

OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY

SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL



AN

UPDATE REPORT

BY

PMP

DECEMBER 2004

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Introduction and background

Introduction and scope

- 1.1 In October 2004, Spelthorne Borough Council (the Council) appointed PMP to undertake an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study across the whole of Spelthorne (the Borough). The study, **an assessment of local needs and audit of open space and indoor sport and recreational facilities**, will provide the Council with **a clear vision, priorities for the future (based on local need)** and a **direction for the allocation of resources**.
- 1.2 The overall aim for this piece of work is to:
- 'to provide an assessment of Spelthorne's open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough to establish appropriate local standards, identify areas where there are deficiencies in provision and identify solutions/ sites to meet those deficiencies'.*
- 1.3 The above aim is underpinned by the six study outcomes, which are:
- to undertake an audit of existing provision to cover all aspects of open space (with the exception of civic spaces), sport and recreation. The audit should include an understanding of provision in areas immediately adjoining the Borough boundary and which have an existing role in meeting Spelthorne's needs
 - to establish robust local standards
 - to ensure that any shortfall or surplus in provision are identified against these standards
 - to produce site-specific recommendations to meet any identified shortfalls in provision having regard to suitability and sustainability in terms of site size, access, adjoining land uses, any potential adverse impacts on adjoining uses, any particular feature or habitat on the site which might constrain the proposed use
 - to identify and determine the scope to use any potentially redundant allotments to meet any shortfall
 - to evaluate and make recommendations on the following unimplemented open space/recreation proposals in the current Local Plan and whether or not they should be retained in the light of the findings of the study: proposals 25, 33, 34 and 35.
- 1.4 It is important that this study provides evidence, via a robust assessment, to support the policies for protection of urban open space sites as identified in your Local Plan. The study will also inform future planning policy, including the preparation of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF), which is targeted for adoption in March 2007.
- 1.5 The study is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17)(Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide published in September 2002. Further details of this process are provided overleaf.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.6 This study is also running parallel to separate work being carried out by Bridge IMC consultants on allotments in the Borough and by the Council's Liveability Parks Project. Information from both these studies have been used to inform this report.
- 1.7 This report is an update on progress and provides an initial introduction to the study, methodology (in line with PPG17 requirements), findings to date and outlines the way forward to completion of the final report. To date, Step 1 and 2 of the 5-Step PPG17 process have been completed and are detailed within this report. Steps 3, 4 and 5 will be completed in January. The methodology and our approach for these steps are outlined within Section 6.
- 1.8 The study also analyses indoor sport and recreation facilities. The analysis consisted of a comprehensive audit of indoor sports facilities. Supply and demand modelling will be undertaken for the final report in order to identify any surplus or shortfall in the provision of indoor recreation in the Borough.
- 1.9 As detailed above, the aim is that the study and resulting strategy will enable the Council to ensure the most effective and efficient use of open spaces and indoor sport and recreation facilities within the Borough and plan and respond appropriately to any pressures of immediate and future developments.

Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17)

- 1.10 PPG17 states *"the government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and sports and recreational facilities"*.
- 1.11 The major change in the policy guidance is the requirement for local authority decisions, regarding open space, to be **informed by local needs assessments** and an audit of existing provision. Such audits should incorporate qualitative, quantitative and accessibility considerations as well as the overall non-monetary value of the land including the level of use. National standards are no longer considered to meet local needs, although they may be used as benchmarks.
- 1.12 Other subsequent changes in this planning policy document are:
- the definition of open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals and lakes which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation
 - a greater emphasis is placed on qualitative considerations – this is particularly important as it will allow local authorities to identify potential for increased use through better design, management and/or maintenance of open space
 - it advocates the setting of local standards appropriate to the local area rather than assessment by national standards although these can be used as benchmarks – the Government believes that national standards are inappropriate, as they do not take into account the demographics of an area, the specific needs of residents and the extent of built development
 - it provides further guidance on the constituent elements of open space typologies
 - it clearly acknowledges the multiple functions that open spaces can perform.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.13 The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:
- assessing needs and opportunities – undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
 - setting local standards
 - maintaining an adequate supply of open space
 - planning for new open space.
- 1.14 The companion guide sets out the process for undertaking local assessments of needs and audits of provision. It also:
- indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards
 - promotes a consistent approach across varying types of open space.
- 1.15 PMP and the Council have followed the recommendations of PPG17 throughout the study. Following this methodology maximises the potential the strategy has to make a real difference to the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in Spelthorne.

Need for local assessments

- 1.16 A local assessment of open space and open space needs will enable the Council to:
- plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space required
 - ensure an adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet the needs of the community
 - ensure any funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need
 - conduct Section 106 negotiations with developers from a position of knowledge with evidence to support.
- 1.17 Where no assessment exists, developers can undertake their own independent assessment to demonstrate that open space is surplus to requirements. It is therefore desirable for the Council to have robust data to protect open space within the Borough.

Outcomes of local assessments

- 1.18 A local assessment of open space will enable the Council to plan effectively and achieve some desirable key outcomes required by PPG17. These are:
- provision of networks of accessible, high quality open space for sport and recreation that meet the needs of residents and visitors
 - provision of open spaces that are 'fit for purpose' – the right type in the right place and of the right size
 - provision of open spaces that are economically and environmentally sustainable
 - provision of an appropriate balance between new open space and enhancement of existing provision
 - setting locally derived provision standards
 - provision of clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and land owners.

Demographics

- 1.19 Spelthorne Borough Council is located in Surrey, 15 miles west of Central London. It is bordered by the M25 to the west, the River Thames to the south and west, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to the east, and Heathrow Airport and the London Borough of Hounslow to the north.
- 1.20 Spelthorne is a compact urban area covering 21 square miles (12,671 acres). The area comprises 65% green belt and 30% of the total area is either floodplain or reservoir. The major centres of population are Ashford, Shepperton, Stanwell, Sunbury and Staines. The borough is seen as an affluent area with the exception of Stanwell – Stanwell North ward is ranked in the top 40% most deprived wards in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2001.
- 1.21 The total population of the borough of Spelthorne in 2001 was 90,390 of which 51% are female. 22.8% of the population are below 19 years of age (compared to the average in England and Wales of 25.1%) and 22.0% of the population are 60 or over (compared to the average in England and Wales of 20.9%).
- 1.22 Further details regarding the demographic profile of the borough and the relevance of this profile in relation to open space, sport and recreation facilities will be expanded upon within the final report.

Summary

- 1.23 This report provides an update on Steps 1 and 2 of the PPG17 process, which incorporates the following:
- an evaluation and summary of the local needs assessment, which has been carried out throughout the Borough
 - a summary of the audit of open space and indoor sport and recreational facilities in the Borough.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.24 The above data will be used to complete Steps 3, 4 and 5 of the PPG17 process. The final study will therefore:

- provide an analysis of existing provision and appropriate policies and actions for each type of open space. This will enable the Council to plan effectively the provision of open space to meet the current and future needs and enhance existing open spaces where required
- enable the Council to ensure the most effective and efficient use of open spaces within the Borough and plan and respond appropriately to any pressures of immediate and future developments
- provide the necessary information to be used in developing a strategy for the future management and development of open space.

Undertaking the study

Introduction

- 2.1. This study has been undertaken in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide, published in September 2002. This Companion Guide suggests ways and means of undertaking such a study. It emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment, as opposed to following national trends and guidelines. The four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - (ii) the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - (iii) delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend much more on improving and enhancing existing open space rather than new provision
 - (iv) the value of open space depends primarily on meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.2. PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The resulting conclusions and recommendations that will be drawn on completion of this study will therefore be representative of the local needs for Spelthorne.

Types of open space

- 2.3. The overall definition of open space within the government planning guidance is:
- “all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity”.*
- 2.4. PPG17 identifies nine typologies of open space. These categories include eight types of open space and one category of urban open space.
- 2.5. The Spelthorne open space audit and analysis considers all but Civic Spaces (Staines High Street and Market Square, Staines), which was excluded from the brief. The study takes into account open spaces provided and managed by other organisations providing a more accurate picture of current provision within Spelthorne. Full details of these typologies, their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in Table 2.1 overleaf.

Table 2.1 Open Space Typologies

Type	Definition	Primary Purpose/Examples
Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal recreation • community events
Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife conservation, • biodiversity • environmental education and awareness
Amenity Greenspace	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal activities close to home or work • enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipped play areas • ball courts • outdoor basketball hoop areas • skateboard areas • teenage shelters and 'hangouts'
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor sports pitches • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports
Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • growing vegetables and other root crops <p>N.B. does not include private gardens</p>
Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quiet contemplation • burial of the dead • wildlife conservation • promotion of biodiversity
Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking, cycling or horse riding • leisure purposes or travel • opportunities for wildlife migration.

- 2.6. In conjunction with PPG17, there are a number of types of land use that have not been included in our assessment as open space and recreation, namely:
- grass verges on the side of roads
 - small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of two roads
 - SLOAP (space left over after planning ie in and around a block of flats)
 - farmland and farm tracks
 - private roads and private gardens.

PPG17 – 5-Step process

- 2.7. The PPG17 Companion Guide sets out a five step logical process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was followed to meet the requirements of the Council to plan, monitor and set targets for the existing and future provision of open space within the Borough. Although presented as a linear process, in reality, many stages can be undertaken in parallel.
- 2.8. The 5-Step process is as follows:
- Step 1 – Identifying Local Needs
 - Step 2 – Auditing Local Provision
 - Step 3 – Setting Provision Standards
 - Step 4 – Applying Provision Standards
 - Step 5 – Drafting Implementation and Action Plan.

Our process

- 2.9. To date PMP has completed Steps 1 and 2 of the 5-Step process, the results of which are detailed within this report. Utilising the audit and needs assessment data gathered in Steps 1 and 2, we will work with the Council in setting and applying provision standards (Steps 3 and 4) for existing and future provision of open space within the Borough. From this we will produce recommendations and draft an implementation and action plan.
- 2.10. Our methodology for Steps 1 and 2, in accordance with the broader PPG17 process, is detailed below. Our proposed methodology for Steps 3, 4 and 5 is detailed in Section 6.

