

OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



Open Space, Sport & Recreation Facilities Study

Final Report: May 2009

Prepared by

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May 2009



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Acknowledgments

Many individuals, groups and organisations have provided information, views and support in preparing this study. Input from these stakeholders is fundamental to the report, and provides the basis for the evidence in supporting the standards, options and recommendations in relation to open space, sport and recreation facilities. Base maps used in this report are copyright of Ordnance Survey.

Glossary of Terms

Term	What it means
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
GIS	Geographical Information System
DPD	Development Plan Document
Extended Schools Initiative	A national government initiative encouraging the 'opening up' of schools to generate greater use beyond traditional hours and years
LAP	Local Area for Play
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework (a component of the revised statutory land use planning system)
LEAP	Local Equipped Area for Play
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NEAP	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
NPFA	National Playing Fields Association
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
STP	Synthetic Turf Pitch

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This section includes the aims and outputs of the study, provides background to the study area, and outlines the format of the report.

1.1 Aims

The overall aim of this study is to undertake research, analyse and present conclusions meeting the requirements of 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (PPG17), which therefore includes:

- An audit of the Borough's open space and sports and recreation facilities, including an assessment of the current quality of open space, using appropriate guidance within PPG17.
- Assessment of the local communities' current and future provision and requirements in respect of quality, quantity, and access.
- The mapping of all relevant open space using Geographical Information Systems (GIS), with different types of site clearly identified.
- The development of recommended local standards for the planning of new and improved open space in the Borough.

The overall objective of the project is to use a previous Assessment of Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities undertaken for the Borough as a starting point to ensure that it complies with PPG17. The final report of study is required to include the following:

- The identification of current local needs in relation to the use of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough to 2026 by updating and assessing local needs and auditing current provision;
- A consistent and uniform database for recording quantitative and qualitative information on all open spaces, sports and recreation facilities identified in the audit;
- A set local quantitative, qualitative, accessibility and design provision standards for open spaces, sport and recreation facilities;
- The application of the above standards to evaluate the current accessibility, quality and quantity of provision of open spaces, sports and recreation facilities in the Borough, including a forecast of future needs; and,
- A clear framework for practical action to protect and improve open space, sport and recreation facilities in the Borough including evaluating strategic options, identifying preferred options and drafting model planning policies. Design guidance should be provided on the most effective way of providing recreation and sports facilities and open space provision in new developments.

1.2 The benefits of open space, sport and recreation

The benefits of good quality open space, parks and sport and recreation provision are well known, and covered extensively in other literature.

For people, open spaces:

- Provide an area for recreation and play.
- Enable lifelong learning and education.
- Encourage equality and diversity.
- Promote community development and regeneration.
- Establish community cohesion and social inclusion.
- Tackle community safety issues.
- Empower communities.

For the environment, open spaces:

- Encourages biodiversity.
- Provides wildlife habitat.
- Promotes education.
- Contributes to sustainable environmental resource management.
- Creates a natural amenity.
- Gives safe, sustainable transport routes.
- Alleviates flood risks.
- Regulates the local microclimate.
- Can instil unique character to an area, and provide a sense of place and local identity.

For health, open spaces:

- Improve physical health through exercise.
- Contribute to good mental health and well being.
- Provide positive community health through sense of space.

For the economy, open spaces:

- Attract economic development and local investment.
- Provide local employment.
- Increase land and property values.
- Encourage ongoing revenue streams through tourism.
- Improve the image and standing of an area.
- Influence location decisions for both employers and employees

1.3 Oadby and Wigston Borough

Oadby and Wigston Borough, situated on the south east fringe of the urban area of Leicester, covers an area of 2,352 hectares, with an estimated population of 56,500 (based on 2006 Mid Year Estimates).

The urban part of the Borough lies within the Leicester 'Principal Urban Area' (PUA), and is defined by three discrete settlements: Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. The Borough's residents will look to the City of Leicester and its immediate hinterland for many employment, retail and leisure opportunities.

Transport infrastructure, notably the two radial routes (A6 and A5199) out of Leicester as well as railway corridors, play an important role in defining the character of the Borough and its division into discrete areas. Major transport infrastructure can affect ease of access to various opportunities on foot and bicycle.

Within the built up part of the Borough there are substantial amounts of recreation space devoted to organized sport in the form of golf and racecourses, school and college playing fields and private sports grounds. In addition there are also local parks and gardens. Other provision includes allotments as well as important private spaces such as the University Botanical Gardens.

Because of its character and location, the Borough also benefits from open space and other recreation provision in adjoining areas, notably Leicester City with its large parks and leisure facilities.

The Grand Union Canal runs along the south western edge of the Borough which itself forms part of a much larger waterway network of regional importance for recreation and leisure pursuits generally. Much of the open urban fringe land in the Borough is in agricultural use, but nevertheless also hosts a mixture of both organized and informal recreation activity. This includes playing fields, but also the Brocks Hill Country Park and other smaller, country park style venues.

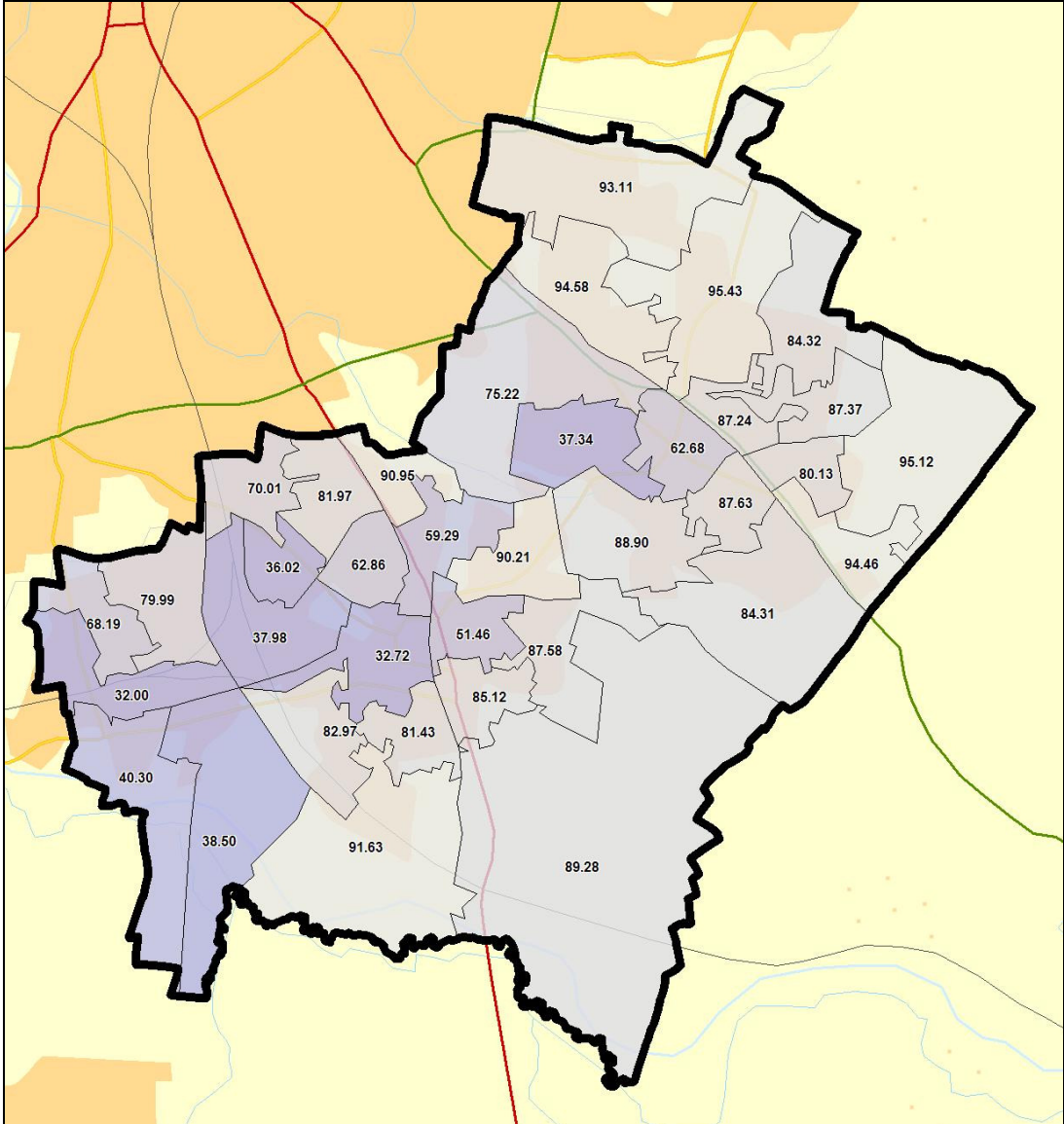
Much of the urban fringe area is also defined as 'Green Wedge' in planning policy documents and is covered elsewhere in this section and later in the report.

Although utility footpaths associated with the highway network are widespread as might be expected in an urban area, provision of dedicated and off road recreation routes for both walking and cycling are relatively poor (considered later in this report).

The Borough is relatively small and also quite affluent in 'official' terms. It is ranked 293rd out of 354 English local authorities (Indices of Deprivation 2007) with 1 being the most deprived. This overall figure hides the fact that some parts of the Borough are relatively deprived compared with others. The following map shows the Indices of Deprivation figures at Lower Output Area (LOA) (the building block of the Census). The colours and figures indicate a 'percentage ranking' of each LOA in the Borough relative to all such areas in England (of which there are 32,483). The lower the percentage and darker the tone, the more deprived an LOA is in relative

terms. It can be seen that the worst performing LOAs tend to be located in the South Wigston part of the Borough.

Map 1.1 : Deprivation Figures at Lower Output Area



The ethnic population is c.16% (with 13% of Asian or Asian British origin). This is less than neighbouring Leicester City but is the second highest for any local authority within the East Midlands. The focus of the ethnic population tends to be in the Oadby part of the Borough.

The Borough also has a small population, located in a relatively small area. The following tables illustrate this point, and also shows that children and teenagers represent a higher percentage of the overall population than for the County as a whole.

Figure 1.1 : Population Breakdown

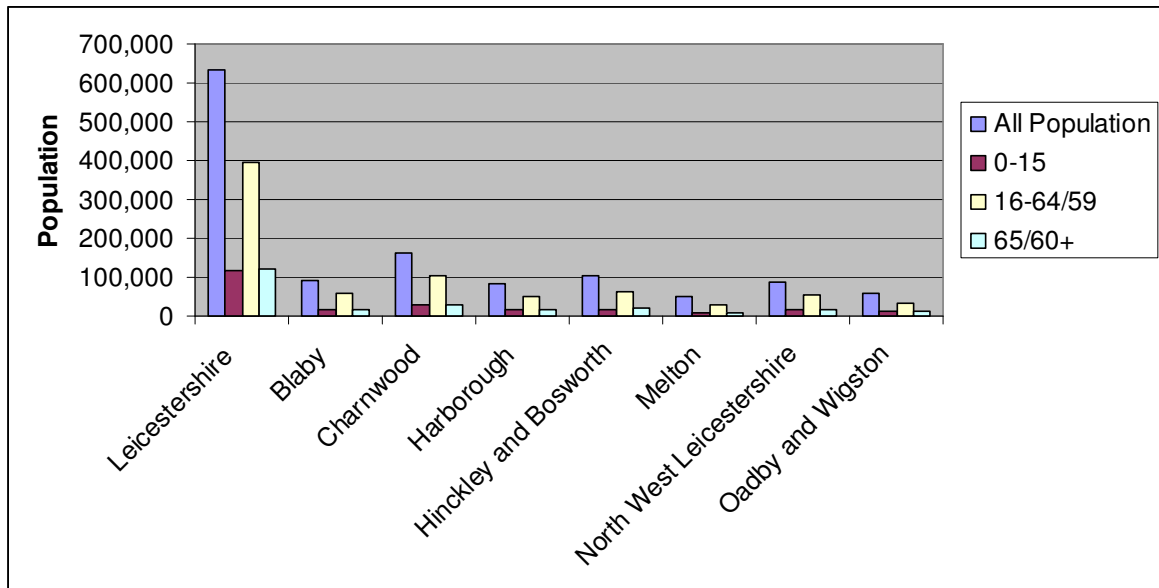


Figure 1.2 : Oadby & Wigston age breakdown

	Total for Borough	% of Borough Population	% average for County
0 to 4	2907	5.21	5.62
5 to 9	3508	6.28	6.2
10 to 15	4664	8.36	7.76
16 to 19	3572	6.4	5.12
Total	14651	26.25	24.68

1.4 The 'Official' view of open space and recreation provision and activity in Oadby and Wigston

Prior to this study there had been no extensive and dedicated examination of open space, sport and recreation within the Borough. However, there are two national sources of information that are helpful at a strategic level.

1.4.1 Audit Commission

The Audit Commission scrutinizes local authority 'performance' through the range of functions for which it has both mandatory and discretionary powers. The information collected through this process allows for some level of comparison with other local authorities.

Of particular note is information collected on the following themes, details about which are provided in **Appendix A** to this report:

- Views of residents on whether or not provisions/activities have either improved or remained the same in respect of parks and open spaces; young children; teenagers; sports and leisure facilities; and,
- Ease of access to a good range of high quality sports facilities.

As the graphs show in Appendix A the Borough appears to perform very well, comparing favourably with most ‘similar’ local authorities based on the Audit Commission’s findings. These conclusions can be compared with the findings of separate research and consultation conducted especially for this study with the resulting conclusion being that local people’s views are actually much more nuanced and subtle than the Audit Commission’s results perhaps suggest.

1.4.2 Active People Survey

In 2006, as part of the ‘Active People’ survey project, Sport England commissioned a survey of over 300,000 adults of sixteen years of age or older to identify frequencies and rates of participation in physical recreation activity.

Nationally, the most popular activities tend to be walking, swimming, cycling, jogging/recreational running and attending gymnasiums. Participation in codified sports tends to lag behind in terms of rates and frequency of participation. This national pattern is largely reflected in responses from Oadby and Wigston Borough.

Some more detailed graphs from the Active People Survey are included in **Appendix B**. However, the Oadby and Wigston residents’ response to the main questions of the survey, together with how they relate to the national pattern of response is provided below.

Figure 1.3 : Active People Survey Response

At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults)	20.5%	
At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport (all adults)	5.4%	
Club member (all adults)	25.7%	
Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months (all adults)	16.0%	
Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults)	16.3%	
Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)	73.0%	

Green traffic light = in top 25%
 Amber traffic light = in middle 50%
 Red traffic light = in bottom 25%

1.5 Implications

The above findings allied to the figures contained in **Appendices 1 and 2** suggest two important points:

- the value of informal outdoor activities such as walking and cycling, that do not rely on 'specialist' facilities in encouraging healthy recreational activity; and,
- that levels of participation will be heavily influenced by a wide range of social, economic and demographic factors.

From this it is probably reasonable to infer that very good ways of encouraging higher levels of physical recreation activity will be through planning and promoting readily accessible and informal activities, for which there are few requirements for specialist equipment or venues.

This report should therefore have an important contribution to make in confirming or otherwise these points and in suggesting ways in which healthy recreational activity might be encouraged. In doing this it is essential to appreciate the relative drawing power of different activities.

Many people play sport, and on a regular basis. However, others prefer to take their active leisure in other ways.

National surveys regularly highlight the comparative popularity of informal, individualistic activities such as walking, cycling, recreational running and swimming. Local evidence confirms these national patterns.

Much leisure activity requires either 'Open Space' or 'Buildings'. 'Routes' are also highly important; both to facilitate access to leisure destinations, and as recreation provision in their own right. Opportunities covered by this study should therefore fall into one of these headings which, combined, reflect a rich tapestry of provision.

Local population characteristics vary and change over time. This study must help plan for an appropriate pattern of Open Space, Routes, and Buildings to best meet varied local needs, of both the present and future.

1.6 Format of Report

The report is presented in two parts, which are interlinked and should be read together. Part 1 of the report provides the main findings of the study, whilst part 2 provides the supporting information.

The contents of each section are outlined below:

Part 1 of this report includes:

- Outline of the methodology used in the study. (Section 2).
- Summary of key local policies of relevance to this assessment, and some of the implications (Section 3).

- Review of the results of relevant surveys and consultation into local needs (Section 4).
- Presentation of an overview of the different types of open space across the area (Section 5).
- Justification for the proposed 'Oadby and Wigston Standards' for open space (Section 6).
- Application of the standards (Section 7).
- Strategic options and recommendations (Section 8).

Part 2 provides the open space mapping and analysis that supports the findings of the report.

