



## **HERTSMERE OPEN SPACE STUDY**

**October 2011**



# Hertsmere Borough Council – Open Space Study

## October 2011

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## **Maps**

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## 1.0 Introduction

Open space is important for our quality of life, providing a range of different function and purposes. It has a wide range of roles such as outdoor sport, children's play, allotments and outdoor leisure. Open space provides a habitat for wildlife and helps to conserve historic features. It is important for social interaction and in fostering community development and is supportive of economic objectives and activities. It can also be important in defining the character and identity of settlements.

Open space, as a land use, has to compete with others, and this is particularly within the urban areas of Hertsmere. The objective of retaining open space and protecting environmental quality must be balanced with the need for development to meet housing and employment needs. The conflict frequently give rise to difficult planning decisions. There can also be conflicts between different kinds of uses of open space, such as playing pitches against informal parkland.

The principles of sustainable development are useful to apply here in the use of our valuable but scarce resources. It is important to remember in considering the protection of open land that once it is lost, it is hard to recreate, or takes years to establish. New areas of open space of enduring quality and value have, however, been the exception rather than the rule and existing spaces are under pressure not just from physical development but also from over use and, in relative terms, reduced maintenance.

### 1.1 Purpose of the study

This study aims to identify the quantity and quality of open spaces and recreational opportunities available to residents of Hertsmere. By establishing actual and / or anticipated levels of demand, the study will identify the land requirements for open space for the period to 2021.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 on Sport, Open Space and Recreation, sets out central government's guidance on open space, and recommends that local authorities carry out studies of its availability. The study is set in this national and regional framework and aims to support, inform and help integrate the following local initiatives:

- Local planning policies;
- Management of public open spaces;
- Funding bids and investment priorities.

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced significant changes to the Development Plan system, requiring Local Plans to be replaced with a portfolio of Local Development Documents, collectively known as a Local Development Framework (LDF).

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12: Local Spatial Planning requires that evidence base is produced with two key elements:

- participation: evidence of the views of the local community and others who have a stake in the future of the area.
- Research/ fact finding: evidence that the choices made by the plan are backed up by the background facts.

Although it is not a Local Development Document in its own right, this Open Space Study forms a key component of the evidence base for Hertsmere's LDF and will inform and support the policies contained within the Core Strategy DPD and the designations made in the Site Allocations DPD, as well as financial contributions sought through section 106 agreements.

## 1.2 Scope of the Study

This study analyses the current provision of open space within the Borough. It focuses on the amount of open space per typology per analysis area, the quality of open space, and how accessible open spaces are. The study then looks to understand the needs of the community and make recommendations on the provision of open space within Hertsmere.

It avoids replicating other technical work undertaken by the Council in the Greenways Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy, Play Strategy.

The Open Space Study tries to complement the Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Study. The Green Infrastructure Study:

- provides a strategic overview of existing green infrastructure assets within the Borough;
- Sets out an assessment of the ability of green infrastructure to provide multiple environmental and social and in some cases economic functions;
- Considers opportunities for enhancement and creation of green infrastructure;
- Outlines a series of potential projects to deliver multiple functions and benefits, and
- Provides advice on taking green infrastructure proposals forward through spatial planning and practical delivery.

## 1.3 Stakeholder Consultation

This study has been subject to selected stakeholder consultation, for checking the accuracy of the survey and its findings.

The study was also informed consultation and survey work from the following:

- Ipsos MORI Best Value surveys;
- Green Space's Million Voices campaign;
- The draft Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy; and
- Hertsmere Play Strategy 2007-12



## 1.4 Definition of Open Space

The Government<sup>1</sup> defines open space as all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs, which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity. The typology of open space is illustrated in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 PPG 17 Typology**

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Parks and gardens</b>	Including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens
<b>Natural and semi-natural green spaces</b>	Including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, green spaces, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits)
<b>Green corridors</b>	Including river and canal banks, cycleways, greenways and rights of way
<b>Outdoor sports facilities</b>	Including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas.
<b>Amenity green space</b>	Including informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, and village greens.
<b>Provision for children</b>	Including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor teenagers basketball hoops, other informal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters)
<b>Allotments</b>	Allotments, community gardens, and city (urban) farms
<b>Cemeteries and churchyards</b>	Cemeteries and churchyards

**Public Open Space** is defined as public parks, commons, heaths and woodlands and other open spaces with established and unrestricted public access and capable of being classified according to an open space hierarchy, which meets recreational and non-recreational needs.

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<sup>1</sup> Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

**Private Open Space** is defined as open space to which public access is restricted or not formally established but which contributes to local amenity or wildlife habitat or meets or is capable of meeting recreational or non recreational needs, including school and private playing fields. Private residential gardens are not included for the purposes of producing an Open Space Strategy.

**Formal Open Space** is designed primarily for public access, recreation and events whilst providing areas for quiet contemplation and also contributing to the overall appearance of an area, town or residential area. Formal Open Space provides a major contribution to public sports and recreation. It includes pitches (football, cricket, rugby - both league and union and hockey), greens, courts, athletics tracks and other miscellaneous sites e.g. training areas. Outdoor sports facilities that are not, as a matter of policy and practice, available for public use, such as professional football stadia, are not included in the definition, but private sports clubs are. Formal Open Space also excludes all golf facilities; water based recreational areas, indoor sports and leisure centres.

**Informal Open Space** is public open space, which can be used for recreational activity, including walking, sitting and informal games. Such areas can often be quite extensive, forming woodlands, village greens etc. Use may not be formally recorded, but such areas make an important contribution to the quality of life of residents in general and particularly children.

This category consists of casual or informal playing space within housing estates, including safe shared space such as play streets. It includes outdoor equipped play areas for children of all ages, and play facilities that offer specific opportunities for outdoor play, such as BMX tracks.

## 2.0 Methodology

This section sets out the methodology that has been used for this open space study, including information on how the audit was undertaken, consultation arrangements and the method used in determining the required levels of provision for the various elements.

In developing the methodology, regard has been had to advice contained in Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (PPG17) and the best practice companion guide to this advice<sup>2</sup>.

### 2.1 Establishing the study area

This study aims to establish the actual and required level of open space and recreational provision within Hertsmere's administrative boundaries.

It is acknowledged that individual's lifestyles are not constrained by local political boundaries. Residents of Hertsmere will make use of open space and recreational facilities outside of the Borough boundary and, conversely, residents from adjoining local authority areas in Hertfordshire and London will utilise facilities in Hertsmere to satisfy their own needs. These relationships and flows are complex. In order to simplify the process, this study assumes that these inward and outward flows are broadly in equilibrium.

The Open Space study is therefore undertaken on the basis that sufficient provision should be made within the Borough for the needs of Hertsmere's own residents. Notwithstanding this point, sensible exceptions will be made in certain circumstances and may include:

- Consideration of facilities with large catchments (e.g. indoor sports facilities) located just outside the Borough boundary which are likely to serve Hertsmere residents, particularly where a deficit has been identified within the Borough boundary;
- Advocating the (continued) protection of facilities considerably in excess of those required for Hertsmere's own residents where these are located within the Borough due to land use or other constraints in surrounding authorities (e.g. the provision of golf courses in Hertsmere's Green Belt immediately adjacent to London Borough boundaries).

*Assessing Needs and Opportunities* advises that simply basing analyses of open space on individual wards should be avoided. The guidance states that ward boundaries are often fairly arbitrary with local residents often unaware of where the boundaries lie.

The guidance advises that analysis should be undertaken in units that can be readily identified. This report therefore makes reference to four analysis areas in the assessment of open space and recreation provision. The sub areas consist of groups of wards, which can be easily related to the main settlements in the Borough. These are detailed in Table 2.1 below and in the map on the following page.

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<sup>2</sup> Assessing Needs and Opportunities: Planning Policy Guidance 17 Companion Guide, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2002.

**Table 2.1: Analysis Areas**

Area	Wards
Aldenham & Shenley	Aldenham East Aldenham West Shenley
Borehamwood & Elstree	Borehamwood Brookmeadow Borehamwood Cowley Hill Borehamwood Hillside Borehamwood Kenilworth Elstree
Bushey	Bushey Heath Bushey North Bushey Park Bushey St. James
Potters Bar	Potters Bar Furzefield Potters Bar Oakmere Potters Bar Parkfield

Consideration of the quantity of provision, accessibility and levels of surplus / provision for each type of Open Space discussed is made in terms of the analysis areas detailed above as well as Hertsmere as a whole.

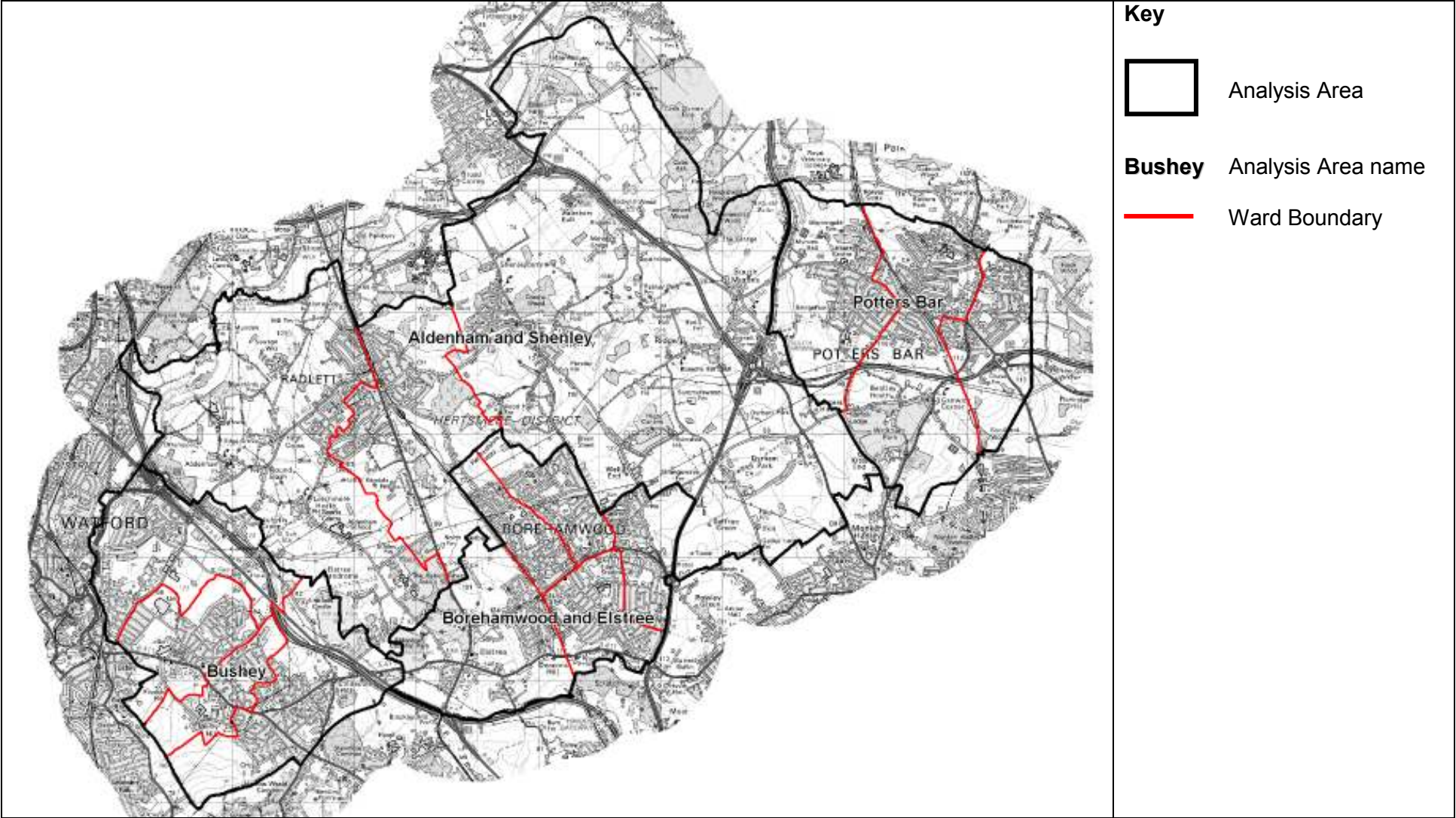
## 2.2 Establishing the scope of the study

PPG17 established a typology of open space provision (Table 2.2) and states that this, or variations of it, should be used by local authorities when preparing assessments of need and audits of provision. The guidance also states that such assessments should include consideration of indoor sports and recreational facilities. *Assessing Needs* reiterates this advice.

In preparing this Open Space study, regard has been had to those elements of Open Space and recreation that constitute a formal provision made by public, private or other bodies.

Informal provision, such as local amenity spaces or landscaping provided as part of a development scheme have not been included in this study. A separate assessment of local amenity green is currently being prepared. There is no formal or statutory duty incumbent upon local authorities to make such provision. Notwithstanding this point, planning policies should continue to ensure that suitable provision of informal amenity space is made within new developments and that, where necessary, such areas are protected against intrusive or inappropriate development.

Figure 2.1: Analysis Areas



**Table 2.2: Typology of provision**

PPG17 Typology	Primary Purpose <sup>3</sup>	Uses considered
Outdoor sports facilities	Participation in outdoor sports such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports	Artificial sports pitches Bowls Cricket Football Golf Rugby Tennis Water sports
Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events	Parks
Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.	Ball courts Equipped play areas Skate parks
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion	-
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity	Operational cemeteries Churchyards Other burial grounds
Indoor sport and recreational facilities	-	Badminton Courts / Sports Halls Gyms Squash Courts Swimming Pools

### 2.3 Understanding the strategic and local policy context

*Assessing Needs and Opportunities* clearly identifies the exploration of existing strategies as a key stage in the inception of an Open Space Study. The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, meanwhile, makes it clear that Local Development Frameworks should express and accommodate the spatial requirement of other local plans and strategies.

Appendix 1 explores the policy context for this study and identifies the policies for open space. Key documents and sources of advice considered in this section include:

- National planning policy and best practice guidance;
- Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England;

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<sup>3</sup> As defined in PPG17.

- The provisions of the existing Hertsmere Local Plan (as saved under the provisions of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act); and
- Hertsmere's Community Strategy.

## 2.4 Understanding the demographic profile of Hertsmere

In order to plan properly for provision it is important to generate an understanding of the demographic influences on participation demand. Data on key characteristics of the Borough's current and future population were collected from a variety of sources including the 2001 Census, mid-year population estimates, the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation and the 2004 sub-national population projections. These results are considered in relation to their likely impact on demand for facilities.

## 2.5 Consulting communities and users

Establishing the views of local communities is central to accurately identifying local expectations and aspirations. To ascertain public perceptions on sport and recreational provision in the Borough, this Open Space Study has utilised consultation results from a variety of sources including:

- Ipsos MORI Best Value surveys;
- Green Space's Million Voices campaign;
- The Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy; and
- Hertsmere Play Strategy 2007-12
- Customer Feedback from Hertsmere Leisure

Community consultation is an essential component of the Best Value process. Ipsos MORI have carried out a series of Best Value General User surveys for the Council. The most recent of these was conducted in 2006/07, having previously been conducted in 2003/04 and 2000/01. The Best Value survey collects information on a broad spectrum of issues relevant to the Council and its service delivery.

This report utilises those elements of the Best Value surveys which sought opinions on the quality and use of parks and open spaces and sports / leisure facilities and events. The results of the 2006/07 survey were based on responses to a postal questionnaire returned by 1,175 respondents, targeted to ensure a representative sample of opinion from the Borough.

In 2006 and updated in 2010 Sports Turf Consulting undertook a Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy on behalf of the Council. This study audited provision of pitches for football, rugby, cricket and hockey. The assessment included consultation with a number of sports clubs to obtain opinions on the facilities they used within the Borough. The study also consulted the Borough's public and private schools to ascertain the extent to which their sports facilities were available for community use. The results contained in the first draft of the report (November 2006) are considered further in Chapter 7, which examines provision of outdoor sports facilities.

Hertsmere Borough Council are currently participating in the Million Voices campaign. The campaign has been developed and promoted by the Green Space national charity in

association with the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cabe Space and aims to obtain feedback and user opinion on the quality and value of parks within local authority areas.

The Million Voices consultation is conducted through Greenstat, an online questionnaire ([www.greenstat.org.uk](http://www.greenstat.org.uk)). The website allows the general public to complete and submit feedback questionnaires and also allows participating local authorities to input postal and interview responses and interrogate results.

The consultation was promoted by an article in *Hertsmere News*, the Borough Council's newsletter which is sent to all households on quarterly basis, in the Spring 2007 edition. Postal questionnaires were also sent to a sample of 3,000 households in the Borough. These were distributed proportionally according to population amongst each of the analysis areas. The results obtained from this exercise were supplemented by questionnaires undertaken on site during the summer of 2007. These have provided results on the levels of use of the Borough's parks and open spaces, perceptions of quality, the catchment and the travel distance and mode.

In 2007, Erskine Corporation developed a play strategy for Hertsmere, covering the period 2007-2012. The strategy undertook a wide range of consultation with children, parents and stakeholders to establish perceptions of existing provision and priorities for the future.

## 2.6 Auditing local provision

In identifying the provision of open spaces and recreational facilities, a variety of sources were used. The Borough Council's Geographical Information System (GIS) was used as a starting point. Using a 1:10000 scale map-base, all identifiable parks, open spaces and sports and recreational facilities were mapped and logged to a site database.

Following this, a number of sources were used to identify and / or corroborate sites. The initial OS audit was cross referenced with the findings of the previous Open Space study (undertaken by MVA in 1995) to ensure that all facilities contained in that study that were still in use had been included. The findings of the draft Pitch Assessment and the Play Strategy were analysed to identify any additional facilities.

A desk-based survey of private sports clubs and facilities in the Borough was undertaken using a combination of internet and directory searches.

The following websites, which list local provision, were consulted to ensure that all provision had been captured:

- Aldenham Parish Council
- Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Hertsmere Borough Council
- Shenley Parish Council
- Sport England

Throughout the process, a combination of aerial photos (from [www.local.live.com](http://www.local.live.com)), small surveys, correspondence with individual facilities and site visits were used to identify and clarify the status of any outstanding sites, or locations where additional information was required. A small number of sites that were found to be derelict or no longer in use were discarded from the audit.



Following this process, 258 sites in Hertsmere that made some form of formal open space or recreation provision had been identified. These are detailed in Table 2.3 below. The full list of sites is identified in Appendix 2.

**Table 2.3: Number of sites identified by analysis area**

Analysis Area	Number of sites
Aldenham & Shenley	75
Borehamwood & Elstree	72
Bushey	66
Potters Bar	44
<b>Hertsmere (Total)</b>	<b>257</b>

### 2.7 Analysing the quality and value of provision

The consultation arrangements, outlined above, provided a range of information on the quality and value of open space and recreational provision in the Borough as perceived by residents and users.

The Play Pitch strategy undertook an assessment of pitch quality for football, rugby, cricket and hockey. The scoring for this was based upon the Pitch Quality Assessment methodology developed by Sport England. These results are reproduced in Chapter 5, which examines outdoor sports provision.

### 2.8 Analysing the quantity of provision

The quantity of provision was considered in line with *Assessing Needs and Opportunities*. The facilities audit, explained in section 2.6 allows the absolute level of provision, by analysis area, to be identified for each type of provision.

The amount of provision was then analysed using the 2001 Census Populations and compared to national standards where appropriate.

### 2.9 Identifying catchment areas

In identifying suitable catchment areas for each of the provision types, a variety of techniques and sources have been used. This reflects advice in *Assessing Needs and Opportunities*, which states that effective catchments should be identified for each of the provision type, with the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users considered a reliable benchmark.

Information on membership holders was obtained from Hertsmere Leisure. This allowed the distance from the nearest leisure facility to be obtained. These results have informed the useful catchments of indoor sports facilities.

Results from the playing pitch strategy were used to inform the catchments for outdoor pitches, with the location of players matched to the location of the pitches used for matches.

The Greenstat survey requested results on the journey time to respondent's nearest and / or most frequently used park facility. These have been used to inform catchments for the respective provision types.

In addition national standard catchments were also used from sources such as Fields in Trust.

## 2.10 Setting provision standards

Once the assessment of local needs and the audit of provision had been undertaken, it was possible to establish provision standards. PPG17 advises that local provision standards should include three key elements:

- A quantitative component (how much open space and recreation provision should be made)
- An accessibility component (how close open space and recreation provision should be).
- A qualitative component (how good open space and recreation provision should be); and

These standards were developed for each type of provision, having regard to the following factors (as applicable):

- The results of the quantitative provision audit;
- The results of the community consultations;
- The results of the exercise to determine catchments;
- National standards and comparators; and
- Comparison with other Open Space surveys.

The quantitative provision has predominantly been expressed in the form of hectares and amount per thousand population. The accessibility component is expressed in terms of a distance or journey time, while the qualitative component is expressed in terms of a percentage score when assessed against the criteria established as part of the quality exercise.

*Assessing Needs and Opportunities* recognises that it is unrealistic to anticipate that rural areas will experience the same level of provision as in urban settlements. As such, a distinction in provision standards has been made where this is considered appropriate. For the purposes of this study, the "rural" area of the Borough is considered synonymous with those parts of Hertsmere designated as Green Belt. "Urban" is considered to encompass those areas, which lie outside of this designation.

## 2.11 Identifying strategic recommendations

From the above exercise, areas of deficiency were identified. Deficiency was identified in three key areas:

- Those analysis areas with an absolute shortfall in provision when compared against the quantitative component of the provision standards;
- Those areas of the Borough which lay outside of the identified catchment boundaries identified in the accessibility component; and
- Those facilities which failed to meet the quality standards expressed in the qualitative components.

Quantitative deficiency was identified by comparing the quantity and / or area of provision for each open space type against the standard for each analysis area and the Borough as a whole.

Using GIS, it was possible to identify those super-output areas, which were not served by each facility type. From this, it was possible to identify the proportion of the population, which did not have access to appropriate levels of open space or recreational facilities.

Qualitative deficiencies were identified by comparing the results of the quality surveys against the qualitative component of the provision standards.

These were then used to develop recommendations for each analysis area.

The supply of open space was also compared projected future population and demand where possible, so that provisions can be made for future requirements.

## 3.0 Demographic profile of Hertsmere

### 3.1 Demographics

The demographic profile and socio-economic characteristics of an area have an important bearing on demand for open space, as there are a number of factors that have been shown to influence participation in sports and recreational activities.

Research into the results of the 2002/3 General Household Survey<sup>4</sup> showed that:

- 75% of adults had taken part in a sport, game or physical activity in the twelve months before interview and 59% of adults had done so in the previous four weeks;
- In general, participation in a sport, game or physical activity decreased with age. For example, among those aged 16 to 19, 72% had participated in an activity (excluding walking) in the four-week reference period compared with 14% of those aged 70 and over.
- Men (81%) were more likely than women (70%) to have participated in at least one activity, including or excluding walking.
- Those in higher socio-economic groups were more likely to take part in sports than those who were employed in routine or unskilled jobs or were economically inactive.
- 40% of those with a limiting long-term illness had participated in at least one activity compared with 65% of adults without.
- Participation amongst ethnic minority groups was lower than for white British individuals.

Taking Part<sup>5</sup>, published in May 2007, examined engagement with cultural, leisure and sports activities. The results largely reflected the patterns identified above and showed that participation in active sport:

- Declined with age, from 90% amongst the 16-24 age group to 22% amongst the over 75s;
- Was higher amongst the higher socio-economic groups and increases as personal income gets higher.
- Was greater amongst both home owners (71%) and private rented tenants (78%) than for social rented tenants (53%)

Using data from the 2001 Census, mid-year population estimates, the Index of Multiple Deprivation and population projections, this section examines the existing and anticipated demographic profile of the Borough and the analysis areas. Key differences within the Borough and between the Hertsmere and national profiles are identified. This will help to inform estimates of demand in the following sections.

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<sup>4</sup> Results from the Sport and Leisure Module of the 2002 General Household Survey, Office for National Statistics, 2004.

<sup>5</sup> Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport, Department for Culture, Media and Sports, 2007.

**Table 3.1: Demographic Characteristics of Hertsmere and study analysis areas**

Analysis-Area	Pop.	Age	Socio-Economic groups	Tenure	Health	Car ownership	Ethnicity	Overall
Aldenham & Shenley	15,589	Broadly in line with the national age structure though a slightly lower proportion aged 60-74 (10.8%) than nationally (13.3%).	Significantly higher proportion in management or professional roles (61.4%) than the national average (43.4%).	Lower proportion of residents that rent their home from a RSL (10.6%) than the national average (19.2%).	Lower proportion of the population with a limiting long-term illness (10.9%) than the national average (18.2%).	A significantly lower proportion of the population do not have access to a car (9.8%) than the national average (26.8%).	Slightly lower proportion of the population in non-white ethnic groups (7.4%) than the national average (9.1%).	Demographic profile suggests that demand for active sports could be higher than national averages. Highly mobile population.
Borehamwood & Elstree	33,311	Broadly in line with the national age structure though a slightly lower proportion aged 60-74 (10.9%) than nationally (13.3%).	Broadly in line with national averages.	Higher proportion of residents that rent their home from a RSL (25.3%) than the national average (19.2%).	16.2% of the population have a limiting long-term illness. Broadly in line with the national average (18.2%).	The proportion of households that do not own a car (24.1%) is broadly in line with the national average.	Proportion of population in non-white ethnic groups is broadly in line with the national average.	Broadly in line with national averages. Catchment areas may need to reflect lower levels of car ownership than elsewhere in the Borough.
Bushey	24,605	Broadly in line with the national age structure	Higher proportion in management or professional roles (59.3%) than the national average (43.4%).	Lower proportion of residents that rent their home from a RSL (10.4%) than the national average (19.2%).	Slightly lower proportion of the population with a limiting long-term illness (14.1%) than the national average (18.2%).	A lower proportion of the population do not have access to a car (13.5%) than the national average (26.8%).	Proportion of population in non-white ethnic groups is broadly in line with the national average.	Demographic profile suggests that demand for active sports could be slightly higher than national averages.
Potters Bar	20,945	A smaller proportion of the population is aged 16-29 (14.2%), while a higher proportion is aged 75+ (10.4%)	Higher proportion in management or professional roles (54.7%) than the national average (43.4%).	Lower proportion of residents rent their home from a RSL (11.7%) than the national average (19.2%)	Broadly in line with the national average.	A slightly lower proportion of the population do not have access to a car (17.4%) than the national average (26.8%).	Lower proportion of the population in non-white ethnic groups (5.6%) than the national average (9.1%)	Older age profile could reduce demand for some active sports in relation to other sub areas.
Hertsmere	94,450	Broadly in line with the national age structure.	Higher proportion in management or professional roles (54.7%) than the national average (43.4%).	Broadly in line with national averages.	Slightly lower proportion of the population with a limiting long-term illness (14.7%) than nationally.	Car ownership higher than the national average.	Slightly lower proportion of the population in non-white ethnic groups than the national average.	Slightly higher demand than nationally due to socio-economic groups and better health.

