag Award criteria.

Natural and Semi Natural Green Space

- Protect the current level of provision of natural and semi natural sites across both rural and urban areas of Gedling Borough including those which are SINCS or LNRs.
- Conduct a quality audit of natural and semi natural green space in the borough.
- Consult with Natural England on potential sites for LNR status and consider LNR status for Bestwood Country Park.
- Analyse urban deficiency areas to assess whether other types of green space can fulfil the natural and semi-natural function, or whether new provision is required in certain areas providing there is space available.

Amenity Green Space

- Protect and enhance all amenity green space in the district if it is considered to hold recreational value (over 0.2ha).
- Ensure all new developments located in areas without amenity greenspace allow for the establishment of such spaces, except where residents are within accessible distance to other types of green space which can also fulfil its role.
- When amenity green space is provided ensure they are located as a focal amenity for the local community.

- Establish a measurable quality standard for amenity green space which will allow for comparison of standards over time and more accurately identify recreational value for each site.

Provision for Children and Young People

- Continue to maintain and enhance all children and young person's sites in the borough.
- Develop an action plan to upgrade all sites that fall below a 40% quality score, whilst striving to improve children and young people's experiences through landscape design and natural play.
- Investigate whether any amenity green space or park and garden sites in areas where there is a deficiency of play equipment could be used to locate a play facility on them. When doing this, consideration needs to be given to deficiencies between different age groups.
- When constructing new play areas ensure the Fields in Trust minimum acceptable size requirements are applied to ensure the correct area of space is provided.
- Offer support to Parish Councils to help improve play provision in their area.
- Subject to the land being available, investigate the possibility for provision of new play areas.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- Protect existing sports and recreation facilities from redevelopment.
- Improve the quality of sports pitches through improved maintenance regimes.
- Acquire new sports facilities on larger developments e.g., the forthcoming Teal Close football pitches.
- Develop and ensure access to sufficient changing provision particularly at Rugby and Football facilities e.g., Lambley Lane.
- Work with educational establishments to maximise and secure access to pitches on education sites in order to help address future demand for pitches for the local community.
- Continue to seek funding opportunities for the provision of 3G playing surfaces taking into account future demand for football in the south of the borough and meet the demands for rugby in the north of the borough.

Allotments and Community Gardens

- Identify additional land for allotment provision, extensions to sites at Leapool on the north side of the borough and Stoke Lane in the south is recommended.
- Support Newstead and Lambley Parish Councils in meeting their current level of demand for allotment provision.

- Introduce a policy allowing one community allotment plot per Gedling Borough Council owned site.
- Assist allotment associations and parishes in site quality improvements, including seeking external funding.

Cemeteries and Churchyards

- Seek additional land for cemeteries, taking into account the burial spaces in the borough that will reach capacity in the next 30 years. This includes Redhill, Carlton, Gedling cemeteries, parish council-owned sites and privately-owned burial spaces.
- Continue with the current pricing policy for non-residents.
- Conduct site audits of the cemeteries using the Green Flag quality assessment model resulting in a measurable quality standard for each cemetery. This should be used to maintain the cemeteries at their current standard.
- Conduct consultation with users of cemeteries by holding annual surveys, allowing users to provide feedback on the service and facilities.
- Conduct a burial space audit for the borough. The last was completed in March 2004 and consequently requires updating.

Green Corridors

- Continue with local plan protection policies to stop inappropriate development at green corridor sites. This includes the protection of disused railways as they are key to the transport policies affecting green space, sport and recreation facilities.
- Ensure that appropriate green corridor linkages and improvements are key to all new large housing sites where possible.
- Adopt the quality standard for all current and future green corridors and to conduct a quality audit on green corridors.
- Improve the promotion of green corridors and circular routes around the borough with aspirations of developing disused railways into formal pathways.

12.5 Conclusions

The application of the quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards established in this document allows for the identification of deficiencies in green space provision. As such, this document provides the broad framework for the future planning of green space across the borough, providing a degree of guidance for the targeting of resources and investment for the next five years and beyond. In light of the council's budgetary constraints, targeted action is crucial in maximising resource efficiency. In some of the more densely populated urban parts of the borough, opportunities for meeting the identified deficiencies in the typologies of green spaces are limited by the absence of available space. Similarly, in some rural areas where most land is in private ownership, securing public access to green spaces may not be possible. However, the opportunities

presented by new residential developments may offer the flexibility to achieve enhanced levels of green space provision, recognising that the current standards represent an assessment of the minimum amounts required.

It is estimated that in order to meet the local quantity standards, a total of 19.6ha of additional green space is required, this is comprised of 11.7ha of amenity green space and 7.9ha of allotments and community gardens. In addition to this, to attain the provisional standards by 2026 (excluding the provision required for cemeteries and churchyards), a further 77ha is needed. It is anticipated that a majority of this additional space will be created from future housing developments, following the requirement within policy LPD20 of the local planning document that any 'loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of its usefulness, attractiveness, quantity and quality in a suitable location'. However, the council must ensure existing areas also benefit else there is a danger of creating an unhealthy distinction between provision within the new and old developments.

The relationship between the council and parish councils remains critical in meeting the borough's quality, quantity and accessibility standards. The impact of policy change with regards to reductions of parish revenue support grants and the introduction of the Parish Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) should be assessed to identify the impact this will have on the installation and maintenance of green space provision. Equally, overhauls to the planning system by the Government, which may replace Section 106 agreements with a new flat rate levy will deliver on-site affordable housing, however, it remains to be seen whether green space will be delivered as the government claims.

However, in light of the above, it is important to be aware that not all of the shortfalls in provision will be able to be addressed, and therefore, it is recommended that the council focuses on work that best meets the priorities of the borough outlined within the Gedling Plan. For example, although children and young people's provision has less usage than other typologies it will be important to focus work on this area to provide activities that reduce anti-social behaviour, which is a key objective. It is also recognised that some quality issues, for example, an unsafe children's play area, will need immediate attention and requires prioritisation. In addition, new forms of funding may require a shift in priorities.

13 Delivering the Strategy

The detailed actions necessary to deliver the vision, aims and objectives adopted in this strategy are set out in the following action plan. For each objective a set of actions is given with timescales and those responsible for delivery. The action plan will be reviewed and updated yearly until the end of the strategy period.

The Green Space Strategy action plan will be delivered using the existing revenue budget. However, it is unknown how the recession resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will affect Gedling Borough Council's funds in the long term and hence the delivery of this strategy. However, regardless, the service continues to look for efficiency savings, income generation and greater use of local community volunteers to deliver the actions outlined below.

14 Action Plan

Aim 1: To enhance people's quality of life through the provision of sufficient, accessible, attractive green spaces

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
Objective 1.1: To address supply and demand issues for identified typologies to meet existing and future needs of residents and visitors to the borough	The strategy sets recommended quantity standards for all the relevant typologies in order to ensure that the borough has a minimum standard of green space provision.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that Gedling Borough has the agreed amount of green space typologies according to set standards within this document. 	2021 onwards	Parks & Street Care Services (PASC) Planning Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the standards set to identify parts of the borough that are currently deficient in the various green space typologies, to inform any proposals to increase, or if necessary, decrease green spaces. 	2021 - 2026	All stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the provision of green space in line with population growth. Use the strategy to inform Planning Services in 	2021 - 2026	Planning / PASC Services

	support of the Local Plan and any local community/neighbourhood plans to identify areas where there are deficiencies in provision.	2021 - 2026	Planning Services and Parks & Street Care Services (PASC)
Objective 1.2: To achieve clean, attractive high-quality green spaces across the borough, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.	The strategy sets recommended quality standards for all the relevant typologies in order to ensure that the borough has a good provision of high-quality green space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the standards to identify green spaces within the borough that fall below the acceptable standard to inform proposals and actions to improve green spaces. Continued work to the existing specifications will automatically ensure that the quality standards are maintained. • Review site management plans for all large sites, along with maintenance specifications and schedules for all other sites. • Further develop the park's volunteer action plan. • Increase the number of Green Flag Awarded parks to achieve six Green Flag accredited green spaces. • Increase the standard of all green spaces in the borough to achieve a Green Flag Score of at least five and above. • Achieve service standards set out in the ground's maintenance specification standards. • When installing new or refurbishing existing play areas, apply best practice, design principles and utilise in-house skills and specialists where appropriate. 	2021 - 2026	Head of Environment
		Annually	Parks Development Officer
		2021 - 2026	Parks Development Officer and Parks Rangers
		2021 - 2026	PASC Services All Teams
		2021 - 2026	PASC Services All Teams
		2021 - 2026	PASC Services All Teams
		2021 - 2026	Head of Service/Parks Development Officer
		2021, then annually	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise site management plans for the borough's Green Flag and destination parks. • Consult with community safety on the introduction of no smoking zones within play areas. • Ensure delivery of the Public Space Protection Order for dog fouling (2020) in all parks and open spaces. • Achieve the performance indicator set in the Annual Service Plan to remove offensive graffiti. • Review cleanliness standards on a quarterly basis and ensure staff teams continue to maintain a high quality. • Utilise the Community Payback Teams to conduct environmental cleansing and improvements within the borough. • Draft a new Tree Strategy document for adoption, then work to the contained policy to provide quality tree management and foster the provision of urban tree planting for its environmental benefits and areas for further planting. • Conduct cyclical tree surveys on a risk assessed basis to determine and complete required works in a timely manner. • Create a skilled workforce through the apprenticeship scheme, subject to funding availability and an appropriate curriculum becoming available from local colleges. Additionally, provide two internships and student placements. 	<p>2022</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021</p> <p>Risk assessed Inspections on a 1-, 2- and 3-year basis.</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Yearly</p> <p>2021 / 2026</p>	<p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Operations Manager PASC & Street Cleansing Teams</p> <p>Neighbourhood Warden Service</p> <p>Head of Environment and Street Cleansing</p> <p>Operations Manager, PASC and Street Cleansing Teams</p> <p>Operations Manager, PASC and Parks Rangers</p> <p>PASC Tree Inspector</p> <p>PASC Tree Inspector</p> <p>Service Manager PASC</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a skilled workforce through performance management, the implementation of the training matrix and the appraisal system. Keep training up to date with relevant legislation. • Develop clear employment pathways with lead and key partners such as West Notts College. 	2021 – 2026	
		2021 - 2026	
<p>Objective 1.3: To ensure everyone living, working and visiting Gedling Borough has easy access to well-maintained safe open spaces</p>	<p>The strategy sets recommended access standards for all the relevant typologies in order to ensure that Gedling Borough has a good provision of accessible green space that is fully DDA compliant.</p> <p>Where there is a deficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the standards to identify the parts of the borough that are currently deficient in terms of access to the various green space typologies to inform proposals to improve access. • Increase the provision of accessible green space in line with on new developments. • Ensure that the borough has a good balance of different types of accessible green space in line with population growth. • Apply the following principles to the location and design of play spaces and engage all stakeholders: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Play England manual ‘Design for Play’. 10 principals for Play. 2. Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents design guides. 	2021 onwards	Development Officers
		On all new developments	Planning Services / PASC Services
		2021 onwards	Parks Development Officer
		2021 onwards	Development Officers and Service Manager PASC / Groundwork / Nottingham City Council / County Council

	<p>3. The Association of Play Industries design guidelines. Which state:</p> <p>Play spaces should be located where there is good surveillance from street and neighbouring houses. Play spaces should be located on accessible green space where feasible and include elements of natural and free play. A buffer zone should be provided around play areas. Design all play areas so that they are inclusive for children and young people with disabilities. Identify where there are deficiencies and recommendations and act upon these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the possibility of increasing levels of cycling within the borough’s green infrastructure through the provision and establishment of routes to schools through parks and green spaces and promote family-based cycling activities. • Conduct disability access audits for all the main parks and open spaces and then develop a plan to prioritise and implement access improvements identified in the access audits. 	<p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p>	<p>Development Officers</p> <p>Development Officers</p>
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Aim 2: To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the borough's biodiversity, sustainability and heritage