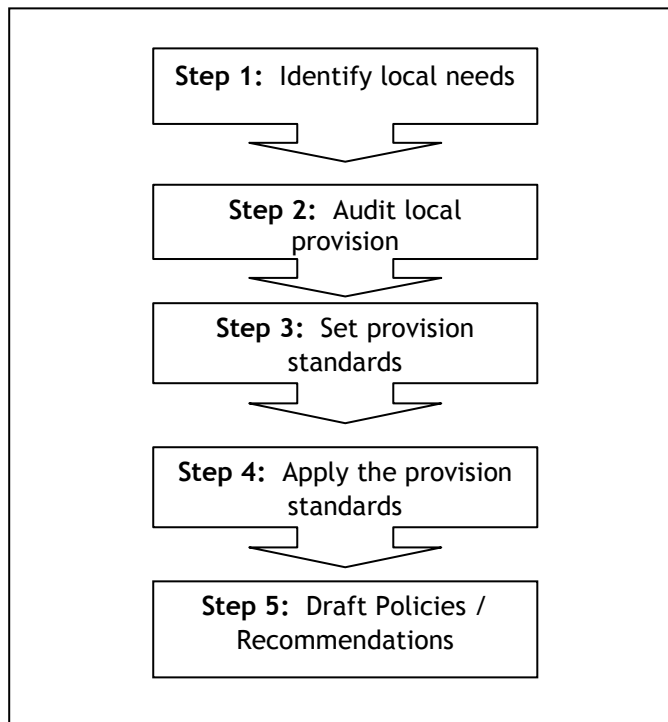
2.0 SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

The starting point for this study has been the government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (PPG17), and its Companion Guide "Assessing Needs and Opportunities". PPG17 places a requirement on local authorities to undertake assessments and audits of open space, sports and recreational facilities in order to:

- Identify the needs of the population.
- Identify the potential for increased use.
- Establish an effective strategy for open space/sports/recreational facilities at the local level.

The Companion Guide to PPG17 recommends an overall approach to this kind of study as summarised below.



Within this overall approach the Companion Guide suggests a range of methods and techniques that might be adopted in helping the assessment process and these have been used as appropriate. These methods and techniques, where they have been used, are explained at appropriate points in this report. However, they are summarised in the following paragraphs.

2.2 Identifying Local Need (Step 1)

2.2.1 Sub areas

Many of the open space, sport and recreation opportunities that are covered by this report will serve *local needs* and therefore have *local catchments*. Play areas and nearby parks are obvious examples of such opportunities.

The Sub Areas shown on the following Map have been established to reflect as much as possible the geographical characteristics of discrete local communities. The Sub Areas were identified by the steering group at the outset of the project, they were derived from officer knowledge and existing survey analysis of open space use patterns throughout the borough.

Map 2.0 : Sub Areas within the Oadby and Wigston Borough



2.2.2 Consultation

The result of this consultation and other analysis has helped amongst other things to inform the content of the recommended local standards as well as possible priorities for future action. It has also helped the study to understand local people's appreciation of open space and recreation facilities in general, and the values they attach to particular opportunities. This appreciation should have implications for the way in which open spaces are treated and designated in the revised Local Development Framework.

2.3 Site Audits and Assessment (Step 2)

A site and facility audit has been conducted together with an assessment of relevant sites and accompanying facilities.

Information has been collected on open space and relevant built facilities from a variety of sources:

- Site visits.
- Existing databases and records of the Council and other organisations.
- Internet searches and websites.
- Information provided by individuals, groups and organisations through their responses to the questionnaire surveys.
- Local directories and handbooks.

All these spaces and facilities have been 'mapped' using a Geographical Information System (GIS).

The method for assessing individual open spaces involved:

- Site visits to open spaces assigned a 'quality' score in relation to a wide range of criteria, covering:
 - Access.
 - Management and maintenance.
 - Conservation and heritage.
 - Design.
 - Safety.
 - Community involvement.
 - Marketing.
 - Sustainability.
 - Value.
- A scoring of each site's 'potential' to improve with regard to the various criteria, resulting in a 'Gap' score (i.e. the difference between the overall 'Quality' and 'Potential' Scores.)

2.3.1 Analysis

Analysis of data collected has included the following:

- Mapping and analyses of provision using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Examining and interpreting the findings of the site/facilities audit.
- Examining and interpreting the findings of the various questionnaire surveys, focus group/workshops, and other consultation.

The analysis forms the basis for the setting and application of standards of provision.

2.4 Set and Apply Standards of Provision (Steps 3 and 4)

Central Government planning guidance states that local planning authorities should set justified local standards, with three components, embracing:

- Quantity.
- Quality.
- Accessibility.

This report sets, justifies and applies standards for a range of open spaces.

Section 6 sets out and justifies the recommended new local standards. The section explains existing local and national standards and relevant guidance, and explains whether or not this might be used as a basis for developing local standards.

The new local standards are then applied (**Section 7**), and in detail within the Sub Area profiles (Part 2).

Section 8 outlines strategic options and recommendations for open space in the Borough.

3.0 POLICY AND STAKEHOLDER CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

If the Borough Council is to effectively develop and improve community leisure and recreation provision it must fully appreciate the varied and complex policy and stakeholder environment within which it works. Only through such appreciation will it be able to establish and promote the best ways of working towards achieving the goals of this study.

This section is in two parts, the first provides a review of relevant policies, the second considers the role and input of 'key stakeholders'.

- **Policy review.** The PPG17 companion guide identifies the importance of understanding the implications of existing strategies on the study. Specifically, before initiating local consultation, there should be a review of existing national, regional and local plans and strategies, and an assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of existing planning policies and provision standards.
- **Stakeholder analysis.** As part of this study, a wide ranging review of the various agencies, organisations and interests involved in Open Space, Sport and Recreation in the Borough. Their input and role in relation to open space, sport and recreation is outlined.

3.2 Policy Review

After a review of policy and strategy, the following are considered to be of most relevance to this study.

3.3 National strategy and policy of relevance

3.3.1 PPG 17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

National guidance relating to open space, sport and recreation is contained within Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation'. It requires Local Authorities to:

- Undertake audits of existing open space and consider quantitative, qualitative and accessibility elements
- Undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities
- Use audits and assessments to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses
- Use assessments and audits as the starting point for establishing open space strategies and for the development of appropriate policies in plans
- At national level, the importance of open space, sport and recreational facilities in their wider sense is highlighted in the following policy documents.

3.3.2 Gameplan (2002)

The Government set itself the objective of a major increase in participation in sport and physical activity, and in response Sport England published *The Framework for Sport in England - Making England an Active and Successful Nation: A Vision for 2020*, where the now well established target of Increasing participation by a minimum of 1% annually was first mooted. This move towards sport becoming a means of increasing physical activity is now enshrined in most thinking about facility development, and open spaces and built facilities are important aspects of this. 'Everyday Sport' was the first major Sport England initiative aimed at meeting this target of a 1% per year participation increase by 2020, and the initiative shows people how they can increase the amount of physical activity they do by not only playing sport but by walking, cycling and using informal spaces.

3.3.3 The Children's Plan (2007)

This sets out the government's aims for ensuring a fair deal for all children and families. It highlights that Play has a critical and important role in relation to child development and the development of healthy communities. It also highlights the important role Play has in terms of health, community cohesion, and community safety. A National Play Strategy is currently being prepared and an investment of £235 million is being made over the next 3 years into the provision of improved play facilities and services in local communities.

3.3.4 Others

Other important national policy and strategy work includes:

- **Our Towns and Cities (Urban White Paper 2000)** -This stated that good quality parks and open spaces can provide a vital contribution to economic success, through a well designed and managed physical environment, and good quality services and leisure and cultural opportunities.
- **The Sustainable Communities Plan 'Building for the Future 2003'** set out a long term programme for action for securing sustainable communities, which includes improving the quality of our public spaces
- **The Urban Green Spaces Taskforce**, established in 2002, stressed that inwards investment in to our cities is promoted by high quality parks and gardens. Such areas can provide venues for outdoor leisure pursuits, and for community festivals and events and the involvement of the community in planning such areas is paramount. It also emphasised the importance of open space in combating social exclusion and in providing educational opportunities.
- **English Nature in 'Accessible Natural Green Space in Towns and Cities' (1995)** highlighted the value of green space in reducing pollution, and more recent concern about global warming has encouraged the provision and retention of green space and tree planting to neutralise the effects of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas production. Open space is also lauded by conservation bodies for its contribution to biodiversity in our towns and cities.

- **The Government's 'Choosing Health' White Paper** set out the key principles for supporting the public to make healthier and informed choices regarding their health, including increasing exercise and in particular extolling the benefits of cycling, walking and easy access to sporting facilities. Subsequently the Donaldson report by the Government's Chief Medical Officer set out the available evidence from around the world for the impact that physical activity has on public health, demonstrating that an inactive lifestyle has a substantial, negative impact on individual and public health. Various conferences have since shown that contact with green space is an important means of improving physical and mental health, that provision of good quality sports and informal recreation facilities encourages physical activity and that increased activity reduces many health problems.
- **Extended Schools Initiative** - The government aim that by 2010, all children should have access to a variety of activities and facilities at schools beyond the school day.

Implications: The thrust of the national policy of relevance clearly recognises the role of good open space, sport and recreation opportunities in encouraging healthier lifestyles and communities. Well planned open space within the public realm is also critical to achieving attractive, ecologically sound, and sustainable urban communities.

3.4 Local Strategy and Policy of relevance

3.4.1 The Oadby and Wigston Community Strategy

The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a duty for local authorities to develop comprehensive community strategies to promote or improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of their areas and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK. A Community strategy must have four key components:

- A long term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes to be achieved.
- An action plan identifying shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long term outcomes.
- A shared commitment to implement the action plan and proposals for so doing.
- Arrangements for monitoring and review and for reporting progress to local communities.

The current Community Plan for the Borough is the "A Sustainable Community Plan for the Borough of Oadby and Wigston (Partnership Plan 2004-14), produced by the Local Strategic Partnership.

It is considered to be the main and overarching strategy for the Borough. The Plan identifies 8 main themes:

- Health

- Learning and education
- Spatial development
- Transport and the environment
- Community
- Crime and disorder
- Culture and leisure
- Employment and the economy.

For each of these themes the Plan states a Vision with accompanying Outcomes, and Priority Actions, many of which have relevance to this study. These include the following:

Theme	Outcome	Priority
Health	Improved health of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Local Active Lifestyle Referral Scheme. • Increase participation through Physical Activity Co-ordinator Posts. • Provide an opportunity for local residents to engage in physical activity through learning horticulture and construction skills as part of the Green Gym project.
Spatial Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable use of land. • Balanced housing market. • Healthy economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve 60% of development on previously developed land. • No increase in unplanned development within Green Wedges. • No increase in unplanned development in the countryside. • Improve the range of leisure opportunities in the town centres.
Transport and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce environmental pollution. • Reduce negative impact upon climate change. • Improve the quality of the built and natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the use of public transport, walking and cycling. • Formalise the lease agreement of the Oadby Grange Country Park. • Bring into ownership the Flude Lane woodland. • Implement a Green Gym Programme. • Implement a programme to bring the Borough's parks up to Green Flag standard. • Improve native species hedgerows and improve school ground habitats.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased sense of community belonging and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various action points relating to support and encouragement for the development of the voluntary

Theme	Outcome	Priority
	spirit.	sector.
Crime and Disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in crime and antisocial behaviour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and educate young people with a view to promoting activities that steer their peers away from Anti Social behaviour.
Culture and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved community cohesion • Improved accessibility • Increased cultural cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a programme of activities that address existing barriers to participation and that improve health and well being. • Increase the participation of the local community in physical activity through funded posts. • Provide a range of activities to engage with young people and local communities: • Sports activity programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summer activity brochure. - Diversionary leisure opportunities. • Increase opportunities for residents with specific physical, learning or mental health needs, including developing a multi sport after school club for young people with disabilities.
Employment and the economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce levels of deprivation. • Economic growth. • Vibrant town centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market the Brocks Hill Country Park and Environment Centre as a tourist attraction.

Implications: As can be seen the Community Plan explicitly recognises linkages between improved open space, sports and recreation opportunities in the Borough and achieving many of the themes of the Plan.

3.4.2 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Corporate Plan 2006-2016 “Our Borough Our Future”

The Borough Council’s own ‘lead’ policy document is the Corporate Plan, which looks at how Councillors and officers of the Council can meet the challenges it faces through the provision of in-house services, through projects and through partnership with other bodies including public bodies, voluntary organisations, businesses and our local community.

The plan is based on the needs of the Borough, on what local people have told the Council they want through consultation between 2001 and 2005, our statutory

duties and what the Council needs to do to address the findings of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the Council in 2004/05.

The Borough Council has agreed with its residents that its priorities for the period 2006-2016 are to achieve:-

- A good quality of life for all residents
- A clean, green and safer environment
- A successful economy

Implications: The Corporate Plan should itself take its lead from the Community Plan. The initiatives associated with the Corporate Plan identify several projects of relevance to this study. These include general commitments to improving open space, parks and leisure facilities.

3.4.3 Local planning policies

The Oadby and Wigston Local Plan (adopted in 1999) contains policies and guidance on development within the Borough. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) Local Plans are being replaced with Local Development Frameworks. The Borough's own Local Development Framework is currently being prepared.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides for the saving of policies in adopted or approved local plans for a period of three years from the commencement date of the Act. Policies within the Oadby and Wigston Local Plan expired on Thursday, 27 September 2007. The Borough Council applied to the Secretary of State to save a number of Local Plan policies for an additional period. The 'saved' Borough Council policies include the following:

Recreation Proposal 4: Planning permission for a residential development of 10 or more dwellings will not be permitted unless:

- 1) recreational open space is provided at a rate of 0.3 ha (pro rata) for every 50 dwellings; and,
- 2) the recreational open space is appropriately located, equipped and landscaped to meet the needs of the development.

Where it is neither practicable nor desirable to provide for the open space needs of a development within the site, the Local Planning Authority may be prepared to accept a financial contribution of an equivalent value towards off-site facilities elsewhere in the locality.

Comment: *this policy provides important guidance on the provision of new open space in relation to new development. Additional guidance beyond this policy is provided in the Borough Council's adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance for 'Play and Open Space' (Adopted August 2004).*

Recreation Proposals 12 and 21:

12- The Local Planning Authority will not permit applications for all-weather playing areas and pitches unless:

- 1) adequate car, coach and cycle parking is provided;
- 2) the proposal will not unduly affect the amenities of any nearby residential properties;
- 3) the hours of use will be controlled.

21- Development will not be permitted where a public right of way or cycleway will be affected unless the loss of amenity to the users of the route is minimised by:

- 1) the footpath, bridleway or cycleway being diverted by the minimum practical distance; and
- 2) the route continuing to be segregated from vehicular traffic.

Comment: these two policies provide development control guidance on two specific themes.

Recreation proposals 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16-20, 22:

Comment: these policies (summarised below) promote site specific allocations/policies).

5- An area of about 0.6 ha east of Lansdowne Grove will be developed as informal open space.

6- An area of about 4.2 ha south of Harrison Close is proposed for a recreational open space use.

9- The green wedge area south of the B582, (about 31.15 ha) will be managed so as to enhance its recreational potential and improve public access and ensure the protection and enhancement of the Lucas Marsh Local Nature Reserve.

10- An area of about 2.8 ha adjoining the A6 Leicester Road and north of Palmerston Way is proposed for public open space.

11- Development will not be permitted which would diminish or adversely affect the Fludes Lane Open Space.

14- An area of 12 ha west of Stoughton Road and South of Gartree Road, Oadby, is proposed for playing fields provided that:

- 1) access is gained only from Stoughton Road;

2) any building is well related to the built-up area and is restricted to the provision of minor ancillary facilities; and

3) existing trees on the site are retained as far as practicable and additional tree planting of large native species is undertaken.

16- 0.4 ha of land is proposed for allotment purposes east of Lansdowne Grove, South Wigston, to be accessed from Taylor's Bridge Road.

17- The Local Planning Authority will retain the Manchester Gardens in an allotment or other open space use.

18- Proposals for improved facilities at the British Waterways depot at Kilby Bridge will be approved provided they comply with the other proposals in the Local Plan.

19- A footbridge will be erected in the vicinity of Ervins Lock to join the Grand Union towing path (definitive footpath Z13) with the new housing adjacent to Lansdowne Grove.

20- An area of land, about 0.4 ha in extent, south of the Grand Union Canal and west of Welford Road is proposed for a picnic and informal recreation area.

22- New concessionary footpath links will be created between the following points by means of agreements with local landowners:

- 1) Britford Avenue and Pochins Bridge;
- 2) Durnford Road and Kilby Bridge Lock;
- 3) Cooks Lane and Newton Lane, close to the Borough boundary;
- 4) West corner of Coombe Park, along the green wedge boundary to intersect the Glen Gorse footpath (C26) and then to the proposed open space north of Denbydale;
- 5) Magna Road and Ervins Lock.