Step 1 - Identifying local needs

Research

- desk-based research was undertaken considering national, regional and local policies and strategies that will impact upon local needs for open space and sport and recreation provision in Spelthorne. Summaries of key documents can be found in Section 3. Documents reviewed include:
 - The Local Plan
 - The Community Strategy
 - Leisure and Cultural Strategy 2002/05
 - Parks Strategy 2003/08.

Consultations

- consultations have been carried out with many organisations and individuals through various methods such as one-to-one meetings, telephone calls, questionnaires, drop-in sessions and by email, including:
 - one-to-one consultations with Council Officers (across a range of Council departments including planning, leisure, parks and education). The aim of these sessions was to establish how open space, sport and recreation provision affects each department and key issues for each
 - 5,000 household questionnaires disseminated across the Borough. The questionnaire was intended to explore user and non-user attitudes to the range of open spaces; sport and recreation facilities available near to their homes and people's views on quantity, quality and accessibility
 - a sports club survey was distributed to all identified sports clubs in the Borough to ascertain their views on outdoor and indoor sport and recreation facilities in the area
 - all primary and secondary schools in the Borough were contacted and offered the chance for pupils to complete an on-line survey on open space, sport and recreation. The intention of this internet survey is to engage young people in the study and ascertain their views
 - three 'drop in' neighbourhood sessions across the Borough. Local and district wide agencies were invited to these sessions. In addition the sessions were advertised across the Borough via press releases to raise awareness amongst local residents. These sessions were held during November 2004. The purpose of these sessions was to determine the views, attitudes and expectations of local groups and residents on open spaces throughout the analysis areas and across the Borough
 - consultation was also carried out with external agencies, such as English Heritage, the Environmental Agency, Countryside Agency and British Waterways

- a press release, approved by the Council, was circulated by the Council's press department to many of the local newspapers. The press release advertised an email address (openspaceinspelthorne@pmpconsult.com), text messaging service and freepost service to allow the general public to forward their comments on open space provision in the Borough.

2.11. Further details on the process and findings for Step 1, can be found in Section 4. A copy of all relevant questionnaires, can be found in Appendix A.

Step 2 - Auditing local provision

- 2.12. A detailed desk exercise was completed using existing data (for example, from the existing green space audit undertaken by the Council in 2003), current Council strategies, the Local Plan, Ordnance Survey and street maps and other sources, to establish exact locations and types of all open spaces within the Borough.
- 2.13. A total of 164 sites were visited to check the location and size of the site, confirm the primary purpose of the site and to also assess the site on quality, accessibility and value using a standard matrix and definitions. A copy of the site assessment matrix is shown in Appendix B.
- 2.14. All maps are in the process of being cross-checked with Council Officers to ensure that the data is as up to date and as accurate as possible. Once the Council has signed off the audit data, each open space site will be digitised using GIS software and its associated ratings and characteristics are recorded on a linked Microsoft Access 2000 database. This will enable further updates of open spaces and varying forms of analysis to be undertaken. This allows a dynamic reporting and assessment mechanism and enables individual sites or specific geographical locations to be examined in detail where necessary.

Indoor sport and recreation audit and analysis

- 2.15. Indoor sport and recreation facilities were audited by PMP using a variety of sources including PMP's in-house database, supplemented by external sources such as www.upmystreet.com and www.yell.com. These identified sites were then audited and cross-checked via a series of telephone calls.
- 2.16. The facilities that were audited included:
- sports halls
 - swimming pools
 - health and fitness
 - athletics
 - squash
 - indoor tennis
 - synthetic turf pitches (STPs).

- 2.17. The provision of sport and recreation facilities will be assessed using demand models, which compare the current supply against both current and estimated future demand. The location of indoor sport and recreation facilities will also be digitally plotted using the postcode of the site to illustrate where current provision lies. Full details of the process can be found in Section 6.

Strategic context

- 3.1. This strategic review sets in context the study and analysis of a local needs assessment by reviewing:
- the range of local strategic documents and organisations that may have a direct or possibly indirect influence and/or impact upon the provision of open space within Spelthorne.

- 3.2. The current situation regarding the provision of open space nationally and national strategic documents will be reviewed in the final report.

Spelthorne Borough Council Community Strategy July 2002

- 3.3. This Strategy aims to deliver the following vision for Spelthorne:

“A place where people are fully engaged and are both respected and respectful, promoting an environment that is healthy, safe, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable”.

- 3.4. The strategy is divided into ten action areas with targets that have been agreed by all local partners. Six of these action areas and related targets are relevant to this study, and are highlighted below.

- A sustainable economy
 - promote the Borough as a tourist destination based on the characteristics of each area of Spelthorne (over next five years).
- Improving the environment
 - monitor the progress of major development and infrastructure projects affecting Spelthorne such as Terminal 5 (over the next five years).
- A place to live, work and play
 - carry out a fundamental review of parks and open spaces (over the next year)
 - undertake an audit of play provision (over the next year).
- Effective transport
 - improve the cycle facilities between Staines and Shepperton (over the next year).
- Younger people
 - engage with young people in order to identify their needs for improved facilities within Spelthorne and allow them to contribute to the design and provision of services and facilities such as parks and youth services (over the next five years).

- Civic pride and a place where people are valued
 - broaden public engagement in the community planning process.
- 3.5. Open space, sport and recreation facilities can play a role in achieving each of the targets within six of the ten council action areas, as it cuts across many wide-ranging issues and can impact on health, deprivation, local economy etc.

Spelthorne Borough Local Plan (Adopted April 2001)

- 3.6. Local plans set out a local planning authority's detailed policies and proposals for the future development and use of land in their area. The Community Plan is currently being updated by the Council and a revised Plan is due to be adopted in the Spring of 2005
- 3.7. The Local Plan will protect urban and rural open spaces. Urban open spaces provide important outlets for recreation and break up the built environment making Spelthorne a greener and pleasanter place to live, work and plan. The Local Plan has policies and guidance under the following relevant categories:

Recreation, social and community facilities

- 3.8. Written before the revision of PPG17, the plan seeks to:

“ensure that adequate and appropriate provision of recreational land and buildings for recreational purposes is made to meet the leisure needs of the Borough's population, with due regard to the proximity of recreational resources beyond the borough boundary”.

- 3.9. The plan highlights current deficiencies in recreation provision and indicates that the local authority will seek to encourage private initiatives and local interest groups in the provision of additional facilities in those areas of recreational need. The Council will also consider opportunities for undertaking appropriate schemes of joint recreation provision in conjunction with private and commercial concerns.
- 3.10. Further details are provided on the following types of facility:
 - sports pitches – important to avoid any loss of public or private pitches. Council will keep demand under review. Borough does have good provision of open land for informal open space but there is only limited scope to use these for sports pitches
 - equipped children's play – overall shortage. Council has had a refurb of existing sites and new provision but some parts of the borough still do not have the standard provision. Shortage in Ashford. Opportunities to provide further sites will be taken as they arise
 - open land for recreation – good surplus, though over half is common land of which a significant part is within the Staines Moor SSSI where there is low public use. Ashford has a marked shortage of open space with no sites identified to meet shortfall

- allotments – good provision, some used for grazing where otherwise unused. No local shortages despite no even distribution. No proposals for further provision
- indoor pools – provision compares well with national standards
- golf courses – there is scope for further provision.

3.11. In general, the following conclusions are stated:

- overall total area of open space is sufficient
- shortages in certain aspects – particularly open space and facilities adjoining or near the River Thames
- priority to protect facilities and make provision available where there are deficiencies.

Summary of Recreation Proposals

3.12. A number of recreation policies have been put in place to implement the above conclusions/ recommendations. These are centred on the provision of children's play facilities at eight named sites across the borough (related policies P28-P35), the development of water based and River Thames development (related policies R2-R7), the development and safeguarding of footpaths, bridleways and recreational cycling (related policy R9).

Updated Leisure and Culture Strategy for Spelthorne 2002-2005

3.13. The Strategy addresses all four of the Council's key priorities: Engaging Younger People, Making Spelthorne a Better Place, Improving Customer Satisfaction and Making Spelthorne Safer. In addition, the Strategy is vital to delivering key objectives under the Community Strategy.

3.14. The overall aim of the Strategy is to:

“provide a framework of planned policies, objectives and actions... that will guide the provision and opportunities for leisure and culture over the next few years. The strategy seeks to provide direction to all local leisure and cultural providers in Spelthorne and provide a framework so we can best work together to achieve the aims and objectives.

3.15. The Strategy details related objectives to the above aims as listed in the Action Plan. Objectives relevant to this study are listed below:

- Engaging Young People
 - development of play sites across the borough – audit complete in 1998, playground in Laleham updated this year
 - seek developers' contributions through the planning process for future play sites – new site Ashford hospital

- Making Spelthorne a better place
 - develop a parks strategy
 - seek to overcome barriers of the letting of allotments and give consideration to how surplus allotment land can be best utilised
 - promote and actively encourage the use of open spaces, countryside areas and the riverside
 - support the Local Plan policies for the protection and enhancement of the built environment, green spaces, countryside
 - continue to provide and enhance the quality of our green spaces in Spelthorne.

Draft Parks Strategy for Spelthorne 2003 – 2008

3.16. The purpose of the strategy is to identify how parks and open spaces support the Community Vision and the Leisure and Culture Strategy for the Borough.

3.17. The main aim of strategy is to:

- produce a scheme of management for the parks and open spaces of Spelthorne which will provide for their better protection and future resourcing, in order to improve their environmental value and uses for the people of Spelthorne
- all policies and strategies should have a guiding vision. This strategy pursues the broad community vision, which describes the future of the parks and opens spaces as:

“Places, which support the community vision of Spelthorne as a place where people are fully engaged and are both respectful and promoting an environment that is healthy, safe, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable.”

3.18. The Strategy contains key information which will inform projections of future demand for green space and recreational provision and sets out the amount and type of land that the authority owns and manages.

3.19. A significant amount of consultation was undertaken in developing the Parks Strategy. Key issues identified as important by the community, and relevant to this study, included:

- security in parks
- dog fouling
- toilet provision
- anti-social behaviour
- lack of certain facilities for certain ages
- no disabled provision.

