

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL



A

FINAL REPORT

BY

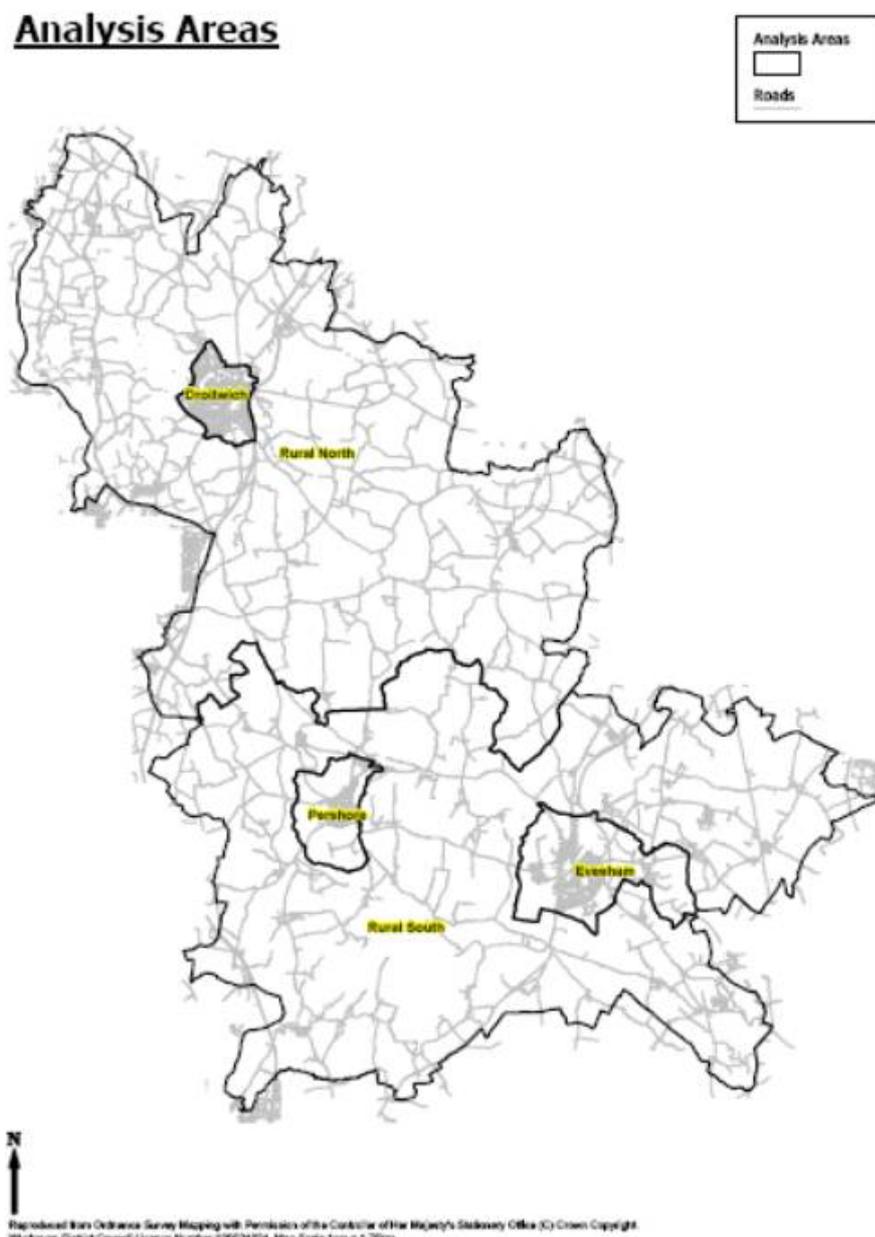
PMP

NOVEMBER 2006

Background

- i. PMP were appointed to undertake an audit and assessment of open space across the Wychavon District 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 (September 2002).
- ii. The Companion Guide sets out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. Although presented as a linear process below, in reality, many stages were undertaken in parallel.
- iii. The five step process is as follows:
 - Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
 - Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision
 - Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
 - Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
 - Step 5 – Drafting Policies – recommendations and strategic priorities.
- iv. The study considers nine typologies of open space in addition to indoor sports facilities, namely:
 - parks and gardens
 - natural and semi natural open space
 - amenity greenspace
 - provision for children
 - provision for young people
 - outdoor sports facilities
 - allotments and community gardens
 - green corridors
 - churchyards and cemeteries
- v. The analysis has therefore been undertaken by type of open space looking at different areas across the local authority boundary. These are referred to as analysis areas. The use of analysis areas allows examination of data at a more detailed local level, and provides a geographical background to the analysis.
- vi. The district has been split into five areas, specifically the three main urban areas of Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore, and two rural areas – termed rural north and rural south. These analysis areas are illustrated on map 1 overleaf.