Service Proposals 2 and 5:

Comment: these two policies provide guidance on the development of community buildings.

2- Planning permission will be granted for the provision of a community wing and associated parking at the Woodland Grange County Primary School, Oadby.

5- The development of purpose-built community buildings for other uses will not be permitted unless it is demonstrated that no alternative community use is feasible.

Implications: The current Local Plan (and the future Local Development Framework) can give a land use policy based impetus to the planning and realisation of many open space, sport and recreation opportunities and therefore help to pursue the Community Plan aspirations through:

- Protecting (through designation and or policy reference) existing valued spaces and opportunities.
- Ensuring as far as possible an appropriate distribution of spaces and opportunities throughout the Borough.
- Ensuring that future development contributes towards the maintenance and improvement of open space, sports and recreation opportunities as appropriate.
- Securing contributions from developers of new (especially residential) property for new or improved existing spaces and facilities reflecting the needs of their residents.

As can be seen existing proposals within the Plan awaiting implementation focus on a desire to improve access to open space opportunities within certain parts of the Borough. Access to the urban fringe and open countryside is also promoted through policies relating to the Green Wedge, and the Grand Union Canal (for example).

3.4.4 Masterplans for Oadby Town Centre, Wigston Town Centre and the South Wigston Regeneration Masterplan

The Borough Council is preparing Area Action Plans (AAP) for both Oadby and Wigston town centres in partnership with Leicestershire County Council and Leicester Shire Economic Partnership. In addition to these two Plans a South Wigston Regeneration Masterplan 'Final Report' was produced in May 2008, looking at the potential to regenerate this part of the Borough.

South Wigston has been determined as an area of deprivation for some years. Anti social behaviour has been greater in this area than others and has been the subject of joint action by the Borough Council and local Police. There are a number of disused industrial premises running into disrepair. Identified through the existing master plan, the local community want to create a sense of place.

The Borough Council identified an accompanying need to update the existing Blaby Road Park Masterplan that was prepared in 1996 to take account of current regeneration initiatives in South Wigston. The main outputs and outcomes to be delivered by the project are:

- Review and update the existing Blaby Road Park Masterplan with consideration given to the fact that land in the park that was previously earmarked for an extension to industrial premises can now be utilised as recreation space.
- Increase the provision of sport facilities for the community by considering the incorporation of an all-weather sports pitch in the design.
- Ensure that Blaby Road Park is the catalyst for regeneration in the Town Centre and draws together existing and proposed neighbouring land uses.
- Improve the physical layout of the Blaby Road Park and create a strong sense of place, identity, and connectivity.
- Ensure that the park contributes to the green infrastructure and the biodiversity of the Borough.
- Improve perception of public safety and accessibility to a range of activities for all in the park.

- Improve open space corridors and linkages particularly in relation to the Grand Union Canal Network and surrounding countryside.
- Targeted consultation to ensure that relevant stakeholders support the revised Masterplan.
- Update all costs, implementation timescales and processes (e.g. phasing).

Implications: The Blaby Road Park Masterplan will demonstrate not only the recreation benefit of good open space, but also its role in urban, community and environmental regeneration within one of the more deprived parts of the Borough.

3.4.5 East Midlands Regional Development Plan

The Regional Plan is a statutory document that will set the tone for the long-term development within Leicestershire. It will therefore be a document upon which future Local Development Plan Policies and Documents for the Borough will need to be based.

The draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy ("The East Midlands Plan") was published on 28 September 2006. A Public Examination took place from 22 May to 19 July 2007. The Panel's report was published 28 November 2007.

The revised Plan produced by the East Midlands Regional Assembly will provide a broad development strategy for the East Midlands up to 2026. Oadby and Wigston is located within the Three Cities Sub Area (covering Leicester, Derby and Nottingham and surrounding areas). The Sub Area has recently secured 'Growth Point' status from the Government.

Implication: an implication of this is that the Leicester urban area will be a focus for major development within the Plan's timeframe, and the Borough can therefore anticipate a requirement to host a certain level of new development by 2026. Such growth will result in additional pressures being placed on the local stock of open space and play facilities.

3.4.6 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2006-2011

The primary goals of the strategy are:

- To identify the existing amount, type and spread of the Borough's open space;
- To understand the needs of communities and stakeholders with regard to open space;
- To produce principles and guidance for the future of open space; and,
- To recommend priorities for action to redress deficiencies, maintain standards and meet needs and demands.

The strategy adopts the following Vision for public Open Space in the Borough.
"The Borough of Oadby and Wigston will protect, enhance and develop its green space by providing for the diverse requirements of users, supporting the promotion of healthy lifestyles and valuing the diversity of nature"

The Strategy identifies 10 key issues and identifies various specific outcomes to address them, summarised as follows.

<p>Issue 1: To Improve South Wigston’s Parks as identified in the South Wigston Masterplan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address improvements work with key stakeholders. • Fund work through developer contributions and other external funding. • Improve signed linkages between parks and other destinations.
<p>Issue 2: To provide adequate sports facilities as identified in the Sports and Leisure Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the objective of the Sport and Leisure Strategy. • Work in partnership with community to enhance sporting opportunities. • Support local clubs and organisations to develop youth provision and access for all.
<p>Issue 3: To increase the number of equipped playgrounds through the Planning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with developers and other external funders to provide playgrounds which meet local needs and address gaps identified. • Improve access to existing play areas both in terms of ‘value’ and safer routes. • Inspect and maintain playgrounds regularly to ensure cleanliness and adherence to accepted standards. • Continue the Council’s rolling programme of playground replacement. • Improve and replace playgrounds in accord with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.
<p>Issue 4: To provide and maintain open space through the planning system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with developers to negotiate the provision of open space appropriate to the needs of the local community according to adopted policies. • Produce a Good Practice Guide on provision.
<p>Issue 5: To focus resources for the maintenance and enhancement of parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify match funding to help secure external grant aid. • Seek planned rather than reactive approaches. • Assess the Council’s existing assets resulting in the production of a long-term strategy.
<p>Issue 6: To ensure that the special character and biodiversity of the Borough’s open space is maintained an enhanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate and increase awareness of the natural, historic an landscape heritage of the Borough. • Support the community to enhance their own area. • Value the contribution these areas make to attract people to enjoy and use local facilities. • Invest in areas to maintain their unique character. • Ensure effective management protects, manages and improves biodiversity on parks and open spaces. • Review and implement the Borough’s Biodiversity Action Plan in conjunction with the local community.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain these areas as a valuable education resource.
Issue 7: Long term provision of burial capacity (not directly relevant to this study)
Issue 8: To manage and maintain existing hedges and trees, ensuring the special character and biodiversity of open spaces is maintained and enhanced.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These features should be retained for as nature conservation and/or cultural resources. • Use of Tree preservation Orders as appropriate. • Recognise the role of hedgerows and other vegetation in contributing to landscape character. • Park and open space management plans should ensure that management for habitats and species are undertaken to enable genetic exchange throughout the Borough where possible.
Issue 9: To provide safe, welcoming open space where fear of crime has been designed out.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve ‘first impressions’ of parks by improving entrances, signage and tackling graffiti, dog fouling etc. • Develop positive approaches to the uses of parks by young people through organised events. • Develop sporting opportunities in parks. • Ensure ‘visibility’ of groundstaff in parks
Issue 10: recruit and maintain volunteers to develop community interest in environmental management.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a formal network in which to develop, support and sustain Friends Groups and other groups to encourage a practical interest in open space. • Provide Council staff with the training in voluntary sector ‘capacity building’. • Work with community groups to make the best use of external grant sources etc for the good of their local spaces.

The outcomes themselves are further elaborated upon with Indicators, yearly targets, responsibilities etc in a more detailed Action Plan.

Implications: *Although this strategy is a non-statutory document it helps to both guide and inform other Borough Council policy and practice towards the planning and management of parks and open spaces. The findings of this study can therefore inform subsequent reviews of the Strategy, but also act as a means to both reinforce and reaffirm some of the issues and priorities identified in the strategy.*

3.4.7 Play Strategy 2006-2016

The Oadby and Wigston Play Strategy is a document which defines a partnership approach to address issues surrounding the improvement, maintenance and development of good quality play facilities in the Borough for children and young people. In drawing together relevant partners the strategy identified the key actions that will help shape the development of sustainable play.

The strategy defines 'play' as including all activity which is engaged in for its own intrinsic enjoyment and includes physical play on structures in parks and in natural spaces such as trees or green spaces, as well as organised nurseries, play schemes, and youth activities.

The consultation associated with the strategy highlighted that parents, children and young people want more dedicated provision in a safe environment, close to where they live. The Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan serving as a framework for future development which will be amended on an annual basis to reflect current issues and strategy development. The action points are shown under three 'Themes' which reflect identified needs and planned strategic priorities:

- Raise the profile of play to the community and develop as a priority within voluntary and statutory sector partnerships;
- Manage existing play provision and identify opportunities for new provision;
- Provide an on-going development and support for sustainable play through the Borough and wider Leicestershire.

The Strategy has several general findings and recommendations, which are:

- Although one or two parks have undergone some development, many facilities require updating or replacement;
- Some spaces have become synonymous with anti-social behaviour. There is a need to design this out as much as possible and to work with local residents to promote the value of play and dispel unfounded negative perceptions of children and young people;
- Including children in innovative and inclusive design will create a sense of ownership and pride and will reduce vandalism;
- Limited availability of school premises after school hours reduces opportunities for play and needs to be addressed through the Extended School Services due to be operational in 2010;
- Development of play opportunities needs to link into regeneration plans for the Borough and be included in the focus of all the Council's priorities;
- Future reviews of the strategy need to address issues of community cohesion and cooperation;
- Statutory and voluntary agencies must work together to make full use of the play opportunities available through schools and colleges;
- Provision for younger children under the age of 8 needs to be included in the planning process; and,

- A portfolio of proposed projects should be compiled in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector agencies and the community ensuring that representation addresses issues such as age, disability and cultural diversity.

The accompanying Action Plan to the report identifies several proposals together with Partners, Implementation targets etc. Of particular note are proposals which encourage the opening of school resources to enhance play opportunities; and, to carry out a 'gap and map' analysis of provision for children aged 0-16 years. Some of this, in particular a spatial analysis of provision will be provided by this study.

Implications: Play is a huge component of overall recreation activity and patterns. The Strategy helps to identify in an imaginative way how opportunities can be provided and improved, and this Study will help in promoting the desired ends of the Play Strategy.

3.4.8 Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge Management Strategy

This study and Strategy examines the landscape character, recreational use, land use and ecology of the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge, which is also considered in Section 5. The report of study and the Strategy recognise that the area is valued by local people, but that it is not seen as a coherent entity and does not meet its potential. The Strategy seeks to address this issue through making recommendations relating to the area covering the enhancement of:

- Landscape
- Biodiversity
- Access, recreation and community involvement.

In general terms the Strategy identifies that, with the exception of the area associated with Brocks Hill Country Park, much of the Green Wedge is poorly served by recognised access and recreation routes, and this hampers the potential for local people to appreciate and enjoy this area.

The Strategy makes recommendations for improving recreation access to the Green Wedge and also argues the role of landscape improvements in 'framing' access points and the overall recreation experience.

Implications: the Strategy is important to this study as the Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge is potentially a much more important recreational resource for local people than is currently the case. As will be seen the consultation underpinning this study highlights the value attached by local people to informal recreation opportunities in attractive environments.

3.4.9 Leicestershire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2006-11)

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 placed a duty on the County Council to produce a Rights Of Way Improvement Plan. It is required to consider at least, the following:

- The extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public;
- The opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation;
- The accessibility of local rights of way to persons with mobility problems; and,
- A statement of the action the authority proposes to take for the management of local rights of way.

In researching the plan the County Council considered national, regional and local research. All of these have underlined the importance of walking and riding in people's everyday lives. Some of the key findings include:

- Most walking journeys begin from the doorstep;
- 90% of the Leicestershire public see access to the countryside as important;
- Most people in the county go walking or riding in the countryside at least once a month;
- 94% of the Leicestershire public live in or close to predominantly urban areas;
- 46% of the network is within these areas, amounting to 1400 kilometres (870 miles) of routes near to doorsteps;
- The main motivation for walkers and riders is because it is fun and healthy;
- Over the last 25 years the amount of miles travelled on foot and bicycle fell by more than 25%; and,
- Physical activity, walking in particular, could make the single most effective contribution to the health of the nation.

At the heart of the proposals set out in the Strategy, is the desire to provide improved opportunities for walking and riding. The plan is also being co-ordinated with proposals contained in the County Council's Local Transport Plan.

The County Council is proposing to focus new improvements and promote use near to where people live. Key improvements will be focused in areas that maximise benefit. The vast majority of the population live in or near to urban areas. Nearly half of the Rights of Way network, falls in these areas. The County Council is currently developing schemes that include improvements, maintenance and promotion to local path networks that are intended to:

- Increase levels of walking and riding in all sectors of the community;
- Raise environmental awareness;
- Improve social inclusion;
- Encourage tourism and economic development; and,
- Contribute to physical activity levels.

The proposals are intended to be further developed in direct consultation with those communities affected and in conjunction with the Leicestershire Local Access Forum. The Forum is a statutory group that provides advice to the County Council and other bodies, on the improvement of public access for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment in Leicestershire. The path improvements, comes at a time when the County Council in conjunction with its partners is developing a substantial Physical Activity project under the Leicestershire Local Area

Agreement. This aims to increase the percentage of adults taking regular exercise, including walking.

Implications: as with the Green Wedge Strategy, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is very important in determining the focus of this study given that, as will be seen, the consultation underpinning this study highlights the value attached by local people to informal recreation opportunities in attractive environments. Convenient access to nice places to walk is likely to be one of the most effective ways of encouraging people to take regular and healthy exercise.

3.5 Stakeholder Analysis

There is a wide range of agencies and organisations that have a stake in open space, sport and recreation within the Borough. This section identifies relevant stakeholders, and provides further analysis on the role and input of key stakeholders.

The Figure 'Existing Stakeholders' identifies the public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders who generally have some direct or indirect interest in open space, sport and recreation opportunities. It cannot be guaranteed that everyone or everything has been identified. However, it does illustrate the complexity of potential arrangements between all parties.

It is almost impossible to plot the precise relationship of each stakeholder to others in the figure. However, a few observations can be made.

The stakeholders can generally be broken down into 'Users', 'Providers', 'Funders', and 'Enablers' of open space, sport and recreation opportunities, where:

- 'Users' are the participants in open space, sport and recreation, (individuals or groups).
- 'Providers' can be agencies, organisations and (sometimes) individuals in the public, voluntary and private/commercial sectors largely responsible for establishing and maintaining open space, sport and recreation opportunities.
- 'Funders' are those that provide *financial* support to either create or maintain opportunities, including through grant aid.
- 'Enablers' help in creating and maintaining opportunities either through policy, general nurture and support including advice on technical issues and sources of funding etc.

Clearly, some of the stakeholders will fall into more than one category. For example, a club will be a 'User', but potentially also a 'Provider'. The local authority may well be 'Providers' in terms of their own facilities, but also 'Funders', and 'Enablers'. The variety of stakeholders ranges from national/central government level, through regional and sub regional interests, down to local interests.

Existing stakeholders

USERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND CLUBS
'PROVIDERS'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMMERCIAL PROVIDERS • LANDOWNERS • LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL • LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS • SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERISTIES • THE BOROUGH COUNCIL • YOUTH AND PLAY ORGANISATIONS
'FUNDERS'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUSINESS • CENTRAL GOVERNMENT • CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS • DEVELOPERS • ENVIRONMENTAL TRUSTS • FOOTBALL FOUNDATION • GOVERNING BODIES OF SPORT • LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL • NATURAL ENGLAND • NPFA (NOW CALLED FIELDS IN TRUST) • OTHER GRANT SOURCES • PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVES/PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS • SPORT ENGLAND • THE BOROUGH COUNCIL • THE LOTTERY • VOLUNTARY FUNDRAISING
'ENABLERS'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'STEPPING STONES' COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT • COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY FORUM FOR THE REGION • EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY • ENVIRONMENT AGENCY • GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE REGION • LEICESTERSHIRE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP • LOCAL SPORT AND RECREATION ALLIANCE • LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP • MIDLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY • NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES OF SPORT • NATURAL ENGLAND • REGIONAL SPORTS BOARD • SPORT ENGLAND • THE BOROUGH COUNCIL (VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS)

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL NEED

4.1 Introduction

This section examines identified local need for various types of open space, sports and recreation opportunity. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques. The following details the community consultation exercises that have been undertaken as part of the study. The extent of the consultation reflects the breadth and diversity of the study and a consequent need to engage with as wide a cross section of the community as possible. Eight questionnaire surveys were undertaken:

- A General Household Survey
- Children's and Young People's questionnaires (2)
- Play and Youth Organisations questionnaire
- Schools questionnaire
- Local Groups and Organisations' questionnaire.
- Local Sports Clubs' Questionnaires (Pitch and non-pitch sports)

In addition to the above focus group meetings and face to face meetings were undertaken as below:

- Residents group
- Sports Clubs group
- Community organisations group
- Council members
- Council officers
- Youth Services (statutory and voluntary)

A general analysis of need for outdoor pitches (football in particular) is being conducted using a method endorsed by Sport England, and this will be attached as an Appendix.

