

WILTSHIRE OPEN SPACES STUDY (2015)

Community and Stakeholder Consultation (2015)

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Appendix 1 - Questionnaire Surveys

Appendix 2 - Community consultation spreadsheet (Excel)

Appendix 3 - Sports Consultation - Summary Profile

Acknowledgments

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

1. INTRODUCTION

Part One Overview - Community and Stakeholder Needs Assessment

Part One of the *Wiltshire Open Spaces Study* examines local need for a wide range of different kinds of recreational open space. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques including a review of consultation findings from relevant play, sports, leisure and open space studies. The report details the community consultation and research process that has been undertaken as part of the study as well as the main findings. The extent of the research reflects the breadth and diversity of the study and a consequent need to engage with as wide a cross section of the community and stakeholders as possible¹.

Questionnaire surveys were undertaken as below:

- A general household and online survey
- A survey of town and parish Councils
- Local groups and organisations' survey
- Survey of sports national governing bodies; league secretaries and local clubs.

In addition to the above a series of one to one stakeholder interviews was undertaken.

The result of this consultation and other analyses will help amongst other things to inform the content of the recommended local standards. Crucially it has also helped the study to understand local people's appreciation of open space, sport and recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure and the values attached by the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities. This appreciation will have clear implications for the way in which green infrastructure, open spaces and sports facilities are treated and designated in the Wiltshire Local Plan.

At the end of each section there is a short summary of the key findings.

¹ It should be noted that this report provides consultation evidence in the form of the observations and views/opinions sourced from many different organisations, individuals and studies. On occasion the views and observations expressed by individuals and groups may not be consistent with each other, nor are such individual contributions necessarily accurate or wholly up to date.

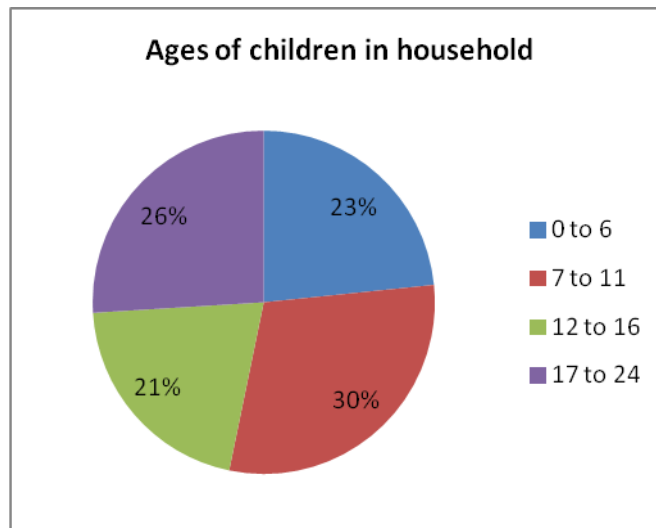
2. GENERAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

2.1 Residents/Household Survey

A questionnaire was distributed through a random sample general household survey. In addition an online survey was promoted through the Council's Knowledge Management Section. In total surveys were distributed to 3,500 households and 562 completed surveys were received (16%). Residents were requested to answer the survey in relation to the needs of their household.

The total number of people represented through the panel household responses was 1335 and the average household size was 2.4 - similar to the national average (2.3) and that of Wiltshire as a whole (2.39). 91% of households reported that their household had access to a car for transport; and 23% noted that illness or disability limits their household's activities to some degree.

Just over 33% of households had children with ages well spread across the age range:



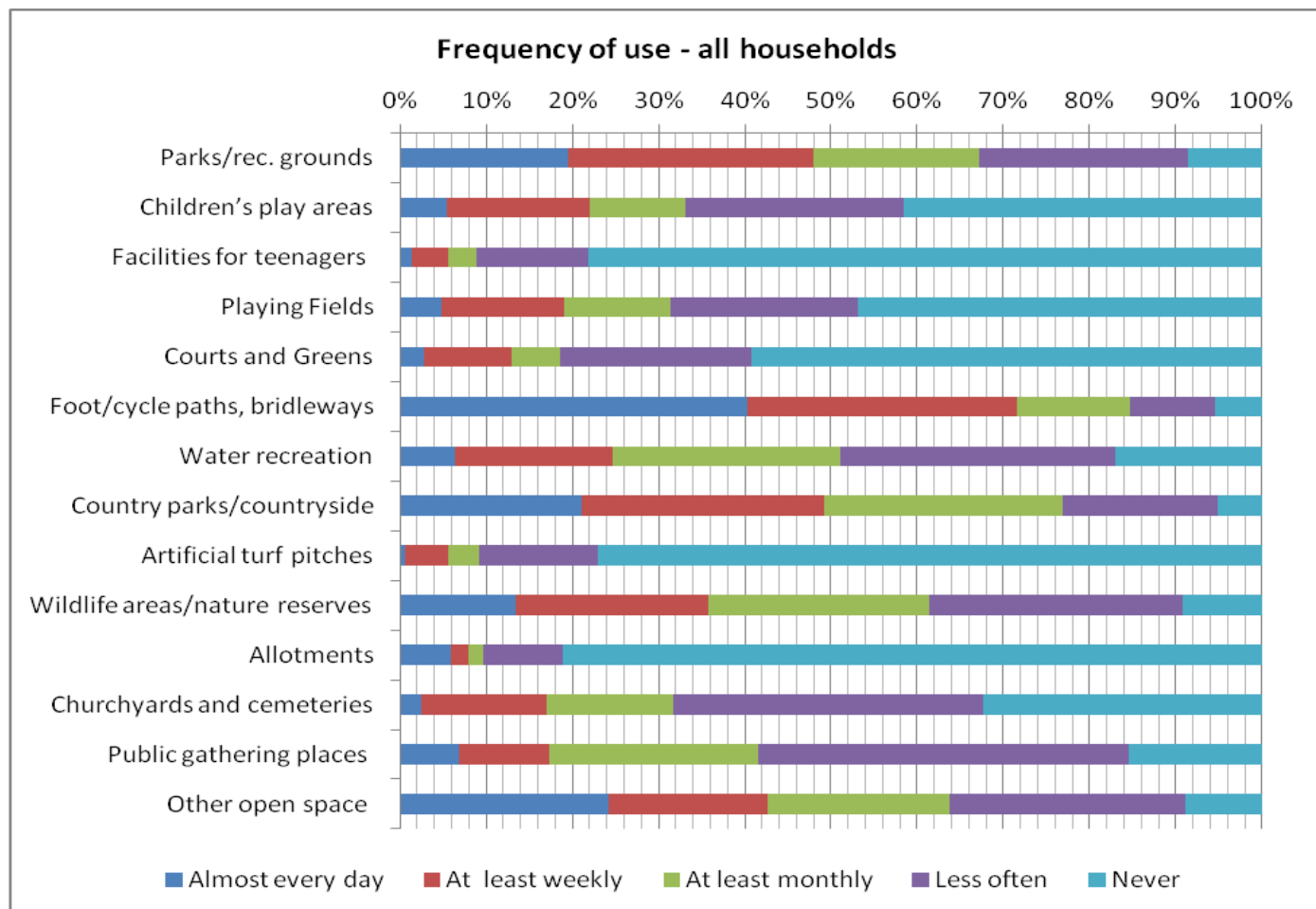
In addition to analysing findings from all household responses across Wiltshire we have also highlighted any significant differences in responses from households in urban and rural areas².

The full questionnaire is included in Appendix 1 and the following provides some of the key findings.

² The division of households into rural and urban categories was achieved via post codes provided on survey responses analysed (via GIS) in relation to population density.

Frequency of use of open spaces - all residents

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



General observations

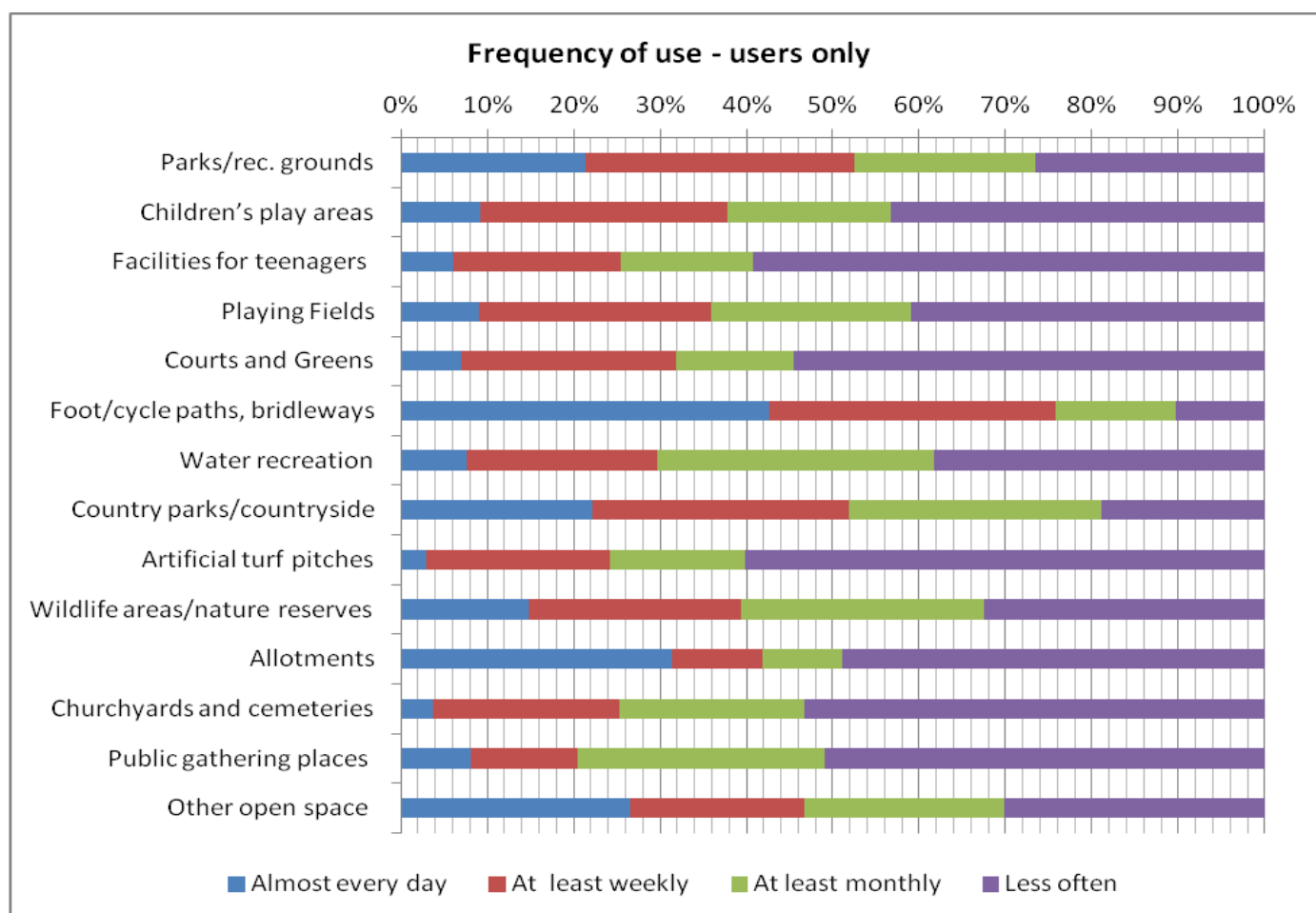
- It is Wiltshire's footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths; and its countryside, country parks and woodlands that are most commonly used by households at least monthly (over 76%). Over 64% of households also use parks, recreation grounds and informal open spaces e.g. grassed areas for dog-walking, picnics at least monthly.
- Footpaths, bridleways etc. are also by far the most frequently used facility with 40% of households reporting using them almost every day. Other spaces used on an almost daily basis by at least 15% of households are local parks/recreation grounds; countryside, country parks and woodlands; and informal open spaces.
- Areas for water recreation and wildlife areas/nature reserves are also fairly frequently used with at least 50% of households using them on a regular basis (at least monthly).
- Play areas, grass playing fields and churchyards/cemeteries are also fairly frequently used but with fewer households (at least 31%) using them on a regular basis (at least monthly). This is not surprising given the more specific purposes of these facilities.

Urban/Rural variations

- The clearest variation is the frequency of use of parks and recreation grounds. In urban areas over 56% visit these at least weekly compared to less than 40% in rural areas.
- By contrast, over 54% of rural households access country parks, countryside and woodlands at least weekly compared to around 44% in urban areas.
- Other than the above the variation of frequency of use of the different categories is relatively minor.

Frequency and regularity of use - Users

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



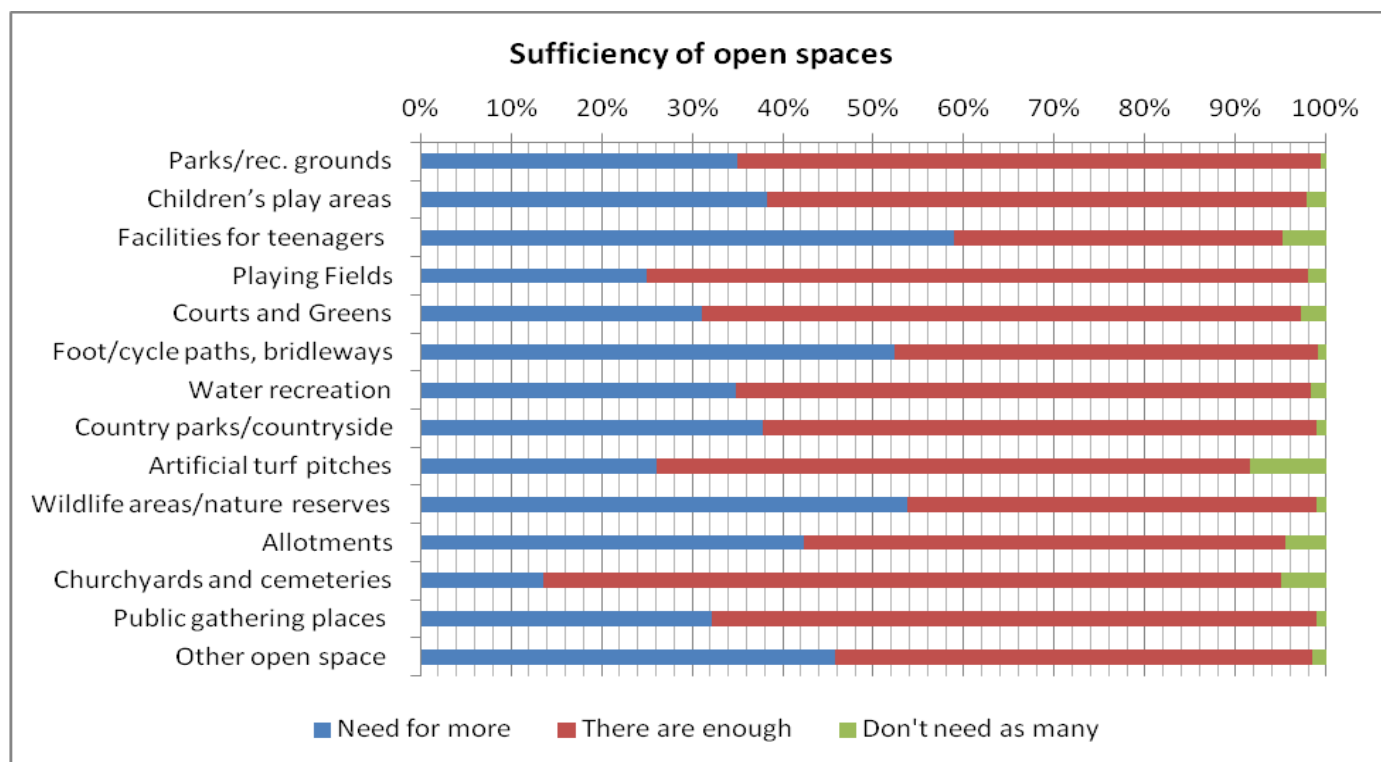
This shows, for example, that some open spaces that are not regularly used by the majority of households are nevertheless very important to specific user groups. For example:

- 42% of allotment users visit them at least weekly (of which 31% visit almost daily).
- 36% of sports grass pitch users use them at least weekly (of which 9% visit almost daily).
- 38% of play area users visit them at least weekly (of which 9% visit almost daily).

There was little variation of response from users in rural and urban households.

Quantity of open space, sport and recreation facilities

Residents were asked if they needed more, the same or fewer of different types of open space and recreational facilities. Findings are illustrated in the chart below and will influence the “quantity” component of local standards.



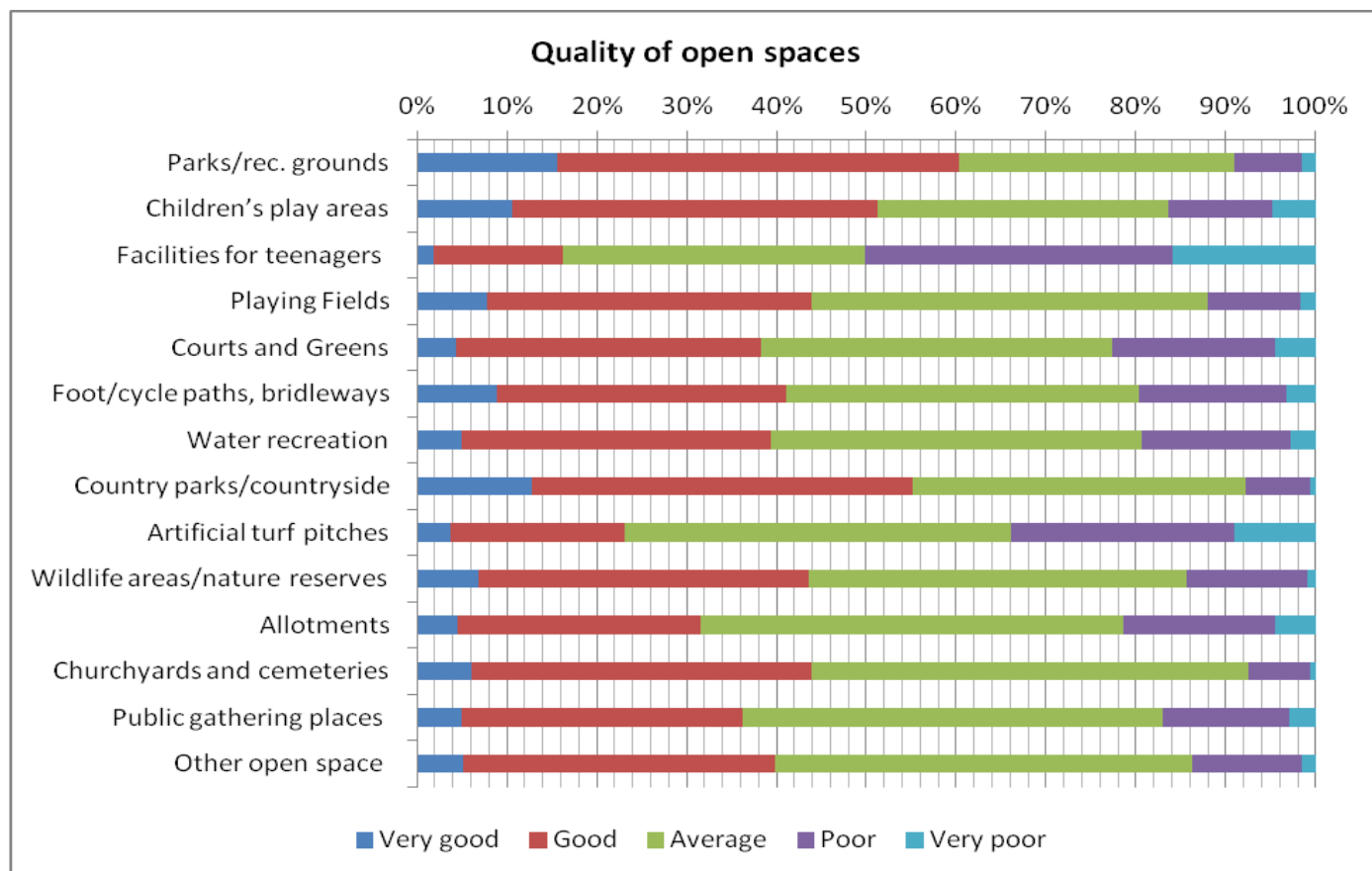
- The most commonly identified shortfall was for provision of teenage facilities where 59% thought there was insufficient currently.
- 52% or more of households thought there was a need for more footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths; and wildlife areas/nature reserves.
- In addition, a significant minority (over 35%) also thought there were insufficient allotments; play areas; recreation grounds/parks; country parks; and informal open space.

Urban/Rural variations

- 57% of urban households reported a need for more footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths compared to 48% of rural households; and 42% of urban households compared to 35% of rural households highlighted a need for additional access to country parks, woodlands and local countryside.
- 37% of rural households identified a need for more bowling greens and tennis courts compared to 26% of urban households.
- Other than the above the variation of identified need for more of the different typologies of open space and facilities was relatively small.

Quality of open space, sport and recreation facilities

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



- All facilities are rated average or better by a majority of households other than facilities for teenagers. 50% of households highlighted the quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor.
- Over 20% thought that the quality of astro-turf pitches; allotments; and courts and greens was poor or very poor.
- The high quality of parks and recreation grounds stands out notably, being viewed by around 60% of respondents as very good or good. Other kinds of open spaces where quality is widely thought to be good/very good by a majority are country parks, countryside and woodlands; and play areas.

Urban/Rural variations

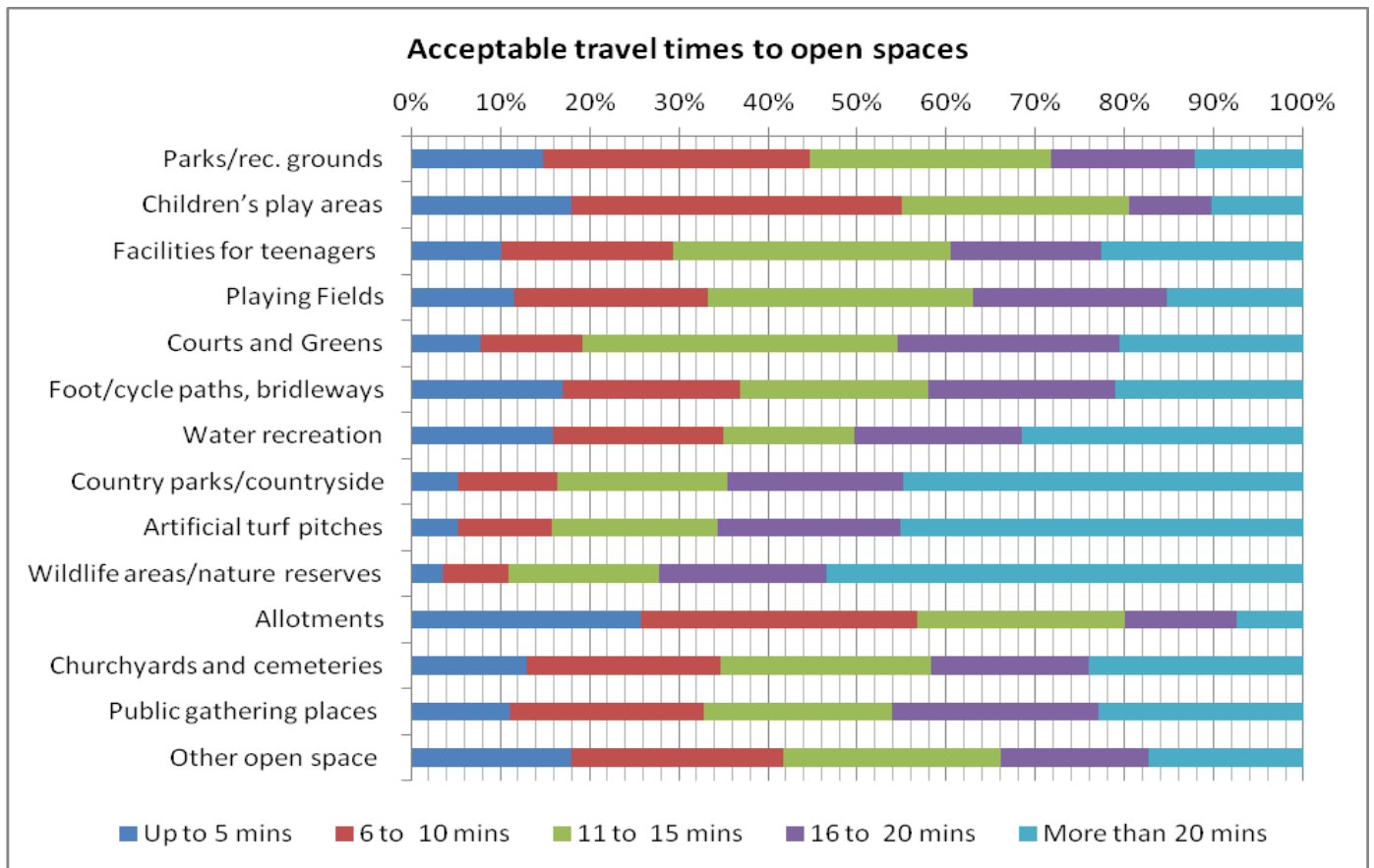
- The quality of play areas and parks and recreation grounds is rated higher in urban areas than rural e.g. 15% of urban households rate play areas as very good compared to 6% in rural areas; 17% in urban areas rate parks as very good compared to 14% in rural.
- Over 56% of rural households rate teenage facilities as poor/very poor compared to 44% in urban areas.

- The quality of country parks, accessible woodlands etc; footpaths; and allotments is rated higher in rural than urban areas e.g. 36% of rural households rate allotments as good/very good compared to 26% in urban areas.
- Otherwise the variation in ratings quality for different typologies of open space and facilities was relatively small.

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

Access Issues (Geographical)

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



It can be seen that where households make use of the opportunities identified, 50% or more of users are prepared to travel more than 20 minutes to use some facilities such as wildlife areas/nature reserves; country parks and woodlands; and astro-turf pitches.