Source: 2001 Census Key Statistics. Tables KS01, KS02, KS06, KS08, KS14, KS18. Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright.

### 3.2 The existing demographic profile

The 2001 Census recorded the population of Hertsmere at 94,450. Of the four sub-areas, Borehamwood & Elstree is the largest with a population of 33,311. Aldenham & Shenley was the smallest with a population of 15,589. The gender split in each sub-area and the Borough as a whole was broadly in line with the national split of 49% male and 51% female.

Table 3.1 on the preceding page highlights a number of the key demographic characteristics for each of the identified analysis areas based on data from the 2001 Census.

Although the population profile for Hertsmere was broadly in line with the national age structure, there were a number of key differences. In Potters Bar, there is a notably higher proportion of the population aged 75 or over while in both Aldenham & Shenley and Borehamwood & Elstree there was a smaller proportion aged 60-74.

A key characteristic for Hertsmere is the high proportion of the workforce grouped in the higher socio-economic groups (management, professional and technical occupations). This was reflected in all the analysis areas, though in Borehamwood & Elstree, the figure is only slightly higher than the national average. The research cited above would suggest that this is likely to lead to higher demand for active sport facilities, and this will need to be taken into account in estimates of required provision.

Although housing tenures in the Borough as a whole are broadly in line with the national profile, this masks a significant difference between the Borehamwood & Elstree sub-area and the rest of Hertsmere. One in four households in Borehamwood & Elstree rent from an RSL, with two in three households consisting of owner-occupiers. By comparison, the proportion of households renting from Registered Social Landlords in the remaining analysis areas ranges from 10% to 12%, whilst the proportion of owner-occupiers is closer to eight in ten. Based on the findings from the Taking Part research highlighted above, this would suggest that demand for leisure and sports provision may be higher than the national average in the Aldenham & Shenley, Bushey and Potters Bar sub-areas and broadly in line with the national average in Borehamwood & Elstree.

Limiting long-term illnesses (LLTIs)<sup>6</sup> can, for obvious reasons, suppress demand for exertive sports and recreational activities. In the Aldenham & Shenley sub-area, the proportion of the population with a LLTI is notably lower, at 10.9%, than the national average of 18.2%. In all of the remaining sub-areas, and the Borough as a whole, the proportion of the population with a LLTI, is broadly in line with the national average.

Car ownership is a key indicator within the demographic profile as it affects the ability of individual households to access to sports and recreational facilities, particularly those that tend to be more sparsely distributed (e.g. sports and leisure centres). Within Borehamwood & Elstree, the proportion of households without access to a car or van is broadly in line with the national average of 26.8%. However, in the other areas it is significantly lower, particularly in Bushey (13.5%) and Aldenham & Shenley (9.8%).

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<sup>6</sup> The Census defines "limiting long-term illness" as any long-term illness; health problem or disability that limits daily activities or work.

Notwithstanding the need to attempt to minimise the number and length of journeys undertaken by private car, as articulated in national planning policy<sup>7</sup>, it may be appropriate to accept greater catchment distances for some elements of recreational provision in these areas. Conversely, given the greater proportion of population reliant on walking, cycling and public transport in Borehamwood & Elstree, catchments may need to be restrained accordingly.

The results of the general household survey suggested that participation in sports was lower than average amongst ethnic-minority groups. The 2001 Census showed that the proportion of the population in non-white ethnic groups in Hertsmere was slightly lower than the national average, most notably in the Aldenham & Shenley and Potters Bar analysis areas. The proportion of the population in non-white ethnic groups elsewhere was broadly in line with the national average.

The above factors combine to suggest that demand for sports activities in Hertsmere could be slightly higher than the national average. The most notable variations in the demographic profile for the Borough are in the socio-economic and health categories. A significantly higher than average proportion of the population are employed in managerial, profession or technical professions, whilst a lower percentage of the population suffer the effects of limiting long-term illnesses.

These characteristics are particularly pronounced in the Aldenham & Shenley and Bushey sub-areas. In Elstree & Borehamwood, the demographic profile matches that of the country as a whole more closely while in Potters Bar, an older population profile may temper demand for some activities. These results will be taken into consideration in formulating recommendations in relation to demand, particularly where forecasts are based upon national comparators.

### 3.3 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

A report by the Cabinet Office<sup>8</sup> identifies that poor quality local environments are key drivers of local area deprivation, encouraging those businesses and residents that can to move out and discouraging inward movements of people and investment. It is therefore vitally important to ensure the provision of good quality open spaces and recreational facilities in deprived areas.

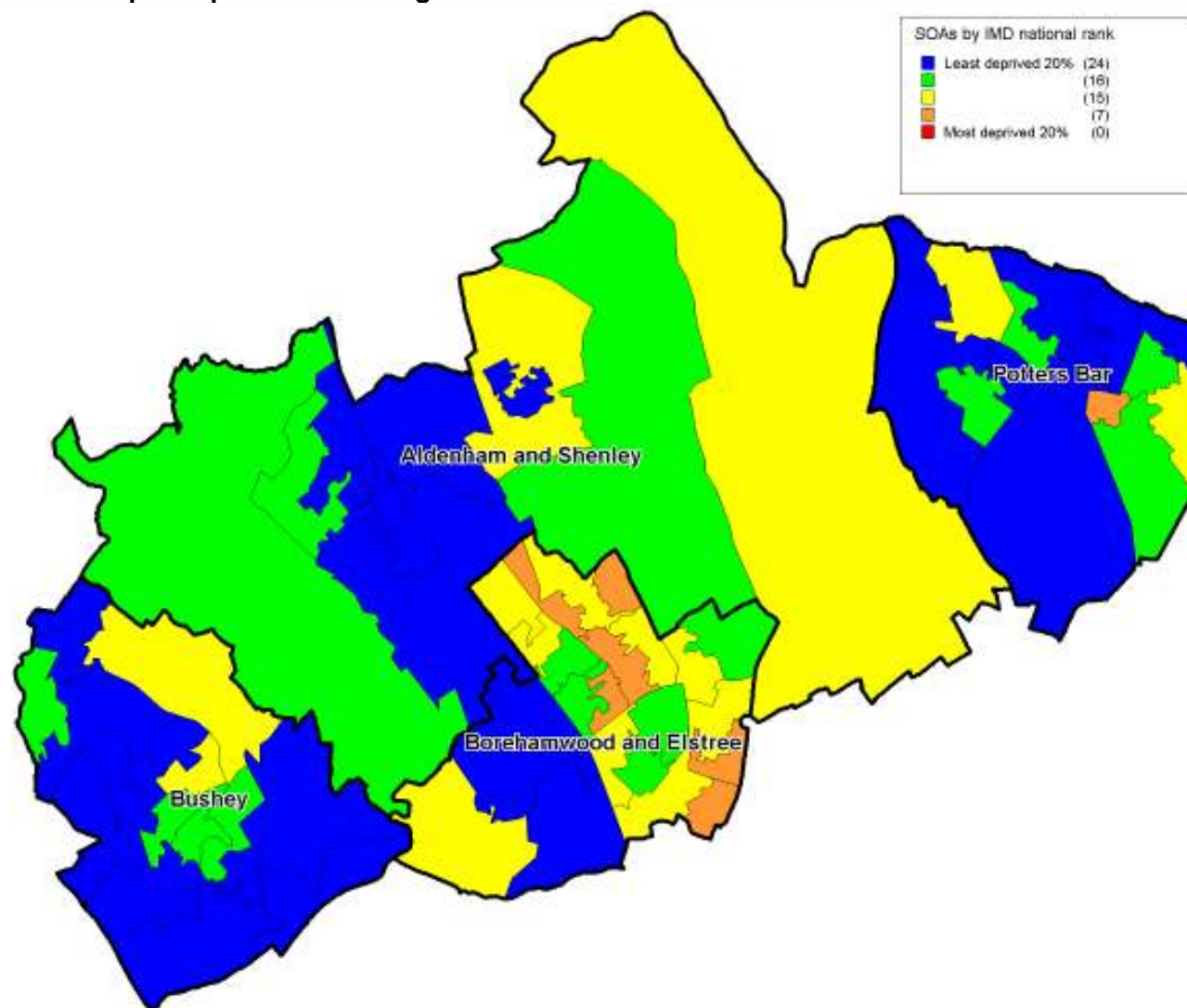
The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a measure of multiple deprivation at a small area level. The indices published in 2004, and the results for the IMD are published for Super Output Areas (SOAs), subdivisions of wards, and consist of seven component parts which, when compiled, provide an overall score. Rankings were also provided for two supplementary indices.

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<sup>7</sup> National policy is set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 13: Transport (PPG13), Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions, 2000.

<sup>8</sup> Improving the Prospects of People Living in Areas of Multiple Deprivation in England, Cabinet Office, 2005.

**Figure 3.1: 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation rankings**



Based upon Ordnance Survey Mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence No: LA078239 HERTSMERE. Source: 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation.



Based on the average IMD score, Hertfordshire ranked 141 / 149 amongst all the County and Unitary authorities making it the 9<sup>th</sup> least deprived area of the country. Hertsmere ranked 268 / 354 amongst all the Unitary, District and Borough authorities, placing it in the bottom quartile (25% least deprived) nationally.

However, this conceals significant variations between areas of the Borough. Figure 3.1, on the preceding page, details the distribution of super output areas in each of the analysis areas by their national ranking.

When ranked nationally on their overall score, none of Hertsmere's SOAs are amongst the most deprived 20% in the country. However, there are a number of SOAs, particularly in Borehamwood and the centre of Potters Bar that should be considered deprived in relation to the rest of the Borough and the County.

The most deprived SOA in the Borough centres around Leeming Road and Allerton Road in Borehamwood. Only a small proportion of the SOAs in the Borehamwood & Elstree analysis area are in the least deprived 20% areas of the country. By contrast, in the three other analysis areas, at least half of the SOAs rank amongst the 20% least deprived in the country.

Further analysis of the 2007 and 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that the areas shown to be most deprived in 2004 are still those areas of Hertsmere to be most deprived. The 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that the most deprived wards in Hertsmere are:

- Borehamwood - Cowley Hill
- Borehamwood - Brookmeadow
- Borehamwood - Kenilworth
- Borehamwood - Hillside

### 3.4 The future demographic profile

It is important that estimates of the requirement for open space and recreational facilities take account of changing demographics, and that sufficient provision is made for the duration of the plan period, which runs to 2021. Following the 2001 Census, mid-year population estimates for 2002 showed a small decline in the population of Hertsmere. However, this trend has since been reversed, with population projections published by the Office for National Statistics indicating that this trend is likely to be reversed over the coming years.

**Table 3.2: Projected population 2001-2021 (thousands)<sup>9</sup>**

	<b>2001*</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>
0-14	18.4	17.7	17.3	17.6	18.1
15-29	16.2	16.5	17.3	17.4	17.0
30-44	22.1	20.8	19.7	19.5	20.4
45-59	18.3	18.9	19.4	20.1	19.8
60-74	11.6	12.0	13.6	14.4	15.3
75+	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.3	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>97.3</b>	<b>99.8</b>

Source: 2004 Subnational Population Projections. Office for National Statistics. Crown Copyright.

\* Figures taken from 2001 Census. Crown Copyright. Numbers may not tally exactly due to rounding

**Table 3.3: Projected population structure (percentage)**

	<b>2001*</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>
0-14	19.5%	18.8%	18.1%	18.1%	18.1%
15-29	17.1%	17.6%	18.2%	17.9%	17.0%
30-44	23.4%	22.2%	20.4%	20.0%	20.4%
45-59	19.3%	20.1%	20.6%	20.7%	19.8%
60-74	12.3%	12.8%	14.2%	14.8%	15.3%
75+	8.4%	8.5%	8.6%	8.5%	9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: 2004 Subnational Population Projections. Office for National Statistics. Crown Copyright.

\* Figures taken from 2001 Census. Crown Copyright. Numbers may not tally exactly due to rounding

Population projections are based upon observed levels of births, deaths and migration over the preceding five years and show how the population structure will develop if recent trends continue. Tables 3.2 and 3.3 above detail the projected population over the plan period to 2021 in terms of both absolute numbers and population structure.

It is estimated that the total population of Hertsmere will grow to 99,800 by 2021. This represents a 5.6% increase over the period 2001 to 2021 and a 6.3% increase over the period 2006-2021.

The number and proportion of the population in the 0-14 age group is predicted to remain relatively stable to 2021. It is anticipated that there will be a small decline in the middle of the plan period before the numbers rise again by 2021.

Although the number of people in the 30-44 age group is predicted to remain stable, this will represent a decline in proportion of people of this age from 23.4% of the total population in 2001 to 20.4% by 2021.

The most significant changes in the population, in terms of both numbers and proportion are predicted in the 60-74 and 75+ age groups. The population in these two age groups is predicted to rise from 19,500 in 2001 to 24,500 by 2021. By the end of the plan period, almost a quarter of the population will be 60 or over, compared to 1 in 5 of the population at present.

Forecasts of future demand will need to take account of these changing demographics. Where provision is calculated on a per capita basis, the predicted population in 2021 will

<sup>9</sup> The Office for National Statistics have recently revised the mid-year population estimates for 2002 to 2005 (inclusive) following a review of the methodology used. However, at the time of writing, the population projections have not been updated. The 2004-based projection remains the most recent forecast of long-term population growth, though it is now considered that these figures may represent a small underestimate of likely trends.

be used as a basis. Where provision is age specific (e.g. children's play provision), it will be ensured that sufficient allowance is made to satisfy the highest predicted population in that age group over the plan period.

**Table 3.4 Sub Area Population and 2021 Projection**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2021</b>
Aldenham and Shenley	15,589	16,493
Borehamwood	33,312	34,970
Bushey	24,605	26,030
Potters Bar	20,945	22,070
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,451</b>	<b>99,800</b>

## 4. Indoor Sports Facilities

### 4.1 Introduction and strategic context

PPG17 states that Local Authorities consider the role that indoor sports facilities play in meeting the needs of local residents. It states that the provision of swimming pools, indoor sports halls, indoor bowls and indoor tennis should therefore be considered as part of the local supply and demand assessment. This chapter reviews the indoor sport provision and demand within Hertsmere, for both the current and estimated year 2021 population.

### 4.2 Method

Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator provides a method of calculating demand for the provision of swimming pools and sports halls. Demand is calculated by applying known participation rates, based on a number of national surveys and sources, to the population profile of individual areas.

The data from the demographic profile (Chapter 3) suggested that it was reasonable to anticipate higher than average levels of participation in active sports in Hertsmere. A demand adjustment of 15% was therefore included in calculations.

Demand for swimming pools and sports halls was calculated for both the existing and future population. These were based on the default profile from the 2001 census and the estimated age profile for 2021 contained in 2004-based projections respectively.

### 4.3 Facilities

#### *4.3.1 Swimming Pools*

Using the Sport England Calculator the current demand for swimming facilities was calculated as being 20.87 twenty-five metre swimming lanes, this is equivalent to 5.22 pools. In 2021, this is anticipated to rise slightly to 21.27 twenty-five metre swimming lanes, this is equivalent to 5.32 pools.

The increase in future demand is tempered by an ageing population, and this is reflected in a small decline in the requirement for swimming pools when measured per 1,000 population, as illustrated in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Demand for swimming pools within Hertsmere**

Facility Type	Demand 2001	Demand 2021
Swimming Pools	1,108m <sup>2</sup> 20.9 lanes 5.2 pools  (11.7m <sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population)	1,130m <sup>2</sup> 21.3 lanes 5.3 pools  (11.4m <sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population)

Source: Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator

Based on the 2001 population (94,451), the Sport England Facility Calculator, demonstrates a current requirement for 1,108 sqm of water and a future requirement for 1,130 sqm of water by 2021.

Within Hertsmere, 14 facilities have been identified with a total of 19 swimming pools. Whilst there are 14 sites within the Hertsmere Borough, Ten are private and therefore not included in the supply and demand modelling (details of these are provided in appendix 3). Four sites are included in the modelling, three public and one dual-use (the dual use facility has been discounted by 75% as the school facility is only available to the public in the evening), which results in a current supply of 1538.25m<sup>2</sup>. This is illustrated within Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 Supply of Swimming Pools in Hertsmere**

Swimming Pool	Access	Area (sqm)
Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Public	440.5
Furzefield Centre	Public	504
The Venue, Borehamwood	Public	531.25
Haberdashers Askes School for Boys	Dual Use	250
Dual Use Total		250
Dual Use Discounted Total		62.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>1538.25</b>

\*Size area for Haberdashers Askes School discounted by 75% due to evening only public availability.

Within Hertsmere there is an oversupply of swimming pool provision both currently and for 2021, as illustrated by Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3 Supply and Demand of Swimming Pools in Hertsmere**

Scenarios	Demand	Supply	Oversupply/shortfall
Existing	1,108 sqm	1538.25 sqm	<b>+430.25</b>
Future (2021)	1,130 sqm	1538.25 sqm	<b>+408.25</b>

Hertsmere currently has an appropriate supply of swimming pools to meet the demands of the Borough currently and in 2021. In addition there is also 1892.5 sqm supply of private swimming pools, which provide an additional option for the residents of Hertsmere.

### 4.3.2 Sports Halls

The current demand for sports halls in Hertsmere is 30.55 courts; this is equivalent to 7.64 four-court sports halls as calculated using the Sports England Calculator. In 2021, the demand is expected to rise to 31.85 courts, equivalent to 7.96 four-court sports halls as illustrated in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4 Demand for Sports Halls in Hertsmere**

Facility Type	Demand 2001	Demand 2021
Sports Halls	30.6 courts 7.6 halls  (0.32 courts per 1,000 population)	31.9 courts 8.0 halls  (0.32 courts per 1,000 population)

Source: Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator

Within Hertsmere 95 courts were identified at 34 different locations. One location with four courts is limited to private members and is discounted from the modelling. A detailed audit of facilities is shown in Appendix 4. Four sites are included in the modelling have public access and 29 are dual-use. A discount of 75% has been applied to the dual use facilities, as they are not available during school hours. As a result there is a supply of 40.75 courts with Hertsmere.

**Table 4.5 Supply of Sports Hall in Hertsmere**

Sport Hall	Access	Courts
Aldenham Sports Centre	Public	9
Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Public	4
Furzefield Centre	Public	7
John Owen Sports Centre	Public	4
Bushey Meads School	Dual Use	5
Dame Alice Owen's School	Dual Use	5
Haberdashers Askes School For Boys	Dual Use	7
Haberdashers Askes School For Girls	Dual Use	5
Hertswood Centre	Dual Use	5
Hertswood School - Lower Site	Dual Use	1
Hertswood School - Secondary Site	Dual Use	1
Immanuel College	Dual Use	6
Mount Grace School (1)	Dual Use	2
Mount Grace School (2)	Dual Use	2
Purcell School	Dual Use	1
Queen's School (Site 1)	Dual Use	2
Yavneh College Sports Centre	Dual Use	5
Ashfield Junior School	Dual Use	1
Bournehall Primary School	Dual Use	1

Bushey Manor Junior	Dual Use	1
Clore Shalom	Dual Use	1
Cranborne Primary	Dual Use	1
Hartsbourne Primary	Dual Use	1
High Cross Edge Grove School	Dual Use	3
Highwood Primary	Dual Use	1
Ladbroke JMI	Dual Use	1
Little Redding Primary	Dual Use	2
Merryfield Community Primary	Dual Use	2
Newberries Primary	Dual Use	1
Pope Paul Catholic Primary	Dual Use	1
Shenley Primary	Dual Use	1
ST Giles C of E Primary	Dual Use	1
Wroxham School	Dual Use	1
Dual Use Total		67
Dual Use Corrected Figure*		16.75
Total		40.75

\*Number of courts schools discounted by 75% due to evening and weekend only public availability.

**Table 4.6 Supply and Demand of Sports Halls in Hertsmere**

Scenarios	Demand	Supply	Oversupply/shortfall
Existing	30.6 Courts	40.75	<b>+10.15</b>
Future (2021)	31.9 Courts	40.75	<b>+8.85</b>

Hertsmere currently has an appropriate supply of Sports Hall to meet the demands of the Borough currently and in 2021.

#### **4.3.3 Indoor Bowl Centre**

There are no indoor bowls facilities within Hertsmere. The nearest facilities are located nearby in Barnet, Hemel Hempstead and Watford respectively.

#### **4.3.4 Indoor Tennis Centre**

There is currently one indoor tennis facility in the Borough, the David Lloyd centre in Bushey, which has 13 Courts.

Sport England does not currently include indoor tennis within its demand model. However, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) provide some guidance, their research shows that 2% of the population regularly participates in tennis and that the average supply of indoor



courts in the UK is currently 1 court per 63,000 people. The LTA also recommend the following demand parameters for different facility types:

- one outdoor floodlit court per 45 regular tennis players
- one indoor court per 200 regular tennis players.

The Active People Survey results for Hertsmere found that of the sample surveyed in Hertsmere in 2007 2.3% had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted. However, in 2008 4.11% had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted. This is a large increase in participation; this could be due to increased coverage of tennis as a result of the success of Andy Murray.

The survey found that 2.4% of the regional population sample surveyed and 2.2% of the national population sample surveyed had played tennis at least once within the four weeks before the survey was conducted in 2008. We also know from national LTA research that 2% of the population plays tennis regularly.

Using the Active People Survey results, it is therefore reasonable to assume that around 4% of the population of Hertsmere play tennis regularly this equates to 3,778 people.

As a court serves 200 people the requirement within Hertsmere is for 18.8 Indoor Tennis Courts. However, based on the 2007 Hertsmere participation rate and East of England 2008 participation rate then the requirement would be 11 courts.

Based on the Hertsmere participation rates there is currently a deficiency of five courts. However, the deficiency has been created by the increase participation between 2007 and 2008. Later years data will need to be reviewed to ensure that the increased participation rate has stabilised and not returned to previous levels, which were consistent with regional and national figures.

In 2021 about 3,992 people in Hertsmere would be playing tennis regularly, and as a result there would be a demand for 19.96 courts. However, if participation rates were to fall back to 2007 levels then there would be a demand for 11.27 tennis courts in 2021.

#### *4.3.5 Health and Fitness Centres*

Health and fitness centres are a core sports facility sought by residents in any area of the country. Health and fitness gyms appeal to a wide audience because they provide strength and fitness training opportunities for people who are training for their sport or simply just keeping fit.

There is no quantitative standard set for this type of indoor provision; as a result we have not tested the levels of provision.

Within Hertsmere there are 18 facilities providing health and fitness gym facilities. The facilities provide a total of 1,090 stations for exercise. Within the Borough there is a range of different facilities, which provide a number of different access methods.

**Table: 4.7 Health and Fitness Supply in Hertsmere**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>Number of Stations</b>
Aldenham Sports Centre	Pay and Play	19
Bushey Country Club	Registered Membership use	49
Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Pay and Play	96
Club Moativation (Elstree/Borehamwood)	Pay and Play	28
David Lloyd Club (Bushey – Watford)	Registered Membership use	160
Furzefield Centre	Pay and Play	125
Haberdashers Askes School For Boys	Private Use	20
Hertswood Centre	Pay and Play	33
Immanuel College	Private Use	18
John Owen Sports Centre	Registered Membership use	10
Livingwell Health Club (Watford)	Registered Membership use	10
Parkwood Health And Fitness (Potters Bar)	Pay and Play	130
Potters Bar Health Club	Pay and Play	39
Sebastian Coe Health Club (Watford)	Registered Membership use	32
The Shire London	Registered Membership use	16
The Venue	Pay and Play	130
Village Leisure Club (Elstree)	Registered Membership use	70
Virgin Active Club (Borehamwood)	Registered Membership use	105
<b>Total</b>		<b>1090</b>

Compared to other Boroughs in the region Hertsmere has a large provision of Health and Fitness Gym Stations.

#### **4.3.6 Community Halls**

Community Halls, traditionally offer basic adult education activities and various developmental opportunities for older people. Many host some sort of nursery or pre-school provision. This can be through hiring out space to voluntary or commercial groups, or through the development of their own provision. Community centres are by their very nature a place where local social and political activity takes place (again often via groups hiring their rooms) and they continue to provide a facility where local people can organise social and family events. In some urban areas community halls have been able to develop substantial programmes of work by tapping into regeneration monies and making use of other funding streams in the context of early years provision and continuing and lifelong learning.

Within Hertsmere there are 36 community halls. Details of these are provided in appendix 5. The community halls are widely distributed across the Borough as illustrated within Table 4.8.

**Table 4.8: Distribution of community halls across Hertsmere**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Number of Community Hall</b>	<b>Approximate Capacity (People)</b>	<b>Community Hall per thousand</b>
Borehamwood	10	1640	0.30
Aldenham and Shenley	7	1135	0.45
Potters Bar	10	2145	0.48
Bushey	9	2128	0.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7048</b>	<b>0.38</b>

When considered against capacity and population the greatest supply of Community Halls is in Potters Bar and Bushey, whilst the lowest is in Borehamwood.

The population of Hertsmere is 94,451, therefore based on the Shaping Neighbourhoods guidance, Hertsmere could sustain around 24 community halls/centres. The current supply is 36 community hall/centres, although it should be noted that these are of differing size. This equates to 0.38 community facilities per 1000 population.

The recommended local quantity standard for community facilities has been derived from the audit of provision, and it is therefore recommended that the local quantity standard is set at the current level of provision with a focus on quality improvements and raising awareness, which will encourage greater attendance at the existing sites.

Compared to the proposed standard in 2021 there would be a requirement for 38 Community Halls, as a result an additional two facilities would be required.

#### 4.4 Consultation

Research undertaken by MORI on behalf of the Council<sup>10</sup> assessed satisfaction with a range of services and activities in the Borough. In Hertsmere as a whole, 70% of respondents were satisfied with sports and leisure facilities and events provided by the Council. 6% were dissatisfied, providing a net satisfaction score (the % satisfied minus the % dissatisfied) of +63%.