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p>Objective 2.1: Protect the biodiversity of the many habitats found in the borough's urban and rural green spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any action delivered is in line with the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping initiative for Gedling Borough and that any development work protects and conserves vulnerable habitats and that any losses that may occur are recorded and mitigated against. This should be a routine part of the decision-making process. • Undertake biodiversity surveys for all applicable sites and update the specification to account for any changes. Work to reduce sources of harm to habitats and associated species whilst creating and developing new habitat sites, including green corridors. • Act on national guidance and best practice guidelines, e.g., DEFRA hedge cutting principals and review the specification accordingly in relation to aspects such as habitat piles from cuttings for invertebrates, reptiles and small mammals. • Where applicable, analyse grass cutting regimes and machinery used, review changes to accommodate best practice to encourage biodiversity. For example, leaving cuttings in piles on site to be used by invertebrates and reptiles. • Audit current practices to determine where pesticides are being used, for what purposes and which chemicals are used. Particular attention should be paid to fine turf areas, rose gardens and hard surfaces. 	<p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 onwards</p>	<p>PASC Services / Planning Services</p> <p>Parks Development Officer / Notts Wildlife Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / Universities / Planning</p> <p>County Council / PASC Services / Parks Development</p> <p>PASC Services Operational Staff</p> <p>PASC Services Operational Staff</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with volunteer groups and other partners to develop and manage green space areas within cemeteries and establish initiatives such as wildflower meadow and other suitable habitat creation. • Implement organic cultural methods or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies in parks and enforce the Council ban on the use of Glyphosate and Neonicotinoids on Council owned land. • Review management plans for Bestwood, Burntstump and Gedling Country Parks. Management statements for all other countryside sites, LNR's, SSSIs and SINCs with action plans for delivery. Consult and involve relevant local groups regularly on proposed management. • Explore the protection of valuable green space by designating them as Local Nature Reserves. • Work with Gedling Conservation Trust and the Royal Society for Protection of Birds on making the Trent Valley area, and in particular the Netherfield Lagoons a valuable green corridor and important LNR for the borough residents. 	<p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2012 onwards</p>	<p>PASC Operations Manager, PASC Services / Development Officer</p> <p>PASC Services Operational Grounds Maintenance Staff</p> <p>Parks Development / Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / Universities</p> <p>Parks Development / Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust / Park Rangers</p> <p>Parks Development / Gedling Conservation Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / RSPB</p>
<p>Objective 2.2: Promoting Sustainability within the Parks Service and modify practices to adapt to Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycle 100% of tree produce for either biomass or as a timber product for carving and joinery • Ensure that local residents recognise the role that green spaces can play in mitigating the effects of climate change so that the potential benefits of green space for the borough as a whole can be maximised. • Provide a peat free service - source suppliers who 	<p>Yearly</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 – 2026</p>	<p>PASC Tree Team</p> <p>PASC Services / Sustainability Officer</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager</p>

	<p>use peat free compost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use water retaining pellets in flower beds, hanging baskets, shrub beds to reduce the amount of watering required. • Where possible, plant perennials and reduce bedding plants. • Broaden native tree and other plant species selection to cope with climate change and research potential new habitats whilst controlling invasive species. • Review the management of existing green spaces and trees within the borough to help reduce the risk of flash flooding from intense periods of rainfall causing high levels of surface water run-off. • Review maintenance regimes of gulley's, grids and drainage assets, continue to identify priority areas most at risk such as the Lambley Dumbles, and amend as required to cope with changing climate conditions. (Inc. Sandbag materials and storage for emergency response) • Plant 500 new trees per year in the borough's parks and open spaces. • Look at effective cost-effective ways of green waste recycling and provide education and learning opportunities regards disposal of waste by recycling via junior ranger events. 	<p>2021 onwards</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>2021 onwards</p>	<p>PASC Grounds Maintenance Operative Team</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager/ PASC Operations Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Operations Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Operations Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Operations Team</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Operations Team / Woodland Trust /Volunteer Groups</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager / PASC Development Officer / Parks Rangers / School Groups</p>
<p>Objective 2.3: Protect and preserve the archaeological features and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce the by-laws to deter metal detecting, bottle digging, unauthorised vehicle use and other 	<p>Throughout strategy</p>	<p>PASC Services</p>

heritage in Parks and Open Spaces	<p>activities which may damage archaeological remains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closely monitor the potential impact that events and other activities may have on historic landscapes and fabric, and, where necessary, take action to limit or preclude such activities where there is a clear risk of significant erosion or damage. 	Throughout strategy	PASC Services
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Aim 3: To provide green spaces and play and sports facilities to enable residents to undertake a wide range of recreational and educational activities for healthy living.

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p>Objective 3.1: To promote the role green spaces play in contributing to the boroughs health and well-being by promoting sport and physical activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the recommendations outlined within the 2016 Playing Pitch Strategy. 	2021 onwards	Sports Development / Parks Development Officer / Service managers PASC / Leisure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop further links with the local health service to promote physical activity within parks and open spaces. 	2021 - 2026	Sports Development / Parks Development Officer / Service managers PASC / Leisure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide free training for volunteer leaders of health walks. 	2021 – 2026	Sport Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with sports development teams to encourage external clubs to utilise parks. E.g. tennis coaching, fitness classes etc. 	2021 - 2026	Sports Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor usage in parks and play areas 	2021 - 2026	Development Officers / Groundwork
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote parks through the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Marketing Plans. 	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase free opportunities to exercise. 	2021 – 2026	Parks Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the effects (using Primary Care Trust 	2021 - 2026	PASC Management Team

	<p>standard Health Questionnaire) in order to gather a robust evidence base.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore partnerships with Gedling Leisure • Review lease agreements with boot camp trainers • Aim to achieve the Allotments standards. • Continue to build on existing relationships with allotment trustee groups and plot holders sharing best practice by the allotment forum. • Following the 2021 allotment review, figures for the number of plots, occupancy of sites and accurate waiting list data have been updated. Suggest another similar review in five years' time. Continue to ask sites to submit their data on a quarterly basis and ensure equitable allotment use. • 100% utilisation of current allotments. 	<p>2021 – 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Throughout Strategy</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p>	<p>Head of Environment</p> <p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p>
<p>Objective 3.2: Expand on the Opportunities for and from the Education Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage university students to undertake dissertations and research projects in parks and open spaces. • Work with local schools to become more involved in parks and open spaces either as outdoor classroom, education about the environment e.g. pond dipping to gain a greater understanding and respect for parks and open spaces. • Develop clear employment pathways. 	<p>2021 - 2026</p> <p>2021 – 2026</p> <p>2021 - 2026</p>	<p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager</p>
<p>Objective 3.3: Promoting Links between Green Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct surveys of the borough to map and assess the green infrastructure. Such data can then be 	<p>2021 - 2026</p>	

	<p>used to identify any deficient areas that might receive priority action and any linking areas that might be used to establish green walking and cycling routes including any required signage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include options for linked green spaces within any Community / Neighbourhood Plans. 	2021 - 2026	<p>Parks Development Officer / Sustrans</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager</p>
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Aim 4: To actively involve the community in their local green spaces.

What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p>Objective 4.1: To promote community cohesion and community involvement in the stewardship and use of green spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote stewardship of green spaces through support for the Green Flag Award. 	2021 – 2026	Development Officers / Friends Groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the Green Flag Community Award for community groups and work to develop new park's friends' groups. 	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft a Parks Service Marketing Plan to increase community awareness and involvement and implement any recommendations. 	2021/22	PASC Management Staff / Parks Development Officers /
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve the local and wider community in decision making around major improvement projects and in the design of new green spaces. 	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an annual programme of events and activities taking place on parks and open spaces. 	2021 - 2026	Development Officers / Leisure / Marketing & Communications / Local Media
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the work of the Friends Groups to other internal and external agencies. 	2021 – 2026	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop partnership working 	2021 onwards	

	opportunities such as those already in place with Groundwork and Greenwood Trust, Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Group.		Development Officers / Friends Groups
Objective 4.2: Increase the number of active volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of active volunteers by 5% 2021 then 2% annually. • Promote physical activity through volunteering on conservation tasks within parks and open spaces. 	2021 onwards	Development Officers / Friends Groups
		2021 onwards	Development Officers / Friends Groups
Objective 4.3: Support new and existing community involvement in the design of green space and play areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct resident, community and school consultations when upgrading or redesigning existing green space and when designing and constructing new green spaces. • Ensure local people have the opportunity to participate in decision making. Investigate the feasibility of forming a 'Friends of' group to take effective community ownership of existing and new green spaces. 	2021 onwards	Head of Service / Development Officers / Friends Groups
		2021 onwards	Head of Service / Development Officers / Friends Groups

15 Monitoring and evaluating the strategy

It is recommended that a steering group is created that consists of a representative from relevant departments who can meet twice annually, with more regular meetings for any smaller sub groups required. This group should focus on the delivery of the action plan for the strategy which they can monitor and evaluate.

A report will be compiled by the Parks and Street Care Section of the Council for each year of the strategy detailing the main achievements and projects which have taken place. This report will be circulated to all partners involved in the strategy. The report should include case studies showing the positive impact it has had on the local communities.

There are recommendations within the strategy advising for additional work to be completed on the audit process. For example, this includes conducting quality audits on typologies which previously have not been audited. It is therefore recommended to introduce a rolling programme of updates to the green space audit that account for the recommendations outlined within this document. This will ensure resources are managed and the improvements are monitored and measured.

A draft of the strategy has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and actions from this assessment were considered in the production of the action plan for the strategy.

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Appendices



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Appendix 1

Public consultation

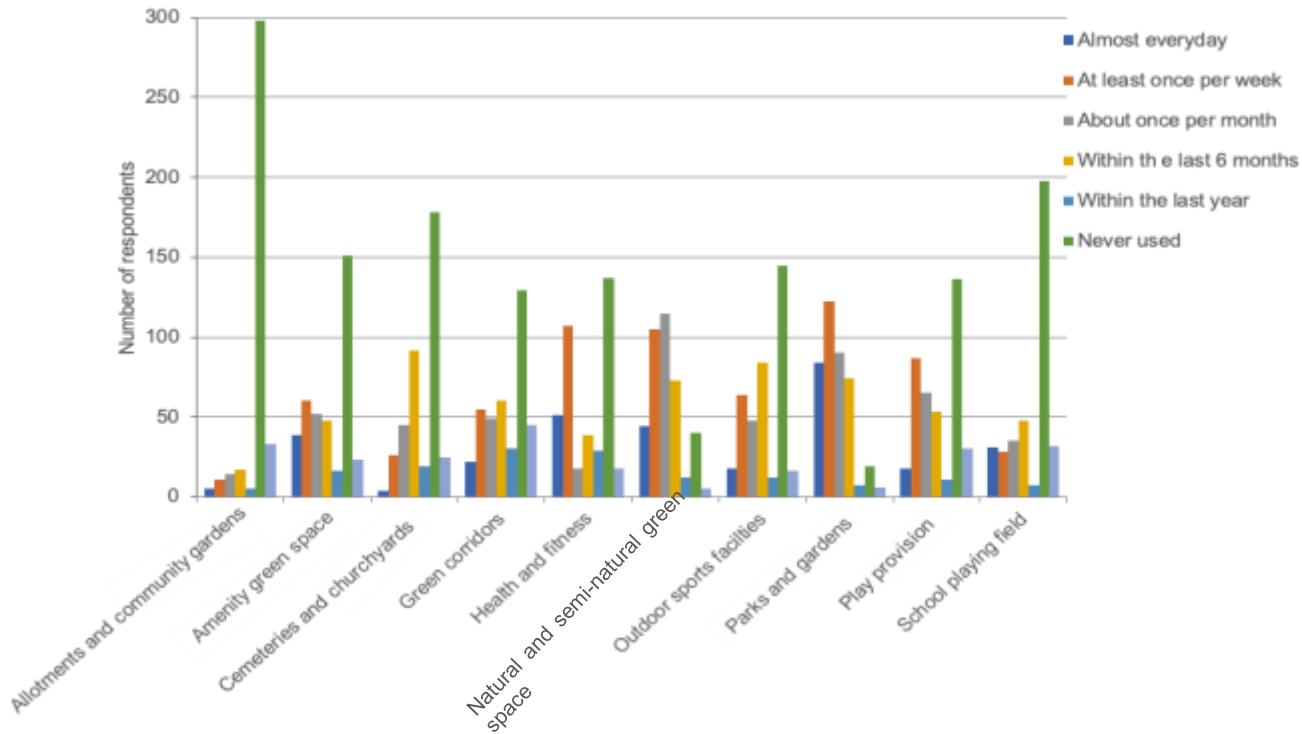
Consultation took place during 2011/2012 via online and hard copies of survey questionnaires, designed to assess the views of the residents, their attitude and aspirations concerning green spaces throughout the borough. The survey was advertised in the local press, the local “contacts” magazine distributed to every household in the borough, on the council website and internally, within the council. It was also advertised through the Leisure Services email bulletin which holds a database of over 6,000 leisure cardholders. Paper questionnaires were made available at Gedling Borough Councils One-Stop reception, at each of the five leisure centres and distributed to local libraries. A total of 424 surveys were returned, providing a substantial statistical evidence base. Residents were asked their views and opinions on green spaces and sports facilities in the borough in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility.

Demographics from respondents

When analysing the data from the public consultation, it was important to take into account the demographics of the respondents and compare this to the population profile of residents in the borough. Due to the nature of the survey, there was a noticeable difference between the demographics of the respondents and the population profile of Gedling and hence, this was taken into account when analysing the results, providing evidence for why consultation with children and young people was conducted as a separate survey.