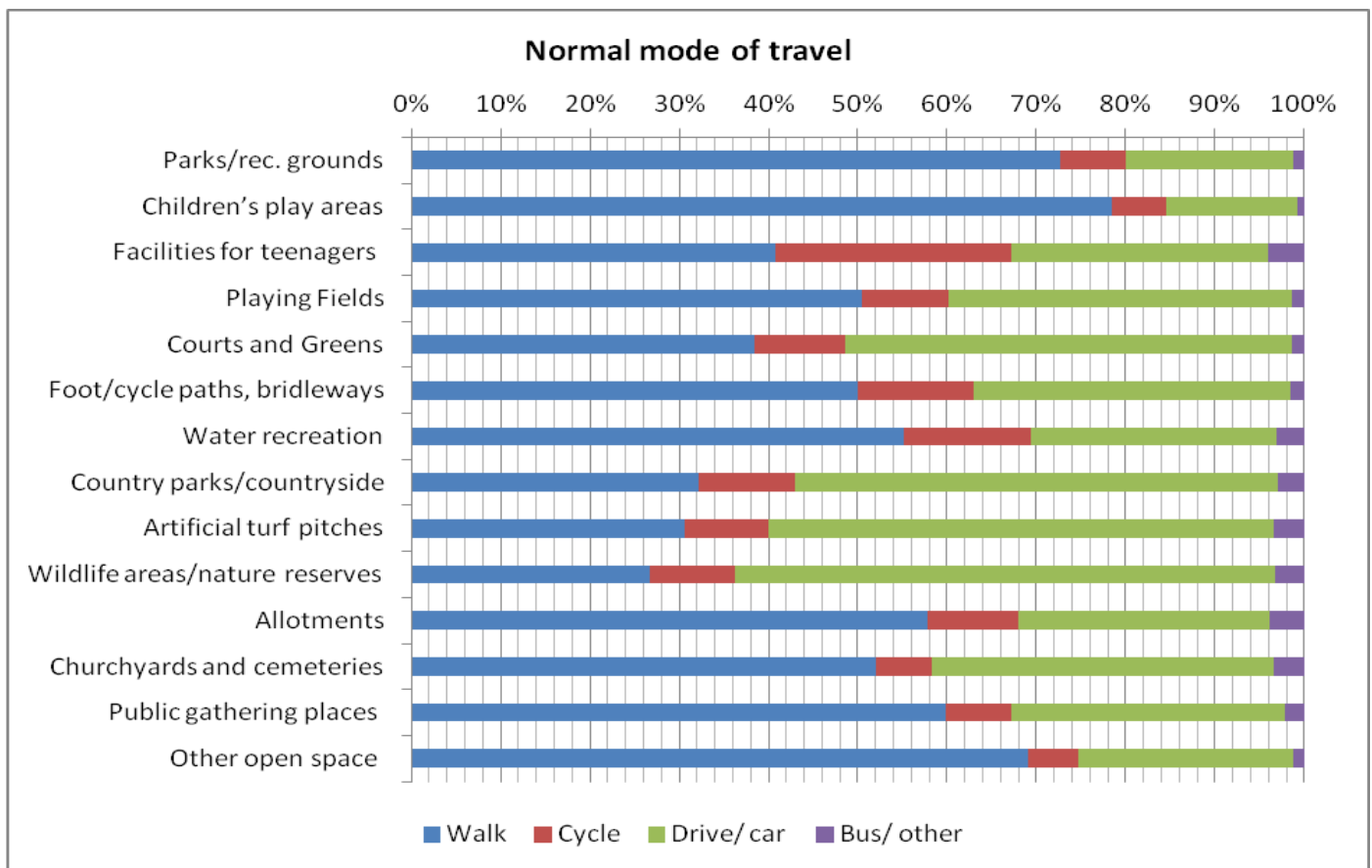
In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, allotments, footpaths, play areas, and informal green spaces).

- Over 56% of users would expect allotments to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 26% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

- 55% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 18% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- Over 40% of users would expect parks and rec. grounds and areas of informal open space to be within a 10 minute travel time.

It is clear that there is great variance in respondents’ apparent willingness to spend time travelling to different types of opportunity. In drawing up the “access” element of specific local standards for different kinds of open space/facility it is clearly very important to take careful note of all of these findings. The general pattern observed in the study area is very much in line with findings nationally.

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



- Residents are more likely than not to drive to many kinds of open space including wildlife areas/nature reserves; artificial turf pitches; country parks, countryside; and tennis courts/bowling greens.
- However, walking and cycling are the norm for other facilities in particular play areas; parks/recreation grounds; informal green spaces; water recreation; outdoor teenage facilities; allotments; playing fields; and foot/cyclepaths and bridleways.
- For a significant number of open spaces access by cycle is important, particularly for facilities for teenagers; and access by bus is important for a small number of households e.g. teenage facilities and allotments.

It is not of course surprising that in broad terms walking is the predominant mode of travel to facilities such as local parks, children’s play areas, recreation grounds, and other informal recreation areas. In contrast, motorised transport is more common for larger and more specialised facilities which are often some distance removed from many potential users. It is

however of great importance when it comes to drawing up the access element of local standards in terms of whether access thresholds should be provided in terms of walking, cycling or drive times.

The main implications for deriving access standards are that walk times would be most appropriate for:

- Parks and recreation grounds
- Play areas for children
- Teenage facilities
- Grass pitches
- Footpaths and cyclepaths
- Allotments
- Informal open space
- Village greens/public gathering places

Drive times would be more appropriate for:

- Artificial turf pitches
- Tennis courts/bowling greens
- Country parks, countryside and woodlands
- Wildlife areas/nature reserves

Urban/Rural variations

- A greater proportion of rural households normally travel by car to access all of the open space typologies.
- Nearly 22% of rural households would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes to access a play area compared to 14% in urban areas. However a greater proportion of households in rural areas are prepared to travel to access play areas by car (23% compared to 10%).
- Nearly 64% of households in urban areas would not wish to travel more than 15 minutes to use an outdoor youth facility compared to 57% in rural areas.
- 59% of rural households will drive to access courts and greens compared to 44% in urban areas.

Importance of Footpath/cycle access

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

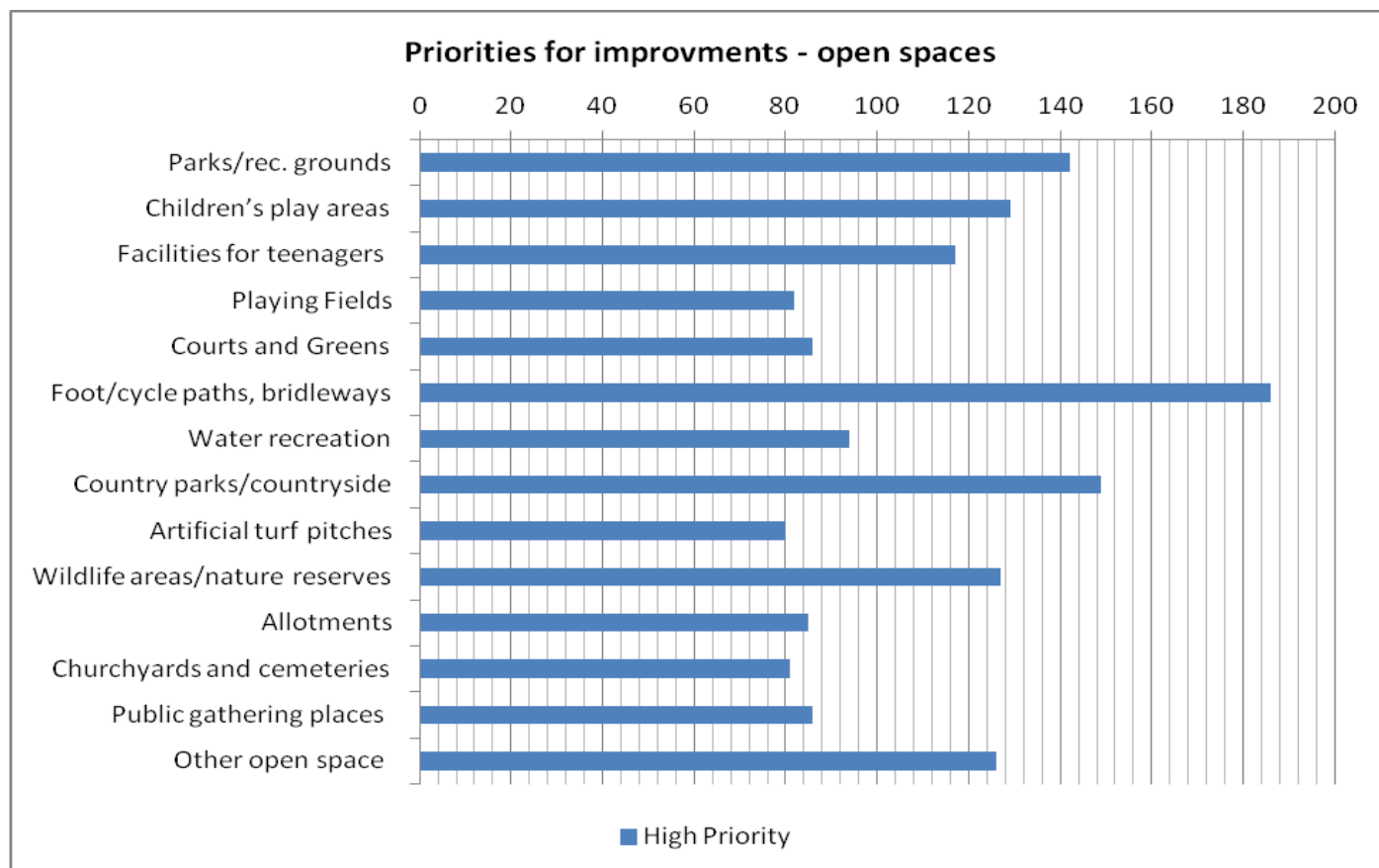
- 77% of residents confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved
- 79% said that if the quality of the route was improved they would make the journey more often.
- A slightly greater proportion of rural than urban households reported a willingness to cycle further and confirmed they would do so more often if routes were improved

The above findings emphasise the potential benefits from providing good foot and cycle path access to facilities in relation greater use of open space facilities.

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

Key Issues and priorities for improvement

Residents were also asked what their priorities for improvement in provision were. Findings are illustrated on the table below. Households were asked to rate the need for new or improved facilities by indicating priorities at three levels - high, medium or low. The chart below highlights the number of high priority ratings for each of the typologies.



- The category clearly highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was for improvements to the footpath, bridleway and cyclepath network.
- Following this the most commonly identified high priority categories were Country parks and accessible woodlands/countryside; and parks and recreation grounds.
- Other notable high priorities for improvement highlighted by significant numbers were play areas; wildlife areas/nature reserves; informal open space e.g. grassed areas for dog-walking, informal games, picnics etc; and facilities for teenagers.

Urban/Rural variations

Responses from both urban and rural households highlighted the same 7 typologies noted above as being the most common "high priorities" for improvement. However the extent of support for each type varied slightly. The typologies in order of numbers of "high priority" choices from urban and rural areas is noted below

Urban High Priorities	Rural High Priorities
1. Footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths	1. Footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths
2. Parks/recreation grounds	2. Country parks, access to woodlands etc
3. Informal grassed open spaces	3. Children's play spaces
4. Country parks, access to woodlands etc	4. Wildlife areas/nature reserves
5. Children's play spaces	5. Parks/recreation grounds
6. Teenage facilities	6. Teenage facilities
7. Wildlife areas/nature reserves	7. Informal grassed open spaces

2.2 Place Survey 2008

Government's 2008 Place Survey was the last national survey undertaken in all of England's local authority areas that provided information on people's perceptions of their locality and the local services they receive.

The Place Survey included investigating residents' broad levels of satisfaction with local sports and leisure facilities and parks and open spaces. The results for Wiltshire are shown in the table below:

	% very or fairly happy with	
	Sports/Leisure Facilities	Parks/ Open Spaces
Wiltshire	60%	81%
South West	47%	70%
England	46%	69%

This suggests that about 60% of residents in Wiltshire were very or fairly happy with the sports and leisure centres. This is notably higher than for both the South West and England as a whole.

With regard to parks and open spaces about 81% in Wiltshire were very or fairly happy with provision. Satisfaction levels in Wiltshire are also notably higher than the South West and England as whole.

In general terms satisfaction with parks and open spaces is considerably higher than with sports and leisure facilities (a trend seen widely across the country).

2.3 Stakeholder Views - Public Health

Frances Chinemana - Associate Director of Public Health - Wiltshire Council

General

- Wiltshire Council fully recognises the importance of public health initiatives as demonstrated in its Business Plan statement "we will integrate public health at the heart of all public services". Public health is everybody's business.
- The Council also recognises the role of leisure services and active recreation for public health - structurally the Leisure Services function is located within the Public Health directorate.

Benefits and value of sport and active recreation for public health - keeping active

- The Council recognises that promoting participation in leisure activity and active recreation is an essential element of public health services. For example, it is important in relation to reducing obesity and for promoting health and wellbeing - from both a mental and physical health angle.
- In 2012, a review by the British Medical Association found that "active travel" has a number of health benefits. These include a reduced risk of premature death, and prevention of chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease, stroke, type-2 diabetes, dementia and cancer.
- Promoting and developing public access to all kinds of open spaces for active recreation and sport is integral to preventative public health plans.
- Increasing participation in active recreation and sport (indoor and outdoor) is a proven preventative measure for maintaining good health and as such provided future costs savings to the NHS and care services.
- Investing in leisure services and active recreation - for both adults and children - is cost effective in relation to maintaining and improving public health.
- Provision of accessible play spaces and outdoor teenage facilities is also important - particularly for children and young people who don't get involved with sports activity. Increasing opportunities for outdoor activity is a key element in reducing obesity in children and young people.

Outdoor recreation and green space

- Encouraging wider access to and use of green spaces in the County is a vital aspect of the public health programme.
- Encouraging and enabling more people to make use of natural green spaces and the rights of way network is a relatively low cost intervention and access is free to all.
- Maintaining and developing green spaces is also important in relation to improving air quality which is another key factor in maintaining health and well being.

- Supporting group based programmes of countryside activity/walking etc. also helps with social inclusion and provides opportunities for people to meet socially - also good for mental health.
- Public Health are represented on the *Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Partnership* - further reinforcing the value the Council places on outdoor recreation.
- Parks, recreation grounds and village greens - these are important areas of open space and over recent years a number of such have also sited "outdoor gym" type equipment.
- Allotments are important for two main reasons: they have all the benefits of outdoor activity - physical and mental health benefits (green gym); and they enable the production of nutritional high quality food.

Key Issues

- The JAS highlights particular target areas in Wiltshire where public health initiatives are most needed and this is used to target interventions where they are most needed.
- The campus developments are also high priorities for public health and these do include providing appropriate outdoor sports and open space provision. E.G. Corsham Campus has developed a programme of walks, talks and events facilitated by a community arts worker.
- Wiltshire has an aging population with increasing numbers with dementia etc. Providing and promoting access to open spaces, footpaths etc. for older people and their carers is important for maintaining health and well being - and it is cost effective. GP referral now extends to access to the countryside, walking initiatives etc.
- Reducing obesity is a key target for public health and open spaces have a vital role in helping to secure this specific objective.
- Preventing obesity in childhood is particularly important. Developing good habits for physical activity and easing access to opportunities for play and sport is a key strategy for long-term public health.
- Physical activity in the countryside is also valuable for mental health. A good example of a successful programme is the Wellbeing Programme run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust with support from the Council. The programme works to improve mental wellbeing with a weekly programme of outdoor activities.
- Public health has also supported the South West Area Board's *Public Rights of Way Improvement Programme*. This is a community based co-ordinated initiative to improve accessibility of footpaths and bridleways in the area and enabling better links between parishes. The approach is being developed as a model with guidance notes so that it can be replicated elsewhere.
- Walking is a form of recreation open to all and one enjoyed by many people. Encouraging more regular activity can be achieved by some simple relatively cheap methods e.g. producing more walking routes and leaflets, clear signage, good publicity and promotion of where you can walk etc.
- For teenagers there appears to be a widespread call for more wheeled sports/skatepark type provision and MUGAs. There are still many towns and larger settlements that don't have enough of such provision. Also young people need places to "hang out" in where they don't just get moved on from. These need to be located in areas accepted by the young people as appropriate and safe.

Barriers to participation

- Lack of awareness of what is available - both in terms of programmes of activity and what facilities and open spaces exist - how to access them etc. As regards walking - what paths can be used - where do they lead to etc. - can they access that land - who owns it etc?
- Habits - settling into a sedentary lifestyle that doesn't involve much physical activity, being outdoors etc. View people give that they "haven't enough time" to be active and not understanding how they can fit such activity into their everyday lives. Not appreciating what is "on the doorstep".
- People not fully appreciating the importance of *keeping active* in relation to maintaining health and wellbeing and the prevention of illnesses and medical problems. Need to work harder to get the message across.
- Due the above and not realising that being active is also enjoyable some people suffer from a lack of motivation to keep active.

Spatial Planning, CIL and S106

- In residential developments infrastructure for opens spaces and recreation needs to be planned in including footpath links within the developments and where possible linking to other green space and the countryside.
- Public health will ensure representation on internal mechanisms considering the allocations of CIL and will make a strong case as to why open space, sport, play and outdoor recreation provision is a vital element of infrastructure.

2.4 General Community - Key Findings

Use of open spaces

- It is the areas' footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths; and it's countryside, country parks and woodlands that are most commonly used by households at least monthly (over 76%). Over 64% of households also use parks, recreation grounds and informal open spaces e.g. grassed areas for dog-walking, picnics at least monthly.
- Footpaths, bridleways etc. are also by far the most frequently used facility with 40% of households reporting using them almost every day. Other spaces used on an almost daily basis by at least 15% of households are local parks/recreation grounds; countryside, country parks and woodlands; and informal open spaces.
- Areas for water recreation and wildlife areas/nature reserves are also fairly frequently used with at least 50% of households using them on a regular basis (at least monthly).
- Play areas, grass playing fields and churchyards/cemeteries are also fairly frequently used but with fewer households (at least 31%) using them on a regular basis (at least monthly). This is not surprising given the more specific purposes of these facilities.
- The national 2008 Place Survey indicated that about 81% in Wiltshire were very or fairly happy with provision. Satisfaction levels in Wiltshire are also notably higher than the South West and England as whole.

Quantity

- Other than for *facilities for teenagers* a majority of households reported that there were currently enough of all of the various kinds of open space and recreational facilities.
- The most commonly identified shortfall was for provision of teenage facilities where 59% thought there was insufficient currently.
- 52% or more of households thought there was a need for more footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths; and wildlife areas/nature reserves;
- In addition, a significant minority (over 35%) also thought there were insufficient allotments; play areas; recreation grounds/parks; country parks; and informal open space.

Quality

- All facilities are rated average or better by a majority of households other than facilities for teenagers. 50% of households highlighted the quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor.
- Over 20% thought that the quality of astro-turf pitches; allotments; and courts and greens was poor or very poor.
- The high quality of parks and recreation grounds stands out notably, being viewed by around 60% of respondents as very good or good. Other kinds of open spaces where quality is widely thought to be good/very good by a majority are country parks, countryside and woodlands; and play areas.

Access

- Where households make use of the opportunities identified, 50% or more of users are prepared to travel more than 20 minutes to use some facilities such as wildlife areas/nature reserves; country parks and woodlands; and astro-turf pitches.
- In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, allotments, footpaths, play areas, and informal green spaces).
- Over 56% of users would expect allotments to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 26% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 55% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 18% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- Over 40% of users would expect parks and rec. grounds and areas of informal open space to be within a 10 minute travel.
- Residents are more likely than not to drive to many kinds of open space including wildlife areas/nature reserves; artificial turf pitches; country parks, countryside; and tennis courts/bowling greens.
- However, walking and cycling are the norm for other facilities in particular play areas; parks/recreation grounds; informal green spaces; water recreation; outdoor teenage facilities; allotments; playing fields; and foot/cyclepaths and bridleways.
- For a significant number of open spaces access by cycle is important, particularly for facilities for teenagers; and access by bus is important for a small number of households e.g. teenage facilities and allotments.

Priorities and other issues

- The category clearly highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was for improvements to the footpath, bridleway and cyclepath network.
- Following this the most commonly identified high priority categories were country parks and accessible woodlands/countryside; and parks and recreation grounds.
- Other notable high priorities for improvement highlighted by significant numbers were play areas; wildlife areas/nature reserves; informal open space e.g. grassed areas for dog-walking, informal games, picnics etc; and facilities for teenagers.
- The issues and concerns of the rural areas of Wiltshire are sometimes quite different from those of the main towns and service centres. This will need to be addressed when considering the development of local standards.
- Provision of and access to open space, sport and recreation opportunities is regarded by the Associate Director of Public Health as an extremely important factor in terms of maintaining health and wellbeing for local residents.
- Some sectors of the community face particular barriers to access such as disabled people; children and young people; households in the more isolated rural areas and those in the more deprived urban wards of the study area.

3. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Within Wiltshire there are 257 town and parishes (of which 22 have an annual parish meeting). Surveys were sent to all town and parish councils together with up to two reminders to chase responses as needed. In total 62 town and parish councils responded (26% excluding those only meeting once a year at a parish meeting). There was a particular focus on securing feedback from the 18 town councils in Wiltshire who received additional reminders and we received responses from two thirds (12). Where we did not receive a town council response we reviewed the latest area/town plan in relation to identified open space issues and plans/aspirations.

The survey covered issues relating to the quantity, quality and accessibility of various types of open space, sport and recreation facilities. There was also an opportunity for the local councils to highlight any priorities they might have for new or improved provision.

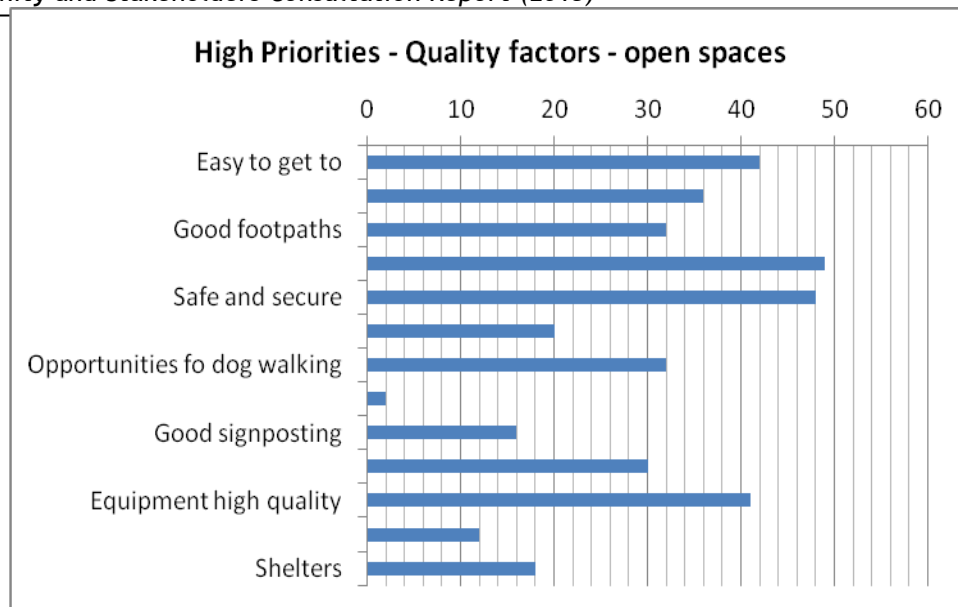
3.1 General Overview

Some broad findings from the survey were that:

- 77% of the town and parish councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and facilities.
- 80% reported that there was a need for additional or improved open space, play and recreation facilities within their town or parish.
- Of the parishes expressing an opinion 38% thought that there was scope for greater community use of outdoor sport and recreation spaces at local schools.
- The sector of the community most commonly identified as being poorly served in relation to their needs were young people/teenagers (60% of parishes identifying specific sectors in need highlighted this).

Quality factors - open space provision

We asked the town and parish councils to highlight what they thought, in general, were high priorities as regards qualitative factors of recreational open spaces. Responses are shown in the table below:



- The quality factors most commonly deemed to be important as regards open spaces are that: they should be clean and free from litter and graffiti; be safe and secure for those using them; be easy to get to for all members of the community; and that equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained.
- It is also thought important that: equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained; be easy to get around by all members of the community; and there be adequate opportunities for dog walking and freedom from dog fouling.
- Many Councils highlight that there should also be good footpath and cycleway links to and between them

The table below summarises those aspects of open spaces where the town and parish councils identified needs for more or improved provision. Detailed findings for each individual parish in relation to aspects of quantity, quality and access can be found in an associated Excel spreadsheet.

Summary:	Football Pitches	Cricket and/or rugby pitches	Tennis courts/Multi Use Games Areas	Bowling Greens	Children's play areas	Teenage facilities (e.g. skate parks)	Allotments	Churchyards	Parks, village greens etc.	Informal/amenity open space	Wildlife areas, nature reserves	Footpath/bridleway/cycle ways
All Town and Parish Councils												
Town Councils	8	6	6	3	6	9	7	6	5	2	6	9
Parish Councils	14	7	15	7	22	18	13	4	3	3	8	18
TOTALS	22	13	21	10	28	27	20	10	8	5	14	27

The above table covers issues of quantity, quality and access for a range of facilities. For Wiltshire's town and parish councils, the areas of most common concern are:

- Not enough areas for teenagers e.g. skateparks, shelters etc.
- The quality of children's play areas (quantity issues less common).
- The need for more and better access to footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths.

- A lack of and the poor quality of football pitches; tennis courts (quality mainly); and MUGAs (primarily a lack of).
- A need for more allotments

Factors that are *not* of such widespread concern for as many towns and parishes include improvements to informal/amenity open spaces, churchyards and parks/village greens etc.

The table below provides a summary of responses from all the town and parish councils that responded³:

Town Councils	Football Pitches	Cricket and/or rugby pitches	Tennis courts/Multi Use Games Areas	Bowling Greens	Children's play areas	Teenage facilities (e.g. skate parks)	Allotments	Churchyards	Parks, village greens etc.	Informal/amenity open space	Wildlife areas, nature reserves	Footpath/bridleway/cycle ways
Amesbury												
Bradford on Avon	1	1			1	1	1	1			1	1
Chippenham	1	1				1	1	1				1
Corsham	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1
Cricklade			1		1	1			1		1	1
Ludgershall	1		1	1	1		1		1	1	1	
Melksham	1	1	1			1	1	1				1
Trowbridge	1	1			1	1	1	1				1
Salisbury	1			1		1					1	1
Warminster		1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1
Westbury	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1
Wilton												
Total	8	6	6	3	6	9	7	6	5	2	6	9

Parish Councils	Football Pitches	Cricket and/or rugby pitches	Tennis courts/Multi Use Games Areas	Bowling Greens	Children's play areas	Teenage facilities (e.g. skate parks)	Allotments	Churchyards	Parks, village greens etc.	Informal/amenity open space	Wildlife areas, nature reserves	Footpath/bridleway/cycle ways
Alderbury	1				1							
Ashton Keynes	1		1	1		1	1					

³ Melksham TC response still to be added - arrived late

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Avebury	1				1	1					1	1
Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton												1
Berwick St John					1							1
Bishopstone			1		1	1						1
Bowerchalke					1	1					1	1
Bratton												
Brinkworth	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Burcombe												
Calne Without					1	1	1					1
Cheverell Magna												
Chippenham Without												
Chitterne												
Chute and Chute Forest			1		1							
Chute Parish Council			1		1							
Colerne		1		1								
Collingbourne Kingston						1	1					
Compton Chamberlayne					1							1
Dauntsey	1		1		1	1	1					
Dinton												1
Donhead St Andrew												
Durrington			1			1						
East Kennett					1							
Enford												
Erlestoke												
Fovant												
Great Wishford												
Grittleton												
Horningsham			1		1	1						
Hullavington												
Landford	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Luckington and Alderton	1	1	1	1		1	1	1			1	1
Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield	1					1						
Market Lavington							1					
Nettleton Parish Council					1		1					1
North Newnton												
Pitton & Farley												
Poulshot	1	1	1	1	1							
Quidhampton					1							
Redlynch	1	1	1	1	1	1						1
Rushall					1							
Sherston	1		1			1	1	1				1

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Shrewton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1
South Newton & Stoford			1									1
Teffont Parish Council					1							1
Tisbury Parish Council	1											
Upper Deverills												
West Ashton												
West Lavington							1	1	1		1	1
Wilsford	1				1	1	1		1	1	1	1
Worton						1					1	
Totals	14	7	15	7	22	18	13	4	3	3	8	18

3.2 Town/Parish specific issues

The detailed town and parish responses relating to aspects of quantity and quality of the various elements summarised in the table in 3.1 can be found in the associated Excel spreadsheet.

