



# **Green Space Means Health**

## **Final Report and Action Plan: Chesham**

17 October 2015

**Consultant:** People & Place Solutions

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been commissioned by the Buckinghamshire and Milton-Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (NEP), in accordance with the project brief included in appendix A.
- 1.2 The overall aim of the Buckinghamshire Green Space Means Health project is to inform the development of a programme of practical action to maximise community use of green spaces in areas of high multiple deprivation in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe. The project takes forward high level aims and actions in the Buckinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy<sup>1</sup> and Physical Activity Strategy<sup>2</sup> based around improving public health and reducing health inequalities, with a focus on building physical activity into everyday life.
- 1.3 This report covers the delivery of phases 1-3 of the four phase project. A summary of the delivery requirements of each of the four phases is included below:

**Phase 1:** To map the availability of green space greater than 0.25ha no further than 800m away from any deprived community, against areas of health deprivation focusing on the lowest quintile of deprivation as measured by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, within High Wycombe, Chesham and Aylesbury. This was completed by Buckinghamshire County Council and the GIS mapping results made available under license for the delivery of Phase 2 of the project.

**Phase 2:** To undertake a high level review of relevant policies and plans and a detailed audit and analysis of issues and potential improvement actions relating to the mapped green spaces (from phase 1), with a particular focus on each of the three target town's

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/healthy-living/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1932033/Physical-Activity-Strategy.pdf>

most deprived communities and the use of green spaces to address their health and wellbeing needs. To undertake a high level consultation with community leaders, stakeholders and owners of the identified green spaces in order to understand their quality and community use. To apply the results of this research to identify target green spaces in each town to form the focus for phase 3. The phase 2 work was undertaken by consultants, People & Place Solutions, and a copy of their final report is included in appendix B.

**Phase 3:** To develop a local action plan to increase community access, awareness and use of each targeted green space from phase 2 to improve public health and well-being. To identify recommended evaluation measures in the plan in order to assess the impact of the proposed actions on community health and well-being. This phase was also undertaken by People & Place Solutions and a copy of the recommended local action plan for the target green space for Chesham – Windsor Road Recreation Ground and Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields - is included in appendix G. The associated recommended evaluation framework for this plan is included in section 8 of this report.

**Phase 4:** To disseminate best practice and information from the study. This phase will be undertaken by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (NEP).

## **2. Policy context**

- 2.1 This section provides a high level review of relevant national and local plans, strategies, research findings and outdoor physical activity initiatives, in order to provide the strategic context to the resulting action plan for Chesham.

- 2.2 Over the last decade there has been a shift in the health agenda towards promoting healthy lifestyle behaviours and choices. There has also been recognition of the role the environment can play in enhancing public health. Less active lifestyles have led to an increase in preventable diseases which are placing increasing pressures on the National Health Service, including a cost of £8.2 billion annually.<sup>3</sup>
- 2.3 Public green spaces make a contribution to all aspects of public health and well-being including increasing levels of physical activity which could alleviate pressures on the NHS. Simply being outside in a green space can promote mental well-being, relieve stress, overcome isolation, improve social cohesion and alleviate physical problems so that fewer working days are lost to ill health.<sup>4</sup>
- 2.4 Public green spaces are places where people can get fresh air, go for a walk, play sports, exercise or just enjoy the surroundings. Unfortunately those living in more deprived communities, who tend to have poorer health and suffer from the kind of illnesses that can be alleviated by regular exposure to green spaces, are also less likely to have good access to high quality parks and green spaces.

#### **a) National**

- 2.5 At the national level, the policy framework linking public health and the natural environment is well developed and being advocated strongly by Government through key policy documents, such as the *2010 Public Health White Paper*<sup>5</sup> and government agencies, such as Public Health England<sup>6</sup> and Natural England<sup>7</sup>. The contribution of green space to public health and wellbeing is now

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<sup>3</sup>Department of Health. (2004). At least five a week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health

<sup>4</sup>CABE. (2009). Future Health: Sustainable places for health and well-being

<sup>5</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-public-health-white-paper-2010>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.noo.org.uk/LA/tackling/greenspace>

<sup>7</sup><http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/linkingpeople/health/default.aspx>

formally recognised in the new national public health outcomes framework<sup>8</sup> with the inclusion of *Indicator 1:16: Utilisation of green space for exercise/health reasons*. This indicator is included in the framework grouping relating to wider determinants that affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.

2.6 Listed below is a summary of key national research findings which have informed the current national policy position and are directly relevant to the aim of the Green Space Means Health project:

*CABE Urban Green Nation 2010*<sup>9</sup>

- The quality of green spaces is directly linked to their perceived value, both to individuals and more generally. A small well designed and well-maintained space with diversity of facilities and landscape characters may have far greater value to local residents and to environmental services than a large, neglected, space that lacks cultural and environmental diversity.
- There is a strong correlation between the poor quality and quantity of green spaces in deprived areas, and the low levels of physical activity of residents.
- Some sectors of society use green space less than others, particularly older people (aged over 65), people with disabilities, women, black and minority ethnic people and children and young people aged 12-19.
- There is a strong link between people's satisfaction with their local parks and green spaces, and their satisfaction with their neighbourhood. This is particularly acute in the most deprived areas, where neighbourhood satisfaction is at its lowest.

*CABE Green Community 2010*<sup>10</sup>

- People living in deprived urban areas view green space as a key service, alongside housing, health, education and policing – one of the essentials in making a neighbourhood liveable.

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<sup>8</sup><http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

<sup>9</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/urban-green-nation>

<sup>10</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/community-green>

- There is a virtuous circle: where people perceive green space quality to be good, they are also more satisfied with their neighbourhood and have better health and wellbeing.
- When people value their local green space and feel safe in it, they use it more and are more physically active. Improving the quality of spaces will encourage more active use and exercise
- The provision of green space services must take into account the preferences and needs of local people. 'One size fits all' green space does not work: the community should be given the chance to make spaces fit for purpose.
- Greater variety and flexibility in green space provision is required as well as consistently higher quality in all areas. As the ethnic and age profile of the UK changes, green space managers need to understand the attitudes, needs and different reasons for green space use among local groups.
- Active marketing of sites; events and activities such as community fun days; guided walks; space for allotments; and considering alternative uses of specific areas will all bolster usage and result in a healthier and more satisfied community.

Natural England commissioned research 2012<sup>11</sup>

- People who perceive easy access to safe green spaces report higher green space use, more regular physical activity and lower risk of obesity. Therefore, access to safe and convenient green space is likely to be an important environmental factor in public health efforts aimed to promote physical activity and reduce obesity.
- Income-related inequality in health is affected by exposure to greenspace. The long-term conditions of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and dementia are much more prevalent in deprived communities which often have the least access to greenspace.
- Visiting green space is associated with less stress-related illness and has a positive effect on a persons' mental health.
- Time spent in nature has a hugely positive impact on key social indicators. In particular, community open space can enhance social ties, provide a sense of community and can promote social integration within disadvantaged communities.

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<sup>11</sup><http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40017>



- Increasing access to the natural environment can play a vital role in efforts to increase activity and reduce obesity. The ability to access green settings has been demonstrated to encourage contact with nature and participation in physical activity, both of which encourage the adoption of other healthy lifestyle choices such as social engagement and consumption of healthy foods.
- Natural environments have a beneficial impact on mental wellbeing. Trees and vegetation reduce ambient noise, improve naturalness, provide calming views and convey a sense of place and belonging. Green space helps facilitate water, land and nature based hobbies.

2.7 Support for improving the availability of good quality green space and associated access routes for walking and cycling, ensuring that they are maintained to a high standard and safe, attractive and welcoming to all, is also endorsed by the Marmot Review<sup>12</sup>, with a particular focus on its role in addressing health inequalities; and by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) evidence based guidance on physical activity and the environment<sup>13</sup>.

2.8 Responding to this national policy framework and associated evidence base, there have been a number of national level pilots to trial and evaluate practical interventions to engage targeted communities in the use of green spaces for physical activity and wellbeing. The following table provides an outline of each initiative and their associated headline evaluation findings.

Initiative	Outline	Evaluation headlines
Natural England Green Exercise Programme (2008-11) <sup>14</sup>	Natural England funded eight, three year pilot projects through local partnerships in the regions. The aim was to test the process of engaging hard to reach groups in green exercise activity.	Key benefits received by participants: - Increased access to local green space, by showing them where they can go and giving them confidence to visit these places independently. - Positive experiences of nature that can increase awareness of local environmental issues and encourage people to take positive action for the natural environment through conservation volunteering.

<sup>12</sup><http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

<sup>13</sup><http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/Ph8>

<sup>14</sup><http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/linkingpeople/health/greenexercise/default.aspx>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for meeting new people and socialising in an informal and relaxed setting.</li> <li>- Opportunity to learn and develop new skills and knowledge which can broaden their horizons and are transferrable to home, work and school.</li> <li>- Ability to become more active outdoors and encourage them to try different kinds of physical activities.</li> <li>- Improved physical health and wellbeing in ways that are both accessible and enjoyable to participants in a relaxed environment.</li> </ul>
Birmingham Active Parks scheme 2013-date <sup>15</sup>	<p>Birmingham's Active Parks scheme was launched as a 5 site pilot in April 2013, as part of the City's award winning Be Active free physical activity programme. The Active Parks scheme offers local residents a diverse range of free, informal outdoor activities in parks and green spaces including Zumba, Tai Chi, rounders, hula-hooping and table tennis, along with guided walks and buggyfit.</p> <p>In May 2014, the Active Parks pilot was expanded to over 50 parks across Birmingham, as part of Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives programme. Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives programme is part of Coca-Cola Great Britain's commitment to invest £20m between now and 2020 in programmes to encourage and support people to be more physically active. In its first year, Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives will run in parks in Birmingham, Newcastle and London, with plans for more cities to join the programme in 2015 and beyond.</p> <p>All Birmingham Active Parks/ Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives sessions will be free and</p>	<p>Results from the early qualitative evaluation of Birmingham's Be Active programme demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Price is a barrier to participation</li> <li>- Access to free exercise increased people's likelihood to participate</li> <li>- Hard to reach groups including women and ethnic minority communities engaged with the scheme</li> <li>- Regular exercise increased participants self-reported sense of wellbeing</li> <li>- Participation on the scheme increased participant demand for other lifestyle information such as smoking cessation and alcohol advice.</li> </ul> <p>Initial evaluation of the Active Parks pilot showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While 61 per cent of Birmingham residents would like to spend more time being active outdoors, rather than staying at home (39 per cent) it is the perceived cost associated with being active (29 per cent) as well as a lack of time (26 per cent) that are the most significant deterrents to getting active outdoors.</li> <li>- Almost a quarter of respondents (24 per cent) only visit their local park during the summer season, and just 12 per cent visiting their local park at the weekend.</li> <li>- More than half of Birmingham residents (56 per cent) cited that they if there were more organised activities on offer and if facilities and equipment was provided then they would be more likely to visit their park more often.</li> </ul>

<sup>15</sup> <http://beactivebirmingham.co.uk/active-parks>

	led by a trained session leader supported by local Friends of Parks volunteers.	
Dudley Healthy Towns project (2008-11) <sup>16</sup>	<p>One of the Government's Healthy Community Challenge Fund projects to support innovative interventions to reduce obesity. The Dudley project transformed five of the borough's parks and play areas into 'healthy hubs' in order to encourage families to make the most of outdoor areas.</p> <p>Each hub has an 'outdoor gym', a Healthy Towns building (accommodating community rooms, kitchen, ranger office, toilets etc), and a dedicated park ranger. Active travel corridors have also been created making it easier to cycle across the borough.</p>	<p>Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An increase in the proportion of local adult and child respondents meeting government physical activity guidelines: adults achieving recommended levels increased from 46% to 51% and children from 49% to 54%;</li> <li>- Walking remains the main activity of park users with cycling more limited in its representation - the increased levels of recreational physical activity (reported above) have not, as yet, been mirrored in more active commuter travel to work;</li> <li>- The installation of outdoor gyms is the single most popular improvement cited for the reported increases in physical activity.</li> </ul> <p>The success of the project to date has resulted in secured local funding for the project until 2014; however the evaluation results to date reflect the immediate impact of what must be viewed as a long term strategic physical activity, health and wellbeing investment</p>
Walking for Health <sup>17</sup>	National initiative between Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support, which currently supports 600 local Walking for Health schemes across England to organise short, free walks led by friendly, trained walk leaders. 70,000 people currently participate regularly, with 3,400 weekly walks led by 10,000 volunteers	<p>Getting involved in Walking for Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspires people who don't exercise to move more. Almost half of walkers used to do less than half an hour of activity three days a week until they started walking.</li> <li>- People that walk with us take at least five walks every four months.</li> <li>- Helps people stay active. Not everyone can exercise as much as they used to. Walking lets everyone step down without giving up exercise altogether.</li> <li>- Is popular with women and the over-55s. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of walkers are over 55, the same amount are women.</li> </ul> <p>Both these groups usually have lower than average levels of physical activity.</p>
The Conservation Volunteers Green	A programme (normally one session per week for 1-4 hours) where people volunteer	- Recruits diverse and vulnerable groups to Green Gym projects and integrating them

<sup>16</sup> <http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Dudley-Healthy-Towns-Executive-Summary1.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/Walking%20works\\_summary\\_AW\\_Web.pdf](http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/Walking%20works_summary_AW_Web.pdf)

Gym® (2003-8) <sup>18</sup>	to undertake practical conservation or gardening work to enhance their fitness and health while taking action to improve the outdoor environment. There are c52 Green Gym projects in UK	with the wider community - Demonstrates that through the Green Gym concept, these more vulnerable groups are more likely to improve their scores on measures of physical and mental well-being and physical activity - Delivers practical site management benefits and associated personal conservation skills and awareness development
Routes to Health, part of Reality Check community arts and health project), Cannock Chase (2003-6) <sup>19</sup>	Routes to Health is a community arts and health trail, which has been developed to tackle local health inequalities. The trail has been created by local artists, students, schools and community groups. Unique art pieces are themed around health issues and are designed to generate interest and provide information on issues such as exercise, relaxation, mental health and a heart health. The artworks are placed on an accessible one mile trail, which acts as a catalyst for participants and their families to engage in the trail and absorb health information in an informal way. The programme targets those who don't typically access the forest environment: teenagers, people with mental health problems, people with disabilities, the elderly, young families from low income backgrounds and those who are sedentary.	It is estimated that before the walking trail was developed approximately 150 people used the route every month. Over the first 12 months of the Route to Health project 50,000 walkers have walked the trail, representing about 1,000 walks taken per week. This impressive figure has been sustained during the second year of the project.  The art works played a role in supporting people to use the walking trail. 63% of people responding to the Route to Health Questionnaire agreed with the statement that "the artworks main purpose is to generate interest and provided a reason for walking the rest of the trail." 49% of people agreed with the statement that "the artworks are useful for showing the way around the trail"
Lakeside Health Trails, Doncaster, 2014	An initiative between Doncaster Council and Doncaster Rovers Football Club to deliver series of trails around Lakeside green space using mobile device QR codes and embedded posts encouraging visitors to exercise, learn, relax and enjoy the space. Residents will be able to scan the	No evaluation available as yet.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.tcv.org.uk/greengym>

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/RealityCheck\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/RealityCheck_Report_final.pdf)

	QR codes and upload free data such as exercise videos, heritage information and facts on the surrounding natural environment. There will be a supporting website to host the trail information, a calendar of events, a diary of regular activities, and general information.	
Playing Out, Bristol <sup>20</sup>	<p>Resident led project to support parents to create a safe environment for their children to play out, focusing on temporary closure of residential streets to create safe and accessible outdoor play space close. Project now provides advice and support to communities to create street play space across the UK.</p> <p>Support is also available nationally from Play England through its Street Play campaign<sup>21</sup></p>	University of Bristol evaluation of the Playing Out project showed that children were outside approximately 70% of the time during the street closure monitoring period. This compares to less than 20% usually spent outdoors during this time period on an average school day by Bristol children of a similar age. <sup>22</sup>

2.9 In undertaking the Green Exercise Programme evaluation, Natural England identified a range of common enablers, which were found to support increased participation in such projects. These are outlined below for reference purposes, when developing and taking forward specific actions in the pilot action plan for Chesham.

- Opportunity for social contact and companionship. Being around like-minded others, meeting new people and enjoying a shared experience.

<sup>20</sup><http://playingout.net/>

<sup>21</sup><http://www.playengland.org.uk/streetplay>

<sup>22</sup><http://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/playing-out-evaluation-Angie-Page.pdf>

- Knowing how to get to the green space, and/or having transport, where project activities are happening and feeling welcomed and accepted.
- Anonymity of health status, particularly for those with sensitive health conditions, ie. those suffering mental ill health really appreciate the fact that nobody asks about it, they just accept you.
- Informality of the group was important to people. They appreciated the fact that activities were relaxed and that there were no expectations. Participants aren't forced to do a fixed amount of activity.
- Known routes to participation are key in giving people confidence and encouraging them to participate in the intervention. For example, through GP or exercise referral, via an existing group/organisation or through word of mouth.
- Getting the publicity right/tailored to the target audience – rather than just blanket flyers/posters or adverts in the paper. People seemed to respond well to the personal touch, ie. having the project officer come and tell them about the project/activities. Hearing directly from people who had already experienced the project also seemed to be a very effective way of encouraging people to get involved.
- One-off taster sessions worked well enabling people to try the activity and see if they liked it before committing to a programme, but again it is important to get the publicity and communications right in order to attract specific audiences.
- For the set programmes small groups of 8-10 seemed about right in terms of ensuring everyone was getting involved and developing friendships in the groups, too large a group would have been daunting and off-putting for some participants and wouldn't have functioned so well in terms of developing cohesion/support networks.
- Branded free gifts are appealing and make participants feel appreciated and as though they belong to the project.

2.10 The NHS has also recently created, with the help of top fitness experts, an online directory of new ways and places to exercise for free for people to explore, including walking, trim trail, DIY boot camp and park games.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/free-fitness.aspx>

## b) Local

- 2.11 At the local level, the relevant policy framework is provided by both county and district level plans. The key county level plans are the Buckinghamshire Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-17<sup>24</sup>, Physical Activity Strategy 2014-17<sup>25</sup> and Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009)<sup>26</sup> and associated delivery plans. These high level policy documents provide the strategic framework within which to guide the development and delivery of district and other more local level plans.
- 2.12 The Green Space Means Health project has been developed in accordance the county strategic aim to improve health and reduce inequalities through building physical activity into everyday life. More specifically, the project delivers on the Buckinghamshire Physical Activity Strategy action commitment set out below:

Strategic aim	Headline action
Building activity into everyday life	Assess availability and use of green space for people living in the most deprived areas of Buckinghamshire. (to address links between poor health and access to green space: poor health and deprivation)
	Promote and enhance access to parks, play and leisure facilities and green space as great places to be active
	Increase capacity among volunteers to provide community led physical activity opportunities, with focus on areas of deprivation and green space in each local authority area

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<sup>24</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/healthy-living/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

<sup>25</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1932033/Physical-Activity-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>26</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/green-infrastructure/>

2.13 The Buckinghamshire Physical Activity Strategy also includes a range of recommended design principles to increase physical activity levels in the county:

- Adopt collaborative approach
- Identify and target inactive residents and evaluate and demonstrate outcomes
- Offer range of activities and sports opportunities – flexible and adaptable to needs of target audience
- Secure support of GPs and health professionals
- Refer to tailored programmes
- Pursue organisational action, both at workplace and community levels

2.14 The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy provides an assessment of GI provision, opportunity and deficiency based on ANGSt (Access to Natural Green Space Standards), a Natural England developed national quantitative green space standard<sup>27</sup>. This standard emphasises the importance of communities having access to different sizes of natural and semi-natural green space close to where people live, based on scale and catchment. By applying ANGSt and assessing existing provision against future need, the Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies three Priority Action Areas (1. North Aylesbury Vale; 2. Aylesbury Environs; and 3. Wycombe District South and South Bucks) where deficiencies of strategic GI have been identified. These three Priority Action Areas are taken forward and developed in the Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan<sup>28</sup>.