There were small variations within the sub areas, as detailed in Table 6.9 below. Potters Bar recorded the highest levels of satisfaction (78%) and the lowest levels of dissatisfaction (1%). Bushey saw the lowest level of net satisfaction at +48%.

<sup>10</sup> Best Value General User Survey 2006/7: Research Study Conducted for Hertsmere Borough Council, Ipsos MORI, 2007.

**Table 4.9: Satisfaction with Sports / Leisure Facilities and events**

Area	% Satisfied	% Dissatisfied	Net satisfaction
Aldenham & Shenley	66%	6%	+60%
Borehamwood & Elstree	72%	5%	+67%
Bushey	60%	12%	+48%
Potters Bar	78%	1%	+77%
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>+63%</b>

Source: Ipsos MORI. Numbers may not tally exactly due to rounding.

The significant majority of respondents, 76%, felt that the quality of the service provided had stayed the same over the last three years. 19% felt that the service had improved while 5% felt it had got worse. These results were broadly reflected in each of the analysis areas.

Table 4.10, illustrates the frequency with which Hertsmere's residents use sports and leisure facilities provided by the council. Overall, 24% of residents used these facilities at least weekly, while 23% never used them. The proportion of residents using sports and leisure facilities frequently (monthly or more often) ranged from 31% in Bushey to 44% in Potters Bar.

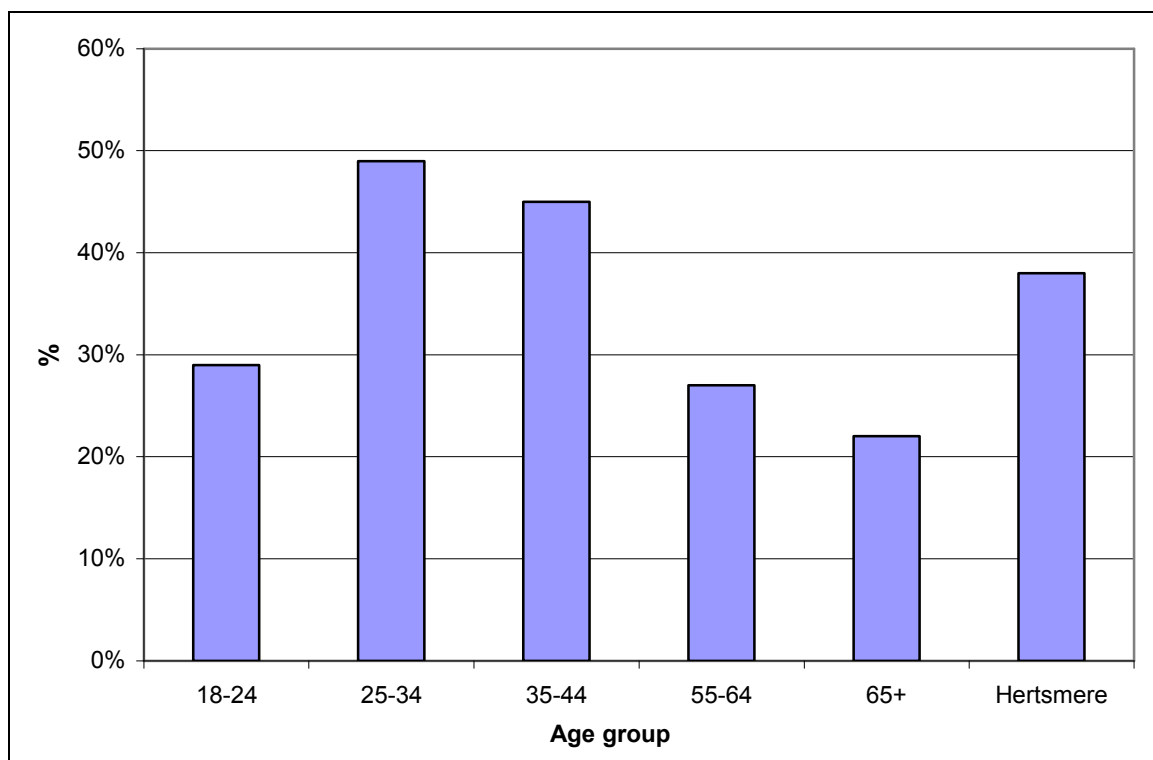
**Table 4.10: Sports and Leisure Facilities – Frequency of Use**

Area	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Never
Aldenham & Shenley	1%	17%	15%	39%	29%
Borehamwood & Elstree	4%	23%	13%	38%	22%
Bushey	1%	16%	14%	43%	26%
Potters Bar	2%	28%	14%	37%	20%
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>23%</b>

Source: Ipsos MORI. Numbers may not tally exactly due to rounding.

The findings of the MORI poll reflected those discussed previously in the demographic profile (see paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3). Figure 4.1, details the proportion of respondents in each age group who used sports and leisure facilities frequently (monthly or more often). Usage was highest in the 25-34 age range, with almost half (49%) using facilities at least monthly. By comparison, just over a quarter (27%) of those in the 55-64 age range made use of Hertsmere's sports and leisure facilities this often.

**Figure 4.1: Percentage of respondents using sports and leisure facilities frequently**



41% of owner-occupiers made frequent use of sports and leisure facilities compared to 31% of residents that are in social-rented properties. 39% of white respondents used sports and leisure facilities at least monthly, compared to just 25% of those in black and minority ethnic groups. This would reinforce the impression gained from the demographic profile that participation rates in Hertsmere are likely to be higher than the national average. This will be considered when forecasting future demand.

#### 4.5 Accessibility

Considering that no information could be used to determine any accessibility standard, it was thought it would be reasonable to use the same accessibility standard of 15 minutes walking distance for Indoor Facilities as used for outdoor facilities (1200metres, mapped at 720 metres straightline in line with advice from Fields in Trust). This is based on the fact that walking is more sustainable than driving.

**Figure 4.2: 15 minute walk catchment of indoor leisure facilities**

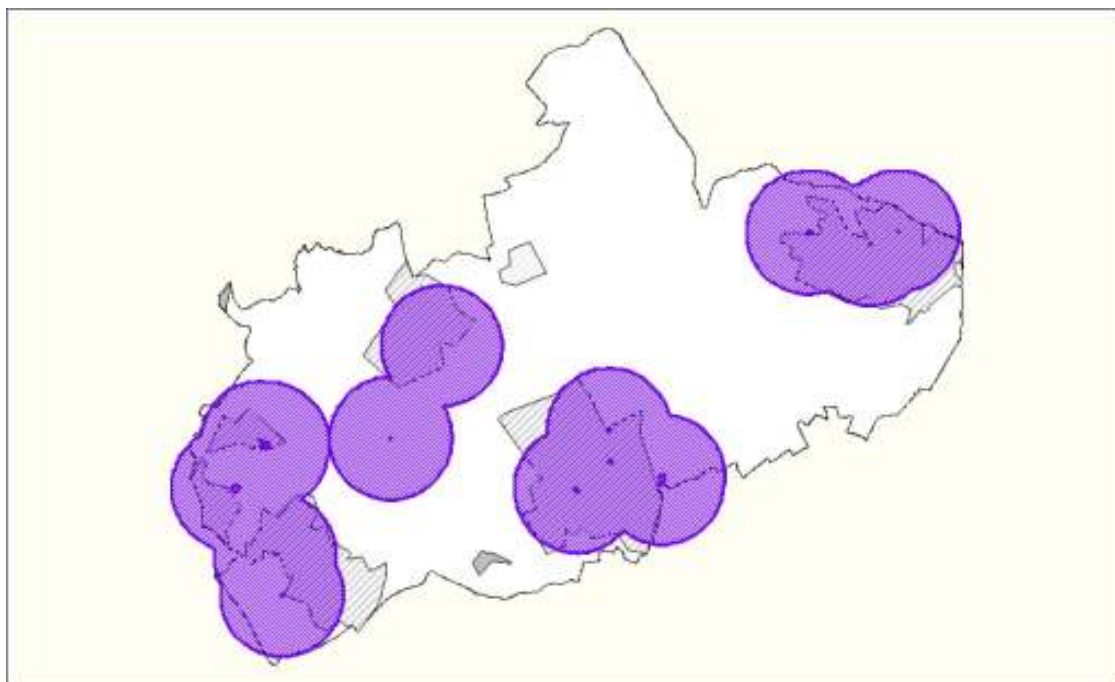


Figure 4.2 illustrates the following accessibility deficiencies of indoor sport facilities in Hertsmere. The following areas are illustrated to be outside the catchment of a public indoor sport facility.

- Borehamwood, in the North West and South East
- Elstree no facilities
- South Bushey
- Radlett, North and West
- East of Potters Bar and Shenley

### Dual Use

Schools in Hertsmere provide a range of indoor sports facilities. Of the 38 schools surveyed 37 had some form of indoor sports facility. Of these 25 hire out all or part of their facilities. These have been considered as part of our audit of supply.

### **Quality**

The schools were interviewed by phone and asked to rate their facilities from 1 (poor) through to 5 (excellent). Of the 36 schools with gymnasiums only 19% of schools graded their facilities as excellent. The majority of schools graded their gymnasiums 3 or lower.

The majority of the other facilities were rated as either very good or excellent. For instance of these other facilities 55% of those school that had badminton courts rated them as excellent and 27% said they were very good.

**Table 4.11: Quality of School Facilities**

	No of Schools	1 – Poor	2 – Basic	3 – Good	4 – Very Good	5 – Excellent
Gymnasium	<b>36</b>	1	9	11	8	7
Badminton Courts	<b>11</b>			2	3	6
Basketball	<b>14</b>		1	5	3	5
Fencing	<b>3</b>	1			1	1
Squash Courts	<b>3</b>			1	1	1
Cricket nets	<b>9</b>			3	2	4
Swimming pool	<b>3</b>				2	1
Tennis	<b>10</b>			3	3	4
Anything else / Other	-	-	-	-	-	-

Schools are often more accessible to the wider community in an area than other indoor facilities as they are often within walking distance, especially primary schools. The survey does show that more facilities tend to be available from secondary schools.

In terms of schools making their facilities available to the wider community 66% of the schools interviewed hire out their facilities.

It is of benefit to a community if indoor sport facilities at local schools are made to available to those in the wider community not just those attending and associated with individual schools. Both Building Bulletin 98 and 99, which give details as requirements for secondary and primary schools respectively, refer to community use of school facilities. However ultimately it is up to the school if these facilities are made available to those outside the school community, although it can be a requirement of any planning application for a new or extended school such as Yavneh College, Borehamwood.

Several of the schools stated that they did not hire out their halls or gymnasiums as they were in too poor a condition, others did not have the staff to manage the service or facilities, and one school had stopped hiring out facilities due to bad experience.

There is also a possibility through Section 106 contributions for developers to make payments to local schools (subject to agreement with the school) in order for their facilities to be upgraded and hired out to the community, although this is not necessarily a common practice it is within the scope of Section 106. This would assist increases the quality of facilities at the school and quantity of indoor facilities available to the community.

Additional provision in Borehamwood has been made through the provision of 4-court sport hall at the Yavneh College in Hillside Avenue. This facility is available for secure community use at evenings and weekends (excluding the Sabbath).

Haberdasher Askes' Girls School has a new 6 lane 25 metre swimming pool with changing facilities and a fitness studio. The school has at this stage decided not to hire it out to the wider community as they wish to 'get used to' the facility before making the decision to hire it out.

## Summary

In summary, the audit findings illustrate that there is currently:

- A significant provision of health and fitness facilities,
- No provision of indoor bowls rinks to meet the current demand, however, 90% of residents in the borough are within 20 minutes drive of an indoor bowls centre.
- The demand for indoor tennis facilities needs to be monitored to ensure that there is an appropriate supply. There is potentially a small undersupply at current, which will increase by 2021 if the participation rates stabilise at the 2008 rates.
- An oversupply of badminton courts, however this is partly reliant on dual use arrangements,
- An oversupply of swimming pools
- An appropriate level of community halls

The following conclusions can be drawn from the supply and demand analysis:

- There may be the needs for new indoor tennis facilities in the Borough, however the level of demand stated in this report must be treated as indicative as there is no officially recognised supply and demand model for indoor tennis facilities.
- there is no need for additional health and fitness, swimming pools or indoor sport halls provision at the present time or by 2021.
- Where schools are being redeveloped as part of the Building Schools for the Future potential for dual use arrangements should be maximised where possible.

**Table 4.12 Overview of Indoor Sport Provision in Hertsmere**

Facility Type	Current Situation	2021 Scenario
Swimming Pool	Oversupply	Oversupply
Sports Halls	Oversupply	Oversupply
Health and Fitness	Balanced Provision	Balanced Provision
Indoor tennis*	Potential Undersupply	Potential Undersupply
Indoor bowls	Undersupply	Undersupply
Community Halls	Balanced Provision	Undersupply of 2 community centre

- Tennis undersupply as a result of increased participation rates between 2008-2009.

There are accessibility deficiencies of indoor sport facilities in Hertsmere in:



- Borehamwood, in the North West and South East
- Elstree (no facilities)
- South Bushey
- Radlett, North and West
- East of Potters Bar and Shenley

### Conclusion

As a result of the indoor sport supply and demand analysis a number of standards are proposed and illustrated in Table 4.13.

**Table 4.13 Proposed Hertsmere Indoor Sport Standards**

<b>Facility Type</b>	<b>Proposed Standard</b>
Swimming Pool	11.5 sqm of swimming pool per Thousand
Sports Halls	0.32 badminton courts per thousand
Health and Fitness	No Standard Proposed
Indoor tennis	Courts Space for 4% of the population
Indoor bowls	0.07 rink per Thousand
Community Halls	0.38 Community Hall per Thousand

An accessibility standard of 15 minutes walking distance is proposed this equates to 1200 metres, and mapped at 720 metres straightline (in line with advice from Fields in Trust).

## 5 Outdoor Sports Facilities

### 5.1 Introduction and strategic context

Outdoor sports facilities provide a diverse range of opportunities for activity for people of all ages to engage in. Nationally millions of people take part in sport and physical activity, and it is recognised that sport has a valuable role to play across a range of key policy agendas including:

- Improving fitness and health;
- Improving the environment;
- Making a positive contribution to young people's attitude to learning;
- Contributing towards reducing youth crime; and
- Providing opportunities for 'active citizenship' through volunteering.<sup>11</sup>

The benefits of physical activity on health are clear, well evidenced and widely accepted. Thirty minutes of moderate activity five times a week can help to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, some cancers, strokes and obesity. Conversely, a lack of physical inactivity is an increasing problem, as the continuing rise in obesity and other inactivity-related health problems demonstrate.

PPG17 guidance considers the provision of both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. This section includes only outdoor sports facilities. Indoor facilities are considered separately in the Chapter 4.

### 5.2 Definition

For the purposes of this report, outdoor sport and recreational facilities are defined as playing pitches (grass and artificial), bowling greens, tennis courts, athletic tracks, golf courses and other facilities which meet the Fields in Trust (FIT) formerly known as National Playing Fields Association's (NPFA) definition of outdoor playing space for sport.

Outdoor sports facilities is a wide ranging category of open space, which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are either publicly or privately owned. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.

PPG17 considers the provision of all the different types of outdoor sport facilities as one and does not break down the typology into more detailed assessments for each sport. The localised supply and demand for each pitch type is considered in the Council's Playing Pitch Study.

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<sup>11</sup> Realising the Potential: The Value of Sport, LGA 2001.

Sports Turf Consulting (STC) undertook an assessment of playing pitches in Hertsmere in 2010<sup>12</sup>. This report analysed provision for rugby, football, hockey and cricket. The findings of this report form the bases of the results presented below for these sports types and are acknowledged where appropriate.

Outdoor sports facilities are often a focal point of a local community, functioning as a recreational and amenity resource in addition to a formal sports facility. This is particularly true of pitches, which often have a secondary function of a local dog walking and kickabout area. Likewise, amenity green space sites often provide informal sporting opportunities.

### 5.3 Current Standard

The current Local Plan standard for outdoor sport facilities is 1.7 ha per thousand population. This includes both public and private spaces. This was based on the 1995 Open Space Study and the National Playing Field Association standards. Revised provision standards were published in 2008 by Fields in Trusts, which supersede the NPFA standards, these are set out in Table 7.1.

**Table 5.1 Fields in Trust Standard (2008)**

<b>Type of Local Authority</b>	<b>Benchmark Standard (hectares per 1000 population)</b>
Urban	1.60
Rural	1.76
Overall	1.60

### 5.4 Analysis

Although many school sports sites are not accessible at the current time, they are identified as important resources throughout analysis. School facilities have been included within the calculation, to ensure that they are protected. The redevelopment of some school sites under the Building Schools for the Future programme may provide additional facilities available for community use. This may be critical if participation targets are achieved, particularly in terms of providing facilities for peak day activity.

Golf courses have been excluded from the total open sport figures due to their size and they have a tendency to skew figures.

The Revised Draft Core Strategy (December 2010) encourages dual use arrangements, particularly for community and recreation facilities. Policy CS17 Key community facilities seeks the provision or dual use of key community facilities, including educational, healthcare and recreational facilities, will be supported, subject to any environmental constraints and other relevant policies.

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<sup>12</sup> Playing Pitch Assessment & Strategy: A Report Compiled on Behalf on Hertsmere Borough Council (draft), Sports Turf Consulting, 2006 Updated March 2010.

### 5.5 Current provision

Within Hertsmere there is a total of 514.87 hectares of outdoor sport facilities not including golf courses.

**Table 5.2 Outdoor Sport Facilities in Hertsmere (amount in brackets illustrates amount per thousand population).**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Total</b>
Aldenham and Shenley	12.45 (0.80)	104.96 (6.73)	76.49 (4.91)	193.84 (12.44)
Borehamwood	16.32 (0.49)	2.19 (0.07)	54 (1.62)	72.51 (2.18)
Bushey	9.27 (0.38)	29.10 (1.18)	139.84 (5.68)	178.21 (7.24)
Potters Bar	10.81 (0.52)	3.12 (0.15)	56.32 (2.69)	70.25 (3.35)
<b>Total</b>	48.85 (0.52)	201.87 (1.48)	326.65 (3.46)	514.87 (5.45)

When compared to population the lowest supply of outdoor sport facilities is within the Borehamwood sub area. The sub-area has 0.56ha per thousand of outdoor sport facilities not including school pitches, as a result the sub area is reliant on dual use arrangements.

At current 11 additional pitches are available for hire through dual use arrangements. There are also opportunities for outdoor sport activities within other open space typologies, such as parks, country parks and amenity spaces. Potters Bar also has a relatively low supply of outdoor sport facilities, the sub area has a supply 0.67ha per thousand of outdoor sport facilities not including school pitches, the sub area has a large supply of school sport facilities of which 14 pitches are available for dual use arrangements. Bushey has a lower level of public outdoor sport pitches compared to the other settlements. However there are opportunities to use dual use facilities at the schools, and there are a number of private facilities available, though at a cost.

Currently within Hertsmere 45 school pitches are made available for public use these are set out in Table 5.3.

**Table 5.3 Dual use pitches made available by schools in Hertsmere**

Sub Area	Number of pitches total provided by schools				
	Hockey	Football	Rugby	Cricket	Total
Aldenham and Shenley	0	6	0	0	<b>6</b>
Borehamwood and Elstree	1	7	1	2	<b>11</b>
Bushey	1	10	2	1	<b>14</b>
Potters Bar	1	9	3	1	<b>14</b>
<b>Hertsmere Borough</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45</b>

Source: Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy

**Table 5.4 Outdoor Sport Facilities per thousand population in 2021**

Sub Area	Public	Private	School	Total
Aldenham and Shenley	0.75	6.36	4.64	11.75
Borehamwood	0.47	0.06	1.54	2.07
Bushey	0.36	1.12	5.37	6.85
Potters Bar	0.49	0.14	2.55	3.18
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>3.27</b>	<b>5.16</b>

The increased population to 2021 would result in an added demand on outdoor sport facilities. The lowest supply of playing pitches would be within the Borehamwood, which is reliant on the use of school pitches. Bushey has a low supply of public pitches, however this deficiency is alleviated by private facilities and dual use arrangements with school. Opportunities should be taken to maximise the provision of public sport pitches where appropriate and implement to a credible standard. The provision of new pitches should be in an appropriate and accessible location.

Based on the figures as illustrated in Tables 5.2 and 5.4 the loss of public sport pitches will not be supported, unless it can be demonstrated that there is an oversupply in that, and that the site is surplus to requirements.

The Play Pitch Assessment and Strategy includes a detailed assessment of the several codes of outdoor sport, and sought to identify where and when there were any shortfalls in the supply of pitches within sport codes to 2016. The assessment states that:

- Within the Aldenham area there is currently and in the future there is need for two cricket pitches, whereas other sports are adequately provided for. In the Shenley area currently there is a need for a single junior football pitch and two cricket but in

reality one cricket pitch would be sufficient. By 2016 there will be a need to create two new football pitches whilst cricket demand will be met by one new facility currently needed.

- In Borehamwood there is an immediate need to provide 2 junior rugby pitches to meet demand now and in the future (assuming that the surfaces can be played consecutively). There is also need for a new cricket pitch facility by 2016. Whilst in Elstree current demand is for 2 football pitches, rising to three pitches in 2016. One mini-soccer pitch is required in this sub-area currently.
- Current needs within Bushey are for the provision of 2 junior football pitches and 1 cricket pitch (these could be combined on the same area if necessary i.e. 2 football pitches flanking a cricket table). Future demands in Bushey indicate a need for 2 senior football pitches, 4 junior pitches and a mini-soccer pitch. If the current shortfall in cricket were to be provided for, this would also cover the need for an additional cricket pitch in the future.
- Potters Bar currently has a shortfall of 2 mini-soccer pitches, one cricket pitch and a senior hockey pitch. Providing these now should meet future needs in 2016.

### Golf Courses

Golf courses were excluded from the analysis of outdoor sport facilities within Hertsmere, as they skew figures due to their land take. However, Table 5.5 summarises the supply of golf courses in the borough. Hertsmere has a strong supply of golf courses with a total area of 483.5 hectares.

**Table 5.5 Supply of Golf Courses**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Ha per 1000</b>
Aldenham and Shenley	265.48	17.03
Borehamwood	39.44	1.18
Bushey	130.74	5.31
Potters Bar	47.84	2.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>483.5</b>	<b>25.8</b>

### 5.6 Consultation

The Play Pitch Assessment and Strategy undertook consultation by post and telephone with a number of sports clubs that fall within the Hertsmere Borough boundary. The strategy noted that the “overall consensus of the HBC facilities by clubs is that the facilities on offer are generally of average quality. The Little Bushey Lane, Furzefield, Tempsford and Meadow Park sites were rated lower”. Users of Hertsmere’s pitches highlighted dog-fouling and unsafe goal posts as their main concerns.

The consultation undertaken for this report also noted that perception of sports clubs and school pitches was far more varied, covering the whole spectrum from very good to poor.

## 5.7 Quality assessment

A qualitative and quantitative “audit” of the pitches and changing facilities was undertaken together with recording the site details and facilities on offer in 2006 by the Borough. The “audit” included a visual inspection and scoring using the Pitch Quality Assessment (PQA) methodology developed by Sport England. The sites were rated with regard to:

- Quantitative Information regarding the type of sport and the number of pitches present.
- Qualitative information relating to the condition of the pitches.
- Qualitative information regarding the condition of the ancillary facilities.

The overall scores from the survey for pitch quality are shown below in Table 5.6 below. These scores have been taken directly from the Pitch Strategy for a detailed breakdown of how these scores were measured refer to Section II of the Strategy.

**Table 5.6: Overall Pitch Quality**

<b>Pitch Quality</b>	<b>All sites 56 pitches</b>	<b>Other Providers 27 pitches</b>	<b>HBC Pitches 29 pitches</b>
Excellent 90%+	1.8% (1)	3.7% (1)	0% (0)
Good 64-90%	60.7% (34)	44.4% (12)	75.9% (22)
Average 55-64%	5.4% (3)	0% (0)	10.3% (3)
Below Average 30-54%	1.8% (1)	3.7% (1)	0% (0)
Poor <30%	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
No data	30.4% (17)	48.1% (13)	13.8% (4)

## 5.8 Setting provision standards

### **Accessibility**

In order to understand how accessible the outdoor facilities are to the population of Hertsmere question 4 from the greenSTAT Service Questionnaire was used.

The consultation found that the majority of residents perceptions of the accessibility to outdoor sport facilities was easy, as illustrated in Table 5.7.

**Table 5.7 Perception of outdoor sport accessibility**

Perception of ease of access	Percentage of Respondents
Very Easy	34.93
Quite Easy	34.4
Neither Easy nor Hard	16.27
Quite Hard	6.13
Very Hard	0.8
Don't know where to find such a place	7.47

While nearly 70% of those who responded to the survey found outdoor facilities either very easy or quite easy to access over 14% of the respondents found it either quite hard, very hard, or didn't know where to find outdoor facilities in their area. This is a significant percentage of respondents and any future provision should investigate means of increasing access to those who find it difficult to access outdoor facilities. The Council may also need to work with the facilities providers to better inform people where they can find outdoor sports facilities in their area.

It was considered that it would be reasonable to use a standard of 15 minutes walking distance to assess the accessibility of outdoor facilities. This equates to 1200metres, which was mapped at 720 metres straightline in line with advice from Fields in Trust. This is based on the fact that walking is more sustainable than driving. This is also in line with Manual for Streets, and accounts for the wide mix of facility types within the standard to meet user expectations.