The result of this consultation and other analysis (as will be explained) will help amongst other things to inform the content of the recommended local standards as well as possible priorities and actions for inclusion in action plans and the green space and play strategies. Crucially it has also helped the study to understand local people's appreciation of open space and recreation facilities, and the values attached by the community to the various forms of space. This appreciation should have implications for the way in which open spaces are treated and designated in the revised development plan.

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

4.2 Consultation with residents

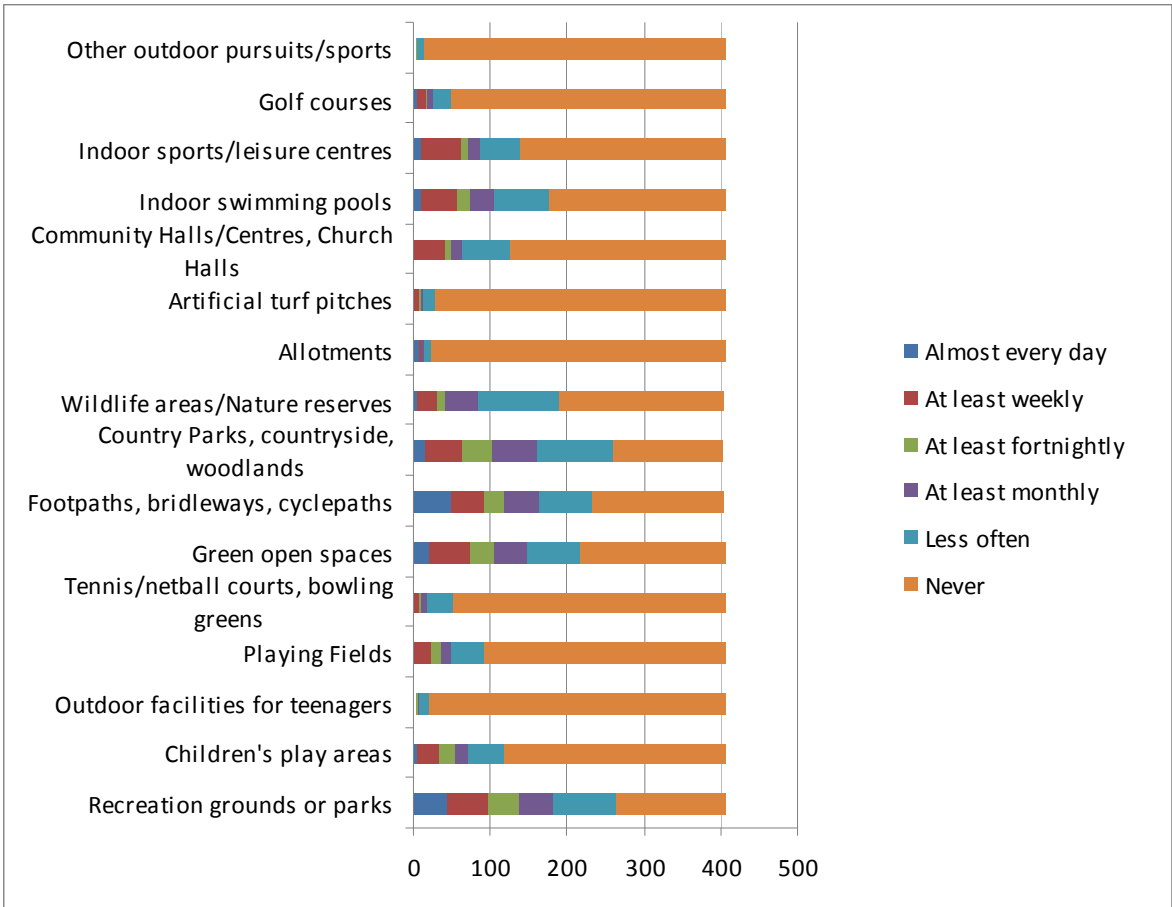
4.2.1 Household Survey

A questionnaire was sent out to 3000 randomly selected households in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston 394 responses were received (13%) which is over the 10% return commonly anticipated from such surveys. The demographic profile of the respondents is provided in Appendix 1 and can be seen to broadly reflect that of the Borough. The full questionnaire is included in Appendix 2 and the following provides some of the key findings. The questionnaire also covered some questions specifically related to consultation required for the forthcoming Borough Sport Strategy. A separate report was prepared for this purpose and is attached as an Appendix 3.

Frequency, regularity and times of use

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

Figure 2.0 : Frequency, regularity and times of use of green space



Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

As can be seen, it is the Borough's local recreation grounds, parks, country parks, local countryside and woodlands and green open spaces that are most commonly used by most adult residents. Footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths and parks are the spaces most likely to be used almost every day. It is the informal recreation opportunities that figure most prominently in respondents' replies.

Playing fields and play areas are also fairly well used but with fewer people using them on a regular basis. This is not surprising given the more specific purposes of these facilities.

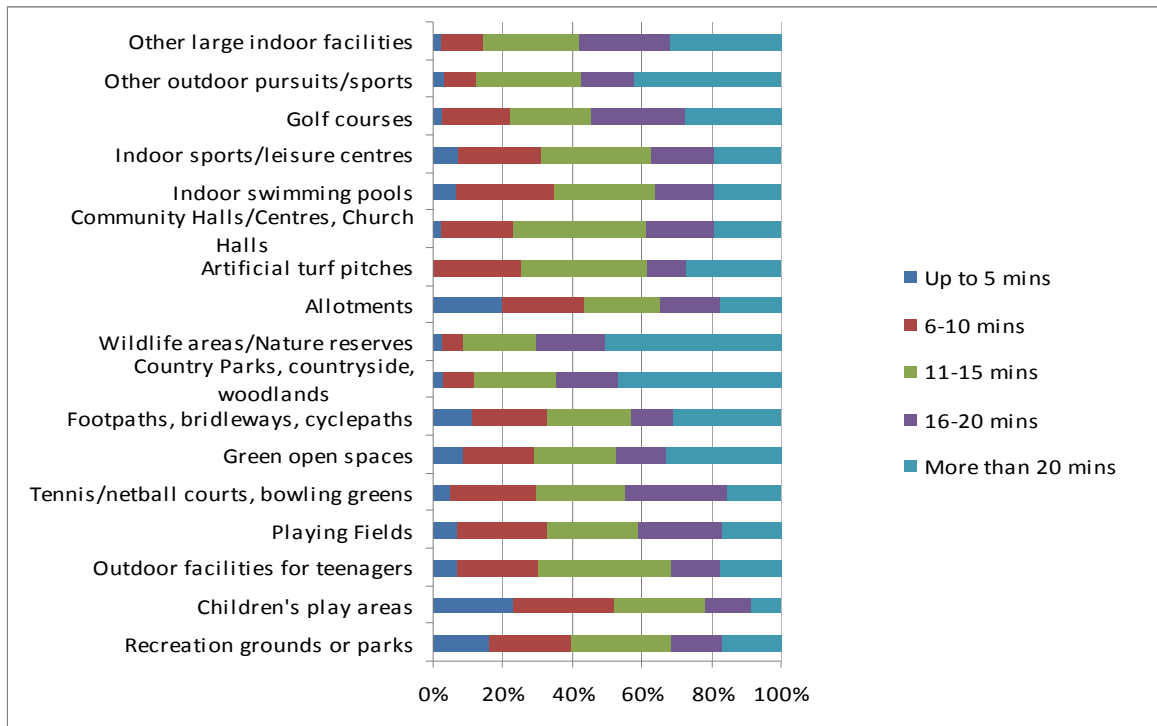
Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities

The Borough's indoor leisure centres are used regularly by significant numbers with 22% of respondents using them at least weekly. The Borough's swimming pools and community halls are also used frequently by many residents (15% and 12% respectively).

In very broad terms it can be seen that Informal open space use is very much more common and frequent than the use of formal sport or leisure facilities.

Location of opportunities relative to place of residence and 'preparedness to travel'

An important component of this study is to develop and recommend a series of local standards of provision for different types of open space, sport and recreation opportunity. The following therefore is an attempt to gauge people's willingness to travel to use different types of opportunity (which might be by car, foot, bicycle, public transport etc).

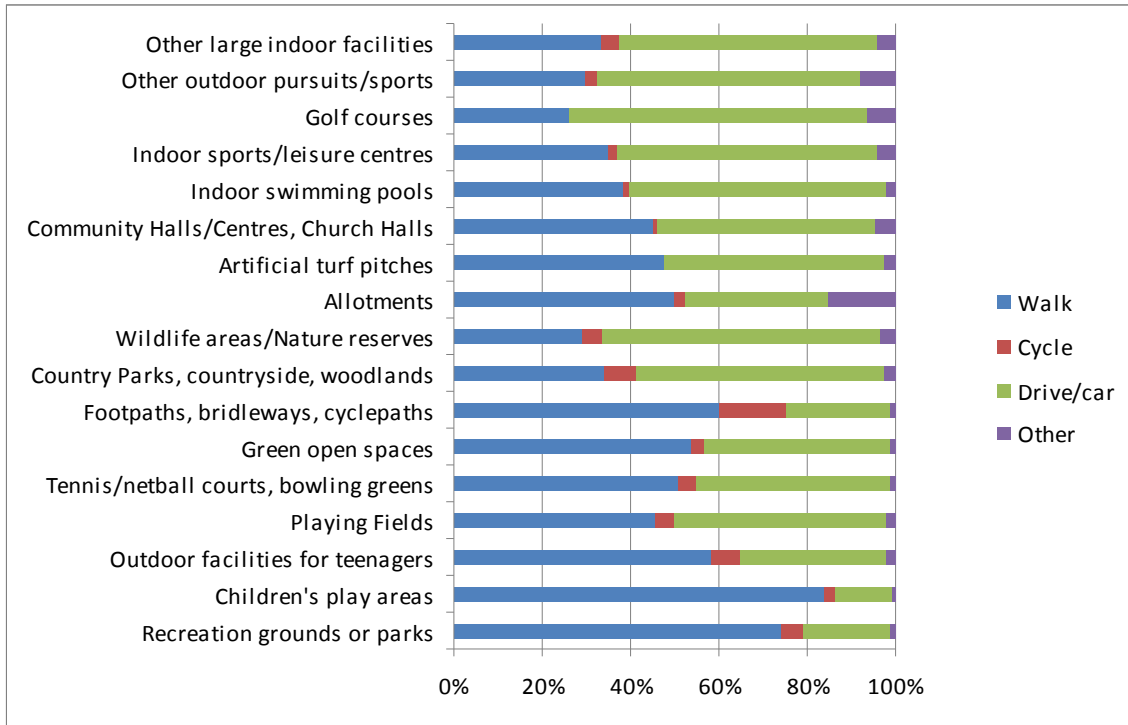


It is difficult to look at the above chart and draw detailed conclusions. However, it is probably fair to say that where people make use of the opportunities identified they are prepared to travel longer to use some facilities unavailable locally such as country parks, areas for outdoor pursuits etc) in comparison with small-scale facilities (such as children’s playgrounds, allotments, community halls etc). This general pattern is unsurprising.

It is also clear that there is great variance in respondents’ apparent willingness to spend time travelling to different types of opportunity. A significant percentage of respondents would, for example, only be prepared to travel up to 5 minutes to a range of different opportunities (e.g. allotments, children’s play areas and parks).

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

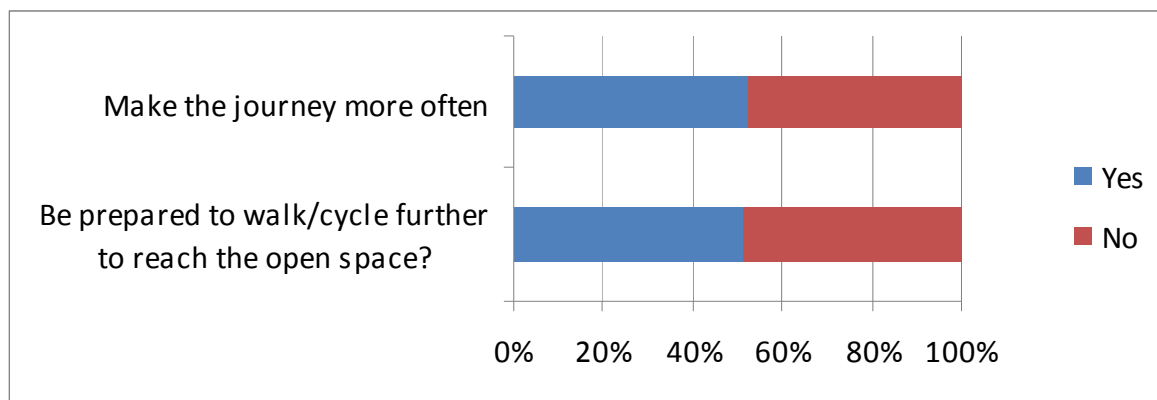
Figure 2.2 : Mode of transport to green space



Residents are more likely than not to drive, even quite short distances, to all kinds of facilities except footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths, parks, recreation grounds, play areas and teenage facilities.

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

Figure 2.3 : Preparedness to travel to high quality open space.



Around half of residents say they would walk or cycle more frequently and further to open spaces and sports facilities if the quality of their journey on foot or by bicycle was improved.

It is not of course surprising that in broad terms walking is the predominant mode of travel to facilities such as local parks, children's play areas, recreation grounds,

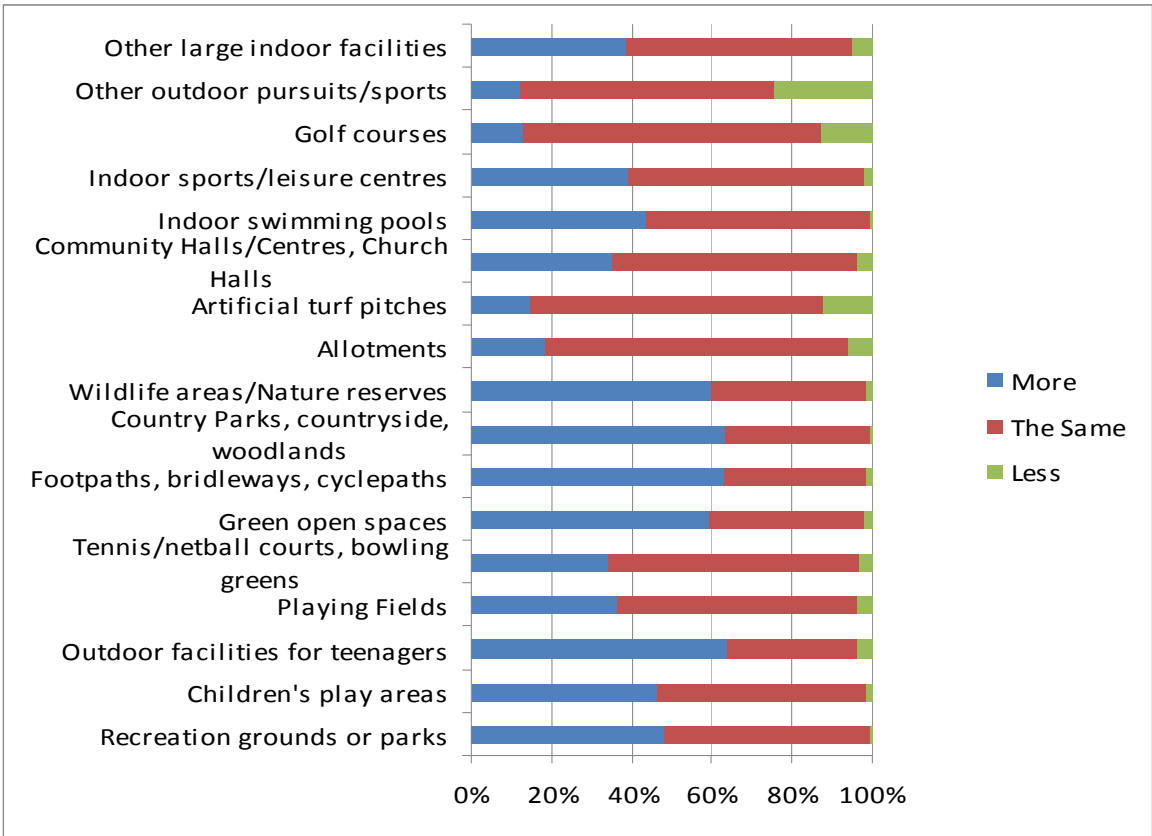
and other informal recreation areas. In contrast, motorised transport is more common for larger facilities such as leisure centres, golf courses, areas for outdoor pursuits, and country parks which are often some distance removed from many potential users.