2.15 The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan builds on the strategic green infrastructure (GI) planning framework which has been developed in the county since 2009, including Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Aylesbury Vale Green

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<sup>27</sup>[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east\\_of\\_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx)

<sup>28</sup>[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1521901/5326-Bucks-GI-Delivery-Plan-FINAL-ISSUE\\_2013\\_08\\_07\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1521901/5326-Bucks-GI-Delivery-Plan-FINAL-ISSUE_2013_08_07_low_res.pdf)



Infrastructure Strategy 2011-26<sup>29</sup>. The Delivery Plan identifies a suite of area specific green infrastructure (GI) proposals and projects within the strategic GI framework for the NEP and other key stakeholders to take forward. It also provides guidance on how these can be achieved, plus notes on synergies with other complementary projects, potential funding streams and governance models. Summarised below are the key proposals, projects and supporting evidence relating to Chesham, which form the basis of this review:

- Significant health deprivation issues exacerbated by settlement form and density and transport barriers to GI network access
- Main GI opportunities in relate to improved signage and promotion of existing routes, eg. from the tube station.
- Historically famous for orchards, including Carroon Cherry
- Chesham is not within any GI Strategy Priority Action Area
- Area specific proposals: Amersham-Chesham-Little Chalfont Corridor
- Specific project proposals:
  - Improve links from tube stations to valleys

2.16 Another key element of the strategic GI plan framework is the Buckinghamshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP), which is a statutory document produced by the County Council as Highway Authority. The current RoWIP covers the period 2008-18 and includes the following strategic vision to “expand, manage and promote the network of routes and open spaces, recognising its historical and ecological significance whilst providing real economic benefits to the rural communities and health benefits to local people, to create safe and sustainable access provision for all<sup>30</sup>.” The commitment to deliver health benefits for users and residents is reflected in the plan’s strategic aims, which includes objectives around working with communities to improve and create new

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<sup>29</sup><http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/leisure-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/green-infastructure-strategy/>

<sup>30</sup>[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/133563/BCC\\_RoWIP\\_2008\\_2018\\_Web.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/133563/BCC_RoWIP_2008_2018_Web.pdf)

access links, in areas where there are inadequate or limited public rights of way; and to focus on the county Health Walks programme development.

- 2.17 In addition to the county level strategic GI plan framework summarised above, Chilterns District Council has produced its own open space strategic plan as outlined in the table below.

Plan/ strategy	Key findings/ proposals
Chilterns Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2014-17 (Draft) <sup>31</sup>	<p>Three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase participation in recreational activities</li> <li>2. To achieve a joined up strategy with localised priorities to develop sustainable facilities that support increased participation</li> <li>3. To support community groups and others to access external funding</li> </ol> <p>Identified shortfalls in provision in Chesham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asheridge Vale and New Town provision needs improving, especially play and youth facilities</li> <li>- Still areas with poor access to public open space, including outlying Green Belt area surrounding town</li> <li>- Redress balance between adult and youth grass pitch provision. Need more youth provision.</li> <li>- Allotments, pavilions and community centres have sufficient capacity to meet need but facilities old and need investment to make fully accessible/ fit for purpose</li> </ul>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/openspace>

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### 3. Chesham Area Assessment

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the key issues relating to the access and use of green space to address public health and wellbeing needs in Chesham, with a particular focus on the town's most deprived communities. The assessment concludes with a set of corresponding recommended improvement actions and long and short list of sites for the phase 3 pilot intervention action planning work in Chesham. The assessment was informed by a combination of primary and secondary research undertaken by the consultants, People & Place Solutions.
- 3.2 Although the project brief specified an analysis of the Natural England Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment (MENE) dataset, this was discovered not to be feasible. On interrogating the raw MENE visit-based and respondent-based data, the data was either not available (eg. ref. 'E6: Perceived quality of named site') or meaningless due to the small respondent sample size and therefore, high margin of statistical error, at local, medium super output or district area levels. This was particularly an issue for the visit based data, eg. 'Q7: Name of local green space visited'; 'Q8: Distance travelled to visit the named site; or 'Q12: Reason for visit eg. health/ exercise; fresh air'. The data only became meaningful at higher spatial levels and so was not considered appropriate, even for contextual use, in this review. The same was true for Public Health England health profiles, which are only available down to district level; and for the new Public Health Outcomes Framework, Indicator 1:16: (Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/ health reasons) is only available down to upper tier authority level, which for Buckinghamshire is the county area. In addition, the County Health and Well Being Joint Strategic Needs Assessment only provides health and wellbeing data at the county level.

3.3 The local GI plan framework identifies the settlement form and density of Chesham as a significant barrier to GI network access, with the main GI opportunities relating to improved signage and promotion of existing routes, especially from the tube station. In addition, the current Consultation Draft Chilterns Recreational and Open Space Strategy identifies the following specific shortfalls in green space provision in Chesham:

- Asheridge Vale and New Town provision needs improving, especially play and youth facilities
- Still areas within the town with poor access to public open space, including outlying Green Belt area surrounding town
- Redress balance between adult and youth grass pitch provision. Need more youth provision.
- Allotments, pavilions and community centres have sufficient capacity to meet need but facilities old and need investment to make fully accessible/ fit for purpose

3.4 The 2014 public health profile for Chilterns District identifies a 7 year life expectancy gap for men and 5.2 year gap for women between the district's most and least deprived communities.

3.5 The following table lists a number of local projects or plans to improve the accessibility and quality of green space in Chesham within the next 2 years, as identified by stakeholder consultees. In addition, Simply Walks health walk activities are currently provided at The Waterside.

Site name	Project/ plan
Windsor Road Recreation Ground ('Pond Park')	Community hall, including bar, meeting rooms, changing facility. Working with current lessee The Belmont Club to support greater/ wider community use of building

3.6 People & Place Solutions engaged stakeholder consultees in the area assessment, who identified the following issues, as impacting adversely on the ability of Chesham's deprived communities to maximise the use of the town's green spaces for health and well-being; and recommended the following corresponding actions to address them.

Issues	Actions
Windsor Road Recreation Ground ('Pond Park'): - Under-used - Pitches not marked out - Occasional ASB – vandalism, drugs - Belmont Club's current use of community hall inhibits wider community use of this community facility - Lack of community engagement in events	None identified by consultee
Awareness	Use school sites for Grow & Cook type stuff

3.7 The following table provides a list of sites in Chesham identified by stakeholder consultees for consideration for the phase 3 pilot intervention action planning work.

Site name	Rationale for putting forward
Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Pond Park	Only main site in Pond Park
Marston Fields, Pond Park	Area of deprivation
Bachelors Way, Pond Park	Area of deprivation
The Moor, Waterside	Area of deprivation
The Beeches, Asheridge, Chesham	Area of deprivation
'West Chesham' Recreation Ground (b/t Ashridge Road and Chapman's Crescent)	Area of deprivation
Berkhampstead Field	Good community nature reserve with opportunities for public engagement. Good links to local natural history society.
Hawridge and Cholesbury Common	Close to Chesham town, good site to take people to maintain local feel and have positive impact on biodiversity.

3.8 The following selection criteria was used to identify the target pilot sites in each of the three target towns:

- The need to identify at least one site, and no more than two, per target town
- The priority ranking of the site by stakeholder respondents

- The frequency of the site's selection in stakeholder responses
- The inclusion of the site in local development plans/ projects
- The physical scale of the site and its proximity to other local sites
- The proximity of the site to deprived communities
- The perceived opportunity to increase community use/ GI functionality of the site
- The existence of ASB and other management issues which may impact on site quality.
- The opportunity to build on existing community engagement work

3.9 By applying these criteria to the long list for Chesham, only one short listed pilot site was identified to be progressed in phase 3 - Windsor Road Recreation Ground.

3.10 Although the brief proposed the community consultation to be targeted on the phase 3 pilot site, to maximise the opportunity to design, develop and deliver effective pilot interventions in accordance with community needs, the action planning work was not restricted to the pilot site alone. Instead, this site formed the initial strategic focus of the community engagement work with the in-built flexibility to extend it to other local sites/ off site interventions as identified by the local community. The spatial area for wider local site selection and community engagement was defined by ward area boundaries related to the ward area within which the target site was located.

## **4. Windsor Road Recreation Ground site overview**

4.1 Windsor Road Recreation Ground is a small rectangular green space within Ridgeway and Vale Ward on the northern urban edge of Chesham. There are no other green spaces within c0.5km of the site. The next closest site is a small enclosed rectangular area of close mown grass surrounded by housing - called Batchelor's Way/ Chesterton Close/ Manor Road Recreation Ground.

- 4.2 The Windsor Road Recreation Ground is bounded on all four sides by housing; on its south-western corner by the Belmont Club; and on its north-western corner by the Little Spring Primary School. The site has a slight slope across it, west-east, and enjoys long, open views across to the farmed and wooded west facing valley side opposite.
- 4.3 The site has two pedestrian/cycle access points, both of which are located on its south-western corner. One of the access points - off Windsor Road - is a shared access with the Belmont Club car park; and the other off Overdale Road is via a short alley between the Belmont Club perimeter fence and an adjoining residential property's perimeter fence. A staggered metal barrier is located at the recreation ground end of this alley. Both access points have good sight lines into the site, but neither has any signage promoting/ welcoming visitors to the site.
- 4.4 The poor condition and appearance of the Belmont Club building and grounds, including associated car park space, coupled with its stark perimeter steel fencing is unattractive and detracts from the overall reasonable environmental setting of the recreation ground.
- 4.5 The southern and eastern boundaries of the site are formed by timber fencing of the adjoining residential properties' gardens. The fencing is in reasonable condition with no evidence of graffiti on it at the time of visit. With the exception of the site's southern boundary, where there is no on site vegetation to break up the appearance of the fencing, the other boundaries contain areas of scrub and several mature trees. The western boundary fencing is fully screened by a mature native thorn hedge. Along the site's eastern and northern boundaries, a narrow margin of longer grass had been left and the northern boundary margin includes a wider belt of scrub.
- 4.6 The main area of the site is maintained as close mown grass, with evidence of football pitch line marking, though this was old, indicating that it hadn't been formally marked out as a pitch for some time.
- 4.7 There are two bins provided on site, one for general litter, located within the enclosed play area (which appeared to have been set on fire in the past); and one for dog mess, located on the site's western boundary adjoining the play area.

## **5. Green Flag assessment**

- 5.1 In December 2014, People & Place Solutions undertook a field based self-assessment of the Chesham target site – Windsor Road Recreation Ground - in accordance with the Green Flag Award criteria<sup>32</sup>. The Green Flag Award scheme is a Government endorsed national quality standard for all public parks and open spaces. The scheme is not specifically designed for assessment of woodland sites or public health facilities/ interventions.
- 5.2 The self-assessment consists of 27 individual scoring criteria, each worth up to 10 points, based on the following scoring system: '0-1 Very Poor; 2-4 Poor; 5-6 Fair; 7 Good; 8 Very Good; 9 Excellent; 10'. The assessment was undertaken through a single, walk-over site visit. Although the visit attempted a reasonable assessment of the full site, not all areas of the site were walked/ covered. No contextual site information was obtained or used in the production of the assessment. The assessment results represent the consultant's professional opinion/ judgement.
- 5.3 Windsor Road Recreation Ground achieved an overall score of 54%, which, based on the Green Flag scoring system, means it is of a 'Fair' quality standard. Listed below are the key management issues, as identified in the self-assessment, which are considered to adversely affect the community's use and enjoyment of the site:
- Uninviting entrances to the site, with poor signage
  - Evidence of graffiti and vandalism
  - Limited bench provision and no picnic tables

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<sup>32</sup> 'Park and Green Space Self-Assessment Guide', February 2008, CABE Space, DCLG and Civic Trust



- Poor play provision, including for older children/young teenagers

5.4 The full results of the Green Flag self-assessment are included in appendix C. The results were also used to inform the design and delivery of the stakeholder consultation work undertaken for phase 3.

## **6. Stakeholder engagement**

6.1 For the stakeholder engagement element of the action planning work, People & Place Solutions worked with the client to identify an initial list of organisational and individual stakeholder consultees, including Ward/ Town Councillors, community groups, GPs/ health professionals, site managers and user groups, etc. The stakeholder engagement work was undertaken using three different methods as outlined below:

### **a) Community survey**

6.2 In April/ May 2015, a community survey was undertaken, using an online questionnaire, targeting residents of Ridgeway and Vale Wards. The survey and supporting promotional poster was publicised to local residents, via professional and community stakeholder contacts. Unfortunately, a total of only 4 questionnaire responses were received. Of the 4 responses received, only 1 respondent had visited the Windsor Road Recreation Ground site in the past 12 months. This respondent visits the site once every 2-3 months to walk the dog. Listed below are the key changes respondents would like to see made to Windsor Road Recreation Ground:

- More litter bins (2 respondents)
- More benches (2 respondents)

## **b) Community workshops**

6.3 In March/ April 2015, 6 stakeholder workshops were held for targeted community groups and organisations within Ridgeway and Vale Wards, as follows:

- Pond Park over 30's Club
- Chesham Guides
- Chiltern Hills Academy (Year 7)
- Little Springs School
- Café Club

In addition, on site consultation sessions were held at Windsor Road Recreation Ground and Captain's Wood and Marston Fields, involving one session at each site.

6.4 These facilitated discussions were used to obtain the respective groups' views of the site, including location, accessibility, management and maintenance issues and their prioritisation, and suggested actions to address these issues and increase community use for health and wellbeing. A total of 106 individuals covering a range of ages and both genders, participated in the community workshops. More people were aware of, and used, the nearby Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields green space, than they did Windsor Road Recreation Ground. Most consultees felt that neither Windsor Road Recreation Ground, nor other local green spaces, were particularly well used by the local community. However, pupils at Little Spring Primary School thought the sites, particularly Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields, was well used. Listed below are the key management issues, as identified across the community workshops/ consultations, which are considered to adversely affect the community's use and enjoyment of both Windsor Road Recreation Ground and Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields sites:

- Insufficient signage/ information boards
- Lack of seating
- Amount of litter (and dog mess)
- Fears about personal safety/ anti-social activities
- Generally unwelcoming feel

6.5 During the consultation activities, it was noted that Windsor Road Recreation Ground is small and not particularly valued/ used by the community. While Captain's Wood and Marston's Field was considered to have the scale and natural environment features to become a very valuable community resource, with scope for significant enhancements.

6.6 For a full report of the results of each of the 6 community workshops, please refer to appendix D.

### **c) Action planning workshop**

6.7 The results from the Green Flag assessment, community survey and community workshops were used to develop a discussion paper, which was circulated to professional and community stakeholder invitees (appendix E) ahead of the action planning workshop.

6.8 The discussion paper outlined the key management issues, which were considered to adversely affect the community's use and enjoyment of Windsor Road Recreation Ground. Responding to views expressed at the community workshops, the paper also outlined issues associated with the nearby Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields site, which is a larger, more diverse site and considered by the community workshop participants to have greater potential to serve Ridgeway and Vale Ward residents for public health well-being. The paper concluded with a set of potential actions to address the identified issues and increase community access, awareness and use of the two target sites. These potential actions were listed as follows:

- a) Make site entrances more inviting/ welcoming with new signage/ site boards/ removal of barrier on Overdale Road access
- b) Enhance visual appearance of Belmont Club site and use of property as community asset linked with use of Windsor Road Recreation Ground
- c) More litter/ dog bins
- d) More seats/ benches
- e) Ensure litter/ graffiti is removed promptly
- f) Enhance play area, including need for additional equipment and provision for older children/ young teenagers
- g) Review demand/ need to continue to use site as formal full size football pitch
- h) Subject to outcome of e), consider alternative use/ management of space to meet community health and well-being need, including trim trail/ outdoor exercise equipment; junior goals; natural play; pictorial meadow/ community orchard
- i) Provide additional benches and picnic tables at strategic points
- j) Address ASB and public safety perception through Community Safety Partnership campaign targeting site
- k) Additional new facilities/ activities/ interventions:
  - Outdoor gym (eg. same as beside Amersham Library)
  - Trim trail/ obstacle course
  - Youth shelter
  - Climbing wall
  - Tennis courts
  - Sensory garden
  - Permanent goal posts

6.9 The action planning workshop was held on 24 June 2015. At the workshop, professional and community stakeholder participants were

invited to consider the issues and actions identified in the discussion paper, in terms of their appropriateness and deliverability.

Participants were also invited to consider additional issues and actions. A report detailing the output from the workshop is included in appendix F.

## **7. Action plan**

- 7.1 The results of the workshop were used to develop an action plan, which sets out a programme of proposed infrastructure improvements, interventions, activities and events to improve the local community's access, awareness and use of Windsor Road Recreation Ground and Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields, with a focus on delivering public health and wellbeing outcomes. Following the workshop, the draft action plan was circulated to professional and community stakeholders (appendix E) for comment and for 'sign up'. The finalised plan, including key delivery partners/ lead partners and associated target delivery dates and resourcing requirements, is included in appendix G.
- 7.2 The delivery of the finalised action plan needs to be considered in the context of wider site management plans and be taken forward in an integrated, planned way with strong community engagement and support. The success of the plan is dependent on the ability of the lead partners to engage and work with the supporting delivery partners and to secure the necessary resources to take forward the specified actions. In designing and developing these actions, delivery partners are invited to consider the good practice guidance detailed in sections 2.9 and 2.13 above; and the NICE guidelines on 'Physical Activity and the Environment'<sup>33</sup> and 'Walking and Cycling'<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> NICE Guidelines (2008) Physical activity and the environment - <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph8>

<sup>34</sup> NICE Guidelines (2012), Walking and cycling: local measures to promote walking and cycling as forms of travel or recreation - <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph41>

## 8. Evaluation

8.1 Listed below are a set of recommended design principles<sup>35</sup> for delivery partners to use to assess the impact of their proposed action plan activities/ interventions.

- Participation - at each stage of evaluation those with an interest should be involved. These can include policy-makers, community members and organisations, health and other professionals. Make it a conversation – a search for meaningful narrative requires a dialogue
- Multiple methods - evaluations should draw on a variety of disciplines and employ a broad range of information gathering procedures
- Capacity building - evaluations should aim to enhance the capacity of individuals, communities, organisations etc
- Look beyond outputs – numbers alone do not tell the whole story. To evaluate change means looking at real differences, or ‘outcomes’, made by a project. Very often these happen at the level of the individual and so the methods must be sensitive enough to pick up whatever individual stories are hidden behind the numbers
- Choose indicators that matter – The indicators (or ‘ways of knowing’) that change is (or is not) happening can be a combination of numbers and descriptions of people’s experience. They should be chosen, based on what people associated or benefitting from the project have identified as important to measure, and not just what is easiest to count.

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<sup>35</sup>Taken from following references:

- World Health Organization (1998) Health Promotion Evaluation -recommendations to policy-makers. Report of the WHO European working group on Health Promotion Evaluation.
- Heritage Lottery Fund (2012) Evaluation Good Practice Guidance

- Appropriateness - evaluations should be designed to accommodate the complex nature of health promotion interventions and their long term impact

9.2 There is no single, correct way to evaluate an activity or intervention. The method that is most appropriate will depend on the aims and objectives of the proposed activity/ intervention, the types of information or data available, and the time and resources available. The questions to ask in the design and planning stage of an evaluation framework for an activity/ intervention are as follows:<sup>36</sup>

- What are the aims and objectives of the proposed activity/intervention?
- What is the evaluation to be used for, ie. demonstrating impact/ informing continuous improvement?
- Who are the main groups and individuals involved in the proposed activity/ intervention?
- Who is the evaluation for, ie. the audience?

9.3 It is critical to plan the evaluation as early as possible in the design of any activity/ intervention development process, in order to enable the identification and collection of any required baseline data. Listed below are some suggested outputs and outcomes for consideration in the design of appropriate evaluation frameworks for the proposed action plan activities/ interventions:

- Different activities/ interventions run and numbers/ demographic profile of people attending (ie. participants)
- Numbers/ demographic profile of volunteers involved in the project
- Numbers of visitors to each site (using estimates based on periodic manual counts at regular intervals during the year. To save on cost, this could be done by volunteers. Alternatively, if feasible, install automatic people counters at key entrance points)

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<sup>36</sup>Adapted from Morgan A (2006) Evaluation of health promotion. In: Davies M & Macdowall W (Eds.) Health Promotion Theory: Understanding Public Health Series. Open University Press/McGrawHill

- Re-assess each site using national Green Flag award scheme self-assessment methodology (To save on cost, this could be done by volunteers, though may raise issues of competency and consistency)
- Survey (talk to) project partners, staff and volunteers and intervention/ activity participants
- Use of individual participant testimonials/ case studies

9.4 In designing and undertaking any participant surveys, attention needs to be paid to sample size/ sampling methods and statistical confidence and avoiding bias. For further guidance on survey design, please refer to HLF evaluation guidance<sup>37</sup>.

9.5 Given the focus of some of the action plan activities/ interventions on increasing use of the target sites for exercise, the British Heart Foundation's toolkit for the design and evaluation of Exercise Referral Schemes is also recommended as a useful evaluation framework planning reference<sup>38</sup>.