**Figure 5.1 Accessibility of Outdoor Sport facilities**

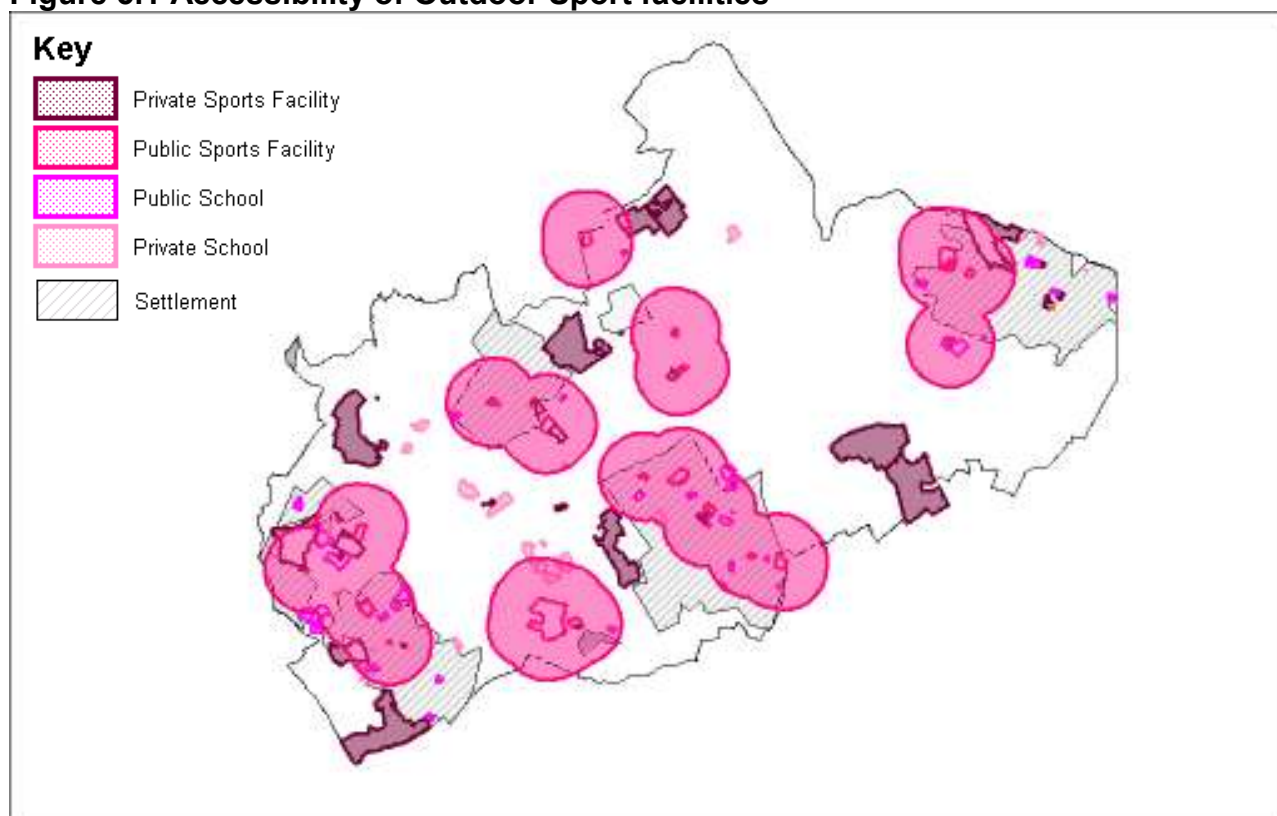


Figure 5.1 illustrates that there are accessibility deficiencies of outdoor sport facilities in Hertsmere. The following areas are illustrated to be outside of an accessibility zone:

- Borehamwood, in the West and East
- North and South Bushey, though within the areas of deficiency there are dual use facilities.
- North Radlett,
- East of Potters Bar
- All of Shenley apart from the South East.

### 5.9 Standards

Reflecting on the views of the consultations considering outdoor sports, and the nature of this, it has been recommended that the standard is set at the existing level of provision of 2 ha per 1,000 population. Results from the local consultation suggest there are demands being placed on STPs, tennis courts and bowling greens. Based on the findings of the audit, the greatest requirement for facilities will be the Borehamwood and Potters Bar analysis areas.

There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board as per PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches

(for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision).

Given the different types of outdoor sport facilities, it is suggested that two standards are set, one for grass pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens, and a separate standard for All Weather Pitches and golf courses to reflect local expectations regarding driving and walked to outdoor sport facilities.

A 15 minute walk time to these “local” outdoor sports facilities is considered an appropriate standard that will ensure quantitative improvements whilst also focusing on improving the quality of existing provision. This is in line with Manual for Streets, and accounts for the wide mix of facility types within the standard to meet user expectations. Given the more specialist nature of All Weather Pitches and Golf Courses, and the fact they are usually built in strategic locations to incorporate local demand, a 20 minute drive time standard is recommended.

The use of school facilities for community use will be particularly important in the future for reducing deficiencies.

## 6. Parks and Gardens

### 6.1 Definition

This type of open space includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks, which provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events within settlement boundaries.

### 6.2 Introduction

Good quality parks and gardens are a key factor for creating attractive and viable places in which to live, work and play. The flexibility of parks enables a wide variety of uses, providing suitable venues for events, which can help to provide a focus for wider community groups. Parks are an open space, which appeals to all age group of a community.

Parks contribute to a sense of place and help define local communities, which can help to reduce social isolation and increase social cohesion.

Parks and open spaces have an important amenity value, by providing a contrast to the built environment and adding to the quality of life. Parks have the potential to provide attractive environments, which, by providing an antidote to the stresses of urban living, can contribute to a sense of well-being and improved mental health.

Parks and trees have proven ecological value in urban areas by removing toxins from the air.

They are used for informal sports and physical activities and this has positive fitness and physical health benefits. However, fears have commonly been expressed about public safety, particularly after dark, and these are a threat to the broader social role of parks and may have contributed to the decline of the public park as a central feature of community life.

There are also a number of potential economic benefits that are derived from high quality parks. These include an enhanced image helping to attract both visitors and inward investment and retaining existing businesses, facilities for employees and opportunities to train local young people.

### 6.3 Current Supply

**Table 6.1 Current provision of parks**

Area	Area	Number	Hectares per thousand population
Aldenham & Shenley	15.78	4	1.01
Borehamwood & Elstree	81.36	12	2.44
Bushey	18.75	6	0.76
Potters Bar	15.78	4	1.01
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>131.67</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1.39</b>

The Borehamwood total includes Aldenham County Park, which is not within walking distance and which due to its size this skews the figure. Without Aldenham Country Park, the amount per thousand in Borehamwood is reduced to 1.35 Hectares per thousand, and the Borough amount per thousand reduced to 1 hectare per thousand population.

**Table 6.2 Current provision compared to future population**

Area	Area	Hectares per thousand population (2021)
Aldenham & Shenley	15.78	0.96
Borehamwood & Elstree	81.36	2.33
Bushey	18.75	0.72
Potters Bar	15.78	0.71
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>131.67</b>	<b>1.35</b>

The amount of park per thousand population reduces significantly if no new parks are provided between now and 2021. The sub area that would experience the greatest pressure on parks is Potters Bar. As a result there should be no loss of parks space unless it can be demonstrated that the park is surplus to requirements. The provision of new parks will be encouraged.

The Council does not currently have a defined standard for parks and gardens, the local plan sets the requirement of 0.4 hectares per 1,000 of general use space. The Fields in Trust guidance recommends 0.55 hectares per 1,000 of informal play space. The provision of parks in all the sub areas is above this standard.

#### 6.4 Consultation

The Best Value Survey<sup>13</sup>, included questions on residents' perceptions of the Borough's parks and open spaces. In Hertsmere as a whole, 74% were satisfied and 11% dissatisfied. This provided a net satisfaction score (the % satisfied minus the % dissatisfied) of +63%.

However, this masks a significant variation within the analysis areas. Net satisfaction was highest in Potters Bar (86%), reflecting the Green Flag status achieved in Oakmere Park. Net satisfaction in Borehamwood & Elstree, at 48% was notably lower than for all of the other sub areas.

<sup>13</sup> Best Value General User Survey 2006/7: Research Study Conducted for Hertsmere Borough Council, Ipsos MORI, 2007.

**Table 6.3: Satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces**

Area	% Satisfied	% Dissatisfied	Net satisfaction
Aldenham & Shenley	83%	4%	79%
Borehamwood & Elstree	65%	17%	48%
Bushey	84%	5%	78%
Potters Bar	88%	2%	86%
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>63%</b>

Source: Ipsos MORI. Numbers may not tally exactly due to rounding.

In Hertsmere as a whole, net satisfaction was highest amongst the 65+ age group, at 79% and decreased with age to its lowest amongst the 18-24 age group, 48%.

When asked whether provision had got better or worse over the last three years, 12% of residents in Borehamwood & Elstree felt that the parks and open spaces in their area had deteriorated in this time period. This compared to 6% in Bushey and just 3% in both Aldenham & Shenley and Potters Bar.

Despite this, the proportion of residents in Borehamwood & Elstree who felt that park and open space provision had improved (20%), was the second highest of the sub areas. This would indicate that there may be some localised issues relating to quality within this analysis area. Potters Bar residents were shown to have perceived the greatest improvement, with 29% stating that provision had got better.

Across the Borough as a whole, the perception of improvement was most marked amongst the 18-24 age range, with 46% stating that they felt the Borough's parks and open spaces had got better in the preceding three years. This can probably be attributed to the opening of the skateboard parks in Aberford Park in Borehamwood (where other facilities aged at teenagers and young people were also incorporated) and the King George V playing fields in Potters Bar within this period.

**Table 6.4: Parks and Open Spaces – Frequency of Use**

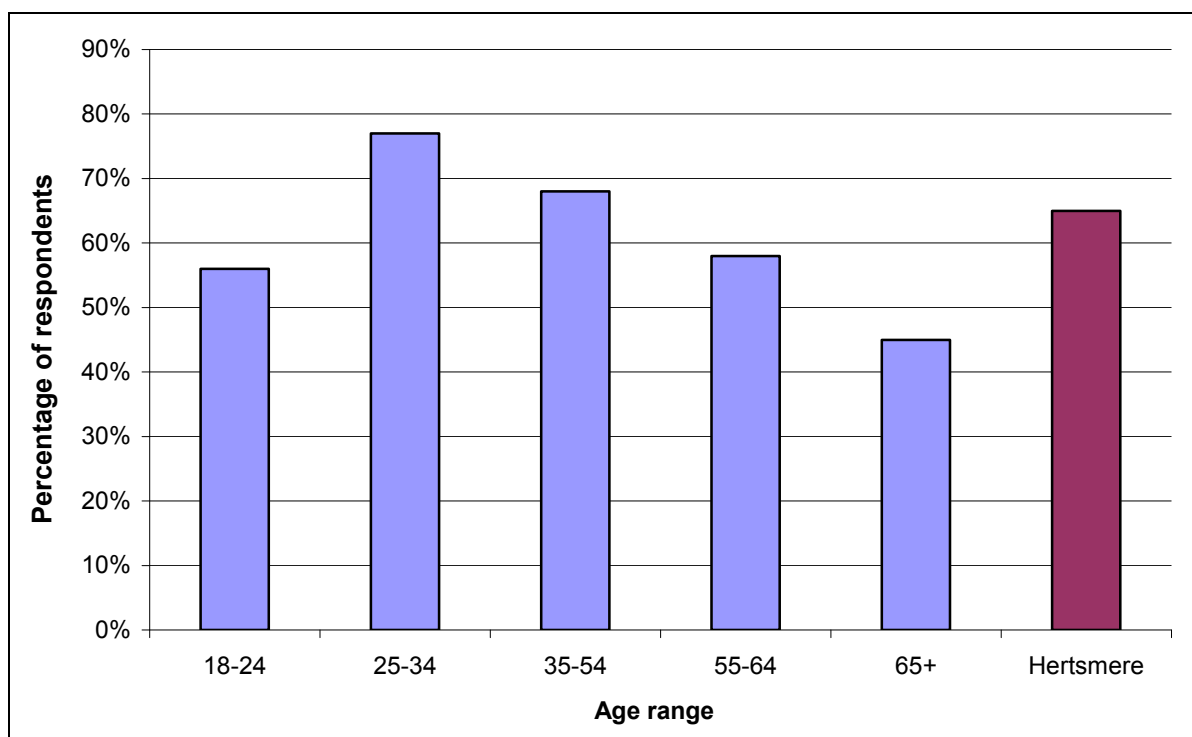
Area	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often	Never
Aldenham & Shenley	16%	29%	20%	27%	8%
Borehamwood & Elstree	17%	30%	18%	27%	8%
Bushey	17%	29%	19%	29%	7%
Potters Bar	13%	33%	20%	31%	3%
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>7%</b>

Source: Ipsos MORI. Numbers may not tally exactly due to rounding.

17% of Hertsmere's residents used parks and open spaces on a daily basis. 65% used them on a frequent (monthly or more often basis), with only 7% never making use of this type of facility. As shown in Table 8.3, above, the profile of use for the Borough as a whole was closely matched in each of the areas of analysis.

Frequency of use was highest amongst the 25-34 age group, with 77% using parks and open spaces frequently (monthly or more often). This figure declined across the subsequent age bandings with just 45% of the 65 and over age group utilising the Borough's parks and open spaces this often.

**Figure 6.1: Percentage of respondents using parks or open spaces frequently**



Source: Ipsos MORI data.

### 6.5 Quality assessment

Further consultation was carried out using the nationally developed system of Green Flags to give local residents the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces and on how they are being managed and maintained.

King George Recreation Ground in Bushey has won the award for twelve years in a row. Aberford Park in Borehamwood has won the flag since 2008. In Potters Bar, Oakmere Park and Parkfield have both won awards.

Fisher's Field Nature Reserve in Bushey has won a Green Pennant for the second time. A Green Pennant is a national award that recognises high quality green spaces that are managed by voluntary and community groups.

All five parks along with the Bushey Rose Garden have been awarded under the scheme for the 2011 awards.

### 6.6 Accessibility

It was considered that it would be reasonable to use a standard of 15 minutes walking distance to assess the accessibility of outdoor facilities. This equates to 1200metres, which was mapped at 720 metres straightline in line with advice from Fields in Trust. This is based on the fact that walking is more sustainable than driving. This is in line with Manual for Streets, and accounts for the wide mix of facility types within the standard to meet user expectations.

**Figure 6.2 Accessibility of parks and gardens**

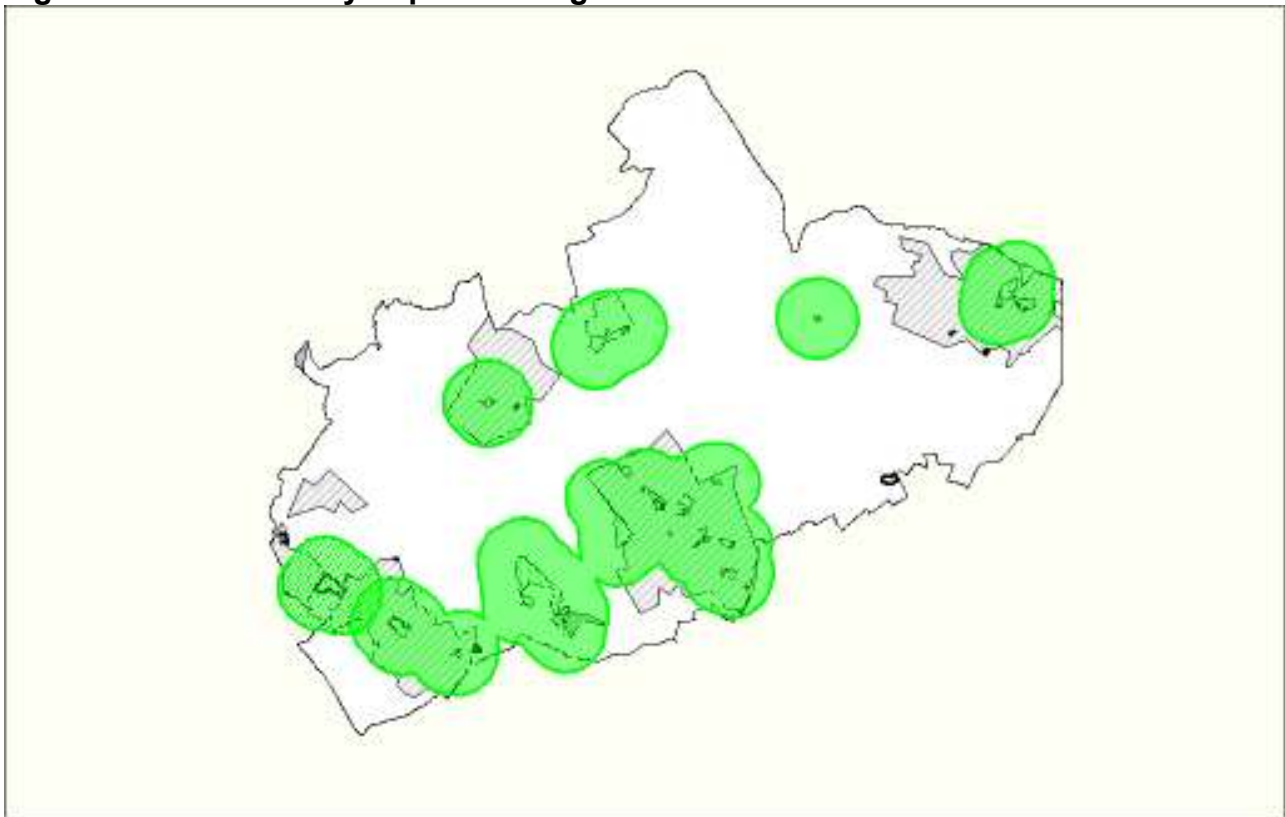


Figure 6.2 illustrates that there are accessibility deficiencies of parks and gardens in Hertsmere. The following areas are illustrated to be outside of an accessibility zone:

Aldenham – No provision

Radlett-Deficiencies in the north and east

Borehamwood – deficiencies west of the railway line and in the north.

Bushey –deficiency in the north and south west.

Potters Bar – a deficiency in the centre, north and south

**Table 6.5 Perception of ease of access to parks and open space for Hertsmere residents**

Typology	Very Easy	Quite Easy	Neither Easy nor Hard	Quite Hard	Very Hard	Don't know where to find such a place
Large Parks	37.3%	39.63%	14.22%	5.59%	2.1%	1.17%
Small Parks/ Recreation Grounds	58.27%	28.78%	8.63%	2.16%	0.96%	1.2%
Formal Public Gardens	14.91%	31.88%	24.16%	15.17%	2.57%	11.31%
Country Parks	22.22%	44.2%	18.27%	10.37%	2.22%	2.72%
Amenity Green Spaces	35.51%	32.38%	17.49%	5.74%	0.78%	8.09

Table 6.5 shows that the formal gardens are the hardest for residents to access and also have the highest percentage of respondents no knowing where to find this type of open space. Further investigations may need to be undertaken as to whether there is a demand in some areas for formal gardens, and if they can be incorporated into existing parks; or if better promotion of the location of these types of open space needs to occur, to address this issue. Since undertaking the consultation the Council has completed the restoration of the Bushey Rose Garden, which may have improved the knowledge of formalised gardens. All other typologies in Table 6.4 have over 60% of the respondents having either very easy or quite easy access them.

## 6.7 Standards

The Council does not currently have a defined standard for parks and gardens, the local plan sets the requirement of 0.4 hectares per 1,000 of general use space. The Fields in Trust guidance recommends 0.55 hectares per 1,000 of informal play space. The provision of parks in all the sub areas is above this standard.

Consultation suggests that the current level of provision being about right with respondents to the household questionnaire indicating that access to parks was relatively easy.

The current level of provision of parks and gardens is equivalent to 1 ha per 1,000 population in Hertsmere (with Aldenham Country Park excluded). This is recommended as the minimum standard, which should be viewed as a minimum level of quantitative provision across all areas it is lower than the levels of provision in Elstree and Borehamwood but provides scope for new provision in other analysis areas.

Analysis of the access to Parks and gardens was under taken using a catchment of 1,200 metres (mapped at 720 metres) based on advice in Fields in Trust.



The amount of park per thousand population reduces significantly if no new parks are provided between now and 2021. The sub area that would experience the greatest pressure on parks is Potters Bar. As a result there should be no loss of parks space unless it can be demonstrated that the park is surplus to requirements. The provision of new parks will be encouraged.

The analysis indicates that any new park provision should be focused in Aldenham and Shenley, Bushey and Potters Bar where provision is lowest.

The application of the quantity and accessibility standards should be undertaken alongside natural and semi natural provision and amenity green space (given their similar “informal open space function”). This will help with the prioritisation of quantitative increases.

## 7. Natural Green Space

### 7.1 Introduction

This section outlines the strategic context and key consultation findings in relation to natural and semi natural open space.

### 7.2 Definition

Natural / semi natural green spaces and woodland are a typology of open space identified by PPG17. They include woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grasslands, wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands with a primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity within the settlement boundaries. In some instances there may be some sites classified as parks that also provide a natural and semi natural function, thus highlighting the overlap between typologies.

Although natural and semi natural open space plays a key role in wildlife conservation and biodiversity, the recreational opportunities provided by these spaces are also important. In this respect, natural and semi natural open spaces play a similar role and function to that of amenity green space and parks and gardens.

### 7.3 Strategic Context

The Woodland Trust publication Space for People provides standards for woodland access. The standard for accessible woodland is that:

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

### 7.4 Quantitative

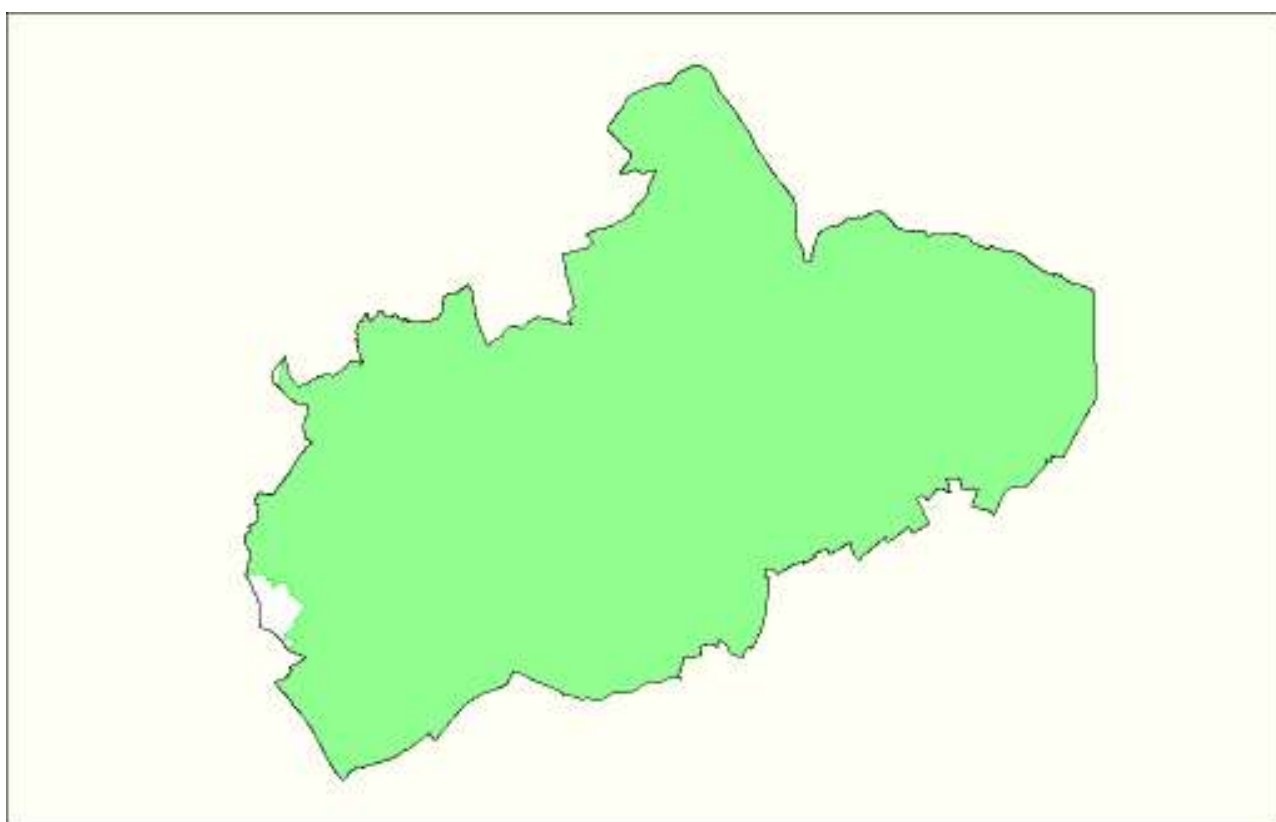
**Table 7.1 Supply Natural Green Space**

Sub Area	Number of Sites	Total Area	Area per thousand population
Aldenham and Shenley	5	5.76	0.37
Borehamwood	3	11.47	0.34
Bushey	3	6.83	0.28
Potters Bar	2	6.98	0.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>31.04</b>	<b>0.33</b>

Within Hertsmere is the Watling Chase Community Forest, which is one of 12 Community Forests around England. It covers an area of approximately 18,840 hectares (72 square miles) of land in Hertfordshire and the northern fringe of London. The majority of the Forest is within the area covered by Hertsmere Borough Council, with other parts within the areas of St Albans City and District, Welwyn Hatfield District, Watford Borough, Three Rivers District Councils and the London Boroughs of Barnet and Harrow. However, not all the land within the area of the community forest is actively forested.

The Hertsmere Local Plan seeks to support and encourage the Watling Chase Community Forest, it is a material consideration in planning applications within the area of the forest and where appropriate Section 106 contributions are collected to support the development of the forest and access to it. The extent of the Community Forest is illustrated in Figure 7.1.

**Figure 7.1 Extent of Watling Chase Community Forest**



The Woodland Trust analysed the provision of woodland within the UK against targets for woodland access and creation of new woodland for each of the local authorities across the UK, as illustrated in table 7.2.

**Table 7.2 Woodland Trust estimates for Hertsmere**

Accessible Woods	% of population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	9.39
	% of population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	98.88
Inaccessible Woods	% of extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing wood opened	24.98
	% of extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing wood opened	1.2
Woodland Creation	% of population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	65.63
	% of population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	0
	Minimum area of new woodland required for 2ha+ woods within 500m (hectares)	109
	Minimum area of new woodland required for 20ha+ woods within 4km (hectares)	0

Whilst the Woodland Trust assessment does not make any recommendations as to where new woodland should be created, they do recommend in a number of their publications that woodland creation should also be managed as habitat creation, and should focus on buffering and extending semi natural habitats, so as to increase their overall area, and therefore their biodiversity and ecological resilience.

It is a generally accepted premise that larger areas of woodland will contribute more to the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity. This is due to scientific studies showing that in general as the proportion of semi natural/ natural habitat within any given area of countryside around an established woodland increase more species will be able to operate over a wider area and use other semi natural habitats as stepping stones between woods.