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

Quantity of open space, sport and recreation facilities

Residents were asked if they needed more, the same or fewer of different types of open space and recreational facilities. Findings are illustrated in the chart below:

Figure 2.4: Satisfaction of quantity of open space.



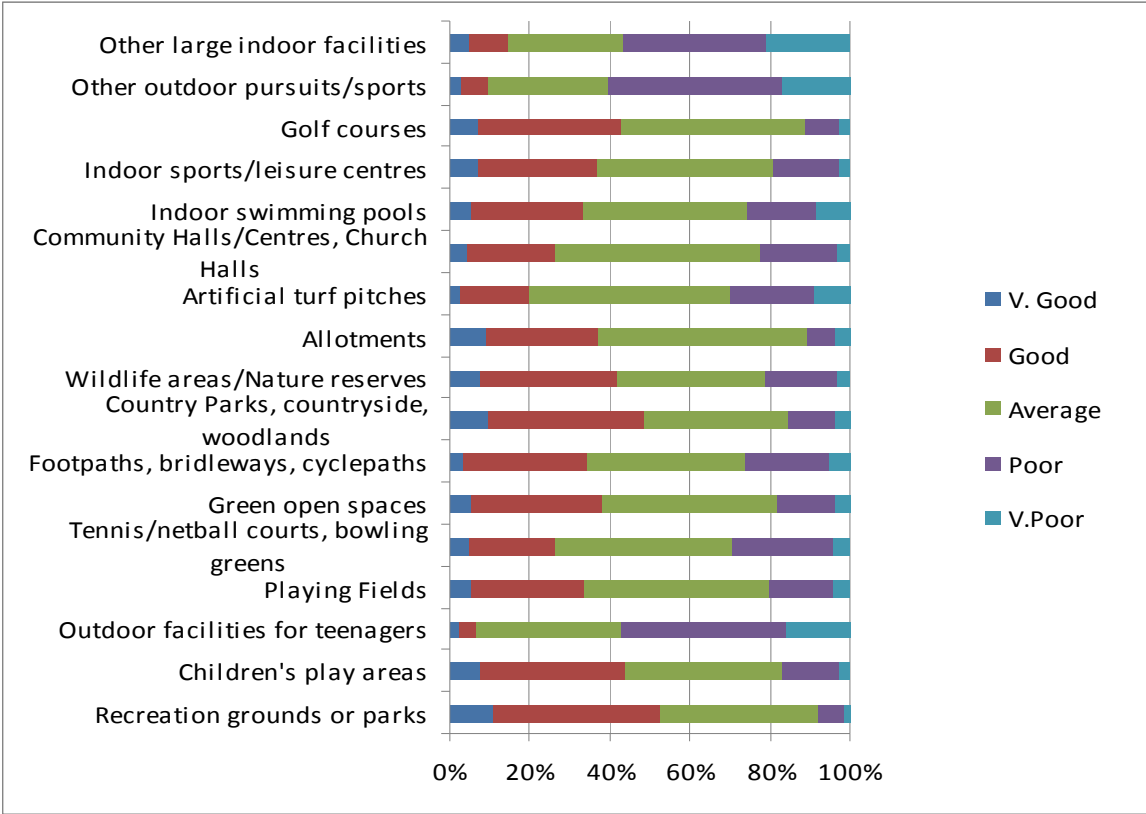
The majority of residents who expressed an opinion would like to see more country parks, local countryside and woodland, outdoor facilities for teenagers and informal open green spaces.

About 10% of respondents thought there was an excess of golf courses, artificial turf pitches and facilities for “other outdoor pursuits/sports”. In discussion with the focus groups it was suggested that this might well refer to “noisy” outdoor pursuits such as motorcycle scrambling.

Quality of open space, sport and recreation facilities

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

Figure 2.5: Satisfaction of quality of open space.

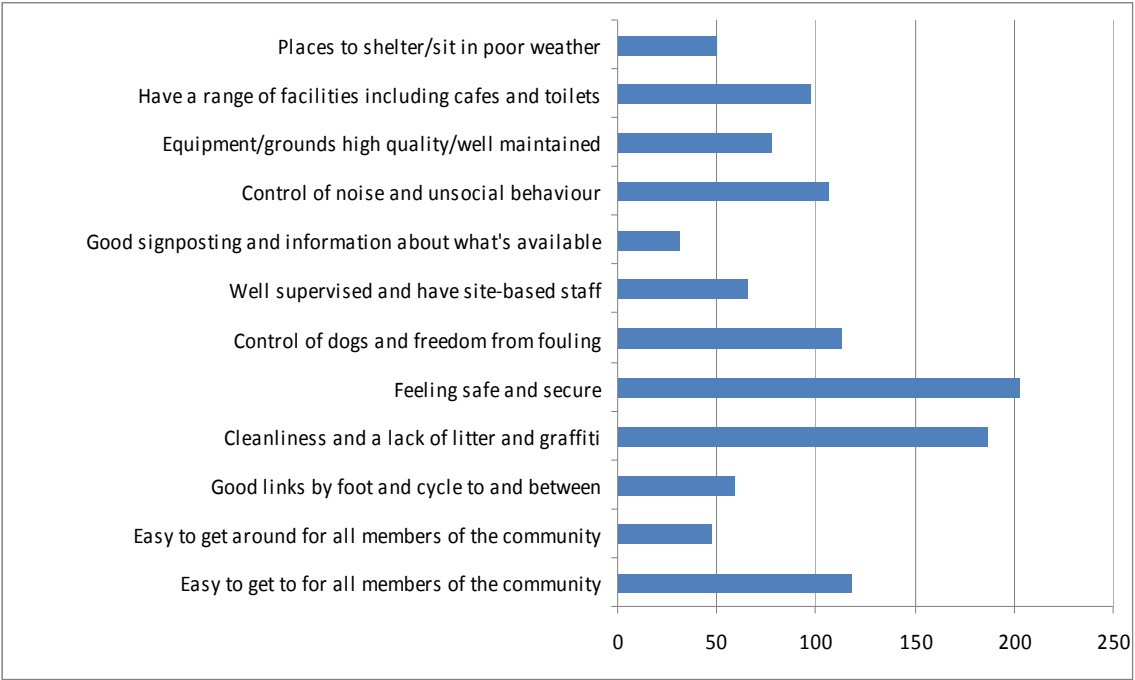


Most facilities are rated average or better, apart from outdoor facilities for teenagers which are rated as poor or very poor. Facilities where the quality appears to be particularly appreciated include parks, play areas, country parks and golf courses.

Key Issues and priorities for improvement

In terms of potential improvements residents were asked what they thought were the most important issues in relation to areas of parks and open spaces.

Figure 2.6: Importance of facilities in open space.



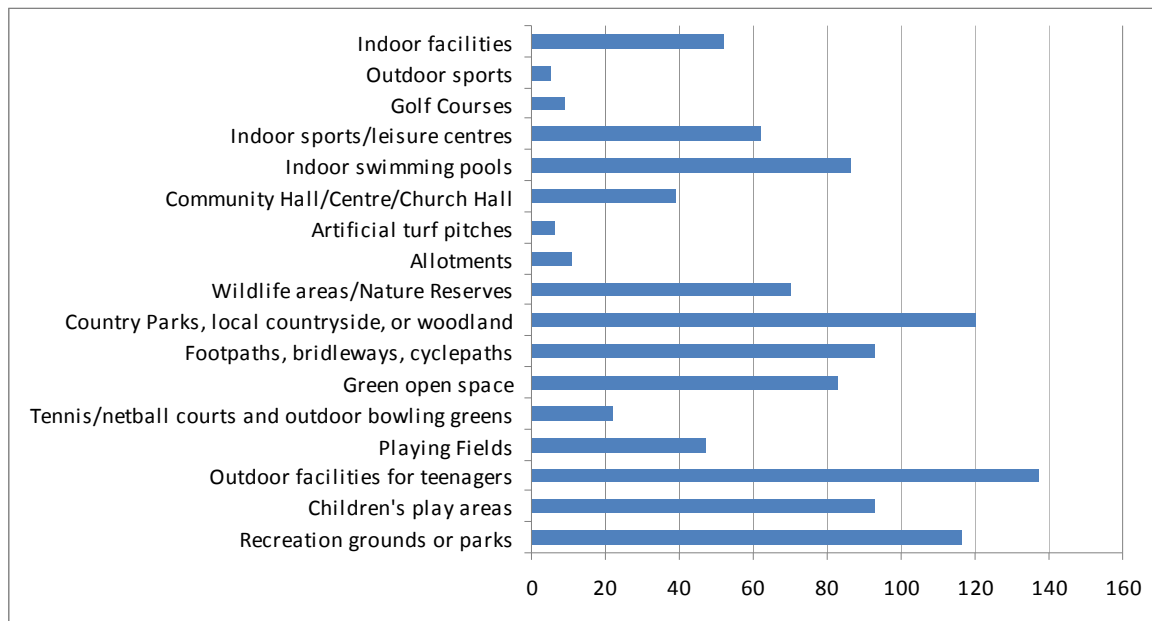
Feeling safe and secure, cleanliness and a lack of litter and graffiti are judged to be the most important issues in relation to parks and open spaces. Access for all, adequate dog control and anti-social behaviour are also significant issues.

These tables are interesting in that it tends to confirm the findings of other elements of the consultation exercise (including the focus group below) through:

- Appreciation of the generally high quality of parks and gardens, and natural environments and informal recreation opportunities.
- Concerns arising out of maintenance and abuse of open space
- A perceived lack of provision for teenagers

Residents were asked what their priorities for improvement in provision were.

Figure 2.7: Priorities of importance of open space.



The top priority for potential improvements for outdoor facilities was provision for teenagers, followed by country parks, local countryside and woodland, as well as recreation grounds/parks.

In relation to indoor facilities the top priority was for improvements to swimming pools.

Residents were also asked for any other comments and these can all be found in the appendices, grouped by where people live.

4.2.2 Resident's Focus Group

On Wednesday 21st May 2008 a consultation event was held at the Council Offices in Wigston for residents who had expressed an interest in meeting (through the household questionnaire). A summary of findings and issues raised is provided below:

Strengths and good aspects of provision

- Voluntary sector youth provision e.g. Salvation Army
- Community use of schools is quite strong in terms of leisure - also innovative e.g. school allotment
- Rambling and walking groups provide good countryside walks - active clubs
- Footpaths and Rights Of Way network is generally good and provides access to the countryside. Generally open and reasonably maintained
- Bowls provision is good - strong clubs
- Sports provision is generally good with a range of facilities and activities

- Allotments - good provision across the Borough
- Good parks e.g. Peace Memorial Park, Brock's Hill Country Park, Blaby Road Park, Willow Park. Seems to be community involvement also.
- Wigston Framework Knitters Museum

Weaknesses/Room for Improvement etc

- Gaps in footpath networks re access to countryside, potential for links with e.g. national cycle network
- Lack of youth clubs and activities for teenagers
- Vandalism - lack of response from the police
- Swimming is expensive for low income families - need better subsidy scheme
- Blaby Road Park - conflict between use of bowling green and youth kickabout area
- Wigston Pool is getting in need of an upgrade - the gym is expensive
- Shortage of community rooms in some areas - halls have been lost over the years e.g. Constitutional Hall
- No cinemas or theatres in the Borough
- Need for better spaces for arts and amateur dramatics/opera performances

Ideas for improvements/priorities

- Better provision for teenagers with young people being actively involved in planning
- Through the Blaby Road Park master plan process sort out the conflict between bowls and kickabout area - re-site as appropriate
- Major opportunity for Sustrans type cyclepath links in various parts of the Borough to enable transport and leisure opportunities for local residents and children

Residents - Key Issues

- Local recreation grounds, parks, country parks, local countryside and woodlands are the open spaces that are most commonly used by most adult residents.
- Footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths and parks are the spaces most likely to be used almost every day. Use of informal open space is very much more common and frequent than use of formal sport or leisure facilities.
- The Borough's indoor leisure centres are used regularly by significant numbers with 22% of respondents using them at least weekly. The Borough's swimming pools and community halls are also used frequently by many residents (15% and 12% respectively).
- The majority of people are willing to travel up to 15 minutes to reach most kinds of open space or sports facilities, but prefer to travel less than 10 minutes to parks, recreation grounds and outdoor facilities for children and young people.
- 50% of people are willing to travel 20 minutes or more to reach wildlife areas, nature reserves or country parks and the majority would drive to that kind of facility.
- Residents are more likely than not to drive, even quite short distances, to all kinds of facilities except footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths, parks, recreation grounds, play areas and teenage facilities.
- Around 50% of residents say they would walk or cycle more frequently and further to open spaces and sports facilities if the quality of their journey on foot or bike was improved.
- The majority of residents think there are *not enough* country parks, local countryside and woodland, outdoor facilities for teenagers and informal open green spaces.
- About 10% of respondents thought there were actually "*too many*" golf courses, artificial turf pitches and facilities for "other outdoor pursuits/sports".
- The *quantity* of facilities otherwise were thought to be adequate by most residents
- Most facilities are rated average or better, apart from outdoor facilities for teenagers which are rated as poor or worse.
- Feeling safe and secure, cleanliness and a lack of litter and graffiti are judged to be the most important issues in relation to parks and open spaces.
- Access for all and adequate dog control are also significant issues.
- The top priority for potential improvements is outdoor facilities for teenagers, followed by country parks, local countryside and woodland, as well as recreation grounds and parks.

4.3 Consultation with Community Organisations

4.3.1 Community Organisations Survey

A questionnaire was sent out to relevant groups and organisations across the Borough such as tenants associations, community associations, civic societies, and allotment associations. A list of the respondents is given as Appendix 4.

Community Organisations (including play and youth groups)

Use of open spaces

50% of the organisations make direct use of areas of open space in various ways, for example:

- *Denbydale Residents Association* - we use local parks, walk and exercise in the open areas around Denbydale, the leisure centres and take pride in our area -
- *Oadby & Wigston Muslim Association* - twice a year we use a local park for prayers, celebrations etc. following EID/Ramadan.
- *Rally Rosemead Community Action Group* - Rosemead Park - Children's play area - to walk dogs - general relaxation purposes.
- *Friends of Wigston Framework Knitters Museum* - Wigston Framework Knitters Museum has a garden which is open to the public when the museum is open, i.e., 1st Sat of month and all Sundays 2-5pm.
- *Meadows Resident Association* - Meadows for Sport and recreation.
- *Age Concern, Oadby* - Indoor community rooms for dance, bingo, bowls, Tai Chi, Watercolours etc. No outdoor space. Walking Club, Gardening Club.
- *Oadby Royal British Legion* - Car park next to Walter Charles Centre used for functions such as the annual open day.
- *Menphys Centre* - Peace Memorial Park for walks.
- *Girl Guide, Oadby* - Parks, all open spaces, Brocks Hill County Park.

Quantity

50% think there are not enough open spaces in the area where their organisation is based.

Comments on the provision that the organisations think is lacking include:

- Some parks need to be refurbished - they need new play equipment, recreational equipment for all ages and more youth shelters.
- There is a need for more rooms for hire.
- We need more facilities for youth.
- Need for car parking facilities for church/church hall (Oadby British Legion).
- Any additional open space in an urban environment is welcome. We need more informal areas with trees and allotments.

Key Issues

The organisations think that the 3 most important issues in relation to areas of open space are.

1. They should be easy to get to for all members of the community
2. They should be safe and secure for those using them
3. They should be easy to get around by all members of the community

Other things about open space that they think are important include:

- Should be play/leisure/keep fit equipment for all age groups. Boundaries with houses need very careful thought - appropriate fencing - defensive planting. Encouragement of wildlife.
- Regular visits and audits so as to measure levels of use, litter and vandalism and to ensure regular maintenance of sites.
- No obstructions or masts (radio, phone etc). Tree planting.
- Good lighting.

Quality

Question 5 provided the respondents with 19 aspects of open space and asked for a rating of each from very good to very poor. The table given below provides an analysis of the responses. In addition the most frequent responses have been highlighted.

The following table summarises the organisations' views on the quality of open space in the Borough. The rows in green indicate aspects where residents believe quality is particularly high and those in red where quality is deemed to be poor.

