

## **Wiltshire Council Open Spaces Study – Report to Area Board September 2015**

Wiltshire Council is undertaking an Open Spaces study, which will be a formal spatial planning document, sitting in the Local Development Framework, alongside the Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2015. The following link gives a list of spatial planning policies including the Core Strategy:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy.htm>

The Open Spaces Study is expected to be completed during the next few months. In addition to the Open Spaces Study, there will be a separate Formal Sports Pitch study, which is not expected to be completed until late 2016. Both of these documents together will replace the West Wiltshire Leisure & Recreation Development Plan Document (L&RDPD), most of which is currently still saved policy of Wiltshire Council with respect to the Trowbridge Community Area. All of the saved policies, including the L&RDPD can be found on the Wiltshire Council web site via the following link:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/westwiltshirelocalplan.htm#westwiltslrdpd>

The L&RDPD identified a shortage of formal sports pitches in the Trowbridge area as well as deficits in the provision of Allotments, Bowling Greens, Equipped Play space and teenage facilities, but an excess of multi-functional greenspaces (including country park areas) and also urban parks.

Resulting from this, many of these shortfalls have been addressed through on-site provision within new developments or off-site financial contributions through Section 106 agreements. The skatepark at Stallards Recreation Ground has been built, new play equipment provided in the Park and new facilities in Hilperton. The Town Council has for some time been working with Wiltshire Council to develop a plan to provide formal sports pitches, utilising the S106 funding which has either in recent years been received or is expected to be paid over by developers during 2015/2016.

In future such facilities are expected to be provided for through the Community Infrastructure Levy and in particular the Parish and Town Councils' share of the CIL and therefore the facilities should be included on Wiltshire Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The full document can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-open-space-study-draft.pdf>

Town and Parish Councils were asked to work with the consultants who have compiled the information supporting the study, to ensure that all open spaces and recreation areas in their parishes were included in the study, with the aid of parish specific maps which identified the different open space and recreation areas. In addition community surveys have also been undertaken with the public, organisations and clubs.

The draft concludes that there are still shortages in both urban (Trowbridge and Hilperton) and rural parts of the Community Area in all classifications of open space, although there may still be some re-classification of some of the country park type areas to be amenity green space rather than natural green space which would mean that amenity green space is not in deficit.

The Town Council raised some specific queries following receipt of some of the draft information relating to the Trowbridge Community Area. Following a meeting with the relevant officers further

background information was provided which added contextual background to the local data, enabling some of the queries to be resolved, in particular that the Formal Sports Pitch study was being undertaken separately and the definitions of the different typologies into which areas had been classified.

The remaining queries have been noted by the officers responsible for the work stream and will be taken into account in the final document.

The specific queries were as follows:

- a. In the Trowbridge Area Profile the introduction to the town appears to be outdated including references to leisure, entertainment and cultural facilities and the need for improvements to the railway station.
- b. The Trowbridge Area Profile should recognise the progress being made on the provision of formal sports pitches between the Town Council, Wiltshire Council, Football Association and others.
- c. How has the Town Park been classified, as it appears to not be specifically mentioned in the report, unlike other locations and the accessibility map for parks and recreation grounds appears to exclude the Town Park?
- d. Should some of the areas currently classified as natural green space be reclassified as amenity green space, balancing deficits and surpluses? This would also resolve the accessibility issues, where areas close to Biss Meadows and Southwick Country Park appear to be further away from amenity green space than the acceptable standard.
- e. Could some areas currently in the above classification be able to be used to provide other facilities which are in deficit?
- f. Could clearer maps be provided of each community area showing the classification with an accompanying key and accompanying list of the open spaces mapped?
- g. Has Walwayne Court MUGA been included and correctly classified?
- h. Has Elm Grove Farm been correctly classified?

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