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<sup>37</sup> Heritage Lottery Fund (2012) Evaluation Good Practice Guidance

<sup>38</sup> British Heart Foundation National Centre for Physical Activity and Health (2010), A Toolkit for the Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Exercise Referral Schemes



## **APPENDICES**

## Appendix A: Project brief



**Green Space Means Health - An assessment of accessible green infrastructure in areas of highest health deprivation in Buckinghamshire – project brief**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (NEP) in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council's PSD (policy, strategy and development) and Public Health teams, wishes to compile information on green infrastructure and its availability to the more health deprived communities in the county.

A project with recommendations ('the project') is required by the NEP to inform development of an action programme in priority communities delivering the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Physical Activity Strategy and Buckinghamshire GI Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Bucks & MK NEP is the commissioning body (or 'Client') for the study and will appoint a Project Manager. The Project Manager will be the Consultant's main contact for the study.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership covers the administrative areas of Buckinghamshire, including the 4 district councils; Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe, South Bucks, and Chiltern, and Milton Keynes District Council. The NEP was recognised by the government in June 2012 as a prescribed body, as detailed in section 33A (1) of the Localism Act 2011. A detailed explanation of the role of such partnerships is provided by DEFRA. A shadow board was established in 2013 and the following partners have provided board members:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxford Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)
- Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF)
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB)
- Chiltern District Council
- DEFRA agencies
- Health & Wellbeing/Clinical Commissioning Board (HWB)
- South Bucks District Council
- Wycombe District Council
- Higher Education sector

The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy (2007) provides an assessment of the county's accessible green infrastructure resource, where deficits lie and highlights priority areas for action. The Buckinghamshire GI Delivery Plan (2013) broadly identifies measures across the county where green infrastructure may be best targeted, including areas for health and wellbeing. These documents are at quite a strategic level.

The GI strategy did not however include information on where more deprived communities live and their access to green space. We know that people living in more deprived communities experience poorer health, we also know that green space is good for health both in physical and mental terms. Studies show that access to good quality urban parks was beneficial to public health those living in greener urban areas display fewer signs of depression and anxiety.<sup>39</sup>

The Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy<sup>40</sup> aims to improve health and reduce inequalities in Buckinghamshire and has a focus on physical activity. As a result a Buckinghamshire Physical activity strategy 2014-2017 has been produced which includes the following actions:

<b>Building Activity into everyday life - Built Environment / Green Spaces</b>	Assess availability and use of green space for people living in the most deprived areas of Buckinghamshire. (to address links between poor health and access to green space: poor health and deprivation)	Map access to green space for specific areas of deprivation in Bucks: Chesham, Wycombe and Aylesbury. Identify areas with no/limited access to good quality green space and assess feasibility of addressing this need with green infrastructure leads
		Audit the quality and the community use of spaces identified above and develop a plan to improve where required (cross reference Green Infrastructure delivery plan) Undertake consultation with local community
		Promote the use of the available local green space to the local community with specific events/initiatives (cross ref: 2.9)

Ian Alcock†, Mathew P. White\*†, Benedict W. Wheeler†, Lora E. Fleming†, and Michael H. Depledge*Environ. Sci. Technol.*, Article DOI: 10.1021/es403688w Accessed 14/1/2014 <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es403688w>

<sup>40</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/healthy-living/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

## **PROJECT AIMS & METHODOLOGY:**

The project will comprise of the following elements, of which Phases 2 and 3 will be commissioned:

### **Phase 1**

- 1) To map quantity and availability of green space greater than 0.25ha no further than 800m away from any deprived community, against areas of health deprivation focusing on the lowest quintile of deprivation as measured by the IMD, within High Wycombe, Chesham and Aylesbury. This has been completed by BCC in-house and the GIS/mapping is available under license.

### **Phase 2**

- 2) Undertake analysis of data from the Natural England MENE dataset for the study areas, looking at communities who live in Buckinghamshire (rather than people who visit Buckinghamshire) to provide national context, and key indicators and information regarding use of green spaces in High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Chesham (reference to Mid Beds study for background).
- 3) To identify key stakeholders/communities and owners of green spaces identified in phase 1. To undertake a high level consultation/audit with community leaders, stakeholders and owners of the identified green spaces in order to understand the quality and community use of the green spaces identified in 1. This will start with analysis of district open space studies/audits and assessments, but will identify any gaps for non-district owned/managed sites. This should reflect methodology and evidence from other similar studies and knowledge from outside Buckinghamshire where possible – there is a lot of similar work being undertaken across the country and we hope that this can be taken into account.
- 4) From the consultation and audit in 1 & 2, prepare an analysis of issues for each town, including potential future actions to improve access to and use of their green space to address health and wellbeing in these identified areas. Recommendations for key sites for a community consultation and interventions pilot will be made and the next phase of work defined.

### **Phase 3**

- 5) Undertake further consultation in 2 of the recommended key sites for an interventions pilot in order to produce a local action plan. This should be with the local community who use/could use the spaces. Detailed methodology to be agreed – but may include an event/interviews/local surveys/web survey monkey/engagement of school or healthy living centres. This phase of the project aims to:
- a) To define specific issues of use/ non-use e.g. maintenance, safety, ownership, health issues within community
  - b) To develop a local action plan to improve access, awareness and use of the green space targeted at addressing health issues and providing interventions e.g. this may need to include developing funding bids, community engagement, remedial works, new access, new spaces, alternatives, shared land, town centre greening etc
  - c) To build evaluation in to assess impact of actions/measures on health

#### **Phase 4**

- 5) Disseminate best practice and information from study accordingly.

#### **KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER**

- 1. Phase 1 is complete and BCC are able to support any additional modifications to GIS through liaison with the Project Manager in presentation of the final reports.
- 2. Phase 2 and 3 should be costed as separate elements, and the contract will be let in two stages subject to satisfactory completion of the Phase 2.
- 3. It should be noted that Phase 3 is considered to be the most important part of the project in terms of revealing issues and measures for public health and green infrastructure – the balance of time on the project should be weighted towards Phase 3.
- 4. The consultant should build in reasonable scope/flexibility for modifications to Phase 3, following the outcome of Phase 2. The project task group would be happy to receive guidance and direction for the detailed design of Phase 3 from the consultant for consideration.
- 5. Phase 4 is not required and will be undertaken by the NEP.
- 6. There is a Task & Finish Group overseeing this project, chaired by the Project Manager and incorporating all district council partners, the Chiltern Conservation Board and Natural England. There is an expectation that the consultant will report to this group and attend one meeting.
- 7. The consultant should allow for attending 1 or 2 community workshops/events in Phase 3.

## **OUTPUTS AND PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY**

The outputs should be presented as a report in 2 paper copies and provided as a digital copy. There will be a final report for the project as a whole and two specific local green space action plans.

## **CONDITIONS AND STANDARDS OF THE WORK**

The consultant will be required to produce a Proposal and Method Statement which will be agreed by the Project Manager. In particular the Proposal and Method Statement will be required to:

- outline the Consultant's understanding of the brief
- identify any assumptions or observations made by the Consultant
- set out how the Consultant intends to meet the aims of the project including identification of the key elements of and stages within the project, how the Consultant will interact with the Project Manager
- set out how interim and final outputs will be presented
- set out a timetable, including identifying progress report meetings and key milestones during the contract with the Project Manager
- set out the Consultant's fees and estimates for the delivery of the study

Methods, outputs and reporting will be as specified unless varied by written instruction issued by the Project Manager.

**Copyright:** the findings from the study will be the property of the Client. The use of this information by the Consultant for any purposes other than those specified in this document will require the written consent of the Client.

**Format and presentation of data:** key data for the study will be available in digital format. It is a requirement that data will be captured in digital format compatible with the NEP and BCC's systems. Digital data generated by the project must be compatible with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and Access) and for GIS data Arc GIS version 9.3.1.

## **TIMETABLE**

Tender submissions received by Client	23 April 2014
Commencement of work	1 May 2014

Phase 2 complete – draft report to client	31 May 2014
Task Group Meeting	tbc June 2014
Commencement of Phase 3	By mid June 2014
Workshops	June/July 2014
Draft report	tbc July 2014
Final report and green space action plans	End of July 2014

### **CONTACTS**

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### **ENCLOSURES:**

1. PDF maps from Phase 1.
2. MENE analysis from Central Beds
3. Bucks GI Plans are available at: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/green-infrastructure/>



## **Appendix B: Stage 2 report**

People & Place Solutions

# **Green Space Means Health**

## **Phase 2: Strategic Review**

5 October 2014

### **Brief:**

Green Space Means Health: An assessment of accessible green infrastructure in areas of highest health deprivation in Buckinghamshire

### **Client:**

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been commissioned by the Buckinghamshire and Milton-Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (NEP), in accordance with the project brief included in appendix A.
- 1.2 The report represents phase 2 of a 4 phase project, where phases 1 and 4 will be undertaken by the client and phases 2 and 3 by an external consultant. The overall aim of the project is to inform the development of a programme of practical action to maximise the use of green space in areas of high multiple deprivation in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe. The project takes forward high level aims and actions in the Buckinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy<sup>41</sup> and Physical Activity Strategy<sup>42</sup> around improving public health and reducing inequalities in Buckinghamshire, with a focus on building physical activity into everyday life.
- 1.3 People & Place Solutions (PPS) won the tender to undertake phases 2 and 3 of the project and commenced work on phase 2 in July 2014, guided by a project task group, chaired by the client lead, and whose membership is included in appendix B.
- 1.4 This report represents the culmination of work on phase 2 and starts with a high level review of relevant policies and plans, before moving on to a more detailed audit and analysis of issues and potential improvement actions relating to green space provision and use in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe, with a particular focus on each of the town's most deprived communities. Maps showing the location of these communities (ie. 5th quintile of deprivation as measured by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)), is included in appendix C. This report concludes with a set of recommendations, drawn from the analysis, which includes recommended areas for further consultation and pilot intervention to be taken forward in phase 3.

## 2. Methodology

- 2.1 The following section outlines the methodology used in undertaking the phase 2 review, audit and analysis.
- 2.2 A list of relevant plans, strategies and published research to be included in the high level review was compiled from references supplied by key stakeholder consultees and the consultant's own literature review. In deciding what review information to include in the phase 2 report,

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<sup>41</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/healthy-living/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

<sup>42</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1932033/Physical-Activity-Strategy.pdf>

the consultant sought guidance from the client lead, who agreed that the focus should be on review content which adds value to the project and associated client knowledge base. .

2.3 The list of phase 2 key stakeholder consultees was developed with input from members of the project task group and is included in appendix D. An accompanying questionnaire (appendix E) was produced and sent by email to each of these stakeholders. The aim of the questionnaire was to give key stakeholders the opportunity to input to the phase 2 review using their local knowledge and awareness of what was happening 'on the ground', in terms of community access to and use of local green spaces and associated issues and opportunities. Confirmation of which stakeholder consultees responded to the questionnaire is included in appendix D.

### **3. Policy context**

3.1 This section provides a high level review of relevant national and local plans, strategies, research findings and outdoor physical activity initiatives, which are considered to add value to the project.

3.2 Over the last decade there has been a shift in the health agenda towards promoting healthy lifestyle behaviour and choices. There has also been recognition of the role the environment can play in enhancing health. Less active lifestyles have led to an increase in preventable diseases which are placing increasing pressures on the National Health Service, including a cost of £8.2 billion annually.<sup>43</sup>

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3.3 Parks and green spaces contribute to all aspects of health and well-being including increasing levels of physical activity which could alleviate pressures on the NHS. Simply being outside in a green space can promote mental well-being, relieve stress, overcome isolation, improve social cohesion and alleviate physical problems so that fewer working days are lost to ill health.<sup>44</sup>

3.4 Parks provide spaces where people can get fresh air, go for a walk, play sports, exercise or just enjoy the surroundings. Unfortunately those living in more deprived communities, who tend to have poorer health and suffer from the kind of illnesses that can be alleviated by regular exposure to green spaces, are also less likely to have good access to high quality parks and green spaces.

#### **c) National**

3.5 At the national level, the policy framework linking public health and the natural environment is well developed and being advocated strongly by Government through key policy documents, such as the *2010 Public Health White Paper*<sup>45</sup> and government agencies, such as Public

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<sup>43</sup>Department of Health. (2004). At least five a week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health

<sup>44</sup>CABE. (2009). Future Health: Sustainable places for health and well-being

<sup>45</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-public-health-white-paper-2010>

Health England<sup>46</sup> and Natural England<sup>47</sup>. The contribution of green space to health and wellbeing is now formally recognised in the new national public health outcomes framework<sup>48</sup> with the inclusion of *Indicator 1:16: Utilisation of green space for exercise/ health reasons*. This indicator is included in the framework grouping relating to wider determinants that affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.

3.6 Listed below is a summary of key national research findings which have informed the current national policy position and are directly relevant to the aim of this project:

*CABE Urban Green Nation 2010*<sup>49</sup>

- The quality of green spaces is directly linked to their perceived value, both to individuals and more generally. A small well designed and well-maintained space with diversity of facilities and landscape characters may have far greater value to local residents and to environmental services than a large, neglected, space that lacks cultural and environmental diversity.
- There is a strong correlation between the poor quality and quantity of green spaces in deprived areas, and the low levels of physical activity of residents.
- Some sectors of society use green space less than others, particularly older people (aged over 65), people with disabilities, women, black and minority ethnic people and children and young people aged 12-19.
- There is a strong link between people's satisfaction with their local parks and green spaces, and their satisfaction with their neighbourhood. This is particularly acute in the most deprived areas, where neighbourhood satisfaction is at its lowest.

*CABE Green Community 2010*<sup>50</sup>

- People living in deprived urban areas view green space as a key service, alongside housing, health, education and policing – one of the essentials in making a neighbourhood liveable.
- There is a virtuous circle: where people perceive green space quality to be good, they are also more satisfied with their neighbourhood and have better health and wellbeing.
- When people value their local green space and feel safe in it, they use it more and are more physically active. Improving the quality of spaces will encourage more active use and exercise
- The provision of green space services must take into account the preferences and needs of local people. 'One size fits all' green space does not work: the community should be given the chance to make spaces fit for purpose.

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<sup>46</sup><http://www.noo.org.uk/LA/tackling/greenspace>

<sup>47</sup><http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/linkingpeople/health/default.aspx>

<sup>48</sup><http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

<sup>49</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/urban-green-nation>

<sup>50</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/community-green>

- Greater variety and flexibility in green space provision is required as well as consistently higher quality in all areas. As the ethnic and age profile of the UK changes, green space managers need to understand the attitudes, needs and different reasons for green space use among local groups.
- Active marketing of sites; events and activities such as community fun days; guided walks; space for allotments; and considering alternative uses of specific areas will all bolster usage and result in a healthier and more satisfied community.

Natural England commissioned research 2012<sup>51</sup>

- People who perceive easy access to safe green spaces report higher green space use, more regular physical activity and lower risk of obesity. Therefore, access to safe and convenient green space is likely to be an important environmental factor in public health efforts aimed to promote physical activity and reduce obesity.
- Income-related inequality in health is affected by exposure to green space. The long-term conditions of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and dementia are much more prevalent in deprived communities which often have the least access to green space.
- Visiting green space is associated with less stress-related illness and has a positive effect on a persons' mental health.
- Time spent in nature has a hugely positive impact on key social indicators. In particular, community open space can enhance social ties, provide a sense of community and can promote social integration within disadvantaged communities.
- Increasing access to the natural environment can play a vital role in efforts to increase activity and reduce obesity. The ability to access green settings has been demonstrated to encourage contact with nature and participation in physical activity, both of which encourage the adoption of other healthy lifestyle choices such as social engagement and consumption of healthy foods.
- Natural environments have a beneficial impact on mental wellbeing. Trees and vegetation reduce ambient noise, improve naturalness, provide calming views and convey a sense of place and belonging. Green space helps facilitate water, land and nature based hobbies.

3.7 Support for improving the availability of good quality green space and associated access routes for walking and cycling, ensuring that they are maintained to a high standard and safe, attractive and welcoming to all, is also endorsed by the Marmot Review<sup>52</sup>, with a particular focus on its role in addressing health inequalities; and by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) evidence based guidance on physical activity and the environment<sup>53</sup>.

3.8 Responding to this national policy framework and associated evidence base, there have been a number of national level pilots to trial and evaluate practical interventions to engage targeted communities in the use of green spaces for physical activity and wellbeing. The following table provides an outline of each initiative and their associated headline evaluation findings.

<sup>51</sup><http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40017>

<sup>52</sup><http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

<sup>53</sup><http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/Ph8>

Initiative	Outline	Evaluation headlines
Natural England Green Exercise Programme (2008-11) <sup>54</sup>	Natural England funded eight, three year pilot projects through local partnerships in the regions. The aim was to test the process of engaging hard to reach groups in green exercise activity.	<p>Key benefits received by participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased access to local green space, by showing them where they can go and giving them confidence to visit these places independently.</li> <li>- Positive experiences of nature that can increase awareness of local environmental issues and encourage people to take positive action for the natural environment through conservation volunteering.</li> <li>- Opportunities for meeting new people and socialising in an informal and relaxed setting.</li> <li>- Opportunity to learn and develop new skills and knowledge which can broaden their horizons and are transferrable to home, work and school.</li> <li>- Ability to become more active outdoors and encourage them to try different kinds of physical activities.</li> <li>- Improved physical health and wellbeing in ways that are both accessible and enjoyable to participants in a relaxed environment.</li> </ul>
Birmingham Active Parks scheme 2013-date <sup>55</sup>	<p>Birmingham's Active Parks scheme was launched as a 5 site pilot in April 2013, as part of the City's award winning Be Active free physical activity programme. The Active Parks scheme offers local residents a diverse range of free, informal outdoor activities in parks and green spaces including Zumba, Tai Chi, rounders, hula-hooping and table tennis, along with guided walks and buggyfit.</p> <p>In May 2014, the Active Parks pilot was expanded to over 50 parks across Birmingham, as part of Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives programme. Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives programme is part of</p>	<p>Results from the early qualitative evaluation of Birmingham's Be Active programme demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Price is a barrier to participation</li> <li>- Access to free exercise increased people's likelihood to participate</li> <li>- Hard to reach groups including women and ethnic minority communities engaged with the scheme</li> <li>- Regular exercise increased participants self-reported sense of wellbeing</li> <li>- Participation on the scheme increased participant demand for other lifestyle information such as smoking cessation and alcohol advice.</li> </ul> <p>Initial evaluation of the Active Parks pilot showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While 61 per cent of Birmingham residents would like to spend more time being active outdoors, rather than staying at home (39 per cent) it is the perceived cost associated with being active (29 per cent) as well as a lack of time (26 per cent) that are the most significant deterrents to getting active outdoors.</li> <li>- Almost a quarter of respondents (24 per cent) only visit their local park during the summer season, and just 12 per cent visiting their local park at the weekend.</li> <li>- More than half of Birmingham residents (56 per cent) cited that they if there were more organised activities on offer and if facilities and equipment was provided then they would be</li> </ul>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/linkingpeople/health/greenexercise/default.aspx>

<sup>55</sup> <http://beactivebirmingham.co.uk/active-parks>

	<p>Coca-Cola Great Britain's commitment to invest £20m between now and 2020 in programmes to encourage and support people to be more physically active. In its first year, Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives will run in parks in Birmingham, Newcastle and London, with plans for more cities to join the programme in 2015 and beyond.</p> <p>All Birmingham Active Parks/ Coca-Cola Zero ParkLives sessions will be free and led by a trained session leader supported by local Friends of Parks volunteers.</p>	<p>more likely to visit their park more often.</p>
<p>Dudley Healthy Towns project (2008-11)<sup>56</sup></p>	<p>One of the Government's Healthy Community Challenge Fund projects to support innovative interventions to reduce obesity. The Dudley project transformed five of the borough's parks and play areas into 'healthy hubs' in order to encourage families to make the most of outdoor areas.</p> <p>Each hub has an 'outdoor gym', a Healthy Towns building (accommodating community rooms, kitchen, ranger office, toilets etc), and a dedicated park ranger. Active travel corridors have also been created making it</p>	<p>Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An increase in the proportion of local adult and child respondents meeting government physical activity guidelines: adults achieving recommended levels increased from 46% to 51% and children from 49% to 54%;</li> <li>- Walking remains the main activity of park users with cycling more limited in its representation - the increased levels of recreational physical activity (reported above) have not, as yet, been mirrored in more active commuter travel to work;</li> <li>- The installation of outdoor gyms is the single most popular improvement cited for the reported increases in physical activity.</li> </ul> <p>The success of the project to date has resulted in secured local funding for the project until 2014; however the evaluation results to date reflect the immediate impact of what must be viewed as a long term strategic physical activity, health and wellbeing investment</p>

<sup>56</sup> <http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Dudley-Healthy-Towns-Executive-Summary1.pdf>

	easier to cycle across the borough.	
Walking for Health <sup>57</sup>	National initiative between Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support, which currently supports c600 local Walking for Health schemes across England to organise short, free walks led by friendly, trained walk leaders. 70,000 people currently participate regularly, with 3,400 weekly walks led by 10,000 volunteers	Getting involved in Walking for Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspires people who don't exercise to move more. Almost half of walkers used to do less than half an hour of activity three days a week until they started walking.</li> <li>- People that walk with us take at least five walks every four months.</li> <li>- Helps people stay active. Not everyone can exercise as much as they used to. Walking lets everyone step down without giving up exercise altogether.</li> <li>- Is popular with women and the over-55s. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of walkers are over 55, the same amount are women.</li> </ul> Both these groups usually have lower than average levels of physical activity.
The Conservation Volunteers Green Gym® (2003-8) <sup>58</sup>	A programme (normally one session per week for 1-4 hours) where people volunteer to undertake practical conservation or gardening work to enhance their fitness and health while taking action to improve the outdoor environment. There are c52 Green Gym projects in UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruits diverse and vulnerable groups to Green Gym projects and integrating them with the wider community</li> <li>- Demonstrates that through the Green Gym concept, these more vulnerable groups are more likely to improve their scores on measures of physical and mental well-being and physical activity</li> <li>- Delivers practical site management benefits and associated personal conservation skills and awareness development</li> </ul>
Routes to Health, part of Reality Check community arts and health	Routes to Health is a community arts and health trail, which has been developed to tackle local health inequalities. The trail has	It is estimated that before the walking trail was developed approximately 150 people used the route every month. Over the first 12 months of the Route to Health project 50,000 walkers have walked the trail, representing about 1,000 walks taken per week. This impressive figure has been sustained during the second year of the project.