Unmet needs and aspirations for improvement

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

Town Councils

Town Council	Groups in parish whose needs not being met	Current plans and aspirations
Amesbury	Rugby clubs/players; bird watchers; young people; allotment users.	Creation of skate park and BMX track Creation of further allotments
Bradford on Avon	People wishing to access countryside; walkers and ramblers; sports players (indoor).	The importance of access to nature and the countryside. The need for more pedestrian links in the countryside to make circular walks (either by PROW or permissive routes) There is more scope for St Laurence facilities to be used by the community. The following points relate to buildings but are included for context: There is no public sports hall in Bradford on Avon. Bradford needs a Leisure Centre/ Gym with indoor sporting facilities and access for all ages and abilities. The swimming pool is 40 years old, at capacity and needs improvement. It is planned that a draft BoA

		Neighbourhood Plan will to come out for informal consultation this autumn. Liaison with the Neighbourhood Plan Group and the Campus Group is encouraged. The group would be most interested to receive copies of any outputs from this Local Space Study as this may help inform the Neighbourhood Plan.
Chippenham	<p>There is a demand for additional allotments and football pitches in the town.</p> <p>The Town Council has a waiting list for allotments and the demand for sports pitches is increasing at the Town Council's Stanley Park Sports Ground.</p> <p>I am also aware of two local sports clubs (gymnastics and martial arts) who are seeking land to provide their own dedicated facilities.</p> <p>The Town Council is seeking to develop the Neeld Hall by investing c£800k transforming it into a functional community and cultural space worthy of a town the size of Chippenham. Research undertaken has proven that Chippenham lacks a quality performance and community venue and users are migrating to other towns where such quality venues (arts and cultural) exist. As a consequence the Council is seeking to enhance the Hall and further capital funding is required to support this plan.</p> <p>There is a dire need for a skate-park as the previous one closed some 10-12 years ago due to some design issues.</p>	<p>The Town Council are hoping to embark on the provision of three fishing lakes at Stanley Park Sports Ground which will be developed in partnership with a private organization who will construct the lakes for the Council (at nil/negligible cost)</p>
Corsham Town	<p>I believe Corsham Cricket Club would welcome additional training facilities. Corsham Town Football Club is planning to improve its facilities. There may well be others that we are not aware of.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace play area at Springfield Recreation Ground. • Find site for more allotments. • Provide a new cemetery.
Cricklade	<p>Scout Group Older people – outdoor exercise equipment Young people – Equipped play equipment, MUGA</p>	<p>WC Parish Improvement Scheme to enhance section of the Thames Path at Hatchetts Hatchetts – Open space area needs attention owned by Wiltshire Council Cotswold Water Park Grant application to enhance Fairview Fields (Thames Path) – as the gateway to Cotswold Water Park Long and Hall Close – enhancement project Dance Common – enhancement project</p>
Ludgershall	<p>Ludgershall Sports Football Club runs senior men & ladies teams and youth U8's, U12's & U14's with only one full size pitch.</p>	<p>Not Known at Present.</p>
Melksham	<p>Councillors are aware there is a demand for football pitches within the town for various football clubs, however, this may be resolved</p>	<p>Councillors would like to see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More dog walking areas. • Well maintained cycleways separate from

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	with the new rugby/football pitches being created adjacent to Melksham Oak School.	<p>footpaths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well maintained footpath to Lacock, wide enough for wheelchair users. • A wetland area near the proposed Wilts & Berks Canal. • A White water rafting facility on the river. • The retention of the astro turf at George Ward School • Improvements to fencing along footpaths/open space areas. • Improvements to play areas including those owned by Wiltshire Council as well as the Town Council. • The completion of the Wilts & Berks Canal
Salisbury	There is a pressure on local football teams; not enough dedicated areas for training and matches.	The Council is set to invest in Victoria Park and the children's play area off Macklin Road over the next 6 to 18 months.
Trowbridge	Three local football teams have insufficient space. Hockey Club looking for permanent home.	We have purchased 5 acres next to the new Rugby Club and would like to purchase another 13 acres to provide a 3G and additional football pitches with S106 and Football Foundation funding. Our facility at Woodmarsh needs to be secured and developed for the future. Extension of Biss Meadows Country Park through new development with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is planned. Development of Riverside path with Morrisons is underway.
Warminster	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teenagers and Older persons could be catered for in a better and more up to date way. 2. Highbury Football Club need more pitches to satisfy their membership numbers of over 400 3. Warminster Cricket Club requires a new club house and modernised changing facilities 4. West Wilts Hockey Club requires two astro pitches which could be shared with another sport. The ability to flood light is required. The have 240 members Junior and Senior 5. Warminster Rugby Club require more pitches and floodlights 6. Warminster Cycling club would like a Pump Track and a site is being ear marked within the Town Park. 7. Warminster Table Tennis club would like to develop an outdoor table area. 	The Town Council is in discussion with Wiltshire Council about the transfer of the Town Park and surrounding land, into their ownership. Requests for Cil or Section 106 monies to come forward for larger projects to support longer term plans for improvement to the site. The aspiration is to provide leisure and recreation for all ages and for all residents within the town as well as visitors.
Westbury Town	Campus	Campus
Wilton	Tennis players; children and young people;	Town Council, via R2 funding from the UKLF redevelopment plans to refurbish the existing tennis courts at Minster Street play area, and provided a skate board park, location yet to be determined. The Town Council refurbished and installed additional play equipment at the Minster Street play area, will next turn its attention next to

		<p>refurbishing the Bulbridge play area.</p> <p>Town Council is aware that there will be open space provision on this site of 292 houses etc., but is not yet aware of details, or which will be the responsible body designated to manage them.</p>
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Parish Councils

Parish Council	Groups in parish whose needs not being met	Current plans and aspirations
Alderbury Parish Council	The recreation ground is dated and is gradually been improved by the Parish Council as funds allow. There is always scope for improvement however the needs of all sectors of the community are catered for to the best of our knowledge.	The area has a great number of walks that are in fairly good state of repair and this is valued by the community. The Alderbury Canal is an area that would lend itself to a community facility if access and funds were made available. The surrounding area might also lend itself to mountain bike trails if these could be developed.
Ashton Keynes Parish Council	Teenagers need an 'active/gym' area for recreation and training Possibly bowls allotments are no longer available	Improved facilities as part of the Neighborhood plan
Avebury Parish Council	Not aware of anything other than somewhere for teenagers congregate.	The Community Orchard Group has recently planted apple trees on part of the Sports Field. The Parish Council is intending to improve the Play Area once parking for residents has been improved. This is work in progress.
Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton	Our community would benefit greatly from a foot and cycle path from Berwick Basset to Avebury along the side of the A4361	No specific plans highlighted
Berwick St John Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Bishopstone Parish Council	Young people (lack of both formal and informal provision)	Basketball practice court project at planning stage.
Bowerchalke Parish Council	Children and young people	Currently looking for a site for a children's play area
Bratton Parish Council	No	No specific plans highlighted
Brinkworth Parish Council	There are no allotments although there is a small level of demand. There is not much for older children I believe - but I am not informed on the football training sessions on the recreation field.	Providing some allotments behind the village hall or in the field by the cemetery is an aim but not as yet a specific plan.
Burcombe Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Calne Without Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Calne Without Parish Council	Yes playground equipment and allotments have been requested	None
Calne Without	The households in East Ward are very spread	There has been discussion of Hills helping

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Parish Council East Ward	out so it is difficult to know where the open space would be. Many facilities are offered by Calne town which is nearby. The highest density of people is Lower Compton so there is scope for something there - perhaps for young people.	to provide a community hall in Lower Compton but this has not gone anywhere.
Cheverell Magna Parish Council	No	No specific plans highlighted
Chippenham Without Parish Council	INDOOR FACILITIES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS ARE REQUIRED AS THE AREA IS TOTALLY RURAL	
Chitterne	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Chute and Chute Forest Parish Councils	Tennis and a better children's play area	
Chute Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Colerne Parish Council	Requests have been made, but additional land unavailable, for a cricket pitch and bowls/boules area	The replacement of the old wooden Pavilion to give better facilities to the growing jnr football teams Colerne Colts and to provide external toilet facilities for users of the facilities at the recreation ground.
Collingbourne Kingston Parish Council	1. Very little for teenagers beyond a grass area with a basketball post and football net adjacent to young children's play area 2. No allotments	No plans beyond periodic replacement of play area equipment as it wears out
Compton Chamberlayne PM	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Dauntsey parish council	Teenagers have no facilities other than casual football goals. Existing facilities more for under ten's. No facilities at all for elderly people	Only parish council involved in regards to recreation ground and open space but the Wilts & Berks canal trust have purchased a public house adjacent to canal lock and in the long term should provide additional facilities.
Dinton Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Donhead St Andrew Parish council	Young people – 0-18 years old. There are no play areas; we have approached local land owners in the past without any success with respect to donating land for this use. There are lots of footpaths in the area and it is possible to walk to the neighbouring parish where play areas are available – Donhead St Mary – for the older children.	last enquiries were made last year of a land owner.
Durrington	No	No
East Kennett Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	None
Enford Parish Council	No	No specific plans highlighted
Erlestoke Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Fovant Parish	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted

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Council		
Fovant Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Great Wishford Parish Council	We are well serviced by the recreational facilities we share with our neighbouring villages.	No specific plans highlighted
Grittleton Parish Council	We do have football and netball groups who use the MUGA in the summer months but cannot use in winter as there is no lighting	No specific plans highlighted
Horningsham Parish Council	The parish plan has identified the need for play equipment for the children and youth of the parish	We have consulted with the community identified and hopefully obtained a area of land and obtains three quotations to date monies being sought to help provide the equipment
Horningsham Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Hullavington Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Landford Parish Council		Provision of a zip wire for teenagers is being explored. Lack of resources is the biggest obstacle to improving open space and outdoor recreation facilities.
Luckington and Alderton Parish Council		Yes Playing field wants to put extra facilities in
Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield	No	No specific plans highlighted
Market Lavington	No	No specific plans highlighted
Nettleton Parish Council	The Parish Council have received a request for the provision of allotments within or adjacent to the villages of Burton and Nettleton. As part of the submissions made to a study leading to the publication of a Parish Plan for the Nettleton Parish, the need for a children's play area within or adjacent to the village of Burton was identified and confirmed as an objective for this community	The Burton Community Association has a play area group with the objective of getting a children's play area in the village.
North Newnton Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Pitton & Farley Parish Council	No	None
Poulshot Parish Council	Older children have no provision	With the development of an old farmyard within the village a greenfield site of circa 1.2 acres will be made available to Poulshot for recreation.
Quidhampton Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Redlynch Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	Nomansland Sports Association is currently seeking funding to build a new Clubhouse and Changing Room at Nomansland Recreation Ground. They have further aspirations in their 5 year plan to try to

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		obtain funding for a multi use games area. The Parish Council are in the process of a transfer of land from Wilts CC with a view to use the space for nature reserve and quiet recreation.
Rushall Parish Council	Yes, children and older residents.	No specific plans highlighted
Sherston Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	The sports field and facilities need vast improvement, it is an aspiration being discussed within the compilation of a parish neighbourhood plan.
Shrewton parish council	No	Neighbourhood planning is concentrating on the needs for the outside environment within the village.
Shrewton Parish Council	The needs of older people are not met and the provision of a bowls club could generate interest. The needs of younger people are not meet unless interested in football or cricket.	The Shrewton Cricket Club have a Planning Application (14/06488/FUL) pending with Wiltshire Council
South Newton & Stoford Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	The local football club and cricket club are both currently improving the quality of pitches with grants and funds given due to the winter floods. One particular worry are surrounding poplar trees which are encroaching both pitches with their roots.
Teffont Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	No specific plans highlighted
Tisbury Parish Council	No specific groups highlighted	The PC has reserved £90k R4 monies towards a new shared clubhouse/changing rooms etc with a PC office – so shared between the football club, bowls club and PC – but the bowls club are resisting the proposals! If the SK8 park does not gain planning approval – the PC would need to look for an alternate site – some suggestions but nearly all affect someone in some way.
Upper Deverills Parish Council	young people	the parish council is to discuss this issue tonight following a consultation at the village fete
West Ashton Parish Council		Not aware of any
West Lavington	Elderly residents could benefit from a green open space park type facility with benches, planting and flowers. currently the only such space is the recreation ground which is set out for football only.	No specific plans highlighted
Wilsford Parish Council	There is no current need but, long term; the Parish Council would like to register an interest in view of the anticipated population growth/demographic changes. There is currently no community owned open space and the aspiration would be to have one for all Parishioners to share given their specific needs	Currently, there are no active plans or aspirations but the Parish Council wishes to register an aspiration to have facilities as denoted above, which are proportionate to the bucolic character of the Village of Wilsford and given its designation as a Conservation Area.

	and interests.	
Worton Parish Council	Teenagers - existing play equipment is for small children only.	No specific plans highlighted

Town and Parish Councils - other comments

Finally, the survey also provided the opportunity to raise any other issues or to make other points. The table below provides individual town/parish responses made:

Town	Issues and other comments
Amesbury	Not many outdoor facilities for older people: eg. Trim trail / disc golf
Corsham Town	There is a danger that Wiltshire Council funding cuts will lead to deterioration in the quality of open spaces in the county. Town and Parish Councils, and other local community groups may be in a better position to manage such facilities in the future.
Cricklade	Unhappy with standard of footpaths
Ludgershall	There is high growth expected in Ludgershall with 2 large planning applications in the pipeline and more facilities cannot be provided at present due to land constraints.
Melksham	The Wilts & Berks Canal Trust have recently submitted a planning application for a canal west of Melksham incorporating the River Avon. The group plans to further extend the canal to Lacock and beyond, opening up the old Wilts & Berks canal route.
Salisbury	The Council's priority is to make all of its parks and outdoor spaces well kept, safe, interesting and inclusive.
Warminster	As populations expand there does not seem to be sufficient funding or planning to maintain existing sites, which are being well used. There are many local groups and organisations that have a great deal of members and not sufficient facilities to support current requirements. Sports pitches particularly require vehicle access, changing facilities and provision of equipment or buildings to provide hot food and drinks. Facilities could be shared and many groups would welcome the opportunity to have new facilities. All of these factors should be incorporated within planning applications and finance made available by developers to ensure that there are opportunities for all to experience activities which will support health and wellbeing.
Westbury Town	Wiltshire council have not kept the standard of open space and play facilities up to scratch

Parish	Issues and other comments
Avebury Parish Council	Factors ticked of high importance are ideals and factors ticked of medium importance are not always necessary depending on the facility provided.
Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton	People with dogs off leads should not be allowed on or near Play Facilities due to the risks of dog attack and fouling. Many times I have visited Marlborough Play Park and there have been dogs off leads in the Play area and this has led me not to visit this area with my children. This is a shame because the facility there is fantastic with a really great range of play equipment.
Bishopstone Parish Council	We are lucky to have beautiful countryside with many footpaths and bridle ways. There is therefore no lack of informal recreation facilities. However, there is almost no provision of "play" facilities and what we do have is underused for lack of associated changing/toilet facilities.
Calne Without Parish Council	Few and far between in local villages
Chitterne	Very sorry but the parish aspirations are indoor facilities.
Collingbourne Kingston Parish Council	The Parish Council is paying for A338 cycle path/bridleway strimming for 2014/15 but this may not be sustainable if precept capping is introduced in future budgets.
Donhead St Andrew Parish	Maintenance of current facilities often more important than provision of new facilities.

council	
Durrington	Generally good but many/most has a result of investment from the former district councils and town and parish councils
Fovant Parish Council	This doesn't appear particularly relevant to Enford as it is a rural village on the edge of Salisbury Plain.... I think there is already plenty of open space for all ages to access it.
Horningsham Parish Council	Any help with the project or advice gratefully received
Nettleton Parish Council	A number of the points raised above must be addressed in relation to the scale, location and type of open space/ recreational facility concerned. The important issue is that no matter what level of facility is being considered it must be attractive to the intended users and this must include not only the particular facilities provided but also the accessibility and security for participants, supporters and carers.
Redlynch Parish Council	There is inadequate funding of the running costs of recreational open spaces. Running costs are excluded by all grant schemes provided by the Council. Public waste bins, litter clearing, grass cutting, general maintenance and inspection and supervision and coaching are all activities that will deliver the quality detailed in Q9a but remains entirely without council funding.
Tisbury Parish Council	The emphasis on enhancement of facilities benefitting from R2 monies is too onerous – sometimes, simple good quality equipment is all that is needed – a straightforward replacement usually costs less and is less complicated to maintain.

3.3 Town Councils: Review of area plans

For town councils that did not respond we have reviewed the relevant community area plans to highlight open space issues. While many of these plans were completed a number of years ago many of the issues remain relevant. However, it would be sensible to check with individual town councils to ascertain the current position in relation to any issues highlighted. The issues and observations of relevance to the open spaces study are noted below:

Town	Issues/observations re open spaces and play areas
Calne Community Plan (2010 update)	<p>The plan notes that: Culture, in all its forms, including recreation, leisure, sports and arts is a major contribution to community cohesion.</p> <p><i>Outdoor sports, play and youth</i></p> <p>The Plan notes that several venues have provided enhanced facilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Beversbrook Sports Facility – set over 54 acres, this includes 11 football pitches with eight changing rooms, plus a multiple-use games area for netball or tennis, and a cricket pitch and nets. • The Recreation Club and Grounds – home to the town’s sports clubs – has had a new multi-purpose children’s play area built within the grounds. A further new play area was opened in North End. <p>It was noted that the design of the existing Station Road BMX track is not suitable for both BMX and skateboard use, have prompted the Community Area Board to create a working group of young people to review the existing track design and consider a new site for the track.</p> <p>In Cherhill, residents highlighted that young people ‘need more things to do’, calling for the provision of low cost evening transport to neighbouring towns and villages. The Parish also identified the need to maintain and enhance its play equipment.</p> <p><i>Environment</i></p> <p>The most significant developments affecting the environment in the community area were the formation of the Friends of Abberd Brook, and the work to maintain the Castlefields Park. The</p>

	<p>brook clean-up has prompted a large number of improvement initiatives to increase the biodiversity of the brook, and to create a cleaner and healthier environment. The Friends are planning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore the stepping stones and improvement to the spring-fed pond • Remove stinging nettles, and the Himalayan Balsam where necessary • Plant native plants and flowers on the banks of the brook • Consult with Calne Town Council to replace vandalised and broken litter bins <p>Plans are in place to restore the town lock on the Wilts and Berks Canal arm, which will create an educational and visually pleasing feature in Castlefields Park (it was hoped that this will be completed by the summer of 2011).</p> <p>The area has benefited over many years from the care provided by the Castlefields Canal and River Park Association (CARP), which has recently completed the Chavey Well restoration and a newly planted wildflower meadow.</p> <p>Over the next five years, the environmental group aims to seek funding for the engineering work and dredging required to improve the flow and quality of water, and to strengthen the banks to provide a quality habitat for protected species. It will also look to increase its partnership work with community groups to manage and enhance the site for wildlife. The group also plans to assist Calne Town Council in providing a green corridor from the eastern end of Calne to the town centre.</p> <p><i>Rights of way</i></p> <p>Aim is for a new culture of travel opportunities based on better public transport choices and more support for cycling, walking and travel by mobility vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A town cycle network has been included on the Town Council map • Concerns about insufficient cycle parking in Calne are being addressed by the introduction of cycle stands in several new locations both within the town and more widely across the Community Area <p>Specific aspirations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An upgraded cycle plan, covering the town and rural areas • Improved pavements and footpaths by resurfacing and widening, allowing for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists.the upgrading and extension of safe cycling and walking facilities
<p>Devizes Community Area Plan (2003-15)</p>	<p>The Community Area aims are to provide a place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where all can enjoy the cultural, heritage and wildlife riches of the area. • where leisure and sports are enjoyed by people of all ages. <p>There is a general desire identified for better sports and leisure facilities for all ages and for better facilities in both town and outlying villages. The plan includes a general objective to "retain existing and promote new/better sports and arts facilities in the town and villages".</p> <p>Other general aims noted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop more community nature reserves. • Manage some public open spaces for wildlife and improve access to them. • Encourage community involvement, particularly of young people. • Improve access to parks and open spaces. • Maintain the character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and promote non-intrusive access to the countryside.

<p>Malmesbury and the Villages Community Plan (2009-13)</p>	<p><i>Sports Facilities</i></p> <p>In general the plan suggests that "the Partnership and the Area Board should see improved access to sports as providing a solution to a number of connected issues".</p> <p><i>Open Spaces</i></p> <p>Points raised included need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving/managing countryside and wildlife • Improving/increasing provision of footpaths and cycle routes (specific sites identified) • Better maintenance of footpaths, bridle paths and stiles (specific sites identified) <p>There was specific need/aspiration noted for more allotments</p> <p>The needs of young people were identified across a wide age spectrum of the respondents and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of activities, clubs and facilities for young people (with transport provided) • Improving play areas • Engagement of young people in community life/activities <p><i>Young people views/aspirations</i></p> <p>Direct consultation with young people indicated a significant desire for skate parks; particularly in Malmesbury (although young people living in villages also had aspirations for facilities to be close to hand)</p> <p>Other suggested improvements to facilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing and improving equipment in parks • BMX/mountain bike parks/tracks <p>There was not an overwhelming call for new sports facilities but suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger and better football and rugby pitches and the provision of Astro turf surfaces • Others wanted tennis and netball, basketball and golf facilities • Some simply mentioned the need for more sports facilities in general <p>Many respondents simply wanted things to do for their age group. It was noted that most of the play parks were aimed at younger children and there was nothing much for older children to do. The comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More things to do but not a youth club - somewhere to hang out • Putting things in play areas that would be suitable for teenagers
<p>Marlborough Area Plan (2012-17)</p>	<p><i>Sport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for facilities for high-level hockey, tennis, football and other sports facilities. • Need for All Weather Pitch and tennis courts for school and community use. Complete AWP and tennis courts at St John's. Ensure facilities are lit for full season use <p><i>Play and Youth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for new facilities specifically for young people e.g. skate parks, cycle tracks • Need to improve play areas and facilities for children and young people <p><i>Open Space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of retaining the natural beauty and biodiversity of the area • Protect green field environment from excessive urban expansion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the SSSI for Savernake Forest and preserve the nature of the landscape <p><i>Water recreation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to Improve access to the river Kennet and its tributaries for licensed fishing and walks. Aim to Complete the Marlborough River Project. Stimulate use of the river amenity through working partnerships. Open inaccessible stretches of the river for amenity use. <p><i>Rights of Way (RoW)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend cycle routes and provide safe cycling environments • Public Rights of Way (PROW) Network needs improvement and better maintenance • Some RoWs are in poor condition and there is abuse of green lanes by off-road vehicles. All accessible areas to be well maintained and available for use by everyone. Encourage village maintenance teams. Reinstate good footpath signage • Preservation and maintenance of the Ridgeway and its by-ways for use by all.
<p>Northern Community Area Community Plan (2005-15)</p> <p>(includes Wootton Bassett)</p>	<p><i>Open Space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Public Open Space - address shortfalls • Protection of sites of special status: Support rigorous policies to protect and maintain the rural buffer. Promote and work to protect those places given the following status as: an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); an area of High Ecological Significance (HEV); an Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) <p><i>Children and young people</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of youth facilities • Lack of recreational facilities and playgrounds • Better facilities needed for young people. <p><i>Rights of Way</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain rights of way throughout the area - look at ways to support the limited Wiltshire Council rights of way resources • Development of canal route - help to progress the development of the canal running through the Community Area • Further progress development of the Sustrans cycle route, canal restoration work, footpaths and railway
<p>Tidworth Area Community Plan (2003-13)</p>	<p>The plan is currently being revised. One relevant aim in the new (Draft) plan is:</p> <p>To develop a thriving culture and leisure environment that brings the community together and can enhance tourism and the visitor experience. There is a need to improve leisure, sporting, arts and cultural facilities and opportunities to participate across the community area, making them accessible to all. It is important that leisure and cultural activities are supported and encouraged in the villages and rural areas.</p> <p>The previous plan (2003-13) highlighted a number of relevant general objectives:</p> <p><i>Sports</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of sports, arts and entertainment facilities across the area. <p><i>Play and youth</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of fixed and mobile skateboard and BMX facilities for the area. <p><i>Open Space</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain the distinctive character of the Community Area with non-intrusive access to it where possible.• Respect and support the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan.• Enhance the environment of the River Bourne Valley.• Develop more community nature reserves.• Manage some public open spaces for wildlife and improve access to them. Encourage community involvement, particularly of young people .• Investigate possibilities for developing a country park.• Ensure that development takes place in a manner that enhances, rather than spoils, the environment.
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3.4 Town and Parish Councils - Key Findings

General Overview

- The individual towns and parishes are very different in relation to size, demographics, geography, needs and demand/aspirations. It is important that the study and local standards take this variation into account.
- 77% of the town and parish councils who responded were directly responsible for the management of various local spaces and facilities.
- 80% reported that there was a need for additional or improved open space, play and recreation facilities within their town or parish.
- Of the towns/parishes expressing an opinion 38% thought that there was scope for greater community use of outdoor sport and recreation spaces at local schools.
- The sector of the community most commonly identified as being poorly served in relation to their needs were young people/teenagers (60% of parishes identifying specific sectors in need highlighted this).
- The rural nature of much of the study area and related transport difficulties means that as much as possible needs to be provided locally or that opportunities are made available to access city and town facilities and activities more readily.

Common areas of concern

The areas of most common concern highlighted by Town and Parish Councils are:

- Not enough areas for teenagers e.g. skateparks, shelters etc.
- The quality of children's play areas (quantity issues less common).
- The need for more and better access to footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths.
- A lack of and the poor quality of football pitches; tennis courts (quality mainly); and MUGAs (primarily a lack of).
- A need for more allotments

Quality considerations

- The quality factors most commonly deemed to be important as regards open spaces are that: they should be clean and free from litter and graffiti; be safe and secure for

those using them; be easy to get to for all members of the community; and that equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained.

- It is also thought important that: equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained; be easy to get around by all members of the community; and there be adequate opportunities for dog walking and freedom from dog fouling.
- Many Councils highlight that there should also be good footpath and cycleway links to and between them

Detailed responses on open space typologies

Many town and parish councils provided detailed responses relating to aspects of quantity and quality of the various elements of open spaces surveyed. These responses can be found in the associated excel spreadsheet.

4 OUTDOOR SPORTS (NON-PITCH)

4.1 Introduction and overview

This section provides an overview of consultee responses on the main outdoor (non-pitch) sports - tennis, athletics, bowls and netball. It does not report on consultation undertaken in relation to the associated Playing Pitch Study⁴. The section contains feedback from council officers from Wiltshire Council with responsibility for sport and leisure, officers from Wiltshire and Swindon Sport (the County Sports Partnership) and outdoor (non-pitch sport) governing bodies. It also incorporates findings from surveys of sports clubs.