3.20. The strategy also sets out key targets for investment and refers to the need for Section 106 generated income to include revenue sums for children's play provision. Priority for capital investment is:

- primary parks take a precedent especially where capital investment generates incomes
- the improvement of parks and open spaces where there is a defined social need
- existing infrastructure where a need is identified in any plan.

Parks and the sustainable development

3.21. This strategy proposed:

- when proposing certain environmental initiatives, inform local people, schools and other interested parties and call public meetings to get views
- environmental improvement schemes should take into account existing ecological features and increase opportunities for wildlife
- provides all schools and colleges with opportunities to create a nature area or to adapt a wildlife and geological site nearby as an aid to teaching
- regular reviews of infrastructures, future plans to be drawn up to reflect national and European initiatives and legislation
- grounds maintenance contractor to be responsible for using sustainable materials and developing a recycling strategy.

Revitalising Spelthorne's parks

3.22. This strategy identifies:

- the need for security in parks through different formats eg CCTV and by greater use of the parks in general through increased activities
- information relating to dog control, toilets, opportunities for children and young people and the disabled
- importance of community engagement including schools, consultation and promotion
- measurement of performance against set objectives and local performance indicators.

Green Space Audit of Spelthorne - 2003

- 3.23. The Community First Partnership carried out this audit. Sites were categorised into:
- primary sites i.e. district parks
 - secondary sites i.e. local parks
 - tertiary sites i.e. small local parks/ open spaces.
- 3.24. The audit identifies the following facts:
- 71% of population has open space available to them within 300-400m walking distance
 - there is a deficiency of quality sites, either primary or secondary sites in areas of the Borough e.g. Shepperton Green has 100% accessibility to primary/secondary sites compared to Ashford West, which only has 15%.
- 3.25. The mapping exercise that was undertaken highlighted a number of issues, which need to be addressed as part of the Action Plan over the next five years:
- improved provision in one of the parks in the north of the borough to provide another primary park e.g. Clockhouse Lane
 - Ashford North West, which due to the severance effect, has 100% population with no access to primary or secondary provision. It is suggested that a local level site be upgraded to secondary status – Hengrove Park is proposed
 - new sites where there are deficiencies – identify existing green spaces, which do not have public access at present and to consider whether this could form part of green space accessibility for the local community
 - Section 106 agreements should all be considered on a case by case basis, taking into account local issues of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Urban Open Space - Protection from Development document – June 1993

- 3.26. The recommendations and proposals from this report were incorporated into the Local Plan adopted by the Council in April 2001.

Primary purpose

- to identify which open spaces in the borough are of sufficient value to justify protection from development
- open space sites that this review included were public parks and playing fields and large private grounds, excluded from the study were green belt land, very small sites (less than 0.1ha) and sites committed by development
- the value of each sites took into account three criteria 1) amenity value, 2) nature conservation value and 3) recreational value
- current provision was reviewed

- sites identified for retention fell under five headings
 - Council owned parks and recreation grounds
 - private sports grounds
 - school grounds
 - open land within residential estates
 - other land.

Policy on Sports Provision in Spelthorne's Parks June 2004

3.27. Purpose:

- to establish a policy for the development of team sports in Spelthorne's parks, which:
 - supports corporate priorities of 'engaging younger people', 'making Spelthorne a better place' and 'improving customer satisfaction'
 - provides an opportunity to gain external funds
 - develops potential partnership/self-management of pitches.

3.28. Recommendations include to:

- develop self-management tools with football clubs and sites as identified in the report subject to the appropriate agreement
- the priority for casual use for football is given for youth teams
- that all football clubs with operate to FA Good Practice Guide
- that adult fees for football 2005/6 should be increased to help cover the cost of maintenance
- that the policy for bowls and tennis be continued and that putting is provided free of charge
- that the cricket square at Laleham is not maintained for the future and consultation with the proposed club at Long Lane commences with a view to developing a partnership.

3.29. All of the above recommendations have reportedly been resolved.

Best Value Review of Young people May 2004

Objective of review

- identify clear priorities to be agreed by the Council and its partners in accordance with the corporate vision

- determine the extent to which the range of services, provided for young people by the Council and its partners, contribute to engaging younger people
- formulate a rigorous improvement plan to meet any identified shortfall in service provision over a three year timescale.

3.30. A number of action points were drawn up in an improvement plan. Relevant points to this project include:

- consulting with young people of varied ages and backgrounds
- improve safety and access in parks
- include cycle paths in parks
- provide active facilities in parks
- implement a policy of keeping parks open.

Liveability Park Life Project

- received £2.135m funding from the ODPM
- Park Life scheme seeks to introduce a series of youth zones into six parks, run jointly and locally by young people and representatives/stakeholders
- details of the schemes within the individual parks be developed, decided and managed by a Greenspace Forum.
- first phase of project covers Lammas Recreation Ground, Clockhouse Lane Recreation Ground and Kenyington Manor Recreation Ground.

Summary of strategic documents

3.31. The main issues in Spelthorne:

- parks and open spaces can play a role in achieving six priority themes of the community plan
- parks and open spaces cut across many wide-ranging issues and can impact on health, deprivation and poverty levels and the local economy
- the perception is that the level of provision for children and young people is low across the Borough. In particular provision for teenagers, which has resulted in their use of children's playgrounds. This has led to vandalism in some instances
- the perception that many of the open space areas were littered and required maintenance e.g. grass cutting, litter bins and clearing of paths.

3.32. In summary, this review of strategic documents highlights the importance of maintaining and improving open space sites within the borough. This study will contribute to achieving the wider aims of a number of local and national agencies.

Step 1 Identifying local needs

Introduction

- 4.1. Consultation was undertaken as part of the local needs assessments to establish the views on open space provision amongst both users and non-users in the Borough.
- 4.2. The information gained from these consultations has been used to help understand:
 - the key issues/problems facing different Council departments and agencies
 - the needs and requirements of local residents
 - the attitudes and expectations of open space within the borough
 - what is right about the existing provision.
- 4.3. Consultations, via the various methods, have extracted a series of similar key issues across the borough; these are detailed in Figure 4.1 below.

Figure 4.1 Summary of consultation

The main issues emerging are the lack of provision for children and young people, with the need to cater for young people in order to prevent the continued vandalism of the children's play areas and the need to address the maintenance of open space sites.

The quality of the sites is important to all that use them. The recurring theme of dog fouling, litter, graffiti and anti-social behaviour by youths are considered to be a particular problem within the borough.

In terms of sport and recreation, casual swimming along with health and fitness are the most popular activities. There is a perceived demand for increased swimming and youth facilities provision. The lack of junior sports pitches has also been highlighted.

Overall, there is a need for an over-arching strategy for open spaces and the production of management and action plans may help to move the Council forward towards a more pro-active approach. The challenge is to do this against a backdrop of declining resources and increasing public demands and expectations.

- 4.4. More detailed analysis and key findings from the various consultation that has been undertaken is discussed in this section.

Household survey

- 4.5. 5000 questionnaires were disseminated across the borough. Each household was selected at random and the person in the household with the next birthday (but over the age of 10) was asked to complete the questionnaire. 485 questionnaires were returned yielding a response rate of 9.7%. This response rate, gives a statistically significant 95% confidence level. A copy of the household questionnaire can be found in Appendix A.

- 4.6. The returned household questionnaires have been analysed following entry on to an Access database. The following information summarises the views of the borough's residents with regards to quantity, quality, accessibility and usage of open space and sport and recreation leisure provision:

Respondent profile

- 60% of respondents were male and 40% female
- respondents reflected the following age profile:
 - under 16: 0%
 - 16-24: 5%
 - 25-39: 24%
 - 40-59: 39%
 - 60-75: 24%
 - 75+: 8%.
- 93% of respondents describe themselves as white British
- 66% of respondents reported children under 16 living in their household.

Quantity

- a significant number of residents (greater than 80%) felt all the open space typologies were important to them
- 46% of residents felt that allotments were important (with 20% of respondents having no opinion on this typology) and 70% of residents that cemeteries and churchyards were important
- provision for children and young people was considered the least well provided for, with 60% of respondents feeling the current provision was 'too little'
- only 1% of residents felt there was 'too much' provision across any of the typologies
- with regards to provision of those typologies which were considered 'about right' the following findings were recorded: parks - 70%, natural open spaces – 47%, green corridors – 58%, amenity greenspaces – 46%, play spaces – 32%, outdoor sports facilities – 48%, allotments – 40% and cemeteries & churchyards – 59%.

Quality

- dog fouling (30% of respondents) was stated as the most common significant problem across open spaces
- vandalism and graffiti (28%), litter (27%) and anti-social behaviour (23%) were also considered significant problems across the Borough

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- when rating the quality factors that residents were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with, these factors included planted and grass areas (81% of respondents), boundaries eg railing, hedges (80% of respondents), pathways (79%) and maintenance and management (70% of respondents)
- with regards to quality factors nearly 50% of people were dissatisfied with the provision of toilets. Other areas of concern included a lack of provision of seat/benches (39% of respondents), provision of bins for litter (30% of respondents) and information and signage (22% of respondents).

Accessibility

- 90% of respondents were 'satisfied' and 'very satisfied' that their chosen site was accessible by foot
- 85% of respondents were 'satisfied' and 'very satisfied' with visibility of the site entrance
- 75% of people were 'satisfied' and 'very satisfied' with the opening times of their chosen open space area
- the level of dissatisfaction with accessibility was relatively low with 21% of respondents 'unsatisfied' or 'very unsatisfied' with accessibility by pushchairs or wheelchairs, 20% with accessibility by cycleways to their chosen open space area and 18% 'unsatisfied' or 'very unsatisfied' with the accessibility by public transport
- the greatest proportion of people (91%) walked to amenity green spaces.