<sup>57</sup> [http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/Walking%20works\\_summary\\_AW\\_Web.pdf](http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/Walking%20works_summary_AW_Web.pdf)

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.tcv.org.uk/greengym>



project), Cannock Chase (2003-6) <sup>59</sup>	<p>been created by local artists, students, schools and community groups. Unique art pieces are themed around health issues and are designed to generate interest and provide information on issues such as exercise, relaxation, mental health and a heart health. The artworks are placed on an accessible one mile trail, which acts as a catalyst for participants and their families to engage in the trail and absorb health information in an informal way.</p> <p>The programme targets those who don't typically access the forest environment: teenagers, people with mental health problems, people with disabilities, the elderly, young families from low income backgrounds and those who are sedentary.</p>	<p>The art works played a role in supporting people to use the walking trail. 63% of people responding to the Route to Health Questionnaire agreed with the statement that "the artworks main purpose is to generate interest and provided a reason for walking the rest of the trail." 49% of people agreed with the statement that "the artworks are useful for showing the way around the trail"</p>
Lakeside Health Trails, Doncaster, 2014	<p>An initiative between Doncaster Council and Doncaster Rovers Football Club to deliver series of trails around Lakeside green space using mobile device QR codes and embedded posts encouraging visitors to exercise, learn, relax and enjoy the space. Residents will be able to scan the QR codes and upload free data such as exercise videos, heritage information and facts on the surrounding natural environment.</p>	<p>No evaluation available as yet.</p>

<sup>59</sup> [http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/RealityCheck\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/RealityCheck_Report_final.pdf)

	There will be a supporting website to host the trail information, a calendar of events, a diary of regular activities, and general information.	
Playing Out, Bristol <sup>60</sup>	<p>Resident led project to support parents to create a safe environment for their children to play out, focusing on temporary closure of residential streets to create safe and accessible outdoor play space close. Project now provides advice and support to communities to create street play space across the UK.</p> <p>Support is also available nationally from Play England through its Street Play campaign<sup>61</sup></p>	University of Bristol evaluation of the Playing Out project showed that children were outside approximately 70% of the time during the street closure monitoring period. This compares to less than 20% usually spent outdoors during this time period on an average school day by Bristol children of a similar age. <sup>62</sup>

3.9 In undertaking the Green Exercise Programme evaluation, Natural England has also identified a range of common enablers, which were found to support increased participation in such projects. These are outlined below for reference purposes, when considering the design of potential intervention pilots in the next phase (3) of this project.

- Opportunity for social contact and companionship. Being around like-minded others, meeting new people and enjoying a shared experience.
- Knowing how to get to the green space, and/or having transport, where project activities are happening and feeling welcomed and accepted.
- Anonymity of health status, particularly for those with sensitive health conditions, ie. those suffering mental ill health really appreciate the fact that nobody asks about it, they just accept you.

<sup>60</sup><http://playingout.net/>

<sup>61</sup><http://www.playengland.org.uk/streetplay>

<sup>62</sup>[http://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/playing-out-evaluation\\_Angie-Page.pdf](http://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/playing-out-evaluation_Angie-Page.pdf)

- Informality of the group was important to people. They appreciated the fact that activities were relaxed and that there were no expectations. Participants aren't forced to do a fixed amount of activity.
- Known routes to participation are key in giving people confidence and encouraging them to participate in the intervention. For example, through GP or exercise referral, via an existing group/organisation or through word of mouth.
- Getting the publicity right/tailored to the target audience – rather than just blanket flyers/posters or adverts in the paper. People seemed to respond well to the personal touch, ie. having the project officer come and tell them about the project/activities. Hearing directly from people who had already experienced the project also seemed to be a very effective way of encouraging people to get involved.
- One-off taster sessions worked well enabling people to try the activity and see if they liked it before committing to a programme, but again it is important to get the publicity and communications right in order to attract specific audiences.
- For the set programmes small groups of 8-10 seemed about right in terms of ensuring everyone was getting involved and developing friendships in the groups, too large a group would have been daunting and off-putting for some participants and wouldn't have functioned so well in terms of developing cohesion/support networks.
- Branded free gifts are appealing and make participants feel appreciated and as though they belong to the project.

3.10 The NHS has also recently created, with the help of top fitness experts, an online directory of new ways and places to exercise for free for people to explore, including walking, trim trail, DIY boot camp and park games.<sup>63</sup>

#### d) Local

3.11 At the local level, the relevant policy framework is provided by both county and district level plans. The key county level plans are the Buckinghamshire Health and Well Being Strategy 2013-17<sup>64</sup>, Physical Activity Strategy 2014-17<sup>65</sup> and Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009)<sup>66</sup> and associated delivery plans. These high level policy documents provide the strategic framework within which to guide the development and delivery of district and other more local level plans.

3.12 The Green Space Means Health project has been developed in accordance the county strategic aim to improve health and reduce inequalities through building physical activity into everyday life. More specifically, the project delivers on the Buckinghamshire Physical Activity Strategy action commitment set out below:

Strategic aim	Headline action
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<sup>63</sup><http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/free-fitness.aspx>

<sup>64</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/healthy-living/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-heath-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

<sup>65</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1932033/Physical-Activity-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>66</sup><http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/green-infrastructure/>

Building activity into everyday life	Assess availability and use of green space for people living in the most deprived areas of Buckinghamshire. (to address links between poor health and access to green space: poor health and deprivation)
	Promote and enhance access to parks, play and leisure facilities and green space as great places to be active
	Increase capacity among volunteers to provide community led physical activity opportunities, with focus on areas of deprivation and green space in each local authority area

3.13 The Buckinghamshire Physical Activity Strategy also includes a range of recommended design principles to increase physical activity levels in the county:

- Adopt collaborative approach
- Identify and target inactive residents and evaluate and demonstrate outcomes
- Offer range of activities and sports opportunities – flexible and adaptable to needs of target audience
- Secure support of GPs and health professionals
- Refer to tailored programmes
- Pursue organisational action, both at workplace and community levels

3.14 The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy provides an assessment of GI provision, opportunity and deficiency based on ANGSt (Access to Natural Green Space Standards), a Natural England developed national quantitative green space standard<sup>67</sup>. This standard emphasises the importance of communities having access to different sizes of natural and semi-natural green space close to where people live, based on scale and catchment. By applying ANGSt and assessing existing provision against future need, the Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies three Priority Action Areas (1. North Aylesbury Vale; 2. Aylesbury Environs; and 3. Wycombe District South and South Bucks) where deficiencies of strategic GI have been identified. These three Priority Action Areas are taken forward and developed in the Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan<sup>68</sup>.

<sup>67</sup> [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east\\_of\\_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx)

<sup>68</sup> [http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1521901/5326-Bucks-GI-Delivery-Plan-FINAL-ISSUE\\_2013\\_08\\_07\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1521901/5326-Bucks-GI-Delivery-Plan-FINAL-ISSUE_2013_08_07_low_res.pdf)

3.15 The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan builds on the strategic green infrastructure (GI) planning framework which has been developed in the county since 2009, including Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011-26<sup>69</sup>. The Delivery Plan identifies a suite of area specific green infrastructure (GI) proposals and projects within the strategic GI framework for the NEP and other key stakeholders to take forward. It also provides guidance on how these can be achieved, plus notes on synergies with other complementary projects, potential funding streams and governance models. Summarised below are the key proposals, projects and supporting evidence relating to the three towns, which form the basis of this review:

#### Aylesbury

- Existing GI suffers from severance and few opportunities to create enhanced urban links and green space improvements
- Main GI opportunities relate to management of amenity green space, which currently delivers few functions, eg. biodiversity; and improved peri-urban links to key GI assets/ nodes on Aylesbury Linear Park
- Significant pockets of health deprivation within western parts of Aylesbury (eg. Quarrendon neighbourhood). Enhanced links to River Thames and associated GI network plus Linear Park (incl Quarrendon Leas) could help with access spurs to/ from Quarrendon.
- Aylesbury is within Bucks GI Strategy Priority Action Area 2
- Area specific proposal: Aylesbury Linear Park, including number of flagship GI projects: Aylesbury Linear Park east and west and Quarrendon Leas to the West and Grand Union Triangle, Wendover Woods and Regional Wetland Park to the east)
- Specific project proposals:
  - Extension of linear park, including link to River Thames
  - Wetland landscape enhancement to link Regional Wetland Park
  - Urban areas, 'greening the town' eg. tree planting, green roofs

#### Chesham

- Significant health deprivation issues exacerbated by settlement form and density and transport barriers to GI network access
- Main GI opportunities in relate to improved signage and promotion of existing routes, eg. from the tube station.
- Historically famous for orchards, including Carroon Cherry
- Chesham is not within any GI Strategy Priority Action Area
- Area specific proposals: Amersham-Chesham-Little Chalfont Corridor
- Specific project proposals:
  - Improve links from tube stations to valleys

#### High Wycombe

- Significant pockets of health deprivation in central area of town and Totteridge (near King's Wood)

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<sup>69</sup> <http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/leisure-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/green-infastructure-strategy/>

- Main GI opportunities include disused railway strategic access link to Bourne End; access enhancements to King's Wood; and green space quality and urban habitat diversity enhancements, eg. The Rye and riparian green space along River Wye
- A40 and railway line are key barriers to improved access in Lower Hughenden Valley and Gomm Valley
- High Wycombe is within GI Strategy Priority Action Area 3
- Area specific proposal: Wycombe
- Specific project proposals:
  - Improve strategic access links to woods in east of town, including King's Wood surfacing, interpretation and planting
  - Daw's Hill, retain and enhance existing link and wider countryside, including shared use routes
  - Urban areas, 'greening the town' eg. tree planting, green link improvements

3.16 Another key element of the strategic GI plan framework is the Buckinghamshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP), which is a statutory document produced by the County Council as Highway Authority. The current RoWIP covers the period 2008-18 and includes the following strategic vision to "expand, manage and promote the network of routes and open spaces, recognising its historical and ecological significance whilst providing real economic benefits to the rural communities and health benefits to local people, to create safe and sustainable access provision for all<sup>70</sup>." The commitment to deliver health benefits for users and residents is reflected in the plan's strategic aims, which includes objectives around working with communities to improve and create new access links, in areas where there are inadequate or limited public rights of way; and to focus on the county Health Walks programme development.

3.17 In addition to the county level strategic GI plan framework summarised above, each of the three district councils has produced its own GI or green/ open space strategic plans. An outline of the relevant key extracts is included in the table below.

Plan/ strategy	Key findings/ proposals
Aylesbury Vale GI Strategy 2011-26 <sup>71</sup>	<p>Based on ANGSt, Aylesbury doesn't meet any of the minimum standards. The lack of larger site provision is especially notable.</p> <p>Nine strategic principles, including:</p> <p>5.4. The importance of linked up space and green routes for providing recreational opportunities that can enhance health and wellbeing should be recognised.</p> <p>8. GI should be designed to high standards of sustainability to deliver social and economic, as well as environmental benefits.</p> <p>Flagship projects: Vale Park, Aylesbury Linear Park</p>

<sup>70</sup>[http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/133563/BCC\\_RoWIP\\_2008\\_2018\\_Web.pdf](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/133563/BCC_RoWIP_2008_2018_Web.pdf)

<sup>71</sup><http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/leisure-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/green-infastructure-strategy/>

Chilterns Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2014-17 (Draft) <sup>72</sup>	<p>Three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase participation in recreational activities</li> <li>2. To achieve a joined up strategy with localised priorities to develop sustainable facilities that support increased participation</li> <li>3. To support community groups and others to access external funding</li> </ol> <p>Identified shortfalls in provision in Chesham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asheridge Vale and New Town provision needs improving, especially play and youth facilities</li> <li>- Still areas with poor access to public open space, including outlying Green Belt area surrounding town</li> <li>- Redress balance between adult and youth grass pitch provision. Need more youth provision.</li> <li>- Allotments, pavilions and community centres have sufficient capacity to meet need but facilities old and need investment to make fully accessible/ fit for purpose</li> </ul>
Wycombe Open Space Framework 2010 <sup>73</sup>	<p>Vision/ objective: To ensure that open space facilities are welcoming, well maintained and clean</p> <p>Open space principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interpret local standards, eg. built-up area constraints</li> <li>2. Hierarchical approach, eg. strategic v local</li> <li>3. Play should be available locally</li> <li>4. Outdoor sport – greatest category shortfall</li> <li>5. Small spaces (in built up areas) – address deficiency through improvements in quality and accessibility</li> </ol> <p>High Wycombe has greatest shortfall in overall open space in district, especially outdoor sports pitches (football/cricket), parks, play and teen. Locally significant shortfalls in Desborough and Daws Hill.</p> <p>Council wishes to create high quality, open space network and endorses quality standard of litter free, tidy, enables good access and enhances biodiversity</p> <p>Proposed actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create teen facility at Hughenden Park.(no longer being progressed following public consultation)</li> <li>- Improve walking/ cycle access to Hughenden Park across Hughenden Road (Community Infrastructure Levy funding being bid for)</li> <li>- Raise standards at Totteridge and Hughenden Recreation Grounds (completed)</li> <li>- Improve quality of Derehams Sports Ground, intensify sports use and introduce teen facilities (work completed)</li> </ul>

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/openspace>

<sup>73</sup> Wycombe District Council, *Wycombe Open Space Framework*, December 2010

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intensify use of Desborough Recreation Ground for outdoor sport (ie. changing rooms) (now completed)</li> <li>- Improve access to/ quality of Carrington Land, Tom Burt's Hill and Desborough Castle open space (some work completed)</li> </ul>
<p>Wycombe adopted Delivery and Site Allocations DPD Policy DM11 Green Networks &amp; Infrastructure</p> <p>Policy DM12 Green Spaces</p> <p>DSA Policy HWTC1 and DM15 Protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors</p> <p>DSA Policy DM16 Open Space in new development</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Network will be conserved and enhanced, paying special attention to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, recreation and non – motorised access</p> <p>Development must not cause the loss of green space in certain areas.</p> <p>HWTC1 sets out the vision for reopening the river and improving the river corridor, including access to it for recreational purposes.</p> <p>DM15 states that development should 'seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity, landscape and recreational value of the watercourse'</p> <p>New development is required to make provision for public open space to set standards.</p>

#### 4. Area Assessment

- 4.1 The following section provides an outline assessment of issues relating to the access and use of green space to address health and wellbeing needs, especially for the most deprived communities, in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe. For each town, the assessment concludes with a set of corresponding recommended improvement actions and long list of potential sites for consideration for the pilot intervention action planning work in phase 3. The assessments have been informed by a combination of primary and secondary research undertaken by PPS, including key stakeholder responses to the consultation questionnaire in appendix E. A list of those stakeholders who were consulted and who responded is included in appendix D.



4.2 Although the project brief specified an analysis of the Natural England Monitor of Engagement in the Natural Environment (MENE) dataset for each of the three towns, this was discovered not to be feasible. On interrogating the raw MENE visit-based and respondent-based data, the data was either not available (eg. ref. 'E6: Perceived quality of named site') or meaningless due to the small respondent sample size and therefore, high margin of statistical error, at local, medium super output or district area levels. This was particularly an issue for the visit based data, eg. 'Q7: Name of local green space visited'; 'Q8: Distance travelled to visit the named site'; or 'Q12: Reason for visit eg. health/ exercise; fresh air'. The data only became meaningful at higher spatial levels and so was not considered appropriate, even for contextual use, in this review. The same was true for Public Health England health profiles, which are only available down to district level; and for the new Public Health Outcomes Framework, Indicator 1:16: (Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/ health reasons) is only available down to upper tier authority level, which for Buckinghamshire is the county area. In addition, the County Health and Well Being Joint Strategic Needs Assessment only provides health and wellbeing data at the county level.

#### **a) Aylesbury**

- 4.3 A map showing the provision of green space greater than 0.25ha within an 800m catchment radius of the town's most deprived communities, as identified by the IMD 5<sup>th</sup> quintile of deprivation, is included in appendix F. The individual site identification references on the map correspond with those in the table in appendix G, which details the results of a green space audit for the town, including individual site names, sizes and types.
- 4.4 The local GI plan framework identifies Aylesbury town as failing to meet the minimum standard of provision for accessible green space in accordance with ANGSt. The town's existing GI suffers from physical severance and its urban form presents few opportunities to create enhanced urban links and green space improvements. The town also suffers from a lack of larger urban green spaces, with only 4 sites over 10ha and no sites over the 20ha threshold within 2km catchment radius. Despite a dense network of public footpaths and bridleways, there is also a lack of multipurpose access links for walking, cycling and horse riding in the area. The 2014 public health profile for Aylesbury Vale identifies a 7.5 year life expectancy gap for men and 3.3 year gap for women between the district's most and least deprived communities<sup>74</sup>.
- 4.5 The current local GI plan framework identifies two GI flagship projects for Aylesbury town - Vale Park and Aylesbury Linear Park. The Vale Park project involves providing new seating, landscaping and historical feature restoration at Vale Park and access improvements to Bear Brook. The Aylesbury Linear Park project involves linking up existing and creating new green spaces around the town, including walking and cycling routes and formal and informal recreation provision. In addition, there are a number of smaller local projects or plans to improve the accessibility and quality of green space in Aylesbury within the next 2 years, as identified by stakeholder consultees in the table below.

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<sup>74</sup><http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=105510>

Site name/ location	Project/ plan
Alfred Rose Park, Elmhurst	Access, footpath, and boundary improvements.
Riverside Walk, Quarrendon	Ongoing footpath repairs and access improvements (funding dependant)
The Paddock, Bedgrove	Install bridge over brook to improve access from adjacent housing
Vale Park, Aylesbury Central	Improvements to Park Street pedestrian access. Replace skate park. Installation of x2 5-a-side synthetic pitches. Removal of old railings along Lovers Walk
Walton Court Playing Fields	Access improvements for both vehicles and pedestrians
Whitehill Park, Aylesbury Central	Surfacing of footpaths (just complete)
Berryfields development <sup>75</sup>	3000 dwelling development, including new GI with equipped play space and access to newly created public open space
Canal towpath to town centre	Creation of new cycle route along the canal towpath between the ARLA dairy site (on the A41) and Aylesbury Town Centre. This is likely to be implemented within the next 2 years.
Various sites	Tree planting. Correction of any faults identified in annual Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) inspections

4.6 In addition, the following table lists outdoor health activities currently being provided on green spaces within Aylesbury town.

Site name	Outdoor health activity
Riverside Walk	Parkrun (approx. 100 participants every Saturday morning, free of charge, see <a href="http://www.parkrun.org.uk">www.parkrun.org.uk</a> . Free of charge to use ball courts, play areas, grass sports pitches
Bedgrove Park	Simply Walk (Health Walks), free of charge to use ball courts, play areas, grass sports pitches, buggy jog
Fairford Leys	Regiment Fitness, play areas, grass sports pitches
Oakfield Road	Regiment Fitness. Free of charge to use ball courts, play areas, grass sports pitches
Vale Park	Basketball – This targets unengaged young people in the town through the summer and has proved popular in the past, skate parks, play areas, floodlit 3G synthetic pitches as of January 2015, Aqua Vale Leisure Centre, links to Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal, tennis.
All Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGA)	MUGA project. Range of free sports activities for children and young people run for 6 weeks in May/June and also in the summer.