4.1.1 Wiltshire Council - Leisure Services

We interviewed Colin Brown the Play and Leisure Strategy Officer who provided an overview from a Wiltshire Council perspective. Colin's observations on specific sports can be found in the individual sports sections. Some general issues and observations are noted below:

- The Council have produced a CIL Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) including play and sports provision. The 18 Area Boards have also produced plans including potential play and sports improvements; there are also various Neighbourhood Plans and Parish Plans; but the IDP does not necessarily take these plans into account. There is potential to link these better in the future.
- The allocation of CIL funds ultimately depends upon political decisions choosing between competing demands for infrastructure. There is some concern that open spaces, play areas and sports pitches may suffer in relation to provision such as roads, schools, GP surgeries etc. However the Council has specifically recognised the value of recreational facilities in relation to Public Health and it is anticipated that this will help ensure that such provision is fully considered.
- Some of the town Councils are notably active as regards sport and active recreation e.g. Trowbridge, Malmesbury, Chippenham, Corsham and Melksham

⁴ The playing pitch study provides a detailed analysis of the supply of and demand for the pitch sports facilities - football, cricket, rugby and hockey; conducted in line with the Sport England methodology.

- One of Wiltshire's greatest assets is the local countryside and there is potential for improvements to access to the countryside and for wider promotion.
- Encouraging more recreational cycling would also help in getting more people active - building on things like the Sky Ride scheme.
- There is scope to develop more safe circular routes for cycling including the development of more off road sections
- There are also initiatives to encourage more people to be active through walking and running
- There is a need to develop better safe cycling and walking routes to parks and leisure facilities in many of Wiltshire's towns.
- New residential developments should provide good footpath and cycling routes within the development and to link with paths and safe cycling routes outside.

4.1.2 Wiltshire and Swindon Sport (WASP)

WASP is the County Sports Partnership (CSP) for Wiltshire and Swindon and is one of a network of 49 CSPs in England. Its 2014-17 strategy states a vision as: " Wiltshire and Swindon has a strong, vibrant and diverse sports community that encourages participation and excellence. It also contains its overall mission "to make a difference for the people who make sport happen by; providing the best support, advice, information and opportunities; building strong, successful and effective partnerships; and promoting participation and sustained involvement in sport".

WASP is developing strong links with many schools through its work on Satellite Clubs and Primary School Premium and this may prove to be a source of information on school needs and aspirations in conjunction with NGBs and local Clubs.

Overviews from WASP officers on individual sports will be found in the appropriate sections below. WASP also wish to play an active role in the development of the playing pitch study for football, cricket, rugby and hockey through membership on the steering group.

4.2 Tennis

4.2.1 Lawn Tennis Association

The following information was received from the LTA via Julie Jones (Regional Tennis Participation Manager) and Colin Corline (Facility Projects Manager).

General

Wiltshire LTA has 40 Registered tennis venues across the County. These range from traditional tennis clubs to park sites and public indoor courts. The majority of the venues take part in club leagues (both senior and junior) and we currently have 17 clubs with Tennis Clubmark.

Participation

The LTA's Participation Strategy 2013 - 17 places particular emphasis on the following:

- Priority areas: working with partners in priority areas to develop bottom up tennis development plans to offer more opportunities for people to play tennis
- Parks: maximising the use of park sites to increase regular participation through the development of local authority and partnerships with other providers
- Clubs: Driving participation in clubs by supporting 'traditional' clubs to keep more people playing tennis through optimised programming and consumer offers
- Disability: To inspire and engage more disabled people in tennis, and develop a stronger infrastructure and tennis network for disabled players
- Young People: 14-25 yrs will benefit from adapted product offers, more after school provision, including satellite clubs, as well as a significant expansion of the varied tennis options for FE and HE students, already trialled in 2011-13
- Talent: to support, and continuously improve, tennis' talent ID and development structures.

Trends within Wiltshire

Wiltshire tennis club membership is fairly static. Our insight has told us that only 19% of people who play tennis do so in clubs. The majority of people playing tennis would rather participate on park/local authority or public pay and play courts. Due to this we are currently prioritising projects within the county which will impact on this need.

The Active People Survey that was published in shows that there has been an increase in tennis participation across the last 6 months.

Supply of facilities

There is a generally good spread of facilities across the county which accommodate all range of people wanting to play tennis. Specifically there is a need for indoor courts in the centre of the county and potentially better quality public facilities for outdoor usage.

The most important tennis facilities are at Next Generation, Swindon; Delta Tennis Club; St Marks Park Swindon; Victoria Park in Salisbury; Salisbury Tennis Club, Devizes Tennis Club.

The traditional clubs in Wiltshire are generally very well run by volunteers.

Accommodating matches and training

In general, with the exception of a few isolated cases, there are not significant problems in relation to accommodating matches or training.

Other issues

There are a good spread of facilities in all parts of the county with the exception of indoor facilities in the central area.

There could potentially be some improvement to the quality of public outdoor facilities. Progression within the sport is generally available due to the variation of facility types across the county. There is a good mix of traditional clubs and public facilities which feed into indoor facilities in Swindon and Downton.

Opportunities for development

The LTA's Whole Sport Plan facilities' investment will support and facilitate the delivery of the above programmes. It will be largely focused in the priority areas to address gaps or improve provision where critical to park or community programmes. Wiltshire has not been identified for any particular focus, but issues of relevance to the County include:

- The need to increase coaching on public courts
- Protecting access to managed community courts where clubs are based
- Encouraging school sites to focus on tennis, where a coach could be based
- Developing closer links between schools, parks and community tennis, linking in to a local tennis centre.
- Improving the quality of park courts in hub locations; the issue is not the number of courts, but improving their quality.

There is potential for better use and more affordable access to Leisure Centres for tennis clubs to deliver mini tennis. Access to school courts outside of school hours (this is being developed via the Satellite club programme)

Priorities for facility improvements are park courts across the County e.g. Town Gardens Swindon, Warminster, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Bradford on Avon, and Chippenham).

Good practice

The traditional clubs are well run, administered and offer a range of opportunities for players of all age and abilities. Victoria Park in Salisbury is an example of a good practice public tennis facility.

4.2.2 Wiltshire Council - Leisure Services

- Wilts Council do not own many public courts (about 10) and these are generally pay and play facilities. A number of town and parish councils also have courts.
- There are many tennis clubs across Wiltshire and many do engage with the Council's sports development initiatives. Chippenham is a very active club for example.
- There is an active and successful coaching scheme run by the club at Victoria Park in Salisbury. There is a plan for a similar development in Warminster.
- Wiltshire Council are currently in discussion with the LTA and local clubs to deliver a countywide holiday tennis programme during 2015. This is the first year this work has taken place and it will make use of several courts detailed in the draft Open Spaces study. There is potential for further extending Wiltshire Council's engagement and partnership working with the LTA.
- Public courts vary in quality with some in desperate need of upgrading and investment.
- The Disability Development Officer is working with the Tennis Foundation and Street Games to incorporate more tennis provision in Rising Stars and Fit Club disability projects in line with LTA targets. These sessions are currently delivered indoors in local leisure centres.

4.2.3 Club responses

We also received direct responses from seven tennis clubs: Cricklade Tennis Club; Downton Tennis Club; Riverside Tennis Club; Salisbury LTC; Shalbourne Tennis Club; Sherston Tennis Club; and Trowbridge Westbourne Tennis Club

- 4 of the 7 clubs (Salisbury, Riverside, Downton, and Shalbourne) report that their playing membership has increased over the past 3 years and the others report that their playing membership has been stable.
- All the clubs (bar Cricklade) have an active junior section with links to local schools.
- Salisbury LTC rate the general quality of their main venue/facility as very good; Trowbridge say that quality is poor; Sherston as "adequate"; and the others rate general quality as good.
- Trowbridge rate many aspects of their facility as poor or very poor including changing and showering facilities; ease of getting to the facility; facilities for disabled people; equipment and storage; and car parking.
- Shalborne TC report that changing and showering facilities and the availability of courts when needed is "very poor".
- The barriers to club development most commonly highlighted by clubs are a lack of external funding; a shortage of good quality indoor facilities; and a shortage of personnel to run/coach teams and/or administer the club.

The clubs were also provided with an opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Issues/Comments
Salisbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are almost at the point where we will not take on any new members as we do not have the capacity over the winter months to provide sufficient courts. As the numbers have increased, members have recommended the facilities to friends. Plans/aspirations include: flood lighting more courts; replacing the clay courts with an all weather surface; building a winter indoor structure
Riverside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior membership has grown. We think it will stay about the same as we do not have much more capacity with the current level of coaches. We aim to attract more off-peak members. After the weather last winter, we would also like to protect our current membership by planning to provide indoor facilities
Downton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults increased, juniors decreased. Latter attributable to a changeover in the coaching programme. Junior programme now recovering. Overall trend expected to be upward due to committee drive to get more people playing. Resurfacing planned for 2015 We aim to attract more members and more activities especially at junior level
Shalbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We anticipate that the increase in members we have seen over recent years will continue. Plans/aspirations include: a new pavilion and to attract more members.
Cricklade	We always need more members!
Trowbridge Westbourne	Plans/aspirations include: more courts; indoor courts; new clubhouse; more parking; the bar open all day running hot and cold food for guests and visitors; being open to the public
Sherston	We need to attract more members. The club is running short of funds and will not be able to afford to upkeep the facility beyond the life of the current courts - about 3-4 years.

Further detail of responses can be found in the full Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

4.2.4 Summary

The following are the key findings and issues to emerge:

- Wiltshire LTA has 40 tennis venues registered across the County. These range from traditional tennis clubs to park sites and public indoor courts.
- There is a generally good spread of facilities across the county which accommodate all range of people wanting to play tennis. There are no significant problems in relation to accommodating matches or training.
- Progression within the sport is generally available due to the variation of facility types across the county. There is a good mix of traditional clubs and public facilities which feed into indoor facilities in Swindon and Downton.
- The majority of people playing tennis would rather participate on park/local authority or public pay and play courts. Due to this the LTA is currently prioritising projects within the county which will impact on this need.
- In some cases there may be the potential convert dedicated courts to multi use games areas.

- Specifically there is a need for indoor courts in the centre of the county and potentially better quality public facilities for outdoor usage.
- There is potential for better use and more affordable access to Leisure Centres for tennis clubs to deliver mini tennis; and access to school courts outside of school hours.
- LTA priorities for facility improvements are park courts across the County e.g. Town Gardens Swindon, Warminster, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Bradford on Avon, and Chippenham).

4.3 Athletics/Running

4.3.1 England Athletics

We received the following information from England Athletics via Charlotte Fisher - Club and Coach Support Officer (Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire).

Overview

In terms of structures Wiltshire is fully engaged with our support in all areas of Athletics.

There is a very proactive Wiltshire Athletics Association who stage a road race series as well as organising the county athletics track and field championships, cross-and country events.

There is also a Wiltshire Athletics Network which EA has funded over the last two years to promote club and coach development through coaching bursaries, workshops, etc. This is primarily made up of clubs in West Wiltshire.

EA also employ a Run England Activator for 20 hours a week who works with clubs and communities to promote running in the county. This post is part funded by partners from Wiltshire Council, WASP and Swindon Borough Council and has been one of the EA's leading running programmes outside of London with regards to getting new participants into the sport.

Participation and trends

- Steady growth in running.
- Latent demand for running opportunities is healthy
- Running in beginner groups especially popular with women aged 35 years plus.
- Affiliated clubs provide a good offer for recreational through to competitive runners of all ages.
- Track and field growth is predominantly in the junior age groups.

Overall, Demand is increasing

- Many of the junior clubs have waiting lists which we are trying to address through the promotion of new satellite clubs.
- Growth in adults 16 years is rising.
- Participation in races and events is healthy, with new events and regular weekly offers such as parkrun growing in popularity.

Access

Geographically through the run England work and partnership work there is opportunity to run in a group or club in most towns and large villages.

However some of these are adult only, road or off track running and do not provide for juniors or those wanting to run, jump, throw in a track type setting.

There are seasonal challenges in many of the rural areas when limited street lighting and safe routes impacts on participation in the winter months. And this is a particular challenge for those groups with growing numbers of young people under 16 years of age.

Central to West Wiltshire have large junior sections as well as healthy adult participation, but are challenged with the travel times and lack of access to all weather training track facilities.

Facilities - current

- Tidworth - army - central - least populated area. Used for county champs but not easily accessible for the most active of clubs for regular training.
- Marlborough - east of county. Really only meets the needs of Marlborough club.
- There is also the Swindon Track - Swindon Harriers, and Shin Splints and wider, Tri-Active and wider Swindon community. Regional and national league event held here.
- The Sports Dome, Chippenham is an important facility for the Chippenham Juniors club and provides a limited but safe space in terms of size for indoor training for the growing junior section of the club.

Facility needs and priorities

The west of the county clubs who are amongst the most proactive clubs are the most disadvantaged in terms of access to a track. They are more likely to access Bath University track which they do so from time to time, but travel times to Bath and access to the track are limited..

Hence the need for a West Wiltshire training facility which would benefit Avon Valley Runners, Chippenham Harriers, Calne, Devizes and a number of Run England groups would ensure the county is fully catered for.

Good Practice

- Run England - Swindon & Wiltshire
- Wiltshire Athletics Network - coach development work - coach education and development programme.
- Wiltshire Athletics Association
- Also Avon Valley Runners and Chippenham Harriers clubs

4.3.2 Wiltshire Council - Leisure Services

- There is an Athletics Track in Salisbury built on South Wilts Grammar School land but managed by Wiltshire Council. Discussions are currently taking place regarding a transfer of management to the Grammar School.
- There is also a track at Tidworth (MOD) that is used by local people/clubs by agreement with the MOD. Marlborough College also has a track.
- There is definite growth in running covering all ages following success of the Run England Programme, junior coaching, beginner running groups, popular Startrack summer camps growth of parkrun / events. However there is still a limited number of athletics clubs for people to access and limited track provision/access. Junior clubs are generally at capacity.
- There may be potential/demand for a track in Warminster.
- A case could be made for a track in a more central location within Wiltshire - but this may not be justifiable - insufficient demand strategically? There is also the issue of ensuring that any such facility would be sustainable - a need to plan for ongoing revenue costs etc.
- Residents in Marlborough are keen to explore the possibility of an International Standard Sports Village close to the town which would cover the following sports but not limited to athletics, cycling, hockey, rugby, cricket, football, gymnastics, racket sports, netball, basketball, dance and swimming. This venture is in its infancy.

4.3.3 Club responses

We received club responses from four clubs: Swindon Harriers; Team Devizes (Moonrakers) Athletics; City of Salisbury Athletic and Running Club (ARC); and Lavington Athletics

- All four clubs reported that their membership had increased over the last three years. All four have an active junior section.
- Only Salisbury rate the overall quality of their facilities as good. The other clubs rate quality as being no better than "adequate".
- Swindon and Lavington report that their changing and showering facilities are very poor. Equipment and storage facilities are a problem at Devizes and Lavington. Car parking is an issue at Swindon and Lavington.
- All four have aspirations to improve facilities and other than Salisbury the clubs wish to expand their activities (see table below).
- The factors most commonly identified as barriers to club development are a shortage of good quality outdoor facilities/resources and a shortage of personnel to run/coach teams and/or administer the club.

The clubs were also provided with an opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Issues/Comments
Swindon Harriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many young athletes come and go, and we expect this to continue. We have informal links with a number of local schools and the local authority sports development team. • We are in discussion with local authority to take on management of track. • We want to improve facilities at the track to encourage more members and volunteers, eg, clubhouse, toilets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main barrier to club development is the lack of clubhouse, toilets and changing facilities
Team Devizes (Moonrakers) Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With new coaches membership is increasing. We are looking into developing a all weather track and runs We plan to expand activities so that we can meet the needs of our extensive waiting list
City of Salisbury Athletic and Running Club (ARC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a schools liaison officer We are very concerned about the future management, availability and upkeep of the running track and the cost to the Club for using the track
Lavington Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word of mouth has led to increased membership. Our junior section is full up; circuit sessions are close to over subscription. There is under capacity in the main athletics session due to lack of artificial track (which is likely to continue). Our head coach coaches at Dauntsey's School during the summer term. We are keen to have close links with Lavington School which is located adjacent to our training venue but sadly they don't promote us despite knowing all about us. They tend to promote training at the Bath University track with Team Bath (which is very annoying). We are trying to liaise with Dauntsey's School re: improving facilities. They are keen but have other more pressing projects at this time To expand we aim to run teams; and set up the AthleFit programme which we have secured a Grant for. We want to attract more teenagers and adults to train and compete. We need a decent all weather track and jumps run ups. Grass run ups are always so weather dependant so lots of sessions end up being cancelled and athletes therefore go elsewhere - which is frustrating as we have good quality coaches. Hopefully these surveys are acted upon and not just filed away as a box ticked!!

Further detail of responses can be found in the full Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

4.3.4 Summary

- England Athletics suggest that overall demand for athletics is increasing in Wiltshire. Many of the junior clubs have waiting lists and participation by adults is rising.
- Geographically through the run England work and partnership work there is opportunity to run in a group or club in most towns and large villages. However some of these are adult only, road or off track running and do not provide for juniors or those wanting to run, jump, throw in a track type setting.
- The west of the county clubs who are amongst the most proactive clubs are the most disadvantaged in terms of access to a track. They are more likely to access Bath University track which they do so from time to time, but travel times to Bath and access to the track are limited..
- England Athletics identify a need for a West Wiltshire training facility which would benefit Avon Valley Runners, Chippenham Harriers, Calne, Devizes and a number of Run England groups. This would ensure the county is fully catered for.
- A number of clubs have specific plans and aspirations to improve their main facility.

4.4 Bowls

4.4.1 Bowls England

- There are quite a number of bowling clubs in Wiltshire that are sustaining (some even increasing) their current levels of membership but a challenge for all of them is attracting new members, particularly younger players (the best international players are between 20-35 years).
- Where clubs have held open days, taster sessions and coaching, the response is generally good, but it is maintaining the interest which can be difficult. Short mat bowls is a popular addition to the sport.
- The English Bowls Association in its Whole Sport Plan sets out that over the next four years, it will target those over 55 and disabled participants aged 16+. The BDA will deliver a range of products through the Hot Spots and the packages under the 'Play Bowls' brand to attract more people into the sport, including roadshows, play bowls days and other Specialist Health, Age, Business and Community Projects as appropriate.

4.4.2 Wiltshire Council - Leisure Services

- Most bowling greens are provided by town and parish councils and local clubs. The only green owned by Wiltshire Council is at Culver Close, Bradford on Avon.
- Bowling greens require specific maintenance skills and are probably best undertaken through the clubs' own management - hence transfer to Bradford-on-Avon bowls club would be a good option. In Bradford-on-Avon there are discussions around this option with both the Bowls and Cricket clubs (in liaison with the Town Council)
- There are lots of established clubs across Wiltshire and they are fairly independent. A number are fairly active in engagement with Wiltshire Council re sports development/funding seminars etc.

4.4.3 Wiltshire and Swindon Sport

There seems to be a good a supply of facilities available, though some individual clubs may appreciate more. In general quality and access are adequate (as far as we are aware). We are aware that at least two local clubs have applied to Sport England for grants for improvements (one successful and one unsuccessful).

4.4.4 Bowls Clubs

We received responses from 27 local bowling clubs: Salisbury Victoria; Supermarine; Ramsbury & Aldbourne; Winsley; Bradford-on-Avon; Trowbridge Town; Pewsey Vale; White Horse Shortmat; Salisbury; Marlborough; Avon; Mere; Box; Amesbury; Blue Circle; Wilton; Garrard; Malmesbury; County Ground; Haydon Wick; Cricklade; Calne; Broughton Gifford; Spencer Melksham; Alderbury; Trowbridge Westbourne; and Corsham.

Some key points were:

- 9 of the 27 clubs (33%) reported an increase in playing membership over the last 3 years; 6 a decrease (22%); and the others had stayed the same (45%). See table below for some of the reasons given:

Reasons for increase in membership	Reasons for decrease in membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We actively market the Club through open days and advertise in the free local press. We also participate in the Pewsey Carnival "have a go" scheme aimed at young people. • Local and national interest in bowls, especially in over 50 age group. • We have actively tried to recruit new members and hope this will continue • Improvements to the social aspects of our club. This trend will continue under the influence of the new Campus in Melksham • A local Bowls Club has closed and new people moving to the area have joined • Our club caters for all ages, plays to a good standard and is well respected within Wiltshire. We have picked up members from other clubs. • Amesbury Community and surrounding areas are growing and people are looking for activities to help improve their health and lifestyle • Has increased slightly due to proactive recruitment. We have also had a number of players give up due to age or fitness a couple died, hence although we have new members overall membership only slightly increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future lease of green doubtful two years ago and several members moved to other clubs in the area. • More of the older members are not rejoining through ill health or passing on and not as many of the younger seniors are starting to play bowls. • Members moving house to other localities. • Despite advertising the facilities of the Club our new members are not increasing. One of the problems I am confronted with is the paperwork and checks needed for young players; it is so laborious that for the return it is not worth the effort. • Members getting older and retiring. Lack of younger players taking up bowls and joining clubs. In UK bowls is perceived as an older person's sport. • Because it is mainly the elderly who tend to play bowls and their life expectancy is severely limited

- Only 3 of the clubs have a junior section (Trowbridge Westbourne, Corsham, and Avon). Trowbridge Westbourne also provide coaching at some local schools.

- Most of the clubs are generally happy with the overall quality of their greens with over 70% rating overall quality as either very good or good. No clubs rated overall quality as being poor or very poor.
- 7 of the 27 clubs (26%) rated overall quality as being no better than "adequate".
- The factors most commonly deemed to be poor or very poor by clubs were changing facilities, facilities for disabled people and car parking. Other factors identified by some were equipment and storage limitations and lighting.
- Most clubs would like to attract more members, particularly juniors and women.
- The most common barriers faced by clubs in relation to club development were: falling membership/shortage of playing members; a lack of funding (internal and external); and a lack of, or poor quality, changing facilities.
- Other common factors were a shortage of personnel to run/coach teams and/or administer the club and a lack of good quality indoor facilities.
- 18 of the 27 clubs had plans or aspirations to improve facilities as noted in the table below

The clubs were also provided with an opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Other issues and comments
Wilton BC	Need better disabled access, better changing rooms and modern kitchen. New plans now drawn up. Now for the hard work - we need to raise the funds to carry out this work
Salisbury Victoria Bowls Club	I have been a member of this club for over 20 years and with the few remaining members, I hope we can continue as we all enjoy our bowling very much and work hard to keep the green in good condition.
Pewsey Vale Bowls Club	We have just completed one major project (changing rooms, toilets and disabled access) helped by Sports England. We have a new project in mind - to re-vamp our kitchen/catering facilities
White Horse Shortmat	We are currently obtaining team shirts.
Salisbury Bowling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refit of indoor bowls rink currently in progress. • As a members club any developments have to be self funded, as grant aid has proved difficult to obtain. • Bowling greens are expensive to maintain and much time and effort is given by a small core of members in order to keep costs down as much as possible. • Grant assistance would enable us to upgrade our green machinery and further improvements to our facilities.
Garrard Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a club within a club and therefore have no real influence over what happens as we 'rent' the second green. • We are a small all male club but ladies are catered for by Weslecot one of the biggest in Swindon. • We would love to youngsters coming into the sport but quite often it is only through introduction by a family member that this can happen due to the location and time scales. • The local bus service is poor and the club is only really accessible by car.
Malmesbury Bowls	We need new lighting, guttering, internal decoration, and to work on general maintenance

County Ground Bowls	We are on a Local Authority green & therefore restricted in what we are able to do.
Marlborough BC	We need improved car parking
Ramsbury & Aldbourne BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club is regularly asked to host inter-county matches but there is inadequate indoor space for the sit-down snacks that follow with up to 55 people (or changing facilities). • We want to extend our pavilion to achieve a larger main room, another toilet, another changing room and a small kitchen. • We are restricted to one 3 Triples (18 players) and one 2 Triples (12) leagues. Inadequate facilities for Wiltshire 3 Rink (24) League.
Winsley B C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have difficulty in attracting new members. • Perhaps the council could support recruitment of new members for small clubs like ourselves?
Calne Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are aiming to get new changing facilities • The council will not support the cost as it is council property⁵
Avon Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to progress an application for Sports England funding, but not being owners of the property need to involve Wiltshire Council in a Partnership Application by either gifted ownership/leasing or pound for pound funding opposite Sports England. • We need to expand our pavilion to provide better changing, social areas and disabled access/facilities. • The premises are owned by Wiltshire Council who, at present, do not seem interested in funding our facility, except for basic maintenance.
Bradford on Avon Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to improve parking & lighting. This is in partnership with other users of Culver Close. • In the UK bowls is geared to older people. Overseas it is for all ages. This requires addressing for the good of the sport Bowls
Mere Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have not approached Mere Parish Council to ascertain if funding is available to build our own Club House. Maybe this should be our next step. • There may be a lack of physical space as we are located within the bounds of Mere School.
Alderbury BC	Applied to Sport England for grant to upgrade facilities
Box Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to work harder every year in order to pay the rent for the green and pavilion to Box Parish Council, we have exhausted our savings two years ago to pay to have the bowls green ditches rebuilt (mainly for health and safety reasons). • To function we play a lot of matches and competitions and also have to constantly fund raise by hosting matches and catering as well as local fetes and other club activities.
Amesbury Bowls Club	We aim to refurbish our club house
Corsham Bowls Club	Need to erect protective netting between neighbouring Corsham Cricket Club and Bowls club - to protect from cricket balls striking players on the green

Further detail of responses can be found in the full Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

4.4.5 Summary

⁵ This is a verbatim transcript - it is not clear to us what is meant.

- Most bowling greens in Wiltshire are provided by town and parish councils and local clubs.
- Overall, there appears to be a good supply of bowls facilities available across the County.
- In general the quality of facilities and access to them are adequate, though many clubs have plans and aspirations for improvements.
- There are lots of established clubs across Wiltshire and they are fairly independent. A number are fairly active in engagement with Wiltshire Council re. sports development/ funding seminars etc.
- A number of bowling clubs are sustaining (some even increasing) their current levels of membership but a challenge for all of them is attracting new members, particularly younger players (the best international players are between 20-35 years).
- Where clubs have held open days, taster sessions and coaching, the response is generally good, but it is maintaining the interest which can be difficult. Short mat bowls is a popular addition to the sport.
- The English Bowls Association in its Whole Sport Plan sets out that over the next four years, it will target those over 55 and disabled participants aged 16+. The BDA will deliver a range of products through the Hot Spots and the packages under the 'Play Bowls' brand to attract more people into the sport, including roadshows, play bowls days and other Specialist Health, Age, Business and Community Projects as appropriate.

4.5 Netball

4.5.1 Wiltshire Council - Leisure Services

- Most netball takes place at dual use school facilities
- Clubs come together for competition at central locations e.g. Devizes and Salisbury. This seems to work well for Wiltshire.
- Some clubs have their own facilities e.g. Marlborough

4.5.2 Wiltshire and Swindon Sport

- Our overview is that overall there are not enough netball facilities available to meet demand.
- As regards quality, many outdoors courts need improving; indoors courts are generally OK.
- The lack of outdoor facilities with floodlights is a major issue. As far as we are aware no outdoor netball venues in Wiltshire have any.
- On the whole there are no significant problems with access.
- We are not aware of any specific initiatives underway for improving facilities.