Usage

- an average of 28% of respondents stated they used parks and gardens on a daily basis in the last 12 months
- weekly usage of open space was greatest for parks (24% of residents use a park/public garden each week), with 20% of residents using natural green spaces on a weekly basis
- monthly usage of open space was greatest for natural green spaces (26%), followed by 21% using green corridors and 20% using parks and public gardens
- visits to outdoors sports facilities represented the highest amount of occasional use and cemeteries the lowest
- parks and public gardens were visited most frequently by 43% of respondents, followed by natural green spaces (13%) and green corridors (17%). Linked to this, those areas of open space most used by Borough residents included:
 - Parks: Laleham, Lammas, Bedfont Lakes and Clockhouse Lane
 - Natural open space: Ashford Common, Shortwood Common
 - Green corridors: River Thames towpaths such as that from Laleham to Staines.

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- respondents were asked how they normally travelled to the site they visited most frequently. The greatest proportion walked (55%), 39% were driven and 4% cycled. The remainder took public transport
- 34% of respondents stated that they had not visited any type of open space in the last 12 months
- only 2.5% use allotments on a daily, weekly, monthly or occasional basis,
- the most popular reasons for using open space was 'to walk' (13% of respondents), 'for fresh air' (12%) and 'to take exercise' (12%)
- the main reasons stated for non usage of open space included 'lack of interest' (13%), 'lack of time' (12%) and dog fouling (10%). 9% of respondents feel unsafe using open spaces.

Sport and recreation leisure provision

- the leisure facilities that respondents use most frequently are Sunbury Leisure Centre, Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Holmes Place in Staines and the Riverbourne Club in Chertsey (outside of the Borough)
- 33% of respondents stated that casual swimming was the most popular activity undertaken at their chosen leisure facility. This was followed by health and fitness (17%) and use of the café/bar (14%)
- diving, solarium and athletics were the least chosen activities by respondents
- for the facilities used most often by respondents, 62% rated them as 'good' or 'very good' compared to 9% rating them 'poor' or 'very poor'. The highest satisfaction levels were attributed to location (83%), car parking (73%) and range of facilities (70%). 'Poor' or 'very poor' ratings were attributed to accessibility by public transport (23%) and the quality of changing facilities (22%)
- there is the greatest demand for youth facilities with 20% saying they would like to see more of them, 13% feel there is demand for more swimming pool provision and 13% would like to see more multi-use games areas.

School's Internet survey

Profile of respondents

- 4.7. Five schools took part in the Internet survey, yielding 135 responses from children aged between six to 15 years. The majority of respondents were aged nine to 10 years. 41% of respondents were female and 59% male. The schools which respondents attend are listed below:
- Spelthorne County Junior School
 - Halliford School
 - Saxon Primary School
 - Chennestone Primary School
 - Springfield County Primary School.
- 4.8. A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix A. A summary of responses is given below:

Usage

- all except 11 respondents (8%) have visited open space in the last year
- the most popular reasons given for not using open space are lack of time, use of other parks/open spaces outside Spelthorne, too far from home and do not feel safe
- all types of open space have been visited. The most visited type of space is parks (91%) and the least is allotments (23%)
- most users (36%) visit open space weekly, and a further 26% visit open spaces daily. However, 23% visit occasionally showing a spread of responses
- parks and outdoor sports facilities are visited by most users on a weekly basis
- play areas, local grass areas in housing estates (amenity greenspace) and towpaths/ footpaths are frequented mostly on a daily basis
- the most popular reasons for using open space are for exercise (53%), for a kickabout/informal play (52%) and to play on the sports pitches/courts (51%)
- looking at flowers and scenery is the least popular reason for visiting open space (10%)
- 57% of children and young people visit open space with their family, 36% with friends, and 5% on their own. Only 2% go with a club or group.

Quantity

- it is generally considered by children and young people that the amount of open space is satisfactory. 39% considered the quantity to be very good, 30% consider it to be good and 14% fair. Only 4% consider the quantity to be poor or very poor ie there is not enough.

Accessibility

- 2% of the respondents use public transport to visit open space. Overall, 47% are driven, 34% walk, 15% cycle and 3% skate. The methods of transportation to each type of open space is detailed below:
 - parks: 39% of park users walk there, 38% drive, 18% cycle, 4% skate and 2% take the train
 - woodland: 50% walk and 41% go by car, only 9% cycle
 - grassy areas in estates: 100% walk
 - play areas: 50% are driven, 38% walk and 13% skate. None cycle or take public transport
 - footpaths/ towpaths: the majority (67%) walk or are driven (18%) and the rest (11%) cycle
 - outdoor sports facilities: 79% are driven, 11% cycle, 7% walk and the remainder (4%) skate
 - allotments: all are driven
 - cemeteries: 100% walk.
- the majority of children and young people do not travel far to reach open space. 41% travel for under five minutes and 30% between five and ten minutes. 15% travel between 10-15 minutes, 3% between 15-20 minutes, 6% between 20-30 minutes and 5% over 30 minutes
- of those that travel for under five minutes, 52% walk and 31% are driven. The remainder (17%) cycle
- travel between five and 10 minutes is mainly by car (46%) and on foot (29%) with 20% cycling and 6% skating
- when travelling between 10-15 minutes, 83% are driven, 11% walk and 6% cycle
- between 15-20 minutes, half are driven, 25% walk and 25% cycle
- between 20-30 minutes, 43% are driven, 29% walk and 28% cycle or skate
- over 30 minutes, 67% are driven and 33% use the train
- the time taken by children and young people to travel to each type of space is detailed in the table below:

Table 4.1 Time taken to travel to each open space type

	<5 minutes	5-10 minutes	10-15 minutes	15-20 minutes	20-30 minutes	>30 minutes
Parks	43%	40%	3%	-	10%	3%
Woodland, meadows	13%	13%	25%	13%	-	38%
Grassy areas in housing	100%	-	-	-	-	-
Play areas	50%	25%	25%	-	-	-
Footpaths /towpaths	67%	11%	-	22%	-	-
Outdoor sports facilities	18%	32%	43%	-	4%	4%
Allotments	100%	-	-	-	-	-
Cemeteries	-	-	-	-	100%	-

- children and young people travel further to woodlands, meadows and grassland (natural/ semi-natural greenspace). However, the majority of open space that they choose to visit is relatively local, within fifteen minutes travel time.

Quality

- the quality of open space is generally considered good by children and young people. 30% think it is very good, 22% good and 28% fairly good. Only 2% said it was poor and 1% very poor. 17% did not know
- however, only 24% felt that open spaces are well maintained. 21% said they are not well maintained and 54% said some are and some are not, indicating a mix of quality of spaces
- the perceived quality of the different types of space is illustrated in the table overleaf:

Table 4.2 Perceived quality of each open space type

	Yes	No	Do not know
Parks	22%	22%	55%
Woodland, meadows	13%	13%	75%
Grassy areas in housing	67%	-	33%
Play areas	50%	25%	25%
Footpaths /towpaths	-	78%	22%
Outdoor sports facilities	29%	11%	61%
Allotments	-	-	100%
Cemeteries	-	-	100%

- as can be seen, the small grassy areas within housing settlements are considered the best maintained, followed by play areas
- the least well maintained open spaces are thought to be footpaths/towpaths
- however, it should be noted that a large percentage of respondents are not sure of the quality
- 78% of all respondents said they feel safe in open spaces in Spelthorne.

General comments

4.9. The children and young people were also asked to make general comments about open space in the borough. The common themes were:

- lack of things to do
- more play spaces needed
- too much dog fouling
- excessive graffiti
- the parks are well kept and are a nice place to visit
- more fencing needed
- presence of vandalism
- intimidation by teenagers.

Neighbourhood sessions

- 4.10. Three neighbourhood drop in sessions were held in what was considered the most widely used locations in Spelthorne – Ashford Library, Sunbury Library and the Elmsleigh Centre in Staines.
- 4.11. The sessions were publicised via press releases and open to all members of the public. The purpose of the sessions was to gain information from local residents on the main aspects of the open spaces study – quality, quantity, accessibility, usage and the wider value of open space in Spelthorne.
- 4.12. The sessions also gave the residents an opportunity to discuss any key issues relating to open space in their area (including site specific and general issues), as well as the opportunity to comment on good and bad examples of open spaces.
- 4.13. The findings of these consultation sessions are as follows:

Quality

- problems with vandalism and litter at some sites and walking areas, for example Feltham Hill (nicknamed 'scruffy park'), Feltham Park Road, Staines Park and Greenfield Park
- one lady mentioned that she had experienced four falls in Green Street, highlighting possible health and safety issues
- overgrown paths in walking areas. People would use walking routes if they were of better quality and well maintained and signposted. One man was of the opinion that named paths are maintained but unnamed are not. As a result they are left to become overgrown and lose their use by default. Walking routes at Thames Street and Rivermead Island were considered very pleasant
- use of motorbikes was cited as a problem and ongoing issue at Desford Way Gravel Pit. This is a private site but the public are allowed to walk there. This behaviour could result in its closure to the public
- anti-social behaviour by youths was a common theme. This was cited as a particular problem at Clockhouse Lane playground, Feltham Park Road and Greeno Park. Intimidation of younger children is an issue at Woodthorpe Road
- dog fouling seems to be an inherent problem and sites that were mentioned as it being an issue were: Laleham Park, Green Street Playground, and Staines Park. Dog fouling was also mentioned as an issue on footpaths, in particular, from Thames Lodge to Penton Hook where there are no dedicated bins and people have been seen throwing bags into the river
- sites that were mentioned as being good quality in general were Laleham Park – “quite pristine” and well managed, Sunbury Cemetery and Lammas Park in the summer. Staines Park was thought to be well maintained and tidy with good amenities such as clean toilets and places to eat and Ashford Park was considered “well maintained and attractive.” People were disappointed with facilities at Millmead Park (not well maintained, improvements needed to the playground and more seats needed)

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- children's facilities were considered as good quality at Green Street Playground and Lammas Park. Conversely, Kennington Park and Staines Park were thought to be lacking in provision. Laleham Park was considered to have good facilities for older children (a climbing frame for example) but lacked in terms of equipment provision for younger children. A lack of "exciting equipment like roundabouts" was highlighted at Laleham Park
- those people keeping allotments found them to be well used and many have waiting lists. Comments were made in respect to Shepperton and Ashford Small Holdings
- there was considered an overall lack of benches and shelters in the parks.