This typology of open space has the potential to offer a wealth of benefits to the Borough, while it is perhaps not the most obvious typology to ensure the provision of open space within the Borough it should be put forward as a viable option

### 7.5 Quality

There is no defined standard for the quality of natural greenspaces, and by their virtue they will vary in their appearance and, could have limited facilities due to their nature. Fisher's Field Nature Reserve in Bushey has won a Green Pennant for the first time this year. A Green Pennant is a national award that recognises high quality green spaces that are managed by voluntary and community groups

## 7.6 Accessibility

The recent Best Value Survey<sup>14</sup>, included questions on residents' perceptions of the Borough's Greenspaces and the Urban Fringe/Countryside.

**Table 7.3 Perception of ease of access to Natural Greenspaces and the Urban Fringe Countryside for Hertsmere residents**

Typology	Very Easy	Quite Easy	Neither Easy nor Hard	Quite Hard	Very Hard	Don't know where to find such a place
Natural/ Semi Natural green spaces and woodland	30.46%	36.8%	17.26%	8.63%	1.27%	5.58%
Accessible Countryside in Urban Fringe Areas	27.37%	34.47%	20.26%	8.42%	1.84%	7.63%

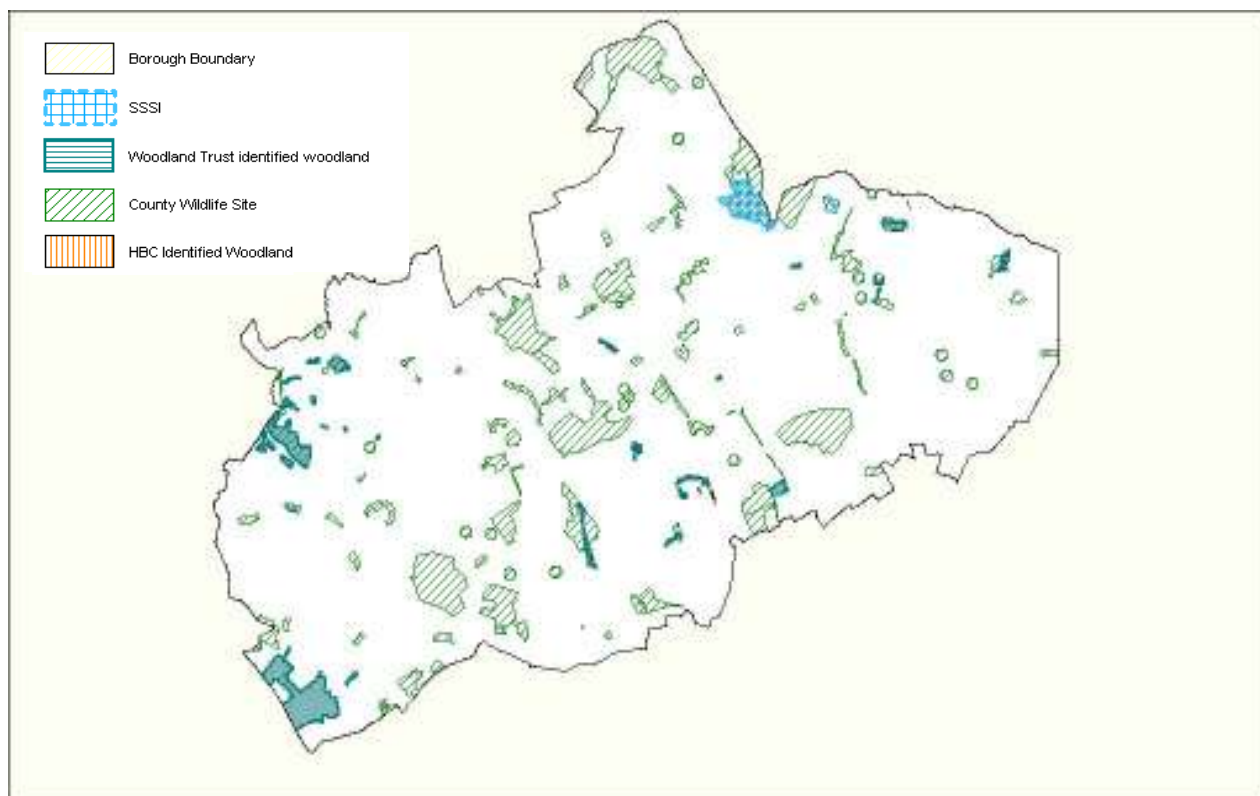
As illustrated in table 7.3 residents of Hertsmere perceive themselves to be in close proximity to natural green spaces and the countryside. 83% of the borough is designated Green Belt which limits the scale and type of development in much of the Borough.

The Borough a diverse range of different natural spaces and designations, Figure 7.2 illustrates a number of the key woodlands and protected sites.

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<sup>14</sup> Best Value General User Survey 2006/7: Research Study Conducted for Hertsmere Borough Council, Ipsos MORI, 2007.

**Figure 7.2 Woodland and environmental designations**



### 7.7 Standards

There is currently no standard for natural green spaces in Hertsmere. Formal opportunities through the planning process or Wildlife and Countryside Act or other voluntary measures will be encouraged. The Biodiversity Action Plan provides the ecological context for this work. The most appropriate standard is the ANGSt model is based on research, which reviewed the available scientific literature and concluded that a hierarchy of size should govern provision of natural green space in urban areas and distance criteria, which can be translated into a set of standards. The ANGSt model requires:

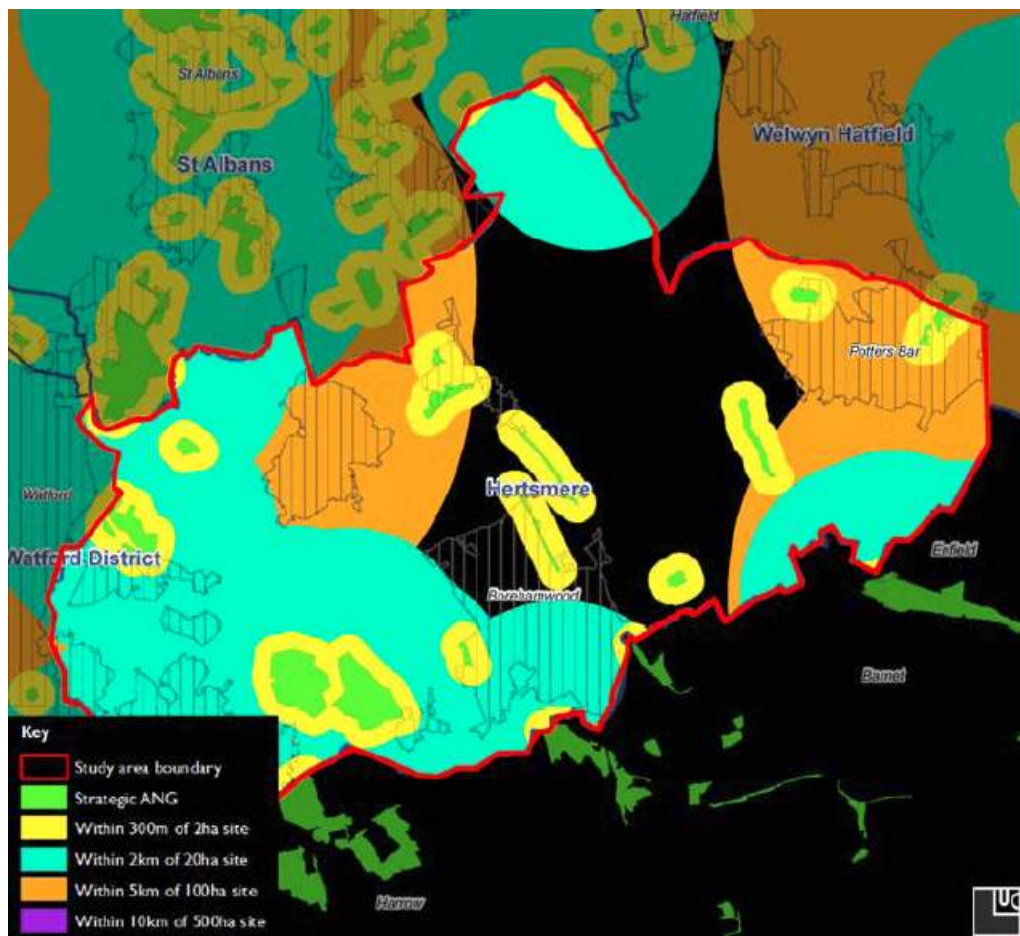
- that no person shall live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural green space of at least 2ha in size;
- provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population;
- that there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home;
- that there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km; and
- that there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.

It is acknowledged that these may not be achievable in the short term particularly the larger site standards but they provide threshold aspirations for the long term.

Analysis against the ANGST model was undertaken as part of the Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Study, as shown in Figure 7.3. This found that the key deficiencies are in terms of local (300m) and strategic provision, in all the main settlements. In addition,

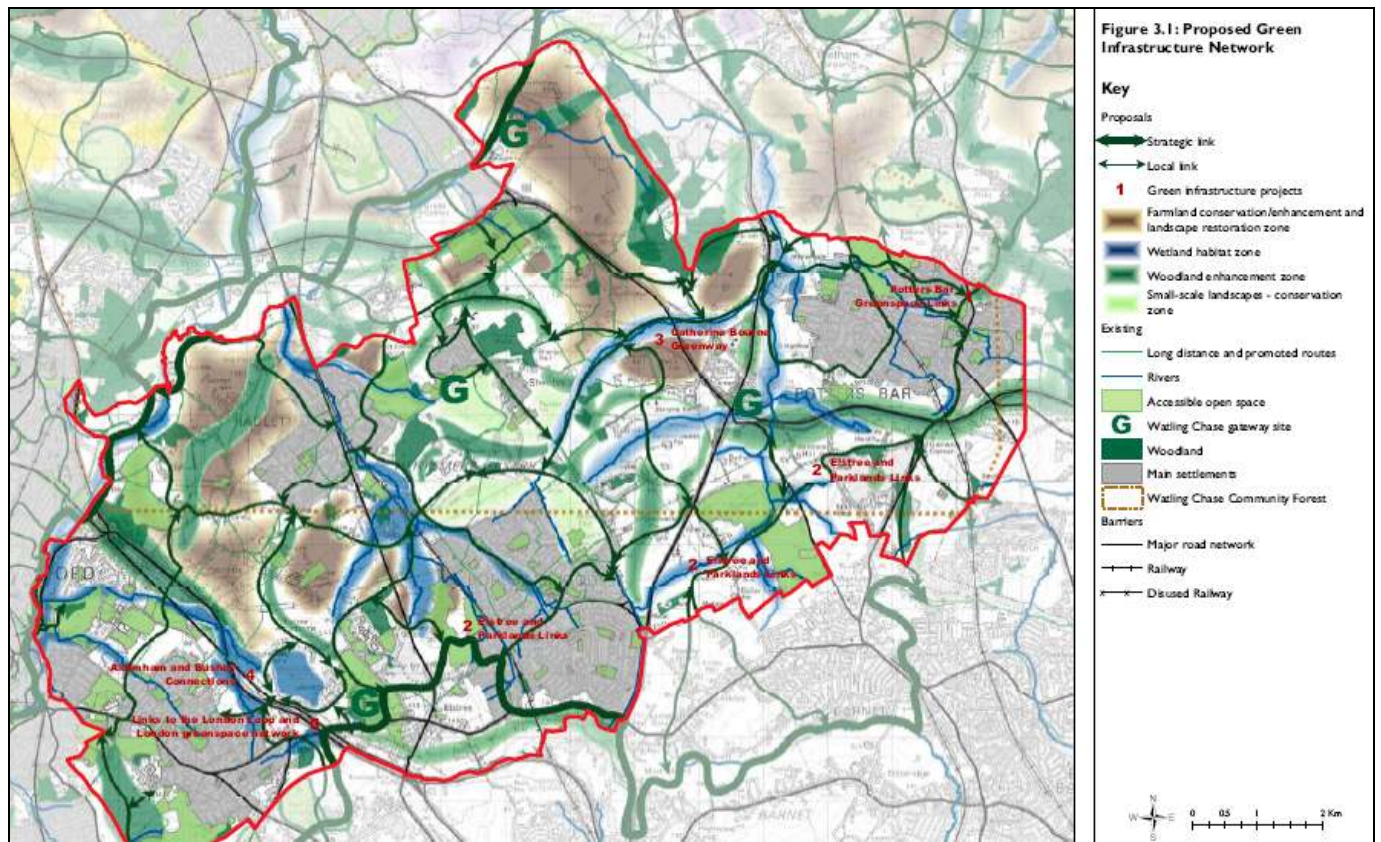
Radlett and Potters Bar also experience deficiency at the 2km scale, as does the northern part of Borehamwood.

Figure 7.3 ANGST Analysis





**Figure 7.4 Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Network**



## 8. Facilities for young people

### 8.1 Introduction

Open space helps to meet children's play needs. It is widely acknowledged that the importance of children's play extends far beyond the activity itself and contributes directly towards child development through developing a wide range of physical, social and emotional skills and abilities. The key issues are the nature and location of play space, and the condition of play environments.

The typology of facilities for young people encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity green space) to a large multi purpose play areas. Fields in Trusts categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically:

- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
- Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).

### 8.2 Definition

Provision for children facilities also includes play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor teenagers basketball hoops, and other informal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters)

- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- Skateparks
- Basketball Courts
- Youth Shelters
- Informal Kickabout Areas
- BMX tracks.

### 8.3 Current Policy Context

The current standard for children's play facilities is set out in the Local Plan this requires a minimum of 0.7 hectares of facilities per thousand population. Policy L5 of the Hertsmere Local Plan requires proposals for residential development to make suitable provision for the additional recreational demand that will be created. The requirement is supported by an SPG Recreation Provision For Residential Development, which was adopted in October 2001, and subsequently updated November 2003.

The Local Plan and the 1995 Open Space Study demonstrated that the Borough has significant deficiencies in terms of its play provision for children. In addition, it is known that much of the Borough's existing equipment is in need of refurbishment due to its age, design, vandalism or a combination of these factors. In response to such problems the

Council is working to ensure compliance of all equipment with nationally defined safety standards. In some areas deficiencies are offset by private garden space. The Local Plan seeks to promote improved provision for children's play throughout the Borough through:

- the protection of existing facilities, along with improved management and maintenance;
- improvements to the quality of existing facilities to better meet local needs;
- the provision of new play areas in areas of deficiency and proposed development sites, subject to availability of suitable sites and financial resources;
- better provision within parks in accessible and visually prominent positions, with areas for informal children's play as well. These could be at suitably located sites either in parks or in other locations where opportunities arise;
- measures to resolve conflict between competing age groups;
- local community involvement to help foster local 'ownership' of facilities.

The Fields in Trust Benchmark Standard for Children's Playing Space is 0.8 hectares per thousand population, this includes 0.25 hectares per thousand population of designated playing space (including equipment) and 0.55 hectares per thousand population of informal playing space.

**Table 8.1 Provision of Children's Play Space in Hertsmere**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Number of Sites</b>	<b>Total Area</b>	<b>Area per thousand population</b>
Aldenham and Shenley	10	1.15	0.07
Borehamwood	18	2.88	0.11
Bushey	5	0.94	0.04
Potters Bar	7	1.32	0.06
<b>Total</b>	40	6.29	0.07

Hertsmere Borough Council has adopted a Play Strategy which is based on an independent assessment of what play and free-time activities currently exist in Hertsmere and what is likely to be required in terms of future facilities and services given projected population growth.

The Play Strategy set a number of formal play actions as part of its action plan these are as follows:

3.0 Youth provision. Provide (or offer to match contributions to) for up to three youth shelters across the borough to ensure playground areas are free for younger

children. The young people using the shelters to be involved in their design and development. They will be bespoke projects, not off the peg solutions.

3.1 Be There! Do It! Maintain funding and resources for the existing Be There! Do It! children and youth schemes for all holiday periods.

3.2 Extended schools. Hertsmere Play Forum to continue to engage with extended schools coordinators to ensure Play Strategy outcomes are used to develop play as a core offer of extended schools programme.

3.3 Children's Centres. Hertsmere Leisure Trust to construct three Children's Centres by 2009 with consideration for quality play provision. The research for the strategy shows there is a market for play for <5s.

3.4 Natural Play. Landscape areas in four parks (Aberford, Moatfield, Oakmere, Shenley) to provide accessible contoured natural (kinetic) play space for younger children and hanging out seats for young people, with limited timber-based activity. This will provide a focus for the play ranger's park-based activities. These enhanced play areas will be designed by a specialist local artist in conjunction with the Green Heart Partnership.

3.5 Sensory Play Room. Hertsmere Leisure Trust to develop a specialised sensory playroom including special lighting probes, textured walls and other specialist equipment to stimulate and improve co-ordination of children with specific needs.

3.6 New Outdoor Play Area. To develop a new multi use play area outside the new Children's Centre in Potters Bar with challenging and sensory play equipment.

3.7 Junior Cycle Track and Trim Trail. To provide a dedicated cycle track site for the under 11's' based within Recreation Park. This facility will also offer supporting trim trail activity stations to stimulate fun activities that increase levels of physical activity.

3.8 Play Rangers. Offer an extensive play programme delivered by play rangers in parks across the borough. Activities will cater for all ages and children will be free to come and go to sessions as they please. They also will as be fully involved in choosing what activities they wish to participate to ensure compliance with lottery funding conditions 75% of the rangers' time will be delivering play outcomes, 10% management and 15% working with a small group of young people interested in becoming involved organising play activities.

## 8.4 Future Demand

**Table 8.2 Future Demand for Children's Play Areas based on Fields in Trusts Standard**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Current Supply</b>	<b>Required Supply 2021</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Aldenham and Shenley	1.15	10.19	-9.76
Borehamwood	2.88	23.32	-20.44
Bushey	0.94	17.22	-16.28
Potters Bar	1.32	14.66	-13.34
<b>Total</b>	6.29	66.12	-59.83

## 8.5 Distribution

The supply of Children's Facilities is distributed across the borough, with supply in all the sub areas. Figure 10.1 illustrate the distribution of Children Play Facilities across the each sub area. The accessibility of facilities has been assessed using a catchment of 1,000 metres (mapped at a straight line distance of 600 metres) based on the Fields In Trusts Neighbourhood equipped areas for play and informal recreation areas (NEAPS).

**Figure 8.1 Accessibility of Children Play Facilities**

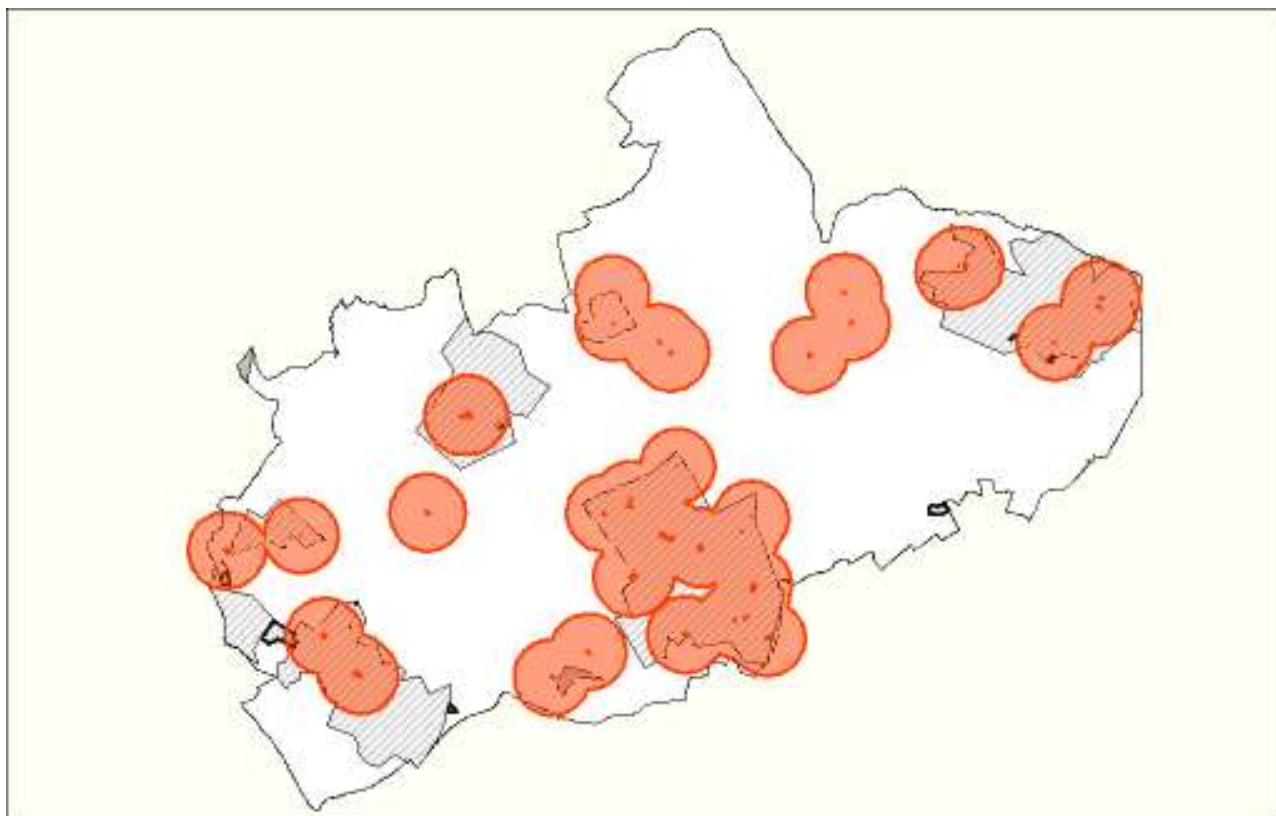


Figure 8.1 illustrates that there are accessibility deficiencies of children and young people facilities in Hertsmere, these are located: in

- Radlett – Deficiencies in the east
- Borehamwood – deficiencies in central, south east and small area in the north west.
- Bushey –deficiency in south and north.
- Potters Bar – a deficiency in the centre, north and south

**Table 8.3 Perception of ease of access Children’s Play Facilities for Hertsmere residents**

	Very easy	Quite easy	Neither easy nor hard	Quite hard	Very hard	Don’t know where to find such a place
Children’s Play & Teenage Areas	37.30%	39.63%	14.22%	5.59%	2.10%	1.17%

Whilst analysis of the quantity of Children Play Areas against the Fields in Trusts Standard has illustrated a poor supply, the perception of local residents is that it is quite easy to access to access such facilities.

## 8.6 Standards

The current Hertsmere requirement for Children's Play Areas is a minimum of 0.7 hectares of facilities per thousand population.

The Fields in Trust Benchmark Standard for Children's Playing Space is 0.8 hectares per thousand population, this includes 0.25 hectares per thousand population of designated playing space (including equipment) and 0.55 hectares per thousand population of informal playing space. The currently quantitative supply within Hertsmere is below both these standards.

The perception of local residents is that it is quite easy to access to access such facilities.

The current level of provision of parks and gardens is equivalent to 0.07 ha per 1,000 population in Hertsmere. All the sub areas have quantitative deficiencies.

It is recommended that minimum standard, 0.25 hectares per thousand population of designated playing space (including equipment) be set as the standard which is assessed in conjunction with parks and amenity greens which should provided opportunity for informal play.

Analysis of the access to Children Play Areas was under taken using a catchment of 1,000 metres (mapped at 600 metres) based on advice in Fields in Trust. The current access to parks and gardens is considered to be tolerable however, areas of deficiency were identified these include:

- Radlett – Deficiencies in the east
- Borehamwood – deficiencies in central, south east and small area in the north west.
- Bushey –deficiency in south and north.
- Potters Bar – a deficiency in the centre, north and south

## 9. Allotments

### 9.1 Introduction and strategic context

The government has stated that it believes that allotments make an important contribution to the quality of people's lives in our towns and cities, and in creating and maintaining healthy neighbourhoods and sustainable communities. Allotments are considered to be important social assets and the government is keen to ensure that they are better appreciated and properly managed and maintained. Allotments are an important community asset, providing a wide range of benefits to local communities and the environment. They are a valuable green sustainable open space that benefits wildlife and provides a recreational activity that offers health, exercise, and social contact at a low cost. They are also readily accessible to those members of the community who find themselves socially or economically disadvantaged.

### 9.2 Definition

An allotment is an area of land in, or on the edge of, a developed area which can be rented by local people for the growing of vegetables, flowers or fruit. Allotments provide opportunities for those who wish to do so to grow their own produce, and support health, sustainability and social inclusion. They also provide garden space for those with no private gardens, such as flat-dwellers.

Statutory allotments are parcels of land acquired or appropriated by the local authority specifically for use as allotments. These sites cannot be sold or used for other purposes without the consent of the Secretary of State. Allotments transferred by a local authority to a parish council will automatically become statutory allotments because they will have been acquired by the parish council specifically for use as allotments.

Temporary allotments are on land that is allocated for other uses but leased or rented by an allotments authority. Temporary allotments are not protected from disposal in the same way that statutory allotments are.

### 9.3 Existing Policy

The Policy L8 of the Local Plan considers allotments, it states:

*Planning permission for development involving the loss of allotments will not be granted unless one of the following conditions is met :*

*(i) it can be demonstrated that supply, over the Plan period, will exceed demand within the area concerned taking into account the current suitability of allotments for cultivation and the facilities available;*

*(ii) suitable alternative provision is made which is: equally accessible to the area currently served; of equal quality (in terms of suitability for cultivation and facilities); and of at least equivalent capacity in terms of accommodating plots;*

*(iii) the proposal makes an essential contribution to the sport, leisure, recreational or other needs of the area such as to overcome the presumption against loss of allotments.*

*Where the proviso in criterion (i) above is satisfied the creation of natural wildlife habitats (and other appropriate Community Forest land uses) on allotment sites will be encouraged.*



*In addition, the provision of new allotment space will be sought in areas of deficiency.*

#### 9.4 Standards

Whilst there is no local allotment standard, the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners provide a standard of 0.35 hectares per thousand.