4.5.3 Club Responses

We received responses from five netball clubs - Melksham; Calne; Pewsey Vale Ladies; Devizes; and Raychem.

Some key points were:

- All five clubs report that their playing membership has increased over the past 3 years.

- Three of the five clubs (Devizes, Raychem and Calne) have an active junior section with links to local schools.
- Devizes and Raycham rate the general quality of their main venue/facility as being poor, the other clubs are happy with quality overall.
- Melksham highlight some aspects as being poor - value for money, availability when needed and changing and shower facilities. Lighting is a problem for Pewsey; equipment and storage facilities for Devizes; and changing/showers for Raycham.
- All bar Melsham report a need to improve facilities at their main venue.
- The barriers to club development most commonly highlighted by clubs are a shortage of good quality indoor facilities; a lack of external funding (e.g. governing bodies); and a shortage of suitable training facilities

The clubs were also provided with an opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Other issues and comments
Melksham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have created our own face book page and this has helped increase membership • We plan to attract more members
Calne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We set up a Junior section in our Club (11-14 year olds) and this has been extremely successful. Many of these Juniors have since transferred into the Senior section. We have also run 'Back to Netball' courses to encourage ladies into the sport, and 'WOW Fit' - both of these have resulted in new members for the Club. Netball, as a sport, has enjoyed a higher profile recently in the media and this has also resulted lots of interest and new members joining the Club. This increased membership has built year on year and will continue. • We would still like to accommodate more members - we currently have a waiting list; and run more teams. • Due to our increased membership we really need 2 floodlit netball courts side by side. This season we have had to keep a waiting list for new members as we do not have the facilities to accommodate more than 35 senior members. We are looking into the possibility of extra courts and are currently in discussion with Calne Tennis Club to hire their new courts. We are looking into the possibility of marking up netball courts on these facilities but this will depend on whether the tennis club allow us to do this. • Our main barrier to club development has been a lack of training facilities. In order to continue to expand we require at least 2 floodlit netball courts next to each other.
Pewsey Vale Ladies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently started club - there is a high turnover of new members due to the military catchment area • We aim to attract more members • We need better lighting to and from the car park to Hemery Hall
Devizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have focussed on retaining teens in the club and recently run a back to netball course that has been very popular with adults. We predict our membership will continue to grow. • We are always seeking new indoor facilities or more use of the indoor court at the leisure centre. We have been trying for some time to get the outdoor courts resurfaced but to no avail. • It is difficult to attract sponsorship - many local companies readily and generously sponsor the local rugby club but are unwilling to sponsor us,

	even though we are the premier netball club in this part of Wiltshire and one of the top clubs in the county. We are working hard to develop coaches and umpires as there is not a large pool of coaches available for clubs to draw on. All the local indoor facilities are one court only which limits the number of teams who can train, and the indoor court in Devizes is not suitable for the level of competition we play so we have to travel to Melksham for regional league matches.
Raychem	Membership has increased due to bringing juniors through and keeping adults in the game

Further detail of responses can be found in the full Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

4.5.4 Summary

- Most netball takes place at dual use school facilities.
- Clubs come together for competition at central locations e.g. Devizes and Salisbury. This seems to work well for Wiltshire.
- All the clubs who responded to the survey noted that their playing membership has increased over the past 3 years - demand is growing.
- WASP suggest that overall there are not enough netball facilities available to meet current and anticipated growing demand.
- As regards quality, many outdoors courts need improving; indoors courts are generally acceptable.
- The lack of outdoor facilities with floodlights is a major issue. WASP indicate that there are no outdoor netball venues in Wiltshire that are floodlit.

4.6 Other outdoor (non-pitch) sports

4.6.1 Golf

Wiltshire and Swindon Sport (WASP)

There are a large number and good geographical spread of golf clubs across Wiltshire. Following a recent decline in trends around club membership few clubs are full resulting in available capacity and more flexible membership packages being offered at existing clubs.

Club Responses

We received responses from five golf clubs - Chippenham; The Wiltshire; Marlborough; Kingsdown; and Ogbourne Downs.

Some key points were:

- 3 of the 5 clubs (Chippenham, The Wiltshire and Marlborough) reported that their playing membership has increased slightly over the past 3 years with the other two reporting a decrease.
- Reasons given for the decline in membership were "the landscape of golf membership is changing nationally with fewer people becoming members of clubs and more people choosing to pay and play" and (similarly) "golfers no longer need to be members of clubs to play the sport".
- All five clubs have an active junior section and three have links to local schools.
- All of the clubs rate the general quality of their facilities as being good or very good. The only slight reservations raised by clubs re: quality are Chippenham who say that "availability when needed" is no better than adequate; and The Wiltshire who report that "equipment and storage facilities" are no better than adequate.
- Three of the five clubs have plans to improve facilities and these clubs also aim to expand their activities (details in the table below).

- Kingsdown and Ogbourne Downs Golf Clubs both highlight a falling membership/shortage of playing members as a barrier to club development.

The clubs were also provided with an opportunity to provide additional comments as noted below:

Club	Other issues and comments
Chippenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We aim to expand our general membership and to introduce more new players to the game • We are planning for the construction of covered driving range bays and a new green-keepers facility
The Wiltshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to attract more members and offer more classes etc. • In terms of the future - we are constantly trying to improve our facilities.
Kingsdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We aim to attract more members and visitors. • WEware planning to install a short game area.

Further detail of responses can be found in the full Excel Consultation Spreadsheet.

4.6.2 Other outdoor sports/activities

Wiltshire and Swindon Sport (WASP) provided a short overview of provision for other outdoor sports/activities and their observations are noted below:

Sport	Observations on facility provision
Lacrosse	Limited number of clubs within the county with a few in their infancy stages. Facilities required include grass or artificial/synthetic pitch. Season being Sept/Oct-Easter this means that for evening training and developing a competitive team the use of floodlights is required. Limited pitch time with floodlights available across the county in certain areas
Sailing	Very few sailing facilities within Wiltshire resulting in few clubs. Those in existence are based around lakes in Westbury and Cotswold Water. Other lakes are available and have large clubs outside the county in Dorset/Hampshire and Swindon/Gloucestershire. Travelling required by most people involved/interest in sailing. Facility redevelopment in Westbury due to fire.
Softball	Little/no softball that takes place within Wiltshire known about - Some corporate activity in Swindon. Able to use existing sports club facilities if demand requires.
Equestrian	Overall there appears to be a good supply of equestrian facilities available, of good quality; and reasonable access (as far as we're aware).
Cycling	There is a shortage of facilities for cycling across Wiltshire.

4.7 Outdoor (non-pitch) sports: Key Findings

General points and observations

Range of sports and recreation activities making use of open space

In general, the amount of activity detailed demonstrates the range of outdoor sport and recreation taking place in Wiltshire and the value of the open space facilities and resources which are used. All the trends suggest that use of outdoor space for health and fitness activities is growing - and there is tremendous scope for the greater linking and development of outdoor resources to serve this market (see below).

The more formal types of sporting activity are seeing demand remain, for the most part, steady. There is some evidence of gradually declining numbers of bowls and tennis players - but with much of this demand, the maintenance of quality facilities is critical, to continue to retain existing participants and attract new ones.

Growing importance of linkages between health and fitness and sport.

With changes in public health management and revenue streams, linking fitness, sport and health can access new areas of funding; moreover the advantages to community health in increasing fitness levels is now receiving political support. Many initiatives and opportunities are possible: e.g. the idea of linking sports sites with trim trails, outdoor fitness equipment etc (using sports facilities as a base and green infrastructure and open space as resources). Associated with this, there is rapidly growing activity and demand for 'individual fitness activities' - walking, running and cycling, using existing facilities and open space resources.

Maintaining a rural network of facilities

Recreation Grounds, tennis courts, multi use games areas and bowling greens are important sports facilities in rural areas. Maintaining these facilities with quality surfaces and ancillary facilities can be difficult; financial support is often required. Comments from clubs emphasise

the ongoing issues of sourcing finance for upgrades to changing facilities and maintaining good quality grounds.

Sports Specific Points

Tennis

- Wiltshire LTA has 40 tennis venues registered across the County. These range from traditional tennis clubs to park sites and public indoor courts.
- There is a generally good spread of facilities across the county which accommodate all range of people wanting to play tennis. There are no significant problems in relation to accommodating matches or training.
- Progression within the sport is generally available due to the variation of facility types across the county. There is a good mix of traditional clubs and public facilities which feed into indoor facilities in Swindon and Downton.
- The majority of people playing tennis would rather participate on park/local authority or public pay and play courts. Due to this the LTA is currently prioritising projects within the county which will impact on this need.
- In some cases there may be the potential to convert dedicated courts to multi use games areas.
- Specifically there is a need for indoor courts in the centre of the county and potentially better quality public facilities for outdoor usage.
- There is potential for better use and more affordable access to Leisure Centres for tennis clubs to deliver mini tennis; and access to school courts outside of school hours.
- LTA priorities for facility improvements are park courts across the County e.g. Town Gardens Swindon, Warminster, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Bradford on Avon, and Chippenham).

Athletics

- England Athletics suggest that overall demand for athletics is increasing in Wiltshire. Many of the junior clubs have waiting lists and participation by adults is rising.
- Geographically through the run England work and partnership work there is opportunity to run in a group or club in most towns and large villages. However some of these are adult only, road or off track running and do not provide for juniors or those wanting to run, jump, throw in a track type setting.
- The west of the county clubs who are amongst the most proactive clubs are the most disadvantaged in terms of access to a track. They are more likely to access Bath University track which they do so from time to time, but travel times to Bath and access to the track are limited.
- England Athletics identify a need for a West Wiltshire training facility which would benefit Avon Valley Runners, Chippenham Harriers, Calne, Devizes and a number of Run England groups. This would ensure the county is fully catered for.
- A number of clubs have specific plans and aspirations to improve their main facility.

Bowls

- Most bowling greens in Wiltshire are provided by town and parish councils and local clubs.
- Overall, there appears to be a good supply of bowls facilities available across the County.
- In general the quality of facilities and access to them is adequate; though many clubs have plans and aspirations for improvements.
- There are lots of established clubs across Wiltshire and they are fairly independent. A

number are fairly active in engagement with Wiltshire Council re. sports development/ funding seminars etc.

- A number of bowling clubs are sustaining (some even increasing) their current levels of membership but a challenge for all of them is attracting new members, particularly younger players (the best international players are between 20-35 years).
- Where clubs have held open days, taster sessions and coaching, the response is generally good, but it is maintaining the interest which can be difficult. Short mat bowls is a popular addition to the sport.
- The English Bowls Association in its Whole Sport Plan sets out that over the next four years, it will target those over 55 and disabled participants aged 16+. The BDA will deliver a range of products through the Hot Spots and the packages under the 'Play Bowls' brand to attract more people into the sport, including roadshows, play bowls days and other Specialist Health, Age, Business and Community Projects as appropriate.

Netball

- Most netball takes place at dual use school facilities.
- Clubs come together for competition at central locations e.g. Devizes and Salisbury. This seems to work well for Wiltshire.
- All the clubs who responded to the survey noted that their playing membership has increased over the past 3 years - demand is growing.
- WASP suggest that overall there are not enough netball facilities available to meet current and anticipated growing demand.
- As regards quality, many outdoors courts need improving; indoors courts are generally acceptable.
- The lack of outdoor facilities with floodlights is a major issue. WASP indicate that there are no outdoor netball venues in Wiltshire that are floodlit.

Other (non-pitch) outdoor sports/activities

- Golf: there are a large number and good geographical spread of golf clubs across Wiltshire. Following a recent decline in trends around club membership few clubs are full resulting in available capacity and more flexible membership packages being offered at existing clubs.
- Lacrosse: limited number of clubs within the county with a few in their infancy stages. Facilities required include grass or artificial/synthetic pitch. Season being Sept/Oct-Easter this means that for evening training and developing a competitive team the use of floodlights is required. Limited pitch time with floodlights available across the county in certain areas.
- Sailing: very few sailing facilities within Wiltshire resulting in few clubs. Those in existence are based around lakes in Westbury and Cotswold Water. Other lakes are available and have large clubs outside the county in Dorset/Hampshire and Swindon/Gloucestershire. Travelling required by most people involved/interest in sailing. Facility redevelopment in Westbury due to fire.
- Softball: little/no softball that takes place within Wiltshire known about - Some corporate activity in Swindon. Able to use existing sports club facilities if demand requires.
- Equestrian: overall there appears to be a good supply of equestrian facilities available, of good quality; and reasonable access (as far as we're aware).
- Cycling: there is a shortage of facilities for cycling across Wiltshire.

5. PARKS, GREEN SPACES, COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY

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

5.1 Stakeholder Views

5.1.1 Natural England (Charles Routh)

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

- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- statutory Local Nature Reserves at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population

Natural England suggest that these standards should be a target to achieve; and particularly that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home.

Charles also highlighted that:

- The Angst standard is good for mapping open spaces and highlighting deficits
- It is sometimes difficult to translate this into recommendations of specific actions to remedy a deficit.
- Angst is very useful in relation to calculating CIL contributions

- Works well in urban context
- However, Angst does not really cover the importance of providing linear “green corridor” routes for ROW etc. - which can be just as valuable as ha of open space.

Natural England sites in Wiltshire

- Natural England manage a number of sites themselves e.g. National Nature reserves (about 7/8 in Wiltshire). All of these have a management plan whose implementation could be usefully advanced though CIL funding.

Key issues and observations

- Countryside and open spaces are hugely beneficial to health and wellbeing. Often this value is not fully recognised.
- Provision and the maintenance of natural green space is relatively cheap compared to many forms of sport and leisure activity. It is also free to take part - and walking is a very popular form of "active recreation".
- Involvement in developing and looking after natural green spaces and rights of way has proven to be an excellent means of community engagement and empowerment. Voluntary involvement is widespread in Wiltshire and can be very effective in ensuring sites are well maintained.
- Natural green space provision and access through ROW is therefore a very "cost-effective" type of recreation infrastructure.
- Standards are just the starting point for provision - each site needs to reflect its own character and the needs of users
- Suggestion that the audit/mapping of open spaces via GIS be adapted to become an interactive public domain data set that is easy to update/correct/comment upon. This would be extremely valuable.
- In this respect it would need to be a user-friendly “live” responsive web site and data set. It should also include a deficit map for the various typologies/kinds of open space so that all can see areas that would benefit from development.
- The County Wildlife Sites Project managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (?) is an interesting example of a mapping project and provides useful detail that is updated on a planned basis.
- This study will provide useful detail in mapping sites, identifying broad community needs and specific aspirations, and identifying deficiencies. It is important to move on from this to produce detailed local action plans aimed at improving provision and access to it.
- This is an aspect where the Area Board system could be useful. If each Area Board is provided with maps showing both existing provision and areas of deficiency local people can help to identify specific projects that could address such deficiencies.
- Example of provision through s106 - Salisbury - Hampton Park - 500 homes - 50 ha green space provided as part of the development.
- In developments it is important to provide good links to the existing rights of way network - particularly if this can provide easy access to the wider countryside.
- Creating paths and rights of way can also be valuable in terms of access to community facilities that would otherwise require car journeys.

- Perhaps some CIL funds could contribute to the creation of new rights of way that would help link developments to the countryside e.g. through approaching relevant landowners and securing agreements for ROW (with some kind of compensatory arrangements).
- Access to water - there are lots of inaccessible water courses in Wiltshire and helping gain greater access would be appreciated by many. E.g. In the Salisbury Central Car Park development specific efforts have been made to encourage easier access.
- Biodiversity - there is room for improvement re encouraging biodiversity on public open space sites by introducing more varied management regimes e.g. identifying areas of open space currently close mowed that could be managed more sympathetically to encourage wildlife and biodiversity.

Barriers to use

- Very often people don't know about areas of accessible natural green space or how to get to them. There is a need for more "education" through signposting and easily accessible information and interpretation. In new developments residents could be provided with a "welcome pack" highlighting access to natural green space
- Similarly many people do not know about the locations of rights of way and which areas of countryside can be accessed by the rights of way. Or they don't know where rights of way lead to - or whether they can be part of a circular walk etc. Need for more information, signing and interpretation.

5.1.2 Environment Agency (Amy Wilson)

Overview

In Wiltshire the Environment Agency is directly responsible for the management of some rivers for flood defence purposes, river restoration and enhancement projects which are happening on the Hampshire Avon (not all in public open spaces); also invasive species control (source to sea project on the Hampshire Avon).

We recognise the value of green space associated with rivers, water courses etc. These areas deliver multi-functional benefits in the management of the risks of flooding providing wetland habitats and corridors for wildlife and offering a recreation resource, in many places bringing the countryside and nature into the heart of towns.

Green spaces also have important benefits for biodiversity, allowing a greater percentage of habitat available to support a wide range of plant and animal species. Good quality functional green spaces can help to increase and maintain water quality (whether this is in local rivers or amenity ponds etc.), and links directly to increased biodiversity.

There is always room for improvement to our open spaces whether its for wildlife or people. Open spaces are really important for people and their well being and with the increasing population and demand for housing we need to ensure that there are enough available for people to use.

Open Space Provision

We would support an Open Spaces Strategy which seeks to increase the number of open spaces in the area, as well as improving existing green spaces. Ensuring that green corridors are

formed to connect open spaces is beneficial to improving biodiversity, because this allows wildlife to move more easily.

The wider environmental benefits of green spaces also need to be highlighted so that communities have a greater understanding of their role in:

- Maintaining high levels of biodiversity;
- Providing corridors to encourage movement of wildlife; and
- Reducing flood risk

Open spaces will also have an important role in adapting to the impacts of climate change. Existing and new open spaces can be adapted to help deal with heavier rainfall events. Open spaces can normally easily be designed as temporary storage or conveyance routes. This will help reduce local flood risk and damage to property.

Parks and Recreation Grounds

We consider that careful management such as encouraging native species, removing invasive non native species and monitoring water quality of ponds etc would help to improve the health of local wildlife. Ensuring that parkland and open spaces are well drained would help reduce flood risk by allowing water to absorb more quickly. More interactive information and signage would help people become more involved and increase both public ownership and understanding of the importance of open spaces.

5.1.3 The National Trust (Mark Funnell - Planning Adviser)

The National Trust's 'Wiltshire Landscape' portfolio includes land at: Stonehenge Landscape, Avebury Stone Circle, Windmill Hill, Calstone & Cherhill Downs, Cley Hill, Coombes (Hinton Parva), Dinton Park, Figsbury Rings, Pepperbox & Grimstead Down, Sutton Lane Meadows, White Barrow, Lockeridge Dene, Piggledene and elsewhere.

Some of the current objectives at Wiltshire Landscape are:

- Promoting visitor enjoyment, including a diverse programmes of events;
- Developing and promoting conservation across the portfolio;
- Improving condition monitoring in both halves of the World Heritage Site;
- Developing Outreach plans for Stonehenge Landscape;
- Creating new volunteering opportunities (especially in outdoors)

In addition, the Trust (nationally and in the South West) has an Outdoors and Nature (O&N) programme, including a major strategic priority of Land, Outdoors and Nature. This involves ensuring the Trust's land performs better for nature and for all the natural benefits it can provide to people; and working beyond our boundaries, both with partners on landscape scale land management and through engagement with the public on and off our properties, to create a richer and more resilient natural environment and to connect people more effectively to it.

We also aim to provide and improve various other basic facilities on sites that improve visitor enjoyment and understanding e.g. seating, waste (particularly dog waste) bins with regular collections; and appropriate interpretation.

Footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths and rights of way: we plan to undertake access improvements to and on our sites, especially linking sites to other sites and to residential areas.

The importance of biodiversity - multi-functional open spaces: all Trust sites are of high nature conservation, archaeological or landscape value, sometimes all three. Balancing access and conservation is paramount to all we do.

5.1.4 Wiltshire Council Environment Services (Mary Noyce - Technical Officer - Amenity/Open Spaces/Play).

Environment Services have an interest in all kinds of Open Space and Amenity Land including allotments and churchyards. The role ranges from developing general policy and practice through to the detail of drawing up specific S106 agreements. The team has an interest in all land relating to development regardless of whether Wilts Council adopts or not. This includes issues around adoptions and management. The team deals with the detail of the Community Asset Transfer of Council open space sites and facilities to local councils and community organisations.

It is the only team in Wiltshire Council interested in the whole process rather than just the parts Council adopts etc and in more detail than the Strategic Planners etc.

The surveying details provided to date (to Ethos) gives the most up-to-date information the team has.

Observations and Key Issues

- The integrated full and up to date audit and GIS mapping of open spaces provided through the study will be extremely valuable to the Environment Service team as will the associated software to enable updating, interpretation, modelling etc.
- Currently there are different sets of standards for different areas relating to the old District Council areas. Need for one set of standards to ensure consistency across Wiltshire.
- Similarly there are a various District based strategies and policies adopted . This means no consistency across the County and most strategies are out of date and/or incomplete
- The open spaces study and playing pitch study will provide up to date and consistent policy and strategy.
- There is a need for consistent supplementary planning documents to guide the design and quality of open space provision (eg the most up-to-date is WWDC but it is incomplete as the SPG to deal with small sites was never produced).
- Current practice is, where possible, to transfer ownership and management of Wilts Council owned "local" facilities and spaces such as play spaces, local parks, playing pitches from the Council to local parishes, towns, trusts etc. Similarly for new spaces and facilities arising from development. This is not adopted policy though.
- Developers are mostly complying with Local Plan policies (but existing policies do limit provision - e.g. allotments in the North).
- Essentially the open space study needs to provide a defensible evidence base; and realistic and achievable standards to ensure adequate S106 and CIL contributions are secured from developers.

Good Practice

- Good partnership work with the Salisbury Community Area Partnership which has enabled local communities to help with mapping sites, identifying potential options for development etc. This research will also help local town and parish councils. In time this should lead to open space improvements that meet priority local needs.
- Completion of the GI strategy was a significant achievement

CIL and S106 - opportunities and concerns

- Potential to use CIL to fund major GI projects particularly in areas with little development as these would not have had adequate S106 funds for these projects - strategically helpful.
- More flexibility for what the Parishes can spend their portion of CIL on e.g. changing rooms
- GI projects will be competing with other infrastructure projects such as roads and schools - could lose out to these depending on priorities.
- S106 will still have a valuable role re on site requirements for open space infrastructure
- Potential reduction of money going to the Parishes
- Important to ensure developer contributions provide ongoing maintenance funds and that management arrangements are sustainable e.g. transfer to town, parish and trusts.

Other points

- Environment Service team have put forward potential projects (Area by Area) via the CIL implementation Plan (Wiltshire Council sites only).

5.1.5 Wiltshire Council Countryside Services

a) Countryside Services - Ranger Perspective (Leo Wirtz)

- Wiltshire Council Countryside Service manages over 30 countryside sites of various sizes and functions from small "viewing areas" to large country parks like Southwick (156 acres). All except two sites are freely accessible to the public (the two not being so due to health and safety factors - though arrangements can be made to visit with rangers).
- Physical access to the sites is generally quite good.
- Very broadly speaking the Council's sites tend to be located in the south and west of the county and there are few in the north (but many countryside sites in the county are managed by other agencies and organisations).
- Strategically the Council's Countryside sites and service development are covered by the *Countryside Access Development Plan*.
- Volunteer and community involvement/engagement is encouraged at countryside sites and this has proven to be very successful both in terms of sites being well looked after; and in relation to the benefits for volunteers in terms of health and wellbeing.
- The Countryside Service has also worked with the Youth Development Team to engage young people (NEATs) in volunteer work and the young people involved have proven to be very committed to the work. They have learnt a lot of work skills through such volunteering as well as developing more self-confidence.

- Research has shown that providing opportunities for access to the countryside - walking, running, cycling etc. has clear health and wellbeing benefits and hence can result in cost savings to the NHS through preventative action.
- The Countryside Service also work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on projects like the Wellbeing Programme. This works in partnership with the NHS and Public Health to support people with mental health issues through outdoor activities such as wild food walks, art in nature sessions, meadow clearance, tree felling, fence building and wood crafts.
- Parkrun (Southwick Country park) run - a free weekly 5km event for runners of all standard. Good example of active community recreation for all kinds of people and all ages.
- The sites also provide excellent opportunities for children's "natural" play in a countryside environment. Often children value this more than play in the confines of a formal play area.
- The aim is for each site to have an individual management plan worked up with active community engagement though this is a long-term process. Some sites do have plans eg. Southwick CP and some are currently planned e.g. Biss Meadows CP.
- Some sites have been transferred to local groups via Community Asset Transfer e.g. Oakfrith Wood' which is managed by 'The Friends of Oakfrith Wood', a group representing the Council, Urchfont Manor College and the local community.
- There is potential for additional natural green space areas to be provided through the planning process - S106 and CIL - but in such instances it is important to secure ongoing commuted sums to enable future management and maintenance. Long term management roles and arrangements are also needed e.g. transfer to town or parish council, local trust etc.
- S106 is generally good for relatively small on-site areas of open space that can be valuable for natural green space, managed for biodiversity etc. as well as recreation.
- Countryside Services have also contributed potential proposals for the CIL implementation plan. CIL could also usefully contribute to ongoing site management and volunteer support re site maintenance.

b) Strategic Countryside sites (Richard Broadhead - Rights of Way and Countryside Manager).

Cotswold Water Park

- Managed by Cotswold Water Park Trust - aim is to improve public access and to make the park a better environment for wildlife and people. Objectives include widening biodiversity, public education and leisure.
- The trust manages the Gateway Centre, five nature reserves, car parks and footpaths. It works with mineral companies, councils, leisure providers, local businesses and local communities.
- Over recent years local authority funding for the trust has declined and there is more emphasis on the Trust becoming more self-funded and sustainable.
- Gravel extraction is still developing and with it further potential for developer contributions from CIL, S106 etc. Very little potential for residential development in the villages.

- Priorities for the use of funding via developer contributions are improvements to existing footpaths, bridleways etc. and for creating new links in the network. Currently the network is very fragmented making it difficult to create circular routes. There is also a need for funds for ongoing maintenance.

Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs)

- Three AONBs fall partly within Wiltshire - the Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs; the North Wessex Downs; and the Cotswolds. Approximately 44% of Wiltshire Council's area is designated as AONB.
- The work of the AONBs is directed by partnerships of organisations (statutory Conservation Board for the Cotswolds), which include relevant local authorities and other key organisations and individuals.
- Because of the large areas of Wiltshire covered by the Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs and North Wessex Downs AONBs, Wiltshire Council formally hosts these projects and employs the respective AONB teams. The Council also supports all three AONBs with financial contributions and technical assistance.
- The AONBs are managed to maintain a balance between conservation/biodiversity and recreation. Aims also include the development of economic and sustainable tourism.
- A key priority for the future is to engage more with the wider community including local councils, community organisations and volunteers.
- As regards CIL and S106 the priorities across all three are similar - improving the standards of what exists, developing new links re fragmented network and to create circular routes, publicity and promotion of the network and ongoing maintenance contributions.
- The Public Health benefits of countryside recreation and the rights of way network should help to ensure allocations are received through CIL (possibly through contributions to Public Health being "diverted" to countryside recreation infrastructure).
- More widely there is a need to improve signage and on-site interpretation.

Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area (NIA)

- The Marlborough Downs NIA is part of a government initiative to improve nature conservation in the countryside.
- Of the 12 pilot NIAs created in 2012, this is the only one that is led by a group of farmers. It is a model that could be replicated and has very strong community engagement.
- The initiative aims to manage the landscape in a way that benefits biodiversity and encourages people to visit and enjoy the countryside. There is an ongoing community events programme.
- Provision for disabled - good example - a new horse-drawn driving route across the Marlborough Downs on behalf of the Kennet Valley Carriage Driving Group (KVCDG) Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA).

Other

- New Forest - about 3% of the New Forest national park falls within Wiltshire. The authority have provided funds to the Council recently to improve rights of way.

c) Canals and Water Recreation (Ken Oliver)

Overview

Wiltshire Council directly financially supports The Kennet & Avon Canal managed by the Canal & River Trust. This is a fully restored and operational canal where the towpath is used extensively by walkers and cyclists and the canal corridor is a linear wildlife area. Reports of relevance include:

- Economic & Social Impact 2006 Ecotec
- Conservation Management Plan

The Council are also partners in two restoration schemes: Cotswold Canals and the Wiltshire & Berkshire Canal. Both will add additional towpath and biodiversity opportunities when fully restored. A short term aim for both schemes are to open the towpath as soon as possible. There are a number (mostly technical) reports about these projects.

We are also partners in the Cricklade Country Way. There are also many reports about this project including a GI Strategy

Also supplied were:

- A map of current Wiltshire & Berkshire restoration projects and their status.
- Strategy report for the Canal Partnership - 2011 issue (currently under review)

Plans and aspirations

a) Short term

Wilts & Berks Canal

- Melksham Link; Final stages of planning application Environment Statement complete in September - consent expected early 2015 - programme provided.
- Towpath Challenge- continuing aim to extend currently accessible towpath- a number of negotiations under way.
- Studley Grange Royal Wootton Bassett - approx 1km of canal and towpath-planning consent obtained- work out to tender.
- Marlborough Road Royal Wootton Bassett - extension of the canal at former depot site- planning consent obtained - initial works schedule under discussion with Wiltshire Council property services .
- Pewsham Locks - restoration of locks and heritage assets- planning consent imminent (partial consent obtained for part of site)

Kennet & Avon Canal - various works (programme available)

b) Longer - term

Projects currently highlighted in development plans for implementation: Plans for the remainder of canals (both W&B and Thames & Severn) are set within the Core Strategy timeframe - IDP schedules along with aspirational timeframes (supplied).

c) High Priority Projects: The Melksham Link - included the SWLEP Strategic Economic Plan (this project is a standalone in the Core Strategy)

Funding is still to be secured for many of the proposals. They tend to be tackled project by project although a further programme of work is under way at present to MasterPlan the whole programme. We have always seen CIL as part of the funding matrix for the whole scheme set against policy background of the Core Strategy and Green Infrastructure. An "in principle" CIL funding stream could help secure other funding.

5.1.6 Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (Stephen Davis Head of Conservation Policy)

A comprehensive amount of data is already held on the distribution of important wildlife areas (SSSIs, SACs, SPAs CWS, Local Nature Reserves). This data includes the distribution of priority habitats and species that occur in Wiltshire (based on UK determined priorities). Please see also the explanatory note relating to the Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 for information relating to the purpose of the England biodiversity list and the relation that this has to the Biodiversity Duty (NERC Act 2006 Section 40) and the obligations this places on Local Authorities to conserve biodiversity during the exercise of their functions.

For Wiltshire this data is held in a number of places but the most comprehensive, accurate and up to date set of data including, nature reserves, designated sites, county wildlife sites, priority habitats and species is held by the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Record Centre, based here at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Data is provided to Wiltshire Council under the terms of an agreed SLA on a 6 monthly basis. While this data is supplied to Wiltshire Council the staff resource to interpret and analyse the data, and produce contextual outputs, such as maps, exists with the staff of the Record Centre and also the County Wildlife Sites Officer, based here at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

This comprehensive data set is essential information and constitutes the biodiversity evidence base against which future sustainable development decisions will be made. It is very important that this information is used to inform future decision making through the planning system, for example in response to planning and development control decisions that will be taken in response to the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

We can see that the study represents a significant opportunity to fulfil the requirements of the NPPF when considering future strategic development in Wiltshire. For example the NPPF states that:

NPPF para 114. Local planning authorities should:

- set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure;

and NPPF para 117. To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:

- plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;
- identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;
- promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to

national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;

In fulfilment of the NPPF therefore we think that it is important to map the components of local ecological networks, particularly in relation to the proposed strategic sites included within the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

This should be allied to the data held on the distribution of priority species which would benefit from these ecological networks. Local ecological networks are a fundamental component of Green Infrastructure, and should be planned for as an essential component of sustainable development.

The development of biodiverse rich habitats within Green Infrastructure should be planned for within the development templates of strategic sites, and on a smaller scale within neighbourhood plans.

We would be interested in exploring with the Council the development of a biodiversity standard for future Green Infrastructure in Wiltshire. This would include minimum standards for the provision of, site appropriate habitats in support of sustainable development. This should also include the ability of residents to be able to access the natural environment. See national guidance on GI.

The importance of biodiversity - multi-functional open spaces

Conserving, and restoring Biodiversity is of fundamental importance. Ensuring a very strong biodiversity element to future multi-functional open spaces, delivered through the provision of comprehensive green-infrastructure will play a very important role. The conservation and restoration of biodiversity is clearly allied very strongly to maintenance of wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands (considered above).

We would like to work with the Council towards developing a Green infrastructure standard (based on national guidelines) alongside a biodiversity standard which supports the provision of priority habitats and species. Provision of biodiversity rich habitats should be appropriate to the local context set for example by the underlying geology, topography, climate, and proximity to known high quality wildlife sites, emphasising their contribution to the maintenance of local ecological networks.

Development pressure (for housing and employment) in Wiltshire in the next 15 years is very high. We need to work together to genuinely deliver an overall net biodiversity gain as a component of sustainable development (NPPF). In order to underpin decision making for now and for the future we believe that further investment is required to support site survey and also species survey.

We also believe that an assessment of GI and biodiversity needs to be viewed in the light of for example the National Biodiversity Climate Change Impacts Vulnerability model.

We need a County wide strategy for the restoration of Biodiversity through investment in GI to support and restore priority habitats and species (as a component of sustainable development). Example species would include, dormice, water voles, bats, as well as priority habitats. A comprehensive list of priority habitats and species can be made available.

We need an integrated strategy developed for the restoration of biodiversity, not simply picking off site specific needs in response to individual planning applications. This strategy should be

developed based on the known, (and potential future) distribution of priority habitats and species.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre staff would be happy to discuss and examine together how to achieve the objectives outlined above.

5.1.7 The Woodland Trust: Justin Milward (Regional and Local Government Officer)

The Woodland Trust owns over 10 woods in Wiltshire, which are managed for people and wildlife, with free public access. The larger sites, particularly with more people engagement, such as Picket & Clanger near Westbury, are subject to ongoing enhancement works when available.

Key Issues and observations

Woodland as a key component of public open space.

Trees and woods can deliver a wide range of benefits for local communities, in both a rural and urban setting, and this is strongly supported by current national planning policy. The Woodland Trust believes that woodland creation is especially important because of the unique ability of woodland to deliver across a wide range of benefits - see our publication *Woodland Creation - why it matters*.

There are benefits for both landscape and biodiversity (helping habitats become more robust to adapt to climate change, buffering and extending fragmented ancient woodland), for quality of life and climate change (amenity & recreation, public health, flood amelioration, urban cooling) and for the local economy (timber and woodfuel markets).

We also consider that the Council has a statutory duty to protect trees and promote tree planting in an Open Space Study. Section 197 of the Planning Act (1990) states:

197. Planning permission to include appropriate provision for preservation and planting of trees.

‘It shall be the duty of the local planning authority - to ensure, whenever it is appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development adequate provision is made, by the imposition of conditions, for the preservation or planting of trees’.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also supports the need for more habitat creation by stating that: ‘Local planning authorities should: set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure’, (DCLG, March 2012, para 114). Also para 117 states that: ‘To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:....promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan’.

The new England Biodiversity Strategy which makes it clear that expansion of priority habitats like native woodland remains a key aim - ‘Priority action: Bring a greater proportion of our existing woodlands into sustainable management and expand the area of woodland in England’, (Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystems services, DEFRA 2011, p.26).

A reading of these two policies in the National Planning Policy Framework together with the England Biodiversity Strategy indicates that habitat expansion, like native woodland creation, should form a high priority for this new Plan.

Woodland creation also forms a significant element of the Government Forestry Policy Statement (Defra Jan 2013): 'We believe that there is scope for increasing England's woodland cover significantly to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits. We want to see significantly more woodland in England. We believe that in many, although not all, landscapes more trees will deliver increased environmental, social and economic benefits. We particularly want to see more trees and woodlands in and around our towns and cities and where they can safeguard clean water, help manage flood risk or improve biodiversity'.

We would therefore like to see the Wiltshire Open Space Study recognise the role that woodlands provide for community open space and support more woodland creation to enhance this provision.

Accessible Woodland

The Woodland Trust supports the view that proximity and access to woodland is an important contributor to the success of public open space provision. As just one example, and as highlighted in Government policy by the Public Health White Paper (Healthy Lives, Healthy People; Nov 2010), there are currently tremendous opportunities for native woodland to contribute positively towards delivering improved mental and physical health. Research shows that woodland can provide benefits for air quality, urban heat island cooling, physical exercise provision and relief from mental illness.

The White Paper states that: "Access to green spaces is associated with better mental and physical health across socioeconomic groups." and that "Defra will lead a national campaign to increase tree planting throughout England, particularly in areas where tree cover would help to improve residents' quality of life and reduce the negative effects of deprivation, including health inequalities."

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

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

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

Measured against this standard, the figures for Wiltshire Council show that only 9.3% of the population have access to an accessible woodland within walking distance compared to 14.5% in the South West as a whole and 16.8% across all England. This indicates a deficit of accessible wooded open space in Wiltshire.

Further GIS detail of the Space for People data is available on request - summary data is provided.

5.1.9 Canal and River Trust (Jane Hennell- Area Planner)

The Canal & River Trust own and maintain the Kennet & von Canal as it passes through Wiltshire.

The canal is a highly valued, and much used multi- functional recreational asset, not only being used for water activities such as boating, canoeing and angling but also as a destination for recreational walking and cycling, wildlife and bird watching. Sections of the towpath form part of Sustrans route NCR4 and are wide, well surfaced and fit for purpose as a multi use surface.

Other areas are narrow, and poorly surfaced making them less accessible. Our aim, working with other stakeholders and partners is to improve the towpath and links to it to ensure it is as accessible to as many users as possible.

We regularly seek contributions from new development where it can be seen that increased usage will result from the development. We welcomed policies in the Local plan to ensure that new development does not worsen existing green infrastructure assets but instead improves them.

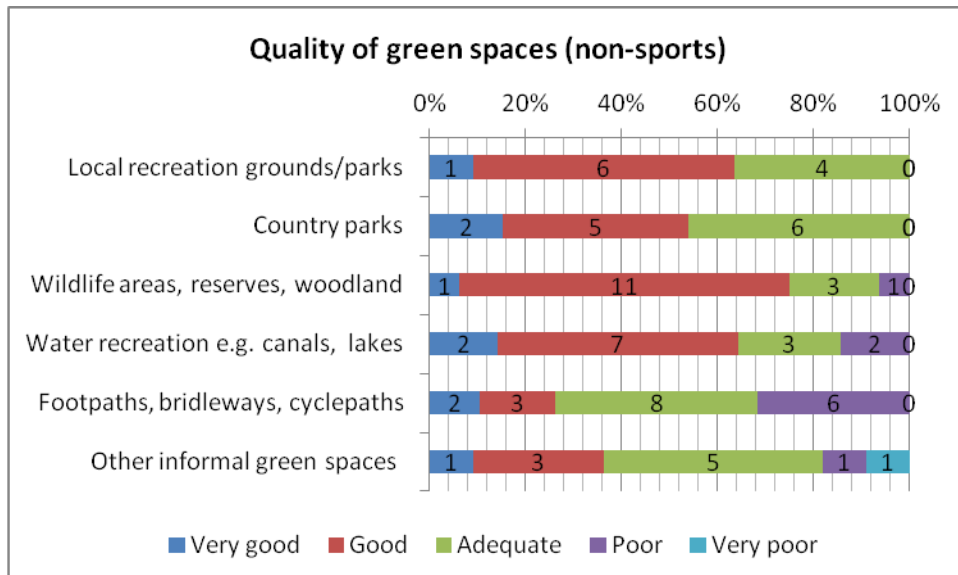
The Canal & River Trust recognises that some areas need more urgent work than others and we include these planned improvements in our budget. Reactive works are also sometimes necessary. We can provide map based information to the Council if required relating to location, standard etc. and would welcome the chance to discuss this further.

5.2 Community Organisations Survey (non-sports)

5.2.1 Overall view of the quality of (non sports) green spaces and facilities

We also set up an online survey for local organisations with an interest in green spaces (non-sporting). We received responses from 23 local groups with varied interests including rambling, horse riding, cycling, water recreation, "friends of" parks, and conservation volunteers.

The general views of these local community organisations as regards the overall quality of the different types of (non-sporting) green spaces in Wiltshire are summarised in the chart below:



From this it can be seen that:

- Around 75% of groups were happy with the overall quality of wildlife areas, nature reserves and accessible woodlands (rating them as good or very good).
- Over 60% were happy with the overall quality of local parks and recreation grounds; and areas for water recreation.
- Over 50% of groups also rated the quality of country parks as good or very good.
- Aspects where quality was not rated so highly were footpaths, bridleways, and cyclepaths where over 70% thought they were at best "adequate"; and "other" areas of informal open space e.g. for walking dogs, picnics, informal games and play etc. which were rated similarly by about 64% of groups.

More detailed responses in relation to different aspects of provision can be found in the associated excel spreadsheet (see appendices).

5.2.2 Parks and outdoor recreation sites

Examples of comments from community organisations as regards parks and outdoor recreation sites/facilities are summarised below:

Parks and Country Parks

- There seem to be enough local parks overall
- Local parks in general are well managed
- Parish councils generally need more volunteers to help look after local parks and recreation grounds
- There are not enough Country Parks in that there is never enough space like this! Popular ones tend to get over used and therefore abused.
- There are a good number of Country Parks in Wiltshire, with access for horse riders. These are usually well maintained and signposted.
- In some Country Parks you could make better use of space available e.g. weather proof areas and paths
- In general the Country Parks are well managed and accessible
- There are ever increasing demands on diminishing local authority funds. The Council relies ever more on competent community groups who are able to draw down external funding.

Wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands

- Plenty around Wiltshire but mostly in rural locations.
- Our local reserve, Highclere Down, seems poorly managed by WWT
- More volunteers are always needed for management of local Wiltshire Wildlife and Woodland Trust reserves; and for parish council managed sites.
- There are enough sites like this and generally they are very well looked after
- Financial restrictions sometimes prevent wider advertising and the notice board at the front of Southwick Country Park showing forthcoming events and information is in a bad state of repair and needs replacing.
- 44% of Wiltshire lies within nationally designated AONBs. The Council should continue to support AONBs, Wildlife Trusts etc and provide new funding to improve and expand the level of access, education and interpretation of the countryside.
- Wiltshire is a very rural county so there are lot of such sites.

Water Recreation

- Footpaths along the rivers can be vulnerable during times of high water levels, to erosion flooding. Special consideration is needed to the maintenance of river banks and paths along them. Canals in our area are very attractive in our area. They improve the enjoyment of the countryside for the public and should be supported.
- Plenty of this type of environment - however more are beneficial to all.
- Could be more towpath access be opened up for horse riders?
- The stretch of the River Avon used for sailing is kept clear to some extent by Bradford on Avon Sailing Club to ensure overhanging shrubs do not impede sails. Also planting of trees close to the bank would block the wind, and is discouraged. Access to the river is very limited from Trowbridge to Bradford town bridge. Many canoeists have to ask for access through the club's track
- Towpaths need better control especially in winter. Also for dog fouling.
- There is restricted access to our local river Nadder due to some banks being owned or leased by local angling/fishing clubs and some land owners barring access. Fonthill Lake has a public footpath one side but no boating is allowed and only coarse fishing.
- Some sections of the Kennet and Avon canal towpath get very muddy in winter and there can be conflict between walkers and cyclists on narrow sections. Surface improvements would help but this should not be tarmac.
- There is a massive opportunity to improve and restore the Thames and Severn Canal in the north of the county. There is also a need to allocate space for canal reservoirs.

Sport and recreation in 'sensitive areas

- Noisy activities, particularly the riding of 4x4 vehicles and motor bikes, which also destroy the landscape are always trying to find additional areas where they can practice their sports. Such activities do damage the countryside and they need controlling.
- Sport needs to live alongside wildlife. The more active people are hopefully the more interest they will take in their environment.
- We know some activities are noisy, but distribution of these activities should be widespread, not just in areas with no designation. Even AONBs should not have a right to be able to exclude everything. Noisy activities however must be well managed, so as to cause the least possible disturbance re. frequency or noise level when being undertaken.
- If kept to an area and managed properly sport will do little or no damage. It is illegal sport that is the problem! e.g. poaching and hare coursing. I fear for Salisbury Plain now it is not going to be policed by the MOD, and have been told by our rural police officer that they do not have enough man-power to manage the area.
- AONBs are designated "sensitive areas" under EIA legislation and one of their key special qualities is their quiet undisturbed character. Therefore Wiltshire AONBs are already protected by law from noisy activities.

5.3 Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS) 2013 (DRAFT)

The Wiltshire GIS is not yet formally adopted and has many links with the open spaces study. The evidence, tools and outcomes provided through the open spaces study will help support the delivery of the strategy.

The overarching aim of the (draft) strategy is:

To identify, enhance and protect Wiltshire's green infrastructure for the benefit of Wiltshire's economy, communities, wildlife and landscapes.

The (draft) strategy proposes that this aim should be achieved through the following objectives.

- Awareness raising amongst communities, town and parish councils, planning authorities, developers and partner organisations about green infrastructure and the multiple benefits that high quality green infrastructure provides.
- Providing a framework for communities to assess and identify local green infrastructure priorities, supporting the inclusion of green infrastructure considerations in local neighbourhood plans.
- Providing developers and Wiltshire Council planning officers with guidance and support regarding green infrastructure standards in new developments in Wiltshire; including the

requirement to complete a standardised green infrastructure audit as part of the planning application process for major developments⁶.

- Identifying opportunities for partnership working to improve and enhance green infrastructure in Wiltshire.
- Developing an action plan for the delivery of strategic green infrastructure projects across Wiltshire.

Wiltshire's Green Infrastructure Vision 2026 (draft)

Working in partnership with communities and partner organisations Wiltshire Council will identify, enhance and protect a planned and managed network of high quality and highly valued multifunctional green infrastructure that contributes to making Wiltshire a great place to live, work, invest and visit by:

- promoting healthy lifestyles, through exercise, leisure, play and relaxation
- providing attractive and inspirational environments in which Wiltshire's communities can thrive and businesses are attracted to invest
- helping to make development and growth in Wiltshire sustainable with a strong emphasis on place shaping
- empowering communities to engage in decisions on local green infrastructure and take ownership of individual assets
- helping Wiltshire adapt to unavoidable climate change by providing shading and carbon capture, making Wiltshire's natural environment more resilient and assisting with flood alleviation
- reducing Wiltshire's greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging walking and cycling
- connecting Wiltshire's communities to nature, outstanding countryside and cultural heritage through the creation of green access corridors and high quality urban green space
- restoring and enriching Wiltshire's distinctive wildlife, natural environment and landscape character through improving and expanding existing assets, linking fragmented habitats, and providing migration routes for wildlife.

Key Themes (draft)

Five themes have been developed based on the evidence presented below and ***consultation with relevant stakeholders***⁷ through which potential issues are have been identified and solutions prioritised.

Theme One: Improving public health and wellbeing

Wiltshire's communities benefit from easy and local access to a range of green infrastructure for recreation, relaxation and exercise.

Priorities

- Improve access to green infrastructure
- Improve awareness of health and wellbeing benefits of green infrastructure

⁶ Major development as referred to in the Town and Country Planning, England - Development Management Procedure No. 2184.

⁷ Our italics - reference to stakeholder consultation and engagement in development of themes and priorities

- Increase awareness and uptake of outdoor leisure programmes and targeted programmes to improve physical and mental health

Theme Two: Strong economic growth and development

Wiltshire's green infrastructure attracts tourists, residents and businesses to the county, providing an attractive place to live, visit and do business.

Priorities

- Gain economic competitive advantage through green infrastructure provision and access
- Enhance the tourism experience in Wiltshire through improved green infrastructure
- Support the delivery of sustainable development

Theme Three: Strong and resilient communities

Communities are encouraged to get involved in the management and protection of local green infrastructure and in some cases take ownership of local assets and manage them for the benefit of the whole community.

Priorities

- Improve community cohesion and interaction through green infrastructure
- Empower local communities to take ownership of local green infrastructure
- Improve opportunities to educate communities about green infrastructure and the multifunctional benefits of green space

Theme Four: Improving nature and the environment

Wiltshire's green infrastructure provides safe and protected habitats for local wildlife to flourish. Improved protection and management of sensitive sites and improved connectivity assists countywide wildlife movement.

Priorities

- Protect and connect Wiltshire's natural habitat areas
- Promote environmental stewardship initiatives and Nature Improvement Areas across Wiltshire
- Disperse recreational disturbance away from sensitive sites

Theme Five: Resilience to climate change

The benefits of green infrastructure in adapting to climate change, e.g. reducing flood risk to properties, moderating temperature, are key considerations for Wiltshire's future resilience.

Priorities

- Design SUDS as flood mitigation and green infrastructure enhancement
- Use green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt the impacts of climate change

The open spaces study will clearly provide many valuable outcomes and tools that can support progress in achieving many of the priorities identified with stakeholders over the 5 key themes.

5.4 Footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths

5.4.1 Wiltshire Council Countryside Access Improvement Plan (Michael Crook)

Introduction

Michael is responsible for the development and management of the Countryside Access Improvement Plan (previously known as the Rights of Way Improvement Plan - ROWIP). The Plan is a “high level” strategic framework to guide future development. Its action plan does not include detailed site-specific project proposals. However, Countryside have also supplied an extensive costed area based set of projects for the first CIL Implementation Development Plan. This has area by area priorities.

Michael is also involved with spatial planning issues regarding impact on ROW on proposed developments and potential improvements. This includes consideration of S106 and CIL issues.

Key Issues and observations

- Wiltshire has about 6000 km of rights of way (ROW)
- Compared to other counties Wiltshire has a high proportion of bridleways (see table at end of section).

- Wiltshire has a very high proportion of Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS) and sometimes these are misused by a small number of irresponsible “off roaders” who cause lots of damage that is difficult to repair. Due to the high number, Wiltshire attracts visits from drivers outside of the county.
- There are only a small number of cyclepaths e.g. canal towpaths and old railway paths. For example, Marlborough to Chiseldon and Chippenham to Calne (railway paths); and the Kennet and Avon canal.
- There are very few all ability routes suitable for wheelchair users and less able walkers.
- The quality and accessibility of paths and ROW is variable across the network.
- There are a number of on-road National Cycle Network routes in the County, also the Wiltshire Cycleway.
- There are lots of gaps in the network and “broken links” e.g. routes that come o a dead end. Bridleways turn to footpaths at parish boundaries etc.
- Coverage of ROW is very variable across the County. Some areas have an extensive network e.g. around Purton and in some areas the network is limited.
- There is a need to secure improved links from town to country in many of Wiltshire’s towns.
- It is important that there are good path linkages within new developments and making links outside.
- Planning applications - existing ROW need to be protected and should only be varied when doing so improves the network. On occasions diversions may be appropriate.
- The network can be improved through S106 arrangements e.g. improved surfacing, redesignations of status (e.g. changing a footpath to a pedestrian/cycle path), provision of gates, bridges and ROW “furniture”.
- There is a lot of volunteer involvement in looking after ROW including parish schemes. 50% grant aid is available to local groups for improvement works through the Paths Improvement Grant scheme. Southern Area Board co-ordinated an area wide project worth £16k of which £7k came from this fund for upgrading stiles to gates.
- There are opportunities to further develop volunteer support but training and organisation is needed. An ongoing volunteer organiser would be a sound investment (currently a p/t temporary volunteer co-ordinator is funded via public health). The Cotswold Wardens volunteer set up is a good model to aspire to and other models are available.
- Access to ROW and paths is important for public health as well as recreation. Investment in improving access to the countryside is also cost effective. Research suggests that for each £1 spent there is a saving of £7 to the NHS.
- The development of cyclepaths etc. is also good for biodiversity through the creation of “green corridors”.
- Larger residential developments should ensure that as well as internal links there are links to the wider network through decent quality green corridors. It seems that planners are now more successful in securing such provision and are aware of the benefits of so doing.
- Concern that while CIL may secure a bigger funding budget for infrastructure ROW and countryside could lose out in favour of “essential” works like roads, schools, GP surgeries

etc. as there is no “ring fencing” for categories of infrastructure. The value and benefits of ROW provision etc. is still not widely appreciated and understood.

- Many very local needs for ROW etc. are best suited to delivery through S106 arrangements which still need to be recognised as useful tools for providing local infrastructure where need is identified.
- There may be potential to secure funding for ROW developments through the Local Enterprise Partnership (as suggested by Sustrans).

Classification	Length (km)	% of network	national average %
Footpaths	3,578	59	78
Bridleways	1,569	26	17
Restricted Byways	205	3	3
Byways Open to All Traffic	695	11	2
Total	6,047	100	100

Table showing Wilts ROW in km and the proportion of different types of ROW in comparison to national average

5.4.2 Footpaths - Consultation responses

We received responses from 3 footpaths related organisations:

- West Wiltshire Ramblers group
- Ramblers - North-East Wiltshire Group
- Trowbridge Walking Forum

Barriers to Access

All of the groups reported facing any issues regarding access to the use of Wiltshire's footpath network as noted below:

- There is a continuous risk that footpaths will be lost to public access for a variety of reasons. They can become overgrown by vegetation, or blocked by landowners for agricultural or industrial reasons. We have to be constantly vigilant that there is no encroachment on the public footpath network except for the most valid reasons. Funding of the Rights of Way authorities at Wiltshire Council is continually being reduced making it harder and harder for them to carry out the maintenance that they are required to do under the relevant Statutory Regulations.
- Paths in the countryside are frequently overgrown or covered in crops, especially in summer, or have awkward or broken stiles making them difficult to use. Wiltshire Council rights of way team do not have enough staff or maintenance budget to deal with all the problems reported to them.
- Poor maintenance means paths are often not usable in winter.

Other issues and comments

- We have many attractive footpaths and bridleways in our area. There is an on-going need to ensure that all ancient rights-of-way are registered so that they can be maintained for posterity. There is a time limit beyond which no further rights of way may be registered.
- The adequacy of the network varies from place to place, but there is certainly need for improvement in some places e.g. at Aldbourne, where walkers using the path network on the downs between the village and the Ridgeway have to walk along the busy B4192 road.