Quantity

- not enough walking areas and more linked paths are needed, for example in Shortwood, there is a path from the allotments to Staines but no path to Shortwood Common
- there is a bridleway (Hanworth) but it is the only one near to Sunbury (1.5 miles away). It stops upon reaching the borough boundary and there is no public access into Kempton Park
- not enough facilities for children and many sites where there is provision are frequented by youths showing anti-social behaviour
- provision of green space was in most case considered sufficient although many people would like more.

Accessibility

- accessibility of footpaths and towpaths is poor. Overgrown hedges and overhanging makes it difficult to use some areas
- paths were inaccessible for some people with pushchairs
- many people are prepared to (and do) drive to the riverside parks. Only very few people walked to parks (although there were people in each drop in session who did walk to parks near them). Several preferred to travel outside the borough to Bedfont Lakes but this is not necessarily a reflection on the facilities in the borough, just a question of variety.
- there is a significant amount of private land inaccessible to the public
- problems with accessibility to Greeno Park. It is considered as tucked away and there is a need to park and walk to get to it. The Williams Housing Estate was mentioned as a site difficult to access easily as people have to walk along Chesterfield and Stanwell to get to it
- issues of older children/youths 'hanging' around play areas, thus discouraging younger children from using them
- a disabled man mentioned that the gravel paths in Staines Park were a problem for wheelchair users. Lammas was considered better although access to the park is not

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- the gates are shut in Staines Park at 8.00pm and this was felt by some to be too early.

General

- there was an overwhelming feeling that there is a lack of facilities for young people
- anti-social behaviour, mainly by youths was identified in many of the parks
- difficult to find where footpaths are located. It was felt more could be done to improve the footpaths and that people need to be encouraged to walk. If people don't know where the routes are, they will be discouraged
- it was felt that open space was losing out to housing needs and development and many people felt strongly that the open spaces should be retained
- there is a significant amount of privately owned land that affects access and is difficult to control
- although the borough is considered quite green, many felt they had to drive to get to any large, 'decent' parks (eg Great Windsor)
- people felt disconcerted that earmarked money has not been used for green spaces (eg Memorial Gardens)
- parks should be visible from road for people to feel safe
- the importance of green space was emphasised especially by those with children or own dogs.

Opportunities and methods for improving open spaces

- need for providing specific sites and facilities for young people, including climbing frames and adventure playgrounds
- provision of dog bins especially on footpaths
- implement police surveillance in parks.

Internal consultations

4.14. The following internal officers have been consulted with regards to the current provision and potential need of open spaces and sport and recreation.

- John Brooks, Assistant Head of Planning
- Cathy Munroe, Liveability Coordinator
- Dave Cobb, Head of Leisure Services
- Derek James, Parks Development Manager
- Bill Wright, Parks Liaison Officer.

4.15. The following points summarise the main issues, which emerged from consultations with internal officers.

Strategy and vision

4.16. The aim of this open spaces study is two fold. Firstly, the Council would like to understand what provision Spelthorne currently has, (building upon an open space audit undertaken in 2003) identify areas where there are deficiencies in provision and identify solutions/site to meet any deficiencies. This study will provide robust evidence to support its recommendations and will help the Council assume a pro-active approach in terms of dealing with problematic issues and enhancing the quality and usage of open spaces. The production of management and action plans in an overarching strategy may help to move the Council forward towards a more pro-active approach depending on resources and investment available.

4.17. The second purpose of this study is to evaluate current proposals as set out in the existing Local Plan and provide robust evidence to support the recommendations made on whether or not they should be retained for the new Local Development Framework.

4.18. The Council is keen to identify smaller areas of provision that may not be considered of borough importance, but collectively have significant value to the local users.

4.19. In general there is a wide range of varied landscape provision within open spaces across the borough including formal, informal and water areas. However it has been commented that there maybe shortfalls in certain areas and there is a need for an overall strategic review and management plan. This study provides the basis for this to happen and achieve this vision shared by internal officers.

4.20. Many of the officers shared the vision of a borough with more facilities catering for the needs of the young people of Spelthorne especially in terms of informal provision.

4.21. The Council currently works with many organisations to manage and maintain open spaces. Partnerships, such as with the police in the provision of Parks Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) and with housing associations, are of great benefit to the Council and they wish to continue using this way of working and developing the local open spaces.

- 4.22. Further evidence of the emphasis the council puts on the value of parks is the £2.1 million funding received from the ODPM for its Liveability Parks Project. This will concentrate on capital improvements to Lammas Recreation Ground, Clockhouse Lane Recreation Ground, Kenyington Manor Recreation Ground, Littleton Lane, Fordbridge Park and Short Lane. These venues were chosen as they were thought to benefit the communities around them the most.

Quantity

- 4.23. There was a general feeling that the quantity of open space available is sufficient and within the prescribed set level. Parks are also within walking distance of most people. However their use could be more imaginative and there are areas that could be improved and enhanced. For parks in particular there are questions over whether areas are used to their potential.
- 4.24. There has been a significant rise in junior football, especially mini soccer. This is having an impact on the need for an increased and co-ordinated sports pitch provision. It was commented that no capital funds have been allocated to the parks despite the lack of pitches.
- 4.25. There are perceived gaps in certain areas such as Stanwell and Ashford. There are no sports facilities in Stanwell. The attainment of specialist sports college status at Bishops Wand School will help meet local needs in Sunbury.
- 4.26. There is considered to be a lack of playgrounds in the borough and although the Council is working to increase these, there is a limited budget for playground provision. Officers felt that Spelthorne was not “in the same league” as other Councils. It was also commented that the playgrounds cater well for young children but advanced provision is needed for older children/young people such as Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), teenage shelters and skateboard ramps.
- 4.27. The borough is lucky enough to be located close to the River Thames and benefits from some excellent riverside parks such as Laleham and Lammas. These and other major opens spaces sites such as Sunbury Park and Staines Moor attract visitors on a borough wide basis as well as providing a local function. The borough is also considered well catered for in terms of towpaths and walking routes.
- 4.28. There is a current waiting list for allotments in some areas suggesting a need for some future increased provision. Having said this, allotments are so reasonably priced that the public hire them and often leave them unused and uncultivated.

Quality

- 4.29. There are some good examples of ‘Good Practice’ sites with the main one being Laleham Park and Lammas Recreation Ground. They provide a varied number of spaces within one central geographical area meeting the needs of various age ranges and are very well used (reports of over 2000 visitors per day in the summer at Laleham Park). Investment in the skatepark in Lammas has improved the overall quality of the park and has attracted an active skating community. The skaters have formed their own association to ensure that the skatepark is successful before embarking on plans to develop further skateparks across the borough.
- 4.30. Sports pitches are well used and are thought to be well complemented with good changing facilities, however it was reported that the prices for pitch hire have increased from £40 to £70 per match this season (2004/05) and as a result usage levels have dropped.

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- 4.31. Self management of allotments generally works very well and is considered to improve the quality of the allotments. Shepperton Village Allotment Gardens is a particularly good example where self management has been a success.
- 4.32. There is an over-riding problem of anti-social behaviour by teenagers in play areas and other open spaces and this often discourages usage of open spaces by other people. Particular problems have been sited at Ashford Recreation Ground, Hengrove, Staines Park, Clockhouse Lane and Wicketts Park (the latter thought to be particularly bad). It is hoped that the issues in Clockhouse Lane will be resolved through actions taken as part of the liveability project.
- 4.33. Linked to the above point is the issue of vandalism. Kenyington Recreation Ground in particular has suffered and the pavilion has been broken into more times than any other Council building, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. The issues prevalent at this venue are being resolved through girls youth football and the increased usage has meant better security. A group shelter has also been installed and local people are getting more involved.
- 4.34. The involvement of the PCSOs have been influential in helping to combat vandalism. They are employed by the police and part funded by Spelthorne Borough Council. There are currently four PCSOs covering four areas but they will troubleshoot at all parks if required. To date, damage caused by vandalism has decreased by £13,000 over the last year. The PCSOs are good as expert witnesses and their key objective is to communicate with youngsters in an attempt to eradicate anti-social behaviour.
- 4.35. There is a current problem with the usage of natural open spaces for motorbiking. A possible solution is for PCSOs enforcing the powers available to them, which may help to resolve the problem although it is acknowledged that there maybe risks associated with this approach.
- 4.36. Quality of the sports pitches throughout the borough was thought to be quite low due to drainage and maintenance issues. The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) has previously highlighted the problems but these have not yet been addressed.
- 4.37. Quality of the parks are considered good in terms of grass cutting and vegetation (especially Fordbridge Park) and the parks department is working towards a safer environment.
- 4.38. Many of the playgrounds are old and also taking into account the positioning of major roads such as the M25, M3 and A30, it is difficult to meet the NPFA standards
- 4.39. Dog fouling is widespread and a common problem. Priority is being given to working on management plans pertaining to dog management in an effort to control dog fouling and to achieving Green Flag status for the parks. The deadline for the latter is February.

Accessibility

- 4.40. There is generally thought to be a good level of accessible open space within walking distance. For those that do drive or are driven to areas of open space, car parking is an issue. There is a lack of parking in residential areas and near parks and playgrounds with cars being parked on grass verges.

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- 4.41. Many people are prepared to travel to the riverside parks and this will inevitably affect parking provision.
- 4.42. Disabled access is considered poor for pathways. Limited funds have been spent on the infrastructure despite the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) although Spelthorne consider themselves “ahead of the game” compared to other boroughs.
- 4.43. There is a significant amount of private land within Spelthorne, often well maintained but inaccessible to the public in most cases.
- 4.44. The majority of Spelthorne’s parks are locked at night, which has caused some contention in that many people work shifts (especially in Stanwell with its proximity to Heathrow Airport) and cannot access the parks when they would like to. Conversely much of the anti-social behaviour that needs to be addressed occurs after daylight hours. The parks are currently locked for security purposes and to safeguard residents but there is a question over whether they should be locked in future especially if lighting is considered.