#### 9.5 Supply

**Table 9.1 Supply of Allotments in Hertsmere**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Total Area</b>	<b>Area per thousand population</b>
Aldenham and Shenley	4.42	0.28
Borehamwood	2.64	0.08
Bushey	15.85	0.64
Potters Bar	4.89	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>0.29</b>

Compared to the standard there is a deficiency of allotments with Hertsmere. Only the Bushey sub-region has a supply above the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners standard.

**Table 9.2 Supply of Allotments in Hertsmere compared to 2021 population**

<b>Sub Area</b>	<b>Total Area</b>	<b>Area per thousand population</b>
Aldenham and Shenley	4.42	0.27
Borehamwood	2.64	0.08
Bushey	15.85	0.61
Potters Bar	4.89	0.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>0.28</b>

## 9.6 Accessibility

A short survey was sent to all organisations responsible for the administration and upkeep of allotments in the Borough. Amongst the information requested were the postcodes of plot holders to allow an accurate catchment to be identified.

Exact postcode data (e.g. WD6 1WA) was provided for six sites. From these 246 addresses were matched using GIS and a 75% distance of 1,211m was calculated. These results are detailed in Table 11.2.

**Table 9.3: Allotment catchment**

Site	Sub Area	Addresses Matched	Distance (m)		
			Min	Max	75%
Melrose Avenue	Borehamwood & Elstree	60	73	4,685	1,380
Allum Lane	Borehamwood & Elstree	11	893	3,061	2,610
Finch Lane	Bushey	56	190	14,635	1,036
Merry Hill	Bushey	54	0	4,106	1,123
Windmill Lane	Bushey	34	35	3,278	740
Aberdale Gardens	Potters Bar	16	82	8,678	613
Kimptons Mead	Potters Bar	15	24	13,333	1,264
<b>All</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>1,211</b>

A further three sites<sup>15</sup> provided postcode data in postcode area form (e.g. WD6 1). By mapping the distance from these sites to each postcode, a 75% distance of 1,578m was calculated. It would be expected that this method would result in a higher 75% figure as all postcodes in an area were used, regardless of whether they contained a plot holder. As such, this provided a useful exercise in corroborating the previous results.

It is considered that the 1,200m catchment calculated from exact postcode matches represents a suitable and reliable measurement. A straight-line catchment of 1200m has therefore been used to calculate the provision and accessibility of allotment sites in the Borough.

## 9.6 Applying provision standards

### **Accessibility**

Figures 9.1 to 9.4 on the following pages show the catchment areas served by existing allotment sites in the Borough. Table 11.3 below details the proportion of the population in each analysis area within the defined 1200m catchment.

<sup>15</sup> Highview Gardens in Potters Bar, Phillimore Recreation Ground in Radlett and Cobden Hill in Radlett.

**Table 9.4: Population within defined accessibility standard**

Analysis Area	Population	Population within Catchment	
		No.	%
Aldenham & Shenley	15,589	10,280	65.9%
Borehamwood & Elstree	33,311	16,697	50.1%
Bushey	24,605	19,538	79.4%
Potters Bar	20,945	19,859	94.8%
Hertsmere	94,450	66,374	70.3%

Overall, 70% of Hertsmere's population is within 1200m of an existing allotment site, though this figure varies amongst the analysis areas.

In Aldenham and Shenley more than 5,000 people, or one in three of the population, are not within the defined catchment.

Almost half of this number can be attributed to the Porters Park estate in Shenley. *Assessing Needs and Opportunities* is clear that it is unreasonable to expect the same level of provision in more rural locations than in towns. The furthest reaches of the estate are located approximately 1,700m from the parish council owned allotments on Green Street. This is considered an acceptable distance in a location such as this and, consequently, there is not considered to be a strategic need for further provision in this location.

Within Radlett, an area at the north-east of the town falls outside of the accessibility standard. If the catchment area of the Cobden Hill site, which provides only nine plots immediately to the rear of private gardens, is excluded, this deficiency becomes more pronounced. This area is characterised by large houses sited on significant plots and, as such, it is considered that demand is likely to be low. Notwithstanding this point, if there is anticipated to be a quantitative shortfall of provision in this area, it is considered any additional provision should be made to the east of the railway line.

The small settlements of South Mimms and Ridge fall outside of the defined catchment areas. It is considered that further consultation, to determine whether there is any demand in this area, would be advantageous.

In Borehamwood and Elstree, only half the population are within the defined catchment areas. Analysis of Figure 9.2 clearly shows a lack of provision catering for the population in the northern half of Borehamwood. This is a significant urban area that falls outside of the accessibility standard and is considered to represent a strategic shortfall.

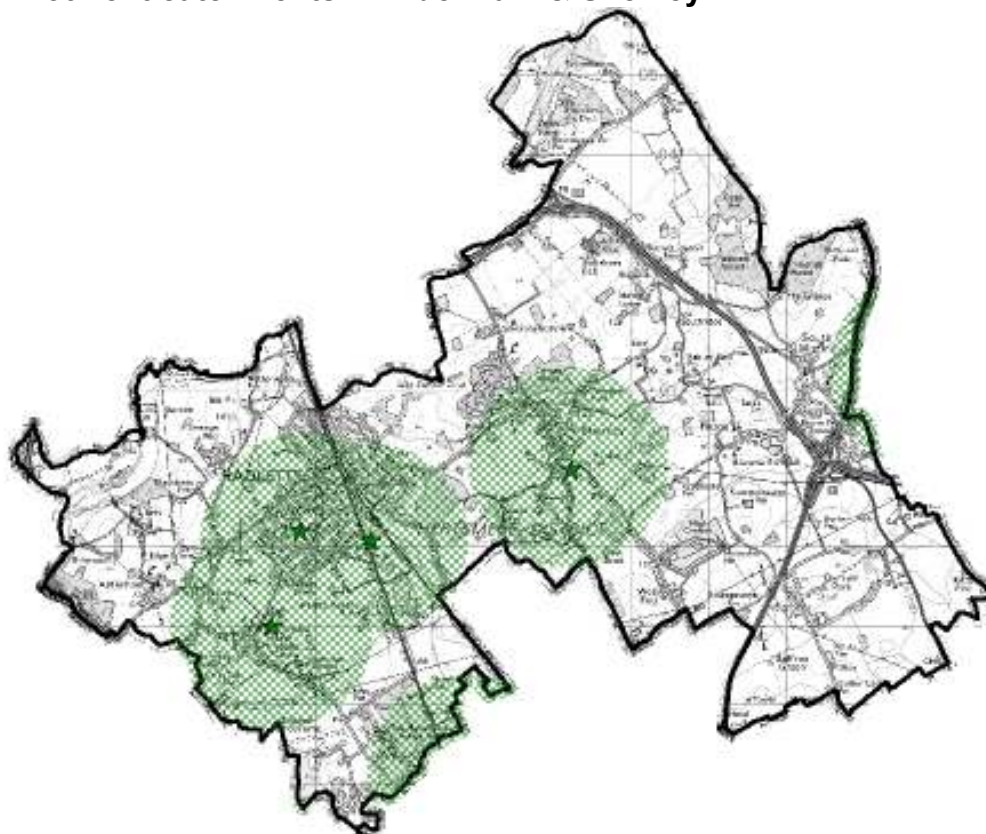
In Bushey, almost 80% of the population is within 1200m of an allotment site. The catchment area of the Watford Borough Council site at Lower Paddock Land, which overlaps with the catchments from Finch Lane and Merry Hill. In terms of accessibility, it is therefore not considered that Watford's decision to prioritise its own resident's demands on the Lower Paddock Lane site is likely to cause any deficiency of note.

It is notable from the map in Figure 9.3 that north Bushey does not have access to any allotments within 1200m. 2001 Census data provides a population estimate of approximately 4,000 people in this area. This is considered to be a significant area of deficit. However, it is also noted that a former allotment site at Fishers Field was converted to a nature reserve in 1995 due to insufficient demand. Notwithstanding the recent rise in the popularity of allotments, it is considered that further investigation should be undertaken

into the potential demand in this area to ascertain whether there is a strategic requirement for additional provision.

Of the four analysis areas, Potters Bar has the highest proportion of the population within the 1200m accessibility standard, almost 95%. The map shows that the catchment areas of the three allotment sites provide almost complete coverage of the urban area. The areas to the south of the town are sparsely populated and rural nature and there is no corrective action is required in this area.

**Figure 9.1: Allotment catchments in Aldenham & Shenley**



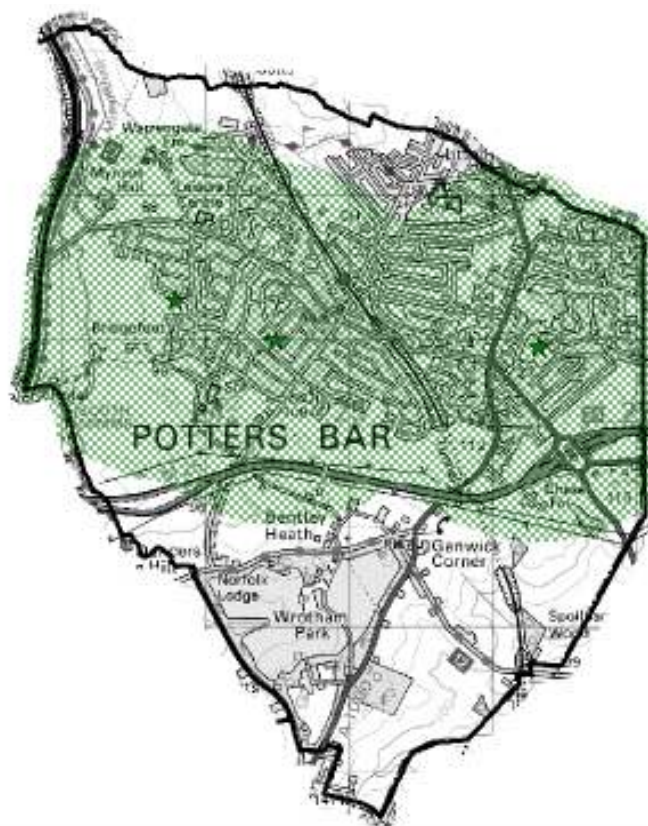
**Figure 9.2: Allotment catchments in Borehamwood & Elstree**



**Figure 9.3: Allotment Catchments in Bushey**



**Figure 9.4: Allotment Catchments in Potters Bar**



### 9.6 Standards and recommendations

The analysis identified a shortfall of allotments in the following locations, where the potential for new sites should be investigated:

- North of Borehamwood;
- North Bushey
- Ridge and South Mimms

It's proposed that the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners of 0.35 ha per thousand of allotment is used as the standard for allotments in Hertsmere, and that a straight line catchment of 1200metre is used to monitor the accessibility of allotments.

## 10. Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

### 10.1 Introduction and strategic context

Cemeteries and burial grounds can make an important contribution to surrounding environments and should be considered in a positive manner. Well-kept burial ground cemeteries and burial grounds can provide quiet places for contemplation for people as well as provide habitat sanctuaries for wildlife.

Cemeteries and churchyards can be a significant source of open space, particularly in rural areas. In urban areas they can represent a relatively minor resource in terms of the land, but are able to provide areas of nature conservation importance. In some instances, cemeteries and churchyards may be the only open space within a settlement.

For Cemeteries, PPG17 Annex states "every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population based provision standard."

### 10.2 Definition

Cemeteries and burial grounds are area of land that is used for the burial of the remains of the deceased. These can include private, local authority, religious and disused cemeteries and burial grounds.

### 10.3 Current provision

There are 11 cemeteries and burial grounds that have been identified within Hertsmere's boundaries

**Table 10.1 Supply of Cemeteries and burial grounds**

Sub Area	Number of Sites	Total Area
Aldenham and Shenley	5	3.8
Borehamwood	3	2.88
Bushey	2	18.65
Potters Bar	1	1.44
Total	11	6.29

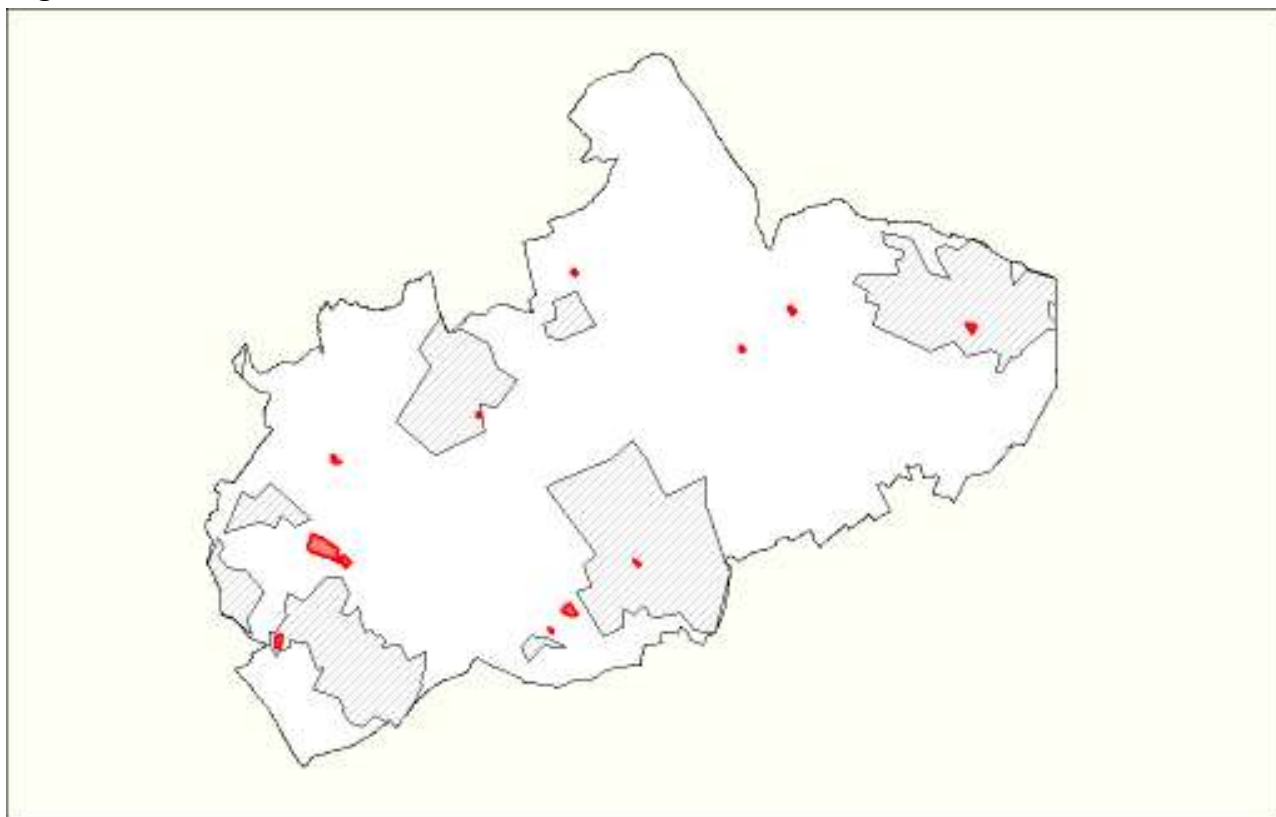
### 10.4 Setting provision standards

No quantity standards have been set for cemeteries and churchyards. PPG17 Annex states: "many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological



features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity greenspaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one."

**Figure 10.1 Distribution of Cemeteries and Burial Grounds**



### 10.5 Summary and recommendations

Many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As churchyards usually only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which might be required is a qualitative one. Every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is a demand for more space. Accessibility, so that relatives can visit, is important.

The study identified 11 burial grounds and churchyards, with a total land area of 6.29 ha.

Whilst there are no sites allocated for additional burial facilities at current, the provision of new facilities is potentially an acceptable use within the Green Belt. The Council is considering potential expansion of its facility at Allum Lane in the future.

While cemeteries and churchyards have a valuable amenity purpose, their main function is as a place of burial. Therefore it would not be appropriate to provide a standard for provision.

## 11. Green corridors and Greenways

### 11.1 Introduction and strategic context

PPG 17 and its companion guide places emphasis on the importance of green corridors in allowing migration of all species into urban areas from rural fringe areas. The government also recognises that a network of well maintained green corridors between key facilities, such as between housing developments and the town centre encourages environmentally sustainable and healthy forms of transport such as walking and cycling.

Green corridors are linear areas of open and /or green space that may or may not be accessible to the public. Green corridors often run through urban areas and can include canal towpaths and riversides, disused railways and cycle ways. It is noted that even the creation of simple surfacing, such as grassed roadside verges, could create a green corridor if it provides for the migration of plant and animal species.

Since the late 1990s, the Council has been actively developing a network of largely car-free network of routes known as Greenways. These routes for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders are intended to run within and between urban destinations and into the countryside. They are for use by people of all abilities on foot, bike or horseback, for commuting, play or leisure. Greenways link to other networks for non-motorised users, such as the National Cycle Network, towpaths beside inland waterways, national trails and other rights of way.

Green corridors are also recognised by PPS 25 a potential opportunity for mitigating flood risk by utilising the green space as flood storage.

The Hertsmere Green Infrastructure Study identifies a number of new potential Green Corridors.

### 11.2 Standards

There are no recommended standards for Green Infrastructure

The Annex A of PPG17 – Open Space Typology states:

*“the need for Green Corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is **no sensible way of stating a provision standard**, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads”.*

Rather than creating and applying provision standards that are inappropriate by nature, it is considered more effective to develop planning policies that:

*“promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and city centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense green corridors are demand-led [and to] take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to ‘plug in’ access to them from as wide an area as possible”. (PPG 17 – Annex A).*

### 11.3 Provision

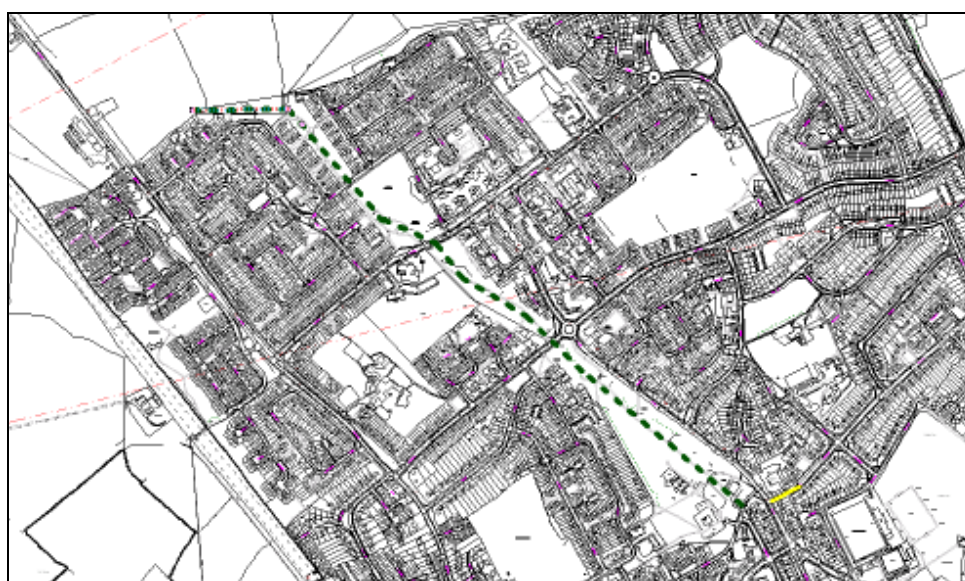
The implementation of the Watling Chase Greenways Strategy (2003) has resulted in the creation of several Greenways routes, involving both new sections and enhancements to the existing rights of way network, as well as cycle routes adjacent to the public highway, over 18,000 metres of route to date.

In implementing a network of routes in the Greenways Strategy, there has been a focus on improving links both within and between towns, as well as on improving access to the countryside. Almost the entire Borough lies within the boundary of Watling Chase Community Forest including large areas within the urban fringe between north London and the wider countryside. Continuing to promote opportunities to walk, cycle or ride in the countryside will help increase opportunities for recreation and improving access to the countryside, a key objective of the Community Forest and consistent with the Hertsmere Community Strategy aim of creating opportunities to engage in healthy, active lifestyles.

Whilst the major urban settlements do not have complete green corridor networks at current, the Council is in the process of developing a more integrated network.

A good example of a greenway has been identified in Borehamwood that runs from the open green belt to the north through to central Borehamwood along 'The Brook' (a tributary of Tykes Water).

**Figure 11.1: Green Corridor – Tykes Water Experience, Borehamwood.**



**Table 11.1 Key Greenways developed since 1999**

Type	Location	Improved	Created	Length (m)
Right of way	Merryhill, Bushey.		X	1,000
	Tylers Farm, Bushey.		X	400
	Blackhorse Lane, South Mimms.		X	190
	Brookside, South Mimms.	X		2,040
	Shenley Bridleway 13, Shenley.	X		1,300
	Packhorse Lane, Well End.	X		780
	Elstree Aerodrome, Hogg Lane.	X		542
	Crab Lane & Commonmeadow Lane, Aldenham.	X		2,804
	Saffron Green Greenway, Galley Lane Arkley		X	680
	Blackbirds Lane & Aldenham Bridleway 74, Kemp Row 504.	X		504
	Wash Lane, South Mimms.	X		300
	Shenley Park Bridleway		X	1,500
	‘Cloverleaf’ crossing			500
	Allum Lane Spinney, Borehamwood.	X		500
Hertsmere Park route	Brook Meadow, Haggerston & Leeming Parks, Borehamwood.	X		820
	Parkfields, Borehamwood.	X		1,332
Highway	Blackhorse Lane, Shenley.	X		1,700
	Swanland Road, South Mimms.	X		1,800
Total				18,232 (11.40 miles)

## 11.4 Consultation

Public and expert user group comments were sought through public consultation carried out in 2007/08 as part of the review of the Greenways Strategy. It consisted of a questionnaire survey and a series of 'drop in' sessions, which allowed users to comment and provide suggestions and highlight any issues and problems that they were aware.

From the survey of 446 respondents the Assessment found that:

**Table 11.2 Participation rates for leisure activities in Hertsmere**

	<b>(Living in Britain – The General Household Survey-1996)</b>	<b>Hertsmere</b>
Walking	68	85
Cycling	21	32
Horse Riding	3	7
Jogging	8	17

- Participation rates in Hertsmere are above the national average
- the level of participation is consistently higher within households that contain children under the age of sixteen.
- most trips are local and less than 2 hours for all four activities
- walking is the main interest with cycling being more popular in family households
- 62% of respondents favoured circular routes
- the type of transport used to get to leisure areas was evenly split between car and walking from home ( 46% and 44% respectively) with much smaller numbers using public (passenger) transport and bikes (2% and 8% respectively)
- the level of car ownership at 90% is higher than the national average of 70% (General Household Survey,1996)
- 80% of households with children and 38% of adult only households had bikes
- 4% had regular access to horses
- interest in using Greenways for leisure was high, with 84% of respondents showing a definite or possible interest. Interest amongst cyclists and horse riders was particularly strong (88% and 78% respectively).
- Interest for health and fitness use was 71% (definite and possible)

The most discouraging factors were overgrown routes (52%) and personal safety (54%). Sharing the route with other types of user was only a problem for 25% of respondents, although nearly half of cyclists had concerns.

Requirements seen as important to Greenways were:

- links to public transport services (70%)
- link into sites of interest (79% )
- refreshment stops (70%)
- Incorporating an educational element in terms of interpretation of sites (68%)
- disabled access (88%)
- car parking (78%)
- 20% of respondents indicated that a member of their household walked/cycled to school, work or to a leisure centre
- 68% indicated that a member of their household walked/cycled to the shops
- frequency of trips was strongest in relation to work (58% daily) and schools (85% daily)
- compared to general leisure (see above) there is less interest in using Greenways to travel to school (29% definite and 10% possible) or work (22% definite and 14% possible)
- interest for shopping was stronger with 48% definitely interested and 16% possibly interested

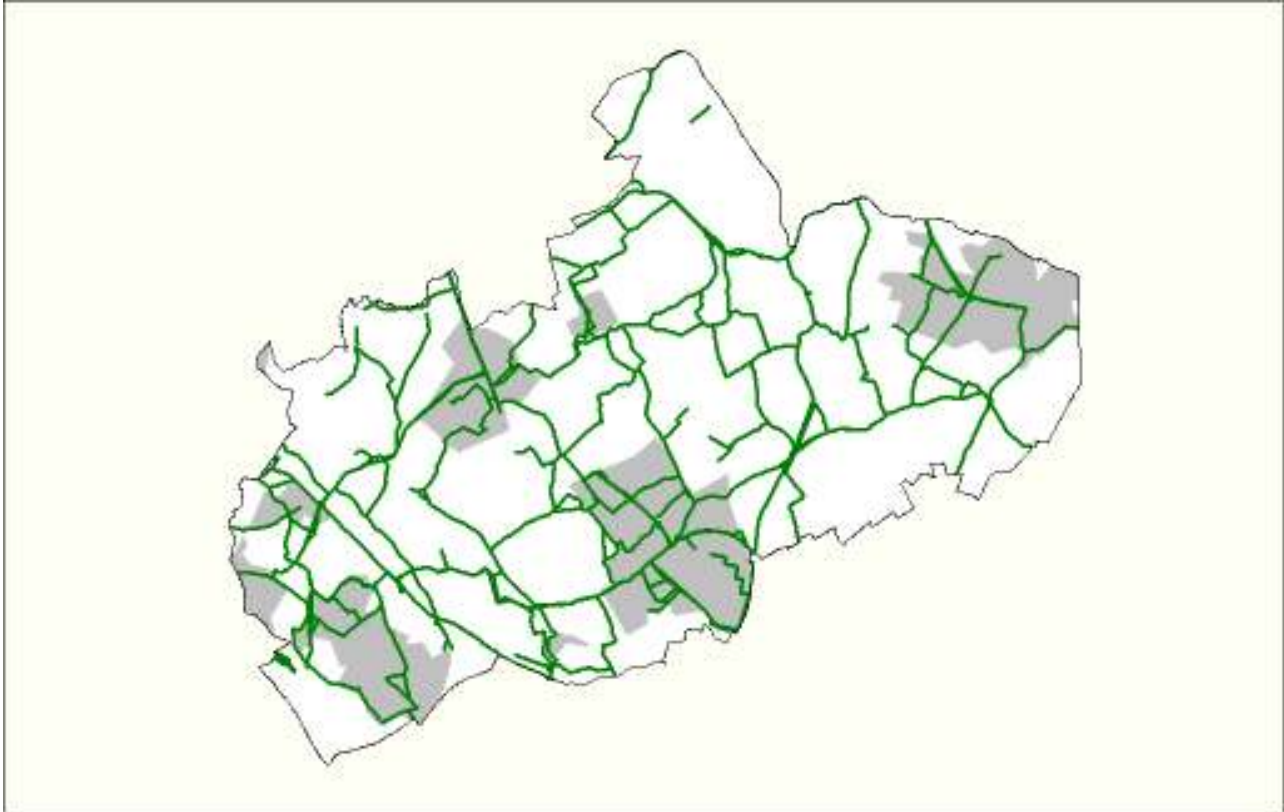
The four most suggested improvements to encourage use of Greenways were:

- improved safety (19%)
- traffic reduction (10%)
- more cycleways (10%)
- improve pavements/paths (8%)
- 22% of respondents were aware of Watling Chase Community Forest

### 11.5 The Greenways Network

Current network and proposed extensions is included within the Watling Chase Greenways Strategy (2003). An draft revised greenways strategy has been produced, this proposes links which would be improved or created in addition to existing links, and those that have been completed as part of the Greenways Strategy to 2010. A proposed whole network is shown in Figure 11.2.