- Too often walks are not possible because a section of them means walking on a busy, or narrow bendy road. Joining sections of footpath together by either making it possible to walk on the verge, or by making a footpath inside the adjacent field. For example, the footpath at Rowde.
- The riding of 4 x 4 vehicles and motor bikes, which also destroy the landscape are always trying to find additional areas where they can practice their sports. Such activities do damage the countryside and they need controlling.
- Footpaths along the rivers can be vulnerable during times of high water levels, to erosion flooding. Special consideration is needed to the maintenance of river banks and paths along them. Canals in our area are very attractive in our area. They improve the enjoyment of the countryside for the public and should be supported.
- Some sections of the Kennet & Avon canal towpath get very muddy in winter and there can be conflict between walkers and cyclists on narrow sections. Surface improvements would help but this should not be tarmac.
- Some public footpaths are badly overgrown and in many areas only there is only a volunteer group to try to keep local ones clear.
- Better signage would improve matters.
- The Thames & Severn Canal towpath between Eisey and Inglesham has been lost to private ownership. Reinstated, this could also replace a particularly bad non-river section of the Thames Path.

5.4.3 Cycling provision and bridleways

Wiltshire Council - Leisure Services

- Cycle Wiltshire - Next year this will include events over 2 separate weekends and as well as the elite race features high profile sportive events that are open to the public. Events of this nature, coupled with the prominence of cycling nationally in recent years is likely to see the sport grow further placing greater demand on an improved cycling network. Surveys have shown that more Cycle paths are required to and through our towns.
- The rural nature of county lends itself to Mountain biking but there are issues around rights of way and MOD owned land. Could a mountain bike facility be developed to target a new audience and potentially increase sports tourism to the county?

Sustrans (Alistair Millington - Area Manager - Wiltshire)

Sustrans is currently working on a number of projects in Wiltshire in partnership with Wiltshire Council and a range of other partners. The five projects with published studies area as follows:

- Swindon to Marlborough Railway Path: Ongoing maintenance, improvement and extension of multi-use greenway and county nature site.
- Bulford to Amesbury pedestrian and cycle route: Walking and cycling link between two rural communities. Currently at pre-planning stage.
- Malmesbury to Little Somerford Greenway : Walking and cycling route connecting rural communities. Planning application for first phase between Malmesbury and Cowbridge has recently been submitted.
- Royal Wootton Bassett to Windmill Hill pedestrian and cycling route: Commuter and leisure link currently at pre-planning stage.
- Wilton-Salisbury-Alderbury cycle route: Ongoing project to improve access along A36 corridor east and west of Salisbury.

In 2013 Sustrans completed a major scoping study into walking and cycling access within 7 towns and 6 villages as part of Wiltshire's Local Sustainable Transport Fund programme.

Sustrans' vision is a world in which people choose to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. We seek to achieve this through a range of projects including investing in high quality walking and cycling networks in rural and urban areas. Either directly or in partnership with other organisations Sustrans provides safe routes to everyday destinations and for leisure.

Several National Cycle Routes cross Wiltshire, offering leisure routes for local people and attracting tourists to the county.

Sustrans has published a range of design guidance. The recently published Handbook for Cycle Friendly Design is a concise guide to current standards and good practice for urban and rural routes cycle routes. Sustrans' Greenway Design Guide covers the design and delivery of traffic-free walking and cycling routes in greater detail. We can also provide various links to academic research into the benefits of walking and cycling routes.

Sustrans has been involved in the delivery and management of walking and cycling routes in Wiltshire for over 20 years. Two general observations need to be made on the current provision within the county.

1. Gaps: Significant gaps remain in the network of routes across the county. This is particularly the case around the urban areas where there is a lack of safe access to the countryside for leisure. Many rural communities are severed from the urban centres by busy roads. In West and North Wiltshire access between some urban areas is poor.

Within all the urban areas the road network and disconnected cycle routes make intra-urban journeys unattractive. This subject is covered in detail in the "Improving Wiltshire's Rail Offer" scoping report.

2. Quality: Where routes exist their quality is often sub-standard. Complaints from users are commonplace with many citing the poor condition of many cycle routes as the main reason why they do not use them for some journeys such as commuter trips.

Route condition has a disproportionate impact on disabled access to countryside. The county has few very rural routes suitable for disabled users.

We would like to draw Wiltshire Council's attention to the good practice guidance for disabled access contained within "By All Reasonable Means"

As well as the projects referred to above, Sustrans supports the ongoing improvement of Kennet & Avon Canal towpath, the Wilts & Berks Canal restoration and the improvement of the Chippenham to Calne Railway Path as important greenway projects for the county.

The following are specific issues the local residents have brought to the attention of Sustrans in the hope that solutions can be found.

- Salisbury - lack of safe access east and west of the city along the A36 corridor and around Churchfields Road.
- Trowbridge - town centre severed from residential areas by road network. Kennet & Avon Canal is the only safe route into the countryside. Kennet & Avon Canal towpath has suffered from under investment for many years and is unsuitable for wheelchairs on many sections.

- Chippenham - town centre severed from residential areas by road network. Closure of Lacock cycle route leaving the Chippenham to Calne path as the only route into the countryside. Chippenham to Calne path is unsuitable for wheelchairs due to its condition.
- Royal Wootton Bassett - lack of a safe route to Swindon.
- Marlborough - Poor condition of railway path limits its use for trips along the Og Valley and to Swindon. Lack of a safe route to Savernake Forest.
- Devizes - poor condition of the Kennet & Avon towpath within the town and onwards to Melksham and Trowbridge.
- Westbury and Warminster - lack of a safe route between the towns and onwards to Trowbridge.
- Amesbury - absence of any adequate pedestrian or cycle access over the A303 to Stonehenge. Need for improved links between Amesbury, Larkhill, Durrington and Bulford.

The importance of biodiversity - multi-functional open spaces

Sustrans recognises the importance of greenways in supporting landscape scale biodiversity. This is reflected in Sustrans' Biodiversity Action Plan.

Local Cycling Organisations

We also received responses from the Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury (COGS) and the Salisbury Cyclists Touring Club. Both of the groups reported that there were not enough cyclepaths in Wiltshire and that in general the quality of existing facilities is poor.

Barriers to access

- The lack of 'joined up' cycleways means that it is not possible for those cyclists who wish to avoid main roads and busy trafficked areas to use their bicycle for many journeys which they might wish to make in and around Salisbury.
- Overgrown bridleways. Walking bicycles along connecting footpaths is sometimes awkward. Bad drainage on paths. Poor signage. Lack of access points.

Other Issues and comments

- Cycling should be seen as a means of transport, and ideally the preferred means of transport, for local journeys. Therefore all possible opportunities should be taken to incorporate infrastructure which will be of benefit to cyclists into changes to the open spaces and access to them.
- Active access to open spaces should be a key aspiration, and one that will lead to benefits in public health as well as traffic/carbon reduction. Therefore not only should access for cyclists to and through open spaces be a priority, but also the provision of cycle parking for those who are using the bicycle as a means of transport to access open spaces and recreational provision.
- Make efforts to secure agreements with land owners to develop more permissive routes.

British Horse Society (BHS)

The BHS view is that in general there are not enough bridleways in Wiltshire to meet the needs of riders.

Barriers to Access

Comments regarded access problems were:

- Blocked bridleways and an extremely fragmented bridleway system mean that many of the routes open to horse riders are in reality unusable. If you have to ride down a busy road to access a bridleway, it is unsafe to do so and riders therefore cannot enjoy the facility. Some areas are better than others.
- Land owners may refuse to maintain access to bridleways and by ways.
- Need parking space for horse-boxes or vehicle and trailer
- Some routes need links to make circular or continuous or to avoid going along roads
- Need more money available for maintenance work and furniture eg horse gates

Other issues and comments

- We really need to consider linking bridleways together so that round routes are created that allow horse riders and cyclists to avoid the use of busy roads altogether. At the moment the bridleway and byway network, though better than many in other parts of the country, is poorly joined up and this causes the catch-22 situation that they are underused by horse riders leading to the impression that they are not needed. They are in fact vital in getting both horse riders and cyclists out into the countryside. South Wiltshire's bridleways are generally not well maintained, due to lack of finance and manpower in the council rather than lack of will.
- The signposting and maintenance of bridleways remains a concern for horse riders, as roads become busier.
- We need more bridleways. Is there the opportunity to upgrade suitable footpaths to improve the bridleway network? Perhaps all new/proposed rights of way could include provision for horse riders?
- Some bridleways are not well maintained and there have been increased reports of overgrown bridleways; but then reported cuts to Local Authority budgets are quoted. No financial provision to ensure clearance can be carried out?
- There could be more shared access, if careful consideration could be given to how this could be achieved. There are a growing number of equestrians, the safest way of dealing with this is well maintained off-road access.
- Some provision for parking lorries/ trailers would help. Could be that some farmers may be able to provide a few spaces in appropriate locations.
- Riding is a healthy outdoor activity, helping fitness of people and horses. Horse-back is also a good way to see and enjoy the countryside. Maybe there could be more access to suitable woodland, country parks etc. Please consider better access to the countryside for horse riders and cyclists. Both these activities are health promoting and an essential part of encouraging the peaceful enjoyment of our wonderful countryside
- Though Wiltshire is fairly well covered for footpaths and bridleways, there are little things that would make a huge difference.

5.5 Parks, Green Spaces, Countryside and Rights of Way - Key Findings

Introduction and overview

- Wiltshire Council completed a Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS) in 2013. The Wiltshire GIS though not yet formally adopted and has many links with the open spaces study. The evidence, tools and outcomes provided through the open spaces study will help support the delivery of the strategy.
- The overarching aim of the (draft) strategy is: *to identify, enhance and protect Wiltshire's green infrastructure for the benefit of Wiltshire's economy, communities, wildlife and landscapes.*
- The Wiltshire Council Countryside Access Development Plan highlights many priorities for footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways; and more widely in relation to developing opportunities for countryside recreation.
- Natural England stress the need to take into account the ANGSt standard as a starting point for developing a standard for natural and semi-natural green space. Variation from this standard should be justified. The Woodland Trust also have a standard for woodlands endorsed by Natural England.
- Many stakeholder highlight the extent to which access to and the use of green spaces is of importance to the public health agenda and in relation to community development.
- There is a widespread appreciation of the value of green spaces in relation to encouraging bio-diversity through sympathetic management regimes; and the potential for developing more multi-functional green spaces. There is an understanding of the need for a careful balance between developing recreation and conservation.
- There are a wide range of active and enthusiastic owners and managers of public accessible green spaces in Wiltshire and a recognition of the value and importance of partnership working.
- Stakeholders point out the importance of ensuring ongoing maintenance of Wiltshire's green spaces and the potential for greater involvement by local individuals, groups and organisations for taking on greater ownership and responsibility.

Use of Parks, Green Spaces, Countryside and Rights of Way

- It is Wiltshire's footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths; and it's countryside, country parks and woodlands that are most commonly used by households at least monthly (over 76%). Over 64% of households also use parks, recreation grounds and informal open spaces e.g. grassed areas for dog-walking, picnics at least monthly.
- Footpaths, bridleways etc. are also by far the most frequently used facility with 40% of households reporting using them almost every day. Other spaces used on an almost daily basis by at least 15% of households are local parks/recreation grounds; countryside, country parks and woodlands; and informal open spaces.
- Areas for water recreation and wildlife areas/nature reserves are also fairly frequently used with at least 50% of households using them on a regular basis (at least monthly).
- 42% of allotment users visit them at least weekly (of which 31% visit almost daily).

Quantity

- 52% or more of households thought there was a need for more footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths; and wildlife areas/nature reserves.

- In addition, a significant minority (over 35%) also thought there were insufficient allotments; recreation grounds/parks; country parks; and informal open space.
- 57% of urban households reported a need for more footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths compared to 48% of rural households; and 42% of urban households compared to 35% of rural households highlighted a need for additional access to country parks, woodlands and local countryside.
- A number of stakeholders highlighted a particular shortfall and poor linkages in Wiltshire's bridleway network.
- A number of town and parish councils highlight a shortfall in allotment space.

Quality

- The quality of all the typologies of green space are rated average or better by a majority of households.
- The high quality of parks and recreation grounds stands out notably, being viewed by around 60% of respondents as very good or good. Other kinds of open spaces where quality is widely thought to be good/very good by a majority are country parks, countryside and woodlands; and play areas.
- Over 20% thought that the quality of allotments was poor or very poor.
- The quality of parks and recreation grounds is rated higher in urban areas than rural e.g. 15% of urban households rate play areas as very good compared to 6% in rural areas; 17% in urban areas rate parks as very good compared to 14% in rural.
- The quality of country parks, accessible woodlands etc; footpaths; and allotments is rated higher in rural than urban areas e.g. 36% of rural households rate allotments as good/very good compared to 26% in urban areas.

Access

- The residents survey indicates that 50% or more of users are prepared to travel more than 20 minutes to use some facilities such as wildlife areas/nature reserves; country parks and woodlands.
- In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, allotments, footpaths, and informal green spaces).
- Over 56% of users would expect allotments to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 26% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes. Over 40% of users would expect parks and rec. grounds and areas of informal open space to be within a 10 minute travel time.
- Residents are more likely than not to drive to many kinds of green spaces including wildlife areas/nature reserves; country parks, and accessible countryside.
- However, walking and cycling are the norm for other facilities in particular parks/recreation grounds; informal green spaces; water recreation; allotments; and foot/cyclepaths and bridleways.
- A greater proportion of rural households normally travel by car to access all of the green space typologies.
- 77% of households said that they would walk or travel by bike more often to facilities if the quality of foot / cycle paths were improved. 79% said that they would use open space facilities more often if access by foot or cycle were improved.

Priorities/Other Issues

- There is considerable interest in and potential for improving access to and facilities for water recreation, in particular as regards canals and water courses.
- Many stakeholders highlight the need for improving publicity and promotion of access

to Wiltshire's natural green space assets and for better signposting and interpretation.

- The category clearly highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was for improvements to the footpath, bridleway and cyclepath network.
- The rural nature of county lends itself to Mountain biking but there are issues around rights of way and MOD owned land. Could a mountain bike facility be developed to target a new audience and potentially increase sports tourism to the county?
- Following this the most commonly identified high priority categories were Country parks and accessible woodlands/countryside; and parks and recreation grounds.
- It is important to promote the value of walking and cycling and the use of open spaces and rights of way in relation to their benefits to health, and to encourage community involvement.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

6.1 Wiltshire Play Strategy (Everything to Play For) - 2007-12

The Wiltshire Play Strategy was researched and produced by Wiltshire County Council in partnership with the four previous District Councils in Wiltshire⁸. Though the timeframe of the play strategy is two years beyond its proposed end date many of their findings are still relevant and important to take on board in the current study. Some of the main aspects and findings from the strategy are highlighted below:

Vision: Wiltshire should be a place where all children and young people are able to play freely and safely, making their own choices about how, where and when they play.

Aims: of direct relevance to this study the strategy included those to:

- Extend the area which children and young people have available to them for play, including utilising areas not traditionally associated with play
- Manage the need to provide challenging play opportunities which allow children to take risks, whilst balancing this with the need for them to be able to play safely
- Ensure play opportunities are accessible to young people, overcoming issues of distance and safety as appropriate
- Encourage active play to help improve physical and mental health
- Begin to dismantle barriers to play which have arisen over the last few decades
- Work in partnership to overcome popular misconceptions about youth and play

There was a very comprehensive consultation programme undertaking County-wide and at District level with children, young people, their parents and the wider community. Some key consultation findings of relevance to this study were:

- Not enough places for young people to go
- Lack of open space/creative play facilities
- Not enough 'free' play
- Nowhere for children and young people to 'hang out'
- The negative perceptions of young people by older people
- Lack of facilities in general for young people in particular in the rural and disadvantaged communities
- A need to improve existing play facilities - particularly in the rural settings
- Create more active play sites such as BMX, bike tracks, adventure/assault courses
- Transport costs too high for young people and families
- Poor transport results in difficulty accessing facilities currently provided
- Lack of publicity and co-ordination of events for children and young people
- Need to support parents to understand and play with their children

⁸ Each District Council also adopted its own Play Strategy, with similar aims and objectives, with specific District action plans

6.2 Stakeholder Views

6.2.1 Wiltshire Council (*Colin Brown*)

- Play and youth facility provision in Wiltshire is delivered by a number of organisations including town and parish councils, Wiltshire Council, trusts, housing and residents associations etc.
- Quality and condition of Wilts Councils play spaces is very varied across the County and the budget for inspection and maintenance is quite small - about £70k for inspections and a similar amount for maintenance and repair.
- Maintenance undertaken under contract by Balfour Beatty.
- Officers and Member are considering methods of working that will sustain the present stock of Fixed Play Areas.
- As regards new play spaces provided through S106 and developer contributions current Council practice (not formally adopted policy) is to ensure that developers contribute to ongoing maintenance and that ownership and management arrangements are taken on by the appropriate town/parish council or community organisation/trust.
- Current S106 provision tends to be based on the *Fields in Trust* LAP, LEAP and NEAP standards though provision of LAPs is not encouraged.
- In practice it would be useful if S106 funds could sometimes be combined e.g. an urban park type provision funded through 3 smaller developments (to jointly benefit all three).
- No play provision currently at Stonehenge site. Would benefit from some kind of facility to cater for family visits etc.
- Katherine Park in Corsham is an example of the kind of quality of play provision that should be aimed at and the process of delivery e.g. good community consultation, active engagement with residents association leading to high quality provision bespoke for site.
- Broadly speaking the quality of provision of refurbished Council play sites and the process involved in design etc. has improved over recent years.

Key Issues

- There is a lack of provision for older children / teenagers, more skate parks and MUGA's have been requested and where possible an increase in quality of existing provision.
- We are receiving an increasing number of enquiries about Parkour/Free Running provision in the county. There are currently no specific outdoor free running facilities in the county. Work is underway to potentially add a specific free running facility to Churchill Gardens in Salisbury next to the existing skate facility. Calne also has a large free running community. Parkour is not currently included in the report and potentially should be given the growth in the activity and the potential for the activity being perceived as anti-social.
- There are lots of MUGAS in the county but they vary in quality, size and the sports which they cater for. They are also better used in some instances than others. MUGAs have proven critical in the delivery of our successful StreetGames programme in Salisbury and Chippenham with doorstep sport being used to target the most deprived who only access provision on their own estate. Hillrise in Chippenham is another one of our StreetGames venues but unfortunately this project is struggling in part due to the lack of a MUGA on the estate. If the report and public health are serious about using open space to address

physical activity levels I would suggest prioritising the most deprived estates for MUGA type facilities including Hillrise which has adequate green space provision.

6.2.2 Rounded and Grounded and the North Wiltshire Outdoor Play Project (*Niki Willows*)

Prior to working with Rounded and Grounded and the North Wiltshire Outdoor Play Project, Niki was Wiltshire Council's Play Development Advisor.

Key Issues

- Access to play space in rural areas - children and young people find it difficult to access play provision in nearby towns due to lack of transport. Often there is little in their village and public access to playable space in the surrounding countryside is often difficult.
- Lack of awareness of gaining access to the countryside though footpaths etc. Need to promote and publicise such access in rural areas to enable children and young people to be able to play in their nearby countryside.
- Playbuilder - there were about 80 applications for funding where local communities had identified a need for new and/or improved play provision. Only 20 could be supported and it is likely that there is still a need for improved provision in those communities that could not be supported due to limited funding.
- The location of play space needs to be integrated with ease of access - links with footpaths and cycle routes, traffic calming measures etc.
- Proposals for new and improved play provision need to be worked up in close liaison with local children young people and the wider community to minimise objections from residents. Good consultation is crucial to success.
- It is not always necessary to provide formal equipped play areas - the main objective should be to develop a network of linked multi-use open spaces that are designed to be "playable" for children and young people. These areas should include elements of open space suitable for "natural" play - doesn't have to be close mown grass etc.
- There is widespread need for new and/or improved wheeled sports/skate park facilities. All the main market towns should have one. Young people in Chippenham and Devizes for example have been trying to secure provision for years.
- There is also a need for better provision of seating areas for young people to meet and socialise but not in the standard "youth shelter" design. They should be attractive and used by all sectors of the community.
- Avoid restricted age range provision and in preference create multi-use open space areas where all the community can benefit and "play" irrespective of age. Signage is important to make it clear that in these areas children and young people are welcomed and that they suitable for play.
- Disability access - it is better to design play spaces so that they are inclusive for all, rather than simply to add "disability" play equipment e.g. wheelchair swings. Good design can make most play spaces accessible to all levels of ability. There are a number of design guides that explain how this can be done e.g. those produced by the Kids organisation.
- Play spaces need to be well located so that they are easy to access from local housing and in spaces that are safe as regards being reasonably well overlooked.

- Avoid unnecessary fencing around play spaces - don't restrict play to fenced "reservations" cut off from the wider open spaces they are located in.
- If some or all equipment is being removed from a play area take this as an opportunity to redesign and landscape the space to provide multiuse playable space.

6.2.3 Wiltshire Council Youth Services

Due to other commitments the youth service were unable to be actively involved with consultation for this study but they did supply evidence from previous consultations with young people. Of particular interest is consultation undertaken in relation to the Youth services commissioning strategy.

This County-wide process engaged with young people from various groups including Girl Guides, Project Inspire, Wiltshire Assembly of Youth, Trowbridge LGBT group, Potterne Youth Club, Bridging Projects and a range of Community Young Peoples Issues Groups. Young people involved ranged in age from 12 - 19, with the majority being 15 - 16 years old. There was an even balance of male and female participants including young people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and young people identifying themselves as disabled.

One element of the consultation process was "My Place" which involved young people in highlighting strengths and weaknesses for young people in different parts of the County. The summary table highlighting issues relevant to open spaces is provided below

Location	Positives	Changes needed
Devizes / Potterne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of sports clubs and play parks • The Green • School - good sports facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space for a skate-park • Improve Potterne Football Pitch • Free transport (under 16)
Marlborough & villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Centre • Local dirt bike/quad track • Skatepark • Open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport from villages (cost) • Nothing to do • Public space turned into football pitch and not used for other things.
Warminster		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake in the town park
Westbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skate-park • White horse - (walking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports centre better run and astro turf. • Improve skate-park and town parks. • Better bus service in the evenings
Tidworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Academy School and TLC leisure centre • Excellent sports field and Astro-turf & T2A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Skate-park • Transport is too expensive • Need more to do after school
Pewsey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loads of places to walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Skate-park • Leisure centre not always friendly • Transport prices
Salisbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skate-park • 5 Rivers leisure centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus costs • Don't feel safe in all areas
Corsham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby & football clubs & facilities • Skate-park and BMX track • Safe place to go. 	
Calne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of green space • Skate-park 	
Chippenham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and open spaces to relax in. • Leisure centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More things to do and places to hang out.
Tisbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good sports facilities - sports clubs, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a new skate-park

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> swimming pool & sports centre Skate-park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better transport in the evening
Mere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good sports clubs & facilities - swimming pool, cricket club, karate, tennis, dance (at youth centre), etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs a skate-park
Alderbury (Downton Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skate Park Sports club (but have to go to Salisbury) Extreme sports club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality of the skate park and green area. Better lighting
Trowbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good sports facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more opportunities for 15+ Trains are too expensive
Malmesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good facilities - activity zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need more things to do for YP (e.g. sports, skate park, arty stuff) that's open more. Poor transport links between villages and towns.
Bradford on Avon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have good sports facilities Canal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheaper transport. More activities to do on weekends.

6.2.4 Play England

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

Quantity

Play England are keen to see a range of play spaces in all urban environments:

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

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

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

Quality

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

Access

Access is the key element for Play England as referred to in the Quantity section - a range of doorstep, local, neighbourhood, and destination play spaces with appropriate catchments.

Disability access is also an important issue for Play England and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS publication *Inclusion by Design* as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Priorities

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

Nature Play Initiative

Given the feedback from various sources play in natural green space, a recent initiative of Play England is of particular interest to Wiltshire. By Nature Play, Play England simply mean children exploring and enjoying the natural environment through their freely-chosen play. As well as simply enjoying playing outdoors and discovering green spaces near their homes, nature play can include planting and growing vegetables, fruit and flowers; cooking outdoors; playing with the elements or making camps and dens with natural materials.

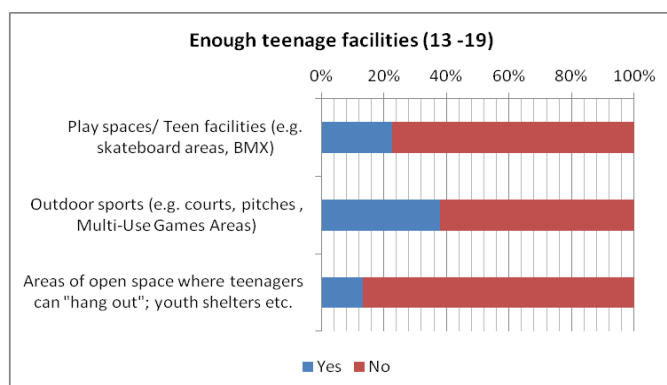
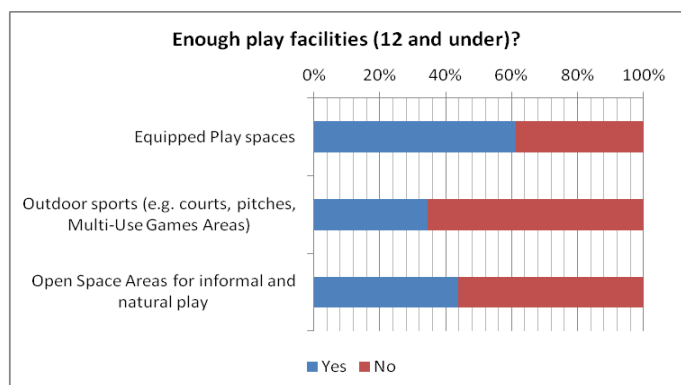
Play England has been awarded £500,000 for the Exploring Nature Play project, which is helping children to explore and become more aware of nature around them and the opportunities for play and enjoyment that it provides. The grant is from Natural England's Access to Nature programme - part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces initiative. They have recently published a series of nature play activity 'recipes'. The cards provide activities to explore nature and help children experience the benefits of connecting with the natural environment through play.

6.3 Survey of Play and Youth Organisations

We also surveyed local play and youth organisations via an online questionnaire. We received responses from 39 groups. 84% reported that they made direct use of outdoor play/youth facilities or areas of open space. Some of the main findings are noted below.

Quantity

We asked groups whether they thought there were enough play facilities for children aged 12 and under; and youth facilities for teenagers. Responses are summarised in the charts below:



From this it can be seen that:

- While over 60% of groups thought their are enough "formal" equipped playgrounds for children of 12 and under, over 76% reported that their are *not* enough facilities for older children and young people e.g. skateparks, more "challenging" equipped play spaces etc.
- About 56% thought there were not enough open spaces (unequipped) generally available to children aged 12 and under for informal and natural play.
- For children aged 12 and under the groups therefore thought that there is a greater need for more "playable" space than there is for additional equipped playgrounds.
- Over 60% thought there were not enough MUGAs and sports pitches/courts (for both age ranges).
- Over 84% of groups noted a shortage of areas for teenagers to "hang out" including youth shelters.