4.7 Stakeholder consultees identified the following issues, as impacting adversely on

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk/planning-policy/publications-list/planning-brief-publications/berryfields-development-design-code/>

the ability of Aylesbury's deprived communities to maximise the use of the town's green spaces for health and well-being; and recommended the following corresponding actions to address them.

Issues	Actions
Safe cycling areas within the town are minimal and the few there are, are generally linear so not geared towards leisure cyclists and families. Only a couple of the parks have any paths and they are narrow so not conducive to multi-use.	Paths around the edge of parks such as Bedgrove, Walton Court/Edinburgh Playing Fields and a widening and raising of the paths on Riverside Walk, as well as extending the path network on the north side of the river Thames.
Allotments: Quantity	Planning – to be included as part of future developments if sufficient garden space is not provided e.g. apartments

4.8 The following table provides a list of sites in Aylesbury identified by stakeholder consultees for consideration for the phase 3 pilot intervention action planning work. Although not presented in priority order below, Aylesbury Riverside Walk was identified as the top priority site for consideration in two of the three consultation responses received.

Site name	Rationale for putting forward
Aylesbury Riverside Walk, including Haydon Hill	One of the largest open spaces in Aylesbury that links new and existing housing developments. It sits between an old estate and two new ones currently under construction. Parts of it are a floodplain.
Alfred Rose Park	Well used site that is in need of updating and made more appealing and safer by improving views in and out of the Park.
Edinburgh Playing Fields/ Walton Court	Currently used for grass football pitches. Consider feasibility to use these sites for other activities and sports Within the town's biggest deprived community with regular anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues
Whitehill Park	Issues with drug and alcohol users at this site, which is putting local people off using the space.
Vale Park	Further access improvements and convert existing toilet building. Use site to promote links to other green spaces including round Aylesbury Walk. Convert bowls green (only used part of year) to 2 floodlit 3G 5-a-side pitches (underway for completion January 2015)
Bedgrove Park	Has the potential to be extended depending on future development in the area.
Somerville Way	Located in deprived area, work with partners to improve facilities. May be potential for a ball court/MUGA
Football pitches	Align supply of grass pitches with demand. Development business case to replace grass pitches at multiple sites with floodlit 3G pitches.

## b) Chesham

4.9 A map showing the provision of existing green space greater than 0.25ha and within an 800m catchment radius of the town's most

deprived communities, of deprivation, is included in appendix H. The individual site identification references on the map correspond with those in the table in appendix I, which details the results of a green space audit for the town, including individual site names, sizes and types.

4.10 The local GI plan framework identifies the settlement form and density of Chesham as a significant barrier to GI network access, with the main GI opportunities relating to improved signage and promotion of existing routes, especially from the tube station. In addition, the current Consultation Draft Chilterns Recreational and Open Space Strategy identifies the following specific shortfalls in green space provision in Chesham:

- Asheridge Vale and New Town provision needs improving, especially play and youth facilities
- Still areas within the town with poor access to public open space, including outlying Green Belt area surrounding town
- Redress balance between adult and youth grass pitch provision. Need more youth provision.
- Allotments, pavilions and community centres have sufficient capacity to meet need but facilities old and need investment to make fully accessible/ fit for purpose

4.11 The 2014 public health profile for Chilterns District identifies a 7 year life expectancy gap for men and 5.2 year gap for women between the district's most and least deprived communities

4.12 The following table lists a number of local projects or plans to improve the accessibility and quality of green space in Chesham within the next 2 years, as identified by stakeholder consultees. In addition, Simply Walks health walk activities are currently provided at The Waterside.

Site name	Project/ plan
Windsor Road Recreation Ground ('Pond Park')	Community hall, including bar, meeting rooms, changing facility. Working with current lessee The Belmont Club to support greater/ wider community use of building

4.13 Stakeholder consultees identified the following issues, as impacting adversely on the ability of Chesham's deprived communities to maximise the use of the town's green spaces for health and well-being; and recommended the following corresponding actions to address them.

Issues	Actions
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Windsor Road Recreation Ground ('Pond Park'): - Under-used - Pitches not marked out - Occasional ASB – vandalism, drugs - Belmont Club's current use of community hall inhibits wider community use of this community facility - Lack of community engagement in events	None identified by consultee
Awareness	Use school sites for Grow & Cook type stuff

4.14 The following table provides a list of sites in Chesham identified by stakeholder consultees for consideration for the phase 3 pilot intervention action planning work. Although not presented in priority order below, Windsor Road Recreation Ground/ 'Pond Park' was identified as the top priority site for consideration in two of the three consultation responses received.

Site name	Rationale for putting forward
Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Pond Park	Only main site in Pond Park
Marston Fields, Pond Park	Area of deprivation
Bachelors Way, Pond Park	Area of deprivation
The Moor, Waterside	Area of deprivation
The Beeches, Ashridge, Chesham	Area of deprivation
'West Chesham' Recreation Ground (b/t Ashridge Road and Chapman's Crescent)	Area of deprivation
Berkhampstead Field	Good community nature reserve with opportunities for public engagement. Good links to local natural history society.
Hawridge and Cholesbury Common	Close to Chesham town, good site to take people to maintain local feel and have positive impact on biodiversity.

### c) High Wycombe

4.15 A map showing the provision of existing green space greater than 0.25ha and within an 800m catchment radius of the town's most deprived communities, as identified by of deprivation, is included in appendix J. The individual site identification references on the map correspond with those in the Excel spreadsheet in appendix K, which details the results of a green space audit for the town, including individual site names, sizes and types. .

4.16 The local GI plan framework identifies significant pockets of health deprivation in central High Wycombe and in Totteridge, with the A40 and railway line highlighted as key barriers to improved GI access in the Lower Hughenden and Gomm Valleys. The main GI

opportunities identified include the disused railway strategic access link to Bourne End; strategic access enhancements to woods in the east of town, including King's Wood; and green space quality and urban habitat diversity enhancements, eg. The Rye and riparian green space along River Wye. The 2014 public health profile for Wycombe District identifies a 7.4 year life expectancy gap for men and 3.5 year gap for women between the district's most and least deprived communities.

4.17 The following table lists a number of local projects or plans to improve the accessibility and quality of green space in High Wycombe within the next 2 years, as identified by stakeholder consultees.

Site name	Project/ plan
High Wycombe Town Centre	<i>High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan:</i> Vision for the town centre aimed at greening the town centre through downgrading Abbey Barn flyover, opening up the river and creating a green corridor in the Hughenden area. Community Infrastructure Levy being sought to green the route between the Town Centre and Hughenden Park to link with the river corridor walking route through the Compair development.
Micklefield and Marsh Wards	Two adjoining wards have been allocated c£1m from BIG Local to support community led projects/ plans over a 10 year period, which benefit the local community. A local partnership of residents and community representatives is managing the programme, facilitated by Bucks Community Foundation.
Desborough area, High Wycombe	<i>Delivery and Site Allocations Plan – Desborough Delivery and Design Framework (HW1); Delivering Regeneration, New Open Space and River Corridor Improvements in Desborough (HW2):</i> Policy approach to open up the river and create new quality open spaces in the Desborough area through redevelopment of existing sites in the area.
The Rye, Kingsmead Recreation Ground and Desborough Recreation Ground	Improvement to cycle route/footpath.
Globe Park & Cressex Industrial Parks Workplace walks	Developing pilot Workplace Walks Sept 2014 using a new Measured Mile. Based on take up will progress to other business parks and promote short walks there
Adult Gym	Currently looking at feasibility on possible location
Parkour	Currently looking at feasibility on possible location
Various Locations	Create more 'Workplace Walks' which facilitate the use of local public footpaths and green spaces adjacent to business parks and 'Measured Mile' walks around the district to encourage use of green spaces

4.18 In addition, the following table lists outdoor health activities currently being provided on green spaces within High Wycombe town, as identified by stakeholder consultees.

Site name	Activity
The Rye	Park run

Various parks	Informal boot camps and similar but not organised by Wycombe District Council
Simply Walk	<a href="http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1848072/simply-walk-programme.pdf">http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1848072/simply-walk-programme.pdf</a>
Cressex, Globe Park, Kings Mead, Wooburn Park, Bourne End	Workplace Walks being developed as Measured miles
Town centre	Heritage walks in High Wycombe
The Rye	Handy Cross Runners use The Rye on Saturday morning after park run to get people up and running via their "From couch to park run" beginner's running group.
Hughenden Park	Wycombe Phoenix Harriers use occasionally for training sessions on Sunday mornings. Hughenden Ladies Running Group use Hughenden Park for training on Thursday mornings.
Booker Recreation Ground and Holmers Farm Recreation Ground	Handy Cross Runners use these recreation grounds for training on Tuesday evenings during the summer months.
The Rye	GoTri – entry level triathlon training and events (running, cycling and swimming) (Starting January 2015)
Wades Park	GoTri – entry level triathlon training and events (running, cycling and swimming) (Starting January 2015)
Adult Gym	Currently looking at feasibility on possible location
Parkour	Currently looking at feasibility on possible location
Chilterns Ranger sites: - AXA Kings Wood - Carver Hill Wood - Chairborough Local Nature Reserve (LNR) - Castlefield & Rowcliffe Wood - Desborough Castle - Funges Meadow - Gomm's Wood LNR - Highfield & Hangingcroft Woods - Iain Rennie Memorial Wood, Plomer Hill Keep Hill Wood - Round Wood - Tom Burt's Hill	Chiltern Rangers run a wide range of activities which benefit physical and mental health & well-being (eco-therapy) at these sites and approx. 12 other sites all within 10 miles of High Wycombe and most within 5 miles. These include traditional woodland management and conservation activities such as coppicing, scrub managements, thinning, dead hedging, hedge laying, planting, clearing invasive species such as laurel, rhododendron, ragwort and more. Chilterns Rangers also undertake a range of work in other habitats mostly chalk grassland but also heathland, ponds & chalk streams (River Wye); and access improvements to enable the widest range of people in the community to enjoy and explore these sites. Tasks include: step building, path widening and revetment, wood-chipping paths, way-marking, installing rustic benches from local timber and interpretation boards to inform, guide and educate communities. Subject to funding, Chilterns Rangers would be able to deliver guided walks, as have done this in the past.

4.19 Stakeholder consultees identified the following issues, as impacting adversely on the ability of High Wycombe's deprived communities to maximise the use of the town's green spaces for health and well-being; and recommended the following corresponding actions to address them.

Issues	Actions
Chairborough LNR	Overgrown public paths leading to the LNR
Adult Gym	Need to find a suitable location for an adult gym within High Wycombe
Parkour	Need to find a suitable location for a Parkour course within High Wycombe
Engaging hard to reach groups.	Partnership working with other community groups, eg. 'Out of the Dark' who the Chilterns Rangers is working with to engage young people, who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in local woodland projects. This can be replicated and repeated.
Transport to sites/ activities	Funding dependent if transport to be supplied by activity provider
Minimum numbers to make activity work, eg. practical conservation tasks optimal group size is 6 persons	Improved promotion
Confidence	Deliver locally to where people live, using experienced leaders, so helping to remove barriers and instil confidence.
Ease of access	Need clear, easy signposting via health service, social services, local press, social media, etc to services/ activities, which are free at point of delivery.

4.20 The list of sites and supporting rationale for consideration for the phase 3 pilot intervention action planning work did not overlap as the Stakeholders only put forward sites they operated. This means, there was no commonality.

Site name	Rationale for putting forward
Castlefield & Rowcliffe Wood	Ideal location to engage a deprived area and its community. Plenty of scope and capacity for a range of tasks. Lots to do also site suffers vandalism so positive use may help turn that around and reduce future costs. Engagement and ownership is the key to better future for these sites
Chairborough LNR	Good opportunity to engage local business and communities in the same location, build cohesion and links. Close to Castlefield, Cressex and Sands.
Gomm's Wood LNR	Good site many activities to undertake adjoins Lance Way and Micklefield. Some engagement work started, scope for expansion, medium sized car park as well.
Highfield Wood	Also in Micklefield next to community centre or library as a base from where you can run sessions
Round Wood	Close again to deprived areas, lots of scope for projects.
The Rye	River bank enhancements have been carried out on the Rye including the creation of a 'beach' at the bottom of the waterfall for recreation. This is a large open space centrally located, with a Green Flag Award and with potential to hold a variety of activities and seek attendance from across the town.
Desborough Recreation	Works have been completed to de-canalise the river in Desborough Recreation Ground and create a natural 'meander' to



Ground	enhance the quality and attractiveness of the park and accessibility to the river. Changing rooms for sports use are now near completion. However work is required to promote and market the local opportunities particularly to those living in Castlefield and Sands.
Kingsmead Recreation Ground	Another large park which has a number of facilities and activities and needs marketing/promoting to the Micklefield and Loudwater areas of the town

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The following section sets out the key conclusions to be drawn from the strategic review findings.
- 5.2 Nationally, the link between health and wellbeing and the natural environment is well established in key policy documents and is being strongly advocated by central government and its agencies, including most notably Natural England and Public Health England. There are also a number of national outdoor physical activity initiatives, including Health Walks, Green Gym, Street Play and green exercise programmes, which have been piloted and evaluated and the learning and good practice made publicly available.
- 5.3 Locally, the strategic policy framework is also well established with county health and wellbeing, GI and rights of way plans and district level GI/ recreation/ open space plans. Although the county health and wellbeing/ physical activity strategy acknowledges the link between health and wellbeing and natural environment, the supporting evidence base relating to the significance of the natural environment as a wider determinant factor could be strengthened. Given that the Public Health England and Natural England MENE datasets are only available at district level and above, any insight of the health issues facing the most deprived communities in each of the three target towns can only be as an extrapolation from the higher level pictures. The national evidence base highlights accessibility, quality and safety as the key issues affecting use of green space in deprived communities. It also highlights the need to engage all sections of the community, especially women, BME and young people, in the planning and development of green spaces to ensure they are 'fit for purpose' and valued.
- 5.4 The key generic local issue facing each of the three towns is one of urban form and transport corridors creating access barriers to urban green space and the surrounding countryside. Suggested actions to address this include improving the signage of existing routes, traffic calming measures and new strategic access route development to encourage greater walking and cycling. In addition, given these physical access issues, initiatives such as Play Streets should also be considered to enable younger children to be able to enjoy regular, safe play on the streets outside their homes. Although no quality issues were raised, in terms of the general condition and maintenance of green space in any of the three towns, each assessment has highlighted a generic improvement opportunity to increase the multi-functionality of green space for the benefit of both people and wildlife. At some sites, ASB was identified by stakeholder respondents as an occasional issue, which may adversely impact on community perceptions of site safety/ attractiveness and thereby usage levels.

5.5 The stakeholder responses provided a 'long list' of key sites, for each of the three target towns, from which the phase 3 pilot sites should be selected. . As the project brief specifies that the pilot work should be undertaken in 2 of the recommended key sites, the following key site selection criteria has been developed:

- The need to provide at least one site, and no more than two, per target town
- The priority ranking of the site by stakeholder respondents
- The frequency of the site's selection in stakeholder responses
- The inclusion of the site in local development plans/ projects
- The physical scale of the site and its proximity to other local sites
- The proximity of the site to deprived communities
- The perceived opportunity to increase community use/ GI functionality of the site
- The existence of ASB and other management issues which may impact on site quality.
- The opportunity to build on existing community engagement work

By applying these criteria to the stakeholder consultation key site long lists, the following 'short list' for consideration for the phase 3 pilot work has been developed.

Site id. [1]	Site name	Supporting rationale
71, 74	Aylesbury Riverside Walk, Aylesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic green space</li> <li>• Links new and existing housing developments.</li> <li>• Adjoins number of town's most deprived communities</li> <li>• Part of strategic Aylesbury Linear Park project</li> <li>• On/ off site access improvement opportunities</li> <li>• Identified as priority site in 2 out of the 4 stakeholder responses</li> </ul>
26, 34	Edinburgh/ Walton Court Playing Fields, Aylesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic green space cluster with opportunity to increase diversity of functions</li> <li>• Identified as priority site in 2 out of the 4 stakeholder responses</li> <li>• Suffers ASB issues</li> </ul>
83	Windsor Road Recreation Ground/ 'Pond Park', Chesham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only green space in 'Pond Park' area</li> <li>• Under-utilised by community</li> <li>• Occasional ASB issues</li> <li>• Opportunity to increase community use of community centre facilities</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified as priority site in 2 out of the 3 stakeholder responses</li> </ul>
134	Castlefield & Rowcliffe Wood, High Wycombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic green space within deprived area</li> <li>Occasional vandalism issue</li> <li>Opportunity to link with adjoining Booker Lane and Desborough Castle open spaces (165, 135)</li> <li>Builds on community engagement work being undertaken by Chiltern Rangers</li> </ul>
63	Highfield Wood and Gomm's Wood LNR, High Wycombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic green spaces within deprived area, with opportunity to link with King's Wood (185)</li> <li>Located within Micklefield and Marsh BIG Local Partnership area and so opportunity to fit with BIG Local Plan and associated funding</li> <li>Highfield Wood adjoins Community Centre</li> <li>Builds on community engagement work being undertaken by Chiltern Rangers</li> </ul>

Note:

[1] Numbers correspond with the town green space map site identification (SID) references in appendix G, I and K respectively

- 5.6 Public health stakeholder responses recommended the two target sites for the phase 3 action planning work to be allocated one to Aylesbury and one to High Wycombe, as these two communities have the highest levels of deprivation in Buckinghamshire. Based on this recommendation and by re-applying the selection criteria to the short listed sites in 5.4 above, Aylesbury Riverside Walk in Quarrendon Ward is identified as the key Aylesbury target site; and Highfield Wood and Gomm's Wood LNR in Micklefield and Totteridge Wards the key High Wycombe site. Should additional budget be secured for a Chesham target site for the phase 3 action planning work, Windsor Road Recreation Ground/ 'Pond Park' in Ridgeway/ Vale wards is identified as the recommended key target site.
- 5.7 Although the brief proposes the community consultation to be targeted on the two selected phase 3 pilot sites, to maximise the opportunity to design, develop and deliver effective pilot interventions in accordance with community needs, the action planning work should not be restricted to these sites alone. Instead, these sites should form the initial strategic focus of the community engagement work with the in-built flexibility to extend it to other local sites/ off site interventions as identified by the local community. The spatial area for wider local site selection and community engagement should be defined by ward area boundaries related to the ward area within which each of the two target sites is located.

## 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 To use the national evidence base provided in this review to strengthen the significance of the natural environment as a wider determinant for public health and well-being in the Buckinghamshire Health and Well Being Strategy and its supporting local assessments/ plans, including the Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 6.2 To consider opportunities to pilot the introduction of national and/ or good practice outdoor physical activity interventions, such as Green Gym, Street Play and other such evaluated green exercise programmes, with targeted communities in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe.
- 6.3 To ensure key professional stakeholder partners, including public health and adult and youth service providers and commissioners and green space and sports service providers, are engaged from the outset in the design and development of strategic green space plans and projects and associated interventions.
- 6.4 To ensure all sections of the community, especially women, BME and children and young people, are sufficiently engaged in the design and development of local green space, including management plans, and associated access improvement projects and health and wellbeing interventions.
- 6.5 To consider taking forward the following specific actions to improve access to and use of green space to address community health and wellbeing needs in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe towns. This recommendation is subject to partners being able to secure the necessary capital and revenue funding.