Map 1 – Analysis areas of Wychavon District Council



vii. The key outputs of the study include:

- a full audit of all accessible open spaces across Wychavon categorised according to the primary purpose of the site (in line with the typologies highlighted previously). This audit is stored on a GIS layer and linked Access database
- an assessment of the open space, sport and recreational needs of people living, working and visiting Wychavon derived from a series of consultations
- production of local provision standards (quantity, quality and accessibility) for each type of open space where appropriate, in accordance with local needs

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- application of local standards to the existing open space provision, enabling the identification of surpluses and deficiencies based on quantity, quality and accessibility
 - recommendations to address the key findings and drive future policy.
- viii. Full details of the methodology can be found in Section 2 of the report and the standard setting process can be found in appendices H, I and J. The recommended local standards, key issues and recommendations for each typology are summarised below and the key findings and resulting actions are highlighted. In light of the overlapping roles that parks, natural areas and amenity spaces have, the application of these standards, key findings and recommendations have been considered together. This ensures a full understanding of the interaction between the typologies and an assessment of true deficiencies

Parks and gardens

Standards

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| Quantity Standard | 0.76 ha per 1000 population, to be applied to the urban area only |
| Accessibility Standard | 15 minutes walk time - urban |
| Quality Vision | <i>“A welcoming, clean and litter free site providing a one-stop community facility with a wide range of leisure, recreational and enriched play opportunities for all ages. Sites should have varied and well-kept vegetation, appropriate lighting and ancillary accommodation (including benches, toilets and litter bins) and well-signed to and within the site. The safety of sites should be enhanced wherever possible (e.g. through appropriate planting, CCTV and a park ranger presence)”</i> |
| Quality Benchmark | 96% |

Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

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|------------------------|--|
| Quantity Standard | 0.75 ha per 1000 population, to be applied to the urban area only |
| Accessibility Standard | 15 minutes walk time - urban |
| Quality Vision | ‘A spacious, clean, well vegetated, litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourages wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness across all open space sites, where appropriate. There should be a clear focus on balancing recreational and wildlife needs, while ensuring public access where appropriate.’ |
| Quality Benchmark | 88% |

Natural and Semi Natural Open Space

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Quantity Standard | 0.75 ha per 1000 population, to be applied to the urban area only |
| Accessibility Standard | 15 minutes walk time - urban |
| Quality Vision | ‘A spacious, clean, well vegetated, litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourages wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental awareness across all open space sites, where appropriate. There should be a clear focus on balancing recreational and wildlife needs, while ensuring public access where appropriate.’ |
| Quality Benchmark | 88% |

Amenity Green Space

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| Quantity Standard | 0.61 ha per 1000 population |
| Accessibility Standard | 15 minutes walk time - urban |
| Quality Vision | “A clean and well-maintained site with appropriate ancillary accommodation (seating, dog and litter bins etc), pathways and landscaping in the right places providing a spacious outlook and overall enhancing the appearance of the local environment. Larger sites should be suitable for informal play opportunities and should be enhanced to encourage the site to become a community focus, while smaller sites should at the least provide an important visual amenity function.” |
| Quality Benchmark | 88% |

Parks, Natural and Semi Natural Open Space and Amenity Green Space sites

- ix. The distribution of recreational open space is even across the district with most residents able to access one or more space falling into the category of parks and gardens, natural and semi natural and amenity green spaces. Although the main towns are the key focus for provision of open space sites, there is also provision within a high proportion of rural settlements in the district.
- x. In addition to considering the local provision of parks, natural and semi natural and amenity green space sites, it is important to take into account the influence that wider strategic sites (including SSSI and nature reserves) have on the overall level of and access to recreational open space in Wychavon.
- xi. Consultation highlighted a high level of satisfaction with the parks and gardens within Wychavon. They are very well used and the quality was commended throughout the consultation process.

