



Green Space Means Health

Final Report and Action Plan: High Wycombe

17 October 2015

Consultant: People & Place Solutions

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Policy context	4
a) National	5
b) Local	14
3. High Wycombe area assessment	19
4. Gomm's Wood LNR and Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods site overview	25
a) Gomm's Wood LNR	25
b) Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods	26
5. Green Flag site assessment	28
6. Stakeholder engagement	29
a) Community survey	29
b) Community workshop	30
c) Action planning workshop	31
7. Action plan	32
8. Evaluation	33

Appendices

Appendix A: Project brief	37
Appendix B: Stage 2 report	44
Appendix C: Green Flag site assessment	
a) Gomm's Wood LNR	80
b) Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods	102
Appendix D: Community workshop output report	121
Appendix E: Action plan stakeholder list	133
Appendix F: Action plan workshop output	138
Appendix G: Action plan	143

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 Strategy¹ and Physical Activity Strategy² 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.

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

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

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 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 Wycombe – Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve and Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods - 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 Wycombe.
- 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.³
- 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.⁴
- 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

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

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

- 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*⁵ and government agencies, such as Public Health England⁶ and Natural England⁷. The contribution of green space to public health and wellbeing is now formally recognised in the new national public health outcomes framework⁸ 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*⁹

- 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.

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

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

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

⁸ <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

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

- 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* 2010¹⁰

- 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.
- 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 2012¹¹

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

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

- 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.

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 Review¹², 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 environment¹³.

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

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

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) ¹⁴	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"> - 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. - Opportunities for meeting new people and socialising in an informal and relaxed setting. - Opportunity to learn and develop new skills and knowledge which can broaden their horizons and are transferrable to home, work and school. - Ability to become more active outdoors and encourage them to try different kinds of physical activities. - Improved physical health and wellbeing in ways that are both accessible and enjoyable to participants in a relaxed environment.
Birmingham Active Parks scheme 2013-date ¹⁵	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>Results from the early qualitative evaluation of Birmingham's Be Active programme demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Price is a barrier to participation - Access to free exercise increased people's likelihood to participate - Hard to reach groups including women and ethnic minority communities engaged with the scheme - Regular exercise increased participants self-reported sense of wellbeing - Participation on the scheme increased participant demand for other lifestyle information such as smoking cessation and alcohol advice. <p>Initial evaluation of the Active Parks pilot showed that:</p>

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

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

	<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 led by a trained session leader supported by local Friends of Parks volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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. - 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.
Dudley Healthy Towns project (2008-11) ¹⁶	<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"> - 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%; - 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; - The installation of outdoor gyms is the single most popular improvement cited for the reported increases in physical activity. <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>

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

Walking for Health ¹⁷	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	<p>Getting involved in Walking for Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - People that walk with us take at least five walks every four months. - Helps people stay active. Not everyone can exercise as much as they used to. Walking lets everyone step down without giving up exercise altogether. - Is popular with women and the over-55s. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of walkers are over 55, the same amount are women. <p>Both these groups usually have lower than average levels of physical activity.</p>
The Conservation Volunteers Green Gym® (2003-8) ¹⁸	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"> - Recruits diverse and vulnerable groups to Green Gym projects and integrating them 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) ¹⁹	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	<p>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.</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>

¹⁷ http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/Walking%20works_summary_AW_Web.pdf

¹⁸ <http://www.tcv.org.uk/greengym>

¹⁹ http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/RealityCheck_Report_final.pdf

	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.	
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 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.	No evaluation available as yet.
Playing Out, Bristol ²⁰	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.	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. ²²

²⁰ <http://playingout.net/>

²² http://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/playing-out-evaluation_Angie-Page.pdf

	Support is also available nationally from Play England through its Street Play campaign ²¹	
--	---	--

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 High Wycombe.

- 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.
- 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.

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

- 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.²³

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 2013-17²⁴, Physical Activity Strategy 2014-17²⁵ and Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009)²⁶ 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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 standard²⁷. 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 Plan²⁸.
- 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 Infrastructure Strategy 2011-26²⁹. 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 High Wycombe, which form the basis of this review:
- Significant pockets of health deprivation in central area of town and Totteridge (near King's Wood)
 - 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

²⁷http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx

²⁸http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1521901/5326-Bucks-GI-Delivery-Plan-FINAL-ISSUE_2013_08_07_low_res.pdf

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

- 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

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 all³⁰.” 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.

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

Plan/ strategy	Key findings/ proposals
Wycombe Open Space Framework 2010 ³¹	Vision/ objective: To ensure that open space facilities are welcoming, well maintained and clean

³⁰ http://www.bucksc.gov.uk/media/133563/BCC_RoWIP_2008_2018_Web.pdf

³¹ Wycombe District Council, *Wycombe Open Space Framework*, December 2010

	<p>Open space principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpret local standards, eg. built-up area constraints 2. Hierarchical approach, eg. strategic v local 3. Play should be available locally 4. Outdoor sport – greatest category shortfall 5. Small spaces (in built up areas) – address deficiency through improvements in quality and accessibility <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"> - Create teen facility at Hughenden Park.(no longer being progressed following public consultation) - Improve walking/ cycle access to Hughenden Park across Hughenden Road (Community Infrastructure Levy funding being bid for) - Raise standards at Totteridge and Hughenden Recreation Grounds (completed) - Improve quality of Derehams Sports Ground, intensify sports use and introduce teen facilities (work completed) - Intensify use of Desborough Recreation Ground for outdoor sport (ie. changing rooms) (now completed) - Improve access to/ quality of Carrington Land, Tom Burt's Hill and Desborough Castle open space (some work completed)
Wycombe adopted Delivery and Site Allocations DPD Policy DM11 Green Networks & Infrastructure	The Green Infrastructure Network will be conserved and enhanced, paying special attention to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, recreation and non – motorised access
Policy DM12 Green Spaces	Development must not cause the loss of green space in certain areas.
DSA Policy HWTC1 and DM15 Protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors	HWTC1 sets out the vision for reopening the river and improving the river corridor, including access to it for recreational purposes.

DSA Policy DM16 Open Space in new development	DM15 states that development should 'seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity, landscape and recreational value of the watercourse' New development is required to make provision for public open space to set standards.
---	---

3. High Wycombe 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 High Wycombe, 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 High Wycombe. The assessment was informed by a combination of primary and secondary research undertaken by the consultants.
- 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/ heath 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 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.
- 3.4 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
-------------------	---

3.5 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	http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1848072/simply-walk-programme.pdf
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

<p>Chilterns Ranger sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<p>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.</p>
--	---

3.6 People & Place Solutions engaged stakeholder consultees in the area assessment, who 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.
----------------	--

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

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 Ground	Works have been completed to de-canalise the river in Desborough Recreation Ground and create a natural 'meander' to 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

3.9 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

3.10 By applying these criteria to the stakeholder consultation key site long lists, the following 'short list' for consideration for the phase 3 pilot work was identified for High Wycombe.

Site name	Supporting rationale
Castlefield & Rowcliffe Wood, High Wycombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic green space within deprived area • Occasional vandalism issue • Opportunity to link with adjoining Booker Lane and Desborough Castle open spaces (165, 135) • Builds on community engagement work being undertaken by Chiltern Rangers
Highfield Wood and Gomm's Wood LNR, High Wycombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic green spaces within deprived area, with opportunity to link with King's Wood (185) • Located within Micklefield and Marsh BIG Local Partnership area and so opportunity to fit with BIG Local Plan and associated funding • Highfield Wood adjoins Community Centre • Builds on community engagement work being undertaken by Chiltern Rangers

- 3.11 By applying these criteria to the long list, the following short listed pilot sites were identified for High Wycombe to be progressed in phase 3 – Gomm's Wood LNR and Highfield and Hangingcroft Wood.
- 3.12 Although the brief proposed the community consultation to be targeted on the 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 was not restricted to the pilot sites alone. Instead, this sites 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. Gomm's Wood LNR and Highfield and Hangingcroft Wood site overview

a) Gomm's Wood LNR

- 4.1 Gomm's Wood LNR is a 13.9ha belt of broadleaf woodland which extends along the west facing slope of Micklefield Valley on the north-eastern edge of Wycombe. The site is bounded to the south and west by housing, to the east by a narrow rural lane (Cock Lane) and open countryside and to the north by an adjoining extensive area of mature woodland, known as King's Wood. There is no delineation between the two woods' boundaries.
- 4.2 The site has pedestrian access points on all sides, including a number from the adjoining housing areas on its western and southern boundaries. The majority of these access points have either staggered barriers or new metal kissing gates, new ladder boards and permissive path waymarker discs. The majority of the site access points lead directly into the wood and have limited sight lines.

- 4.3 A small public car park is situated on the wood's north-eastern boundary, and serves both the wood and an adjoining cemetery. The car park is poorly signed from the road (Cock Lane), although there is a ladder board located near the car park's entrance, which indicates access to the wood and 'viewpoint'. The car park is open and overlooked and at the time of visit contained 2 other cars (visiting cemetery). A mown permissive grass path runs from the car park around the perimeter of the cemetery into the site. The path has no route signage, except for 'permissive path' waymarker discs.
- 4.3 Although the new ladder boards are high quality and give the site's name, the reference to 'Local Nature Reserve' and 'Local Wildlife Site' conveys a nature conservation focus to the site's function and so, could be misinterpreted for those unfamiliar with the site and its status and thereby deter casual leisure usage. At the southern end of the site, several of the accesses include unattractive security fencing and there is a major nearby re-development area, which at present creates an unattractive edge/ entrance to the site.
- 4.4 With the exception of a public footpath, which enters the site from Cock Lane and runs diagonally down the valley side and one which crosses the site's southern tip, all other paths are permissive and appear narrow, uneven and informal, weaving between the trees and crossed by roots. On the steeper sections of permissive path, flights of timber steps have been installed. The permissive paths are poorly waymarked and there is only one fingerpost on the entire site. There is also no off-site fingerpost signage to the wood from any of the adjoining residential areas, nor promoted trails. Basic timber benches have been installed at key viewpoints, but there are no picnic tables.

b) Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods

- 4.5 Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods is a linear belt of broadleaf woodland which extends along the west facing steep slope of Micklefield Valley on the north-eastern edge of Wycombe – see location plan in appendix A. The site is bounded by housing on all sides with the exception of its northern boundary, which adjoins a much larger area of woodland, known as King's Wood. King's Wood School and Baring Road Recreation Ground are situated adjoining each other on the north-western boundary of Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods.

- 4.6 There are a number of pedestrian access points onto the site from the adjoining housing areas. These points tend to have metal kissing gates and ladder boards, either older routed timber boards stating site name, District Council name and the need for dogs to be 'under control'; or new, what appear to be laminate, boards detailing site name, District Council name and 'Local Wildlife Site' status. Several of the access points along the site's eastern boundary are down narrow, uninviting alleys between houses. None of the access points to the site are signed from the road. With the exception of a public footpath which runs along the site's northern boundary with King's Wood, which is also unsigned from the road, site access is via a network of poorly waymarked permissive paths.
- 4.7 At the southern end of the site, there is a public car park, which serves an adjoining community centre and new children's play area site. The main access points to the site have ladder boards, giving the site name and owner (Wycombe District Council). The majority of these boards are older timber routed boards. The few new ones appear to be of the same design and specification as those on the adjoining Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve site. Although the new boards look to be high quality and give the site name, they convey a wildlife conservation orientation to the site through the reference to 'Local Wildlife Site'. Such wildlife focus and a lack of strong friendly 'welcome' message could be misinterpreted for those unfamiliar with the site and its status and thereby deter casual leisure usage. None of the new laminate or older timber routed ladder boards include location plans/ site maps or emergency contact details.
- 4.8 The network of informal permissive paths are poorly waymarked and there is no signpost giving path destination (but no distance/ time information). There is a car park at the southern end of the site and a number of pedestrian access points with information boards on the site boundary. These access points, including a public footpath along the northern site boundary with King's Wood, link into an extensive permissive path network. This is comprised of a main perimeter path, with several cross linking paths at intervals along it. Although the main perimeter path is open in places and follows the valley contour, it is still rather narrow and uneven and poorly waymarked/ signed. Where the cross linking paths run down the steep valley sides, flights of timber steps have been provided. There are no benches or picnic tables and there is only one interpretation panel explaining the site's wildlife/ history/ management.