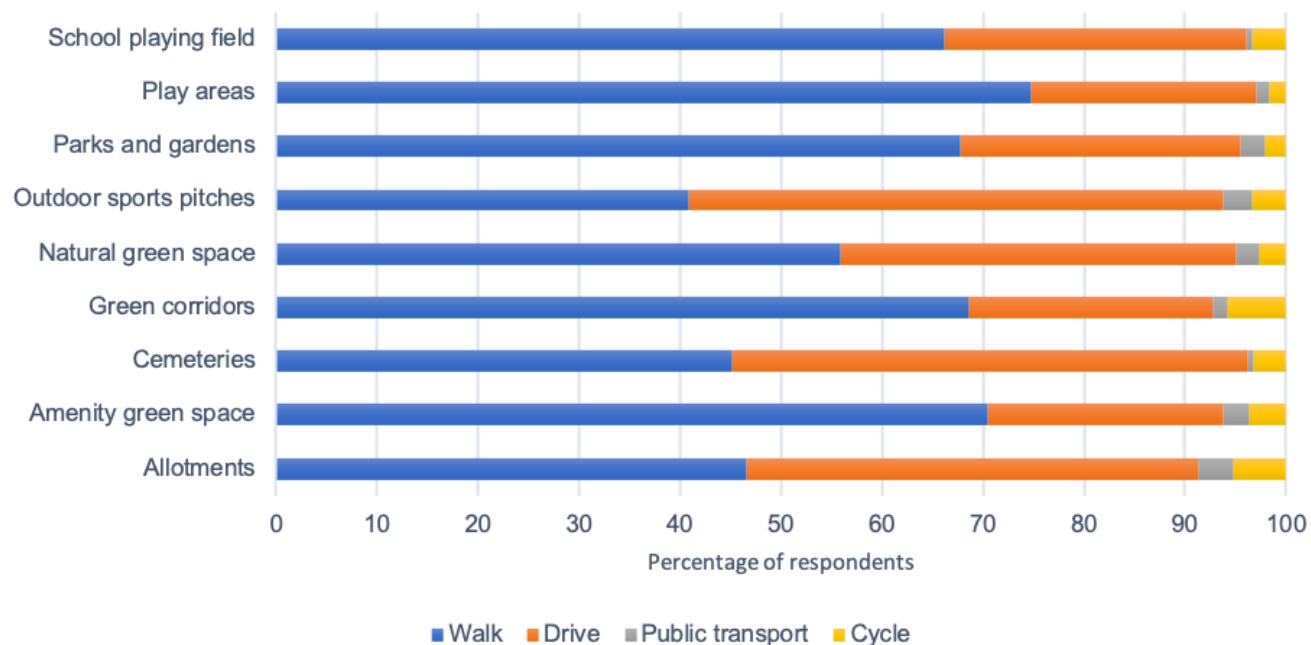
The majority of respondents were female (61%), between the ages of 30 and 44 years of age (35%). Only 0.2% of responses were from those under the age of 16 and 1.2% of respondents were between the ages of 16 to 24. In fact, 66% of respondents were aged between 30 and 59. 87% described their ethnic origin as White British and 3% as White Irish/other, an ethnicity profile that falls broadly in line with the borough’s population statistics, however there were a higher proportion of female respondents than the borough’s profile.

Frequency of visits by typology



Four typologies stand out as the most frequently used (on a daily/weekly basis), these are parks and gardens and natural and semi-natural green space. Of the respondents, the least used facilities were allotments and community gardens and cemeteries and churchyards.

Most common mode of transport used to reach green spaces in Gedling



The most common mode of travel to green space facilities in the borough is by walking and driving. It is interesting to note that significantly more people walk to parks and gardens, natural green space, amenity green space, provision for children, school playing fields and green corridors than drive. Driving is more popular than walking when travelling to cemeteries, outdoor sports facilities and indoor facilities such as swimming pools, sports halls and gyms. Alternative modes of transport including public transport and cycling account for between 0% and 5% within each typology.

Travel times

Residents were asked to identify the travel times they considered as acceptable to the various typologies of green space.

Acceptable travel times and travel modes to green space typologies as identified by the borough's residents

Green Space Typologies	Mode of Travel	Average Travel Time (minutes)	Equivalent Distance Walking (metres)
Parks and Gardens	Walk	15	1210
Amenity Green Space	Walk	8	640
Provision for Children and Young People	Walk	10 minutes for a local children's play area 15 minutes for an informal play area	800 1210
Natural and semi-natural green space	Walk	To a 2ha site: 15 20ha site: 34	1210 2740
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Walk Drive	10 15	800 9660
Allotments and community gardens	Walk Drive	20 10	1610 6,440
Cemeteries and churchyards	Drive/Walk	20	Walk: 1610 Drive: 12870
Green corridors	N/A	N/A	N/A

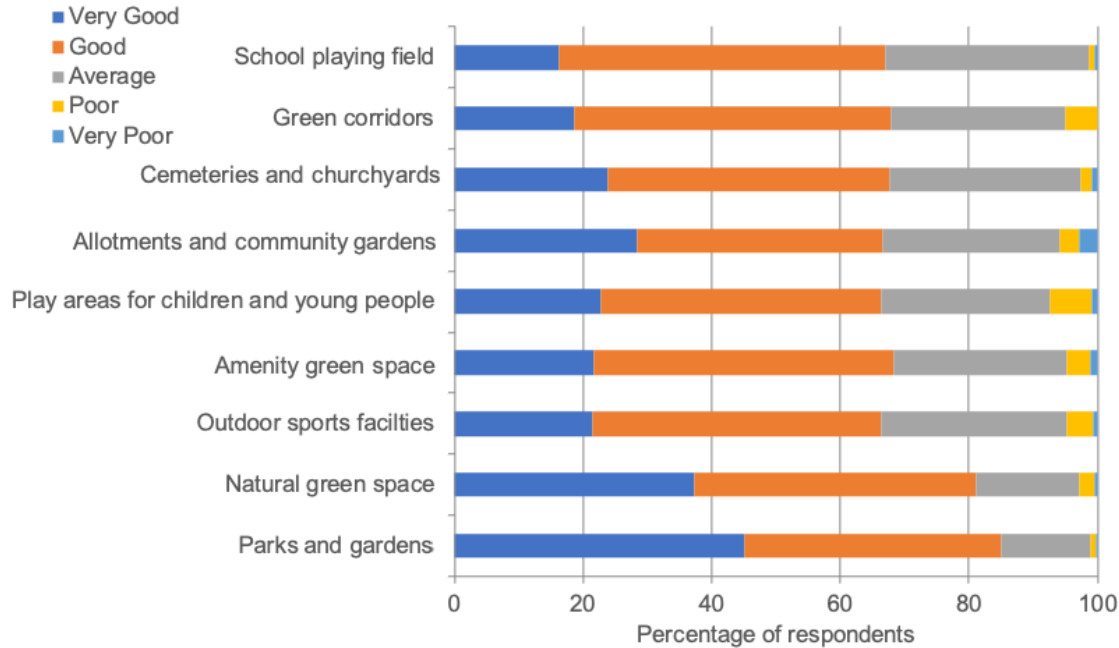
Equivalent distances have been calculated the nearest ten

The table above provides details of reasonable travel times and their preferred mode of transport to green spaces as identified by respondents. The expected travel time was calculated to the top 75 percentile in line with PPG17 guidance. Respondents were asked if the time it takes to travel to each typology was acceptable. Overall, 97% of respondents felt that the travelling time was acceptable. In addition to this, respondents were asked if there were sufficient publicly accessible green spaces in the borough, of which 79% thought there were and 16% thought there were not.

Quality

Local residents were asked to rate the quality of facilities using the descriptions – very good, good, average, poor and very poor. The graph below summaries the responses of those who use the facilities.

Perceptions of quality of green spaces



The general opinion of residents in the borough is that the quality of green spaces on the whole is good across all typologies other than parks and gardens which were rated as very good. The worst performing green spaces were school playing fields and outdoor sport facilities. Although these were rated as good, they had a lower average rating than other outdoor typologies. In addition to the public consultation, consultation took place on Parks and other green spaces as part of the Place Survey. In 2019, 73% of residents were satisfied with parks and green spaces in Gedling. Local residents were also asked to rate some factors on the sites they visited the most. The table below shows respondents responses to these factors:

Quality ratings of specific aspects of green spaces in the borough

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion
Standard of cleanliness	18.9%	47.9%	24.8%	3.8%	0.9%	0.7%
Design and appearance	12.7%	48.1%	30.2%	3.1%	0.7%	0.9%
Visitor facilities	8.5%	32.5%	40.1%	7.1%	0.9%	5.9%
Children and young people's facilities	11.8%	36.8%	25.7%	4.5%	0.9%	13.7%
Outdoor sports facilities	11.6%	39.9%	25.7%	3.3%	0.7%	12.5%
Range of wildlife	14.9%	34.2%	29.0%	5.2%	0.9%	8.7%
Access around the sites	17.9%	48.6%	22.6%	0.9%	0.2%	4.5%
Choice and range of facility across the borough	7.8%	20.8%	12%	1.7%	0.2%	1.9%

The majority of respondents rate the facilities within the borough's green spaces as good. Cleanliness was the highest rated aspect, with 66.8% of respondents rating it as either good or better. Access around the sites was also considered positively with 66.5% considering it as either good or better. Visitor facilities had the worse ratings with 7.1% considering the visitor facilities as poor.

Why people visit green spaces in the borough

Local residents were asked the reasons why they visited public green space in the borough. The top four reasons given were to go for a walk, to relax, to improve health and to take the family. Additionally, residents were asked about barriers to visiting public green space. The most common reasons given as a barrier for use were dog fouling (14%), quality of facilities (8%) and lack of facilities (7.5%). It is interesting to note that those

barriers high up the agenda are related to quality and those quoted less regularly are related to access e.g., too many roads to cross (1.2%) limiting long term illness (0.9%), no one to go with (1.7%)

Local residents were also asked to rate some specific factors on the sites they visited the most. The table below shows respondents responses to these factors. The table shows that “dog fouling and litter” are seen as the biggest issues.

Rating of specific issues on open spaces in the borough

	A very big problem	Significant problem	A fairly big problem	Significant problem	Occasional problem	Not a very big problem	No Problem	No opinion
Vandalism & Graffiti	3.1%	6.8%	12.3%	6.8%	42.7%	21.9%	7.3%	3.1%
Litter Problems	5.2%	13.9%	12%	13.9%	36.3%	20.3%	7.8%	0.9%
Anti-social behaviour	4%	4.7%	11.6%	4.7%	38.2%	20.5%	14.9%	3.1%
Dog fouling	8.5%	15.8%	12%	15.8%	34.4%	17.9%	5.9%	1.9%

Door to Door Survey

In January 2011, 470 respondents were interviewed from a sample of 500 during a door-to-door survey of residents. Residents were asked questions concerning parks and green spaces across the borough and leisure centres and community centres. The results complement the more recent public survey described above. This door-to-door survey provides additional information on:

- The profile of residents that use parks and open spaces in the borough
- Why people use the parks
- Reasons why parks are not used more often
- Parks people avoid using and reasons
- The feeling of safety in the parks
- What would improve safety in parks

Please note: The survey did not classify parks and greens spaces into the LPD20 typologies. Parks and green spaces play provision and outdoor sports facilities were included in what was defined as a park for the survey.

Demographics from respondents

When analysing the data from the door-to-door survey, it was important to account for the demographics of the respondents in comparison to the profile of the borough. Due to the nature of the survey, it was possible to collect data from residents that reflected the profile of the borough. The door-to-door survey showed that the majority of families with dependent children use their local parks and playing fields at least weekly and lone adults are least likely to use them. 46% of people between 25-44 use parks and playing fields on a weekly basis. After 45 years of age, the older the person is, the frequency of visits to these facilities reduces.

Reason for visiting the Parks

The door-to-door survey revealed some differences in the reasons why people use the parks in comparison to the public consultation. For example, the door-to-door survey highlighted people use the parks mainly for children's play and walking. Although public consultation highlighted children's play as relatively popular, it was not the most prevalent reason as to why people visited the parks on a weekly basis. However, it must be taken into account that a higher proportion of respondents from the public consultation were over 45 and hence less likely to have dependent children. From public consultation, other reasons why residents visit on a regular basis are for going for walks.

Reason why parks are not used more frequently	Percentage of respondents
Time	30%
Health/age/disability	18%
No children living at home	13%
Prefer country walks	10%
Lack of interest	8%
Transport/Distance	5%
Anti-social behaviour	4%
No dogs	4%
Weather	3%
Travel to other local authority areas instead	2%
No one to go with	2%
Dog fouling	1%

Those surveyed were asked if there were any reasons why they do not use the parks more often. The most common reason why people do not use the parks more frequently was due to personal time constraints and the second most common was due to health, age and disability. 13% of people felt that because children were not living at home there was not a strong enough reason to visit the parks. The public consultation showed that dog fouling and litter were more of an issue than antisocial behaviour however, when residents were asked during the door-to-door survey what the single biggest problem was, it was revealed that gatherings of youths and dog fouling were the two biggest issues.