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- xii. Amenity greenspace sites should be assessed on an individual basis due to the range of perceptions in each area. There are sites that range from poor to very good within each area. These areas were deemed to be extremely important to children and young people who are able to use many of these sites as informal play areas.
- xiii. It is important to take into account the secondary function of other open space types, especially in rural settlements where outdoor sports facilities often provide an amenity greenspace function in addition to formal facilities such as play equipment.
- xiv. The application of the local standards highlights significant areas of quantitative deficiency in Evesham. In contrast, Droitwich was deemed to have an adequate amount of provision although some accessibility deficiencies remain. Although distribution of open spaces in Pershore was good and all residents were able to access open spaces, again some deficiencies remained.
- xv. Despite the focus on provision in the urban areas of the district, residents in rural areas are well served by open spaces and also benefit from large numbers of SSSI and other natural sites located on the periphery of settlements.
- xvi. The key recommendations resulting from the application of local standards for parks, natural areas and amenity green spaces include:

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| PAN1 | Protect all parks and gardens as they are of strategic importance, have high usage and are of high value to residents. Seek to continually improve these sites to maintain the high standards and ensure they meet the quality benchmark. The criteria outlined in the nationally recognised Green Flag assessment should also continue to be viewed as a symbol of good quality provision in the district. |
| PAN2 | <p>Protect all amenity greenspace sites that receive high levels of usage and are well valued by the local community. Consider improving any of these sites that do not meet the quality benchmark to ensure their value to residents is maximised.</p> <p>Amenity space sites located in areas where residents are outside of the catchment area for parks and gardens are of particular value and should be enhanced and maintained.</p> <p>Particular consideration should be given to the amenity green space sites in the district that are considered to be of either poor quality or low use as it may be that they are better suited to an alternative open space function in order to best meet the needs of local residents. These sites may offer opportunities for redesignation, particularly if they also serve overlapping catchments (see PAN 7)</p> |

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| PAN3 | <p>Protect natural and semi natural open spaces that are well used or highly valued, enhancing any appropriate sites that do not meet the quality benchmark.</p> <p>Particular consideration should be given to the natural and semi natural sites in the district that are considered to be of either poor quality or low use as it may be that they are better suited to an alternative open space function in order to best meet the needs of local residents.</p> | |
| PAN4 | <p>Address deficiencies in provision of all three types of open space in the towns. Any new sites should adhere to minimum size criteria and quality visions. This is detailed further in section 15, planning overview. A balance of all three types of open space should be ensured. Deficiencies highlighted include:</p> | |
| | Droitwich | <p>P&G – Large area spanning from the north west corner down the west side of the town towards the south east</p> <p>AGS – Small area to the south east</p> |
| | Evesham | <p>P&G – Small area to the north, small area to the west and expanse from the eastern edge of the town down to the south</p> <p>AGS and NSN – Small area to the south west</p> |
| | Persnore | <p>P&G – The north of the town</p> <p>NSN – The south of the town</p> |

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| PAN 5 | Where there is a deficiency of parks and gardens, but an oversupply of amenity greenspace, consider enhancing the amenity greenspace to provide a small park or garden facility to ensure that residents have access to as wide as possible variety of provision. |
| PAN 6 | Sites that do not meet the quality benchmark standard but serve unique catchments should be protected and considered for qualitative improvements. |
| | Where there are areas with overlapping catchments, further investigation should be made into the value of these sites (quality and access) and the level of usage. Where value is deemed to be low, relocation should be considered. |
| PAN 8 | Protect all open spaces within village settlements. |
| PAN 9 | Consider the needs and requirements of each village on an individual basis, enhancing the quality and range of provision where appropriate encouraging the multi functionality of current provision. New provision will only be required in villages where demand is identified. |
| PAN 10 | Protect all SSSI and Special Wildlife sites. Any funding opportunities for the further conservation and development of these sites should be maximised. |
| PAN 11 | Update current management plans when appropriate and consider the development of further plans for other large sites to ensure they are being used to their full potential and enhanced accordingly to meet the needs of the local population |
| PAN 12 | Any new housing developments should take into account the need for all three open space types. This is particularly important in areas where there is currently no demand (i.e. no houses) but may be allocated for development in future years. |
| PAN 13 | The findings of this study should ensure that future investment is directed into the most appropriate provision to meet current and future needs. A strategy for the future direction of green space provision and an associated action plan for improvement and enhancements should also be developed. |

- xvii. The justification behind the above recommendations is set out in detail in section eight.