Ref.	Proposed future actions
<b>Aylesbury</b>	
A1	Improve and promote safe pedestrian/ cycleway links to/ within strategic green spaces, prioritising peri-urban areas, eg. River Thame and Linear Park
A2	Increase multi-functionality of strategic green spaces, including for range of outdoor physical activity uses and biodiversity
A3	Pursue opportunities to increase urban tree planting

A4	Update and improve Alfred Rose Park to make more appealing and safer, such as by improving views in and out of the site.
<b>Chesham</b>	
C1	Improve and promote safe pedestrian/ cycleway links to/ within strategic green spaces, including signage from tube station and access to peri urban/ wider countryside sites
C2	Consider opportunity to develop and deliver orchard themed local heritage project, including creation of community orchards and related food growing projects
C3	Improve play and youth facility provision in Asheridge Vale and New Town wards
C4	Review demand/ need for adult and youth football pitch provision and address any imbalance
C5	Review allotment, pavilion and community centre provision and agree asset investment/ management plan to ensure facilities are fit for purpose
/C6	Work with the local community and other stakeholders to develop a plan to increase community use of Windsor Road Recreation Ground ('Pond Park') and associated facilities
<b>High Wycombe</b>	
HW1	Improve and promote safe pedestrian/ cycleway links to/ within strategic green spaces, including woodland sites in east of town and across Hughenden Road to Hughenden Park
HW2	Improve cycleways in the following The Rye, Kingsmead and Desborough Recreation Grounds
HW3	Develop more Measured Miles and Workplace Walks
HW4	Complete the site assessment, consultation and installation of an adult gym and parkour within High Wycombe
HW5	Assess feasibility of converting disused railway line between High Wycombe and Bourne End as strategic walking/ cycling route
HW6	Review reported ASB issues at Castlefield & Rowliffe Wood and agree remedial action plan
HW7	Pursue opportunities to increase urban tree planting

6.6 To undertake the phase 3 pilot action planning work in the following target sites/ areas in accordance with the delivery framework in the 'Proposal and Method Statement'<sup>76</sup>:

<sup>76</sup> Joel Carré, 'Proposal and Method Statement', 19 April 2014

- Aylesbury Riverside Walk and Quarrendon Ward in Aylesbury;
- Highfield Wood and Gomm's Wood LNR and Micklefield and Totteridge Wards in High Wycombe; and
- Subject to available additional budget, Windsor Road Recreation Ground/ 'Pond Park' in Ridgeway/ Vale wards in Chesham

## **Appendix A: Project Brief**

*Not included*

## **Appendix B: Project Task Group Membership**

Vicky Wetherell	Bucks and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership
Emma Green	Buckinghamshire County Council
Tom Burton	Public Health Buckinghamshire
Piers Simey	Public Health Buckinghamshire
David Waker	Chilterns District Council
Richard Garnett	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Lesley Stoner	Wycombe District Council

## **Appendix C: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 5<sup>th</sup> Quintile Maps for Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe**

*Not included*

## **Appendix D: Key Stakeholder Consultees and Respondents**

### **Aylesbury:**

Name	Organisation	Consultation respondent Y/N
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Gareth Bird	Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)	Y
Kay Aitken	AVDC	N
Andy Kirkham	AVDC	N
Tamsin Ireland	AVDC	N
Andy Inchley	AVDC	Y
Natalie Donhou-Morley	AVDC	N
Deborah Bottomley	AVDC	N
Richard Garnett	AVDC	Y
Keith Gray	Aylesbury Town Council	N
Cameron Finney	VAHT	N
Karen Fisher	Buckinghamshire County Council	Y

#### **Chesham:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation respondent Y/N</b>
David Stowe	Chilterns District Council (CDC)	Y
Katie Galvin	CDC	N
Graham Winwright	CDC	N
David Waker	CDC	N
Gerogina O'Dell	CDC	Y
David Gardner	CDC	N
Paul Nanji	CDC	N
Jackie Wesley	CDC	N
Bill Richards	Chesham Town Council	N
Liam Dawson	Paradigm Housing Association	N
John Shaw	Chiltern Rangers	Y

#### **High Wycombe:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation respondent Y/N</b>
Sarah Randall	Wycombe District Council (WDC)	Y
James Cavalier	WDC	Y
Sheila Bees	WDC	Y
Julia Adey	WDC	N
Tony Green	WDC	N
Andy Sherwood	WDC	Y
Jackie Pinney	WDC	Y
David Dewar	WDC	Y
Gilian Stimpson	WDC	N
Lesley Stoner	WDC	Y
Madeleine Howe	Buckinghamshire County Council	Y
David Mullins	Red Kite Housing Association	N
John Shaw	Chiltern Rangers	Y
Chris Gregory	LEAP	N

### **Buckinghamshire:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Consultation respondent Y/N</b>
Stephen Chainani	Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)	N
Steven Goldensmith	BCC	Y
Emma Green	BCC	N
Ian Thornhill	BCC	N
Paul Hodson	BCC	N
Julia Carey	BCC	N
Jon Clark	BCC	N
Becca Dengler	BCC	N
Fiona Broadbent	BCC	N



Vicky Wetherell	Bucks and MK Natural Environment Partnership	N
Tom Burton	Public Health Buckinghamshire	Y

## Appendix E: Stakeholder Questionnaire

### Green Space Means Health – An assessment of accessible green infrastructure in areas of highest health deprivation in Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe

**Brief:** To undertake a strategic review of relevant plans, policies and supporting evidence and use the results to identify the key green space availability/quality issues for deprived communities in towns of Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe, including recommended actions to improve community access to and use of green space to address health and well-being needs of these deprived communities in each town. For further details, see attached brief.

**Client:** Buckingham and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership

**Consultee:** *[Respondent to insert their name]*

**Consultant:** Joel Carré, People & Place Solutions

Please provide the following information, as requested below, and return it to me, at [joel\\_carre@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joel_carre@hotmail.co.uk), by **5pm, Wednesday, 16 July**, if at all possible? I appreciate this is very short notice, but unfortunately, we are having to work to a very tight deadline in order to complete the report for this stage of the study by end August. Please expand or shrink the space provided below as necessary. Alternatively, if you'd prefer to talk your consultation response through instead, please call me on 01234 402905. Thank you in anticipation for your valuable input.

**Q1. Please list below any local green space or public health studies, audits, assessments, which you feel would be of relevance to this brief?**

**Q2. Please identify any health and well-being activities, such as health walks, forces fit and horti-therapy, which are provided, either now or are in the pipeline for this year, in green spaces in any of the three target towns? Please list by site name using the table below.**

Site name	Activity

**Q3. Please identify any current projects or plans to improve the accessibility and quality of green spaces in any of the three target towns, either now or in the next 2 years? Please list by site name using the table below.**

Site name	Project/ plan

**Q4. Please list below those issues (eg. quality, quantity, accessibility, environmental, social, economic, etc) which you feel impact on the ability of deprived communities, in each of the tree target towns, to maximise the use of the town's green spaces for their health and well-being; and any corresponding actions, which you feel would help to address these issues? Please use the table below and be as specific as possible, in terms of the issues and actions, including giving specific locations.**



**Q5. Please list up to 5 green space sites in each of the three target towns, which you feel should be considered for the next phase of this study (ie. interventions pilot and action plan), in order to improve deprived community access, awareness and use of the site for public health and well-being. Please list sites in priority order for each town using table below, with 1<sup>st</sup> being highest priority; and for each, briefly explain your reason for putting it forward.**

<b>Aylesbury</b>		
	Site name	Reason for putting it forward
1 <sup>st</sup>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>		
4 <sup>th</sup>		
5 <sup>th</sup>		

<b>Chesham</b>		
	Site name	Reason for putting it forward
1 <sup>st</sup>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>		
4 <sup>th</sup>		
5 <sup>th</sup>		

<b>High Wycombe</b>		
	Site name	Reason for putting it forward
1 <sup>st</sup>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>		

4 <sup>th</sup>		
5 <sup>th</sup>		

**Q6. Should you wish to provide any additional information, which you feel may be of relevance to this study, please include it below?**

## **Appendix F-K**

*Not included*

## **Appendix C: Green Flag site assessment**

Site name: **Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Chesham**

Assessor's name: Joel Carré, People & Place Solutions

Assessment date: 7 December 2014



The following site assessment has been undertaken as part of the Green Space Means Health (GSMH) project, a joint initiative working under the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership, involving Chiltern DC, Wycombe DC, Aylesbury Vale DC, Public Health Buckinghamshire and Natural England. The first two phases of the project involved mapping all the public green spaces in relation to the most deprived communities in three towns - Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe - and for each town identifying what existing health related activities were already taking place. This work was completed in summer 2014 and resulted in a target green space/ community being selected in each of the three towns to go forward to phase 3 of the project. This third phase involves the development of an action plan for each of the three target sites/ communities to increase public use of the target sites (and potentially other neighbouring sites) for physical and mental health and well-being. These action plans will be used to inform the management of these green space(s), target existing and new public health interventions, support community led action and provide an evidence of need to support future funding bids, such as to the Lottery and Public Health Buckinghamshire.

Windsor Road Recreation Ground and associated Ridgeway/ Vale community was selected as the target green space site/ community for Chesham. The following report provides the results of a field assessment undertaken for Windsor Road Recreation Ground in accordance with the Green Flag Award criteria<sup>77</sup>. The Green Flag Award scheme is a Government endorsed national quality standard for all public parks and open spaces. The field assessment was undertaken through a single, walk-over site visit. No contextual site information was obtained or used in the production of the assessment. The scoring system is the Green Flag Award field research scoring guide as follows: '0-1 Very Poor; 2-4 Poor; 5-6 Fair; 7 Good; 8 Very Good; 9 Excellent; 10 Exceptional'. Where an individual criterion was not able to be assessed (due to lack of available information) or not considered appropriate (given the

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<sup>77</sup> 'Park and Green Space Self-Assessment Guide', February 2008, CABE Space, DCLG and Civic Trust

nature of the site), no score was given. The recommendations at the end of the report are based on the assessment's key findings and submitted for the site manager's consideration, in the context of other site management objectives and resource availability. The assessment results and recommendations will also be used to help inform the production of the GSMH action plan for the Windsor Road Recreation Ground site and associated Ridgeway and Vale community.

Criteria	Assessment notes	Supporting photos	Score
Appraisal criterion 1: A welcoming place			
Sub-criterion 1: Welcoming	<p>Windsor Road Recreation Ground is a small rectangular green space within Pond Park on the northern urban edge of Chesham. There are no other green spaces within c0.5km of the site. The next closest site is a small enclosed rectangular area of close mown grass surrounded by housing - called Batchelor's Way/ Chesterton Close/ Manor Road Recreation Ground (see separate site assessment note at end of this report).</p> <p>The Windsor Road Recreation Ground is bounded on all sides by housing; and on its south-western corner by the Beaumont Club; and north-western corner by the Little Spring Primary School. The site has a slight slope across it, west-east, and enjoys long, open views across to the farmed and wooded west facing valley side opposite.</p> <p>The site has two pedestrian/cycle access points, both of which are located on its south-western corner. One of the access points - off Windsor Road - is a shared access with the Beaumont Club car park; and the other off Overdale Road is via a short alley between the Beaumont Club perimeter fence and an adjoining residential property's perimeter fence. A staggered metal barrier is located at the recreation ground end of this alley. Both access points have good sight lines into the site, but neither has any signage promoting/ welcoming visitors to the site. Though given size of site/ limited facilities and local audience, this is not considered a major issue.</p> <p>The poor condition and appearance of the Beaumont Club building and</p>	 	6

grounds, including associated car park space, coupled with its stark perimeter steel fencing is unattractive and detracts from the overall reasonable environmental setting of the recreation ground.

The southern and eastern boundaries of the site are formed by timber fencing of the adjoining residential properties' gardens. The fencing is in reasonable condition, with no evidence of graffiti on it at the time of visit. With the exception of the site's southern boundary, where there is no on site vegetation to break up the appearance of the fencing, the other boundaries contain areas of scrub and several mature trees. The western boundary fencing is fully screened by a mature native thorn hedge. Along the site's eastern and northern boundaries, a narrow margin of longer grass had been left and the northern boundary margin includes a wider belt of scrub.

The main areas of the site is maintained as close mown grass, with evidence of football pitch line marking, though this was old, indicating that it hadn't been formally marked out as a pitch for some time.


There was little evidence of litter, dog fouling or garden fly tips, although there was fresh, offensive graffiti on the play area slide.


There are two bins provided on site, one for general litter, located within the enclosed play area (which appeared to have been set on fire in the past); and one for dog mess, located on the site's western boundary adjoining the play area.




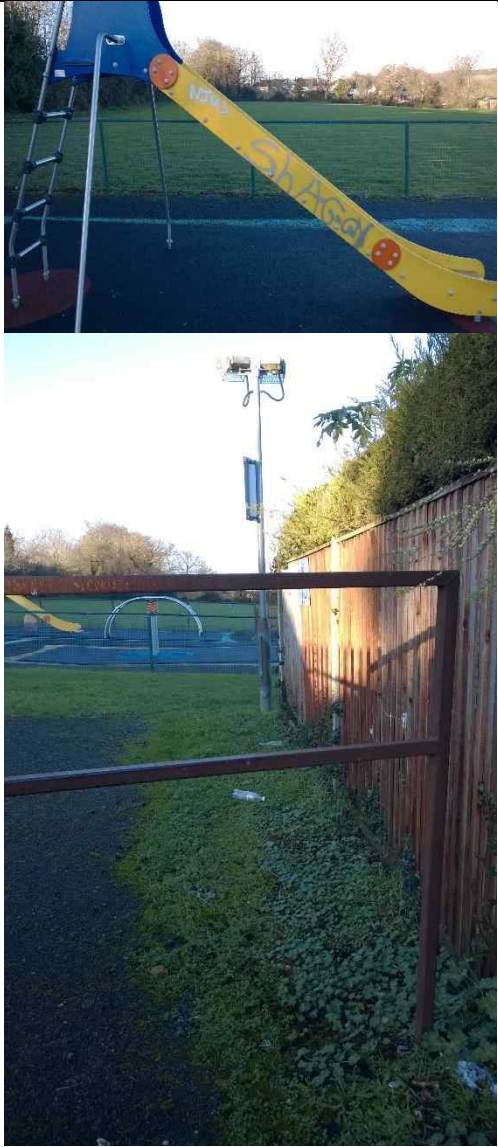
<p>Sub-criterion 2: Good and safe access</p>	<p>The site is located in the centre of a residential area with relatively quiet residential side roads. It is a small local recreation ground serving the local Pond Park community. There are no main roads in close proximity to the site.</p> <p>The site has two pedestrian/ cycle access points, both of which are in the south-western corner of the site and are from residential roads. The access points have good sight lines into the site, but neither has any entrance signage promoting/ welcoming visitors. Neither access point is particularly attractive/ inviting, due to the poor condition of the Beaumont Club site and steel perimeter security fencing, which adjoins both accesses. The southerly of the two access points is via a short alley and has a staggered barrier to prevent motorcycle/ vehicle access. There was some litter associated with the alley access.</p> <p>Free, on-street parking is available on the residential streets leading to the two site access points.</p>		<p>6</p>
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<p>Sub-criterion 3: Signage</p>	<p>The two site access points have no entrance signage. The only information sign is a public safety notice, which is mounted on the security light column located where the two site access points converge adjoining the children's play area. This notice has black background with yellow/ white lettering and red standard warning symbols/ text boxes, detailing what you shouldn't do on site, ie. not very 'welcoming'. The notice board's title is 'Windsor Road Play Area'. Although the board is informative, the use of colour and content conveys a rather negative and uninviting message to visitors.</p> <p>There is a 'clean up up' dog fouling notice erected on a lighting column associated with one of the site access points. However, it appears to have been vandalised and so is no longer legible.</p>		<p>5</p>
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<p>Sub-criterion 4: Equal access for all</p>	<p>The site is a rectangular area of close mown grass, with a small children's play area at its southern end. The area of close mown grass shows evidence (ie. white pitch lines) that it has been used as a football pitch, despite the slight fall in gradient across the site (east-west) and relatively constrained size. The eastern and northern boundaries contain several mature trees and narrow margins of longer grass/ scrub. The play area is enclosed by fencing and has wet pour safety surface and new pieces of play equipment.</p> <p>The main access points into the site are sealed surfaced paths, which lead up to the surfaced play area. One of the two access points has a staggered barrier which would restrict easy access for wheelchairs/ pushchairs to the site. There are no other surfaced paths within the site. There is only one bench provided on the site and that is located within the play area.</p> <p>With the exception of the enclosed play area, the entire site is available for dog access.</p>		<p>5</p>
<p>Appraisal criterion 2: Healthy, safe and</p>			

secure			
Sub-criterion 5: Safe equipment and facilities	<p>There is one dog bin and one litter bin, both of which adjoin the play area and the two site access points. The litter bin is in a poor state of repair and appears to have been set on fire.</p> <p>The children's play area is enclosed by fencing and includes several pieces of new equipment. The entire play area is surfaced with wet pour safety surfacing.</p>		6



<p>Sub-criterion 6: Personal security in park</p>	<p>The site is small, open and overlooked by adjoining residential properties and so feels safe and secure. The sight lines into the site from the main access points are reasonable, with no dense shrubbery close to the path.</p> <p>There was offensive graffiti on play area equipment and several discarded drinks bottles adjoining one the two site access points.</p> <p>A lighting column with two security spotlights has been erected adjoining the play area. A public notice, with public warning signs, is mounted on the lighting column. Warning signs include 'No alcohol' and 'No entry to play area after daylight hours'.</p>		<p>7</p>
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<p>Sub-criterion 7: Dog fouling</p>	<p>There is a single dog bin located near the two site access points. The bin includes a 'Who's watching you' eyes poster. There was no evidence of dog fouling or used dog waste bags being hung up on tree/ shrub branches.</p> <p>The play area is fenced and dogs are excluded.</p> <p>The public notice, includes a no dog fouling sign.</p>		<p>7</p>
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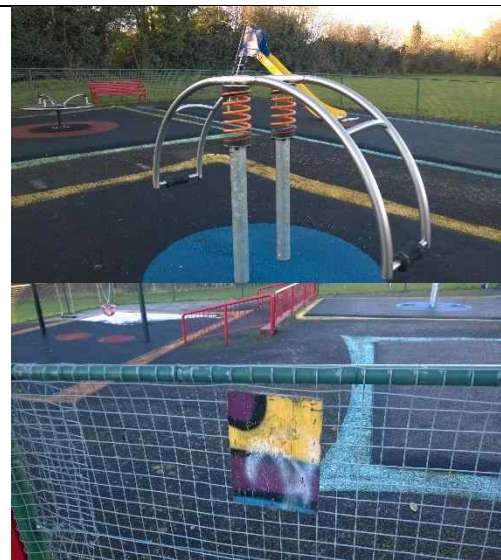
<p>Sub-criterion 8: Appropriate provision of facilities</p>	<p>The only facility provided on site is the children's play area, which is designed for young children. There is no formal play provision suitable for older children or teenagers.</p> <p>There is evidence that the close mown grass area has been used as a football pitch in the past, however the size of the site and slight gradient across it, make it unsuitable for full size formal matches.</p>	 	<p>6</p>
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<p>Sub-criterion 9: Quality of facilities</p>	<p>The play equipment in the children's play area appears relatively new and of reasonable quality, though its design and scale (only 4 pieces of equipment) is considered rather limited, given the available space. It is rather formal and functional in design with extensive use of wet pour surfacing and coloured line marking safety zones around each individual piece of equipment creating visual clutter. A section of the wet pour surfacing within the swing zone appears discoloured and detracts further from the visual appearance of the site. There is also evidence of graffiti on some of the equipment. The site's only litter bin, which is located just outside the play area, appears to have been set on fire and is in a poor condition.</p> <p>The adjoining Beaumont Club building and associated car park facility is in a poor condition and detracts significantly from the quality of the Recreation Ground site.</p>		<p>6</p>
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Appraisal criterion 3: Clean and well maintained			
Sub-criterion 10: Litter and waste management	<p>The site has one litter and one dog bin, which, given the site's size, is considered reasonable. Both bins are strategically located near the two site access points.</p> <p>The litter bin appears to have been set on fire and is in a poor condition, though still functional. The bin is located on the outside of the play area fence. There is no recycled waste bin provision</p> <p>The dog bin has an anti-dog fouling campaign poster stuck to it. The poster is stuck over other older stickers, which is visually unattractive and detracts from its impact.</p> <p>Neither bin appears to be asset tagged.</p> <p>There is no evidence of on-site waste storage areas.</p> <p>There was evidence of litter near the site entrance/ play area, including beer bottles. There was also some limited evidence of fly tipping over adjoining residential garden fencing. The level of dog fouling on site at the time of visit was low.</p> <p>Litter/dog fouling warning signs were integrated with other site warning signage on the public notice erected on the lighting column adjoining the play area.</p>	  	5



<p>Sub-criterion 11: Grounds maintenance and horticulture</p>	<p>The level of grounds maintenance is considered reasonable across the site. The site is maintained as close mown grass, with rough grass/ scrub habitat margins especially along the site's northern boundary.</p> <p>There was evidence of some littering but no dog fouling.</p> <p>There was no evidence of community engagement in site management observed at the time of the site visit.</p>		<p>6</p>
<p>Sub-criterion 12: Building and infrastructure maintenance</p>	<p>There are no buildings associated with the site. The sealed surface paths leading on to the site are in reasonable condition.</p> <p>The adjoining Beaumont Club building and associated grounds is in poor condition, with little evidence of general maintenance.</p>		<p>N/A</p>
<p>Sub-criterion 13: Equipment maintenance</p>	<p>The children's play equipment appears to be reasonably new, with no evidence of damage or neglect, or associated health and safety issues. It was not possible, from the site visit, to assess inspection frequencies,</p>		<p>5</p>