People were also asked why they do not visit the parks more often with antisocial behaviour (5%) more of an issue than dog fouling (1%). In addition, when surveyed, respondents were asked why they avoid parks. The main reasons were:

- Young people (35%)
- Fear of crime (13%)
- Dog fouling (9%)
- Antisocial behaviour (5%)
- Vandalism (5%)
- Isolation (5%)

Overall, 91% of people felt safe when using parks within the borough. To improve safety in parks, the most popular suggestions were to use park wardens, better policing, better lighting, fencing, CCTV and provide more activities for youths.

Parks user survey

Nine parks across the borough were surveyed individually to ascertain user's opinions. There was a total of 225 responses from 2018-2019, with a general satisfaction of 95%. These results inform the parks and gardens section of the LPD20 audit. Users were asked questions on the frequency of visits, length of stay, methods of travel, activities undertaken and the quality of the parks. These results are reported in the parks and gardens section of this document.

Sports Club Survey

In March 2016, the Gedling Borough Playing Pitch Strategy was developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis. The following responses from public consultation were received. The breakdowns of clubs were as follows:

- football – 16 responses
- cricket – 4 responses
- bowls – 6 responses

- golf – 3 responses
- rugby – 1 response
- tennis – 1 response

How sports clubs feel about the quality of the open space they use, where 1=poor and 10=excellent

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Playing Area	1	2	5	2	10	0	6	4	3	4
Car Parking	6	5	2	3	4	3	4	5	3	3
Changing Area	6	0	2	5	2	3	3	4	3	7

Clubs were asked to rate the quality of open space facilities they use, on a scale from 1 (poor) to 10 (very good). Clubs were most dissatisfied with car parking facilities, 6 clubs rated them with the lowest possible score. Clubs were most satisfied with the changing areas with 14 changing areas considered 8 or above. However, 6 changing areas were given the lowest score of 1. Taking these results into account, it is important to consider the sports facilities at open spaces on an individual basis.

Clubs were asked if they have sufficient facilities and 33% felt there were not sufficient facilities at their club venue. Comments included:

- Additional full-size pitches and mini pitches
- Better location that houses all teams
- 3G pitch facilities
- Would like their own ground

The most popular comments from clubs in relation to improvements to the existing facilities these included:

- Bigger changing rooms
- Improved storage
- Improved maintenance e.g., bowling greens
- Inadequate car parking spaces
- Better marking out of pitches
- Improved practice facilities

To date, additional pitches including mini pitches have been provided by internal marking within existing pitches. Two new 3G pitches have been constructed at Redhill Academy in the north of the borough and Carlton le Willows Academy in the south. Changing facilities are being replaced at Lambley Lane Recreation Ground, an F.A identified football hub site with additional storage at other sites using metal containers. Staff have undertaken Fine Sports Turf training to improve overall standards of pitch and green maintenance. New line marking machines have been purchased that use the latest technology with laser levels and spray paint application. These replace the old pitch line marker paint barrows.

Allotment Association Consultation

In October 2019, a survey was sent to all five allotment associations in the borough. The associations were asked about the range of facilities provided, quality, current usage, the main issues, future priorities, plans associated with the site and fees and charges.

Quality - All five associations rated the overall quality of the allotments as good or excellent. Chandos was considered as being excellent, this was despite it having fewer facilities and services on-site than some of the other sites. The main quality issues affecting the associations include:

- no toilets
- vandalism
- slow service with regard to repairs
- availability of land
- expectations of new allotment holders – turnover among new plot holders remains high due to plot condition on starting and an underestimation of the time and hard work involved in allotment gardening
- voluntary nature of committee
- dissemination of good practice could be improved

Quantity - No allotment sites in the borough have any vacant slots, and although, in recent years, waiting list numbers have declined, since the COVID-19 pandemic, they have vastly increased. The recent allotment review revealed the following waiting list totals.

Allotment Site	Waiting List Totals
Stoke Lane	29
Robin Hood	9
Gedling Grove	7
Leapool	9
Chandos Street	8
Killisick	18
Howbeck	27
Rookery Gardens	18
Parishes	30
Total	155

Access - All allotment associations felt that the travelling time to allotments was acceptable. The majority of people either used a car or walked. Travelling time for driving was between 5-10 minutes and walking between 10-20 minutes. The main priority for the future from all three associations were more allotment sites. The second most popular priority was improved on-site facilities. GBC allotments have seen a steady improvement since the 2012 strategy, with improved facilities for people with disabilities and the installation of new toilets and meeting rooms.

Friends of Group Survey

At the time of consultation, Friends' of Groups were consulted through completion of a questionnaire, where they were asked questions concerning the quality and plans for their associated park. The overall view of the quality of parks they represented ranged from average to excellent. Gedling Country Park and Arnot Hill Park were excellent, Burton Road Jubilee Park rated as good and Gedling House Woods good but with issues. Issues were individual to each park; however, vandalism was an issue at Gedling House Woods and Arnot Hill Park. All Friends of Groups felt that there needed to be more parks and green spaces in the borough, that are of better quality.

Parish Council Survey

Formal consultation took place with the Parish Councils in preparation for the green space strategy 2012. The consultation was in the form of a questionnaire and allowed site inventories to be updated, gain an insight on the level of usage, condition and identify any future aspirations of the Parish Councils.

Schools Survey

Questionnaires were forwarded to all schools within the borough (both primary and secondary) which derived 44 responses. The following provides an overview of the opinions on the outdoor facilities located on education sites. 69% of schools responded to say they had sports facilities on their sites. 12 schools (50%) which currently do not have community use stated they would consider community use in the future. All these were primary school and are listed below:

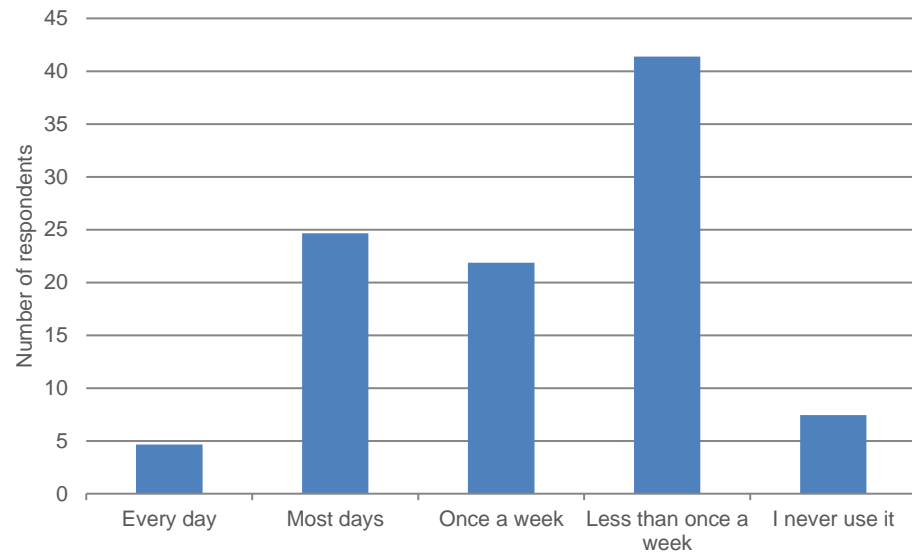
- Arno Vale Primary school
- All Hallows Primary School
- Arnold View Primary School
- Burton Joyce Primary School
- Carlton Central Primary School
- Westdale Primary School
- Seely C of E Primary School
- Stanhope Primary School
- Linby and Papplwick Primary School
- Robert Mellors Primary School
- St Wilfrids c of E Primary School

Outdoor facilities at education sites include mini, junior and senior football pitches, hockey (grass pitches), rugby, cricket, synthetic turf pitches, multi-use game area and tennis courts. Schools were asked to rate the quality of their own facilities. Quality varied significantly from poor to excellent with the majority assessing their facilities as good or average. Five schools have plans to improve sports facilities in the future.

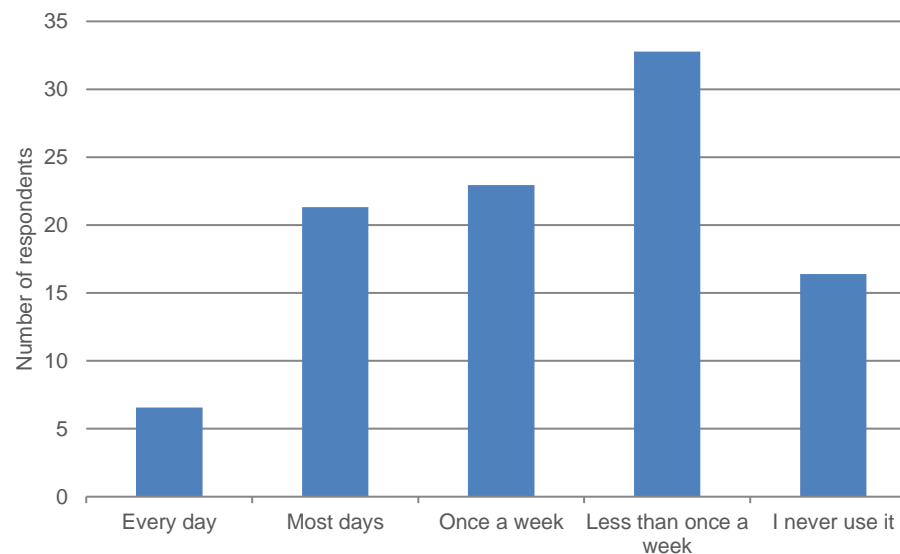
Children & Young People

All schools in Gedling were invited to participate in an online survey or complete a hard copy version of the same questionnaire. 353 questionnaire responses were received from the ages of 4 to 15.

Frequency of visits by children and young people to parks and open spaces



Frequency of visits by children and young people to play areas



When asked about the frequency of visits to parks and green spaces in Gedling, over 50% of respondents stated that they use parks and green spaces once a week or more, whilst only 7% never use green spaces. When questioned specifically about visits to local play areas, the number of children who never use them increased to 16% however, 50% still used play areas once a week or more. Children and young people were asked what their perfect place to play would contain, the most popular answers were places to make dens and lots of play equipment. Respondents were also asked whether facilities for children and young people could be improved in their area. The majority stated that they feel facilities could be better (56% of respondents), with the following most popular comments being made in relation to necessary improvements:

- Reduce the amount of litter and dog fouling
- There is no playground near us (Mapperley Plains School)
- More equipment on the parks with particular reference to climbing equipment
- Less vandalism
- More space
- More woods and rocks (natural play)
- Improved safety
- Less rubbish and graffiti and more places/dens for young children to go

Internal consultation

It was important that during the production of the assessment, internal officers and council members were aware of the development of the assessment and strategy. Internal consultation was carried out with council officers, from Planning, Environmental services, Leisure Services. The key themes that arose have been reviewed in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility:

Quality

- overall, the green spaces are well maintained
- some high-quality play areas in the urban conurbation
- dog-fouling issues
- quality of pavilions requires improvements
- parks require more monitoring to reduce antisocial behaviour
- play areas are being damaged by dogs and suffer from graffiti
- more conservation work could be done on our parks
- the role third tier government plays in maintenance and management of open space (short term and long term)

Quantity

- more football pitches are required
- a lack of tennis facilities in the Arnold area
- there is an over demand of allotment plots. Plots could be halved to help meet demand
- the amount of amenity green space varies across the borough
- more burial space required (now provided at Carlton Cemetery)
- amenity green space is overall well provided, however, some areas have a shortfall
- more provision for play areas for children and young people is required on all sizeable new developments, in particular for older children with the provision of MUGA, skateparks and teen shelters

Accessibility

- limited car parking at cemeteries and issues with one-way system within the cemetery
- opening up more school sites for community use should be considered
- ensure continued future accessibility for those with disability

Appendix 2

Parks and Gardens

Appendix 2a: *Quantity audit of parks and gardens in the borough*

Site name	Size in ha	Ward	Urban/Rural
Newstead Country Park	88.9	Newstead	Rural
Newstead Abbey Park	62.9	Newstead	Rural
Gedling Country Park	240	Gedling and Plains Wards	Rural
Alpin Crescent	0.07	Valley	Urban
Valley Road	1.51	Carlton Hill	Urban
Hereford Road Open Space	0.18	Gedling	Urban
Willow Park	1.91	Gedling	Urban
Arnot Hill Park	8.3	Kingswell	Urban
Burntstump Country Park	20.02	Newstead	Rural
Newstead Railway Station	4.20	Newstead	Rural
Woodthorpe Library Gardens	0.16	Woodthorpe	Urban
Bestwood Country Park	279	Bestwood Village	Rural
Plains Estate Park	0.34	Mapperley Plains	Urban
Downham, Overstrand, Carmel	0.06	Kingswell	Urban
Coronation Gardens	0.12	Gedling	Urban
Gedling post office	0.12	Gedling	Urban
Total		708	

Appendix 2b: APSE Classification categories. Each park, open space and play area are assessed according to how many of the following 42 facilities each site possesses.

