

SWDP 39: Provision for Green Space and Outdoor Community Uses in New Development



- A. Development proposals exceeding 5 dwellings should make provision for Green Space and outdoor community uses as set out in Table 10, together with secure arrangements for its long-term management and on-going maintenance. Enhancing accessibility to these open spaces, e.g. through improvements to the Rights of Way Network, is strongly encouraged. The total amount of Green Space will be within the overall quantum of Green Infrastructure required by SWDP 5. In addition to Table 10, the precise amount, form and type of outdoor community use will be informed by local evidence, e.g. Parish and Town Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements.

Table 10: Standards of Provision

Typology	Malvern Hills	Worcester (within its administrative boundary)	Wychavon
	ha / 1,000 population		
Amenity (including informal pitches) and semi-natural greenspace	2.00	1.11	1.03
Equipped play space	0.04	0.61	0.09

Typology	Malvern Hills	Worcester (within its administrative boundary)	Wychavon
	ha / 1,000 population		
Cemeteries, churchyards	0.41	No set standard	No set standard
Civic space	0.03	0.03	0.03
Allotments	0.14	0.4	0.39
Formal pitches etc.	No set standard (see C below)	No set standard (see C below)	No set standard (see C below)
Total	2.62	2.15	1.54

B. In cases where it will be impractical and inappropriate to deliver all the open space typologies on site, developer contributions towards off-site provision will be sought and secured through a legal agreement. For large scale proposals, in particular the urban extensions, most of the typologies must be delivered on site. In all cases the developer will be required to secure the long-term maintenance / management arrangements for all Green Space / outdoor community uses both on and off-site.

C. Requirements for new and improved formal sports pitches will be assessed on a case by case basis using the most up-to-date available evidence.

D. On-site provision of Green Space will have regard to the following accessibility standards:

Children’s Play Space (safe walking distances to dwellings)

- i. Local Area for Play (LAP) – within 100m.**
- ii. Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) – within 400m.**
- iii. Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) – within 1km.**

Playing Pitches

- i. Within 1.2km of all dwellings or within 20 minutes drive time in rural areas.**

Reasoned Justification

1. The Framework advocates improving the conditions in which people live and take their leisure. A high quality built environment, including the spaces within it, plays an important social role in the delivery of sustainable development. The Framework also requires local planning authorities to plan positively for the provision of community facilities and spaces.
2. It is considered that the provision of new functional open space is necessary in order to achieve active, healthy and integrated communities. The type and size of the residential proposal will also be a factor in determining the make-up of the various community use typologies. Over-provision in any single typology does not negate the need to provide for the other typologies.
3. The open space studies, including Worcester City Council PPG17 Report (July 2006), Malvern Hills Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study – Assessment Report (December 2007) and Wychavon District Council: Open Space and Recreation Report (November 2006) identifies the shortfall in various types of open space and community use provision. This policy should at the very least help ensure that the situation does not worsen.
4. In line with national guidance, the SWC have commissioned and published an emerging revised Playing Pitch Strategy (Neil Allen Associates, 2015) to inform the preparation of policies relating to formal playing pitch provision. This Strategy includes an Action Plan, which will be reviewed at regular intervals with the relevant partners.
5. This strategy identifies quantitative and qualitative deficits in playing pitches and will be used to inform either the necessary level of developer contribution to be made towards new, or upgrading existing provision to meet demand created through new residential development, as informed by the Developer Contributions SPD or, for the necessity to provide on-site pitches as identified in various Plan allocation policies.