- 4.9 In the southern end of the site, adjoining the community centre, there is a new play area associated with an open amenity area. Baring Road Recreation Ground, which adjoins the site's north-western boundary, has a children's play area and informal junior kick-about area. There is also evidence of unauthorised use of site for informal play, including Tarzan swings.

5. Green Flag assessment

- 5.1 In December 2014, People & Place Solutions undertook a field based self-assessment of both sites in accordance with the Green Flag Award criteria³². The Green Flag Award scheme is a Government endorsed national quality standard for 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 In summary, Gomm's Wood LNR and Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods respectively achieved overall scores of 61% and 54%, which, based on the Green Flag scoring system, means both are at 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 both sites.

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

- Uninviting entrances to the site – overgrown with poor sight lines and conservation message to public information boards
- Low levels of path signage/ way-marking
- Limited bench provision and no picnic tables
- Site access points not very inviting/ welcoming
- Narrow paths with poor sight lines

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 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 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, People & Place Solutions launched a community survey, using an online questionnaire, targeting residents of Micklefield and Totteridge Ward. The survey and supporting promotional poster was publicised, via professional and community stakeholder contacts, to local residents with a completion deadline of 29 May 2015. A total of 24 questionnaire responses were received by this date and have since been analysed. Of the 24 respondents, 67% (16) had visited either site in the past 12

months, with 47% of these visiting them at least once a week. The main reasons for visiting the site were walking (59%) and enjoying nature/ scenery (35%), with only 17% citing 'being active/ exercising' as the main reason. Listed below are the key changes respondents would like to see made to Gomm's Wood LNR and Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods:

- more community events, eg. picnics, outdoor theatre (78%)
- more signage/ waymarking (61%)
- more dog bins (61%)
- more picnic tables (39%)
- more litter bins (33%)
- trim trail/ outdoor exercise equipment (28%)

b) Community workshops

6.4 In March/ April 2015, People & Place Solutions organised 6 stakeholder workshops targeting a range of different community groups and organisations within Totteridge and Micklefield Wards, as follows:

- Marsh & Micklefield BIG Local
- Our Place Community Hub
- Simply Walk, Micklefield
- Ash Hill Primary School
- Mums and Tots 'Stay and Play' group
- Scouts

6.5 A total of 116 individuals covering a range of ages and both genders, participated in the community workshops. Approximately half of the consultees felt the two sites were well used; the other half felt the sites were not well known/ used. Listed below are the key management issues, as identified across the 6 workshops, which are considered to adversely affect the community's use and enjoyment of both sites:

- Insufficient signage/ information
- Lack of seating
- Steep and uneven paths
- Amount of litter (and dog mess)
- Fears about personal safety/ anti-social activities

For a full report of the results of each of the 6 community workshops, please refer to appendix C as attached.

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 Gomm's Wood LNR and Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods sites. 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:

- 6.9 The action planning workshop was held on 25 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 Gomm's Wood LNR and Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods sites, 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'³³ and 'Walking and Cycling'³⁴:

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

³⁴ 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 principles³⁵ 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.

³⁵ 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:³⁶

- 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

³⁶ 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/McGraw Hill

- 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)
- 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 guidance³⁷.

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 reference³⁸.

³⁷ Heritage Lottery Fund (2012) Evaluation Good Practice Guidance

³⁸ 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.³⁹

The Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy⁴⁰ 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:

Building Activity into everyday life - Built Environment / Green Spaces	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>

⁴⁰ <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

Vicky Wetherell, Interim Natural Environment Partnership Manager.

Tel: 07793 880805 or 01296 382992. E-mail: vwetherell@buckscc.gov.uk

Lesley Manning, Public Health Practitioner

Tel: 01296 387583, Email: lmanning@buckscc.gov.uk

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 Strategy⁴¹ and Physical Activity Strategy⁴² 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, 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. .

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

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

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.⁴³

/

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.⁴⁴

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*⁴⁵ and government agencies, such as Public Health England⁴⁶ and Natural England⁴⁷. The contribution of green space to health and wellbeing is now formally recognised in the new

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

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

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

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

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

national public health outcomes framework⁴⁸ 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*⁴⁹

- 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*⁵⁰

- 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.
- 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.

⁴⁸ <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

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

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

Natural England commissioned research 2012⁵¹

- 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 Review⁵², 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 environment⁵³.

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.

Initiative	Outline	Evaluation headlines
Natural England Green Exercise	Natural England funded eight, three year pilot projects through local partnerships in the regions. The aim was to test the process	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.

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

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

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

Programme (2008-11) ⁵⁴	of engaging hard to reach groups in green exercise activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Opportunities for meeting new people and socialising in an informal and relaxed setting. - Opportunity to learn and develop new skills and knowledge which can broaden their horizons and are transferrable to home, work and school. - Ability to become more active outdoors and encourage them to try different kinds of physical activities. - Improved physical health and wellbeing in ways that are both accessible and enjoyable to participants in a relaxed environment.
Birmingham Active Parks scheme 2013-date ⁵⁵	<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</p>	<p>Results from the early qualitative evaluation of Birmingham's Be Active programme demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Price is a barrier to participation - Access to free exercise increased people's likelihood to participate - Hard to reach groups including women and ethnic minority communities engaged with the scheme - Regular exercise increased participants self-reported sense of wellbeing - Participation on the scheme increased participant demand for other lifestyle information such as smoking cessation and alcohol advice. <p>Initial evaluation of the Active Parks pilot showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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. - 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.

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

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

	<p>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>	
Dudley Healthy Towns project (2008-11) ⁵⁶	<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"> - 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%; - 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; - The installation of outdoor gyms is the single most popular improvement cited for the reported increases in physical activity. <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>

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

Walking for Health ⁵⁷	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"> - 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. - People that walk with us take at least five walks every four months. - Helps people stay active. Not everyone can exercise as much as they used to. Walking lets everyone step down without giving up exercise altogether. - Is popular with women and the over-55s. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of walkers are over 55, the same amount are women. Both these groups usually have lower than average levels of physical activity.
The Conservation Volunteers Green Gym® (2003-8) ⁵⁸	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"> - Recruits diverse and vulnerable groups to Green Gym projects and integrating them 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) ⁵⁹	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	<p>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.</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%</p>

⁵⁷ http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/Walking%20works_summary_AW_Web.pdf

⁵⁸ <http://www.tcv.org.uk/greengym>

⁵⁹ http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/RealityCheck_Report_final.pdf

	<p>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>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. There will be a supporting website to host the trail information, a calendar of events, a diary of regular activities, and general information.</p>	<p>No evaluation available as yet.</p>

Playing Out, Bristol ⁶⁰	<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 campaign⁶¹</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. ⁶²
------------------------------------	--	---

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.
- 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.

⁶⁰ <http://playingout.net/>

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

⁶² http://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/playing-out-evaluation_Angie-Page.pdf

- 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.⁶³

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 2013-17⁶⁴, Physical Activity Strategy 2014-17⁶⁵ and Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009)⁶⁶ 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
---------------	-----------------

⁶³ <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/free-fitness.aspx>

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

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

⁶⁶ <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 standard⁶⁷. 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 Plan⁶⁸.

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

⁶⁷http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/east_of_england/ourwork/gi/accessiblenaturalgreenspacestandardangst.aspx

⁶⁸http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1521901/5326-Bucks-GI-Delivery-Plan-FINAL-ISSUE_2013_08_07_low_res.pdf

Strategy 2011-26⁶⁹. 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)
- 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

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

- 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 all⁷⁰." 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 ⁷¹	<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>

⁷⁰ http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/133563/BCC_RoWIP_2008_2018_Web.pdf

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

<p>Chilterns Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2014-17 (Draft)⁷²</p>	<p>Three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase participation in recreational activities 2. To achieve a joined up strategy with localised priorities to develop sustainable facilities that support increased participation 3. To support community groups and others to access external funding <p>Identified shortfalls in provision in Chesham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asheridge Vale and New Town provision needs improving, especially play and youth facilities - Still areas 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
<p>Wycombe Open Space Framework 2010⁷³</p>	<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"> 1. Interpret local standards, eg. built-up area constraints 2. Hierarchical approach, eg. strategic v local 3. Play should be available locally 4. Outdoor sport – greatest category shortfall 5. Small spaces (in built up areas) – address deficiency through improvements in quality and accessibility <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"> - Create teen facility at Hughenden Park.(no longer being progressed following public consultation) - Improve walking/ cycle access to Hughenden Park across Hughenden Road (Community Infrastructure Levy funding being bid for) - Raise standards at Totteridge and Hughenden Recreation Grounds (completed) - Improve quality of Derehams Sports Ground, intensify sports use and introduce teen facilities (work completed) - Intensify use of Desborough Recreation Ground for outdoor sport (ie. changing rooms) (now completed)

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

⁷³ Wycombe District Council, *Wycombe Open Space Framework*, December 2010

	- Improve access to/ quality of Carrington Land, Tom Burt's Hill and Desborough Castle open space (some work completed)
Wycombe adopted Delivery and Site Allocations DPD Policy DM11 Green Networks & Infrastructure	The Green Infrastructure Network will be conserved and enhanced, paying special attention to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, recreation and non – motorised access
Policy DM12 Green Spaces	Development must not cause the loss of green space in certain areas.
DSA Policy HWTC1 and DM15 Protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors	HWTC1 sets out the vision for reopening the river and improving the river corridor, including access to it for recreational purposes. DM15 states that development should 'seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity, landscape and recreational value of the watercourse'
DSA Policy DM16 Open Space in new development	New development is required to make provision for public open space to set standards.

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 5th 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 communities⁷⁴.
- 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.

⁷⁴ <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 ⁷⁵	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 www.parkrun.org.uk). 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

⁷⁵ <http://www.aylesburyvaldc.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
--------	---------

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	http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1848072/simply-walk-programme.pdf
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 Ground	Works have been completed to de-canalise the river in Desborough Recreation Ground and create a natural 'meander' to 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"> • Strategic green space • Links new and existing housing developments. • Adjoins number of town’s most deprived communities • Part of strategic Aylesbury Linear Park project • On/ off site access improvement opportunities • Identified as priority site in 2 out of the 4 stakeholder responses
26, 34	Edinburgh/ Walton Court Playing Fields, Aylesbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic green space cluster with opportunity to increase diversity of functions • Identified as priority site in 2 out of the 4 stakeholder responses • Suffers ASB issues
83	Windsor Road Recreation Ground/ ‘Pond Park’, Chesham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only green space in ‘Pond Park’ area • Under-utilised by community • Occasional ASB issues

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

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
Aylesbury	
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.
Chesham	
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
High Wycombe	
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 & Rowcliffe 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'⁷⁶:

- 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 5th Quintile Maps for Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe

Not included

⁷⁶ Joel Carré, 'Proposal and Method Statement', 19 April 2014

Appendix D: Key Stakeholder Consultees and Respondents

Aylesbury:

Name	Organisation	Consultation respondent Y/N
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:

Name	Organisation	Consultation respondent Y/N
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:

Name	Organisation	Consultation respondent Y/N
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:

Name	Organisation	Consultation respondent Y/N
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, 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 1st being highest priority; and for each, briefly explain your reason for putting it forward.