The groups were also given the opportunity to be more specific of what they thought were needed as noted below. Given the clear view of a shortage of teenage facilities suggestions and comments re youth facilities are noted in the table below:

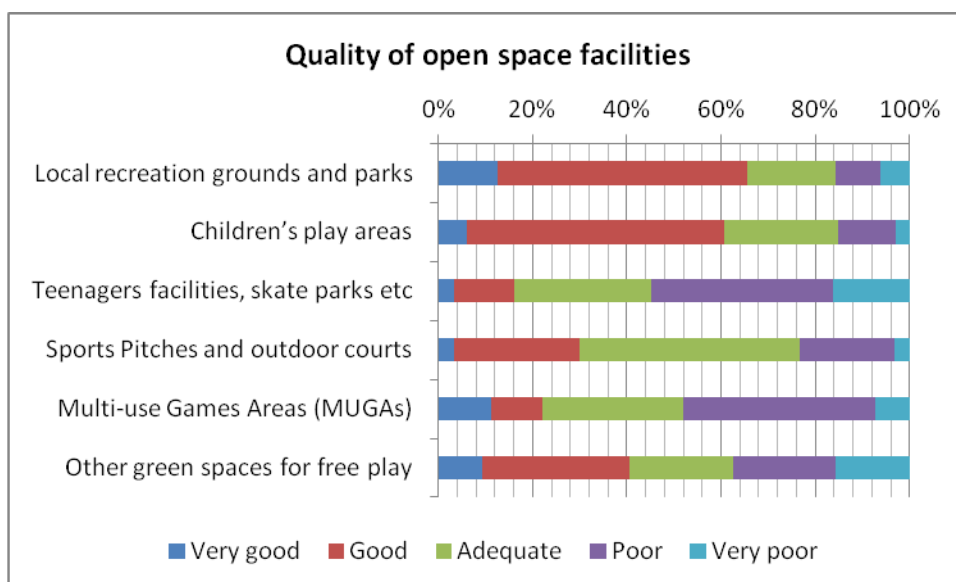
Group	What teenagers need more of - comments and suggestions
St. Michael's Church - RISE:61	Need for tennis courts available for people to use for free. BMX area on the Heath could be developed a lot more and we know lots of young people who are keen on freerunning and would like to see a park set up with practice areas for that. Lot of the green areas are on a slope so makes football harder. Compound on Gainsborough close isn't in a great state of repair with the brick wall on the side needing a revamp.
Fern Forest School	The teenagers who skate etc hang out on road space on Dane Rise/King Alfred's way....or around the road near Co-op...in Winsley, as there is no other space for them
Splash	More teenage friendly spaces for them to hang out or spaces that are not specifically designed for one sport or activity.
Wootton Bassett &	If youth facilities are available locally they are not particularly visible. More outdoor sports pitches which also includes hang out areas would be good. Young people should

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Cricklade Children's Centre	be involved in how these could be developed. One of our centres' buggy parks has been used by teenagers as a hangout - they liked the plastic flaps which covered the entrance and protected them from the elements.
Oaksey Youth Club	Teens have nowhere to play unsupervised games. More challenging equipment in play areas, tennis court etc could overcome this. We have a small skate ramp but not much used by teens now.
The Nature of It	We need more areas that encourage constructive/ positive behaviour (designated skateparks/ shelters etc)
Box Kids	I think the teenagers get forgotten about, which then leads to them meeting up in places not suitable or they get bored and start causing trouble. If there were more places suitable for teenagers they wouldn't have to find other things to do which is inappropriate.
Loppers Forest School	Specifically need more in villages
Youth Action Wiltshire	Need accessible areas for those in rural areas
West Wilts Special Needs Activity Scheme	Teenagers can't "hang out" outside as then are then labelled as trouble and get in trouble with the police. With the closure of youth centres by Wiltshire Council these problems are only going to increase.
Wiltshire Army Cadet Force	Open spaces for informal games/meetings.
Chippenham Youth Group	Skatepark - even Melksham have one! Chippenham is so behind and there isn't enough to keep children 5-16 occupied healthily.
Benger Bears	Nothing for teenagers in local villages and towns
Riverside preschool	The teenagers are sharing spaces with small children- it doesn't work well for either group.
Rainbow Early Years	Sports areas should be in every residential area.
Little Flyers	Youth clubs needed.
Potterne Youth Club	Developed areas such as skate area/ football / tennis court or a social space such as seating / picnic area.
Wiltshire Children & Families Fm	Need more youth shelters but would prefer other opportunities brought through new community led youth services
Hullabaloo Out of School Club	In all these areas there is a need for more good quality space for 13 years and above. Places that they would like to be!
Rounded and Grounded	Each town needs a skatepark or the town becomes a skatepark. These ought to be a feature in any new build. They encourage communities to interact. Young children are supported by older children and it gives older residents something to sit and watch.

Quality

We asked for views on the overall quality of open spaces and outdoor facilities of general interest to children and young people and responses are illustrated on the chart below:



- Over 60% of groups were generally satisfied with the overall quality of Wiltshire's parks, recreation grounds and play areas (rating quality as either good or very good).
- There was much lower levels of satisfaction with youth facilities, skateparks etc. Over 50% rated quality as poor or very poor and only 16% as good or very good.
- There was a similar view on MUGAs as for youth facilities. 48% rated quality as poor or very poor and 22% as good or very good.
- The view on sports pitches and outdoor courts was more mixed, though a greater proportion rated them as good than as poor (nearly half rated them as simply "adequate").
- There was a similar - though more emphatic - split view on the quality of "other" green spaces suitable for free play. In this case over 40% rated them as good compared to 36% rating them as poor (with nearly a quarter rating them as simply "adequate").

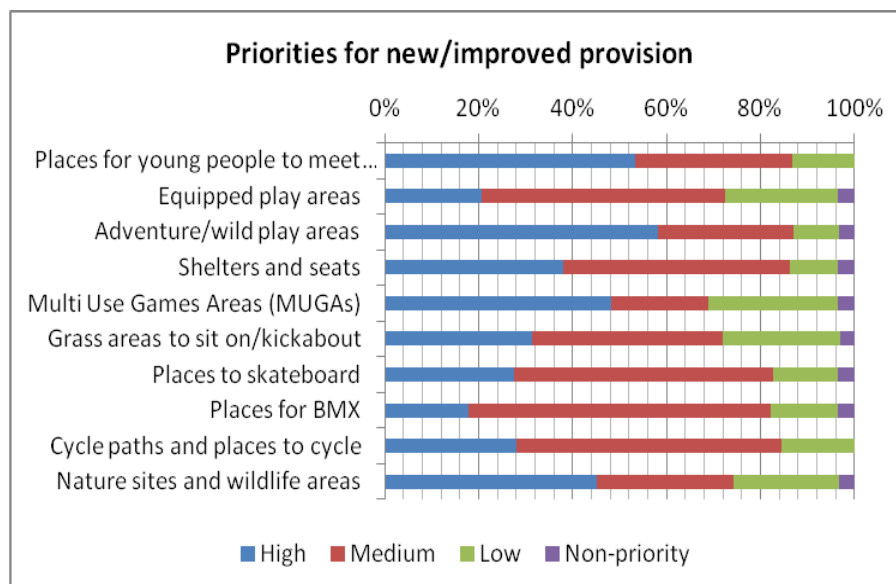
Additional qualitative comments are noted below:

Group	Comments on quality
St. Michael's Chrch - RISE:61	Lots of great open space on Bemerton Heath but feel that the compound and skate park on Bemerton Heath could do with being improved.
Starcast	We definitely need more safe places for teenagers to hang out in.
Splash	Where facilities are available the quality is usually good or adequate. In many areas if the facilities are available they are not accessible to teenagers or not free to use.
Youth Action Wiltshire/Community First	Those in existence are often of high quality, at present there are some areas especially those in rural parts of the county where there is a lack of available space and facilities for young people
Riverside preschool	There doesn't feel as if any of the seating areas or play areas promote community - yes John Coles is great but how can 1000s of kids share that space?
Little Flyers	Area where children can run and be safe and without dogs mess
Potterne Youth Club	Potterne is the 2nd largest populated village in the county and yet has inadequate play/ space for children/ teenagers and families. A well equipped social space with equipment and picnic area / sports facilities would help promote a healthier more diverse community. The Ryleaze Playing area is central but underused asset that has much potential but little investment or development.
Bowdenview Childminding	Lack of litter collection and grass cutting. Lack of care for the facilities in Melksham in particular
Rounded and Grounded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUGAs next to sports centres seem to get used. Other seem rather a waste of money and they look so ugly! Put in more natural play spaces which can be used by a variety of ages throughout the day. Use natural materials that are

	<p>local.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you put youth 'shelters' in - make them somewhere you'd like to sit too. Not those uncomfortable metal prison yard type things
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Priorities for new/improved provision

Respondents views on priorities for new or improved provision of play and youth facilities are shown on the chart below:



- The most commonly highlighted high priority for improved provision is for adventure/wild spaces to play.
- Following this there is a strong high priority rating for improvements re provision of places for young people to meet outdoors.
- The third most common high priority is for improved provision of MUGAs

Finally, there was an open opportunity to provide additional comments, as noted below:

Group	Other Comments
St. Michael's Church - RISE:61	Outdoor freerunning area/park (there are a few examples across the country). There is a group of young people who would love this to be set up. The young people also want to be part of making changes and improvements to this.
Sylvia's house of children	Would like to see more family orientated places suitable for everyone like Hillworth Park but with better parking facilities
Devizes & District Youth Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people do not need more play areas they need places to skate, ride BMX and have a centre they can go to. Youth facilities are one of the things that the Potterne Neighbourhood Plan group have researched and are looking at. Youth services and facilities (or the lack of) are frequently mentioned.
Splash	People need help to access nature sites and wildlife areas
The Magic Dragon Preschool	We just want children to be able to play outside.....would love to have an area that we could use for Forest school activities.
Oaksey youth club	Some teens say they would benefit from occasional visits by a youth worker to do multi sports. This could also highlight further needs or help them to go to Malmesbury for more varied activities.
The Nature of It	Our organisation can create natural play environments and nature trails
West Wilts Special Needs Activity Scheme	With the closure of all the youth centres by Wiltshire Council safe outdoor areas for young people are a priority as they are going to lose their safe areas when the youth centres close.
Riverside preschool	Monkton park MUGA area always has glass in it and I saw a rat in there recently.

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	It is becoming run down which is such a shame.
Little Flyers	Cycle paths needed - they are safe for children and families to use
Potterne Youth Club	Younger Potterne residents have been crying out for developed areas for years to help relieve anti social behaviour and to address local issues. It would be great for their ideas, concerns to be recognised and addressed. Thank you
Wiltshire Children & Families Vol Sector Forum	It is impossible for young people to travel safely on bikes when we are trying to improve healthy living. Roads are too dangerous - need more cycle paths or routes within open areas
Minety Preschool	All our children need to go outside every day
Rounded and Grounded	No real networking going on between play and youth organisations since the Play Partnership folded. Hopefully some people are still doing Play Day.

6.4 Access to play and youth facilities for disabled children

Access to play and leisure for disabled young people has been highlighted by various stakeholders as a key issue and in relation to improvements for the future the following box provides findings from a valuable research study undertaken by the Joseph Rowntree foundation.

Disabled teenagers' experiences of access to inclusive leisure (Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Pippa Murray -2008)

Leisure is a key area in paving the way towards full community inclusion and participation. It takes on an additional significance for disabled young people when barriers to full participation in education and employment result in them having more time for leisure pursuits whilst simultaneously experiencing greater difficulty in accessing leisure services, activities, and pastimes. This research project consulted with over 100 disabled teenagers to uncover their experience of 'inclusive leisure'. The teenagers said that:

- Disabled young people felt that their experiences at school/college strongly affected their access to friends and leisure outside school.
- Many young disabled people described their lives being tainted with the experiences of isolation, loneliness and exclusion.
- Whereas professionals viewed inclusive leisure as a means of learning life skills, increasing independence and/or self-esteem, young people focused on friendships and fun.
- Whilst wanting to participate in ordinary, mainstream leisure activities, disabled young people welcomed the opportunity to meet with each other in order to share their mutual experience.
- Lack of appropriate support (such as transport, personal assistance, and support to facilitate and/or interpret communication) was a major barrier to the participation of disabled young people in ordinary leisure activities. This was particularly apparent for disabled young people with complex impairments and high support needs.
- Beyond the specific experience of exclusion due to impairment, the interests and concerns of disabled young people are no different from those of non-disabled teenagers

In addition Play England refer to an excellent publication published by KIDS (which is a national voluntary organisation promoting improved access to play for disabled children and young people) called *Inclusion by Design*. This document supplies very good practical guidance in relation to inclusive design of play and youth facilities.

6.5 Children and Young People - Key Findings

Quantity

- The most commonly identified shortfall in the general residents survey was for provision of teenage facilities where 59% thought there was insufficient currently.
- In addition, a significant minority (over 35%) also thought there were insufficient play areas.
- The provision of play and youth facilities in the towns and parishes is very varied and many town and parish councils report a shortage of such facilities (particularly for youth) and/or a need for improvements and refurbishments.
- There is a widespread view from stakeholders specifically on the need for more skate parks across Wiltshire.

Quality

- 51% of households in the general residents survey rated the quality of play areas overall in Wiltshire as good or very good and around 16% rated them as generally being poor or very poor.
- Just over 50% of households highlighted the quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor with 16% rating them as good or very good.
- The quality of play areas is rated higher in urban areas than rural e.g. 15% of urban households rate play areas as very good compared to 6% in rural areas.
- Over 56% of rural households rate teenage facilities as poor/very poor compared to 44% in urban areas.
- Many town and parish councils highlight the need to improve the quality of local play and youth facilities.
- Various stakeholders highlighted the need for play spaces to provide more challenging and adventurous play opportunities, particularly for older children.
- Various stakeholders highlight the importance and value of the provision of unequipped "playable" natural green space for informal nature and "wild" play; and than planning for play in the future should take this into account in addition to equipped formal play spaces.

Access

- The residents survey highlighted that 55% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 18% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- It is important that younger children have access to some kind of play space within easy walking distance from home and that teenagers have access to spaces to hang out independently with friends.
- It appears that children and young people will walk and cycle further to access more interesting sites and these will therefore have a larger "catchment". Young people will walk further than younger children to access such sites.
- Nearly 22% of rural households would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes to access a play area compared to 14% in urban areas. However a greater proportion of households in rural areas are prepared to travel to access play areas by car (23% compared to 10%).
- Nearly 64% of households in urban areas would not wish to travel more than 15

minutes to use an outdoor youth facility compared to 57% in rural areas.

- The need for improved transport to facilities for children and young people (particularly in the rural areas) and safe walking and cycling routes to play opportunities.
- There is need to ensure that the design of play and youth facilities is inclusive as regards use by disabled children and young people.

Other Issues and priorities

- Many stakeholders highlight the importance of involving children and young people in all aspects of play and youth facility provision e.g. location, the kind of provision most needed, design, access issues etc.
- While both youth facilities and play areas feature high in households list of priorities for improvement, it seems that while the priority need for youth facilities is to provide more of such facilities, the priority for play areas is for improvements to the quality of what currently exists.
- There are currently no specific outdoor free running facilities in the county. Parkour provision should be regarded as a priority given the growth in the activity and the potential for the activity being perceived as anti-social.
- Children and teenagers play and hang out regularly “on the street”, near local shops, etc as well as on spaces planned for play and recreation. The study should therefore highlight planning related issues aimed at making the wider residential environment more child-friendly.
- A key barrier to teenagers’ use of “public” open space is that they are often moved on by nearby residents and authorities such as the police. They need more tolerance and places recognised as “theirs”.
- Play England provide excellent guidance on play and spatial planning; play space design; a Quality Assessment Tool for play spaces; and managing risk in play. Some of these could be adopted as guidance and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- There is some potential for more community (extended) use of school facilities for play (after school, weekends and during holidays).

7 CROSS BOUNDARY ISSUES - NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES

Overview - Wiltshire council (*Jon Taylor*)

We interviewed Jon Taylor (Manager - Landscape and Design Team) on key aspects of cross border and strategic aspects of open spaces. Jon highlighted the following as examples of areas of open space with strategic importance and/or in which neighbouring local authorities may also have an interest:

- The Cotswolds (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - AONB) - bordering with Gloucestershire.
- New Forest National Park to the south of Wiltshire
- Salisbury Plain and the West Wiltshire Downs - bounded by the Hampshire Downs and the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs on the northern and eastern sides and by the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase in the south west.
- Kennet and Avon canal - runs through Wiltshire though Bradford on Avon - link with Bath to the west through the Vale of Pewsey to the east.
- The Cotswold Water Park - an area of about 40 square miles, with more than 150 lakes, set across the countryside of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire.
- Stonehenge and Avebury - major visitor attractions. Avebury has no "facilities" as such and the aim is to disperse visitors around the site developing a network of promoted paths with circular routes outwards from the stones.
- Great Western Community Forest - one of England's Community Forests where local people and organisations are working together to create a better environment. It covers an area of 168 square miles stretching from Wootton Bassett to Faringdon and the North Wessex Downs to the Thames.

Wiltshire shares boundaries with ten other planning authorities: Bath and North East Somerset; Cotswold; East Dorset; North Dorset; Mendip; New Forest District; New Forest National Park; South Somerset; Swindon; and Test Valley. Plans and proposals for open space within these many surrounding districts may have an impact upon proposals for Wiltshire. We therefore contacted forward planning officers in these authorities to check if they had identified any cross border issues that they thought should be taken into account.

Comments and observations from officers of the neighbouring authorities are provided below:

7.1 Bath and North East Somerset Council

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	The GI Strategy identified a number of strategic cross boundary issues and these are largely incorporated into priority projects set out in the strategy. Key projects are 1. Wansdyke heritage greenway; 2. Green setting of Bath WHS; 5. River Avon and Canal; 6. AONB linkway; 7. Restoring priority habitats and Protecting and sustaining ecological networks. Project 2 is currently being progressed through the Bathscape Landscape Partnership stage 1 bid - Alison Raisey from Wiltshire Council is on the partnership.
Sport/Recreation	Fit for Life Strategy completed in July 2014 - no specific issues cross border highlighted
Playing Pitch Study	Work to be complete by January 2015, to be adopted in July 2015

	alongside Placemaking Plan. No cross border issues currently identified
Open Space/PPG17	Strategy currently being reviewed for adoption in June 2015. Opportunity to map facilities that fall within catchment distances adopted in study / strategy. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Parks/Greenspace/Countryside	Strategy currently being reviewed for adoption in June 2015. Opportunity to map facilities that fall within catchment distances adopted in study / strategy. No cross border issues currently highlighted.

7.2 Cotswold District Council

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	Strategy out for consultation. Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership are consulting on this document. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Open Spaces/PPG17	Work currently being commissioned. Being updated as part of the refresh of work for Sport and recreation study. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Parks/Greenspace/Countryside	Work on going - expected date Nov 2014. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Sport/Recreation strategy	Work currently being commissioned. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Playing Pitch Study	Work currently being commissioned. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Cotswold Water Park	Have study - not sure of status of update. No cross border issues currently highlighted.

7.3 East Dorset

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	South East Dorset Green Infrastructure Strategy completed in July 2011. Related to Heathland policy. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Open Spaces/PPG17	Open Space & Recreation Assessment completed in May 2007. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Any other relevant studies/strategies?	We also have an allotments strategy. No cross border issues.
Play /Youth Strategy	Completed in 2008. Review pending but delayed. No cross border issues currently highlighted.

7.4 Mendip District Council

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Open Spaces/PPG17	Completed in June 2012. Links to emerging Local Plan policy. No cross border issues currently highlighted
Playing Pitch Study	Somerset Playing Pitch Assessment completed in March 2013.No cross border issues currently highlighted
Play /Youth Strategy	There is a draft play area strategy. No cross border issues currently highlighted.
Cranborne Chase	There are studies relating to Cranborne Chase AONB. No cross border issues currently highlighted.

7.5 New Forest National Park

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	There is a wide recognition of the need for new development to be supported by green infrastructure provision to reduce pressures on protected habitats (e.g. the New Forest SPA) and protected landscapes (e.g. the New Forest National Park). The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) adopted a Green Infrastructure

	Strategy in June 2010. The Strategy covers the urban areas of South Hampshire and although it does not form part of the statutory development plan, it has informed the work of constituent local planning authorities in developing their own green infrastructure strategies and habitat mitigation strategies (e.g. Test Valley Borough Council, New Forest District Council). The Strategy recognises the need to develop and enhance multi-functional green infrastructure provision away from the protected landscapes (including two National Parks) and habitats that fringe the South Hampshire sub-region.
Open Spaces/PPG17	The PPG17 Study completed in 2007 covered the whole of 'the New Forest' - in effect the combined administrative areas of the New Forest National Park and the remaining areas of New Forest District.
Recreation Management	The New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy was adopted by the Authority in 2010 to guide recreation management within the National Park.

7.6 South Somerset

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any cross border issues will be addressed through the Duty to Co-operate process. The current LDS 2013-2016 includes the production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy, the timetable indicates completion by February 2015. Due to the Local Plan suspension the timetable has now slipped. A revised LDS will be produced later this year.
Open Spaces/PPG17	Local standards are available on the SSDC web site
Parks/Greenspace / Countryside	South Somerset Open Space Strategy 2011-2015. Strategy to be updated next year.
Sport/Recreation strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual PPG17 compliant needs assessments completed for: community halls, sports halls, swimming pools, artificial grass pitches, indoor tennis centres. Standards for these facilities and theatres and arts centres approved at District Executive in March, 2012. Leisure Strategy (The Next Level) has expired, but is in the process of being rewritten. The impact of strategic facilities outside the council's boundary was included as part of these needs assessments in relation to drive time catchments, however this did not include any facilities in Wiltshire. Emerging Local Plan Policy HW2: Sports Zone aims to create a sub-regional sports venue.
Playing Pitch Study	Supply and demand data for playing pitches updated in 2009, and pitch and changing room audits undertaken in 2012, but this new data has yet to be produced in a new strategy. Standards for playing pitches and changing rooms approved at District Executive in March, 2012.
Play /Youth Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual PPG17 compliant needs assessment completed for outdoor equipped play areas, and audit undertaken of youth facilities in the district. Standards for these facilities approved at District Executive in March, 2012. Play Strategy and Youth and Young People Strategy have expired and will be incorporated in new Leisure Strategy. The Council still has a current Play Policy.
Rights of Way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific cross boundary issues with Wiltshire identified in relation to footpaths, cyclepaths or bridleways Footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleway etc are dealt with by Somerset County Council
Other relevant studies/strategies	Emerging South Somerset Local Plan 2006 -2028 includes PoliciesTA3: Sustainable travel at Chard and Yeovil, HW1: Provision of open space, outdoor play, sports, cultural and community facilities in new development, HW2: Sports Zone and HW3:

7.7 Swindon

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Infrastructure Strategy for Swindon (2011) GI networks identified reaching beyond Swindon into North Wilts and Kennet largely based on access (e.g. Cricklade Country Way) and ecology. Particularly relevant in NW Swindon where development pressure in Wiltshire continues.
Open Spaces/PPG17 study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Audit and Assessment (Update 2014) Local Plan 2011 (adopted) includes relevant policies and open space standards Emerging Local Plan 2026 includes relevant up to date policies and open space standards. As relates to GI in terms of delivering strategic green corridor
Sport/Recreation strategy	Swindon Sports Strategy will be of relevance
Playing Pitch Study	Playing Pitch Strategy (2007) Scheduled to commence early 2015 (subject to internal resources)
Rights of Way	National Trails at Thames Path and Ridgeway. See ROWIP for other detailed future plans.
Great Western Community Forest Plan	The Forest plan includes access issues relating to links between Swindon and Purton/Cricklade. The plan covers part of North Wiltshire including Purton and Cricklade.
Cricklade Country Way GI Plan	SBC as partner and development of Mouldon Hill CP.
North Wessex Downs AONB	SBC as partner
Wilts and Berks strategy	SBC as partner
LNP plans as relating to health and well-being + recreation/tourism	SBC as partner

7.8 Test Valley

OS Aspect	Comments and observations re: cross border issues
Green Infrastructure	Completed July 2014. There may be opportunities for cross boundary matters in relation to biodiversity and rights of way connections, but these are not specifically identified in the strategy.
Open Spaces/PPG17	Completed 2012.
Parks/Greenspace/Countryside	Completed 2007. This strategy relates to the green spaces owned and managed by the Council.
Sport/Recreation strategy	This is currently being prepared by consultants on behalf of the Council
Playing Pitch Study	This is currently being prepared by consultants on behalf of the Council - it is as a final draft stage. Deficits in provision of pitches have been identified. A draft action plan has been developed taking account of this. However, there may be clubs / teams using sites within Wiltshire.
Footpaths, cyclepaths, bridleways etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some proposals have cross boundary links e.g. proposals to improve cycling links between Andover and Ludgershall along the A342 - this is unlikely to be a strategic project for Wiltshire. There are no other proposals for cycle provision associated with strategic routes into Wiltshire using the A343 and A30.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Test Valley Access Plan includes some projects for Parishes adjoining Wiltshire. In relation to East Dean, projects ED02 and ED03 (see document through link above) seek footway improvements for all uses, which could link to access / recreation. • The Council has a series of action plans adopted as SPDs covering the Borough which are kept under review, they are available as set out below: • There is also a SPD in relation to the cycle strategy and network. • All of the above documents identify a range of projects the Council is seeking to deliver across the Borough. • In relation to Rights of Way - it may also be appropriate to consider Hampshire County Council's Countryside Access Plans
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7.9 North Dorset and New Forest District

There was no response from officers from North Dorset and New Forest District Councils. A web search indicates the following:

<p>New Forest District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A (draft) Green Infrastructure strategy was produced in 2011 • An Open space, sport and recreation (PPG17) study was completed in 2007. • A new Sports and Recreation Strategy is "currently being updated". • A play strategy "New Forest@Play" was completed in 2007 but has not been updated.
<p>North Dorset</p>	<p>The North Dorset Local Plan Evidence base does not indicate the production of any recently completed district wide open space or associated sport and recreation studies/strategies.</p>

7.10 Observations - Cross Boundary Issues

The above section has briefly reviewed feedback from neighbouring Local Authorities in relation to their open space strategies and associated studies. As can be seen, the variety of documents and strategies in place (and their relevance to current planning policy) is considerable, embracing green infrastructure studies, open space strategies, and sport, recreation and play strategies. The approach adopted by each authority is very much locally derived.

It is noteworthy that few strategies currently appear to look in depth at cross boundary issues or identify networks of green infrastructure or open space which cross local authority boundaries and officers highlight a very small number of specific cross border issues and plans (with the notable exception of the Bath and North East Somerset Council Green Infrastructure Strategy).

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

There is scope for neighbouring local authorities to work more together to make the most of accessible natural green space resources and to develop some common themes and agendas. It is suggested that much could be learnt in regard to best practice by better sharing of information between authorities and ensuring that local authority strategies afford some importance to considering developments and proposals in neighbouring authorities.

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

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