	<p>routine/ programmed maintenance and repair standards or anti-social behaviour (ASB) target response times. There were several large pieces of graffiti on the slide, one of which was offensive. There was at least one discarded beer bottle observed on the site (adjoining the play area).</p> <p>There was no evidence of other ASB issues such as dog mess, needles or flyposting.</p> <p>It was not possible from the site visit to determine the site inspection frequency.</p>		
Appraisal criterion 4: Sustainability			
Sub-criterion 14: Environmental sustainability – energy and natural resource	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess this. With the exception of the security lighting, the use of energy and natural resources associated with the site is limited to the grounds/ play site and associated access infrastructure maintenance		N/A
Sub-criterion 15: Pesticides	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess this. However, the nature of the site, with extensive formal close mown grass areas and the lack of any ornamental bedding/ shrub planting would appear to eliminate the need for pesticide usage.		N/A
Sub-criterion 16: Peat use	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess this. However, the nature of the site, with extensive formal close mown grass areas and the lack of any ornamental bedding/ shrub planting would appear eliminate		N/A

	the need for any compost usage.		
Sub-criterion 17: Waste minimisation	It has not been possible from the site visit to fully assess this. There is no recycled waste bin provision. The play equipment is a mixture of timber, metal and plastic. It has not been possible to assess whether the timber is from certified sustainable sources or the metal/ plastic is from recycled sources. There was no evidence of how green waste, including grass mowing and tree/ shrub pruning, is disposed of and/ or recycled. There was no public information on site promoting/ educating about waste minimisation.		N/A
Sub-criterion 18: Arboriculture and woodland management	The site has no woodland features and only a handful of mature trees dotted along its eastern and northern boundaries (some of which are in adjoining residential gardens). Any continued use of the site to accommodate a full-size football pitch, will restrict opportunities for additional tree planting to only the site perimeter and corners.		N/A
Appraisal criterion 5: Conservation and heritage			
Sub-criterion 19: Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora	The majority of the site is maintained as formal close mown amenity grass, with the exception of several strips of longer grass along its eastern boundary; and a wider strip of scrub along its northern boundary. There are also a handful of mature trees dotted along its eastern and northern boundaries (some of which are in adjoining residential gardens). Any continued use of the site to accommodate a full-size football pitch, will restrict opportunities for additional tree planting to only the site perimeter and corners. There was no evidence of bird or bat box provision on these trees. The apparent use of the site to accommodate a full size football		

	pitch combined with its limited size, means that there is little available space to increase the site's habitat value. The only opportunities relate to the boundary treatment of the eastern and southern boundaries which could be planted up to form a native hedge, including specimen trees at intervals along its length. The site corners could also be softened through tree/ shrub planting. Such planting would help to soften the formal/ rectilinear shape of the site and the adjoining perimeter fencing. There was no recycled waste bin provision. The security lighting appeared to be mains powered.		
Sub-criterion 20: Conservation of landscape features	There is no evidence of any formal historic landscape feature or design quality associated with the site.		N/A
Sub-criterion 21: Conservation of buildings and structures	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess conservation standards, as there are no buildings or structures of obvious heritage conservation value associated with the site.		N/A
Appraisal criterion 6: Community involvement			
Sub-criterion 22: Community involvement in management and development	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess knowledge of visitors/ use; or engagement of volunteers/ wider community in site management.		N/A
Sub-criterion 23: Appropriate provision for the community	Given its limited size and recreation ground status, the site provides a reasonable level of facilities for the community, including short mown grass informal kick about space (with evidence of it having been marked		6

	out as a full-size formal football pitch) and young children's play area. The play equipment is limited in scope, with no provision for older children or teenagers. The surfaced access paths allow easy access to the surfaced play area, though the staggered barrier on one could restrict such access, given design of pushchair/ pram/ wheelchair. Although the rest of site has no surfaced access paths, the relatively level surface and close mown grass would enable easy access across it. With the exception of the single bench within the fenced off play area, there is no other bench provision on site.		
Appraisal criterion 7: Marketing			
Sub-criterion 24: Marketing and promotion	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess the marketing and promotion activity. There is no evidence of any on site events programme.		N/A
Sub-criterion 25: Provision of appropriate information	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess the provision of appropriate information, both in terms of format and quality. There is no on site public information boards, with the exception of the public warning notice mounted on the security lighting column.		N/A
Sub-criterion 26: Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/ information	With the exception of the dog fouling sticker on the dog bin and public warning notice on the security lighting column, there was no educational/ interpretation or information material evident from the site visit.		N/A
Appraisal criterion 8: Management plan			
Sub-criterion 27: Implementation of management plan	No management plan was available to enable assessment of this sub-criterion.		N/A

	Total		76
	Average (Total divided by 14, as 13 sub-criteria were N/A)		5.43
	OUT OF 100 (Average x 10)		54%

**Key management recommendations arising from site assessment:**

1. Remove staggered barrier on access path from Overdale Road
2. Enhance visual appearance of Beaumont Club site and use of property as community asset.
3. Ensure litter and graffiti is removed promptly
4. Replace burnt out bin with dual bin (ie. general and recycleable waste)
5. Remove redundant/ old stickers from dig bin
6. Consider additional hedge/ tree planting along eastern and southern boundaries and in site corners to soften formality/ help screen adjoining fencing/ properties
7. Erect bird/ bat boxes on mature trees
8. Enhance play area, including need for additional equipment and provision for older children/ young teenagers
9. Review demand/ need to continue to use site as formal full size football pitch
10. Subject to 7, consider alternative use/ management of site, including community orchard; pictorial meadows; trim trail; junior goals
11. Provide additional benches at strategic points

People & Place Solutions  
8 March 2015

## Appendix D: Community workshop output report

### Overview:

X 5 community groups involving x106 individuals consulted

*An additional x10 individuals were consulted informally on site, as only x5 group consultations were possible. Total number of consultees = 116*

### Headline conclusions:

More people were aware of, and used, the nearby Captain's Wood / Marston Fields green space, than they did Windsor Rd Rec.

Most consultees felt that neither Windsor Rd Rec, or other local green spaces, were particularly well used by the local community. However, pupils at Little Spring Primary School thought the sites, particularly Captain's Wood / Marston Fields were well used.

Reasons given for the sites not being used more were:

- A general 'unwelcoming feel'
- The amount of litter (and dog mess)
- Fears about personal safety/ anti-social activities
- Lack of signage

Improvements that would lead to more use / greater levels of health & fitness:

- More bins for litter and dog waste
- More signage / information boards/ marked trails

- Outdoor exercise equipment / play areas
- The provision of benches
- Community activities, such as picnics

Main management issues:

- Have greater maintenance of site (ie, grass cutting, litter clearance)
- Police / 'wardens' to have a presence on site to reduce antisocial behaviour / improve perception of safety

#### Additional Information:

During the consultation activities it was noted that:

- Windsor Rd Rec is small and not particularly valued/ used by the community.
- Captain's Wood and Marston's Field have the scale and natural environment features to become a very valuable community resource, with scope for significant enhancements.



Captain's Wood and Marston's Field

The following pages contain detailed summaries of each of the consultation activities. Original notes, forms, post-its and maps have been retained.



**Event:** Pond Park over 30's Club

**Date & Time:** 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2015; 10.30am

**Venue:** Hivings Church Hall

**Facilitator:** Cliff Andrews, BRCC

**Attendance:** x21 All female; approx. 10 aged 50-70; 11 aged 70+

**Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercisecomments**

to be viewed alongside original responses

*Although the maps used at the consultation workshop identified Windsor Rd Rec as the focal green space to be considered; many consultees knew a larger greenspace nearby much better: Marston Field/ Captain's Wood. Responses specific to this area are shown in italics below; with the other comments relating to Windsor Rd Rec and green spaces in general.*

**1 Is Windsor Road Rec (and other green spaces) well used by the local community? (Do you use the site personally? How often?)**

Mixed views. Those present didn't use it much, although were aware that it was well used by dog walkers and for football in the winter and cricket in the summer

*Marston Fields/ Captain's Wood, including play area, was reported to be used by more people*

**2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites? (old, young, families, etc)**

Dog walking.

Football / cricket.

<p>Young families use the park / play area – refurbished ~ 3 years ago</p> <p><i>Brownies/ Guides pack used to use for nature walks</i></p> <p><i>Football – but not meeting potential as currently no pavilion (old one burned down)</i></p>
<p><b>3 If no, what are the reasons the sites are not well used?</b> (Are the sites known about, is it obvious and easy how to get to them, are they welcoming?)</p> <p>Lack of signage / knowledge about local sites and what you can do there.</p> <p>Safety fears – ‘dangerous people’.</p> <p>Vandalism</p> <p>Not welcoming – litter is not picked up</p> <p>Motorbike use – on Windsor Rd Rec and in Captain’s Wood</p> <p><i>Marston Fields is a no-go area – gangs meet for drug taking’</i></p> <p><i>Site is used for dog fighting – police are aware.</i></p> <p><i>Lack of facilities – ie changing rooms for sports pitches</i></p>
<p><b>4 Are there any specific improvements to the physical nature of the site that you think would help the sites be better used and encourage more people to get active?</b><i>For any site-specific ideas (such as ‘install an information board / bench’ etc at a given location); please write your ideas down on the post-it notes and stick them at the appropriate location on the map. Please also mark on the map any problems with the sites.</i></p> <p>More signage to the sites and info boards on the sites</p> <p>Can a map board be erected at the old bus stop by Hivings Church; and also better maps and info in Town Guide?</p> <p>More benches</p> <p>More litter bins and dog waste bins</p> <p>Adult / outdoor gym equipment</p> <p>Marked / surfaced paths</p> <p>Sensory garden so that the old / infirm / blind can be taken to an outside space and benefit from generally enhanced wellbeing, even if not able to undertake physical activities.</p>
<p><b>5 Do you have ideas for activities that could be encouraged on this site, which would lead to more people using the site and improving their health?</b> May be activities that individual residents / groups could do on their own; or that would need organisations to lead.</p> <p>There is a desire for the community to have an opportunity to work together on environmental projects such as guerrilla gardening / community orchard / living willow tunnels etc– ‘green gym’</p>
<p><b>6 Do you have any comments about the way in which the sites are managed and maintained; and how that may affect people’s use of the sites?</b></p>

'When you can't see the site and don't know it's there, you won't use it'

Police patrol to minimise antisocial uses of sites

More regular grass cutting

**Event:** Chesham Guides

**Date & Time:** 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, 7.30pm

**Venue:** Hivings Church Hall

**Facilitator:** Mike Fayers, BRCC

**Attendance:** 18: 17 guides aged 10-14, 1 adult

**Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercisecomments**

to be viewed alongside original responses

**1 Is Windsor Road Rec (and other green spaces) well used by the local community?** (Do you use the site personally? How often?)

Most of the guides felt that the areas were not used much. Only one respondent uses the site regularly.

**2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites?** (old, young, families, etc)

Despite the above, the guides noted a wide range of activities, especially at Marston Field / Captain's Wood: basketball and netball in the MUGA, and dog walking and football on the wider field. Almost all respondents noted that horse riding takes place at Captain's Wood.

**3 If no, what are the reasons the sites are not well used?** (Are the sites known about, is it obvious and easy how to get to them, are they welcoming?)

No signage, not well advertised, not easily accessible, and currently no parking except on nearby streets. Also, "not much to do".

**4 Are there any specific improvements to the physical nature of the site that you think would help the sites be better used and encourage more people to get active?** *For any site-specific ideas (such as 'install an information board / bench' etc at a given location); please write your ideas down on the post-it*

*notes and stick them at the appropriate location on the map. Please also mark on the map any problems with the sites.*

The main improvements / additions noted were for a shelter / youth shelter (16 responses), more benches (13), picnic benches (12), toilets (12), outdoor gym (11), trails / nature trails (10), more bins (9), and interpretation panels.

Additional suggestions include a wildflower area, pond / nature area, cctv and obstacle course, with a smaller number also adding a lockable play equipment shed, recycling bins, and animal / bird hides.

For more people to use the site the car park needs to be accessible (gate currently locked) and there should be more promotion of the areas – both with road signage and interpretation panels.

**5 Do you have ideas for activities that could be encouraged on this site, which would lead to more people using the site and improving their health?** May be activities that individual residents / groups could do on their own; or that would need organisations to lead.

In addition, an outdoor gym should be built and promoted and there should be community events such as picnics.

**6 Do you have any comments about the way in which the sites are managed and maintained; and how that may affect people's use of the sites?**

**Event:** Chiltern Hills Academy, Yr 7

**Date & Time:** 8.50am, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2015

**Venue:** Chiltern Hills Academy

**Facilitator:** Cliff Andrews, BRCC

**Attendance:** 15 (8 girls, 7 boys; 5 BME)

**Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercisecomments**

to be viewed alongside original responses

*The Year 7 pupils attending the consultation activity had been selected by school staff as those from year 7 living within the Pond Park area of Chesham. Half of the pupils had attended the Little Spring Primary School which adjoins Windsor Rd Rec. Despite this, only half of the group knew that Windsor Rd Rec existed; but many of them were familiar with Captain's Wood and Marston Fields.*

<b>1 Is Windsor Road Rec (and other green spaces) well used by the local community?</b> (Do you use the site personally? How often?)
The general feeling was that neither Windsor Rd Rec, or other local green spaces, were particularly well used by the local community.
<b>2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites?</b> (old, young, families, etc)
Existing users seem to be limited to young families using the play area and older people walking their dogs.
<b>3 If no, what are the reasons the sites are not well used?</b> (Are the sites known about, is it obvious and easy how to get to them, are they welcoming?)
The presence of litter and the feeling that the sites are not well looked after puts people off going to them as it makes them feel uncomfortable.

<p>Dogs mess and dogs allowed to run off-lead and chase people was also a concern of a number of the pupils.</p> <p>It was felt that electronic games and social media have made young people lazy and less interested in healthy outdoor activities.</p>
<p><b>4 Are there any specific improvements to the physical nature of the site that you think would help the sites be better used and encourage more people to get active?</b><i>For any site-specific ideas (such as 'install an information board / bench' etc at a given location); please write your ideas down on the post-it notes and stick them at the appropriate location on the map. Please also mark on the map any problems with the sites.</i></p> <p>Benches &amp; picnic tables</p> <p>Bins</p> <p>Play equipment for teenagers, go-ape style (it was felt too much money has been spent on younger children's equipment which is not well used as the children are too young to be allowed to go the parks on their own).</p> <p>Fitness area / outdoor gym equipment for both young people and adults (like there is by the library in Amersham – where it is felt many more people use the park in general since the fitness area was installed).</p> <p>Permanent goal posts should be installed at Windsor Rd Rec</p>
<p><b>5 Do you have ideas for activities that could be encouraged on this site, which would lead to more people using the site and improving their health?</b> May be activities that individual residents / groups could do on their own; or that would need organisations to lead.</p> <p>Community events to attract more people to the sites; such as monthly all-age scavenger hunts and team games.</p> <p>Community litter-picks.</p>
<p><b>6 Do you have any comments about the way in which the sites are managed and maintained; and how that may affect people's use of the sites?</b></p> <p>It was felt that dogs should be banned from some green spaces.</p> <p>Litter and graffiti should be cleared more quickly</p> <p>The Police, or wardens, should patrol the green spaces to put-off bad behaviour and give a better sense of safety.</p>

**Event:** Little Springs School

**Date & Time:** 1.30pm, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

**Venue:** Little Spring School

**Facilitator:** Mike Fayers, BRCC

**Attendance:** 31: 17 girls, 13 boys, 1 adult (teacher)

**Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercisecomments**

to be viewed alongside original responses

<p><b>1 Is Windsor Road Rec (and other green spaces) well used by the local community?</b> (Do you use the site personally? How often?)</p> <p>Over two-thirds felt that the Captain's Wood area is well used, and half stated that Windsor Road Rec (also known as Belmont Road Rec) is well used.</p>
<p><b>2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites?</b> (old, young, families, etc)</p> <p>The main uses of the areas are by dog walkers and children playing football. At the Captain's Wood site there is also den building, tree climbing, horse riding, cycling and (illegal) dirt biking.</p> <p>Some children also noted enjoying nature, playing on the play equipment, and 'family fun'.</p>
<p><b>3 If no, what are the reasons the sites are not well used?</b> (Are the sites known about, is it obvious and easy how to get to them, are they welcoming?)</p> <p>Neither of the sites are very welcoming, and they are not suitable for young children to visit without adults ('scary').</p> <p>There needs to be more to do, including organised activities.</p> <p>Both sites need more benches</p> <p>There is litter and dog poo on both sites - need to be removed and sites kept tidy.</p>
<p><b>4 Are there any specific improvements to the physical nature of the site that you think would help the sites be better used and encourage more people to get active?</b><i>For any site-specific ideas (such as 'install an information board / bench' etc at a given location); please write your ideas down on the post-it notes and stick them at the appropriate location on the map. Please also mark on the map any problems with the sites.</i></p>



Recommendations for Windsor Road Rec:

The main two suggestions were for an improved play area (25% of respondents), with better equipment (e.g. swings, climbing frame, monkey bars) to encourage a wider age range; and more benches (17%) around the site. Other suggestions included installing dog poo bins (two responses), and one each for outdoor gym, goal posts, separate area for dogs, toilets, nature information board, vending machine/ ice cream van/ café, climbing wall, bike racks and tennis courts.

Recommendations for Captain's Wood:

20% of respondents requested the addition of toilets, with slightly fewer asking for improved play equipment, benches, skate-park, and dog poo bins. Tennis courts, a café, and a separate area for dogs were also requested.

Recommendations for both sites, in addition to above:

Water fountain, trampoline, volleyball pitch, zip wire, manned gazebo ('when hot') with activities, lockable hut for bikes and play equipment, more sports opportunities including rounders and cricket.

**5 Do you have ideas for activities that could be encouraged on this site, which would lead to more people using the site and improving their health?***May be activities that individual residents / groups could do on their own; or that would need organisations to lead.*

A specific request for monkey bars 'to build strength', a bike trail and picnic area at Captain's Wood, and a suggestion to encourage football clubs and youth clubs to use this larger site more by building obstacle courses and fitness trails.

**6 Do you have any comments about the way in which the sites are managed and maintained; and how that may affect people's use of the sites?**

The need for someone to collect litter regularly (and empty bins) was highlighted.

**Event:** Café Club

**Date & Time:** 7.00pm, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

**Venue:** Hivings Church Hall

**Facilitator:** Mike Fayers, BRCC

**Attendance:** 21: 12 girls, 6 boys, 3 adults

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**Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercise comments**

to be viewed alongside original responses

The majority of respondents elected to place post-its on the maps rather than complete the mapping exercise form, though two respondents specifically noted that they use the Captain's Wood site regularly.

<b>1 Is Windsor Road Rec (and other green spaces) well used by the local community?</b> (Do you use the site personally? How often?) Few of the respondents knew the Windsor Road site, thus most responses are targeted towards Captain's Wood.
<b>2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites?</b> (old, young, families, etc)  The main sports activity is football, but the site is also used by runners / joggers. Dog walkers and families also visit the area on a regular basis.
<b>3 If no, what are the reasons the sites are not well used?</b> (Are the sites known about, is it obvious and easy how to get to them, are they welcoming?)
<b>4 Are there any specific improvements to the physical nature of the site that you think would help the sites be better used and encourage more people to get active?</b> <i>For any site-specific ideas (such as 'install an information board / bench' etc at a given location); please write your ideas down on the post-it notes and stick them at the appropriate location on the map. Please also mark on the map any problems with the sites.</i>

The main improvements requested for the sites are for there to be more litter and dog bins, more benches, better play equipment (slide, seesaw, monkey bars, climbing wall) and a specific play area for the very young; and toilets on the sites. Also, a number of requests for shelters and vending machines (or ice cream vans) on both sites.

Individual requests include an adventure playground, a pavilion, bike shed, tennis courts, outdoor gym, signage and information boards, and a pond (for pond dipping).

Specifics for Windsor Road Rec: a new play area, a marked out football pitch with goal posts.

Specifics for Captain's Wood: changing rooms, water fountain, bike track, special dogs area, obstacle course, cafe.

**5 Do you have ideas for activities that could be encouraged on this site, which would lead to more people using the site and improving their health? May be activities that individual residents / groups could do on their own; or that would need organisations to lead.**

As noted above, suggestions include tennis courts and an outdoor gym.