Facility list

Aquarium*
 Arboretum*
 Artificial sports pitch*
 Aviary*
 Bandstand*
 Boating Lake*
 Bowling green*
 Car parking*
 CCTV/Other security*
 Changing facilities/pavilion*
 Defined park boundary*
 Dog bins
 Footpath
 Formal/memorial beds/floral displays*
 Full access to all park areas for disabled persons
 Glasshouses/floral conservatory*
 Hard surface for play/kick about area/kicking wall
 LEAP play area*
 LAP play area
 Litter bins
 Multiple sports pitches*
 Multiple play/adventure play*
 Museum*
 Paddling pool
 Site based staff (i.e park rangers/wardens, maintenance staff, games attendants, offices*
 Petanque
 Pet's corner*
 Pitch & putt*
 Plant collection (NCCPG)
 Putting greens

Refreshments facilities*

Seating

Signage

Single sports pitch

Single play unit

Tennis/netball courts*

Toilets*

Visitor and/or information centre*

Visitor Facilities* (i.e. railways, bouncy castles, model boating pond)

War memorials/statues/sculptures/follies

Water features/fountains

Woodland walk*

Category A park - Category A parks are formally defined parks/open spaces/recreation areas having at least a 3-mile catchment area and at least 20 of the facilities from the facility list. (at least 10 of which must be marked *).

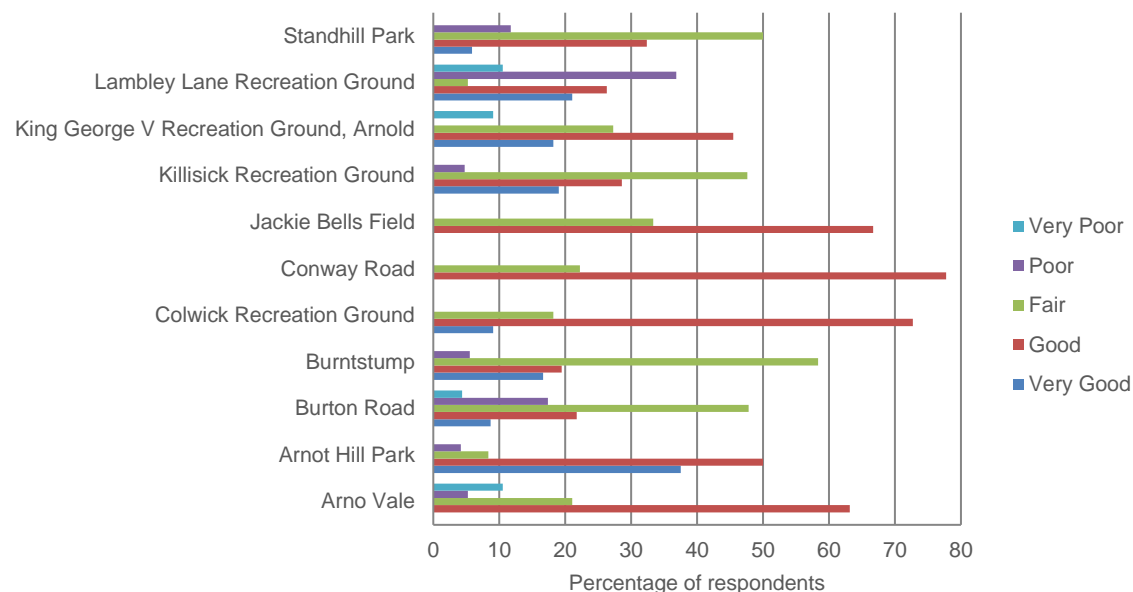
Category B parks - Category B parks are a formally defined park/open space/recreation area having at least a 0.75-mile catchment area with a least 10 facilities from the facility list. (at least 5 of which must be marked *).

Category C parks - Category C parks are a park/open space/recreation area having at least a 0.25-mile catchment area with at least 6 facilities from the facility list. (at least 3 of which must be marked *).

Category D Parks - Category D parks are a park/open space/recreation area having at least a 0.5-mile catchment area with at least 1 facility from the facility list.

Appendix 2c: Site Specific Consultation

Table to show users overall impression of individual parks and gardens in the borough



Arnot Hill Park was considered the best park out of those where user surveys took place with 88% of responders deeming it as either good or better. Burton Road has been significantly improved and is now rated as very good standard. There were a number of comments requesting more sporting events and coaching opportunities on the parks.

Public, user and Friends of Group's consultation have been used to examine the different parks and gardens across the borough. The key findings from each site were:

Arno Vale - The quality of grass was considered as the best aspect and protection of nature and wildlife considered as in most need of improvement.

Arnot Hill Park - The highest rated facility with maintenance of trees, flowers and plants being one of its main strengths. Although still rated as good the area most in need of improvement was the range of facilities.

Burton Road – This was considered as park in need of the most improvements. The standard of cleanliness and the protection of nature were considered the area which required most improvement and the standard of the grass being the positive aspect of the park. Since the survey improvements have taken place to the park.

Burntstump Park - The standard of cleanliness and the quality of sports facilities are areas which users felt required most improvement with the standard of the grass being the best rated aspect of the park.

Colwick Recreation Ground – This park was rated positively; the main strengths were the maintenance of trees, flowers and scrubs and range of facilities. Colwick Recreation Ground is adjacent to Colwick Country Park managed by Nottingham City Council which enhances what it has to offer. Cleanliness and dog fouling were the main areas for concern

Conway Road - Most of the users rated the majority of the different aspects of Conway Road as very good. The standard of cleanliness was considered the best rated aspect.

Jackie Bells - The care and protection of nature and wildlife at Jackie Bells was considered as poor by the majority of responders, this is no doubt influenced by its urban location.

The range of facilities and sports facilities was considered the best aspects of the park although there were a number of requests for toilet and refreshment facilities

Killisick Recreation Ground – This park is influenced by its sub urban location with care and protection nature and wildlife considered the area in need of the most improvement. The maintenance of trees, flowers and scrubs was its best quality

King George, Arnold - The Quality of Sports facilities were considered as poor at King George V, Arnold. Cleanliness was considered as one of the better aspects of this park.

Lambley Lane -The standard of grass was considered to be the main strength of the site. The quality of the sports facilities was considered as the main area for improvement. Literal responses described the park as a windswept desolate underutilised area.

Standhill Road, Carlton - The main areas of improvement were care and protection of nature and wildlife play facilities for teenagers. Since the user consultation was completed improvements have taken place to the children's and teenage play facilities on the park.

Appendix 2d: Green Flag Award Criteria

Section 1: A welcoming Place

This section recognises the culmination of everything done well. A welcoming place is one that invites and draws people into it. This means creating a space which, through its visual appearance, range of facilities, standards of maintenance and ease of access, makes people feel that they are in a cared-for place.

1. Welcome
2. Good and Safe Access
3. Signage
4. Equal Access for All

Section 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure

This section looks at how well managers understand their users' needs, encouraging them to enjoy healthy activities using appropriate, safe-to-use facilities and activities, and to feel personally safe and secure.

5. Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities
6. Safe Equipment and Facilities
7. Personal Security
8. Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling

Section 3: Well Maintained and Clean

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular:

- + litter and other waste management issues must be adequately dealt with;
- + grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained;
- + policies on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice, and regularly reviewed.

9. Litter and Waste Management
10. Horticultural Maintenance
11. Arboricultural Maintenance
12. Building and Infrastructure Maintenance
13. Equipment Maintenance

Section 4: Environmental Management

This section seeks to ensure that the way the site is managed has a positive impact on the environment, locally and globally, both now and for the future. Where choices can be made for future procurement, landscaping or buildings, they should aim to minimise energy and resource consumption and waste, and design in benefits to the local and global environment. Policies should seek to eliminate the use of peat and chemicals to control pests and as fertilisers. Horticultural and arboricultural decisions should reflect an understanding of the impacts of climate change.

- 14. Managing Environmental Impact
- 15. Waste Minimisation
- 16. Chemical Use
- 17. Peat Use
- 18. Climate Change Adaption Strategies

Section 5: Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Attention should be paid to the appropriate management and conservation of natural features, wildlife and flora; landscape features; and buildings and structures. Their particular character and requirements should be identified and appropriate management strategies put in place to conserve and enhance them.

- 19. Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora
- 20. Conservation of Landscape Features
- 21. Conservation of Buildings and Structures

Section 6: Community Involvement

This section examines the extent to which the managing organisation:

- + understands the community it seeks to serve;
- + actively and appropriately involves members of the community in making decisions about the site's development;
- + provides opportunities for active participation in site projects; and
- + ensures that there is appropriate provision of recreational facilities and activities for all sectors of the community.

- 22. Community Involvement in Management and Development
- 23. Appropriate Provision for Community

Section 7: Marketing and Communication

This section seeks to examine the ways that managers understand the key benefits of the site and how they use this information to promote it appropriately. They should understand who the main user groups are, could be or should be, and use a fitting range of interpretation and engagement techniques to communicate with them. This basis ensures that appropriate facilities, events and activities can be offered and most effectively promoted, and forms a solid foundation for development now and in the future.

- 24. Marketing and Promotion
- 25. Appropriate Information Channels
- 26. Appropriate Educational and Interpretational Information

Section 8: Management

This section evaluates how well the management plan is implemented on site.

- 27. Implementation of Management Plan

Appendix 2e: Gedling Borough site quality assessment

Summary of Site Inspections by Scores & Gap in Quality of Provision (Summer 2010 Assessment)								
APSE Classification	Site Location	Site Score	Potential Score	Difference (Gap)	No. of Assessment Criteria	Average Site Score divided by Assessment	Average x 7 to get Green Flag Score	Pass
C	Breckhill	139	187	48	25	5.6	39	Fail
B	Arnot Hill Park	226	241	15	27	8.4	59	Pass
C	Arno Vale Road	116	141	25	19	6.1	43	Pass

B	Burntstump CP	159	191	32	24	6.6	46	Pass
B	KGV Standhill	147	173	26	23	6.4	45	Pass
C	Carlton Hill Rec	136	157	21	22	6.1	43	Pass
C	Cavendish Road	113	136	23	20	5.6	39	Fail
C	Church Lane	153	182	29	23	6.6	46	Pass
B	Colwick Rec	148	164	16	23	6.4	45	Pass
B	Conway Road	136	159	23	24	5.7	40	Fail
C	Jackie Bells	141	156	15	22	6.4	45	Pass
B	Burton Road	128	166	38	23	5.6	39	Fail
C	Killisick Rec	139	163	24	23	6.0	42	Pass
B	KGV Arnold	125	156	31	21	5.9	41	Fail
B	Lambley Lane (N)	140	171	31	25	5.6	39	Fail
B	Lambley Lane (S)	121	154	33	23	5.2	36	Fail
C	Newstead	124	141	17	20	6.2	43	Pass
B	Oakdale Road	175	210	35	26	6.7	47	Pass
C	Thackerays Lane	138	163	25	24	5.7	40	Fail
C	Queensbower	129	138	9	20	6.4	45	Pass
60% in the field evaluation (score 42 out of 70). Score over 42 to gain a pass.								

Appendix 3

Natural and Semi Natural Green Space

Site audit of Natural and Semi-Natural green space

Site Name	Size (ha)	Definition	Ward	Location
Loop Road Wood, rear of Chandos St Allotments.	0.9	Other	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
The Hobbucks	14	LNR	Killisick ward	Urban
Woodborough Conservation Areas	1.3	Other	Woodborough Ward	Rural
Surgeys Lane	0.1	Other	St. Mary's Ward	Rural
Netherfield Lagoons	51.0	LNR	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Emmanuel Avenue (Churchfield Plantation)	0.2	Other	Porchester Ward	Rural
Beeston Close	0.7	Other	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Gedling House Woods and Meadow	7.0	LNR	Gedling Ward	Urban
Ashwell Street / Bourne Street Walkway	0.1	Other	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Ravenhead Knoll	0.4	LWS	Ravenshead Ward	Rural
Longdale Plantation	28.3	LWS	Caverton Ward	Rural
Longdale Heath	1.5	LWS	Ravenshead Ward	Rural
Fox Covert	8.5	LWS	Ravenshead Ward	Rural
Raceground Hill	7.5	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Mill Pond Plantation	3.9	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Cornwalls Hill Grassland	1.7	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Stockhill Grasslands, Lambley	6.7	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Burton Joyce Pasture	5.7	LWS	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
The Woodpeckers, Burton Joyce	0.9	LWS	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Burton Joyce Grasslands	3.6	LWS	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Burton Joyce Scrub	3.2	LWS	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Crock Dumble	5.2	LWS	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural

Barrons Plantation with Gedling Wood	6.2	LWS	Gedling Ward	Urban
Harveys Plantation Meadow	1.1	LWS	Gedling Ward	Urban
New Plantation, Burton Joyce	9.4	LWS	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Lambley Dumble Grassland	7.8	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Lambley Dumble Pasture	3.5	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Lambley Dumble	3.0	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Marshy Grasslands, Lambley	2.7	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Catfoot Lane Grassland	2.9	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Fox Covert Grasslands, Lambley	0.7	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Grassland / Hedge, Lambley	1.3	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Mapperley Plains Paddocks	1.5	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Fox Wood	3.8	LWS	Lambley Ward	Rural
Grassland (Horse Grazed), Calverton	0.7	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Lamp Wood	5.7	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Georges' Lane Scrub	0.6	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Bestwood Sand Quarry	22.8	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Trumpers Park Wood	4.0	LWS	Ravenshead Ward	Rural
Linby Village Disused Railway	2.1	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Joes Wood	1.4	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Aldercar Wood	11.6	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Linby - Newstead Disused Railway	3.6	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Calf Pasture	10.9	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Break Lane	0.5	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Seven Mile Railway	4.6	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Calverton Pit Mineral Railway	8.3	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Lodge Farm Grassland, Calverton	1.5	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Roadside Verge, Calverton	0.6	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Little Rickets Lane Scrub	2.9	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Newstead Dismantled Railway Sidings	9.2	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Linby Paddock	0.7	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Wighay Road Grassland	3.3	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Moor Pond Wood	5.7	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural

Top Wighay Farm Drive	0.6	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Bestwood Duckponds	18.1	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
North Dumble	1.0	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Bestwood Parkside Grasslands	20.8	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Pit Tip Top Plantation	25.0	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Former Gedling Colliery Land	35.1	LWS	Gedling Ward	Rural
Appleton Dale	7.5	LWS	Gedling Ward	Rural
Dark Lane, Calverton	0.7	LWS	Calverton Ward	Rural
Burton Joyce Cemetery	0.8	LWS	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Bestwood Country Park	62.8	LWS	Bestwood Village Ward	Rural
Woodborough Cemetery	0.4	LWS	Woodborough Ward	Rural
Linby Churchyard	0.4	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Newstead Football Pitch	1.1	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Newstead Cemetery	0.5	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Carlton Cemetery	5.1	LWS	Valley Ward	Urban
Linby Quarries	55.1	LWS	Newstead Ward	Rural
Gedling Cemetery	0.7	LWS	Gedling Ward	Rural
Midland Wood (Whimsy Park)	16.2	Other	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Total	548.9			

It must be noted that a number of sites with elements of natural and semi natural green space were not included in the audit due to them not being classified as Local Wildlife Sites and having another primary function. For example, this includes land categorised under the typology parks and gardens such as Burntstump Country Park.

Appendix 4 Amenity Green Space

Site audit of amenity green space

Site Name	Size (ha)	Ward	Location
Bestwood Avenue/Close	0.61	Bonington Ward	Urban
Bestwood Lodge Drive Estate	6.21	Bonington Ward	Urban
Bewcastle Road	0.03	Bonington Ward	Urban
Ernehale Court	0.10	Bonington Ward	Urban
Larkspur Avenue/ Lodge Farm	0.01	Bonington Ward	Urban
Muirfield Road	0.66	Bonington Ward	Urban
Stanhope Crescent	0.10	Bonington Ward	Urban
Woodchurch Road Bestwood	1.00	Bonington Ward	Urban
Bramble Drive (Honeywood Gardens)	0.01	Carlton Hill Ward	Urban
Cherrywood Gardens	0.09	Carlton Hill Ward	Urban
Foxhill Road	0.17	Carlton Hill Ward	Urban
Holly Avenue/ Cross St. Carlton	0.03	Carlton Hill Ward	Urban
Honeywood Garden	2.22	Carlton Hill Ward	Urban
Standhill Road Flats	0.10	Carlton Hill Ward	Urban
Carlton Business Centre	0.04	Carlton Ward	Urban
Carlton Hill Flats	0.37	Carlton Ward	Urban
Carlton Square Offices	0.01	Carlton Ward	Urban
Cromwell St Flats/ Walton Court	0.24	Carlton Ward	Urban
Moreland Court	0.22	Carlton Ward	Urban
Orchard Avenue	0.01	Carlton Ward	Urban
Southdale Drive	0.09	Carlton Ward	Urban
Bagnall Avenue Hostel	0.05	Daybrook Ward	Urban
Byron Street/ Wordsworth Street	0.03	Daybrook Ward	Urban
Coleridge Cresecnt	0.13	Daybrook Ward	Urban
Danes Close	0.05	Daybrook Ward	Urban
Nottingham Road Flats	0.12	Daybrook Ward	Urban
Queensbower Road / Bestwood Lodge Drive	2.10	Daybrook Ward	Urban
Seagrave Court	0.01	Daybrook Ward	Urban
St Albans Road Flats/ Furlong St Flats	0.05	Daybrook Ward	Urban
St. Albans Road Flats	0.02	Daybrook Ward	Urban

Top Valley, Oxclose Lane	0.58	Daybrook Ward	Urban
West Street/ High Street Avenue	0.07	Daybrook Ward	Urban
Bramble Court	0.19	Gedling Ward	Urban
Brooklands Drive	0.13	Gedling Ward	Urban
Burton Pastures	0.60	Gedling Ward	Urban
Burton Road Burton Joyce	4.15	Gedling Ward	Urban
Conway Road	0.85	Gedling Ward	Urban
Coronation Walk Bungalows	0.14	Gedling Ward	Urban
Coronation Walk/Burton Road	0.22	Gedling Ward	Urban
Salford Close	0.14	Gedling Ward	Urban
St. Austin's Court	0.10	Gedling Ward	Urban
Bonnington Drive Flats	0.04	Killisick Ward	Urban
Brook Avenue	0.50	Killisick Ward	Urban
Kilbourne Road	4.29	Killisick Ward	Urban
Killisick Court	0.22	Killisick Ward	Urban
Kilnbrook Avenue	0.06	Killisick Ward	Urban
Oakdale Road	0.09	Killisick Ward	Urban
Taverhillfield Court, Kilnbrook Ave	0.02	Killisick Ward	Urban
Brookfield Road	1.28	Kingswell Ward	Urban
Brookfield Road Flats	0.05	Kingswell Ward	Urban
Downham Close	0.21	Kingswell Ward	Urban
Gedling Grove Flats	0.14	Kingswell Ward	Urban
Arnold Hill Community Centre	0.01	Mapperley Plains Ward	Urban
Edison Way Square	0.08	Mapperley Plains Ward	Urban
Howbeck Road/ Gleneagles Drive	0.11	Mapperley Plains Ward	Urban
Spinningdale Open Space	0.57	Mapperley Plains Ward	Urban
Wemberley Road/ Plains Road Open Space	1.93	Mapperley Plains Ward	Urban
Bailey Court	0.03	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Bourne Mews	0.46	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Britannia Court	0.14	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban

Curzon Street Flats	0.09	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Curzon Street/Ley Street	0.02	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Hotspur Drive	0.25	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Kingsley Drive / Rochester Avenue	0.02	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Kingsley Drive Open Space	0.96	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Ley Street Community Centre	0.02	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Meadow Road Flats	0.05	Netherfield and Colwick Ward	Urban
Charles Close	0.16	Phoenix Ward	Urban
Phoenix Avenue Recreation Ground	0.29	Phoenix Ward	Urban
Princess Close	0.07	Phoenix Ward	Urban
Oxclose Lane Estate	0.16	Sherwood Ward	Urban
Beck Street/Worth Street Flats	0.05	Valley Ward	Urban
Bentinick Road	0.16	Valley Ward	Urban
Cavendish Crescent	0.03	Valley Ward	Urban
Foxhill Road Flats	0.01	Valley Ward	Urban
Foxhill Road/ Cavendish Road Footpath	0.02	Valley Ward	Urban
Ian Grove	0.03	Valley Ward	Urban
Radcliffe Gardens	0.02	Valley Ward	Urban
Woodthorpe Drive	0.12	Woodthorpe Ward	Urban
Church Road / Chestnut Grove Play Area	0.47	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Lendrum Court	0.51	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Stoke Bardolph	0.27	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Stoke Lane/Station Road	0.83	Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward	Rural
Broom Road	0.28	Calverton Ward	Rural
Calverton Open Space	1.64	Calverton Ward	Rural

Collyer Road / Mews Lane	0.01	Calverton Ward	Rural
Dunelm Drive	2.36	Calverton Ward	Rural
Governors Field, Main Street	1.90	Calverton Ward	Rural
Jumelles Drive / Longue Drive	0.31	Calverton Ward	Rural
Lee Road	0.07	Calverton Ward	Rural
Lee Road Rec Ground	0.70	Calverton Ward	Rural
Manor Road Garages Calverton	0.29	Calverton Ward	Rural
Nabarro Court Calverton	0.37	Calverton Ward	Rural
Renals Way / Brickenell Road	0.23	Calverton Ward	Rural
Seely Avenue	0.46	Calverton Ward	Rural
Spindle View	0.20	Calverton Ward	Rural
Thorndale Road / Park Road	0.37	Calverton Ward	Rural
Coppice Road/ Mapperley Plains	0.05	Lambley Ward	Rural
Cromwell Crescent Lambley	0.04	Lambley Ward	Rural
Hucknall Road Recreation Ground	1.09	Newstead Ward	Rural
Linby Village	0.04	Newstead Ward	Rural
Newstead Colliery Open Space, Tilford Road	3.07	Newstead Ward	Rural
Papplewick Moor Road	1.00	Newstead Ward	Rural
Rear of Griffins Head	0.17	Newstead Ward	Rural
Plains Road Mapperley, Mapperley Miners Welfare Cl	0.97	Porchester Ward	Urban
St. Andrew's House, Digby Avenue	0.21	Porchester Ward	Urban
Westdale Lane Community Centre	0.09	Porchester Ward	Urban
Westmoore Close Housing Area	0.45	Porchester Ward	Urban
Westmoore Court	0.18	Porchester Ward	Urban
Haddon Road	0.18	Ravenshead Ward	Urban
Cavendish Road Bungalows	0.04	St. James Ward	Urban
Orchard Court	0.22	St. James Ward	Urban
Wollaton Avenue Community Centre	0.05	St. James Ward	Urban
Asda Shrubbery (High Street)	0.02	St. Mary's Ward	Urban
Calverton Road	0.21	St. Mary's Ward	Urban
Church Lane Flats	0.07	St. Mary's Ward	Urban
Church Street/Coppice Road Flats	0.06	St. Mary's Ward	Urban

Rookery Gardens	0.31	St. Mary's Ward	Urban
St Mary's Church/Rest Garden	0.75	St. Mary's Ward	Urban
St Marys Close Flats	0.02	St. Mary's Ward	Urban
Rushcliffe Avenue Community Centre	0.02	Valley Ward	Urban
Park Avenue Woodborough	0.01	Woodborough Ward	Urban
Smalls Croft	0.33	Woodborough Ward	Urban
Marshall Hill Drive, Carlton Hill	2.00	Carlton Ward	Urban
Arnold Vale road	1.40	Woodborough Ward	Urban
Rural Total		16.73ha	
Urban Total		42.40ha	
Overall Total		59.13ha	

Appendix 5 Provision for Children and Young People

Appendix 5a: *The main characteristics of LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs*

	Local Area for Play	Locally Equipped Area for Play	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
Age group	Up to 6 years.	4-8 years.	Older children.
Walking time from home	1 minute.	5 minutes.	10 minutes.
Location	Adjacent to a well-used pathway, overlooked by houses and on a flat site that is well drained.	Adjacent to a well-used pathway and on a flat site that is well drained.	Adjacent to a well-used pathway and on a flat site that is well drained.
Minimum activity zone	100m ² .	400m ² .	1,000m ² divided into 2 parts; at least 465m ² of hard surface area and equipped play space area.

No. and type of play equipment	Demonstrative play features to enable children to identify space as their own domain.	At least 5 types of play equipment where at least 2 are individual items rather than part of a combination. Impact absorbing surface beneath and around play equipment.	At least 8 types of play equipment to allow developmental play amongst younger children and moderate/adventurous play for older children.
Buffer zone	5m depth including planting.	10m depth including planting and other physical features.	30m depth including planting and other physical features.
Fencing	600mm high fencing and barrier to limit speed of child entering or leaving the facility.	1m high fencing with two pedestrian gates & barriers to limit speed of child entering/leaving the facility.	1m high fencing with two pedestrian gates & barriers to limit speed of child entering/leaving the facility.
Furniture	Seating.	Seating and a litter bin.	Seating and litter bins at each access point. Secure bicycle parking facilities.
Signs and notices	Area solely used for children and that adults are not allowed unless accompanied by children.	Area solely used for children and that adults are not allowed unless accompanied by children, and name and tel. no. of facility manager.	Area solely used for children and that adults are not allowed unless accompanied by children, and name and tel. no. of facility manager.