Aylesbury		
	Site name	Reason for putting it forward
1 st		
2 nd		
3 rd		
4 th		
5 th		

Chesham		
	Site name	Reason for putting it forward
1 st		
2 nd		
3 rd		
4 th		
5 th		

High Wycombe		
	Site name	Reason for putting it forward
1st		
2nd		
3rd		
4th		
5th		

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 (a)

People & Place Solutions

Site name: Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve, High Wycombe

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


Assessment date: 3 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 was 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.

Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR), together with Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods (see separate assessment report), and associated Micklefield and Totteridge community, was selected as the target green space site/ community for High Wycombe. The following report provides the results of a field assessment undertaken for Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods in accordance with the Green Flag Award criteria⁷⁷. 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. 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 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 nature of the site), no score was given. The recommendations at the end of the report are


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


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 Gomm's Wood LNR site and associated Micklefield and Totteridge community.

Criteria	Assessment notes	Supporting photos	Score
Appraisal criterion 1: A welcoming place			
Sub-criterion 1: Welcoming	<p>Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a 13.9ha belt of broadleaf woodland which extends along the west facing slope of Micklefield Valley on the north-eastern edge of Wycombe. The site is bounded to the south and west by housing, to the east by a narrow rural lane (Cock Lane) and open countryside and to the north by an adjoining extensive area of mature woodland, known as King's Wood. There is no delineation between the two woods' boundaries.</p> <p>The site has pedestrian access points on all sides, including a number from the adjoining housing areas on its western and southern boundaries. The majority of these access points have either staggered barriers or new metal kissing gates, new ladder boards and permissive path waymarker discs. The majority of the site access points lead directly into the wood and have limited sight lines.</p> <p>A small public car park is situated on the wood's north-eastern boundary, and serves both the wood and an adjoining cemetery. The car park is poorly signed from the road (Cock Lane), although there is a ladder board</p>		5


	<p>located near the car park's entrance, which indicates access to the wood and 'viewpoint'. The car park is open and overlooked and at the time of visit contained 2 other cars (visiting cemetery). A mown permissive grass path runs from the car park around the perimeter of the cemetery into the site. The path has no route signage, except for 'permissive path' waymarker discs.</p> <p>Although the new ladder boards are high quality and give the site's name, the reference to 'Local Nature Reserve' and 'Local Wildlife Site' conveys a nature conservation focus to the site's function and so, could be misinterpreted for those unfamiliar with the site and its status and thereby deter casual leisure usage. At the southern end of the site, several of the accesses include unattractive security fencing and there is a major nearby re-development area, which at present creates an unattractive edge/entrance to the site.</p> <p>With the exception of a public footpath which enters the site from Cock Lane and runs diagonally down the valley side and one which crosses the site's southern tip, all other paths are permissive and appear narrow, uneven and informal, weaving between the trees and crossed by roots. On the steeper sections of permissive path, flights of timber steps have been installed. The permissive paths are poorly waymarked and there is only one fingerpost on the entire site. There is also no off-site fingerpost signage to the wood from any of the adjoining residential areas, nor promoted trails. Basic timber benches have been installed at key viewpoints, but there are no picnic tables.</p> <p>There is evidence of active woodland management on the site, including hazel coppicing, scrub management, glade creation and the mowing of the main public footpath and open grass areas. There was no evidence of dog mess and only occasional litter and fly tipping at southern end access points.</p>		
--	---	--	--

<p>Sub-criterion 2: Good and safe access</p>	<p>Site access is not affected by any major busy roads, though Cock Lane is narrow and attracts reasonable traffic flows. There are good levels of pedestrian access from adjoining housing areas into the site, though sight lines into the site are limited, due to steep topography, dense woodland and limited ride/ glade provision at main entrance points. There is no cycle or vehicle access allowed on the site and no cycle parking provision at the Cock Lane car park or other main public access points. There are several public bus stops along Micklegate Road, which give convenient access to the site. That said, there is no site signage from the adjoining residential areas to the west and south of the site, making access to the site difficult for those not already familiar with it. Also several of these accesses are down narrow, uninviting alleys between houses.</p> <p>With the exception of the two public footpaths which cross the site, the main path network on the site is permissive and poorly waymarked/ signed, making access orientation difficult.</p> <p>Although there was no evidence of dog fouling at the main access points leading on to the site, the southern and western accesses adjoining the residential areas contained some occasional litter/ fly tipping.</p>		<p>6</p>
--	---	--	----------


<p>Sub-criterion 3: Signage</p>	<p>The main access points to the site have standard ladder boards, giving identical information: site name, owner (Wycombe District Council) and status. The majority of these boards are new, although there are several points with older timber boards. Although the new boards look to be high quality and give the site name, they convey a wildlife conservation orientation to the site through the reference to 'Local Nature Reserve' and 'Local Wildlife Site'. Such wildlife focus and a lack of strong friendly 'welcome' message could be misinterpreted by those unfamiliar with the site and its status and so deter casual leisure usage. Neither the new or old site information boards include location plans/ site maps or emergency contact details.</p> <p>The network of informal permissive paths are poorly waymarked and there is only one on site signpost giving path destination (but no distance/ time information). There is no apparent warning signage to say that cycling is not permitted on the site; and only one sign indicating that dogs should be kept under control.</p> <p>There was only limited evidence of graffiti on any site signage or way marking.</p>		<p>4</p>
-------------------------------------	--	--	----------


<p>Sub-criterion 4: Equal access for all</p>	<p>The site is served by a small number of basic rustic timber benches at key viewpoints/ glades. There was evidence of informal den building and Tarzan swings/ tree climbing, indicating some use by children and young people.</p> <p>At the gentler, more open, northern end of the site, where it adjoins King's Wood, a network of cycle freestyle/ trial obstacles (c15 in number) have been installed, including some downhill runs with little jumps. The structures appear to be in good condition with no sign of graffiti or vandalism. There appeared to be no signage to explain the facility or to minimise risk of conflict with other site users. At the time of visit, there was no evidence of cycle facility use and a dog walker, who the assessor spoke to, indicated that the facility now attracted limited use.</p> <p>The bulk of the site is densely wooded, with occasional glades and viewpoints along its upper eastern edge and associated with the Cock Lane car park and cemetery. The northern end of the site, where it meets King's Wood has more gentle topography and is more open in character, with wider paths within mature beech woodland with little understorey.</p> <p>There are several relatively large open grass areas within/adjoining the site, one in the north, one half way down the western edge and one in the south.</p> <p>The steep wooded nature of the site, with narrow uneven path network and flights of steps make it difficult for the site to provide for easy access, except perhaps at points where paths access the site and follow same contour. However, the existing kissing gates would need to be removed or replaced with wheelchair/ pushchair friendly ones.</p>		<p>6</p>
--	---	--	----------

Appraisal criterion 2: Healthy, safe and secure			
Sub-criterion 5: Safe equipment and facilities	<p>With the exception of the access gates, benches, steps and cycle trial obstacles, there are no other formal facilities or equipment provided on site requiring health and safety assessments and associated repairs and maintenance. The cycle freestyle/ trial facility, including the downhill jumps, appeared in good order, although there was no signage explaining their use and associated health and safety liability, including risk of conflict with other site users. The downhill section in particular would appear to present the greatest health and safety risk, as it crosses paths used by walkers, including those with dogs off leads.</p> <p>The site has no toilet provision which, given its location, size and predominantly local usage, is not considered an issue.</p> <p>There is no formal children's play provision associated with the site (excluding the cycle trial area). However, there is evidence of informal use of the site for den building and Tarzan swings/ tree climbing, with these unauthorised facilities being left in situation. It has not been possible from the site visit to determine the site owner/ manager's policy on these unauthorised facilities in terms of health and safety.</p> <p>There are no hard surfaced paths associated with the site, as all paths are unmade. However, these carry trip hazards, which need to be monitored and assessed. This is especially important near steep sections with flights of steps. It was noticed that none of the steep flights of steps included handrails.</p> <p>It was not feasible to assess how the site owner/ manager monitors the risk of trees to site users. The permissive paths run between dense areas of woodland, with evidence that trees have suffered from wind damage, and the physical risk of low hanging branches to path users.</p>	  	7


<p>Sub-criterion 6: Personal security in park</p>	<p>The dense woodland character of the site coupled with its urban fringe location, steep topography, narrow, poorly waymarked path network and limited open sight lines is likely to make the site less attractive to visit for those who would tend to feel vulnerable in such settings, eg. lone women walkers and those with young children.</p> <p>There is some evidence of glade creation, coppicing and ride widening, most noticeably along the permissive path which runs within the wood parallel to Cock Lane and along the diagonal public footpath which crosses the site from Cock Lane. The remaining other paths within the site tend to be narrow, uneven and winding through the wood with limited sight lines. The northern end of the site adjoining King's Wood is more open and with more gentle topography.</p> <p>It would appear from the evidence of den building and single Tarzan swing that children are using the site, though these features were confined to the southern half of the site nearest the residential area.</p> <p>The timber ladder board at the public car park serving the wood/ cemetery off Cock Lane refers to the 'Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group', which would appear to indicate that there is some level of community involvement in the site's management.</p> <p>The site doesn't have dedicated staff presence, though the site management plan⁷⁸ refers to a Volunteer Warden.</p>		<p>3</p>
---	---	--	----------

⁷⁸ Wycombe District Council, Gomm's Wood LNR Management Plan 2013-22 v1.7

<p>Sub-criterion 7: Dog fouling</p>	<p>Only three dog bins were recorded across the entire site, one near each of the two main northern access points and one at the southern end (but this one appeared unused, as it had no visible bag liner and was propped on the ground against a post).</p> <p>Also, only two of the site's ladder boards indicated that dogs were allowed on the site. These were the older timber boards, which stated that dogs should be kept 'under control'. None of the new ladder boards included any reference to dog access to the site. This, together with the board's information focus on the site's nature conservation value (ie. 'Local Nature Reserve' and 'Local Wildlife Site'), may serve to deter local dog walkers from using the site. Only one dog walker was observed during the site visit; and this was in the more open northern end adjoining King's Wood. There was no evidence of dog fouling observed on the site.</p>		<p>5</p>
-------------------------------------	--	--	----------

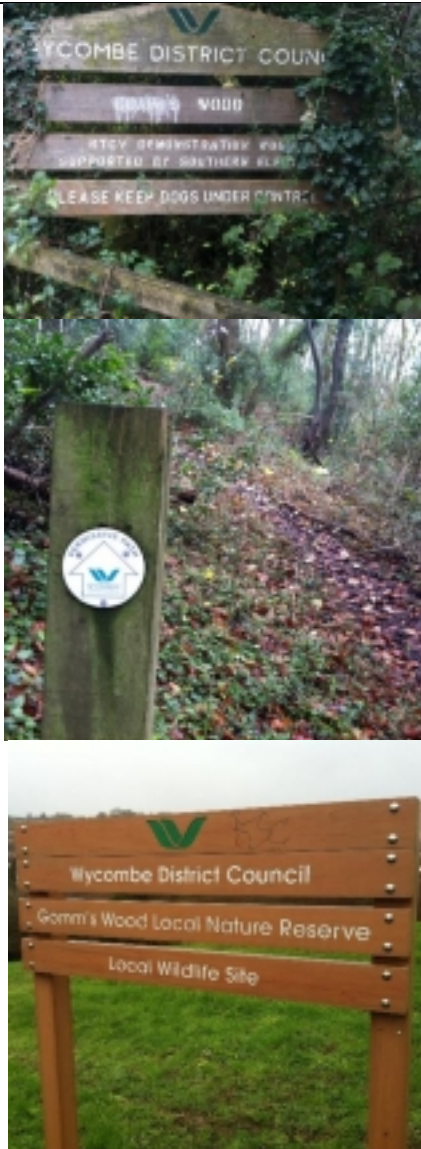
<p>Sub-criterion 8: Appropriate provision of facilities</p>	<p>The site is served by a small public car park off Cock Lane and scattering of pedestrian access points with ladder boards on the site boundary. These access points, including two cross-site public footpaths, link into an extensive permissive path network, with several open grass areas. However, the paths tend to be narrow, uneven and poorly waymarked/ signed. There are no waymarked circular trails.</p> <p>Where the paths run down the steep valley sides, flights of timber steps have been provided. Several rustic timber benches have been provided at strategic viewpoints around the site, but these are limited in number given the size/ character of site. There are also no picnic benches or information/ interpretation signs explaining the site's wildlife/ history/ management.</p> <p>In the northern end of the site with King's Wood, a cycle trials/ freestyle course has been provided. With the exception of this, there is no play facility provision within or adjoining the site. Although there is evidence of informal, unauthorised use of site for den building and Tarzan swings/ tree climbing.</p> <p>The kissing gates/ staggered barriers allow for easy access on to the site (though not for buggies or wheelchairs), but the changes in gradient across the site and unsurfaced, uneven permissive path network restrict access for mobility impaired visitors.</p> <p>There are several areas of open grassland, with the largest located half way along the western site boundary, providing open views south and west across Wycombe and additional grassland habitat.</p>		<p>6</p>
---	---	--	----------