Provision for children and Young People

Standards

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| Quantity Standard: | <p>Children – 0.07 hectares per 1000 population</p> <p>Young People – 0.02 hectares of young people’s provision per 1000 population</p> |
| Accessibility Standard: | <p>Children - 10 minute walk (480m)</p> <p>Young People – 15 minute walk (480m) urban areas only</p> |
| Quality Vision: | <p>Children - <i>A well designed clean site providing a mix of well-maintained and imaginative formal equipment and an enriched play environment in a safe, secure and convenient location. Sites should have clear boundaries, with dog free areas and include appropriate ancillary accommodation such as seating, litter bins and toilets within the larger sites. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety”</i></p> <p>Young People – <i>“A site providing a robust yet imaginative play environment for older children in a safe and secure location, with clear separation from younger children facilities, overlooked from some aspects and that promotes a sense of ownership. The site should include clean, litter and dog free areas for more informal play and appropriately designed seating and shelter. Sites should also comply with appropriate national guidelines for design and safety”</i></p> |
| Quality Benchmark: | <p>Children - 94%</p> <p>Young People – 90%</p> |

Key Findings and Recommendations for Children and Young People

- xviii. Although Wychavon District Council has a key role to play in the provision of facilities for young people and children across the district, Parish and Town Councils are also important providers of play facilities.
- xix. Consultation highlights that there is an overall perception of insufficient facilities particularly for children and young people. The quality of facilities is however perceived to be good, suggesting that the overall priorities should lie with improvements to the quantity of provision.
- xx. This is reflected not only in the consultation, but also in the application of the local standards, which highlights significant areas of deficiency, both in terms of quantity and accessibility across the three main towns. Provision for children and young people has emerged as the key area of deficiency across the typologies and should therefore be a key focus of the Council going forward.

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- xxi. Recommendations resulting from the application of the local standards are justified and site-specific examples are provided in section 9. These recommendations can be summarised as:

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| CYP 1 | Protect all play areas which receive high levels of use as these sites are consequently of high value. | |
| CYP 2 | Sites that do not meet the quality benchmark standard but are the only provision of its type in the area should be protected and considered for qualitative improvements. | |
| CYP3 | Address deficiencies in provision in towns. Any new sites should adhere to minimum size criteria and quality visions. This is detailed further in section 15, planning overview. Deficiencies highlighted include: | |
| | Droitwich | South Area (Children & Young people) South West Area (Children & Young people) South East Area (Children & Young people) Northern Central Area (Children) |
| | Evesham | Greenhill to the North (Children & Young people) Hampton to the West (Children & Young people) Bengeworth to the North East (Children & Young people) Central Areas (Children & Young people) |
| | Pershore | North (Children) North West (Children) West (Children) All (Young People) |
| CYP 4 | Where there are play areas with overlapping catchments, further investigation should be made into the value of these sites (quality and access) and the level of usage. Where value is deemed to be low, relocation should be considered. | |
| CYP 5 | Any new housing developments should take into account the need for provision for children and young people. This is particularly important in areas where there is currently no demand (i.e. no houses) but may be allocated for development in future years. | |

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| CYP6 | Ensure residents living in all small settlements exceeding a population of 1700 have access to provision for children and young people. |
| CYP7 | Provide support to Parish Councils in areas where there are access deficiencies of play provision. This support should focus firstly on settlements where the number of residents is sufficient to warrant a facility and in others where local need is identified. Where possible, any new provision should be developed in consultation with local residents. |
| CYP8 | Protect sites of high quality. Site assessments indicate that 40 sites across the district are currently of high quality and meet the quality standard. |
| CYP9 | Monitor usage at poor quality sites. Where usage is low, consider the appropriateness of the facility. Where usage levels are high despite the quality of provision, the site should be prioritised for improvement. Quality improvements should be informed by the site assessments and the quality summaries for each area. |
| CYP10 | The findings of this study should dovetail with and inform the future development of a play strategy, ensuring that future investment is directed into the most appropriate provision to meet current and future needs. An action plan for improvement and enhancement of provision for children and young people should also be developed. |