Appendix 5b: Play Value pro forma (Derived from Play England and ROSPA)

Site Name:

Number of pieces of equipment:

Weather:

Assessment By:

Date:

Toddlers

Juniors

Criteria	No. of pieces of equipment	Max	Score
Balancing		1	
Crawling (Short tunnels etc)		1	
Hiding		1	
Climbing		1	
Jumping/bouncing		1	
Rolling		1	
Rocking		1	
Rotating		1	
Sliding		1	
Swinging		1	
Sensory Items (sight, smell and sound) Traffic is negative.		3	
Textural Variety (two types of material = 1, three types plus = 2)		2	
3+Primary Colours (bold colours)		2	
Toddler Seating		1	

Criteria	No. of pieces of equipment	Max	Score
Balancing		2	
Crawling (Short tunnels etc)		1	
Rocking		1	
Rotating		1	
Rotating (Multi-use i.e., roundabouts etc)		2	
Rocking and rotating (Mobilus, Waltz etc)		4	
Sliding conventional (i.e., slide etc)		1	
Sliding (Fireman's pole etc)		1	
Swinging (Single)		1	
Swinging (Group)		2	
Gliding (Aerial runways etc)		2	
Hanging		1	
Climbing (ladders, climbing wall and net)		3	

Does it lend to Imaginative play? Score relates to number of items that allow for imaginative play 0 >1=1, 2>3= 2, 3+=5			
Interactive ability (Items encouraging group) pieces of equipment 1 or 2=1,3 or 4=2, 5+3			
Parental Seating (in Toddler section)			

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Teenagers

Criteria	No. of pieces of equipment	Max	Score
Interaction - Number of items which allow for group play. 4=4 marks 1=1mark etc		4	
Sports Simulation / Dynamic Equipment / Competition. Site caters for 1 sport site caters for more than one sport, site allows for competition, equipment is multi use		4	

Agility (Clatter bridges etc)			2
Ball Play (Basketball/netball/football) when encouraging competition more marks			4
Textural Variety (two types of material = 1, three types plus = 2) manipulate natural and fabricated materials			2
Wheeled Play (for bikes, skateboards etc) flow, mix of obstacles and terrain			6
3+ Primary colours			1
Interactive ability (Items encouraging group) pieces of equipment 1 or 2 =1 3or 4=2 5+3			3
Junior Seating			1

Totals 27 0

Fitness equipment 4= broad range of fitness equipment including cardio and muscular items 3 = less than 6 items but cardio and muscular present 2= only one type of equipment present but more than 1 in quantity 1= one piece of equipment		4	
Rocking and rotating (Mobilus, Waltz etc) one mark for Rocking, one for rotating, an extra mark if there is more than 1 item.		4	
Swinging (Group) Up to two marks for a basket swing, up 2 marks for a rope swing 1-2 marks depends on quality		4	
Gliding (1 = glide rail, 2= small to medium sized Aerial runways 3 = large aerial runway)		3	
Climbing (Climbing walls etc) 1= climbing present 2= Climbing applicable for all ages		2	

Imaginative play (Area lending to use of child's imagination, floor graphics, pretend play, local connection)		4	
Educational Play (abacus etc)		1	

48 0

SITE ASSESSMENT

Criteria	Max	Details	Score
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Textual variety 1-2 materials used =1 3+ is two marks. manipulate natural and fabricated materials		2		Physical Safety, including secure boundary, vandalism, personal safety, maintenance of equipment, feeling of safety	5	Overlooked CCTV, self-closing gate	
Graphics - one mark each of these: graphics present, children involved in producing it, use of bright colour		3		Minimum of two gates and self-closing	2		
Teenage Seating areas/shelters. Seating - 1 mark for good location, 1 mark for seat rests, 1 mark for normal seating. Shelter -1 mark for a shelter present, 1 mark for good location of shelter, 1 mark for panels		6		Access suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs (2	one mark for gates being DDA compliant and one for level access)	
Ball Play number of sports (football, basketball/netball, cricket) 1 mark line markings, 2 marks surface condition,		6		Age separation	3	clearly defined area which allows Children to easily transfer areas	
Wheeled Play (for bikes, skateboards etc) 2 marks for ancillary facilities e.g. seating area, 2 marks for flow, 2 marks for mix of obstacles and terrain		6		Access for disabled (in reference to activities provided by equipment)	3	1=1-2, 2=3-4, 3=5+	
Total		48	0	Adult Seats	1		
				Bike storage	1		

Is the play area well used?	1= not used 5=very well used	5	
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Suitable litter bins	1		
appropriate signage	1		
Layout? location is a part of the throughfare, and location in area	2		

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Gedling Borough Playing Pitch Strategy and action plan

An update of the Playing Pitch Strategy is currently being prepared for republication in 2021. The information provided below will inform the new Playing Pitch Strategy and is the latest information the council holds about the outdoor sports facilities in the borough.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
5	Arnold Hill Academy	Football	Trust/ Academy	Two adult football pitches on different levels of the two-tiered site. One pitch has been unused following Sport England investment towards pitch improvement work but is due to be operational for the beginning of the next school year. The other standard quality pitch is on the lower level and is used mainly for school fixtures given most curricular sport takes place on the Playfootball Nottingham 3G pitches on the shared site. This pitch is likely to be overplayed. The school is currently undergoing redevelopment which includes the provision of new pitches. Update: 20.06.17 Gedling Southbank FC to have 20 teams playing on this site from	Maximise use of the newly improved for use by school teams supported by continued use of the 3G pitches. Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance, creating additional capacity to reduce likely overplay on the bottom pitch. Explore potential to access newly developed provision for community use to increase capacity and reduce shortfalls.		Local site	Short

¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
				<p>season 2017/18 following the development of new pitches.</p> <p>Update: 11.01.19</p> <p>Additional grass pitches will be available soon both community and school use soon. Their remains a drainage issue regarding this new provision that the Academy is seeking to resolve with the contractor. This poses an uncertainty whether these pitches will be available for the 2019/20 football season. When pitches become available it is expected they will meet the grow demand of Gedling Southbank junior teams and the facility will provide a 7x7 and 9x9.</p> <p>The Academy is currently assessing quality issues regarding the existing new provision on site referred to in Update 20.06.17.</p>				

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
				The Academy has continued concerns regarding the poor quality of the 3G pitch provision currently managed by Play Football.				
		Rugby union		Poor (M0/D1) quality senior pitch unavailable for use due to ongoing construction work onsite. New school build in progress to include the re-provision of lost grass pitches. Intentions to make grass pitches available for use again when building work is completed in two- or three-years time. Update: 11.01.19 The Academy has plans for the new grass pitches to offer rugby goals initially for school use.	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance, creating additional capacity to reduce likely overplay on the bottom pitch. Explore potential to access newly developed provision for community use to increase capacity and reduce shortfalls at club sites.			Short
6	Arnot Hill Park	Bowls	GBC	Standard quality green used by Arnold Park BC. The Club has around 30 members, therefore the green is considered to have spare capacity to accommodate	Improve standard of maintenance to improve green quality. Determine future plans for sporting use of the site given potential need to rationalise supply amidst budget pressures.		Local site	Short

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
				<p>additional members and play. Update 11.01.19</p> <p>We believe the membership of Arnold Park BC has reduced. Therefore spare capacity exists on this site.</p>	<p>Consider potential for asset transfer and club management mechanism where viable.</p>			
7	Bestwood Country Park	Football	County Council	<p>Mini 7v7 pitch and two adult pitches, one of which is overmarked with a youth 9v9 pitch. Pitches are standard quality and used by six teams from Bestwood Park Rangers Youth FC. Pavilion building is too small and the Club has to use all available space including changing rooms as storage space which becomes dangerous. Actual spare capacity of one mini 7v7 match per week.</p> <p>Update: 20.06.17</p> <p>Following the Football Development Group meeting on 19.06.17, Bestwood Park Rangers Youth FC reported they</p>	<p>Remove overmarked youth 9v9 pitch and seek to make greater use of spare capacity elsewhere or on certified 3G pitches to re-accommodate this competitive demand.</p> <p>Consider installation of an external storage container so that equipment is not obstructing pavilion facilities.</p> <p>Update: 20.06.17</p> <p>Review licence on this site between GBC and Bestwood Park Rangers Youth FC</p> <p>Update: 17/12/19</p> <p>Establish relationship between NG United and Bestwood Park Rangers and seek licence renewal.</p>		Local site	Medium

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
				have reduced to 3 teams. Update 16.12.19 The pitches are currently being used and booked by NG United providing junior and youth Football on the site.				
		Tennis		Two poor quality courts without floodlighting. Available for community use but no recorded club use. Likely used for social and recreational tennis.	Improve quality to increase attractiveness and performance for play. Seek to maximise use for participation activities such as parks leagues or cardio tennis.			Short
Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions		Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²
8	Bestwood Miners Welfare Sports Ground	Football	CISWO/Trust	Standard quality adult pitch used by just one team from Bestwood Miners Welfare FC. The Club has aspirations to play in the football pyramid at Step 7. Site demand will increase next season by one adult team, whilst the Club also has ambitions for a junior section. Actual spare capacity of	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance, creating additional capacity to reduce shortfalls. Maximise use of spare capacity to reduce existing shortfalls. Support the Club in developing facilities to meet Step 7 requirements.		Local site	Short

² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
				0.5 match sessions per week.				
9	Bestwood Village Community Centre	Bowls	Parish Council	Good quality green used by Bestwood Workshops BC and Star BC. Membership unknown, however, the green is considered to have spare capacity for additional membership and play.	Maximise use of spare capacity through club development and increasing participation.		Local site	Short
		AGP		Two small sized sand-based pitches with floodlighting which are now disused. The pitches are partly dismantled and cannot be played on but Bestwood Miners Welfare FC states that it would like to be a part of any community scheme that could bring these pitches back into use and is investigating possible funding opportunities that might enable them to be. Update: 01.11.18 Currently no plans to refurbish the former pitches, which are currently an eyesore for the local community. Recent health and	Support the Club as appropriate and consider potential for resurfacing to 3G as a more appropriate surface to accommodate football use and to meet shortfalls.			Medium

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
				wellbeing programme in the village identifies this as a priority, but there is insufficient funding and capacity in the community to move this forward. The biggest priority regarding facilities for the community at present is pursuing a healthcare facility.				
10	Oakwood Academy	Football	Trust/ Academy PFI	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches available for community use. No recorded community use at present but likely to be overplayed given the extent of academy use for lessons and fixtures throughout the week.	Retain for school use and explore potential for increased future community use to help reduce shortfalls.		Local site	Short
		Rugby union		Poor (M0/D1) quality pitch maintained by Carillion to a basic standard. Available for community use and previously well used before PFI but the academy believes that community use would require covering of staffing costs which is cost prohibitive for most teams. Likely to be	Improve pitch quality through increased maintenance, creating additional capacity for school use. Work to resolve barriers to community use, particularly cost of hire and access to changing provision.			Short

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	RAG	Comment	Timescales ¹
				overplayed given the level of weekly academy use.				
		Cricket		Non turf pitch situated between football pitches which has now become disused.	Maximise school use and resurface if required for school use given no demand for community use.			Short
		AGP		Small sized sand filled AGP rated as standard quality with floodlighting. Available for community use but not recorded as being used. Marked with three tennis courts and used for tennis and small sided football.	Maximise community use to accommodate demand for team training.			Short

Appendix 7 Allotments and Community Gardens

Allotment Facilities

Site name	Water	Toilets	Sheds	Fencing	Recycling	Access	Skips	Car park	Plot watch
Leapool	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Stoke Lane	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Chandos	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Gedling Grove	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Howbeck Allotment site	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
Killisick Allotment	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
Rookery Gardens	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
New Robin Hood	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

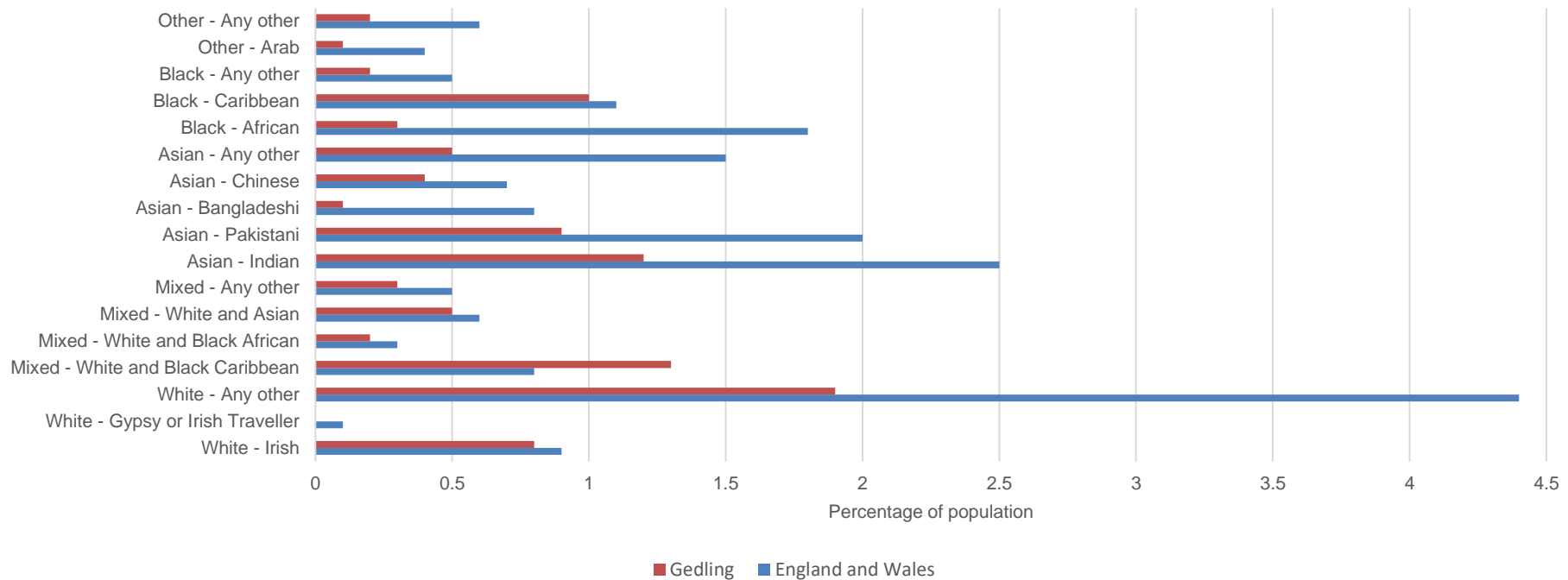
Parish Managed									
Trent Lane	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
Newstead	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
Calverton	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Woodborough	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Appendix 8 Cemeteries and Churchyards