Figure 3.0: Community view on quality of open space

	<i>Average score (1 = poor quality, 5 = very good quality)</i>
The variety of different types and sizes of open space	2.8
The range and quality of outdoor play facilities for young children	2.6
The range & quality of outdoor facilities for young people	1.8
The range and quality of outdoor sports facilities	2.2
The number and quality of local parks/recreation grounds	2.7
Formal planting displays, shrubs and flower beds	2.4
Local nature reserves and wildlife areas	2.4
Footpaths, cycleways and bridleways	2.2
Country parks ,countryside and woodland areas	2.2

Areas for sitting out in or playing informal ball games	1.9
Cleanliness and freedom from litter and graffiti	2.0
Accessibility for wheelchairs and pushchairs	2.0
Provision of special events and festivals	1.7
Provision of shelters and seating	1.8
Car parking	2.5
Areas and bins for dog fouling	2.3
Signposting and information boards and leaflets	2.2
Lighting	1.9
Security and feeling safe	1.9

The community organisations are therefore generally happy about the quality of play facilities for younger children, the quality and number of parks, and the variety of different types and sizes of open space. They are not satisfied with the range & quality of outdoor facilities for young people, provision of special events and festivals and provision of shelters and seating

Views on different types of sport and recreation provision.

A series of open questions were included to elicit comments on a range of open space issues. Respondents were given some guidance as to the range of topics to be covered and the main comments for each of the issues follow.

Parks and recreation grounds

- Wigston parks are generally ok. There is a drainage problem on Willow Park, also some tree planting should be considered for the benefit of future generations.
- The play area in Ellis Park could do with being brought up to date. Difficult to get to.
- The parks are generally well managed. However, the facilities are poor. They don't encourage people to come and use the facilities.
- Parks/open spaces could always be used in a more imaginative way; Local faith/ethnic groups be encouraged to celebrate festivals openly for all.
- Not enough parks/open spaces. Not appropriately managed/cared for. Not very easy for people with disabilities to use and enjoy them.
- For the type of group we are these seem satisfactory for the area.
- Do not seem to be managed, other than basic litter clearance etc.

Playing fields, tennis courts, bowling greens etc

- Probably not enough pitches/outdoor sports facilities. Adequate parking. Appropriately maintained
- Only two nearby - very poor.
- Often no-one knows about these.
- Not enough pitches/outdoor sports facilities. Not easy to get to and make use of. Not appropriately maintained. The local football field should be free from dog walkers and properly maintained.

- Not enough for youths.
- Maintenance is generally good. Access no problem. Tennis provision is poor. More basketball provision needed. All weather pitch area would be good.
- A number of sports areas (pitches) have been lost over the last 20 years. The use of school sports facilities should be considered so as not to reduce green areas.

Outdoor facilities for children

- There is only one play area for children in my area. There would need to be a play area in every other street to ensure the safety of all children in this day and age. Definitely not enough areas for adventurous play. Only one youth club.
- There are adequate play areas in our vicinity.
- South Wigston - Blaby Road Park adequate for children - skateboard area well used.
- Skatepark should be located in Parklands area - not in Uplands Road Park as at present.
- Not enough safe areas.
- Needs a lot of improvement. Current play areas are damaged and not being replaced.
- Council has tried to place recreation grounds/parks close to new estates. Oadby is greatly lacking in facilities for teenagers.
- Children's play areas good. Other youth provision not good.
- Specific areas for young people needed that are safe. CCTV covered, well lit.
- Better playing equipment needed.

Countryside and wildlife areas

- The link to Brocks Hill via footpaths over fields and open space is on a proposal by the OWBC. This proposal to install good footpaths and cycleways should be processed ASAP which will enable all residents in the Meadows area of Wigston to use the facilities
- Blaby Rd Park - some difficulty with path at the moment due to demolition work. Hedge adjoining path (by biscuit factory) could be cut back to give more room on path.
- I think the Brockshill County Park area scores really highly.
- Brockshill Environment Centre is great. From Oadby where else could anyone walk to? Too many houses being built.

Footpaths and rights of way

- Very few in South Wigston.
- The more footpaths and cycleways we have the better. Little Hill Estate has good footpath links but sadly we have a County Councillor who is trying to get them closed. Meadow estate has poor footpath links.
- More required and probably better maintenance required.
- Many of the footpaths and cycleways to and within Wigston town need to be upgraded.

- Being a town I don't think we can expect the above. Some pavements are in need of repair.

Indoor Provision

- We have very few and they are expensive!
- There is a need for more Youth Clubs in Wigston and Oadby. Local problems of antisocial behaviour could be reduced if the youth of the area had somewhere to go at night.
- South Wigston reasonably well served.
- Parklands can be expensive for the young. The swimming pool is very "modest" for the community. Church Halls provide community meeting places as well as worship.
- Not enough rooms for hire.
- A community hall/sports centre with a reasonable pool would be useful in the centre of Oadby for everyone's use.

Other comments

- "We need a mosque! 20% of the local population is now Muslim. We do not have any facilities, and council is not doing anything about this! We have tried!"
- "There is no handy public car park which can be used by visitors to the museum".
- "The cycle route from Wigston to Oadby goes to Waterloo Crescent where the cyclists are directed to cross the road via a Pelican Crossing, only to reach a sign after about 30 yards saying End of Cycleway. Leaving cyclists on the wrong side of the road."
- "Some shops not disabled friendly. Some walks not disabled friendly".
- "Need more gymnasiums with days allocated for exercises, etc for Senior Citizens and Disabled People".
- "Local bus services between Wigston and Oadby are a laugh. The service is every couple of hours and there is a need to improve it so that residents can travel between the two boroughs without the need for a car".
- "Allotments in Oadby are good but no toilet provision for females. Oadby needs a Civic Centre Area - carefully designed etc".
- "The safety of the areas is always a concern when taking young girls out in the evenings".
- "Scouts/guides get a bad press but we do invaluable work and need more units and more leaders".
- "Allotments are getting popular. Access is not very easy - no buses to Wigston".

From this it can be seen that for a majority of aspects responses have been quite positive. Of particular note are the favourable responses for the variety of different types and sizes of open space and countryside recreation and wildlife areas.

4.3.2 Community Organisations Focus Group

On Thursday 22nd May 2008 a consultation event was held at the Council Offices in Wigston for local community organisations. A summary of findings and issues raised is provided below:

Strengths and good aspects of provision

- Brocks Hill Country Park - excellent facility for all and well used. Great for dog walkers
- Play areas in parks great for young (pre-teen) children and generally well maintained.
- Youth allotments on school sites - great idea
- Willow Park good for families - decent car parking
- Mobile Youth bus is good
- Newer estates benefit from well planned green space - including green corridors, footpath links etc
- Uplands Park - current review is being undertaken with extensive consultation involving local people
- Fludes Lane Wood - great example of local "countryside" facility led by Council
- Botanical Garden is an asset - good educational service also
- Good range of allotments but poorly resourced re maintenance
- Green Gym on allotments - great idea

Weaknesses/Room for Improvement etc

- Insufficient facilities for teenagers - indoor and outdoor
- Some teenage provision that has been installed has not been a success e.g. Uplands Park Skate Park (which was removed) and some provision at Willow Park (which has not been monitored and properly maintained).
- Need to take results of consultation seriously and to provide feedback to consultees
- General lack of resources to maintain outdoor facilities properly. Need to ensure that revenue is sufficient to maintain capital developments.
- Make better use of existing community halls and indoor facilities for teenagers
- Vandalism is a problem at many parks but the few facilities for teenagers might explain it!
- Parks - need to provide spaces for peaceful relaxation and contemplation. Balance with sports and play/youth facility use.
- Mobile provision - ensure good communication with local residents when starting projects
- Peace Memorial Park - lack of parking e.g. for bowls matches
- Green Gym - what happens after funding runs out? How is this idea going to be maintained and developed?

Ideas for improvements/priorities

- Shortage of affordable small halls and meeting rooms in some areas e.g. Wigston
- Need for more affordable indoor community spaces for youth
- Need to ensure fair allocation of budgets based on realistic assessment of needs (given poor overall resources for maintenance).
- Make better use of school facilities for community use (indoor and outdoor). Partnership with Borough Council.
- Need more local play spaces for younger children (not necessarily equipped, but well designed to allow for play).
- General lack of accessible open space in relation to all the diverse local needs re use. Any new developments must secure adequate open space.
- Bring back Park wardens to parks - makes them safer and more child friendly. Could link with a voluntary warden scheme.

Groups and Organisations - Key Issues

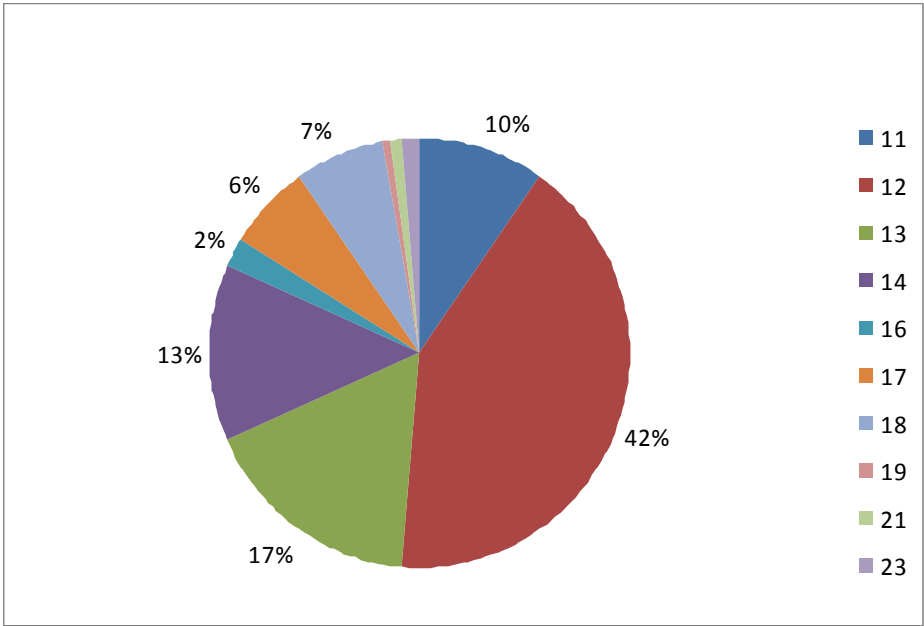
- About half of the groups think there are not enough open spaces in the area where their organisation is based - thought to be an overall lack of accessible open space in relation to all the diverse local needs re use.
- The organisations think that the three most important issues in relation to areas of open space are that they should be easy to get to for all members of the community, they should be safe and secure for those using them and they should be easy to get around by all members of the community;
- They are generally happy about the quality of play facilities for younger children, the quality and number of parks, and the variety of different types and sizes of open space;
- They are **not** satisfied with the range & quality of outdoor facilities for young people; provision of special events and festivals; provision of shelters and seating; and the maintenance of existing facilities and the public realm;
- They note a shortage of play and sports provision in some areas;
- Many point out a general lack of youth provision (indoor and outdoor);
- A need for improved cyclepath and footpath links was highlighted.
- In relation to the different kinds of provision many responses have been quite positive. Of particular note are the favourable responses to parks and country parks with Brocks Hill being particularly highly rated.
- The cost of leisure facilities was thought to be a barrier to participation for the less well off.
- Insufficient affordable community halls and meeting places.
- Potential to make better use of school facilities for community use (indoor and outdoor). Partnership with Borough Council.
- Need more local play spaces for younger children (not necessarily equipped, but well designed to allow for play).
- Bring back Park Keepers to parks - makes them safer and more child friendly. Could link with a voluntary scheme.

4.4 Consultation - Children and Young People

4.4.1 Surveys of young people

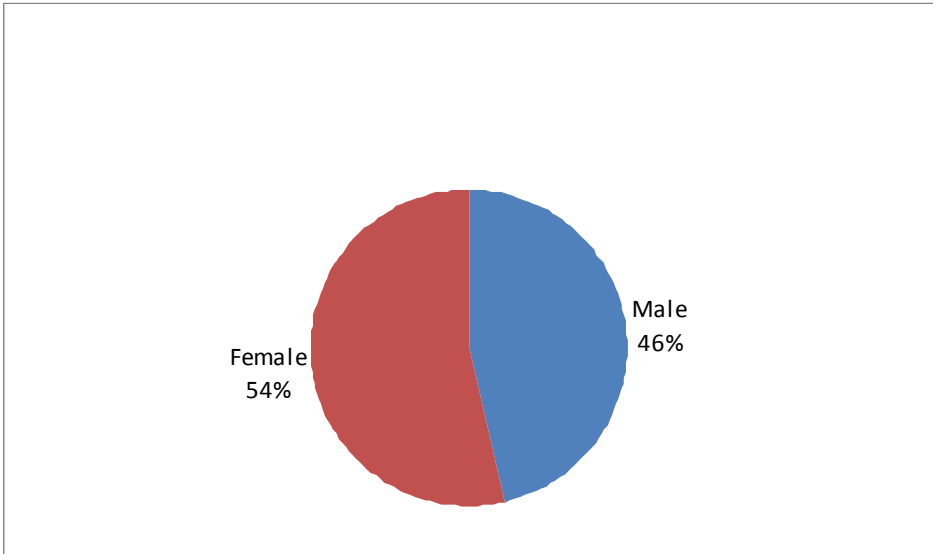
Questionnaires were sent to local Secondary Schools and Colleges of Further Education with a request that young people should fill them out during class time. This has resulted in the return of 142 forms from young people ages 11-23, which is a reasonable sample for a Borough of this size.

Figure 3.1 : Age breakdown of respondents



The majority came from the age range 11-14.

Figure 3.2 : Gender breakdown of respondents



The gender split of respondents was slightly biased towards females.

Where do Young People Play and “Hang out”?

In terms of planning for the future it is important first of all to understand where young people currently play and hang out.

FIGURE 3.3 : Where do young people play and “hang out”?