**Figure 11.2 Proposed Greenways Network**



#### 11.6 Developer contributions

The promotion of Greenways as an increasingly important alternative to the car will require the continued identification of new links to the proposed Greenways network, as well as to existing or proposed public transport facilities. It may also involve the identification of new routes associated with new development opportunities and in the emerging transport plans for different areas within the Borough.

The financing of improvements and development of routes can be achieved through planning conditions and Section 106 legal agreements. It is intended that guidance, presently set out in the Watling Chase Greenways Strategy, will be incorporated into the updated Supplementary Planning Document identifying new priority routes and also in Developer Contributions Supplementary Note.

#### 11.7 Summary and recommendations

Green corridors and greenways are important in promoting environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling. Their provision can have a great value in linking housing, education, community and employment areas and different types of open space. Green corridors also have an important role in nature conservation and the biodiversity of Hertsmere.

Green ways are crucial in promoting sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling in urban areas. This does however mean that setting a provision standard is not really appropriate. Instead it is proposed, following guidance from PPG17, that we promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to cycle networks, town centres, places of employment and community facilities.



## 12. Conclusion

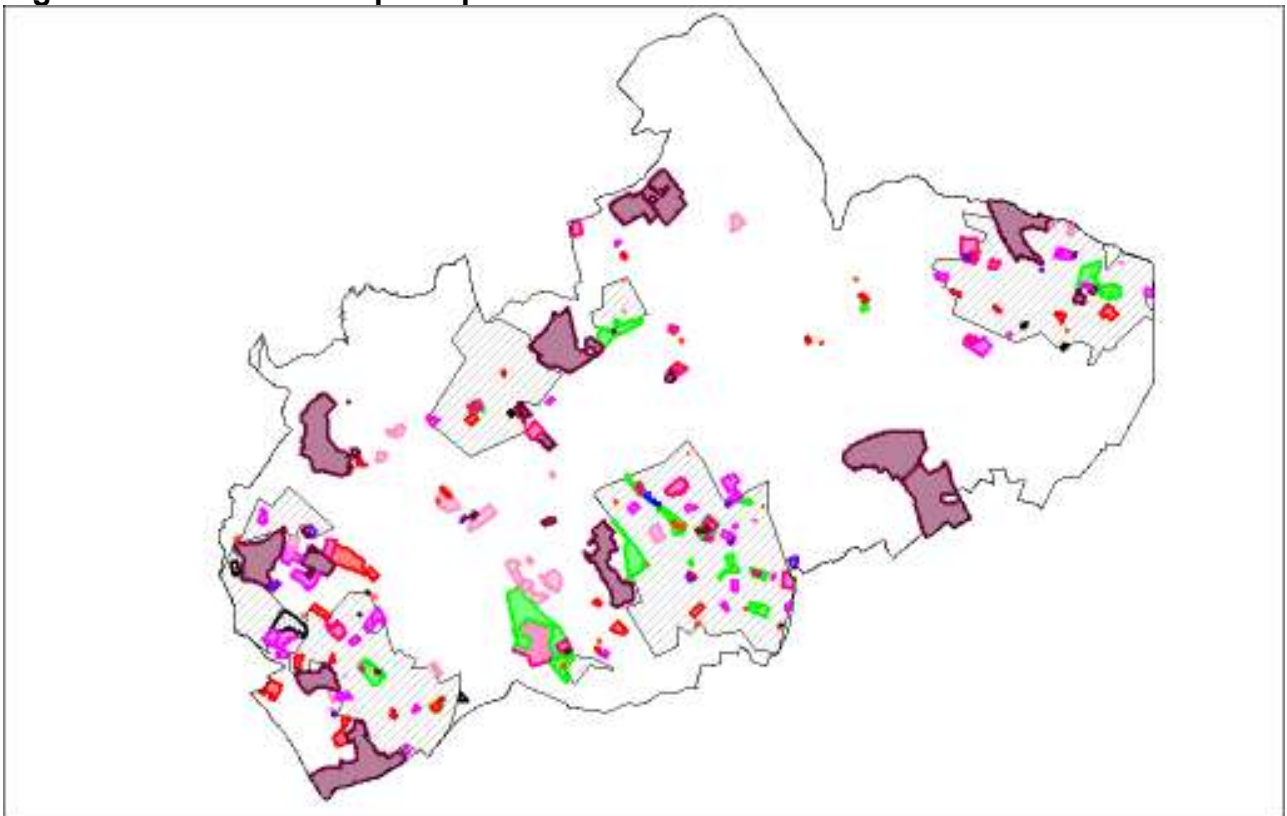
The study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” (September 2002).

The overall objectives of the study was to deliver a robust technical study in line with PPG17 requirements, which evaluates the quantity, and accessibility of open space and recreational land in Hertsmere and recommends appropriate strategy, policy, standards and specific provision required to meet the Borough’s future needs.

The quality of small open spaces many of which are too small to fit into covered in this report are to be reviewed in the Urban Open Spaces and Amenity Greens Study which is due to be published in December 2011.

Within Hertsmere there are a variety of different open spaces. A total of 257 open spaces were identified in Hertsmere, comprising 999.3 hectares. This amounts to 9.9% of the total area of the Borough. The distribution of all the open spaces is illustrated in Figure 12.1.

**Figure 12.1 Hertsmere Open Spaces**





**Table 12.1 Proposed Hertsmere Open Space Standards**

Typology	Amount	Catchment	Quality
Parks and Gardens	1 hectare per thousand	1200 metres	To meet Green Flag
Indoor Sport Facilities	<b>Swimming Pool</b> - 11.5 sqm of swimming pool per Thousand <b>Sports Halls</b> - 0.32 badminton courts per thousand <b>Health and Fitness</b> - No Standard Proposed <b>Indoor tennis Courts</b> Space for 4% of the population <b>Indoor bowls</b> 0.07 rink per Thousand <b>Community Halls</b> 0.38 Community Hall per Thousand	1200 metres	All leisure providers to follow industry best practice principles in relation to a) Facilities Operation, b) Customer Relations, c) Staffing and d) Service Development and Review.
Outdoor Sport Facilities	2 hectares per thousand	1200 metres walk. For golf courses and STP 20 minutes drive	
Children's and Young People Facilities	0.25 ha per thousand population	All homes to be within 1000 metres of a facility	Play England Quality Tool Assessment toolkit
Allotments	0.35 ha per thousand population	1200 metres	
Natural Green Space	- that no person shall live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural green space of at least 2ha in size; - provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population; - that there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home; - that there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km; and - that there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.		
Green Corridors and Green Ways	No standard proposed to be delivered in line with the Greenway Strategy and Rights of Way Improvements Plan.		
Churchyards and burial grounds	No standards proposed		

**Table 12.2 Overall Supply of Open Spaces in Hertsmere**

	<b>Aldenham &amp; Shenley</b>	<b>Borehamwood and Elstree</b>	<b>Bushey</b>	<b>Potters Bar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Allotments	4.42	2.64	15.85	4.89	27.8
Amenity Green		0.13	0.27		0.4
Civic Space		0.3			0.3
Indoor Sport	0.2	3.91	8.73	0.81	13.65
Natural	15.78	81.36	21.79	15.98	134.91
Parks	5.76	11.47	6.83	6.98	31.04
Children's Play Areas	1.15	2.88	0.94	1.32	6.29
Outdoor Sport	134.91	37.21	67.76	31.29	271.17
<i>Public</i>	<i>12.45</i>	<i>16.32</i>	<i>9.27</i>	<i>11.05</i>	<i>49.09</i>
<i>Private</i>	<i>73.71</i>	<i>2.19</i>	<i>15.66</i>	<i>3.12</i>	<i>94.68</i>
<i>Schools</i>	<i>48.74</i>	<i>18.7</i>	<i>42.46</i>	<i>17.13</i>	<i>127.03</i>
<i>Golf Course</i>	<i>257.98</i>	<i>39.44</i>	<i>130.75</i>	<i>47.84</i>	<i>476.01</i>
Churchyards	3.8	3.84	18.65	1.44	27.73
Green Corridors	0	1.76	0	0.00	1.76
Other	4.54	0.04	3.41	0.78	8.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>170.56</b>	<b>145.54</b>	<b>144.23</b>	<b>63.49</b>	<b>523.82</b>
<i>Including golf courses</i>	<i>428.54</i>	<i>184.98</i>	<i>274.98</i>	<i>111.33</i>	<i>999.83</i>

The audit results show that generally Hertsmere has a diverse distribution of different types of open space. However, compared to the proposed standards there are a number of deficiencies within Hertsmere. These are illustrated within Table 12.3 and 12.4. In particular, there is a shortage of play facilities, which has been identified as a key problem. Whilst it is useful to use the open space categories to identify particular needs and spatial trends it is also important to look at open space holistically. For local residents different types of informal open space (e.g. natural green space, parks/gardens and amenity green space) may have similar benefits. Therefore, a shortage of one type of open space in an area may not automatically be a concern if local residents feel they can easily access a comparatively similar type of open space.

**Table 12.3 Quantitative deficiencies in Hertsmere**

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Quantitative deficiencies</b>
Parks and Gardens	In Bushey
Indoor Sport Facilities	Potentially a Borough wide shortfall of indoor tennis and indoor bowls.  2 new community centres required to 2021
Outdoor Sport Facilities	Borehamwood  Potters Bar  Bushey
Children's and Young People Facilities	Across the Borough in all sub areas
Allotments	Aldenham and Shenley, Borehamwood and Potters Bar

Compared to the proposed accessibility standards there are a number of access deficiencies within Hertsmere. These are illustrated within Table 12.4.

**Table 12.4 Accessibility deficiencies in Hertsmere**

<b>Typology</b>	<b>Aldenham and Shenley</b>	<b>Borehamwood and Elstree</b>	<b>Bushey</b>	<b>Potters Bar</b>
Parks and Gardens	Aldenham – No provision  Radlett- Deficiencies in the north and east	Borehamwood – deficiencies west of the railway line and in the north.	Bushey – deficiency in the north and south west.	Potters Bar – a deficiency in the centre, north and south
Indoor Sport Facilities	Radlett, North and West  Shenley	Borehamwood, in the North West and South East  Elstree no facilities	South Bushey	East of Potters Bar
Outdoor Sport Facilities	North Radlett Shenley apart from the South East Corner	Borehamwood East and West	North and South Bushey	East of Potters Bar
Children's and Young People Facilities	Radlett – Deficiencies in the east	Borehamwood – deficiencies in central, south east and small area in the north west.	Bushey – deficiency in south and north.	Potters Bar – a deficiency in the centre, north and south
Allotments	Ridge and South Mimms	North of Borehamwood;	North Bushey	

It is important to note that the Council only controls a limited amount of the sites audited through this study. Where the report has stated that the Council needs to provide new sites or improve the quality of sites, the reality is that the relevant organisations may need to take responsibility for implementing change with Hertsmere Borough Council providing various means of support wherever possible. Partnership working will be key to achieving success.

## 13. Policy recommendation

The study has illustrated that open space is valued by residents in the borough and has an important recreational and environmental role. It is recommended the current planning policy approach is maintained and that there should be no loss of current open space unless it can be sufficiently justified or alternative provision provided within a suitable catchment and of quality. If sites are lost they should be replaced by a site of the same typology and size.

The Local Development Framework will ensure the provision of appropriately located, accessible, safe and attractive open space. It is also recommended that the standards proposed in Table 12.1 be adopted as part of an SPD, either as part of a review of the existing recreational standards SPD that may be combined with the Planning and Design Guide Part D or as part of the forthcoming study on amenity greens.

The audit of sites illustrated that Hertsmere has a good distribution of different types of open space. However, there are some quantitative and accessibility issues across the borough that need to be addressed through planning policy. However, there is an identified shortfall of spaces for children's play facilities across the borough.

The demand for facilities such as allotments must also be monitored and factored into any review of open spaces. For example where there is a sustained increase in waiting lists.

New development should contribute to open space provision, particularly where new development will exacerbate existing deficits. As a result S106 will be sort where it is appropriate and relevant to the new development.

This report provides part of the evidence base to support the Planning Obligations SPD, which includes a local standard charge for facilities and infrastructure delivered by the Council, focused on smaller housebuilding schemes, typically of 1 to 15 units, to be secured through a planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act. The standard charge and its underlying methodology also form a starting point for agreeing local contributions on larger schemes. This report will also be used where appropriate to provide an evidence base for any Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule.

## Appendices

# Appendix 1

## Policy Context

### National and regional policies, programmes and advice

National planning policy is contained within Planning Policy Statements, Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Circulars. Advice is also provided in the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan and from a number of Government agencies.

### **Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development**

Sustainability is a core principle underlining the planning system. The basic concept is that development should meet the needs of future generations without compromising the needs of future generations. Planning will play a role by:

- facilitating development and promoting sustainable patterns of urban and rural development;
- making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life and;
- protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities.

Paragraph 20 encourages consideration of environmental issues such as the protection of the wider countryside and the impact of development on landscape quality; the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats and the promotion of biodiversity; the need to improve the built and natural environment in and around urban areas and rural settlements. This includes the provision of good quality open space; the conservation of soil quality; and the preservation and enhancement of built and archaeological heritage.

Paragraph 27 discusses the preparation of development plan documents. This study will supply evidence and help the formulation of policy upon the issue of open space. Paragraph 27 states:

"In preparing Development Plans, planning authorities should:

(v) Provide improved access for all to jobs, health, education, shops, leisure and community facilities, open space, sport and recreation."

### **Policy Planning Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.**

PPG17 sets out the Government's policy on open space, sport and recreation, the main planning objectives being:

- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion. Well-planned and maintained open spaces, and good quality sports and recreational facilities can play a major part in improving people's sense of well being in the place they live. As a focal point for community activities, they can bring together members of deprived communities and provide opportunities for people for social interaction;

- Health and well being. Open spaces, sports and recreational facilities have a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness, and in the social development of children of all ages through play, sporting activities and interaction with others;
- Promoting sustainable development. By ensuring that open space and sports and recreational facilities are easily accessible by walking and cycling, and that more heavily used or intensive sports and recreational facilities are planned for locations well served by public transport.

A requirement of PPG17 is to undertake a local assessment of existing open space provision and the setting of local provision standards to ensure that an adequate supply of high quality open space is provided.

PPG 17 recommends that existing areas of open space that are of high quality or valued by a community should be given protection and any development within them strictly controlled. Areas of particular quality may include:

- small areas of open space in urban areas that provide an important local amenity and offer recreational and play opportunities; areas of open space that provide a community resource and can be used for informal events;
- areas of open space that particularly benefit wildlife and biodiversity.

In terms of provision of new open space it is recommended that local authorities should:

- promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, and ensure that facilities are accessible for people with disabilities;
- locate more intensive recreational uses in sites where they can contribute to town centre vitality and viability;
- avoid any significant loss of amenity to residents, neighbouring uses or biodiversity;
- improve the quality of the public realm through good design;
- provide areas of open space in commercial and industrial areas;
- add to and enhance the range and quality of existing facilities;
- consider security and personal safety, especially of children;
- consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses;
- assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion.

PPG17 states that provided that a local assessment has been undertaken and standards set, local authorities will be vindicated in seeking planning obligations where the quality of provision is inadequate, or where new development increases local needs.

The Companion Guide to PPG17 (paragraph 2.2) acknowledges that:

“Residents in rural areas cannot realistically expect to have the same level of access to the full range of different types of open spaces and sport and recreation facilities normally available in more densely populated urban areas. This means that residents of rural areas usually have to travel further than most urban residents to some forms of provision.”



## **Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation**

PPS 9 seeks to promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations.

### **Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association)**

Fields in Trust (FIT) is the only independent UK wide organisation dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor sports and play spaces and facilities. Founded as the National Playing Fields Association in 1925 was granted a Royal Charter in 1933. Its purpose then, as now, was to ensure that everyone has access to quality recreation space close to where they live.

In its early days, Fields in Trust (FIT) was the main play and sports organisation in the UK campaigning for national funding for sport and recreation which led to the formation of the Sports Councils. It has also championed children's play and the improvement of safety on sporting and play facilities. FIT's core work remains, as always, the protection and improvement of playing fields. It is also recognised for setting what was to become known as the six acre standard in 1938, which is still deemed to be relevant.

FIT recommends a minimum standard for outdoor playing space of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) per 1000 people. FIT does not regard outdoor playing space to be the same as public open space. It is space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature for sport, active recreation, or children's play.

### **Woodland Trust**

The Woodland Trust is a charity organisation focussed on the protection of native woodland heritage. The organisation purchases woodland and manages it to benefit wildlife and the public.

The charity manage around 19 000 hectares of woodland and have created over 3000 hectares of new native woodland. They have also undertaken extensive research into the amount of woodland in the UK, where it can be found and the population catchment areas for areas of woodland greater than or equal to 2 hectares; and those larger than 20 hectares. This information is contained in the document Space for People : targeting action for woodland access and is discussed along with its findings for Hertsmere in Chapter 9.

### Regional

#### **Regional Spatial Strategy (East of England Plan)**

The East of England Plan 2008 (Regional Spatial Strategy) currently provides the statutory regional framework for development within Hertsmere, following an appeal of the Secretary of State's revocation of regional plans in July 2010. However, the government has emphasised its intention to revoke regional plans and published details of the process through its Localism Bill.

Policy SS1 seeks to bring about sustainable development, ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. This elements contributing to the creation of sustainable communities includes active, inclusive safe (in terms of community identity and cohesion, social inclusion and leisure opportunities).

Policy SS8 Land in the Urban Fringe states that Local Development Documents will:

- ensure that new development in or near the urban fringe contributes to enhancing its character and appearance and its recreational and/or biodiversity value and avoids harm to sites of European and international importance for wildlife in particular;
- seek to provide networks of accessible green infrastructure linking urban areas with the countryside; and
- set targets for the provision of green infrastructure for planned urban extensions.

Policy ENV 1 requires local development documents to define a multiple hierarchy of green infrastructure, which includes protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces and greenway linkages. The policy also expects local authorities to retain and provide substantial networks of green space and to respond to locally identified need including any increased demand for recreational open space associated with planned development.

#### Local policy context

#### **Hertfordshire County Council**

Open space policies were not saved from the Hertfordshire Structure Plan.

Hertfordshire County Council has formed a partnership with other key agencies and organisations to create Hertfordshire Forward. Together this group have an interest in improving the health and wellbeing of the local people of Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire Forward have produced a strategy *Hertfordshire 2021: a brighter future* while this document does not contain policies directly relevant to open space it does contain the following observation; “Encouraging people to be active is an important way to prevent illness in later life, and many people in Hertfordshire are not sufficiently active...In addition, approximately one in five boys and girls starting school in Hertfordshire is overweight or obese. This varies across Hertfordshire with the highest female rates found in Broxbourne, Hertsmere and Watford and the highest male rates found in Watford, Hertsmere and Welwyn Hatfield. If current trends continue, at least one third of adults, one fifth of boys and one third of girls will be obese by 2021.”<sup>16</sup>

In response to this statement the strategy has a long term objective 2008-2021 of “improve the health and well being of all our residents (particularly in Broxbourne, Stevenage and Watford); and the short term action 2008-2011 of increasing levels of physical activity across all ages: particularly in Broxbourne Stevenage and Watford.

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<sup>16</sup> *Hertfordshire 2021: a brighter future*; a draft of Hertfordshire’s Sustainable Community Strategy to 2021; Hertfordshire Forward 2007.

The provision of open space and leisure activities will be an integral part of achieving these objectives.

Hertfordshire County Council has commissioned the production of a Green Infrastructure Study for Hertfordshire.

## **Hertsmere Borough Council**

### *Community Strategy*

Hertsmere Together, the Borough's current Community Strategy covers the period 2010-2021. Hertsmere Together promotes five strategic objectives to guide service delivery and prioritise public service improvement. Of these, three objectives are considered to be of particular relevance to this study are:

- Create a safe environment and increase the feeling of safety;
- Deliver and promote quality activities for young people.
- Promote and provide opportunities for healthier lifestyles and, improve the quality of life for older people

The Community Strategy expands on each of these objectives by identifying a series of specific aims. The following are considered to be those towards which this Open Space study can contribute:

- Improve and sustain Hertsmere's environment.
- Hertsmere Together partners will work together to improve the local environment to ensure that Hertsmere is a clean and pleasant place to live in, work in and visit.
- Overcome the barriers to children and young people accessing positive activities (such as cost, time and location).
- Partners will work to educate residents on environmental issues and foster civic pride so residents can be proud of their local environment.
- Hertsmere Together partners are committed to ensuring that the quality of Hertsmere's environment is improved and sustained for the future through developing and supporting initiatives to protect and enhance the natural environment and improve the existing built environment.
- Climate change remains a cross-cutting issue that the partnership will work to tackle through the themed work. Hertsmere Together will also work to reduce carbon emissions.
- Partners will work together to make best possible use of natural resources.

Key programmes arising from the Community Strategy included the Be There! Do It! programme. This provides young people with the opportunity to participate in leisure activities during school holidays. First run in 2003, the scheme attracted 3,500 visits by young people in 2005 and despite having to cancel two events and having problems with the booking system catered for 1316 young people during the 2007/2008. To date for the 2008/2009 financial the scheme has attracted 1346 children. The programme has been credited with contributing towards a reduction in social disorder incidents involving young people over the summer months.

In response to guidance from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, the Council produced SMILE, its first Cultural and Leisure Strategy in 2003. This strategy developed a vision to “improve and enhance the cultural vibrancy of the Borough in order to promote and improve the quality of life for residents of and visitors to Hertsmere”.

In 2007, the strategy was updated. *Keep Smiling* provides an action plan for the period to 2010, and outlines a series of actions, which supports the Council’s corporate goals. The actions, include:

- Upgrade the infrastructure of local parks, for example improving the lighting and entrance areas at Aberford Park.
- Achieve Green Flag status for Aberford Park in Borehamwood and the Rose Garden in Bushey as well as maintain accreditation for King George and Oakmere Parks.
- Establishing a three-year pitch enhancement programme for the Borough’s sports pitches.

### *Play Strategy*

Hertsmere has also produced a Play Strategy, in association with Erskine Associates, covering the period 2007-2012.

Key messages emerging from the play strategy included:

- A need to ensure inclusive play, where disabled and non-disabled children have equality of access to facilities and services;
- Improving youth provision to provide diversionary activities, particularly during school holidays;
- Learning from successful projects such as the Be There! Do It! programme; and
- Matching children’s and young people’s needs with the right opportunities

The strategy also identifies a number of key actions to improve the physical provision of facilities including:

- The construction of children’s centres with the consideration of quality play provision;
- Provision of youth shelters and facilities to ensure playgrounds are free for younger children; and
- Landscape areas in four parks to provide natural play space for younger children.

### *Play Pitch Assessment*

In November 2006, and updated 2010 Sports Turf Consulting produced a Play Pitch Assessment and Strategy. This document examined quantitative and qualitative issues relating to the provision and maintenance of pitches for Rugby, Football, Hockey and Cricket in the Borough.

The Strategy was subject to consultation with a wide range of users and stakeholders. The key findings of the study are reflected in Chapter 7, which examines the provision of facilities for outdoor sports.

### *Local Plan*

Planning policies for the Borough are set out in the Hertsmere Local Plan, adopted in May 2003. The Plan is based upon the principles of sustainable development and contains a number of policies that aim to preserve or enhance sport and leisure facilities in the Borough.

Policy L1 of the plan provides 'in principle' support for the provision of new leisure and recreation facilities in the Borough.

Policy L3 requires Urban Open Land areas to be maintained as such, with a limited number of exceptions predominantly aimed at increasing access or improving existing facilities. The Proposals Map identifies 111 sites covering almost 200 hectares of land. The Urban Open Land areas contain a number of uses including parks and school playing fields.

Policy L4 identifies two proposed areas of open space. The first, to the rear of Sullivan Way in Elstree has been delivered. Composers Park provides a range of facilities including a children's play area and an orienteering trail. The second site, to the south of The Avenue has been delivered as a public open space as part of the ongoing redevelopment of the International University site.

Policy L5 requires residential developments to make provision for any additional recreational demand that they create. Policy L6 resists the loss of existing sports facilities where adequate replacement provision is not made while Policies L7 and L8 prohibit the loss of playing fields and allotments respectively (subject to a small number of exceptions).

Local Plan Policies M5, M6 and M7 promote the provision, enhancement and maintenance of routes to meet the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and equestrian users. These policies support the use of legal agreements to secure developer contributions where appropriate. Policies M8 and M9 support the maintenance and improvement of the rights of way network.