Ethnicity of Gedling Borough

The ethnic origin of the population affects demand for burial space. People of Black African and Caribbean origin typically prefer burial, whereas people of Asian, Indian origin typically prefer cremation. This reflects the predominant religious beliefs in these cultures. The graph below shows a comparison of the ethnicity of residents in Gedling and the whole of England and Wales:

Ethnicity of Gedling Borough and England and Wales from ONS 2011 (excluding white British who comprise 80.5% of England and Wales and 90.3% of Gedling's population)



It can be seen that the population of Gedling borough is less ethnically diverse than England and Wales as a whole. Gedling borough most closely mirrors England and Wales as a whole in the Black Caribbean group, who prefer burial to cremation.

EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Policy/Service/Procedure to be assessed	Green Space Strategy 2021 - 2026		
Assessment completed by:	Head of Environment: Melvyn Cryer	Date: Feb 2021	
<p>Aims/objectives of the Strategy</p> <p>To review the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space in the borough of Gedling using a Local Planning Document Policy LDP20 typology audit, and provide an action plan of improvements. This Parks and Open Spaces Strategy will support the development of a new revised 106 agreement</p> <p>The strategy vision is “to provide sufficient quality, inviting green spaces that are open and accessible to all and that enhance the quality of life of everyone living, working or visiting Gedling Borough.”</p>			
Key Performance Indicator		Current Performance	Target
Satisfaction rates in Parks and Open Spaces – Gedling Conversation Survey 2019. Note: this has discontinued but a new local indicators will be produced		73%	75%

% [average] of parks reaching Green Flag Standard	61%	65%
<p>Who are the customers and stakeholders of this service?</p> <p>Residents of Gedling. Parks user and non-users, visitors to the borough, businesses, Parish Councils, Sports Clubs, Allotment associations, friends of groups, partnership organisations such as voluntary organisations, governing bodies of sport, such as the F.A., Football Foundation and Play England, Planning and policy department GBC, Sport England,.</p>		
<p>Detail below what information you already have about the impact this strategy has on the following groups including results from consultation, complaints, census:</p>		
<p>Black and minority ethnic people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Place survey results show that there is no negative impact for this equality strand – Public consultation gathered information on this strand. No trends were noted. – Place survey, demonstrates high percentage of satisfaction rates and segregates information into ethnic minority categories. Place survey results show that there is no negative impact for this equality strand – Complaints have not included any information that indicates ethnicity having any impact on the parks and open spaces strategy 	<p>91.8% white British – no other significant groups</p>
<p>Men/women and trans</p>	<p>The profile of the borough show there are slightly more females than males living in the borough (51% females).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The majority of activities in the parks are male dominated. However governing bodies such as the FA are aware and have action plans in place to address the issue – Information on users of the sports pitches, GBC owned allotments and bowls club members 	

	<p>– Public consultation which took place to inform the strategy gathered information on this strand. More people who responded to the questionnaire were female, however door to door surveys were also completed which gathered information from residents that reflected the profile of the borough.</p>															
Disabled people	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="3">Table 4: Residents with a limiting long term illness in Gedling Borough, 2011</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> <tr> <td>With a limiting long-term illness</td> <td>20421</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Without a limiting long-term illness</td> <td>91366</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Source: Office of National Statistics, 2011</td> </tr> </table> <p>Not all parks and open spaces are accessible; however the strategy aims to highlight these issues and provide the information to allow these issues to be resolved. Sites are audited based on accessibility therefore future work will be prioritised on those in most need of improvements in these areas.</p>	Table 4: Residents with a limiting long term illness in Gedling Borough, 2011				Number	Percentage	With a limiting long-term illness	20421	18%	Without a limiting long-term illness	91366	82%	Source: Office of National Statistics, 2011		
Table 4: Residents with a limiting long term illness in Gedling Borough, 2011																
	Number	Percentage														
With a limiting long-term illness	20421	18%														
Without a limiting long-term illness	91366	82%														
Source: Office of National Statistics, 2011																
Gay/Lesbian/bisexual People	There is little information of the impact that this strategy has on this equality strands															
People from different faiths	<p>There is 57.1% Christian 18.7% no religion in Gedling</p> <p>No other significant groups little information of the impact that this strategy has on this equality strands</p>															

People of different ages	Table 1: Age breakdown of Gedling Borough resident population, 2019				
	Year	0-16	16-24	24-65	65+
	2019	17.9%	8.7%	52.4%	21.1%
Source: Office of National Statistics, 2019					
<p>Gedling Borough has a lower percentage of those aged 0–24 compared to Nottinghamshire and England, while the proportion of those who are over 25 in Gedling Borough is higher than that for the County and England.</p> <p>The information above shows that the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy need to consider the aging population of the borough.</p> <p>Research indicates that green spaces helps improve social integration for older and young people</p> <p>Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Place survey, demonstrates high percentage of satisfaction rates and segregates information into age categories. Lower satisfaction rate amongst the younger age groups. Work already taking place to improve this – KKP research. Survey which included information on parks and open spaces which was representative of the profile of the borough. This research identified a high usage of parks by families <p>Sports clubs also can identify its members by age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consultation took place to obtain the views of people of different ages, this included specific consultation with children and young people. 					

How will this event impact on the following groups:		
The Parks Development & the GBC Events Officer both take note of all complaints/compliments, but none received connected to equality issues		
	Positive impact	Negative impact
Different racial groups	Place survey highlights that satisfaction rates amongst ethnic minorities are equal or higher than British white people of whom consists of 91.8% of the population. KKP research was also representative of the profile of the borough and did not highlight any issues with racial groups	No information available to indicate if language is an issue.
Men/women and trans	The strategy aims to start to address the issue of male dominated usage of pitches. Actions have a ready taken place to improve the feel of safety in parks.	Consultation identified that issues around the feeling of safety has a larger impact on if people visit a park when they are female.
Disabled people	The strategy aims to conduct an audit on all parks and open spaces including play facilities to identify and address any accessibility issues	The strategy has highlighted that needs of this strand might not be being met.
Gay/Lesbian/bi-sexual people	There is insufficient evidence to conclude whether pre strategy services were likely to have a differential impact on lesbian, gay or bisexual people but differential impact is unlikely	There is insufficient evidence to conclude whether pre strategy services were likely to have a differential impact on lesbian, gay or bisexual people but differential impact is unlikely. A complaints system is in place and ways to report hate crime. There have been no reported case of this.

<p>People from different faiths</p>	<p>Burial sites are appropriate for a range of religions. A separate EIA has been completed on this.</p> <p>Work takes place in the parks which promotes Diversity through the organisation of events. For example annual Chinese New Year celebrations</p>	
<p>People of different ages</p>	<p>Sports clubs which are adult dominated are already working towards youth participation. The borough provide a range of facilities that meet the needs of different ages.</p>	<p>The Gedling Conversation survey 2019 highlights that 18-24 have a significantly lower satisfaction rate than other age groups.</p> <p>The survey also highlights that more activities need to be put on for young people.</p> <p>The strategy also needs to consider the affect that an aging population will have on the parks and open spaces.</p>

What changes could be made to the policy/service/procedure to address any negative impacts?

The assessment found that existing Gedling parks and open spaces did not adversely impact on any equalities group through discriminatory practices. However the assessment clearly identified that some vulnerable groups and individuals expect and need more from parks than currently delivered in order for them to be used more easily

The assessment found that individuals and communities identified by disability and age have needs that are not being met.

The assessment found that some parks do not meet the needs for younger people. Increasing the activities and facilities in specific areas of the borough on the parks may improve this.

The assessment found that services were likely to have a differential impact on lesbian, gay or bisexual people but differential impact is unlikely

The assessment found that there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether delivery of the strategy is likely to be having a differential impact on communities that may be disadvantaged by where they live. By priority consideration will be given to this.

What monitoring will be carried out to ensure this policy/service/procedure meets diverse needs

Information will be collected from a sample of the people who visit our parks and parks events. This information to be collected throughout the day, due to the different activities attracting different sections of the community. Data will also be collected from the Arnold Carnival stall holders. This information will be collected at the events using Apple tablet survey equipment. Consultation will take place to see if there is an actual need to provide information in other languages

Yearly review of event programme/services in line with Borough profile. Feedback from previous events.

What actions will be included in your service plan arising from this assessment?

Action	Outcome	Date?	Who?
Increase the number of onsite staff to provide more activities for young people	Increase in satisfaction rates in parks and opens spaces	See strategy	Parks Development Officer

To conduct an accessibility audit on all sites owned by Gedling Borough Council.	identification	See strategy	Parks Officer
Develop a network of contacts within the equalities strands to enhance consultation. With particular on young people	To highlight an possible equality issues on specific strands including sexual orientation or religion	See strategy	Parks Officer
Make better use of detached youth work teams	Engage in young people	See strategy	Parks Officer
Increase the number of onsite staff to provide more activities for young people	Increase in satisfaction rate sin parks and opens spaces	See strategy	Parks Officer
To conduct an accessibility audit on all sites owned by Gedling Borough Council	identification	See strategy	Parks Officer
Are you satisfied that all aspects of this policy/service/procedure have been thoroughly assessed for all the strands of diversity and that no further investigation is required? Y If no then a fuller impact assessment is required.			

Signed..... (Manager)

Signed..... (Corporate Equality Representative)

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Forward Plan

Date: 18 March 2021

Author: Democratic Services Manager

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

To present the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next four month period.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

Cabinet notes the contents of the draft Forward Plan making comments where appropriate.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to give notice of key decisions that are scheduled to be taken by the Executive.
- 1.2 A key decision is one which is financially significant, in terms of spending or savings, for the service or function concerned (more than £500,000), or which will have a significant impact on communities, in two or more wards in the Borough.
- 1.3 In the interests of effective coordination and public transparency, the plan includes any item that is likely to require an Executive decision of the Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member (whether a key decision or not). The Forward Plan covers the following 4 months and must be

updated on a rolling monthly basis. All items have been discussed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The Forward Plan is ultimately the responsibility of the Leader and Cabinet as it contains Executive business due for decision. The Plan is therefore presented at this meeting to give Cabinet the opportunity to discuss, amend or delete any item that is listed.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Cabinet could decide not agree with any of the items are suggested for inclusion in the plan. This would then be referred back to the Senior Leadership Team.
- 3.2 Cabinet could decide to move the date for consideration of any item.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Forward Plan

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To promote the items that are due for decision by Gedling Borough Council's Executive over the following four month period.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Chief Financial Officer

Date:

09/03/2021 (report content)

Approved by:

Monitoring Officer

09/03/2021 (report content)

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Gedling

Borough Council



FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 MARCH 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key and non-key decisions which the Executive Cabinet, individual Executive Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period.

The current members of the Executive Cabinet are:

Councillor John Clarke – Leader of the Council

Councillor Michael Payne – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources and Reputation

Councillor Peter Barnes – Portfolio Holder for Environment

Councillor David Ellis – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

Councillor Gary Gregory – Portfolio Holder for Community Development

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth – Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration

Councillor Viv McCrossen – Portfolio Holder for Young People and Equalities

Councillor Henry Wheeler – Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each key decision, within the time period indicated.

Description of the decision	Date decision is expected to be taken and who will take the decision?	Responsible Officer	Documents to be considered by the decision maker	Cabinet Portfolio	Open / Exempt (and reason if the decision is to be taken in private) Is this a Key Decision?
<p>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Non- Parish Funding – Local Infrastructure Schedule, Project Assessments and Proposed Funding Allocations</p> <p>Report seeking authorisation to undertake a public consultation in relation nominated projects to be funded through the non-parish neighbourhood portion of the CIL.</p>	<p>22 Apr 2021 Cabinet</p>	<p>Lewis Widdowson, Planning Officer</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Yes</p>