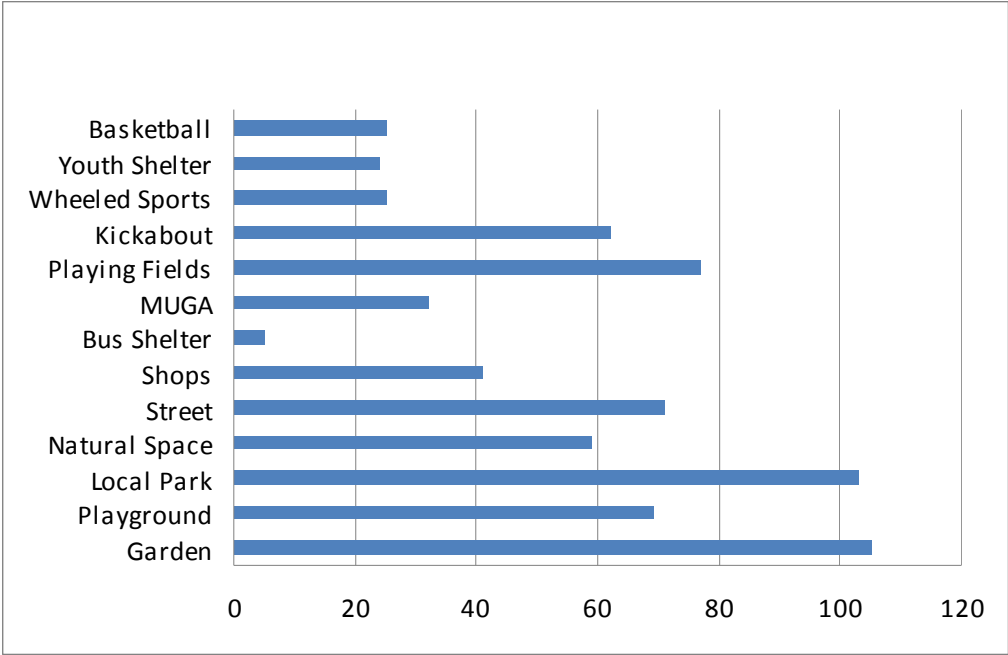
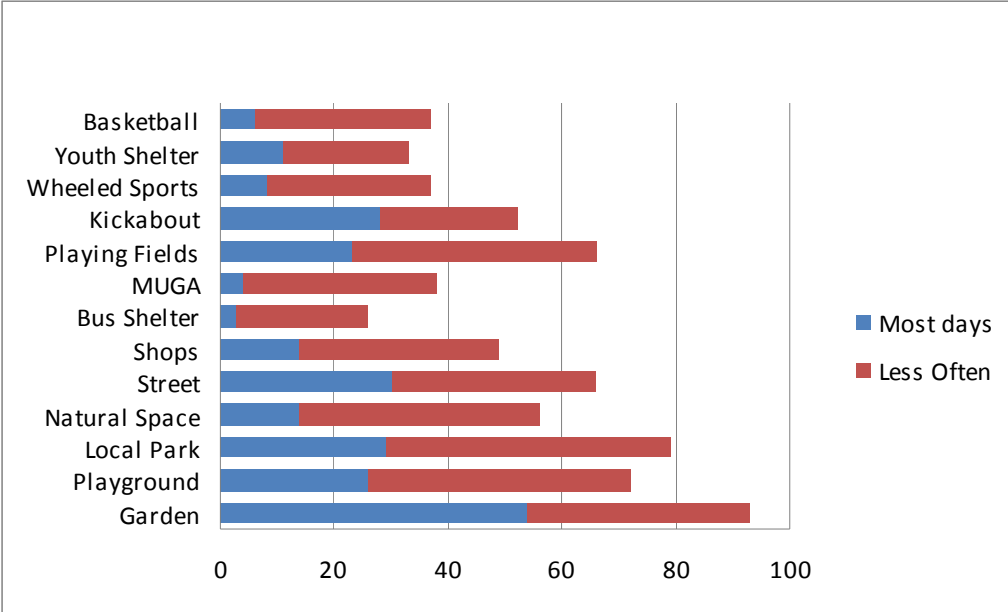
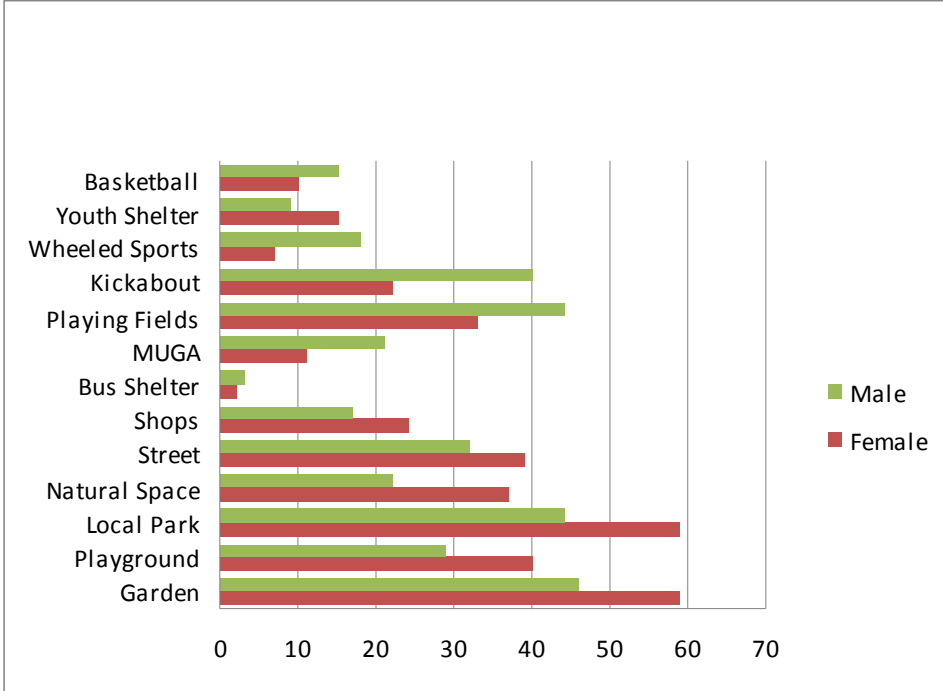


Figure 3.4 : Frequency of use



Analysis of the gender split in terms of the use of open spaces for play/hanging out is interesting.

Figure 3.5 : Gender breakdown of use.



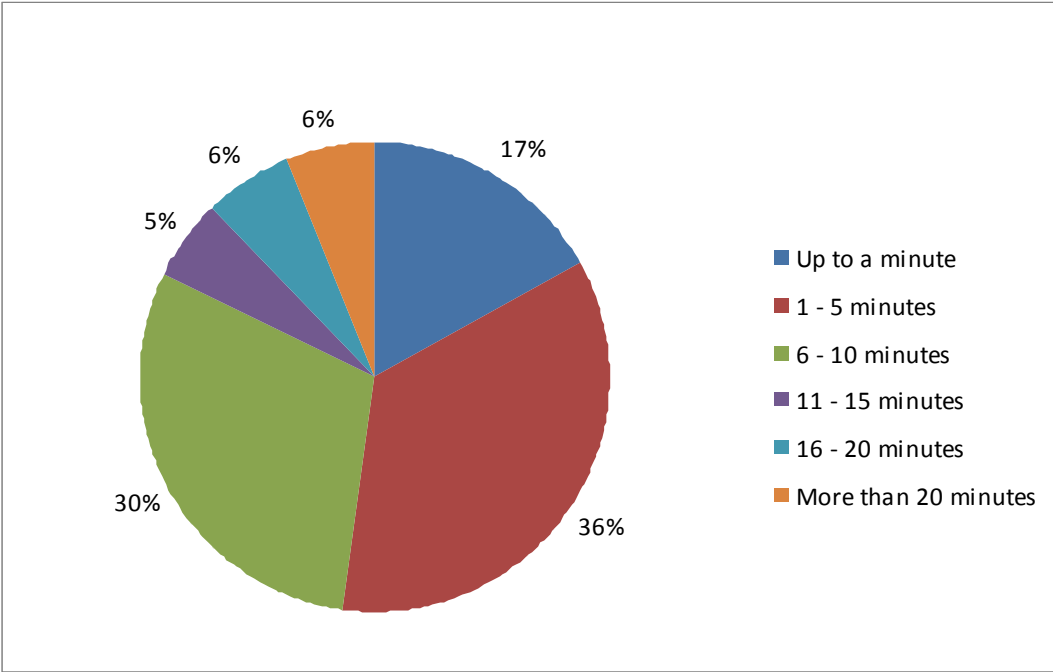
The places that young people play and hang around the most are their garden and their local park or recreation ground. Sports orientated spaces like kickabout, playing fields and wheeled sports facilities are used more by males. The street is used as a place to hang out for around half of young people surveyed.

Access to most used local play/hang out space

Children and young people need to have reasonable access to areas where they can meet and play/hang out within reach of their homes. We therefore asked a number of questions regarding access to their most used public play/hang out space (this excludes their own garden play space).

Young people were asked how long it takes to reach their ***most used*** place to play/hang out:

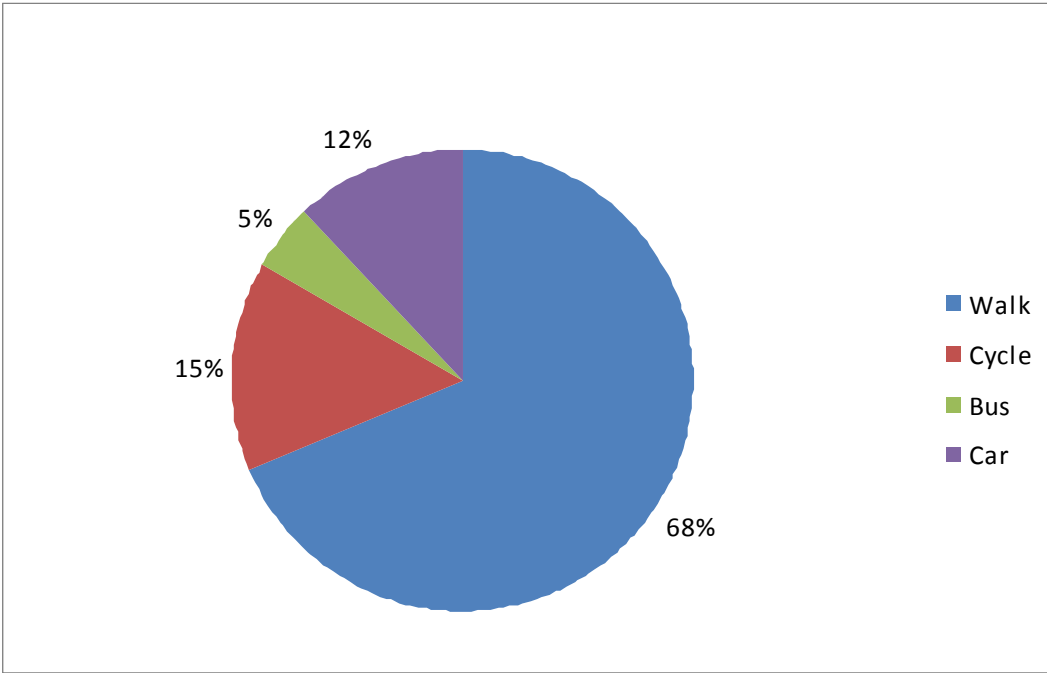
Figure 3.6 : Preparedness to travel



83% of young people travel less than 10 minutes to access their most used space.

Young people were also asked how they normally travel to their most used place.

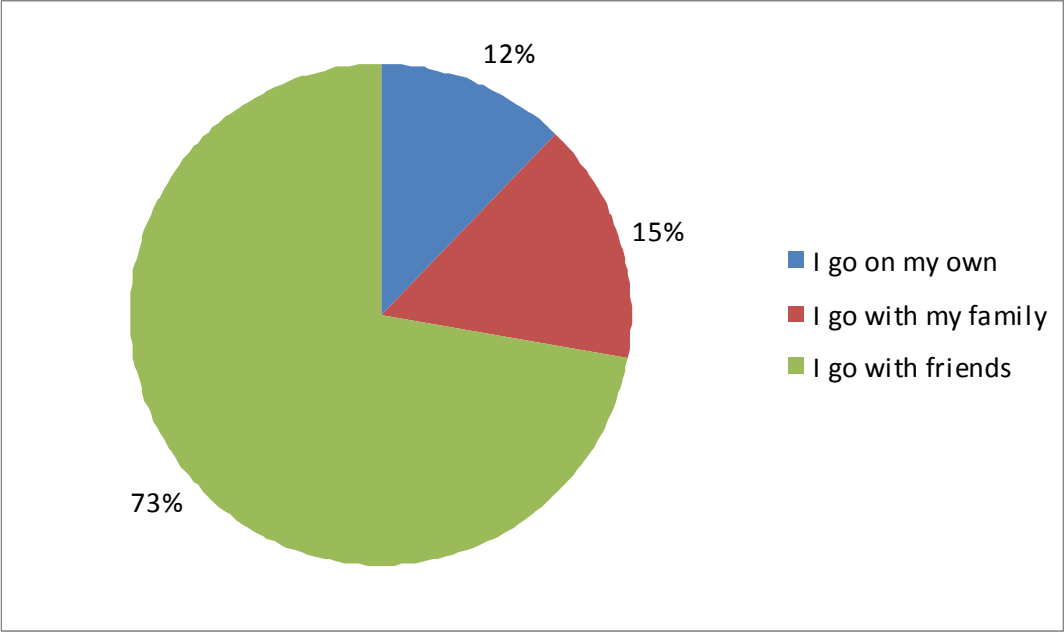
Figure 3.7 : Mode of transport to green space



83% of young people walk or cycle to their most used space to play/hang out

Young people were asked who they normally go with to their most used space.

Figure 3.8 : Use open space with?

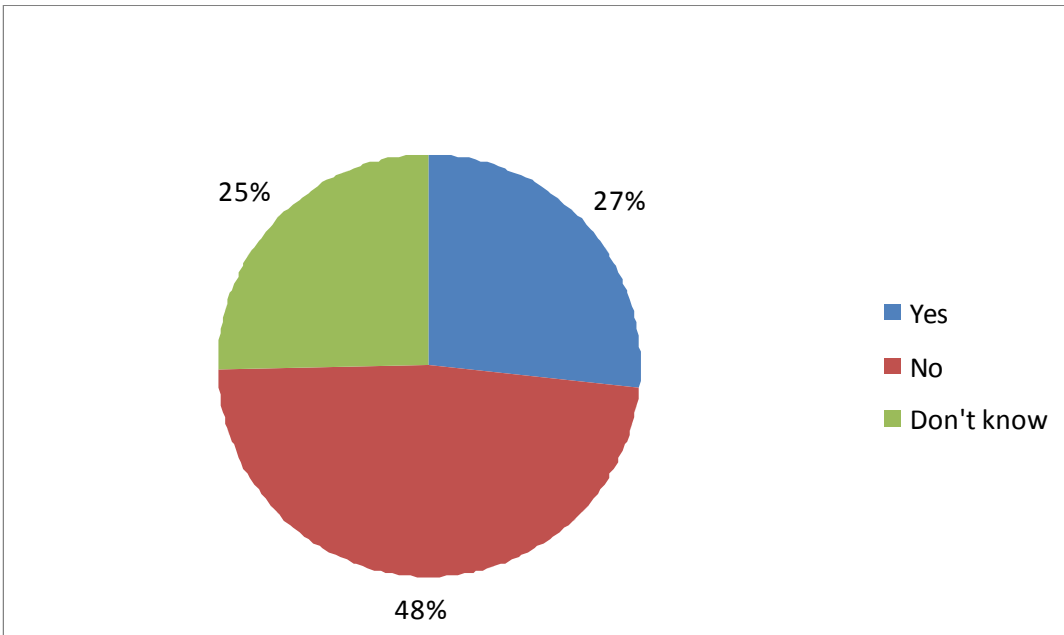


88% of young people travel independently to their most used play/hang out space.

Quantity and quality of play/hang out spaces

Quantity: Young people were asked if they think there are enough places to play or hang out.

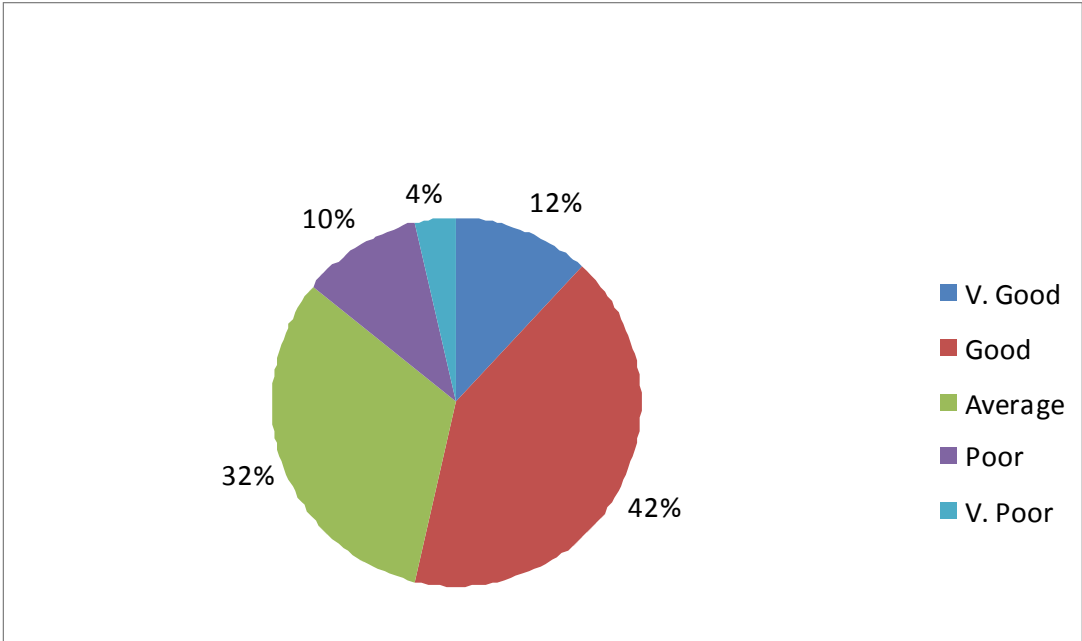
Figure 3.9 : Enough places to hang out?



Of those young people who expressed an opinion 64% thought there were **not** enough places to play or hang out.

Quality of most used space: We asked how good the young people thought the space they used most was.