<p>Sub-criterion 9: Quality of facilities</p>	<p>The new metal kissing gates and new ladder boards at many of the site entrances appear to be of good build quality and offer longevity. The metal kissing gates might appear rather formal looking, in such an informal woodland setting, and an unnecessary barrier to open access, however they do serve to deter motorcycle trespass. The several benches observed at strategic viewpoints are very basic and functional and the rough sawn timber appears to be beginning to deteriorate, which may deter use. The path signage and waymarking is limited and doesn't define any designated circular routes or give destination/ distance at key junctions, with the exception of one. With the exception of the main diagonal public footpath through the site, all other paths are uneven and narrow, with no indication of any supporting revetment. The timber steps at various locations appear in reasonable condition, with reasonable height risers and foot plates.</p> <p>The black metal security fencing at the main northern and southern accesses is unattractive and uninviting and detracts from the informal woodland character of the site.</p>	 <p>The top photograph shows a wooden signpost with a single horizontal board, situated in a woodland setting with trees and a wooden fence in the background. The middle photograph shows a simple wooden bench made of two horizontal planks, placed on a path covered with fallen leaves. The bottom photograph shows a metal kissing gate with horizontal bars, set within a black metal security fence, with a wooden signpost visible behind it.</p>	<p>6</p>
---	--	--	----------


Appraisal criterion 3: Clean and well maintained			
Sub-criterion 10: Litter and waste management	<p>There was minor levels of litter associated with main southern site entrance and associated development site and a nearby fallen tree den, with several small scale fly tips, on the site's western and eastern boundaries respectively. Otherwise the site appeared to be generally litter free, although this may be due to extremely low levels of visitor use. There appeared to be no litter bins provided on the site, including at its main access points, such as the public car park off Cock Lane.</p> <p>Due to the informal woodland character and nature of the site, the management of waste and associated education/ information provision is not considered an appropriate assessment criteria.</p>		6



<p>Sub-criterion 11: Grounds maintenance and horticulture</p>	<p>There is evidence of active woodland management across the site, including hazel coppicing, thinning/ glade creation (including at strategic viewpoints), ride/ glade mowing and dead hedging using brash. There is scope for additional thinning/ glade creation associated with the permissive path network, opening up sight lines at key access points and additional strategic viewpoints and reveting/ levelling uneven sections of path network.</p> <p>The site's Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status indicates that there is some level of community involvement in the site's management. This is further reinforced by the timber information board at the public car park serving the wood/ cemetery off Cock Lane, which refers to the 'Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group' and 'BTCV Demonstration Woodland'. The site management plan⁷⁹ refers to weekly Thursday volunteer work parties and occasional weekend ones over the year.</p> <p>It was not possible to assess whether safe working practices are being followed, as no woodland management/ grounds maintenance works were taking place at the time of visit.</p>		<p>7</p>
---	---	--	----------



⁷⁹ Op cit

Sub-criterion 12: Building and infrastructure maintenance	<p>The site has no buildings associated with it.</p> <p>The physical site infrastructure relates to the access path network, including kissing gates, ladder boards, fencing, signage, waymarking, steps and benches. These all appear to be either recently installed or in reasonable condition. There were no visible safety issues, with the exception of the uneven paths and raised roots creating slip/ trip hazards. However, the paths in the main are informal and run through woodland on steep valley sides, so the presence of such features is not considered unreasonable.</p> <p>The older timber structures, such as the older ladder boards and rustic benches, are beginning to deteriorate, but in the main are still functional and safe.</p> <p>There was some minor graffiti on one of the new laminate information boards at the southern end of the site.</p>		6

Sub-criterion 13: Equipment maintenance	It has not been possible to assess the inspection, repair and maintenance standards of the site equipment, including target response times for anti-social behaviour or associated policy on dealing with unauthorised Tarzan swing facilities.		N/A
Appraisal criterion 4: Sustainability			
Sub-criterion 14: Environmental sustainability – energy and natural resource	<p>The site has LNR status and is being actively managed for nature conservation and public amenity value. Brash is being used for dead hedging. Standing dead wood habitat is being retained, as evidenced by the several large windblown trees which have been left in situ. As well as habitat value, these trees are also being used by children for informal play.</p> <p>It has not been possible from the site visit to assess how other management arisings are being disposed of/ used, eg. wood chippings/ cut timber; nor associated energy usage.</p>		N/A
Sub-criterion 15: Pesticides	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess pesticide usage, though given informal, woodland character and LNR status of the site, it is likely to be extremely low.		N/A
Sub-criterion 16: Peat use	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess peat usage on site, though given informal, woodland character and LNR status of the site, it is likely to be extremely low.		N/A
Sub-criterion 17: Waste minimisation	The site is being actively managed for nature conservation and public amenity value. Brash from site management is being used for dead		N/A

	<p>hedging. It has not been possible from the site visit to assess how other management arisings are being disposed of/ used, eg. grass cuttings, wood chippings and cut timber/ logs.</p> <p>It has not been possible to assess the origin of materials used in the site furniture nor the associated procurement strategy. The new kissing gates are highly durable metal construction; and the new ladder boards appear to be of laminate (possibly from recycled sources).</p>		
Sub-criterion 18: Arboriculture and woodland management	<p>The site has LNR status and is being actively managed for nature conservation and public amenity value, including hazel coppicing, thinning/ glade creation (including at strategic viewpoints), ride/ glade mowing and dead hedging using brash. Standing dead wood habitat is being retained, as evidenced by the several large windblown trees which have been left in situ. As well as habitat value, these trees are also being used by children for informal play, though unclear what health and safety assessment has been made of the fallen tree and associated play use.</p> <p>There is scope for additional thinning/ glade creation associated with the permissive path network, opening up sight lines at key access points and additional strategic viewpoints and reveting/ levelling uneven sections of path network.</p> <p>There was some evidence of health and safety related tree works, eg. crown reduction; and managed standing dead wood.</p>		8

Appraisal criterion 5: Conservation and heritage			
Sub-criterion 19: Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora	<p>The site has LNR status and is being actively managed for nature conservation, including hazel coppicing, thinning/ glade creation (including at strategic viewpoints), ride/ glade mowing to maintain its chalk grassland/ scrub mosaic and dead hedging using brash. Standing dead wood habitat is being retained, as evidenced by the several large windblown trees which have been left in situ.</p> <p>There is scope for additional thinning/ glade creation associated with the access path network, key site access points and additional strategic viewpoints.</p> <p>There was evidence of bird/ bat boxes in trees.</p> <p>There was no on site interpretation/ information on local wild fauna and flora.</p>	 	8

Sub-criterion 20: Conservation of landscape features	<p>The site being actively managed as a LNR to maintain and enhance the broadleaved woodland character, with stands of mature beech and coups of hazel coppice, and to increase community access and enjoyment, including providing and maintaining open views across the valley to the west and south.</p> <p>It was not possible through the site visit to assess any wider historic landscape conservation standards.</p>		7
Sub-criterion 21: Conservation of buildings and structures	It was not possible to assess this sub-criterion as there are no buildings or structures associated with the site.		N/A
Appraisal criterion 6: Community involvement			
Sub-criterion 22: Community involvement in management and development	<p>It has not been possible from the site visit to assess knowledge of visitors/ use.</p> <p>The site's LNR status would indicate that there is some level of community involvement in the site's management. This is further reinforced by the timber information board at the public car park serving the wood/ cemetery off Cock Lane, which indicates a partnership between the District Council, local parish council and Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group. Another older timber information board on the site refers to a partnership between the District Council, BTCV (now The Conservation Volunteers) and Southern Electric. It is not been possible from the site assessment to corroborate what actual partnerships and community engagement/ development work and associated volunteering activity currently supports</p>		N/A

	the site. The site management plan ⁸⁰ refers to weekly volunteer work parties and a Volunteer Warden for the site. The new ladder boards only make organisational reference to Wycombe District Council.		
Sub-criterion 23: Appropriate provision for the community	<p>The site provides limited range of facilities, with poor signage/ waymarking, and appears to not be attracting wide community use. There is no formal childrens play provision, though there is evidence of some unauthorised/ informal den building and Tarzan swing construction in the southern end of the site. There is also a purpose built cycle trial/ freestyle facility in the northern end of the site with King's Wood.</p> <p>The narrow, poorly signed/ waymarked paths with poor sight lines may deter casual users and especially those who may feel vulnerable, such as lone women or with young families. There are several benches associated with open grass areas/ viewpoints, but these are limited in number and very basic/ rustic. There are no picnic bench facilities and no easy access provision. The new site signage with its focus on wildlife conservation, may deter casual public access and dog walkers from using the site. The uneven, informal paths, coupled with steep topography are a barrier to access for those mobility impaired.</p> <p>The site information boards are not welcoming and there is no interpretation/ information on the site's history, wildlife and management. There was also no evidence of any other environmental educational provision, such as guided walks and events or outdoor classroom use. A primary school adjoins the site's north-western boundary.</p>		6
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 marketing, eg. signs to recruit volunteers/ promote public use or publicising events programme.		N/A

⁸⁰ Op cit

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 or webpage content.		N/A
Sub-criterion 26: Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/ information	The site information boards are not welcoming and there is no interpretation/ information on the site's history, wildlife and management. No other educational/ interpretation or information material was evident from the site visit, including use of public art such as sculptures, theatre, story-telling, interpretation trails.		N/A
Appraisal criterion 8: Management plan			
Sub-criterion 27: Implementation of management plan	There is evidence that the management plan is being followed, especially in terms of its habitat management objectives.		7
	Total		103
	Average (Total divided by 17, as 10 sub-criteria were N/A)		6.06
	OUT OF 100 (Average x 10)		61%

Key management recommendations arising from site assessment:

1. Provide public car park highway signage to site/ cemetery car park off Cock Lane
2. Provide interpretation/ map boards at strategic locations showing path network, wildlife and historical features, management arrangements
3. Consider visitor attraction/ interpretation opportunities through public art, including sculptures, theatre, story-telling, interpretation trails
4. Promote education opportunities, especially with adjoining Primary School, eg. Forest Schools
5. Provide temporary information signage to explain management action, eg. coppicing/ dead hedging, which could also be used to promote volunteer work parties/ engage community support

6. Provide increased signage/ waymarking of path network, including strategic circular routes (short/ medium/ long) and from road access points (ie. alleyways)
7. Improve physical standard of access paths, especially strategic network, through revetment/ levelling/ surfacing with wood chip and clearing vegetation to open up path width/ edges/ sight lines
8. Increase bench provision at strategic points, including for picnics
9. Include additional information on new ladder boards inviting public access/ use of site, including for dog walking
10. Increase thinning/ glade creation associated with the access path network, key site access points and additional strategic viewpoints.
11. Install bird/ bat boxes
12. Review policy on management of unauthorised play structures, eg. dens, Tarzan swings, tree climbing ladders
13. Review need for health and safety signage associated with cycle freestyle/ trial facility
14. Incorporate audience development plan component to site management plan

People & Place Solutions
10 January 2015

Appendix C: Green Flag site assessment (b)

People & Place Solutions

Site name: Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods, High Wycombe

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


Assessment date: 3 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 was 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.

Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods, together with Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve (see separate assessment report), and associated Micklefield and Totteridge community, was selected as the target green space site/ community for High Wycombe. The following report provides the results of a field assessment undertaken for Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods in accordance with the Green Flag Award criteria⁸¹. 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. 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 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 nature of the site), no score was given. The recommendations at the end of the report are

⁸¹ 'Park and Green Space Self-Assessment Guide', February 2008, CABE Space, DCLG and Civic Trust

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 Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods site and associated Micklefield and Totteridge community.


Criteria	Assessment notes	Supporting photos	Score
Appraisal criterion 1: A welcoming place			
Sub-criterion 1: Welcoming	<p>The Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods site is a linear belt of broadleaf woodland which extends along the west facing slope of Micklefield Valley on the north-eastern edge of Wycombe. The site is bounded by housing on all sides with the exception of its northern boundary, which adjoins a much larger area of woodland, known as King's Wood. King's Wood School and Baring Road Recreation Ground are situated adjoining each other on the north-western boundary of Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods.</p> <p>There are a number of pedestrian access points onto the site from the adjoining housing areas. These points tend to have metal kissing gates and ladder boards, either older routed timber boards stating site name, District Council name and the need for dogs to be 'under control'; or new, what appear to be laminate, boards detailing site name, District Council name and 'Local Wildlife Site' status. Several of the access points along the site's eastern boundary are down narrow, uninviting alleys between houses. None of the access points to the site are signed from the road. With the exception of a public footpath which runs along the site's northern boundary with King's Wood, which is also unsigned from the</p>		6


	<p>road, site access is via a network of poorly waymarked permissive paths.</p> <p>At the southern end of the site, there is a public car park, which also serves an adjoining community centre and new children's play area site.</p> <p>There is no evidence of any dedicated on site staff presence.</p>	 <p>The first photograph shows a narrow, unpaved path leading through a wooded area, with a wooden signpost indicating the route. The second photograph shows a public car park and a community centre building in the background, surrounded by trees and vegetation. The third photograph shows a narrow gravel path between a brick building and a black fence, leading towards a larger building.</p>	//
--	---	---	----

<p>Sub-criterion 2: Good and safe access</p>	<p>Site access is not affected by any major busy roads. There are reasonable levels of pedestrian access from adjoining residential areas into the site, though sight lines at these points is extremely limited, due to the site's steep topography and dense woodland character. There is no cycle or vehicle access allowed on the site and no cycle parking provision at the main public access points. There are several public bus stops along Micklefield Road, which give convenient access to the site, though there is no site signage from the adjoining residential areas making access to the site difficult for those not already familiar with it; and some of the access points are down narrow, uninviting alleys.</p> <p>The public car park serving the site at its southern end is open and overlooked by the community centre, though it is not signed from the main road.</p> <p>With the exception of the public footpath which crosses the site's northern boundary with King's Wood, the main path network on the site is permissive and poorly waymarked, making access orientation difficult.</p> <p>Although there was no evidence of dog mess at the main access points leading on to the site, a number showed evidence of minor fly tipping and graffiti.</p>	 <p>The top photograph shows a narrow, paved alleyway between a brick wall on the left and a wooden fence on the right. A car is partially visible on the right. The bottom photograph shows a narrow, unpaved path through dense, overgrown vegetation and trees, with a small metal gate visible in the distance.</p>	<p>6</p>
--	--	---	----------

<p>Sub-criterion 3: Signage</p>	<p>The main access points to the site have ladder boards, giving the site name and owner (Wycombe District Council). The majority of these boards are older timber routed boards. The few new ones appear to be of the same design and specification as those on the adjoining Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve site. Although the new boards look to be high quality and give the site name, they convey a wildlife conservation orientation to the site through the reference to 'Local Wildlife Site'. Such wildlife focus and a lack of strong friendly 'welcome' message could be misinterpreted for those unfamiliar with the site and its status and thereby deter casual leisure usage. None of the new laminate or older timber routed ladder boards include location plans/ site maps or emergency contact details.</p> <p>There was only one site interpretation panel observed on the site. This was at one of the two main access points from the public car park at the southern end of the site.</p> <p>The network of informal permissive paths are poorly waymarked and there is no signpost giving path destination (but no distance/ time information). There was no apparent warning signage to say that cycling was not permitted on the site; and only the older timber routed information boards indicating that dogs are allowed, but only if 'under control'.</p> <p>There was some evidence of graffiti on site signage/ waymarking.</p>	<div data-bbox="1429 193 1921 563" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1473 563 1877 1107" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>5</p>
-------------------------------------	--	--	----------

<p>Sub-criterion 4: Equal access for all</p>	<p>Apart from the site access gates, ladder boards and occasional permissive path waymarking and flights of steps, there were no other public facilities, such as benches, picnic tables, etc</p> <p>There was some evidence of informal, unauthorised play by children, including den building and Tarzan swing creation.</p> <p>The bulk of the site is densely wooded, with occasional glades and viewpoints along its upper western edge.</p> <p>The steep wooded nature of the site, with narrow uneven path network and flights of steps make it difficult for the site to provide for easy access, except perhaps at points where paths access the site and follow same contour. However, the existing kissing gates would need to be removed or replaced with wheelchair/ pushchair friendly ones.</p>	 	<p>4</p>
--	--	--	----------

Appraisal criterion 2: Healthy, safe and secure			
Sub-criterion 5: Safe equipment and facilities	<p>With the exception of the access gates, benches and steps, there is no other formal facilities or equipment provided, which require health and safety assessments and associated repairs and maintenance.</p> <p>The site has no toilet provision, which given its location, size and predominantly local usage is not considered an issue.</p> <p>There is no formal children's play provision associated with the site. However, there is evidence of informal use of site for den building and Tarzan swing/ tree climbing, with these unauthorised facilities being left in situation. It has not been possible from the site visit to determine the site owner/ manager's policy on these unauthorised facilities in terms of health and safety.</p> <p>There are no hard surfaced paths associated with the site, as all paths are unmade. However, these carry trip hazards, which need to be monitored and assessed. This is especially important near steep sections with flights of steps. It was noticed that none of the flights of steps included handrails.</p> <p>It was not feasible to assess how the site owner/ manager monitors the risk of trees to site users. The permissive paths run between dense areas of woodland, with evidence that trees have suffered from wind damage, and the physical risk of low hanging branches to path users.</p>	 	5

<p>Sub-criterion 6: Personal security in park</p>	<p>The dense woodland character of the site, coupled with its urban fringe location, steep topography and relatively narrow and poorly waymarked path network is likely to make the site less attractive for those who may feel vulnerable in such settings, eg. lone women walkers and those with young children.</p> <p>It would appear from the evidence of den building and Tarzan swing creation that children are using the site.</p> <p>The timber information board at the public car park serving the wood/ cemetery off Cock Lane refers to the 'Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group', which would appear to indicate that there is some level of community involvement in the site's management.</p> <p>It has not been possible to establish from the site visit, whether there is community engagement in the site's management.</p> <p>The site doesn't appear to have dedicated staff presence/ supervision.</p>		<p>3</p>
---	--	--	----------



<p>Sub-criterion 7: Dog fouling</p>	<p>The only dog bin provision observed related to two bins, one at each of the site access points from the adjoining Baring Road Recreation Ground.</p> <p>A number of the site entrances had the older timber routed ladder boards, which stated that dogs were allowed on the site 'under control'. None of the new ladder boards included any reference to dog access to the site. This, together with these new board's information focus on the site's nature conservation value (ie. 'Local Wildlife Site'), may serve to deter local dog walkers from using the site. No dog walkers were observed during the site visit and there was no evidence of dog fouling observed on the site.</p>	 <p>The top photograph shows a red and white dog bin situated on a grassy area with fallen leaves. The bottom photograph shows a wooden sign with text, a metal gate, and a curved metal fence in a wooded area.</p>	<p>5</p>
-------------------------------------	--	---	----------

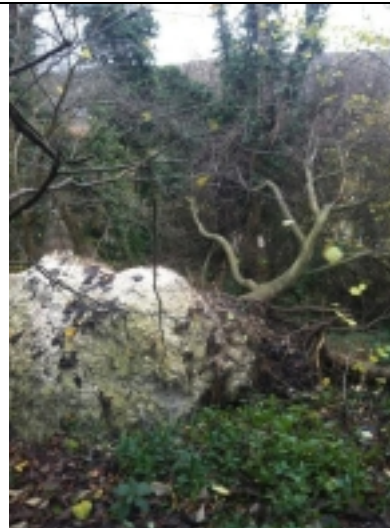
<p>Sub-criterion 8: Appropriate provision of facilities</p>	<p>The site is served by a public car park at the southern end of the site and a number of pedestrian access points with information boards on the site boundary. These access points, including a public footpath along the northern site boundary with King's Wood, link into an extensive permissive path network. This is comprised of a main perimeter path, with several cross linking paths at intervals along it. Although the main perimeter path is open in places and follows the valley contour, it is still rather narrow and uneven and poorly waymarked/ signed.</p> <p>Where the cross linking paths run down the steep valley sides, flights of timber steps have been provided. There were no benches or picnic tables observed and there is only one interpretation panel explaining the site's wildlife/ history/ management.</p> <p>In the southern end of the site, adjoining the community centre, there is a new play area associated with an open amenity area. Baring Road Recreation Ground, which adjoins the site's north-western boundary, has a children's play area and informal junior kick-about area. There is also evidence of unauthorised use of site for informal play, including Tarzan swings.</p> <p>Kissing gates allow for easy access on to the site (though not for buggies or wheelchairs), but the changes in gradient across the site and unsurfaced, uneven permissive path network restrict access for mobility impaired visitors.</p> <p>There are no areas of open grassland within the site, but several adjoining it, with the largest being Baring Road Recreation.</p>	<div data-bbox="1429 193 1921 563" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1503 563 1845 1018" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1429 1018 1921 1388" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>6</p>
---	---	--	----------


<p>Sub-criterion 9: Quality of facilities</p>	<p>The metal kissing gates and new ladder boards appear to be of good build quality and offer longevity, as does the single interpretative panel at the site entrance from the southern car park. The older timber ladder boards are still legible, but beginning to age. The metal kissing gates might appear rather formal looking, in such an informal woodland setting, and an unnecessary barrier to open access, however they do serve to deter motorcycle trespass. There is no path signage and the waymarking is limited and doesn't define any designated circular routes or give destination/ distance at key junctions. The timber steps at various locations appear in reasonable condition, with reasonable height risers and foot plates.</p> <p>The steel metal security fencing associated with a narrow surfaced path along the site's south-western site boundary is unattractive and uninviting and detracts from the informal woodland character of the site.</p>	 <p>The top photograph shows a metal kissing gate in a woodland setting with a wooden signpost nearby. The middle photograph shows a path with wooden steps and a wooden ladder board. The bottom photograph shows a path with steel security fencing and a wooden ladder board.</p>	<p>5</p>
---	--	--	----------