**6 Do you have any comments about the way in which the sites are managed and maintained; and how that may affect people's use of the sites?**



**Event:** Windsor Road Rec site consultation

**Date & Time:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Venue:** Windsor Road Rec

**Facilitator:** Mike Fayers, BRCC

**Attendance:** 4: 2 adults, 2 children

General improvements:

Benches needed around perimeter of site

Slope of football pitch discourages games

Football posts should be permanent features

There needs to be play equipment for older children

Play area fencing has sharp edges - needs better maintenance

**Event:** Captain's Wood siteconsultation

**Date & Time:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Venue:** Captain's Wood / Marston Field

**Facilitator:** Mike Fayers, BRCC

**Attendance:** 6: 3 adults, 3 children

General improvements:

Very happy with the playing field in general, but as the car park gates are kept locked there is a real issue with having to park in nearby streets.

## Appendix E: Action planning stakeholder list

### Stakeholder contacts

District Council officers:

	Forename	Surname
Community safety/ ASB	Katie	Galvin
Planning policy	Graham	Winwright
Planing Policy	David	Waker
Sports development	Georgina	O'Dell
Health improvement	Georgina	O'Dell
Planning policy	David	Gardner
Planning policy	Paul	Nanji

County Council officers:

Localities manager	Jackie	Wesley
NEP	Vicky	Wetherell
NEP	David	Kent
Public Health	Tom	Burton
Localities Manager	Madeleine	Howe
Public Health	Sophie	Forman-Lynch
Public Health	Sarah	Mills
Active Travel	Becca	Dengler
Simply Walks	Fiona	Broadbent
	Carmel	Traynor
Vale/ Ridgeway District Cllrs	Derek	Lacey
	Nick	Varley
Vale/ Ridgeway County Clls	Mark	Shaw

	Portfolio Holders	Graham Peter	Harris Hudson
Town Council:		Bill	Richards
Registered Social Landlords:		Carole Liam	Levin Dawson
Clinical Commissioning Group:		David Dr Annet	Finn Gamell
Community group contacts:			
	Pond Park Over 30's/ Older People's Group	Beryl	Catley
	Chesham Guides	Laura	Miller
	Chiltern Hills Academy	Wendy	Sanders
	Café Club / At The Edge FC	Jon	Reynolds
		Ken	Austin
	Little Spring School	Office	
	Active Bucks	Karl	White
	Chesham in Bloom	Rachel	Watts
Other suggestions			
		Chris	Gregory
	Active Bucks	Sarah	Mills
	CCG	Leigh	Franklin
	CCG	Jackie	Prosser
	CCG	Sian	Roberts

## Appendix F: Action planning workshop output

Green Space Means Health

### Action Planning Workshop – Chesham

24 June 2015

#### Attendees:

##### Name

Sarah Simmons  
Ken Austin  
Jon Reynolds  
Phil Folly  
David Gardner  
Paul Nanji  
Geraldine Freeman

Joyce Kelly  
Beryl Catley  
Gavin Johnson  
Euan Russell  
Fiona Broadbent  
Phylis Shipp  
Sarah Mills  
Rachel Watts

Maluya Kanjilal  
Cllr Derek Lacey  
M Waris

##### Organisation

LEAP (Bucks Sports Partnership)  
Pond Park Rangers  
At the Edge Project  
Chesham Environmental Group (CEG)  
Chiltern District Council (CDC)  
Chiltern District Council (CDC)  
Pond Park Over 30s Peoples Group/ Pond Park  
Community Association (PPCA)  
Pond Park Over 30s Peoples Group  
Pond Park Over 30s Peoples Group  
Chiltern Society (CS)  
Chiltern Society (CS)  
Simply Walk (Bucks County Council (BCC))  
Belmont Club (BC)  
Bucks County Council (BCC)  
Chesham in Bloom/ Chesham Town Council  
(CTC)  
Researcher, Bucks New University  
Ward Councillor  
Movers and Shakers in Chesham



## 1. Workshop 1: Issues analysis

The following tables show the flipchart transcript content for each of the 3 workshop groups. The prioritisation was done by giving each participant 3 sticky dots to use as votes to identify their priority issues. Participants were free to use more than 1 of their 3 sticky dots per issue.

### Group 1: (7 participants)

Issue	Priority rating (number of votes)
<b>Windsor Road Recreation Ground</b>	
Overgrowth to be cleared	4
Belmont Club – can we explore wider community use	4
Benches/ boards	3
Football could be catered for – what else	1
Graffiti	0
Dog bin (add one)	
<b>Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields</b>	
Picnic tables	2
Access for cars	1
Top entrance is overgrown	1
Signage needs	1
Signage (vulnerable/ disabled)	1
Hard surface car parking	0
Toilets	0
Better Police presence	0
Litter	0
Dog bins	0

**Group 2:** (5 participants)

Issue	Priority (Number of votes)
<b>Windsor Road Recreation Ground</b>	
No access from school – gate to area/ PE on field (key to liaise with governors)	3
Unwelcome feel – flower beds/ engage volunteer group Chesham in Bloom	1
Signage – no ball games!; welcome/ route map with info	1
Seating – near playground for parents/ near hedgerows	0
Belmont Club – lack of access/ open up to serve coffee/ bacon sandwich	0
No access from school – gate to area/ PE on field (key to liaise with governors)	0
Dog mess bins required and signage	0
<b>Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields</b>	
Pavilion – changing facilities/ café/ bar	7
Cricket pitch – marked out	2
Fitness trail – marked routes/ 3-2-1 running routes	1

**Group 3:** (5 participants)

Issues	Priority (Number of votes)
<b>Windsor Road Recreation Ground</b>	
Improve access	7
Boot camps/ keep fit activities/ Tai-Chi	3
Unwelcoming	1
Insufficient signage	0
Lack of seating	0

Litter/ dog mess	0
ASB	0
<b>Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields</b>	
Changing facilities	3
Boot camps/ keep fit activities/ Tai-Chi	3
Unwelcoming	1
Insufficient signage	0
Lack of seating	0
Litter/ dog mess	0
	0

## 2. Workshop 2: Actions analysis

The following tables show the flipchart transcript content for each of the 3 workshop groups. The prioritisation was done by giving each participant 3 sticky dots to use as votes to identify their priority actions. Participants were free to use more than 1 of their 3 sticky dots per action.

### Group 1: (7 participants)

Action	Priority rating (number of votes)	Delivery partners
<b>Windsor Road Recreation Ground</b>		
Develop use of Belmont Club (ref. 5.1b)) - meet to agree approach	6	CDC, BC, PPCA, Pond Park Rangers
Plan to consult with all young people in Pond Park, eg. young lads playing cricket may not have been included (detached youth worker?)	3	
Keep barrier (ref. 5.1a))	2	
Football could be catered for – what else	1	
Graffiti	0	

Dog bin (add one)	0	
More litter bins (ref. 5.1c))	0	
Enhance visual appearance of Belmont Club and use of property as community asset linked with use of Windsor Road Recreation Ground (ref. 5.1b))	0	
More seats/ benches (ref. 5.1d))	0	
Ensure litter/ graffiti removed promptly (5.1e))	0	
Enhance play area, incl need for additional equipment and provision for older children/ young teenagers (ref. 5.1f))	0	
Review demand/ need to continue to use site for formal size football pitch (ref. 5.1g))	0	
<b>Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields</b>		
Toilets and signage	3	CEG to scope project with Allotment Group
Wheelchair access – via Captain's Close/ Marston Close	2	DLA and BUDS
Picnic benches	2	CTC and Chesham in Bloom
Vehicle access – open car park	0	CTC

**Group 2:** (5 participants)

Action		Priority rating (number of votes)	Delivery partners
	<b>Windsor Road Recreation Ground</b>		
Flowers			Chesham in Bloom
Signage – Remove 'no ball games' - Route map and wildlife/ RSPB info - 'What's on' notice board		2	CTC
Access from school (alternative entrance/ exit) – gate to fields/ open to use for PE lessons		2	Council/ school governors

Seating – benches (x4)	1	CTC
Perimeter path – marked out/ signage ref. distance (30 mins walk = twice around park)	1	CTC/ Active Bucks
General tidy – litter picking; car park	1	CTC/ PPCA
Belmont Club – open up access; café (increase revenue); bar area/ snooker	0	CDC/ club owner
<b>Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields</b>		
Pavilion (café/ bar/ changing facilities/ meeting rooms for hire/ party venue/ soft play – Sport England Capital Grant (up to £500k)/ England Cricket Board (ECB)/ Football Association (FA)/ Rugby Football Union (RFU). Application through CTC. Plans already drawn up 2007.	7	CTC
Paths marked/ improved in Captain's Wood – signage/ distance/ info/ route map board	0	CS/ BCC (Rights of Way)
Nature trail	0	RSPB/ Wildlife Trust
3-2-1km running route	0	LEAP
Survival courses – youth groups (school/ scouts)	0	
Park Run (5km, Sat, 9am)	0	Chiltern Harriers/ LEAP (2016/17 funding)
Pitch marking – cricket	0	England Cricket Board (ECB)/ CTC
Play area – seating	0	Dept for Education/ Active Bucks
Lighting of car park/ access lane (community safety)	0	
Tennis Court (Lawn Tennis Association)	0	
Other sports - Breeze cycle - Rounders - Ping  - Outdoor badminton	0	British Cycling LEAP English Table Tennis Badminton England

**Group 3: (5 participants)**

Action	Priority rating	Delivery partners
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	(number of votes)	
<b>Windsor Road Recreation Ground</b>		
Organised activities – boot camp/ Zumba/ Tai Chi/ keep fit	4	CDC/ Active Bucks (BCC)
Site entrances more inviting	3	CTC
Improving access (through school?)	2	BCC
More seats/ benches	2	CTC/ PPCA
Enhance visual appearance of Belmont Club	1	CDC
Enhance play area – grant application	1	PPCA
Community orchard	0	Chesham Community Orchard Group
Address ASB – quick win/ no funding needed	0	CDC – Community Safety Team
Town guide to parks in Chesham (no funding required)/ raising awareness in local area	0	CTC
<b>Marston Fields/ Captain's Wood</b>		
Changing facility	2	CTC

Joel Carré  
People & Place Solutions

## Appendix G: Action Plan

### Green Space Means Health: Windsor Road Recreation Ground and Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields

#### ACTION PLAN

6 September 2015

ACTION PLAN					
<b>Aim</b>	To improve community access, awareness and use of the sites in order to address local public health issues				
<b>Objectives</b>	To make the sites more inviting and welcoming to local community To make it easier for local residents to locate/ access each site and orientate themselves within it To increase community awareness and raise profile of each site as an inviting, high quality and safe place for all				
Ref.	Activity	Target	Lead	Partners	Resources
Strategic planning					
1.	Assess aspirations of current leaseholders to expand community use of Belmont Club as community asset linked with aim to increase community health and use/ enjoyment of Windsor Road Recreation Ground.	Demand assessment complete: Dec 2015	CDC (Leisure and Community)	CDC (Leisure and Community) Belmont Club Pond Park Community Association Pond Park Rangers At The Edge Project CTC Paradigm Housing	CDC (Leisure and Community, s106)  Subject to assessment, funding needed for building/ site refurbishment/ redevelopment  Funding bids: Big Lottery (Community Asset Transfer 2 Fund), Landfill Tax, CTC, SE Community Sport

					Activation Fund; SE Small Grants; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora
b	Produce strategic master plan for the integrated development/ management of Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields , including audience development	Sept 2016	Chiltern Society / CTC	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society Pond Park Community Association Pond Park Rangers At The Edge project Chesham Environmental Group Allotment Group Chesham in Bloom	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society
3.	Produce development/ management plan for Windsor Road Recreation Ground, reviewing future options for use of site, including junior football/ improved play provision/ community orchard/ pictorial meadows/ adjoining school sports/ education use	March 2016	CDC (Leisure and Community)	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society Pond Park Community Association Pond Park Rangers At The Edge project Chesham in Bloom Chesham Environmental Group Little Spring School Belmont Club	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CDC (Leisure and Community)
4.	Assess feasibility to develop a sports pavilion on Marston Fields, incl. café/ bar/ changing facilities/ public toilets/ meeting rooms for hire/ party venue/ soft play and car parking	Complete feasibility stage: March 2016	CTC	CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society Pond Park Community Association	CDC (Leisure and Community, s106) CTC



	Note: Pavilion development plan previously drawn up 2007.			Pond Park Rangers At The Edge Project CTC	Subject to outcome of assessment, funding needed for development of new pavilion  Funding bids: Sport England Capital Grant (up to £500k)/ England Cricket Board (ECB)/ Football Association (FA)/ Rugby Football Union (RFU).
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
5.	Enhance visual appearance of Belmont Club site, through painting/ landscaping 'public art' softening treatment or removal of unsightly/ uninviting perimeter fencing (either as standalone interim action or integrated with 6 below)	Spring 2016	Belmont Club	CDC (Leisure and Community) Belmont Club Pond Park Community Association Pond Park Rangers At The Edge Project CTC Paradigm Housing	CDC (s106) Belmont Club  Funding needed for visual appearance treatments and maintenance  Funding bids: CTC
6.	Erect off site signage at strategic points in adjoining residential areas promoting Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Marston Fields and Captain's Wood and associated facilities (eg. at start of paths which lead to site down blind alleys between properties), highlighting distance/ time by site by walking/ cycling)	May 2016	CTC/ Chiltern Society	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society Pond Park Community Association	CTC CDC (Leisure and Community, s106) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society  Funding needed for signage and installation and

					maintenance
7.	Erect signage (including destination/ distance as appropriate) and waymarking of cycle/ pedestrian path network (rights of way/ amenity), including '1-2-3 mile' circular route (with short-cuts) from Marston Fields/ Captain's Wood; and graded by gradient gentle/ steep.	May 2016	Tbc	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society Leap/ Run England	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour) Run England  Funding needed for signage and installation and maintenance  Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora
8.	Erect new site 'welcome' ladder boards at strategic entrance points to Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields giving site name, positive welcome message encouraging public access and promoting what facilities are available (eg. dog walking, cycling, picnics, games, outdoor gym equipment, etc) and organisation contact details.  Suggest use single board for both sites  Note: Consider opportunities to use mobile technology, such as NFC (Near Field Communication) points to tap phones on and	May 2016	CTC/ Chiltern Society	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour)  Funding needed for boards and installation and maintenance  Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund;

	information immediately pops up on phone				Active Bucks, Local Area For a
9.	Provide bench seating at strategic locations at each of the three sites: Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Marston Fields and Captain's Wood	Dec 2015	CTC/ Chiltern Society	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society Pond Park Community Association	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour) Chesham Environmental Group (labour) Pond Park Community Association  Funding needed for benches and installation and maintenance  Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora
10.	Erect picnic tables at strategic locations, such as viewpoints/ next to play areas. Review any associated bin provision needs.	May 2016	CTC	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC Chiltern Society	CTC CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour)  Funding needed for picnic tables and installation and maintenance

					Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora
11.	Open up site entrance points to Captain's Wood to improve visibility into site and so make access to the site more inviting to community	Dec 2015	Chiltern Society	Chiltern Society CDC (Leisure and Community)	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour) Chesham Environmental Group (labour)
12.	Review need for additional bins (litter/ dog waste) at each site – Windsor Road Recreation Ground; Marston Fields/ Captain's Wood)	Dec 2015	CTC/ Chiltern Society	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society Pond Park Community Associations Pond Park Rangers At The Edge project Chesham Environmental Group Chesham in Bloom	CTC CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour) Chesham Environmental Group (labour)
13.	Provide easy access (wheelchair/ push chair) to Marston Fields and Captain's Wood, incl via Marston and Captain Close	Sept 2016	CTC/ Chiltern Society	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society	CTC CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour) Chesham Environmental Group (labour)  Funding needed for access

					improvements and installation and maintenance
14.	Enhance the value of the sites for wildlife, recognising that a rich diversity and abundance of wildlife plays a key role in the therapeutic benefits of green spaces for mental health, as well as making the setting more likely to attract people for physical exercise. Enhancement works would depend very much upon local circumstance but could include: creation of wildflower meadow areas, creation of colourful annual wild plants plots (e.g. poppy, cornflower, corn chamomile etc), woodland management, bird/bat boxes etc	Winter 2016	CTC/ Chiltern Society	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC Chiltern Society Wildlife Trust Paradigm Housing	CTC CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour) Chesham Environmental Group (labour)  Funding needed for wildlife conservation works  Funding bids: Active Bucks, Local Area For a, CTC
<b>Community safety</b>					
15.	Cut back/ thin vegetation to improve visibility into Captain's Wood at strategic entrance points (to make more inviting/ welcoming); and within site along paths (esp. strategic path network developed in 8. above) and additional viewpoints	Winter 2015	Chiltern Society	Chiltern Society CDC (Leisure and Community) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Paradigm Housing	Chiltern Society CDC (Leisure and Community) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society volunteers (labour)
<b>Promotion/ animation</b>					
16.	Develop and market programme of community events/ activities to help address community	Winter 2015 - Develop	CTC	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/

	<p>perception issues with the three sites (Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Marston Fields and Captain's Wood), introduce new audiences and generally attract greater ongoing regular community use. Suggested events/ activities to include: summer fair, community carnival/ picnic, outdoor theatre/ concerts, family fun days, bonfire night, wildlife explorer activities (eg. as appropriate bug hunts, guided walks, survey events, bird box building, etc), Simply Walks/ boot camps/ conservation volunteering; lunchtime walk groups, run groups, youth/ school groups, outdoor exercise classes (Tai Chi/ Zumba), survival/ bush-craft skills. Suggested promotional outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor surgeries – take info to refer/ reception/ TV screen</li> <li>• Libraries - reception/ TV screen</li> <li>• App/ Facebook page for sites/ Pond Park</li> <li>• Churches</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Pubs/ food outlets</li> </ul>	<p>programme</p> <p>Spring 2016 - Launch programme</p>		<p>BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling)</p> <p>Chiltern Society</p> <p>Pond Park Community Associations</p> <p>Pond Park Rangers</p> <p>At The Edge project</p> <p>Paradigm Housing</p> <p>Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Schools/ Learning SVS</p> <p>Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>GPs</p>	<p>Cycling)</p> <p>CDC (Leisure and Community)</p> <p>Chiltern Society volunteers (labour)</p> <p>Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Funding needed for marketing material</p> <p>Funding bids: SE Community Sport Activation Fund; Sportivate; SE Small Grants; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora</p>
17.	<p>Support the social marketing of existing/ new health based activities to develop/ increase community use of the three sites (Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Captain's Wood/ Marston Fields), eg. Park Run, Simply Walks, conservation volunteering, school x-countries, Forest Schools, boot camps, conservation volunteering, lunchtime walk groups, run groups, youth/ school groups, outdoor exercise</p>	<p>Start: Winter 215</p>	<p>BCC (Public Health)</p>	<p>CDC (Leisure and Community)</p> <p>CTC</p> <p>BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling)</p> <p>BCC (Public Health)</p> <p>Leap</p> <p>Chiltern Society</p> <p>Pond Park Community Associations</p> <p>Pond Park Rangers</p>	<p>CTC</p> <p>BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling)</p> <p>BCC (Public Health)</p> <p>Leap</p> <p>CDC (Leisure and Community)</p> <p>Chiltern Society volunteers (labour)</p>

	classes (Tai Chi/ Zumba), survival/ bush-craft skills, Breeze cycle, ping, outdoor badminton, rounders, family orienteering routes.			At The Edge project Chesham Environmental Group Paradigm Housing	Chesham Environmental Group  Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area For a
18.	Promote and support increased volunteering opportunities to help with site management/ development (eg. delivery of this action plan), including practical tasks involving habitat management and enhancement/ promotion and marketing/ litter picking/ 'eyes and ears', etc; and leading to establishment of constituted 'Friends Group' for the three sites (Windsor Road Recreation Ground, Marston Fields, Captain's Wood)	Start: Winter 2015	CTC/ Chiltern Society	CDC (Leisure and Community) CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society Pond Park Community Associations Pond Park Rangers At The Edge project Chesham Environmental Group Chesham in Bloom Community Impact Bucks Paradigm Housing	CTC BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CDC (Leisure and Community) Chiltern Society volunteers Chesham Environmental Group
19.	Produce town guide promoting local green spaces and associated facilities/ attractions/forthcoming events for year, incl rights of way/ amenity paths	March 2016	CTC	CTC CDC (Leisure and Community) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society Chesham Environmental Group Chesham in Bloom Paradigm Housing	CTC CDC (Leisure and Community) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chiltern Society  Funding needed for production of guide  Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area

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**Key:** CDC – Chiltern District Council; BCC – Buckinghamshire County Council; Leap – County Sports Partnership; CTC – Chiltern Town Council