**Table A1.1 Local Plan Open Space Hierarchy**

Type of Facility and Function	Desirable Distribution & Ideal Max. Distance From Home	Examples	Characteristics/Elements
<b>Non Urban Facilities</b>			
<b>Sub-Regional Parks &amp; Other Facilities / Community Forest Gateway Sites</b>	1 - 5 within 10 – 15 miles	Aldenham Country Park; Bowmansgreen Farm; Shenley Park; Wash Lane area at South Mimms MSA (see note below)	'Honey Pot' sites with range of facilities for formal & informal sport & recreation; can take large numbers of visitors; used for occasional visits and all located in the Green Belt
<b>Urban Facilities</b>			
<b>Primary Town Parks</b>	1 - 2 in each town;  max. 2 miles (minimum size 2 ha)	Oakmere Park & Furzefield/King George Rec. Ground (P/B); Meadow Park, Aberford Park & Ripon Park (Bwd); King George V Rec. Ground & Moatfield (Bushey); Phillimore Rec. Ground (Radlett)	Mainly formal but also provision for informal recreation (possibly with natural areas); capacity for town wide events (fairs etc.) pitches for sports / games, possibly water area(s); children's play area(s); occasional / weekly / daily use
<b>Secondary Parks &amp; Recreation Areas</b>	10 - 15 minute walk (usually 0.2 - 2 ha)	Parkfield (P/B); Parkfields, Kenilworth Park & Potterswood Park (Bwd); Windmill Rec. Ground (Bushey)	Formal or informal activity; children's play; weekly or daily visits
<b>Minor Recreation Areas</b>	Ideally within a 5 minute walk	Hackney Close (Bwd); Park Avenue (Bushey)	Individual play areas or small tracts of open space; serving day to day needs
<b>Linear Open Spaces / Green Chains</b>	As opportunities allow	Aberford Park - Haggerston Road linear chain & Studio Estate woodland trail (Bwd)	Few or no formal facilities; mainly informal recreation; wildlife habitats
<b>Facilities in Urban or Non Urban Areas</b>			
<b>Natural Areas / Spaces</b>	As opportunities allow	Hilfield Park Reservoir; Hill Mead Nature Park; Fisher's Field; Furzefield Wood; Merryhill Farm	Wildlife habitat suited to certain forms of passive, informal recreation.

Note: The examples are illustrative and are not a full schedule of sites in Hertsmere. In some cases such as Sub-Regional Parks available provision includes facilities outside the Borough, e.g. Colne Valley Regional Park. The recreation area at South Mimms MSA is a different kind of Gateway Site from the others listed in its category. This is covered by the 'Gateway Sites' section of the Countryside chapter and has the status of a proposed Special Policy Area within Policy M14 of the Movement chapter.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) supports the policies in the Local Plan by providing additional information on specific subjects or topics. *Recreation Provision for Residential Development* was adopted as SPG by the Council in 2001.

The SPG provides detailed information on the provision of equipped children's play areas and areas of general open space. The standards of open space provision contained in the SPG are based on the Six-Acre standard and are applied to all residential developments that are anticipated to be occupied by 60 or more persons. The requirements of the SPG are set out in Table A1.2.

Much of Hertsmere lies within the Watling Chase Community Forest (WCCF). The Community Forest programme was established in 1990 by the Countryside Commission (now the Countryside Agency), as a pilot project to demonstrate the potential contribution of environmental change to economic and social regeneration. The key aims of the project include the provision of additional woodland, opening up areas for leisure, educational and recreational purposes and providing the routes required to achieve this.

The Watling Chase Greenways project aims to provide a network of non-motorised routes within the WCCF. Since its inception, 16.6km of Greenways routes have been provided, forming a key component of the Green Corridors examined in this study.

The Watling Chase Greenways Strategy was published in 2003 and identified a network of prioritised routes for development. The promotion of the WCCF is also achieved through policies C7 and C8 of the adopted Local Plan, which support the provision of appropriately scaled facilities at identified 'gateway' sites and supplementary planning guidance<sup>17</sup> adopted in 2003.

### Core Strategy

The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced significant changes to the planning system in England. As a result, the Council are in the process of replacing the Local Plan with a Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will contain replacement policies relating to the provision of sports and leisure facilities and the use of open spaces.

The first of the LDF documents to be developed is the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is the key statutory Development Plan Document (DPD) in that it sets out the Council's vision and strategy for the next 15 years. It sets out a variety of overarching policies to guide the future development and land use within the Borough.

There are several policies that advocate the protection of the Green Belt and maintaining the openness of the Borough. The enhancement of biodiversity and improvement of environmental quality also feature strongly. In terms of those policies, which are relevant to this study, the following contain elements, which may influence the implementation of any recommendations in this report; CS14 Promoting recreational access to open spaces and the countryside; CS16 Access to services; and CS23 Promoting alternatives to the car.

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<sup>17</sup> Watling Chase Community Forest: A guide for developers, landowners and users.

**Table A1..2: Hertsmere's current recreation and open space requirements**

<b>Occupancy of Development</b>	<b>Requires</b>
60 to 149 persons where any point of access to the proposed development is not located within 800m walking distance of an existing equipped play area and an area of general open space that have the potential to accommodate the additional demand that will be created	On-site provision of one LEAP to the Council's specification, as set out in Appendix A, and the provision of between 240 – 596 sq.m. of general open space at a rate of 4 sq.m. per person
60 to 149 persons where any point of access to the proposed development is located within 800m walking distance of an existing equipped play area and an area of general open space that have the potential to accommodate the additional demand that will be created	A contribution towards the provision of additional equipment or the upgrading, repair and maintenance of existing equipment and the enhancement of an existing open space. On site provision may be required where a contribution would only meet this requirement in part
150 to 249 persons	On site provision of one NEAP to the Council's specification, as set out in Appendix A, and the provision of between 600 – 996 sq.m. of general open space at a rate of 4 sq.m. per person
250 to 499 persons	On site provision of one NEAP to the Council's specification and the provision of between 1000 – 1996 sq.m of general open space at a rate of 4 sq. m. per person
500 to 749 persons	On site provision of one NEAP to the Council's specification and the provision of between 2000 – 2996 sq.m of general open space at a rate of 4 sq. m. per person
750 to 999 persons	On site provision of one NEAP to the Council's specification and the provision of between 3000 – 3996 sq.m of general open space at a rate of 4 sq. m. per person
1000 persons and above	On site provision of one NEAP to the Council's specification, 3000 sq.m of general open space and the provision of or contribution towards formal sports e.g. pitches, indoor facilities etc.

NEAP = Neighbourhood equipped area for play

LEAP: Locally equipped area for play

Source: Recreation Provision for Residential Development, Hertsmere Borough Council Supplementary Planning Guidance. Adopted 2001, updated November 2003.

### Planning Obligations SPD

The Council have adopted a Planning Obligations SPD with a local standard charge for facilities and infrastructure delivered by the Council, focused on smaller housebuilding schemes, typically of 1 to 15 units, to be secured through a planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act. The standard charge and its underlying methodology also form a starting point for agreeing local contributions on larger schemes.



## Appendix 2 Open Spaces

ID	Name	Type1	Sub Area	Area
1	Medburn Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.47
2	Phillimore Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.08
3	Aycliffe Pitches	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	5.55
4	Borehamwood FC	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.81
5	Meadow Park	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.42
6	Kenilworth Drive	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.72
7	Kenilworth School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.33
8	Brook Meadow	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.84
9	Merryfield Primary School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.36
10	Saffron Green School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22
11	St Teresa JMI School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.23
12	Tempsford Park	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	4.00
13	Little Bushey Lane	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	4.05
14	Elm Court Youth Centre	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	1.65
15	Ladbroke JMI	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.75
16	Oakmere	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	1.44
17	Pope Paul Primary	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.27
18	Potters Bar FC - Parkfield	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.83
19	Pursley Park	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.70
20	Ashfield Junior School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	1.58
21	Bushey Heath Primary School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.61
22	Clore Shalom	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.35
23	Hartsbourne School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	1.05
24	Highwood School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	1.78
25	Manor Lodge School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	3.35
26	Newberries School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.63
27	Radlett Prep	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.42

28	Sacred Heart	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	1.96
29	St Nicholas C of E	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.87
30	Summerswood School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.73
31	Moatfield	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	4.74
32	Cage Pond Road	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.14
33	Arsenal Training Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	24.55
34	King George Rec	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	7.39
35	Bushey Hall School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	6.45
36	Fairfield School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.49
37	Wroxham Gardens	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	1.64
38	Edge Grove Prep School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	2.87
39	Old Haberdashers Sports Ground	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	4.12
40	Dame Alice Owens School	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	6.96
41	Bushey Meads School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	5.36
42	Woodlands School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.13
43	Queens School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	12.94
44	Met Police Sports Club	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	13.44
45	UCL Sports Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	31.25
46	Aldenham School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	14.13
47	Harperbury Hospital	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	3.38
48	Fairfield School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.49
49	Habs School for Girls	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	9.12
50	Holmshill - Hertswood School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	8.24
51	Immanuel College	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	1.23
52	Mount Grace	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	2.58
53	Monksmead School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.21
54	The Purcell School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	2.72
55	Cobden Hill	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	4.65

56	Meadow Park	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.01
57	Bushey Manor Junior School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	3.73
58	Lochinver School	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.69
59	Lochinver School	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.64
60	Elstree Cricket Club	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.49
61	Potters Bar Cricket Club	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	1.77
62	Shenley Cricket Centre	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	4.16
63	London Colney CC	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.74
64	Green Meadow Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	1.40
65	Radlett Cricket Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	4.18
66	Edge Grove Prep School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.79
67	Aldenham Sports and Social Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.32
68	Mount Grace School	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.70
69	Habs School for Boys	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	7.86
70	Little Reddings School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	1.39
71	Edge Grove Prep School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	2.87
72	Meadow Park	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.30
73	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.27
74	Met Police Bushey Sports Club	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.40
75	King George Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.21
76	David Lloyd	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.36
77	Elstree Tennis Club	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.34
78	Aldenham School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.16
79	UCL Sports Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.29
80	Mount Grace School / Health Club	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.20
81	Potters Bar Tennis Club	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.32
82	Radlett Tennis Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	2.67
83	Phillimore Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.07
84	Edge Grove Prep School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.12

85	Habs School for Girls	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.52
86	Habs School for Boys	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.79
87	Queens School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.25
88	Bushey Hall School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.27
89	Bushey Meads School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.17
90	Highwood School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.11
91	Manor Lodge School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.06
92	Shenley Park Tennis Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.16
93	Stormont School	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.07
94	The Purcell School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.18
95	Immanuel College	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.21
96	St Hildas School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.05
97	Wall Hall	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.06
98	Dame Alice Owens	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.29
99	Ford Close	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.25
100	The Avenue	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.12
101	Holmshill - Hertswood School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.14
102	St Margaret's School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.41
103	David Lloyd	Indoor Sports Facilities	Bushey	2.12
104	Borehamwood FC	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.60
105	Aldenham School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.60
106	Furzeffield Centre	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.81
107	Queens School	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.90
108	Dame Alice Owens	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.67
109	Edge Grove Prep School	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.12
110	Habs School for Boys	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.79
111	Holmshill - Hertswood School	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.13
112	Aldenham Golf and Country Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	60.43
113	Bushey Hall Golf Club	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	41.47

114	Hartsbourne Country Club	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	70.08
115	Elstree Golf Club	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	39.44
116	Potters Bar Golf Club	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	47.84
117	Porters Park Golf Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	54.31
118	Bridgedown Golf Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	72.26
119	Dyrham Park Country Club	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	70.98
120	Bushey Country Club	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	19.20
121	UCL Sports Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	1.11
122	Borehamwood Bowls Club	Outdoor Sports	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.43
123	Met Police Bushey Sports Club	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.22
124	Bushey Bowling Club	Outdoor Sports	Bushey	0.34
125	Phillimore Recreation Ground	Outdoor Sports	Aldenham and Shenley	0.41
126	The Walk	Outdoor Sports	Potters Bar	0.24
127	King George Rec	Young People	Bushey	0.34
128	Aycliffe Road	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.22
129	Brook meadow	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.04
130	Aberford Park	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.18
131	Meadow Park	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.40
132	Brookside	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.07
133	Crossoaks Lane	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.10
134	Byron Avenue	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.07
135	Park Avenue	Young People	Bushey	0.30
136	Oakmere Junior	Young People	Potters Bar	0.17
137	Oakmere Senior	Young People	Potters Bar	0.20
138	Furzeffield Junior	Young People	Potters Bar	0.05
139	Furzeffield Senior	Young People	Potters Bar	0.16
140	Parkfield	Young People	Potters Bar	0.67
141	Composers Park	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.09
142	Newcombe Road	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.12

143	Kenilworth Park	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.45
144	Potterswood	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.03
145	Moatfield	Young People	Bushey	0.16
146	Glebelands	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.09
147	Elstree Hill	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.11
148	Willow Way	Young People	Potters Bar	0.04
149	Greenwood Gardens	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.02
150	Broadley Gardens	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.01
151	Phillimore Rec	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.45
152	Back Lane	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.16
153	Cage Pond Road	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.08
154	Kellys Court	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.03
155	Arundel Drive	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.32
156	Organ Hall	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.10
157	Stanborough Avenue	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.04
158	Cleveland Crescent	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.05
159	Hartswood Close	Young People	Bushey	0.04
160	Aberford Park	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.52
161	King George Rec	Young People	Potters Bar	0.04
162	Hackney Close	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.06
163	Byron Avenue	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.11
164	King George Rec	Young People	Bushey	0.10
165	Aberford Park	Young People	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.06
166	Phillimore Recreation Ground	Young People	Aldenham and Shenley	0.06
167	Oakmere Park	Parks	Potters Bar	5.79
168	Parkfield	Parks	Potters Bar	10.02
169	Clarendon Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.29
170	Maxwell Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.51
171	Haggerstone Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.88

172	Potterswood Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.05
173	Ripon Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	4.02
174	Parkfields	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	13.53
175	King George Rec	Parks	Bushey	7.73
176	Windmill Lane	Parks	Bushey	0.76
177	Glebelands	Parks	Aldenham and Shenley	0.82
178	Aberford Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	6.01
179	Aldenham Country Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	36.32
180	Meadow Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	4.96
181	Brook Meadow	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.14
182	Kenilworth Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.22
183	Shenley Park	Parks	Aldenham and Shenley	12.25
184	Composers Park	Parks	Borehamwood and Elstree	6.44
185	Phillimore Rec	Parks	Aldenham and Shenley	2.47
186	The Venue	Indoor Sports Facilities	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.65
187	Holmes Place	Indoor Sports Facilities	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.52
188	St Margaret's School Sports Centre	Indoor Sports Facilities	Bushey	0.19
189	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Indoor Sports Facilities	Bushey	2.60
190	David Lloyd	Indoor Sports Facilities	Bushey	2.40
191	Parkwood Health & Fitness	Indoor Sports Facilities	Potters Bar	0.14
192	The Furzefield Centre	Indoor Sports Facilities	Potters Bar	0.61
193	Club Moativation	Indoor Sports Facilities	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.62
194	Hertswood Centre	Indoor Sports Facilities	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.60
195	Bushey Country Club	Indoor Sports Facilities	Bushey	0.14
196	Potters Bar Health Club	Indoor Sports Facilities	Potters Bar	0.07
197	Holmes Place	Indoor Sports Facilities	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.52
198	Radlett Tennis Club	Indoor Sports Facilities	Aldenham and Shenley	0.02
199	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Indoor Sports Facilities	Bushey	1.28
200	Aldenham Sport Centre	Indoor Sports Facilities	Aldenham and Shenley	0.18

201	Finch Lane	Allotment	Bushey	3.01
202	Merry Hills Allotments	Allotment	Bushey	5.41
203	Windmill Lane	Allotment	Bushey	1.47
204	Aberdale Gardens	Allotment	Potters Bar	0.56
205	Phillimore Rec	Allotment	Aldenham and Shenley	2.25
206	Green Street	Allotment	Aldenham and Shenley	1.04
207	Watling Street	Allotment	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.65
208	Highview Gardens	Allotment	Potters Bar	3.73
209	Melrose Avenue	Allotment	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.99
210	Kimptons Mead	Allotment	Potters Bar	0.60
211	Letchmore heath	Allotment	Aldenham and Shenley	1.09
212	Lower Paddock Road	Allotment	Bushey	5.96
213	Cobden Hill	Allotment	Aldenham and Shenley	0.04
214	Bushey Rose Garden	Parks	Bushey	0.52
215	Mary Forsdyke Garden	Parks	Bushey	0.71
216	Watling Street	Parks	Aldenham and Shenley	0.24
217	St James Church	Other Provision	Bushey	1.91
218	Jewish Cemetery	Other Provision	Bushey	16.73
219	St Botolphs	Other Provision	Aldenham and Shenley	0.66
220	Allum Lane Cemetery	Other Provision	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.03
221	Mutton Lane Cemetery	Other Provision	Potters Bar	1.44
222	St John the Baptist	Other Provision	Aldenham and Shenley	1.05
223	St Nicholas	Other Provision	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.33
224	Christ Church	Other Provision	Aldenham and Shenley	0.54
225	All Saints Church	Other Provision	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.48
226	St Margaret's Church	Other Provision	Aldenham and Shenley	0.56
227	St Giles' Church	Other Provision	Aldenham and Shenley	1.00
228	Leeming Road	Green Corridor	Borehamwood and Elstree	1.76
229	West Herts College	Other Provision	Bushey	2.31



230	Heathbourne Road	Discarded	Bushey	0.94
231	St Albans Road	Discarded	Aldenham and Shenley	3.97
232	Sunnybank Road	Discarded	Potters Bar	0.49
233	Watling Street	Discarded	Aldenham and Shenley	0.57
234	The Avenue	Discarded	Bushey	12.04
235	Hackney Close	Discarded	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.04
236	Elmroyd Avenue	Discarded	Potters Bar	0.29
237	Ford Close	Discarded	Bushey	0.11
238	Munro Road	Discarded	Bushey	0.04
239	Boundary Green	Amenity Green	Bushey	0.27
240	Bushey War Memorial	Parks	Bushey	0.02
241	Hartspring Meadow	Natural	Bushey	3.74
242	Fishers Field Nature Reserve	Natural	Bushey	1.79
243	Hillmead Nature Park	Natural	Bushey	1.30
244	The Venue	Civic Space	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.30
245	Oaklands Corner Open Space	Amenity Green	Borehamwood and Elstree	0.13
246	Thirskcliffe Nature Park	Natural	Borehamwood and Elstree	2.91
247	Studio Way Woodland Trail	Natural	Borehamwood and Elstree	5.37
248	Allum Lane Spinney	Natural	Borehamwood and Elstree	3.19
249	Potters Bar Old War Memorial	Parks	Potters Bar	0.01
250	Potters Bar War Memorial	Parks	Potters Bar	0.16
251	Furzeffield Centre Meadow	Natural	Potters Bar	1.49
252	Furzeffield Centre Woodland	Natural	Potters Bar	5.49
253	Brookside, Meadow	Natural	Aldenham and Shenley	0.41
254	Brookside, Woodland	Natural	Aldenham and Shenley	0.55
255	Wash Lane Common	Natural	Aldenham and Shenley	2.60
256	Hillcrest Road	Natural	Aldenham and Shenley	0.87
257	Woodhall Lane Spinney	Natural	Aldenham and Shenley	1.32

### Appendix 3. Hertsmere Swimming Pools

SNO.	Site Name	Ward	Number of Lanes	Area	Access Type	Ownership Type
1	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Bushey North Ward	0	128	Pay and Play	Local Authority
2	Club Motivation (Elstree/Borehamwood)	Borehamwood Kenilworth Ward	0	55	Registered Membership use	Commercial
3	Furzeffield Centre	Potters Bar Furzeffield Ward	0	108	Pay and Play	Local Authority
4	Sebastian Coe Health Club (Watford)	Bushey North Ward	0	60	Registered Membership use	Commercial
5	The Venue	Borehamwood Cowley Hill Ward	0	93.75	Pay and Play	Local Authority
6	David Lloyd Club (Bushey - Watford)	Bushey North Ward	2	125	Registered Membership use	Commercial
7	Dyrham Park Country Club	Shenley Ward	0	40	Registered Membership use	Commercial
8	Hartsbourne Golf And Country Club	Bushey Heath Ward	0	270	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial
9	Hartsbourne Golf And Country Club	Bushey Heath Ward	0	60	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial
10	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Bushey North Ward	6	312.5	Pay and Play	Local Authority
11	David Lloyd Club (Bushey -	Bushey North Ward	3	150	Registered Membership use	Commercial

	Watford)					
12	Furzeffield Centre	Potters Bar Furzeffield Ward	6	396	Pay and Play	Local Authority
13	Haberdashers Askes School For Boys	Aldenham West Ward	6	250	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School
14	John Owen Sports Centre	Bushey Park Ward	5	350	Registered Membership use	Other Independent School
15	Livingwell Health Club (Watford)	Bushey North Ward	2	90	Registered Membership use	Commercial
16	Parkwood Health And Fitness (Potters Bar)	Potters Bar Parkfield Ward	4	120	Registered Membership use	Commercial
17	The Venue	Borehamwood Cowley Hill Ward	8	437.5	Pay and Play	Local Authority
18	Village Leisure Club (Elstree)	Elstree Ward	3	250	Registered Membership use	Commercial
19	Virgin Active Club (Borehamwood)	Borehamwood Hillside Ward	1	135	Registered Membership use	Commercial
			<b>46.00</b>	<b>3430.75</b>		
			<b>Public</b>	1538.25		
			<b>Private</b>	1892.50		

## Appendix 4 Sports Courts

SNO.	Site Name	Ward	Number of Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type
1	Aldenham Sports Centre	Aldenham West Ward	9	Pay and Play	Other Independent School
2	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre	Bushey North Ward	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority
7	David Lloyd Club (Bushey - Watford)	Bushey North Ward	4	Registered Membership use	Commercial
8	Furzeffield Centre	Potters Bar Furzeffield Ward	7	Pay and Play	Local Authority
18	John Owen Sports Centre	Bushey Park Ward	4	Registered Membership use	Other Independent School
			<b>28</b>		
1	Bushey Meads School	Bushey St. James Ward	5	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School
2	Dame Alice Owen's School	Potters Bar Furzeffield Ward	5	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Aided School
3	Haberdashers Askes School For Boys	Aldenham West Ward	7	Pay and Play	Other Independent School

4	Haberdashers Askes School For Girls	Aldenham West Ward	5	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School
5	Hertswood Centre	Shenley Ward	5	Pay and Play	Community school
6	Hertswood School - Lower Site	Shenley Ward	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school
7	Hertswood School - Secondary Site	Borehamwood Cowley Hill Ward	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school
8	Immanuel College	Bushey Heath Ward	6	Private Use	Other Independent School
9	Mount Grace School	Potters Bar Parkfield Ward	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School
10	Mount Grace School	Potters Bar Parkfield Ward	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School
11	Purcell School	Bushey North Ward	1	Private Use	Other Independent School
12	Queen's School (Site 1)	Bushey North Ward	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School
13	Yavneh College Sports Centre	Borehamwood Hillside Ward	5	Sports Club / Community Association	Voluntary Aided School

14	Ashfield Junior School	1	Private Use	Community school
15	Bournehall Primary School	1	Private Use	Community school
16	Bushey Manor Junior	1	Private Use	Community school
17	Clore Shalom	1	Private Use	Community school
18	Cranborne Primary	1	Private Use	Community school
19	Hartsbourne Primary	1	Private Use	Community school
20	High Cross Edge Grove School	3	Private Use	Community school
21	Highwood Primary	1	Private Use	Community school
22	Ladbroke JMI	1	Private Use	Community school
23	Little Redding Primary	2	Private Use	Community school
24	Merryfield Community Primary	2	Private Use	Community school
25	Newberries Primary	1	Private Use	Community school
26	Pope Paul Catholic Primary	1	Private Use	Community school
27	Shenley Primary	1	Private Use	Community school
28	ST Giles C Of E Primary	1	Private Use	Community school
29	Wroxham School	1	Private Use	Community school
67				

Dual use re-Calc	<b>16.75</b>
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## Appendix 5 Community Halls

Hall	Address
Aberford Park Hall	Aberford Road Borehamwood Herts
Aldenham War Memorial Hall	Grange Lane Letchmore Heath Herts
All Saints Church Hall	Shenley Road Borehamwood Herts
Allum Hall	Allum Lane Elstree Herts WD6 3PJ
Belhaven Court Hall	Blyth Close, Gateshead Road Borehamwood Herts WD6 4EE
Borehamwood Football Club	Broughinge Road Borehamwood Herts



Bushey Centre	High Street Bushey Herts WD23 1TT
Bushey Hall School	London Road Bushey Herts WD23 3AA
Bushey Rangers Youth & Football Club	Moatfield, Bournehall Lane Bushey Herts WD23 3NQ
Bushey Youth & Community Centre Falconer School	Falconer Road Bushey Herts WD23 3AF
Cricket Club Hall	The Walk Potters Bar Herts
Elm Court Youth & Community Centre	Elm Court, Mutton Lane Potters Bar Herts EN6 3BP

Fairway Hall	Brook Close Borehamwood Herts
Farriers Way Hall	Farriers Way Borehamwood Herts
Furzefield Centre	Mutton Lane Potters Bar Herts EN6 3BW
Hartspring Lane Community Centre	336 Park Avenue Watford WD23 2BJ Tel. 01923 251960
King Charles The Martyr Church Halls Complex	368 Mutton Lane Potters Bar Herts EN6 3AS

Little Heath Parish Hall	Thornton Road Potters Bar Herts EN6 1JJ
Maxwell Park Community Centre	Maxwell Road Borehamwood Herts WD6 1JJ
Multi Purpose Room	Bushey Grove Leisure Centre Aldenham Road Bushey Herts WD23 2TD
Oakmere Hall Youth & Community Centre	Chase Avenue Potters Bar Herts
Phillimore Centre	81 Phillimore Place Radlett Herts WD7 8NJ

Potters Bar Town Football Club	Parkfield Stadium Watkins Rise Off The Walk Potters Bar Herts EN6 1QN
Radlett Youth and Community Centre	Junction/ Loom Lane/ Watling Street Radlett Herts WD7 8AD
Ridge Parish Hall	Deeves Hall Lane Ridge Herts EN6 3LP
Sacred Heart Parish Centre	London Road Bushey Herts
St James Church House Hall Church House	High Street Bushey Herts WD23 1BD

St Johns Hall	Gills Hill Lane Radlett Herts
St Peters Church Hall	High Road Bushey Herts
The Chapel, Shenley Park	Porters Park Drive, Shenley
The Radlett Centre	1 Aldenham Avenue Radlett Herts WD7 8HL
Three Ways Community Centre	Arundel Drive Borehamwood Herts WD6 2ND

Tilbury Hall, United Reformeds Church	Darkes Lane Potters Bar Herts EN6 1BZ
Wayside Jubilee Centre	Wayside, East Parade Potters Bar Herts
Wylllyotts Centre	Wylllyotts Place, Darkes Lane Potters Bar Herts EN6 2HN