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- xxii. Outdoor sports facilities is a wide-ranging category of open space which includes both natural and artificial surfaces for sport and recreation that are owned and managed by town and parish councils, sports associations and individual sports clubs. Examples include playing pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens and golf courses with the primary purpose of participation in outdoor sports.
- xxiii. In total provision in Wychavon equates to 1.70 hectares per 1,000 population. As a result of the wide variety of outdoor sports facilities, the recommended quantity standard is set for broad planning need only. Further specific detail on the supply and demand for pitches is needed to ascertain the exact provision requirements.

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| Quantity Standard: | 1.9 hectares per 1000 population (excluding golf courses) |
| Accessibility Standard: | <p><i>Local outdoor sports provision - 15-minute walk to local outdoor sports (grass pitches, tennis and bowling greens)</i></p> <p><i>District wide sports provision – 15-minute drive to synthetic turf pitches and golf courses</i></p> |
| Quality Vision: | <p><i>“A well-planned, clean, litter and dog fouling free sports facility site, with level and well-drained good quality surfaces, appropriate good quality ancillary accommodation including changing accommodation and car parking. The site should have appropriate management ensuring community safety and include lighting and the use of CCTV where appropriate to address the miss-use of sites.”</i></p> |
| Quality Benchmark: | 96% |

- xxiv. Consultation highlights different expectations between the different types of sports facilities. It indicates that people are willing to travel further to synthetic pitches, golf courses and bowling greens, but expect pitches and tennis courts to be more localised. Application of the accessibility standards highlights a few areas where residents are unable to access any outdoor sport facilities, however provision is generally well distributed across the towns. There are some smaller settlements without any provision and in other areas the outdoor sports facilities are particularly valuable as they are the only open space provision in the area.
- xxv. The analysis highlights the key role that schools play, particularly in smaller settlements. This reinforces the need to secure community use of these sites outside school hours.
- xxvi. The overall quality of facilities is high and there were few problems identified. Sites of lower quality should be prioritised for improvement to ensure that they meet the needs of the community. The key recommendations emerging from the analysis of outdoor sports facilities included:

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| OSF 1 | All OSF sites should be afforded protection within the Local Development Framework. |
| OSF 2 | Investigate provision in areas where there are deficiencies in access to local provision. This is particularly important in areas where the application of the quantity standard suggests that additional provision may be required. |
| OSF 3 | Consider the programming of facilities to see whether they are being used effectively and to capacity, whilst undertaking an assessment on the needs of specific facility types. |
| OSF 4 | Protect and enhance sites with high quality and high usage as these are extremely important to the overall provision in Wychavon |
| OSF 5 | Sites that receive high usage but are of a lower quality are extremely important sites and qualitative enhancements should be made where appropriate. |
| OSF 6 | Investigate sites of poorer quality to determine the most appropriate improvements to ensure that usage and value to the local community is maintained. |
| OSF 7 | Some outdoor sports facilities are the only type or most significant type of provision of open space within the settlement. These sites are therefore of particular importance for their amenity function in addition to providing outdoor sports. |
| OSF 8 | All schools that serve unique catchment areas or settlements where a school site is the only formal sports provision should be secured for community use and demand investigated. |
| OSF 9 | Ensure that facilities abide with the Disability Discrimination Act to ensure appropriate access for the disabled |

Indoor facilities

- xxvii. An analysis of the provision of sports halls and swimming pool provision within Wychavon District has been undertaken and current provision has been measured against identified demand, enabling an understanding of any additional provision required.
- xxviii. Consultation highlights that the quality of current facilities within Wychavon is good and an overarching quality vision has been set in line with local community need, Quest and Best Value principles.

A clean and well-maintained indoor sports facility that provides a wide range of indoor sports facilities and activities, that provides value for money. Indoor sports facilities should provide adequate changing facilities, cycle and car-parking be easily accessible by public transport and be accessible to all.