Appraisal criterion 3: Clean and well maintained			
Sub-criterion 10: Litter and waste management	<p>There was only very minor levels of fly tipping, mainly associated with the accesses along the site's western boundary. Otherwise, the site appeared to be generally litter free. There was no litter bin provision associated with the site.</p> <p>Due to the informal woodland character of the site, the management of waste and associated education/ information provision is not considered an appropriate assessment criteria.</p>		6


<p>Sub-criterion 11: Grounds maintenance and horticulture</p>	<p>There is evidence of active ride, path and glade management across the site. An open area associated with the main north-western site access point appears to have also been recently cleared. Consider scope for additional thinning/ glade creation associated with the permissive path network, opening up sight lines at key access points and additional strategic viewpoints and revegetating/ levelling uneven sections of path network.</p> <p>It was not possible to establish from the site visit, whether there is any level of community engagement in the site's management.</p> <p>It was not possible to assess whether safe working practices are being followed, as no woodland management/ grounds maintenance works were taking place at the time of visit.</p>		<p>7</p>
<p>Sub-criterion 12: Building and infrastructure maintenance</p>	<p>The site has no buildings associated with it.</p> <p>The physical site infrastructure relates to the access path network, including kissing gates, ladder boards, waymarking and steps. These all appear to be either recently installed or in reasonable condition. There</p>		<p>5</p>

	<p>were no visible safety issues, with the exception of the uneven paths and raised roots creating slip/ trip hazards. However, the paths in the main are informal and run through woodland on steep valley sides, so the presence of such features is not considered unreasonable.</p> <p>The older timber structures, such as the original ladder boards, are beginning to deteriorate, but in the main are still functional and safe.</p> <p>A waymarking disc appeared to have been vandalised and there was some minor graffiti on a section of perimeter fencing on the site's north-western boundary.</p>	 	
Sub-criterion 13: Equipment maintenance	It has not been possible to assess the inspection, repair and maintenance standards of the site equipment, including target response times for anti-		N/A

	social behaviour or associated policy on dealing with unauthorised Tarzan swing facilities.		
Appraisal criterion 4: Sustainability			
Sub-criterion 14: Environmental sustainability – energy and natural resource	<p>Standing dead wood habitat is being retained, as evidenced by a large windblown trees which have been left in situ.</p> <p>It has not been possible from the site visit to assess how other management arisings are being disposed of/ used, eg. wood chippings/ cut timber; nor associated energy usage.</p> <p>There was evidence of bird/ bat box provision in trees.</p>		N/A
Sub-criterion 15: Pesticides	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess pesticide usage, though given informal, woodland character of the site, it is likely to be extremely low.		N/A
Sub-criterion 16: Peat use	It has not been possible from the site visit to assess peat usage on site, though given informal, woodland character of the site, it is likely to be extremely low.		N/A
Sub-criterion 17: Waste minimisation	<p>It has not been possible from the site visit to assess how management arisings are being disposed of/ used, eg. brash, wood chippings and cut timber/ logs.</p> <p>It has not been possible to assess the origin of materials used in the site furniture nor the associated procurement strategy. The new kissing gates</p>		N/A

	are highly durable metal construction; and the new ladder boards appear to be of laminate (possibly from recycled sources).		
Sub-criterion 18: Arboriculture and woodland management	<p>There was no evidence of recent woodland management, such as hazel coppicing, thinning/ glade creation (including at strategic viewpoints), new planting and dead hedging using brash. Standing dead wood habitat has been retained, as evidenced by a large windblown tree which has been left in situ.</p> <p>There is scope for additional thinning/ glade creation associated with the permissive path network, opening up sight lines at key access points and additional strategic viewpoints and reveting/ levelling uneven sections of path network.</p>		5
Appraisal criterion 5: Conservation and heritage			
Sub-criterion 19: Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora	<p>There is scope for additional thinning/ glade creation associated with the access path network, key site access points and additional strategic viewpoints and to increase shrub/ meadow layers/ soften hard edges. At the Baring Road Recreation Ground boundary with the site, the grass had been mown right up to the perimeter fence creating a hard edge.</p> <p>There was evidence of a number of bird/ bat boxes in trees.</p> <p>A site interpretation/ information panel on local wild fauna and flora had been recently erected at the southern end of the site, adjoining the public car park.</p>		6

			
Sub-criterion 20: Conservation of landscape features	<p>The site is being managed to maintain and enhance the broadleaved woodland character, with stands of beech, and to increase community access and enjoyment.</p> <p>It was not possible through the site visit to assess any other wider historic landscape conservation standards.</p>		6
Sub-criterion 21: Conservation of buildings and structures	It was not possible to assess this sub-criterion as there are no buildings or structures 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 what actual partnerships and community engagement/ development work and associated volunteering activity currently supports the site. The new interpretation panel acknowledges partner support from range of partners, including Forestry Commission and Butterfly Conservation.		N/A
Sub-criterion 23: Appropriate provision for the community	<p>The site provides limited range of facilities, with poor signage/ waymarking, and appears to not be attracting wide community use. There is evidence of some unauthorised/ informal play use of the site including Tarzan swing construction.</p> <p>The poorly signed/ waymarked paths with limited sight lines may deter casual users and especially those who may feel vulnerable, such as lone women or those with young families. There are no bench or picnic facilities and no easy access provision. The new ladder boards with their focus on wildlife conservation, may deter casual public access and dog walkers from using the site. The uneven, informal paths, coupled with steep topography are a barrier to access for those mobility impaired.</p> <p>The ladder boards are not welcoming and there is limited interpretation/ information on the site's history, wildlife and management. There was also no evidence of any other environmental educational provision, such as guided walks and events or outdoor classroom use. There are two schools within close proximity of the site.</p>		6
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 or webpage content.		N/A
Sub-criterion 26: Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/ information	The site information boards are not welcoming and there is limited interpretation/ information on the site's history, wildlife and management. No other educational/ interpretation or information material was evident from the site visit, including use of public art such as sculptures, theatre, story-telling, interpretation trails.		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		86
	Average (Total divided by 16, as 11 sub-criteria were N/A)		5.37
	OUT OF 100 (Average x 10)		54%

Key management recommendations arising from site assessment:

1. Provide public car park highway sign to site/ community centre car park off Micklefield Road
2. Provide increased signage/ waymarking of path network, including from adjoining road access points (eg. alleyways)
3. Provide benches at strategic points, including for picnics
4. Provide interpretation/ map boards at strategic locations showing path network, wildlife and historical features, management arrangements
5. Consider visitor attraction/ interpretation opportunities through public art, including sculptures, theatre, story-telling, interpretation trails

6. Promote education opportunities, especially with adjoining Primary School, eg. Forest Schools; and Community Centre
7. Include additional information on new ladder boards inviting public access/ use of site, including for dog walking
8. Increase thinning/ glade creation associated with the access path network, key site access points and additional strategic viewpoints.
9. Review policy on management of unauthorised play structures, eg. dens, Tarzan swings, tree climbing ladders
10. Produce management plan (including audience development plan component) for site, if no such plan exists

Appendix D: Community workshop output report

Overview:

X 6 community groups involving x116 individuals consulted

(Although 2 'groups' ('Our Place' & 'Simply Walk') were very small, totalling 10 consultees; and as there was overlap re time and venue the responses have been recorded together)

Headline conclusions:

Approximately half of the consultees felt the sites were well used; the other half felt the sites were not well known / used. Reasons given for the sites not being used more were:

- Insufficient signage / information
- The amount of litter (and dog mess)
- Fears about personal safety/ anti-social activities

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

- More signage to, and within, the sites
- Outdoor exercise equipment / play areas
- The provision of seating – both benches and picnic benches
- Provision of handrails and improved surfacing for the paths on the steeper sections of the sites

Main management issues:

- Reduce levels of litter / dumping is by far the biggest reported issue
- Have greater maintenance of site and presence of rangers to improve perception of safety
- Provide more community activities and encourage more existing community groups to visit the sites for regular or 1-off activities; to increase awareness of the existence of the sites

Additional Information:

During the consultation activities it was noted that:

- A new BMX track has been constructed in the adjacent Kings Wood

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

Cliff Andrews

BRCC, April 30th, 2015

Event: Marsh & Micklefield BigLocal community meeting

Date & Time: Weds 21st Jan 2015, 7.30pm

Venue: Marsh & Micklefield Community Centre

Facilitator: Cliff Andrews, BRCC

Attendance: 31 local residents, good cross section of gender and ages

Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercise comments

to be viewed alongside original responses

1 Are Highfield Wood and Gomms Wood (and other green spaces) well used by the local community? (Do you use the site personally? How often?) The sites are reasonably well used, by certain sectors of the community; but are unsuitable for use by others.
2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites? (old, young, families, etc) The vast majority of people who use the site fall into 2 sectors: -Dog Walkers (both sites) -School Children to & from Kingswood School (Highfield 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?) Poor signage within the community to where the sites are and lack of information about the sites were the main common written / heard comments. (Not signposted at all from London Rd?) It was stated that the Woods were unsafe – <i>(clearly a perception, but a reality?)</i> Fear of ASB Use of the site by motorcyclists, and the presence of rubbish, both put people off going. 'No reason to go there'.
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? <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>

Improve signage. Create an App for walks
 The provision of a play area, benches and picnic tables in Highfield Wood behind the community centre are desired. Picnic & BBQ area.
 Pond, treehouse, sculpture trail
 Go-Ape type activity. Install exercise equipment. Obstacle course
 Improve pathways. Mark safe, family trails. Replace slopes with steps to reduce fear of slipping.
 More information on wildlife on info boards.
 Address safety issues, including preventing motorbikes accessing the site.
 Clean up the sites
 Provide more seating – including large ‘feature’ / sculpted as at end of The Roperies

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

A local art group would like to use the woods for painting and drawing activities
 Extend Simply Walks & ranger-led walks. Themed walks – bat/ butterfly/ spring/ Easter Egg hunts/ Teddy bears picnics – promote well. Promote designated walks of varying lengths.
 Fun run events – obstacle course/ ‘tough mudder’ style

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?

Chiltern Rangers are doing an excellent job in improving the pathways.
The green space off Melbourne Rd / Micklefird Rd is no longer well used due to concerns about drug use

Event: Our Place Community Hub & Simply Walk, Micklefield

Date & Time: Weds 21st Jan 2015, 10.00am – 12.30pm

Venue: Our Place Community Hub

Facilitator: Cliff Andrews, BRCC

Attendance: 10; including x9 local residents and 1 the Our Place Community hub leader; x6 females & x4 males

Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercise comments

to be viewed alongside original responses

1 Are Highfield Wood and Gomms Wood (and other green spaces) well used by the local community? (Do you use the site personally? How often?) The general consensus was that the sites were not well known or used..
2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites? (old, young, families, etc) Dog walking The site used to be used by an orienteering club, but it is felt this no longer occurs.
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?) Dog mess and litter make the experience of visiting the woods a horrible one. Poor signage within the surrounding residential areas; and a lack of information about the sites
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? <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>

Improve signage to show how to get to the sites

Provide seating – simple logs will do as formal seating may attract vandalism.

Handrails should be provided along some of the steepest path sections to increase ease / safety of use.

Provide interactive sculptures / seating / arts features.

Improve signage, including colour-coding graded walks (easy, medium, challenging)

Construct a Trim Trail

Provide picnic benches

Disabled access – even if a fully disabled access path is not possible; provide somewhere to park cars and have short easy access path to a viewpoint or open area where wheelchair users can sit and enjoy being outside.

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

Schools should be encouraged to make more use of the sites, undertaking activities that will encourage pupils to take parents back to see what they have done – educate the community through the children.

Encourage more existing community groups to visit the sites for regular or 1-off activities; to increase awareness of the existence of the sites.