Management

- 4.45. It was commented that despite strategies being in place (Leisure and Cultural, Community, Parks), the Community Department is split into four different sections and there appears to be no one person to drive the parks strategy forward or to develop the cohesion between that and the other strategies mentioned here.
- 4.46. The role of a specific officer working on the liveability parks project will enable the community to get involved in the management of open spaces bringing with it a ‘sense of ownership’ by the local public – something that is proven to enhance the quality of open spaces and encouraged by CABE Space. The park life scheme seeks to introduce a series of zones into six parks, run jointly and locally by young people and representatives/stakeholders. Details of the schemes within the individual parks will be developed, decided and managed by a Greenspace Forum.
- 4.47. Recreational conflicts are prevalent, for example between dog walkers and recreational users. To resolve this issue, the Council are looking to develop the parks in order to achieve a natural designation.
- 4.48. Management of the parks should fit in with recreational needs. Self management of facilities at Staines Park and Lammas Recreation Ground was proposed as this is thought to result in better quality pitches.
- 4.49. The Council has run initiatives to engage the local community, for example an allotment and design a playground competition.

Opportunities

- 4.50. The provision of a wide range of open spaces within the borough are not fully utilised mainly due to a lack of investment and available funding. With the liveability funds, the potential of the chosen venues will be realised in two phases. Plans for the second phase include:
- Shepperton Studios is keen to develop Littleton Lane Park with plans to install a youth zone
 - Fordbridge Park – concentration on a healthy living theme for all and introduce a trim trail and walking routes
 - Short Lane – establish a BMX partnership.
- 4.51. Other opportunities exist with the following:
- Bishop Wand School in Sunbury is opening its sports college in Easter 2005, which will go some way to meeting the sporting needs of Sunbury
 - Bronzefield Prison site in Ashford - the open space land is formally being handed over to the Council in 2006 despite the Council informally having access to it since 1989
 - secure open space sites through Section 106 agreements
 - increased connectivity and networks linking the major open spaces together around the borough
 - increasing the attractiveness and functional use of existing open spaces
 - part of the north west part of the Borough is within the Colne Valley Regional Park. This is made up of a non-statutory consortium of authorities and could work as a vehicle to bring about various ideas and improvements with regard to open space in the north of Staines

Sports club surveys

- 4.52. As part of the consultation process, surveys were sent to the sports clubs in Spelthorne as identified from the Council's Sports Directory. Surveys were returned from the following clubs:
- Staines Albion Football
 - Ashford Town (Middx) Football Club
 - Princes Club (watersports)
 - Staines Swimming Club
 - Spelthorne Atoms Basketball Club
 - Ashford Hockey Club
 - Ad Tennis
 - Ashford Table Tennis Club
 - Egham Fencing Club
 - Woodthorpe Bowls Club
 - Staines Bowling Club
 - Elmsway Tennis Club
 - Ashford High Badminton Club.
- 4.53. The following points summarise the main issues, which emerged from the surveys:
- the majority of clubs/organisations play/practice more than twice weekly, none of the respondents played/practiced less than weekly
 - in the majority of clubs, most members reside in Ashford or Staines. Three clubs based in Ashford and Staines stated that their members live all over the borough. Two clubs stated that some of their members reside outside the borough in Egham, Feltham and Hounslow
 - 38% of respondents rated the overall provision of leisure facilities within Spelthorne as either poor or very poor, 31% felt they were good, 8% thought they were average and the remainder (23%) failed to provide a response
 - it was generally felt that existing leisure provision did not meet the needs of clubs/organisation and the reasons for this were:
 - lack of funding support
 - equipment for the sport not sufficient
 - facility hire costs
 - poor changing/toilet/kitchen facilities
 - venue not suitable for the specific sport
 - 31% of respondents would like to see more STPs and the same percentage would like more grass pitches. 23% felt there should be more sports hall provision and the remainder (15%) felt there was demand for more youth facilities, bowling greens, swimming pools, MUGAs, covered tennis courts, squash courts and health and fitness

SECTION 4 – STEP 1 IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEEDS

- there was no pattern as to the location of new facilities (if they should be developed) but most respondents would like to see development in the area in which their club is based
- the overwhelming majority stated that the provision of leisure facilities could be improved by increasing the amount and accessibility of facilities and by reducing costs
- general comments were centered on facility charges. Many felt that hiring facilities was too expensive and that there was a need for some form of subsidy in order to keep the club/organisations going. Other comments included:
 - lack of youth clubs
 - more publicity about facilities
 - sponsorship of clubs
 - more financial help for clubs rather than youth programmes
 - new and improved sports facilities.

Step 2 Auditing local provision

- 5.1. Through the methodology detailed in Section 2, we have assembled a baseline audit of open spaces. This information shows site boundaries and contains much of the information required for a PPG17 assessment. This includes the following information for each site:
- name and location of site
 - size of site
 - type of space (according to PPG17 typology)
 - condition and quality
 - accessibility
 - ownership
 - facilities provided.
- 5.2. The audit results are stored within an Access 2000 database, which will be linked to digitised open space sites.
- 5.3. Table 5.1 illustrates the breakdown of the total number of open space sites identified across the borough.

Table 5.1 Open space in Spelthorne by typology

Type	Number of sites
Parks and gardens	7
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	17
Amenity greenspace	96
Provision for children and young people	38
Outdoor sports facilities	34
Outdoor water sports facilities	11
Allotments	13
Cemeteries and Churchyards	7
Green corridors	27
Total	250

- 5.4. As detailed above, a total of 250 open space sites have been identified, the most common type of provision is amenity greenspace.

5.5. The following paragraphs provide headline information about each of the different types of open space identified in Spelthorne:

Parks and gardens

- the seven parks and gardens range from Sunbury Court to Stanwell Green.

Natural and semi-natural greenspace

- there are a significant number of natural and semi-natural sites open space sites in the borough these include the gravel pits and reservoirs in the borough as well as Staines Moor, Shortwood Common and Thames Meadow.

Amenity greenspace

- amenity greenspace is the most common type of open space within the borough. There are a total of 96 sites, which are generally centred around the main towns in the borough and range in size from a disused recreation ground to a small but significant grass area in a housing estate.

Provision for children and young people

- facilities for children and young people are the second most common type of open space in the borough with 38 sites. Provision generally consists of play areas within the main towns and villages, often enclosed within a recreation ground
- these facilities were generally reported to be of 'good' or 'very good' quality, well used and with good access, for example Stanwell Recreation Ground play area was rated highly for quality, accessibility and usage.

Outdoor sports facilities

- outdoor sports facilities are the third most common type of open space in the borough with 34 sites. These consist of recreation grounds, school playing fields, cricket grounds and football grounds, as well as golf courses such as Sunbury Golf Course and Ashford Manor Golf Course
- the majority of these sites are reportedly of good quality and accessibility.

Allotments

- there are 13 allotment sites in the borough, these are spread across the borough in Ashford, Sunbury, Shepperton and Staines.

Cemeteries and churchyards

- there are a total of seven cemeteries/ churchyards in the borough, ranging from the churchyard at St Mary's Church, Staines to the large burial grounds in Stanwell, Staines and Ashford.

Green corridors

- there are a significant number of green corridor sites in the borough, these are predominantly made up of rights of way and towpaths along the River Thames.

Indoor Leisure Assessment

- 5.6. In addition to the auditing of open spaces, PPG17 also recommends the assessment of existing indoor sport and recreation provision. We have prepared a full audit of the current and planned supply of indoor sports facilities in the borough.
- 5.7. The borough boundary will be used as one catchment area but it is important to indicate this has its limitations as it excludes any facilities on the edge of the borough. With this in mind, a second catchment area including a three-kilometre buffer around the borough boundary is applied to more accurately take into account the impact of facilities on the periphery of the borough and cross boundary movement.
- 5.8. This buffer takes into account the facilities in close proximity to Spelthorne, which may affect the demand for sites within the borough. It is however assumed that the number of people travelling out of the borough will roughly equal those travelling in. This buffer does not suggest that people will not travel from further than three kilometres, rather it is used solely as a basis for analysis.
- 5.9. Indoor sports and recreation provision includes the following:
- sports halls
 - swimming pools
 - health and fitness
 - squash
 - athletics
 - indoor tennis
 - synthetic turf pitches.
- 5.10. The audit will include the following information:
- type, size and number of facilities at each site
 - ownership
 - charging policies
 - ancillary facilities
 - condition/ quality
 - availability
 - accessibility
 - utilisation assessment.
- 5.11. All information will be stored in an Access 2000 database.

SECTION 5 – STEP 2 AUDITING LOCAL PROVISION

5.12. All existing and planned facilities within the borough and also within a 3km buffer zone of the borough have been identified.

5.13. Initial findings from the audit regarding specific facility types are provided below:

Sports halls

Accessibility	Number of sites
Public	10
Private	16
Dual use (ie school)	9
Club	2
Total	37

- the majority of sports halls within the catchment area (the borough and 3km buffer zone) are publicly accessible (ie either public or dual use access)
- the sports hall facilities are located throughout the catchment area, predominantly at secondary schools and leisure centres
- most halls are above two badminton courts in size.

Swimming pools

Accessibility	Number of sites
Public	8
Private	17
Dual use (ie school)	5
Club	1
Total	31

- there are more private swimming pools within the catchment area than public and dual facilities combined.

Health and fitness

Accessibility	Number of sites
Public	14
Private	27
Total	41

- there are more private health and fitness facilities in the catchment area than publicly accessible facilities
- the facilities range in size from six stations to 200 stations.

Squash

Accessibility	Number of sites
Public	4
Private	5
Dual use (ie school)	1
Total	10

- there are more private squash facilities than public facilities
- approximately half of the squash facilities are located outside of the borough but within the buffer zone
- the facilities range in size from two to four courts.

Indoor tennis

- there is only one indoor tennis facility within the catchment area, this is St George’s Hill Lawn Tennis Club and is a private facility, two courts in size.

Outdoor facilities (STPs/ athletics)

- there are seven STPs within the catchment area – three are for public use, three are dual use and one is club use
- there is only one athletics track within the catchment area, this is a synthetic track at Stompond Lane in Walton on Thames.

Planned facilities

- 20 planned facilities have been identified within the catchment area, these range in size/ impact from an extension and additional stations in a health and fitness studio to a new sports hall facility at Bishop Wand School.

5.14. Details of all open space, sport and recreation facilities will be provided in the two Access 2000 databases at the end of the study.