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- xxix. A local quantitative standard of 0.47 courts per 1000 population has been set for sports hall provision in Wychavon. This is significantly above the suggested national standard although the current supply of sports halls (53 courts) is equivalent to this recommended standard suggesting that in quantitative terms there is sufficient provision although there may be locational deficiencies or high demand for some centres. This should be considered further through detailed analysis looking at the size of the catchment population that each facility is serving.
- xxx. Supply of swimming facilities in the district is also almost equivalent to the local standard set, allowing for a future focus on quality improvements rather than a need to provide new facilities. The recommended standard of 9.9m² per 1000 is in line with the national standard and is also reflective of local consultation.
- xxxi. Application of the accessibility standards for both swimming and sports halls highlights that almost all residents are able to access facilities within the recommended distance threshold. The only exceptions to this are residents living in some of the Eastern Rural areas of the district. The importance of the provision of local community centres / village halls (particularly in terms of offsetting unmet demand for sports halls) should not be overlooked.
- xxxii. The development and application of these local standards for sports halls and swimming pools should be considered a starting point for the future strategic planning of indoor sports facilities in Wychavon. These standards should be supplemented with further detailed user consultation at key centres across the district and detailed analysis into the size and characteristics of the resident population that each centre is serving.
- xxxiii. As participation increases, consideration should be given to the maximisation of resources on school sites by the community. Programmes such as Building Schools for the Future and the extended schools programme offer significant opportunities.

Allotments

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| Quantity Standard: | 0.39 hectares per 1000 population |
| Accessibility Standard: | 15 minutes walk time - (720 metres) |
| Quality Vision: | <i>“A clean, secure and well-kept site that encourages sustainable development, bio-diversity, healthy living and education objectives with appropriate ancillary facilities (eg litter bins and water supply) to meet local needs, well kept grass and good quality soils. The site should be spacious providing appropriate access and clear boundaries.”</i> |
| Quality Benchmark: | 86% |

Key issues and actions

- xxxiv. There are 24 allotment sites in Wychavon which are dispersed across the rural and urban areas. Although consultation highlights that residents are satisfied with the overall level and quality of provision, it also became apparent that many residents are not aware of the opportunities to get an allotment in the district. A strategy to raise awareness and promote the benefits of allotments to residents is therefore recommended.

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- xxxv. The quality and accessibility of allotment sites in Wychavon on the whole is good, although the site assessments highlighted some strong variations in quality. Three sites fall into the poor or very poor category in terms of quality although twelve allotment sites achieve the quality benchmark score.
- xxxvi. A quantity standard just above the existing level of provision in the district has been set for allotments. The application of this standard highlights the potential need for additional provision in Evesham and Droitwich. This is reinforced when looking at the distribution of allotment sites across the district and the application of the recommended accessibility standard (15 minutes walk time), with deficiencies highlighted in both of these areas. Allotment provision is demand led and new allotment sites should only be created where there is evidence of public demand. This is of particular importance in areas where existing sites are not used to maximum capacity. It may therefore not be appropriate to create allotment provision to serve every apparent area of deficiency and extensive public consultation should be undertaken prior to the development of any new allotment site. Recommendations for allotments include:

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| ALL 1 | Protect all existing allotment sites that are good quality, have good accessibility and high usage as they are very important to the local communities that they serve |
| ALL 2 | Sites that have high usage levels but do not meet the quality standard benchmark should be enhanced in terms of quality |
| ALL 3 | Investigate the demand for allotment provision in areas that are currently deficient for example Droitwich. Examine the option of changing the primary function of some amenity greenspace sites into allotments in areas of deficiency |
| ALL 4 | Protect the Racks Allotments (site ID 1318) and Kemerton Road Allotments in Bredon (site ID 1277) and enhance the quality and accessibility of these sites where possible |
| ALL 5 | In order to ascertain exact demand for allotment plots further research should be undertaken with local residents to establish where allotments should be developed. Benefits of allotment plots and the potential contribution of allotments to the health agenda should be promoted. |
| ALL 6 | Develop an allotment strategy outlining the future delivery of allotments in the district, taking into account the perceived shortfalls in provision at the current time. The strategy should include consideration of the promotion of allotments and options for raising awareness of the availability of allotments across the district. |