Extend the Simply Walk programme and include 'Aerobics Walks'

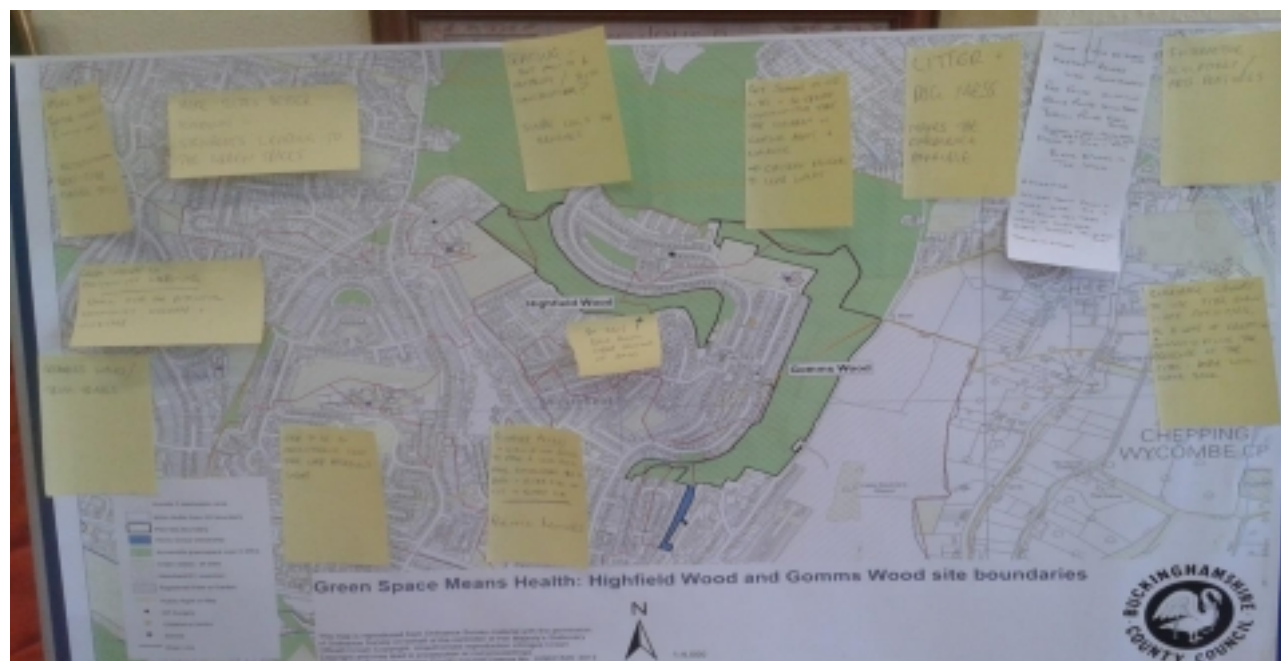
6 Do you have any comments about the way in which the sites are managed and maintained; and how that may affect people's use of the sites?

Far more litter picking should be done, both by site owners / managers and through community volunteering

If you have any other comments, or need more space to write answers to the above, please use the back of this sheet.

There is a small greenspace off Gayhurst Road which the Our Place Community Hub team are looking to develop. There is significant local interest in community gardening (some 'guerrilla gardening' is already taking place); and it is felt this site could become a community orchard / allotment or even vineyard!





Event/ Group: Ash Hill Primary School (which abuts Gomms Wood)

Date & Time: 11th Feb, 2015; 1.30pm

Venue: Ash Hill Primary School

Facilitator: Cliff Andrews, BRCC

Attendance: x30 yr 4's, equal numbers of boys and girls, mixed ethnic backgrounds

Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercise comments

With relatively limited time and the number of children present, the consultation activity was tailored to a series of quick 'yes – no' questions leading into a series of discussion points.

All of the children had visited Gomms Wood as part of a school 'bug hunt' activity; and the majority would like the school to visit it more often.

Approximately half had visited the site outside of school activities.

Of these, half would like to go more often, half were not interested in going more often.

6 pupils have dogs which they / members of their families walk in the woods.

Some of the pupils have visited the woods with a cross-country running group; with 'Kids Quest', a local church group; and 'Badges' a group similar to Cubs / Brownies.

Problems with the site:

- Some people use the site as a dump
- No signs about looking after the wildlife

Ideas for improvements to Gomms Wood the pupils would like to see made for them:

(Ideas listed in order of popularity)

- Areas for bikes – path to learn on; and bmx area (*a new BMX area in the adjacent Kings Wood has since been noted by the facilitator*)
- Natural play, including tree climbing, den building, and a camp area with a camp fire
- Adventure play, especially zip wire and climbing
- Wildlife watching areas
- Mazes children's and adult versions
- Paintballing and Go-karting

Ideas for improvements to Gomms Wood the pupils would like to see made for older people:

(Ideas listed in order of popularity)

- Seating areas – around the woods and at an outside café
- Guided tour of the site for older people, in 'golf buggies' or on Segways
- Painting classes

Event: Mums and Tots 'Stay and Play' group

Date & Time: Friday 24th April, 9.15am

Venue: St Peter's Village Hall, Children's Centre

Facilitator: Mike Fayers, BRCC

Attendance: 15 adults: 12 female, 3 male. 50% BEM

Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercise comments

to be viewed alongside original responses

1 Are Highfield Wood and Gomms Wood (and other green spaces) well used by the local community? (Do you use the site personally? How often?)
The majority of respondents felt that the spaces are well used. 50% of the group visit the woods regularly with families and /or dogs.
2 If yes, what sort of activities are undertaken; and who uses the sites? (old, young, families, etc)
Predominant use is dog walking, but also used by families and joggers.
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?)
There is insufficient signage, no benches, no café, and 'nothing to do'. Adults do not feel the areas are safe for their children. There has been an unfortunate history of 'terrorist activity' and drug use on the sites. It was felt, by a local youth worker, that the enjoyment of the woodlands is beyond many of the local people's experience – there is a gulf between urban residents and rural / countryside areas. Thus, in many cases it is a confidence issue.
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? <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>Area needs benches and picnic benches, café (even if just takeaway), better paths and cycle paths with signage (improve access into and around sites)</p> <p>Information / interpretation boards to increase people's knowledge of the sites</p> <p>Woodland sculptures, outdoor art, nature trail</p>
<p>5 Do you have ideas for activities that could be encouraged on these sites, which would lead to more people using the sites and improving their health?</p> <p>May be activities that individual residents / groups could do on their own; or that would need organisations to lead.</p> <p>Organised activities such as led walks, charity walks, fun kids sponsored walks – all led by professionals, and linked with Children's Centres etc.</p> <p>Woodland activity sessions, wildlife hunts, hedgelaying.</p> <p>Friends groups</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>Sites need to be better maintained to give a 'safe' feel; there should be rangers on site.</p> <p>These improvements and activities will encourage more people to gain the confidence to explore their countryside sites.</p>
<p>If you have any other comments, or need more space to write answers to the above, please use the back of this sheet.</p>

Event: Scouts meeting

Date & Time: Friday 24th April, 8.00pm

Venue: Kings Wood School

Facilitator: Mike Fayers, BRCC

Attendance: 30 in total: 19 boys & 5 girls 11-14yr olds, 6 adult scout leaders

Summary of main Discussion / Mapping Exercise comments

to be viewed alongside original responses

1 Are Highfield Wood and Gomms Wood (and other green spaces) well used by the local community? (Do you use the site personally? How often?)

Only one third thought that the two woodlands are well used - though it was widely agreed that dog walkers do use the site regularly.

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

Apart from the use of the sites by dog walkers, a small number reported that they are used by young families, joggers and cyclists, and occasionally by the scout group themselves. One respondent also noted that the sites were used as a shortcut for schoolchildren.

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?)

Those who responded to this question felt that these woods are 'hidden', 'out of town' and are not well known. Other issues raised included being put off by the amount of litter in the woods and the poorly managed paths and the lack of both formal entrances and the fact that there are no designated car parks (though MF noted that there is car park at the northern end of Gomms Wood, by the cemetery). There is also something of a history of the woods having been used for bomb building by terrorists, and by 'druggies'.

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 predominant issues, as above, were the removal of litter and an improvement of the paths. The majority felt that better marked paths and new cycle tracks, all with signage, would encourage more people to use the sites. Some also mentioned opening up the woods by removing some of the dead wood and creating lighter, more open areas. Benches, litter bins and toilets were all requested, though none of these were widely noted.

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

Most of the improvements noted related to play - ranging from the popular aspiration of building a Go Ape style course to the ideas of a laser tag area, BMX and quad bike courses. Other suggestions include creating a nature trail, allowing wild camping, erecting art installations, and den building. Group activities requested included orienteering, field archery, a team based obstacle course, paint balling, and organised led walks and runs. It was also felt that the sites should be promoted to the general public and local community centres for group activities and general community events such as treasure hunts to encourage families with young children to explore the woods. One respondent would like to be part of a group to help to look after the site.

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 general view was that there is a lot of litter and this discourages many people from using the sites. The provision of bins and the clearance of litter were requested.

Appendix E: Action planning stakeholder list

Stakeholder contacts		Forename	Surname
District Council officers:			
	Parks/ green space	Andy	Sherwood
	Community safety/ ASB	Gillian	Stimpson
	Planning policy	David	Dewar
	Community services - commissioning	Sarah	Randall
	Sports development	James	Cavalier
	Health improvement	Sheila	Bees
	Planning/Sustainability	Phil	Simpkin
County Council officers			
	NEP	Vicky	Wetherell
	NEP	David	Kent
	Public Health	Tom	Burton
	Localities Manager	Madeleine	Howe
	Rights of Way	Corinne	Waldron
	Simply Walks	Fiona	Broadbent
	Community Links Officer (Prevention Matters)	Parveen	Dad
District Councillors			
		Rashmi	Sawhney
		Jackie	Prosser
		Leigh	Franklin
		Harry	Bull
		Matt	Knight

	Andrea Chauhdry	Baughan Shafique
County Councillors	Chaudhary Julia	Ditta Wassell
Portfolio Holders	Julia	Adey
Registered Social Landlords	David Todd Matthew	Mullins Ricketts Deprez
Highfield/ Hangingcroft Wood and Gomm's Wood LNR Manager	John	Shaw
Community group contacts		
Cock Lane residents meeting	Ian	Morton
Children's Centres	Joanne	Lawrence
Ash Hill Primary School	Richard	Davidson
High Wycombe Scouts	Richard	????
Wrights Meadow Community Centre	Jean	Peasley
Simply Walk	Mabel	Diston
Art teacher/ artist	Susan	Cunningham
Marsh and Micklefield Big Local	Lisa	Meaney
Community Impact Bucks: Bowerdean	Taylor	Collins
Our Place' Micklefield Community Hub	Dave	Furze
Active Bucks	Karl	White
	Chris	Gregory
The Conservation Volunteers	Diane	Farmer

Clinical Commissioning Group Leigh
Chepping Wycombe Parish Council Jackie
Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group Rashmi

Franklin
Prosser
Sawhney

Appendix F: Action planning workshop output

Action Planning Workshop – High Wycombe
25 June 2015

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Negin Shekary	Chiltern Commissioning Group (Amersham)
Roy Page	Local resident
Tiffany Williams	Bucks County Council (BCC) – Adult Social Care
Sarah Randall	Wycombe District Council (WDC) - Community
Corinne Waldron	BCC – Rights of Way
Jean Peasley	Micklefield and Marsh BIG Local
Parveen Dad	BCC
John Shaw	Chiltern Rangers CIC (CR)
Derek Sawyer	Chiltern Rangers CIC (CR)
Susan Cunningham	Bucks Adult and Family Learning
Sion Kitson	LEAP (Bucks Sports Partnership)
Cllr Matt Knight	WDC (Ward Councillor)
Diane Farmer	Active Bucks (BCC)

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)
Function: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife sites - Rangers need to balance use - Prohibits horticulture activities but other linked sites could 	0 0 0
Access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hilly - Steep sites - Use other sites (flat) like Baring Road 	0 0 1
Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Flag more geared to parks This is woodland! Can't have tarmac paths - Needs a different focususe recreation grounds, inter-link to woods via new paths - Ward boundaries mad! Woodland extends massively into neighbouring parish and people use it - Encourage growth of a 'Friends Group' 	0 3 0 3
Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage – Trim trail/ Bird hide (but issues); more interpretation panels (v expensive) - Usage – 'explorer' orienteering trails (LEAP/ NGB) - Site maps - but don't give wider context of the surrounding areas - Ownership – need local community loving their woods more - Leaders – Rangers taking groups directly from - Bins – Lack of £ and resource to empty/ Littering from gardens an issue (WDC Environmental Health) - Events – beginning to come – Chilterns Rangers responsible - Equipment – have concerns things like art trails would get trashed/ same for exercise equipment, but there is space on flat recreational areas - Lure possible vandals to other areas with different provision, eg. Radio Shed 	0 2 0 4 0 0 0 3 0 2

--	--

Group 2: (6 participants)

Issue	Priority (Number of votes)
Path signs (? marks on trees)	7
Lack of maps of footpaths (board at entrance) – include 'hard'; 'flat', etc	5
Entrances – not visible	3
Picnic table/ benches (rustic) – review. NB. Balance – keep rustic not urban	1
Steps on steep inclines	1
Dog bins (entrances/ exits)	1
Short cuts – marked	0
Natural trim trail	0
Narrow paths (if keep routes or short cuts)	0
Fly tipping – around edges (Cock Lane, access points, behind houses)	0
Youths on motorbikes	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.