The way forward

- 6.1. This report details the findings to date from Step 1 and Step 2 of the 5-Step PPG17 process. This data collected through these two initial stages will be used to complete the process as outlined below.

Steps 3 and 4 - Setting and applying provision standards

- 6.2. In terms of the way forward, Step 3 involves the analysis of the significant amount of data collected. Using this data and site ratings in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and value of the sites we will be able to:
- determine provision standards
 - apply such standards
 - to identify gaps in provision and therefore the areas of priority.
- 6.3. The analysis will therefore be undertaken by type of open space across the borough. Throughout our analysis we have, however, noted specific examples or issues raised by consultees in order to illustrate specific findings relating to distinct geographical areas or individual sites.
- 6.4. The data collected will also enable analysis of open space by catchment, looking at the proportion of the borough's population, which is able to access each type of open space. Local standards will be set for quality, quantity and accessibility. Setting robust local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities will form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process.

Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities

- 6.5. Finally, policy recommendations and guidelines will be drafted, which will form the basis for redressing quantitative and qualitative deficiencies through the planning process. All recommendations and priorities will be the result of the detailed local assessment of need for the borough.

APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRES

Household Survey- Spelthorne Open Spaces and Leisure Study

SECTION ONE - OPEN SPACES, GENERAL QUESTIONS

Importance

Q1 Please tell us HOW IMPORTANT each of the following types of open space are to you:

	<i>Important</i>	<i>Not Important</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Parks and Public Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural greenspaces (e.g woodland, meadows)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors (e.g footpaths, canal towpaths, cycleways)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity greenspace (e.g grass areas in housing estates, village greens)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play spaces for children and young people (e.g. play areas, youth shelters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities (e.g pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quantity

Q2 Please indicate if you feel there is ENOUGH provision for each type of open space in Spelthorne:

	<i>Too much</i>	<i>About right</i>	<i>Too little</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
Parks and Public Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural greenspaces (e.g woodland, meadows)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors (e.g footpaths, bridleways, canal towpaths)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity greenspace (e.g grass areas in housing estates, village greens)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play spaces for children and young people (e.g play areas, skate parks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities (e.g pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Travel Time

Q3 How long do you think you should be expected to travel to each type of open space? Please write the TIME you would expect to travel (in minutes) and tick the MODE of transport you would expect to use.

	<i>Travel Time - Minutes</i>	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Bus</i>	<i>Car</i>
Parks and Public Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural greenspaces (e.g woodland, meadows)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors (e.g footpaths, canal towpaths, cycleways)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity greenspace (e.g grass areas in housing estates, village greens)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play spaces for children and young people (e.g play areas, skate parks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities (e.g pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Usage

Q4 HOW OFTEN have you used each of the following types of open space in the last 12 months?

	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Don't use</i>
Parks and Public Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural greenspaces (e.g woodland, meadows)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green corridors (e.g footpaths, canal towpaths, cycleways)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity greenspace (e.g grass areas in housing estates, village greens)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play spaces for children and young people (e.g play areas, skate parks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor sports facilities (e.g pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries and churchyards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5 Please indicate your main reasons for using open space (you may tick more than one box):

<i>To walk.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>For a kickabout / informal play.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>As a meeting place.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>To walk the dog.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>To sit and relax or read.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Shortcut / easiest route.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>For fresh air.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>To look at flowers and plants.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>To use children's play equipment.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>To take exercise.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>To observe wildlife.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Educational reasons.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>To picnic / eat.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>To see events / entertainment.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>To take children out.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>To play sport on courts / pitches.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>Other (please specify)</i>		

Q6 For those open space types you DO NOT use, please indicate why not (you may tick more than one box):

<i>Lack of time.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Close to busy road / railway.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I am not allowed.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Lack of interest.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Poor quality.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Public transport costs.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Too far from home.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Unsuitable facilities.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Inconvenient public transport times.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Public transport not available / difficult route.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Feels unsafe.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Livestock on-site.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Car access / parking.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Use open spaces outside Spelthorne.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dog fouling.....</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other (please specify)</i>		

SECTION TWO - SPECIFIC TO THE OPEN SPACE YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY.

The space you use most often can be located anywhere within Spelthorne.

If you DO NOT use any type of open space, please go to SECTION THREE.

Q7 Please indicate which open space TYPE you use MOST FREQUENTLY (please tick one box only):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Parks and public gardens</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Amenity greenspace (e.g. grass areas in housing estates, village greens)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Outdoor sports facilities (e.g. pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Natural greenspace (e.g. woodland, meadows)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Provision for children and young people (e.g. play areas, skate parks)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Allotments</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Green corridors (e.g. footpaths, canal towpaths, cycleways)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | | <i>Cemeteries and churchyards</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q8 Please name the SITE you use MOST FREQUENTLY

Q9 How often do you visit the site?

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Daily</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Monthly</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Weekly</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Occasionally</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q10 How do you normally TRAVEL there? (please tick one box only)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <i>Walk</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Bus</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Cycle</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Private car</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Train</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Skate</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other:

Q11 How LONG does it take you to reach this type of open space? (please tick one box only)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Less than 5 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Between 10-15 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Between 20-30 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Between 5-10 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Between 15-20 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Over 30 minutes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q12 Please indicate if you experience any of the following PROBLEMS at the open space type you visit most frequently:

	<i>Significant Problem</i>	<i>Minor Problem</i>	<i>No problem</i>
Vandalism and graffiti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anti-social behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Fouling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q13

Please rate the following QUALITY factors for the type of open space you visit most frequently :

	<i>Very satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Unsatisfied</i>	<i>Very unsatisfied</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance and management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boundaries (e.g railings, hedges etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of bins for litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seats / benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information and signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planted and grassed areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q14

What would be the TOP FIVE FEATURES you would like to see in the open space you visit most frequently? (please tick only FIVE)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Well kept grass</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Toilets</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Nature conservation area</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Access to site</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Clean / litter free</i> ... <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Cafe</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Dog walking facilities</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Access within site</i> .. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Flowers/trees and shrubs</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Seating</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Dog free area</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>On site security (eg warden/CCTV)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Changing facilities</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Picnic area</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Litter bins</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Art / Sculptures</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Sports pavilion</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Shelter</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Quality soils</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Information boards</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Clear Footpaths</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Varied play equipment</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Play facilities for 2-5 year olds</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Variety of facilities</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Level surface/ good drainage</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Nature features (eg wildlife)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Play facilities for 6-12 year olds</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Car parking</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Entertainment facility</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Pond / lake /water features</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Play facilities for teenagers</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Trim-trail</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Events eg music</i> ... <input type="checkbox"/> | | | <i>Livestock on-site</i> ... <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify)

Q15

Which of the following factors would make you feel SAFER using this type of open space (you may tick more than one)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Adequate lighting</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Staff-on-site</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Using the facility during daylight hours</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Clear route to open space</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reputation of area / space</i> ... <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Landscaping (open aspect of the open space)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Adequate car parking</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Boundaries (eg railings, fencing etc)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Other users</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>CCTV</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other (please specify)

Q16 How satisfied are you with the following **SITE ACCESSIBILITY** factors for the open space you visit most frequently?

	<i>Very satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Unsatisfied</i>	<i>Very unsatisfied</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Visibility of site entrance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility by walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility with pushchairs or wheelchairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility by public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility by cycleways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opening times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Sites

Q17 Is there an open space, of the same type, nearer to your home that you do not use?

Yes No (go to question 20)

Q18 If yes please state name of site:

Q19 Please state the reason for not using this site:

General

Q20 Please use the box below to write any additional comments about open space in your area:

SECTION THREE- LEISURE PROVISION

Q21 Which leisure facility do you use MOST OFTEN? (Please indicate a facility name and the town/village it is in. The facility can be public or private and inside or outside of the district)

Q22 Which activities do you take part in at your chosen leisure facility?

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Casual swimming..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pitch and Putt..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Squash..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Swimming lessons..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bowls..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Athletics..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diving pool..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Solarium..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pitch sports (rugby, football) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennis..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health and fitness..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cafe / bar..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5-a-side football..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sports hall activities..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Spectating..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other: please specify

Q23 For the facility you use MOST OFTEN, please rate the following aspects:

	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>
Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Range of facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of changing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pricing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility by public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helpfulness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q24 What types of leisure facilities would you like to see more of, and/or think there is a demand for in Spelthorne?

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Swimming Pool..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sports Halls..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Athletics..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Synthetic Turf/ All weather pitches..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health and Fitness Gym..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth Facilities..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Multi-use Games Area..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grass Pitches..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Creche..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tennis Courts..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Squash Courts..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bar / cafeteria..... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other, please specify:

Q25 Please write any other comments below: (eg. possible improvements to facilities, where new facilities are required etc)

SECTION FOUR - SOME DETAILS ABOUT YOU

Q26 Are you:
Male Female

Q27 How old are you?
Under 16 25-39..... 60-75.....
16-24..... 40-59..... 75+.....

Q28 Which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?

White British <input type="checkbox"/>	Black Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White and Black Caribbean..... <input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian British..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White and Black African..... <input type="checkbox"/>
White Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian Pakistani..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Black and White and Asian..... <input type="checkbox"/>
Black British..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian Indian..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>
Black African <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian Bangladesh..... <input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese..... <input type="checkbox"/>
Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/>	Asian Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>	

Other (please specify)

Q29 Are there any children in the household under 16 years?
Yes No

Q30 Please state your postcode (this will be used to map the catchment area for open space types and for no other reason):

Thank you for completing this questionnaire, please return it in the prepaid envelope provided by 6th December 2004.

Open Spaces in Spelthorne.

How to fill in this questionnaire:

a. Please read each question carefully

b. Most questions can be answered by clicking the box next to the answer that applies to you

c. For some questions you can click more than one answer

d. Please make sure you continue to the end of the questionnaire and press "submit" once you have finished all your answers

e. It should not take more than 10 minutes to complete

Q1 Which School do you attend?

Q2 How old are you now:

6 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 years old.....	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 Are you a boy or a girl?

Boy.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Girl.....	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4 Have you visited any of the following types of open space in the last year?