Cemeteries and Churchyards

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| Quantity Standard: | No Standard Set (as recommended by PPG17) |
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| Accessibility Standard: | No Standard Set (as recommended by PPG17) |
| Quality Vision: | <i>“A clean and well-maintained site providing long-term burial capacity, an area of quiet contemplation and a sanctuary for wildlife. Sites should have clear pathways and varied vegetation and landscaping and provide appropriate ancillary accommodation (eg. facilities for flowers litter bins and seating.) Access to sites should be enhanced by parking facilities and by public transport routes, particularly in urban areas”</i> |
| Quality Benchmark: | 86% |

Key issues and recommendations

- xxxvii. There is an even distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the district with high levels of provision in the rural areas. Many cemeteries and churchyards are the only type of open space in the village and offer opportunities for quiet recreation as well as acting as important wildlife sanctuaries. Cemeteries and churchyards may also break up the urban landscape texture.
- xxxviii. The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the district is consistently high and over half of all sites meet or exceed the quality benchmark standard which is set at 86%. Only one site is considered to be in need of improvement.
- xxxix. Assessing quality and value is fundamental to effective planning. The wider benefits of churchyards are key and it is wrong to place a value on churchyards and cemeteries focusing solely on quality and accessibility. In addition to offering a functional value, many cemeteries and churchyards have wider benefits including heritage, cultural and landscape values.
- xl. Local standards for accessibility and quantity have therefore not been set. The quality vision and quality benchmark should guide the future development and improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the district. Despite the inappropriateness of setting and applying a quantitative and accessibility standard for cemeteries and churchyards it remains important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards anticipating future demand as well as assessing the current level of provision.
- xli. The key recommendations for cemeteries and churchyards include:

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| CC1 | The Council should work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality vision and benchmark. |
| CC2 | Stakeholders should recognise and promote the nature conservation value of cemeteries and churchyards and begin to develop more awareness of ecological management of cemeteries and churchyards. |
| CC3 | For the Council to work in partnership with other providers to improve and maintain the quality of cemeteries and churchyards in line with the quality vision and benchmark. |
| CC4 | The Council should produce an action plan for cemeteries and |

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| | churchyards in the district to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the likely implications of any future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds. |
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Green Corridors

- xlii. PPG17 highlights that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard in terms of quantity or accessibility for green corridors. It is therefore inappropriate to make any statements regarding areas of deficiency or need. Quality is however important and a vision for green corridors in Wychavon has been developed:

“A clean, well-maintained, safe and secure corridor with clear pathways, linking major open spaces together, enhancing natural features and wildlife corridors. Corridors should provide ancillary facilities such as bins, seating and lighting in appropriate places and signage.”

- xliii. A number of recommendations for the future development of green corridors and strategic linkages are also set out below:

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| GC1 | Wychavon District Council should work in tandem with Worcestershire County Council and all delivery partners in order to maximise the use of green corridors in the District and ensure the successful implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement and Action Plan. |
| GC2 | Actions arising from the Community Plan regarding the development of Walking the Way to Health Routes should be implemented. Involvement of community groups to help contribute, enhance and maximise the provision of green corridors should be encouraged. |
| GC3 | Linking existing green corridors with open spaces in the District should be a key priority for the Council to provide opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport, using all types of open spaces. |
| GC4 | Consider the development of a green infrastructure study to expand on the open space study and link with the biodiversity action plan to maximise the linkages of open spaces and create a network of multi-functional greenspace in Wychavon. |
| GC5 | The Council should aspire to the achievement of the quality vision and benchmark for all green corridors across Wychavon. |

Planning and Implementation

- xliv. This open space sport and recreation study is an invaluable tool in the formulation and implementation of planning policies. This relates to both the protection and enhancing of existing open space and the framework for developer contributions.
- xliv. The study provides the tools in which the value of an open space can be assessed on a site-by-site basis, as and when a development proposal is submitted for an existing piece of open space. Similarly, this approach can be the basis for

determining what type of open space provision is appropriate to be provided within a housing development. The study also allows a broad area analysis that aids decisions in terms of priority areas and areas of over provision.

- xlvi. On the whole therefore it is recommended that Wychavon District Council make minor amendments to their existing approach to developer contributions. The most significant change will be the need to incorporate the local open space standards into the policy framework.
- xlvii. More generally, it is important to note that the provision standards are only the starting point in negotiations with developments and high quality environments will not result simply from applying them in a mechanical way. This is why is it desirable also to complement provision standards with design guidance that concentrate on effective place making.