Groups 1: (7 participants)

Actions	Priority rating (number of votes)	Delivery partners
Entrances:		
- Review – woods; Red Kite - paths/ alleys	4	
- Minor – sign/fingerpost	0	

- Major – map interpretation board/ dog bin	2	
Path signage/ map: (Active Bucks bid)	6	
- Work with Chepping Wycombe PC – produce routes/ all 3 woods and Gomm Valley/ Ashwells		
- Circular		
- Short cuts/ destination		
Benches/ infrastructure:		
- Rustic benches	0	
- Forest School type clearance/ events	0	
- Steps – steep routes	1	
Promotion:		
- Doctors – take info to refer/ reception/ TV screen	1	
- Libraries - reception/ TV screen	0	
- App/ Facebook page for woods/ Micklefield (Matt K)		
- NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) – publicity on public safety and awareness raising	2	
- Schools		
- Simply Walks – increase profile/ ease for volunteering	2	
- Work with local groups to develop/ increase use	0	
	1	
	2	

Groups 2: (6 participants)

Actions	Priority rating (number of votes)	Delivery partners
Put on more events to attract people	4	Bucks Adult and Family Learning (Art); NGB - Tim Herrod (Orienteering); Teachers (School links)

Promote educational opportunities – how to do this with no extra £s. Look for funding pots, eg. LEAP and link to other partners, eg. Learning SVS	4	
Gomm Wood development – plan in paths, parking, s106 money, area use could increase. Wildlife corridor from SSSI.	4	
Green Thursday group do tidy woodland but has to be managed expand conservation, create 'friends of'. Use community champions. More volunteer wardens.	3	
Signage and 'evolving' from close mown areas into woods to be improved	2	CR, WDC, Red Kite
Encourage more x-LAF working, eg. w/ Chepping Wycombe PC. Funders need to support it.	0	
Make wider use of whole local green space network	0	
Alay safety fears – led/ managed events	0	
Create 'reasons' for different groups to access woods, eg. lunchtime walk groups, run groups, youth/ school groups – respect their different uses	0	
Natural England funding may require sensitive developments, eg. paths – can't risk loss of £s	0	
Picnic areas/ benches – attract more litter so increase another 'issue'	0	
Ugly fencing – removal would exacerbate flytipping, motorbike use – reduce/ decorate as part of 'art' scheme	0	Dan Wilson

Appendix G: Action plan

Green Space Means Health: Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods

ACTION PLAN

6 September 2015

ACTION PLAN					
Aim	To improve community access, awareness and use of both sites in order to address local public health issues				
Objectives	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.	Talk to neighbouring land owners to see if they are willing to work together on joint infrastructure and promotional activities	Winter 2016	WDC (Community)	CR Red Kite Chepping Wycombe PC BCC (ROW) Gomm Valley WDC (Community) BCC (School)	N/A
2.	Produce strategic master plan for the integrated development/ management of Gomm's Wood LNR, Highfield and Hangingcroft Wood and King's Wood and associated key green spaces (ie. Gomm	Winter 2016	CR	CR WDC (Community/ Planning) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling)	CR WDC (Community/ Planning) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chepping Wycombe PC BCC (School)

	Valley; Ashwells and Baring Road Recreation Ground), incl audience development. Linked to urban extension plans for Gomm Valley.			Chepping Wycombe PC Red Kite BCC (School) Gomm Valley Home Group	Gomm Valley
Infrastructure					
3.	Provide additional rustic bench seating at strategic locations across the site	March 2016	CR	CR Home Group	CR volunteers Funding needed for materials and labour and maintenance costs
4.	<p>Where new site 'welcome' ladder boards don't already exist, erect new ones, giving site name (see also activity ref. below), positive welcome message encouraging public access (ie. <u>not</u> single nature conservation message) and promoting what facilities are available (eg. bike park, play area, outdoor gym, dog-walking, cycling, picnic, etc) and organisation contact details</p> <p>Where new boards already exist, amend welcome message to promote/ encourage wider public access to sites. Current conservation message of site ladder boards may deter some sections of community</p> <p>Note. Consider opportunity to incorporate mobile technology, such as NFC (Near Field Communication) points to tap phones on</p>	May 2016	CR	CR Home Group	CR volunteers Funding needed for ladder boards and new panels and installation and maintenance costs

	and information immediately pops up on phone				
5.	Erect off site signage at strategic points in adjoining residential areas promoting sites, including distance/ time to access site via walking/ cycling and denoting pedestrian/ cycle access as appropriate (eg. at start of paths which lead to site down blind alleys between properties) (link with 1 and 2 above)	Winter 2017	BCC (RoW/Cycling)	CR Red Kite Home Group BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling)	BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) CR volunteers Funding needed for signs and installation and maintenance costs
6.	Erect signage (including destination/ distance as appropriate) and waymarking of cycle/ pedestrian path network (rights of way/ amenity), including '3-2-1' circular routes (with short-cuts); and graded by gradient gentle/ steep (link with 1 and 2 above and 8 below) NB. Include both sites and King's Wood/ Gomm Valley/ Ashwells in scope of cycle/ pedestrian network plans.	Winter 2017	CR	CR WDC (Community) Chepping Wycombe Parish Council (PC) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Leap/ Run England Developers of Gomm Valley Red Kite	WDC (Community/Planning) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chepping Wycombe PC CR volunteers (labour) Run England Funding needed for signs and installation and maintenance costs Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora; Developers; CIL
7.	Erect picnic tables next to play areas.	May 2016	CR	Home Group	Funding needed for picnic tables and installation and ongoing maintenance costs Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora; CIL

8.	Erect steps on steep sections of promoted path network (link with 6 above)	Winter 2017	CR	CR Chepping Wycombe Parish Council (PC) BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Home Group	WDC (Planning) – s106 BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) Chepping Wycombe PC CR volunteers Funding needed for equipment and labour and ongoing maintenance Funding bids: Community Sport Activation Fund; Active Bucks, Local Area Fora; CIL
9.	Consider use of planting (eg. themed community mural) to soften impact of unsightly/ uninviting perimeter security fencing	Spring 2016	CR	CR Red Kite Schools	CR CR volunteers School (labour) Funding needed for plants
10.	Soften/ blur interface between site and adjoining green spaces (eg. King's Wood; Gomm Valley; play areas/ school grounds/ recreation grounds) through changes in grass management (allow to grow longer)/ tree/ shrub planting, etc and integrated access signage/ promotion to make the various adjoining sites appear more integrated and so make more inviting/ welcoming to move between one another. (Link with 1, 2 and 6 above)	Winter 2016	CR	CR Red Kite Chepping Wycombe PC BCC (ROW) Developer (GV) WDC (Community & Planning) BCC (School)	CR CR volunteers School (labour) Funding needed for plants

11.	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	CR	CR WDC (Community) Chepping Wycombe PC Red Kite Home Group Schools Wildlife Trust	CR WDC (Community) Chepping Wycombe PC CR volunteers (labour) School (labour) Funding bids: Active Bucks, Local Area Fora
Community safety					
11.	Education campaign with local community to address littering and fly-tipping, graffiti, dog fouling	Spring 2016	CR	CR CDC (Waste) Chepping Wycombe PC Red Kite Home Group Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Neighbourhood Action Group	CR CDC (Waste) Chepping Wycombe PC CR volunteers (labour) Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Neighbourhood Action Group Funding needed
12.	Cut back/ thin vegetation to improve visibility into site at strategic entrance points (to make more inviting/ welcoming); and within site along paths (esp. strategic path network developed in 4. above) and additional viewpoints	Winter 2015	CR	CR Chepping Wycombe PC	CR Chepping Wycombe PC CR volunteers (labour)

Promotion/ animation					
13.	<p>Develop and market annual programme of community events/ activities to help address community perception issues with site, 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 (eg. Thursday Club); lunchtime walk groups, run groups, youth/ school groups, Forest Schools, outdoor exercise classes (Tai Chi/ Zumba), survival/ bush-craft skills. Suggested promotional outlets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor surgeries – take info to refer/ reception/ TV screen • Libraries - reception/ TV screen • App/ Facebook page for sites/ Micklefield • Neighbourhood Action Group – publicity on public safety and awareness raising • Churches • Pubs • Shops/ food outlets • Schools 	<p>Winter 2015 - Develop programme</p> <p>Spring 2016 - Launch programme</p>	CR	<p>CR</p> <p>BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling)</p> <p>WDC (Community)</p> <p>Chepping Wycombe PC</p> <p>Red Kite</p> <p>Home Group</p> <p>Micklefield & Marsh BIG Local</p> <p>Schools/ Learning SVS</p> <p>Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>GPs</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>WDC (Community)</p> <p>Chepping Wycombe PC</p> <p>Wycombe Heritage and Arts Trust</p> <p>Wycombe Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Neighbourhood Action Group</p> <p>Micklefield & Marsh BIG Local Schools</p> <p>Bucks Adult and Family Learning (Art); NGB - Tim Herrod (Orienteering)</p> <p>Leap</p> <p>Funding bids: Active Bucks, Local Area Fora</p>

14.	Support the social marketing of existing/ new health based activities to develop/ increase community use of site, eg. Simply Walks, conservation volunteering, school x-countries, boot camps, conservation volunteering; lunchtime walk groups, run groups, youth/ school groups, outdoor exercise classes (Tai Chi/ Zumba), family orienteering routes	Start: Winter 2015	BCC (Public Health)	Leap BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) BCC (Public Health) WDC (Community) Chepping Wycombe PC Red Kite Home Group Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Micklefield & Marsh BIG Local Schools/ Learning SVS Clinical Commissioning Group GPs	Leap BCC (Rights of Way/ Cycling) BCC (Public Health) WDC (Community) Chepping Wycombe PC Wycombe Community Safety Partnership Micklefield & Marsh BIG Local Schools/ Learning SVS Clinical Commissioning Group GPs Funding bids: Active Bucks, Local Area Fora
15.	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 sites	Start: Winter 2015	CR	CR WDC Home Group Chepping Wycombe Parish Council (PC)	WDC (Community) – s106 Chepping Wycombe PC CR volunteers

Key: WDC –Wycombe District Council; BCC – Buckinghamshire County Council; CR – Chiltern Rangers; Leap – County Sports Partnership