- Parks
- Woodland, meadows, grassland
- Grassy areas within a housing development, village green.....
- Play areas or youth shelters.....
- Footpaths, canal towpaths
- Outdoor sports facilities eg. sports pitches, basketball courts, tennis courts
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- None

If you HAVE visited open space please go to Q6

Q5 If you have NOT used any open spaces in the last 12 months, why is this?

- Lack of time
- Lack of interest
- Too far from home
- Public transport costs.....
- Public transport not available.....
- Inconvenient times of public transport.....
- Car access/parking
- Close to a busy road/railway track.....
- Poor quality/difficult route
- Unsuitable facilities.....
- I'm not allowed.....
- Route/path is not safe.....
- Do not feel safe there
- Don't like the people there.....
- Use other parks/open spaces outside Spelthorne.....

Other:

Please now go to Q16

Q6 Please indicate the type of open space you visit most often:

- Parks
- Woodland, meadows, grassland
- Grassy areas within a housing development, village green.....
- Play areas or youth shelters.....
- Footpaths, canal towpaths
- Outdoor sports facilities eg. sports pitches, basketball courts, tennis courts
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- None

Q7 Please tell us the name of the site which you use most often, or the road it is on:

Q8 How often do you visit this site?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Occasionally

Q9 How do you normally get there?

- Walk.....
- Car
- Bus.....
- Train.....
- Cycle
- Skate.....
- Other

Q10 How long does it take you to get there?

- Less than 5 minutes.....
- Between 5-10 minutes
- Between 10-15 minutes
- Between 15-20 minutes
- Between 20-30 minutes
- Over 30 minutes

Q11 What are your main reasons for using this open space?

- To use the playground/play equipment
- To play on the sports pitches/courts
- For a kickabout/informal play
- To meet friends
- To go for a walk
- To take the dog for a walk
- To get some fresh air
- To get some exercise
- To picnic/eat
- To sit and relax
- To read
- To look at scenery or floral displays
- Other:

Q12 Who do you normally visit the space with?

- I go on my own
- With friends
- With my family
- With my school
- With a club or group (eg Brownies)

Q13 What do you like MOST about the open space?

Q14 What do you like LEAST about the open space?

Q15 When you visit open spaces in Spelthorne do you feel safe?

- Yes
- No
- If no, please say why not:

Q16 Please rate the following about open space in Spelthorne:

	<i>very good</i>	<i>good</i>	<i>fair</i>	<i>poor</i>	<i>very poor</i>	<i>don't know</i>
<i>Amount of open space available</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Overall quality of open space</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q17 Do you think open spaces are well maintained- for example, litter free and safe?

Yes.....

No.....

Some are but others are not

Q18 If you have any other comments, please write them in the box below:

Thank you for your time

Spelthorne Sport and Recreation Survey

Please spare a few moments of your time to complete this questionnaire on behalf of your club/organisation. Please tick boxes as appropriate. Thank You.

Profile

Q1 Please state the name of your club/organisation:

Q2 Which of these activities does your club participate in?

Football..... Rugby Swimming..... Badminton Cycling.....

Cricket..... Hockey..... Netball..... Squash Walking.....

Other (please specify)

Q3 How many members do you have?

Adult Male Junior Male..... Adult Female..... Junior Female

Q4 In which town/village do most of your members reside?

Q5 How often does your club/organisation play/practice?

More than twice a week..... weekly once a month

twice a week fortnightly

Leisure Facility Usage

Q6 Which leisure facilities (indoor and/or outdoor) does your club/organisation use?

Facility name

Location (town /village)

Q7 For the Facility (ies) that you use, please rate the following aspects on a scale of 1-5 where 1 = poor and 5 = very good.

	Facility 1	Facility 2	Facility 3	Facility 4
Facility name (from Q6)				
Location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Range of facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of changing facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of booking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pricing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility by public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helpfulness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If average or below, please explain the main reason why:

Q8 How would you rate the overall provision of leisure facilities within Spelthorne?
Very good..... *Poor*
Good..... *Very Poor*
Average.....
Please explain the reason for this choice: _____

Q9 Do the existing leisure facilities you use meet all the needs of your club/organisation?
Yes..... *No*.....

Q10 If no, please explain the main reasons why not:

Q11 What types of leisure facilities would you like to see more of, and/or think there is a demand for in Spelthorne?

<i>Swimming Pool (Lane swimming)</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Synthetic Turf / All Weather pitches</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Youth facilities</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Leisure Pools</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Multi Use Games Area</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tennis Courts</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Sports Halls</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Grass Pitches</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Health and Fitness Gym</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Squash Courts</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Other</i> _____		

Q12 If new leisure facilities were developed, where would you prefer to see them located within Spelthorne?

Q13 If one thing could be done to improve the provision of leisure facilities in Spelthorne would that be?

Q14 If you have any general comments that you would like to make us aware of regarding the provision of leisure facilities in Spelthorne, please use the space provided below:

Please return your completed questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided by 6th December 2004. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

APPENDIX B
SITE ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Site Matrix Quality Standard Template

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
<p>Clean and tidy Well maintained and inviting No litter, dog fouling or graffiti.</p>	<p>Clean and tidy Well maintained and inviting Maintained to good standard Very little litter, dog fouling or graffiti</p>	<p>Reasonably clean and tidy. Some litter, dog fouling or graffiti but doesn't hinder usage significantly.</p>	<p>Questions of cleanliness and consequently maintenance. Evidence of litter, dog fouling and/or graffiti that detracts from the area.</p>	<p>Poor cleanliness and maintenance and clear evidence of litter, dog fouling and/or graffiti that would detract usage on a significant scale.</p>
<p>Safe and good lighting and well-maintained Boundaries clearly defined and well-kept</p>	<p>Boundaries clearly defined Safe and good lighting</p>	<p>Boundaries are visible but not overly clear. Safe and reasonable lighting appropriate</p>	<p>Safety and lighting questionable. Boundaries not very clear or well-designed.</p>	<p>Boundaries are unclear and not visible. Safety issues in question and very poor lighting if any.</p>
<p>Numerous range of planting, no weeds Maintained to very high standard Grass cover throughout, cleanly cut</p>	<p>Numerous range of planting, few weeds Maintained to good standard Grass cover throughout, cleanly cut but few weeds.</p>	<p>Appropriate range of vegetation and plants but with some patchy maintenance. Full grass cover where appropriate but some thin patches or some excessive growth areas.</p>	<p>Limited range of plants and vegetation e.g. just grass in a park. General grass cover but some significant areas thin, saturated or poorly maintained.</p>	<p>Limited planting and which is reflected through it being poorly maintained. General grass cover but serious wear and tear and no efforts to correct problem.</p>
<p>Numerous appropriate facilities and in excellent condition Suitable material for road and paths and in excellent condition Car parks where appropriate.</p>	<p>Numerous appropriate facilities and in good condition Suitable material for road and paths and in good condition Car parks where appropriate but maintenance could be better</p>	<p>Suitable material for roads and paths and safe to use. Appropriate facilities but in average condition and possibly difficult to find.</p>	<p>Possibly unsuitable material for road and paths or right material but with some faults. Insufficient number of facilities and/or in poor condition i.e. not inviting or very well looked after</p>	<p>Roads, paths in need of repair and rethink on materials. Limited facilities and generally avoided by users.</p>

Site Matrix Accessibility Standard Template

Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
<p>Easy to find, clean and tidy and welcoming.</p>	<p>Appropriate size, clean and tidy and well-maintained</p>	<p>Obvious entrance and fairly clean but possibly some improvements could be made.</p>	<p>Apparent as a entrance although quite clear that improvements could be made in terms of access.</p>	<p>Some confusion as to where entrance is located or not easily accessible.</p>
<p>Information available, attractive and easy to read. Well signposted from the road and as to where to park, entrance to the site etc.</p>	<p>Information available and easy to read and appropriate signage outside and inside the relevant open space.</p>	<p>Some information available but possibly some improvements could be made to improve easy access through signage and information.</p>	<p>Limited information available and/or not very attractive or easy to read. Quite clear that improvements could be made.</p>	<p>No information or signage available which would almost certainly detract from its potential usage.</p>
<p>Good disabled access throughout. Specific separate cycle access and walking access provided which are maintained in an excellent condition.</p>	<p>Disabled access in most areas. Reasonable access for cycling and walking and which is encouraged e.g. cycle locks provided.</p>	<p>Some disabled access but maybe with some inconvenience. Pathways and cycleways provided and accessible but untidy or with slight disrepair.</p>	<p>Limited disabled access provision. Limited cycle access and limited access to and from pathways and/or which are in some form of disrepair.</p>	<p>No disabled access provision and no cycleways or cycle locks – i.e. discourages cycling to site. Pathways not suitable and not easily accessible.</p>
<p>Very good value for money – i.e. free to use for a very good facility</p>	<p>Good value for money – i.e. free to use for a good facility or some little cost for a very good facility</p>	<p>Average value for money - some cost that provides average value for money. Would be used more if facility was provided for free.</p>	<p>Poor Value for money – i.e. high cost for a reasonable facility or charging for a poor facility</p>	<p>Very poor value for money – i.e. very high cost in relation to quality of open space or charging for a very poor facility</p>
<p>Accessible by all forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport including public transport and the provision of cycleways and walkways. Accessible by car as well but not encouraged as dominant user access mode of transport.</p>	<p>Accessible by most forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport particularly walking, cycling and public transport. Accessible by car as well but not dominant user access mode of transport.</p>	<p>Accessible by at least 2 forms of environmentally friendly modes transport such as walking, cycling or various forms of public transport. Some significant access encouraged by car.</p>	<p>Limited access by at least 2 forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport such as walking, cycling or various forms of public transport. Majority of access encouraged by car.</p>	<p>Very limited access by most forms of environmentally friendly modes of transport such as walking, cycling or various forms of public transport. Nearly all access encouraged by car.</p>

Level of Use - Guidance

Rating	Definition
High / Significant	the area is used either everyday or almost everyday by either people and/or wildlife
Often	the area is used fairly often by either people and/or wildlife
Low / Insignificant	the area is used from time to time but not very often.
No Use	the area is not used.