Figure 3.10 : Quality of most used space



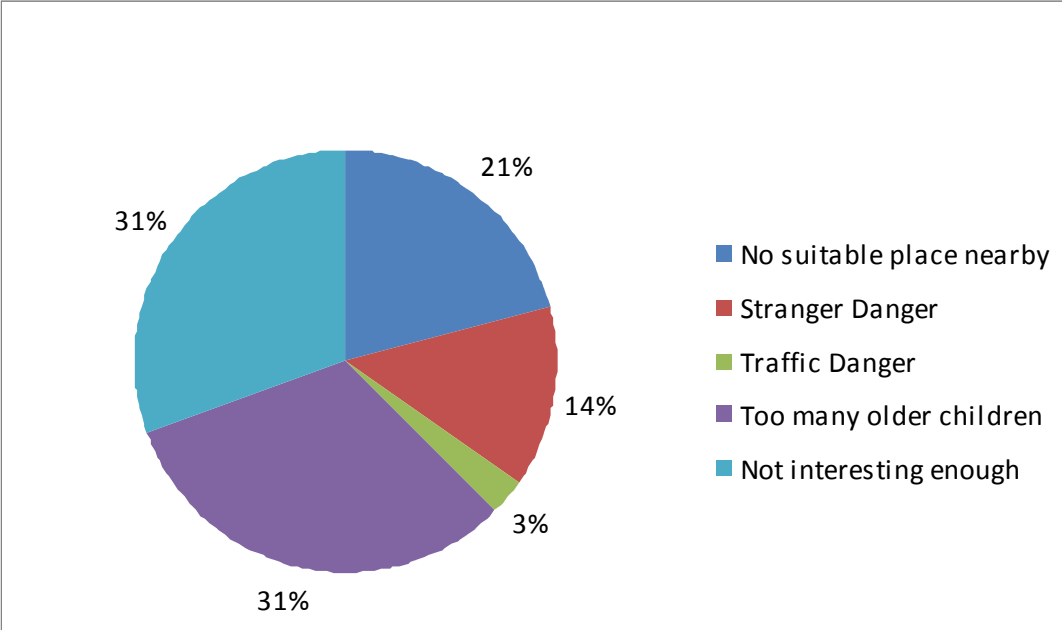
53% of young people rate their most used space as good or very good, with 14% reporting it as poor or very poor. While this might indicate that most young people

are reasonably happy about their local play/hang out space it should also be noted that they may have fairly low expectations as to what is “adequate” and little experience of better quality provision.

Barriers to use of play/hang out space

We asked the young people what the main reasons were for not using local public spaces for play more.

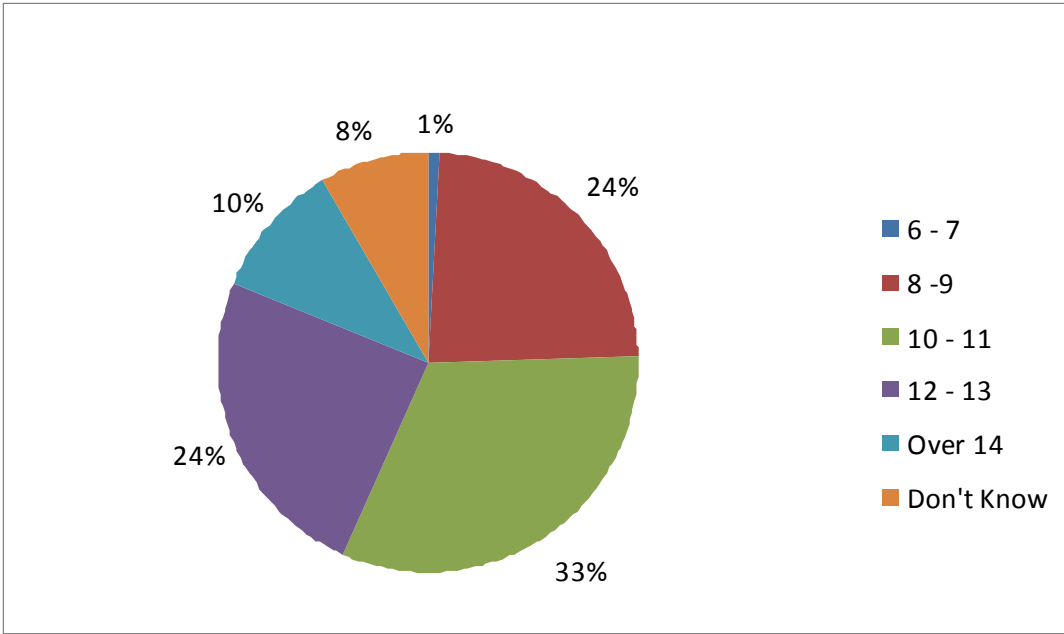
Figure 3.11 : Reason for not using open space



For teenagers the primary reasons for not using local spaces are that they are not interesting enough or that there are too many older children (may be bullied). Stranger and traffic dangers are not so significant.

Young people were asked how old they should be to be allowed to travel to a play area, park or other open space without an adult.

Figure 3.12 : Age to travel to open space

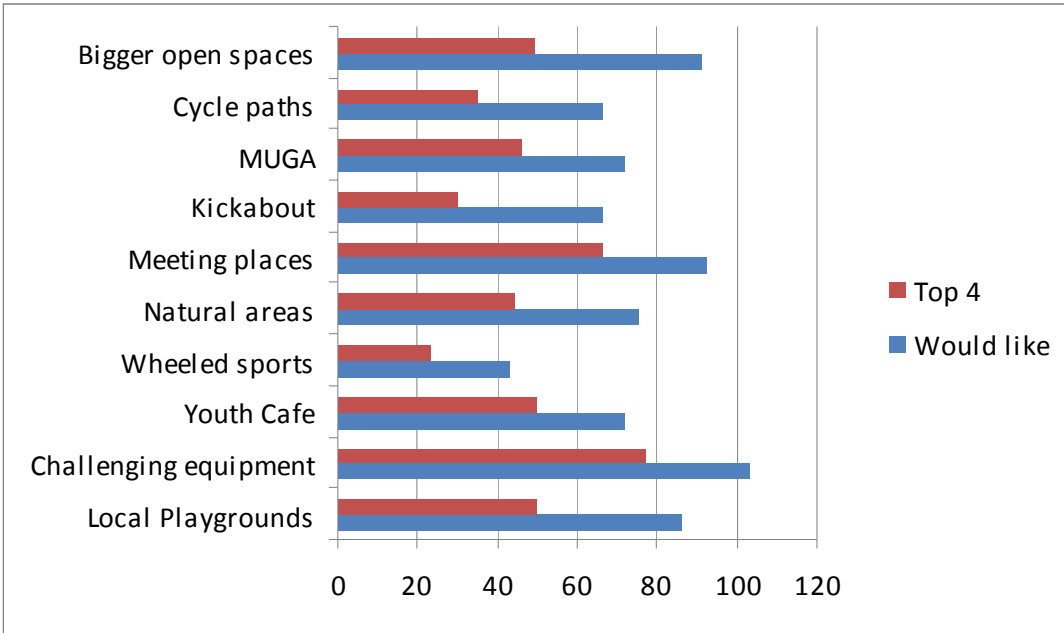


75% of children thought that it was reasonable for children as young as 10-11 to be able to travel alone to a local play/hang out space.

Improvements and priorities

Young people were asked which “open access” outdoor facilities they would like to see more of, or be improved, and to give their top 4 priorities.

Figure 3.13 : Which open spaces there should be more off?



Young people’s top four priorities for improvements are areas with more challenging equipment for teenagers, safe places to meet up and chat with friends, a youth café and traditional equipped playgrounds.

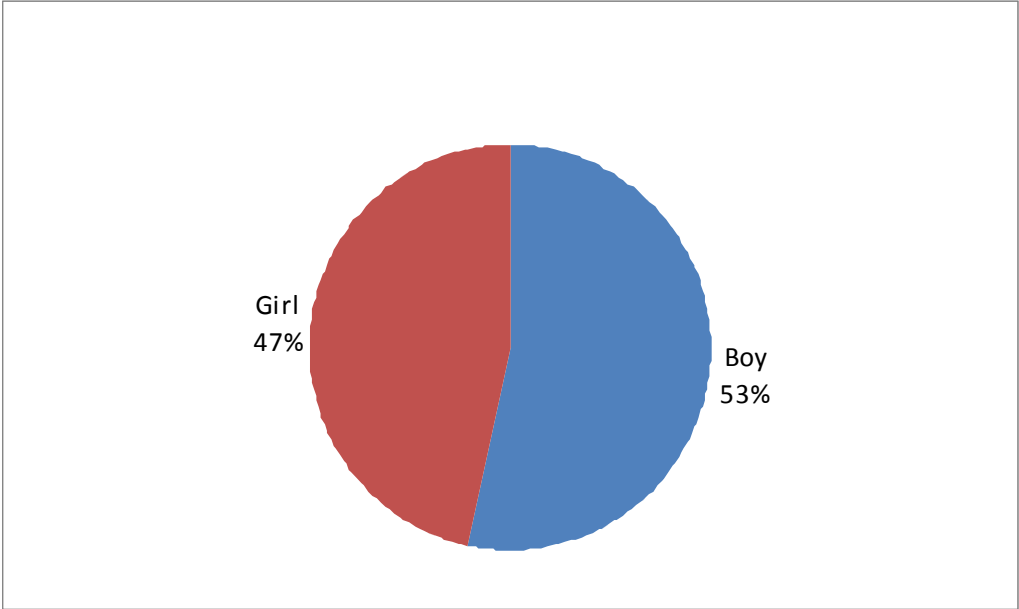
Finally young people were asked if there was anything else they wanted to say about provision for them, comments are included in the appendices.

4.4.2 Children’s survey

Questionnaires were sent to local Primary Schools with a request that children should fill them out during class time. This resulted in the return of 204 forms, ages 7-11, which is a reasonable sample for a Borough of this size. The questionnaire roughly followed the same format as that for teenagers

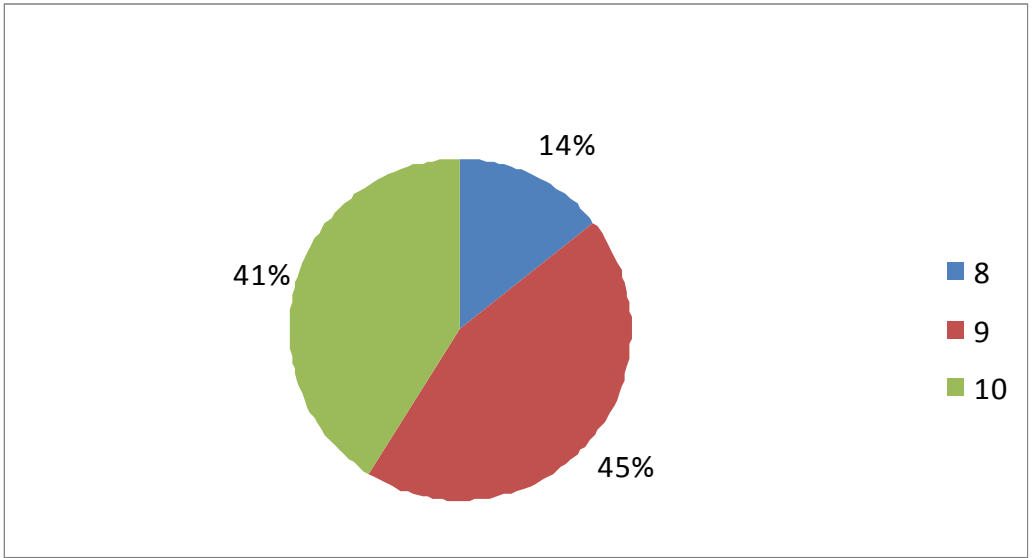
About the respondents

Figure 3.14 : Gender breakdown of respondents



The gender split was fairly even.

Figure 3.15 : Gender breakdown of respondents



The age range was 8-10.

Where children play and hang out

Children were asked where they play or meet with friends and how often.

Figure 3.16 : Where children hang out

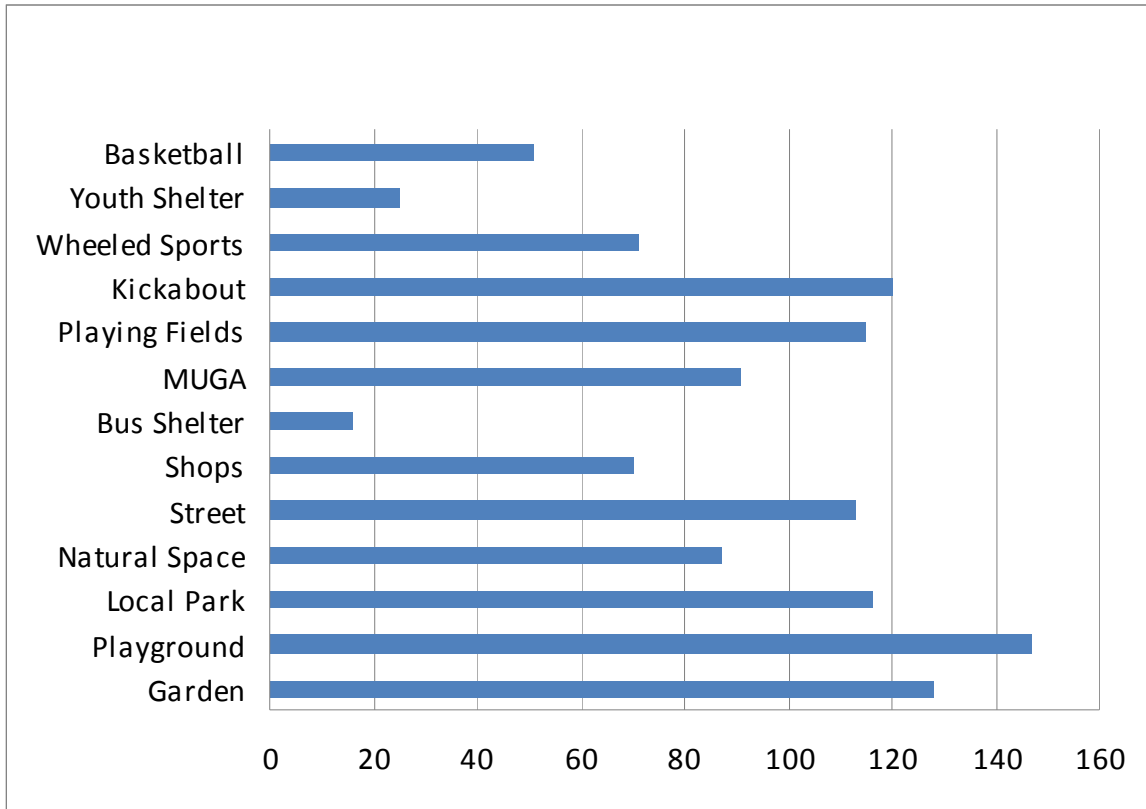
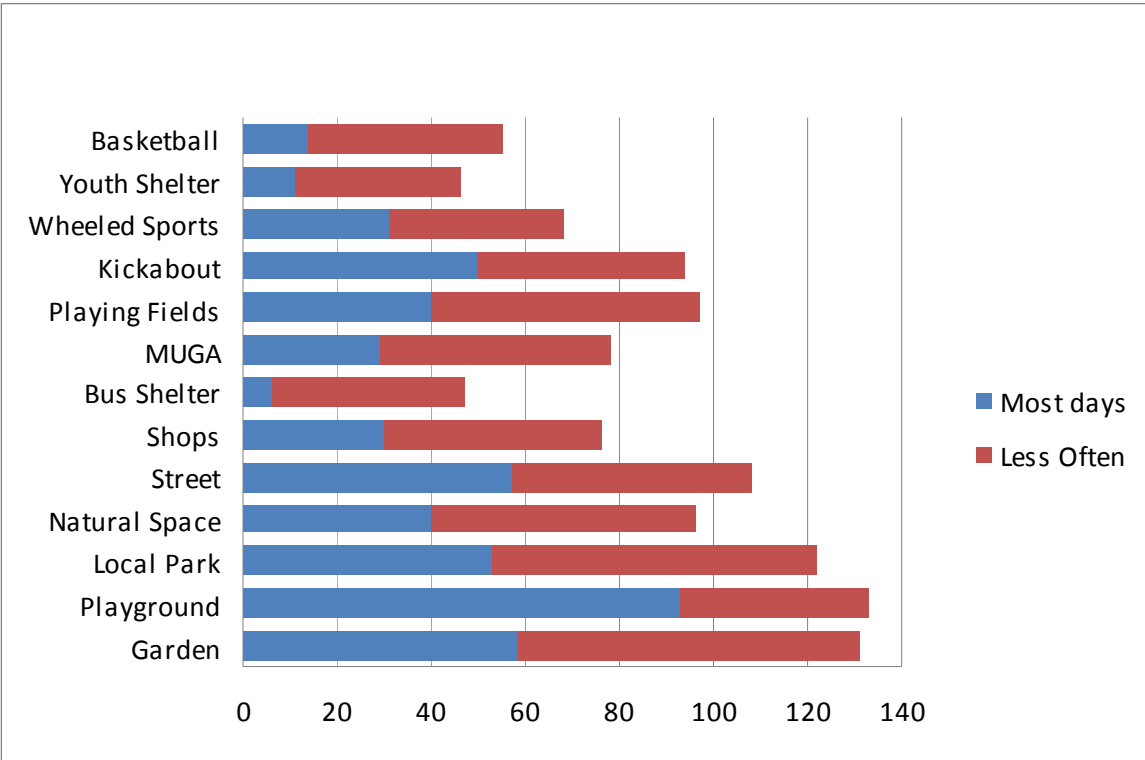
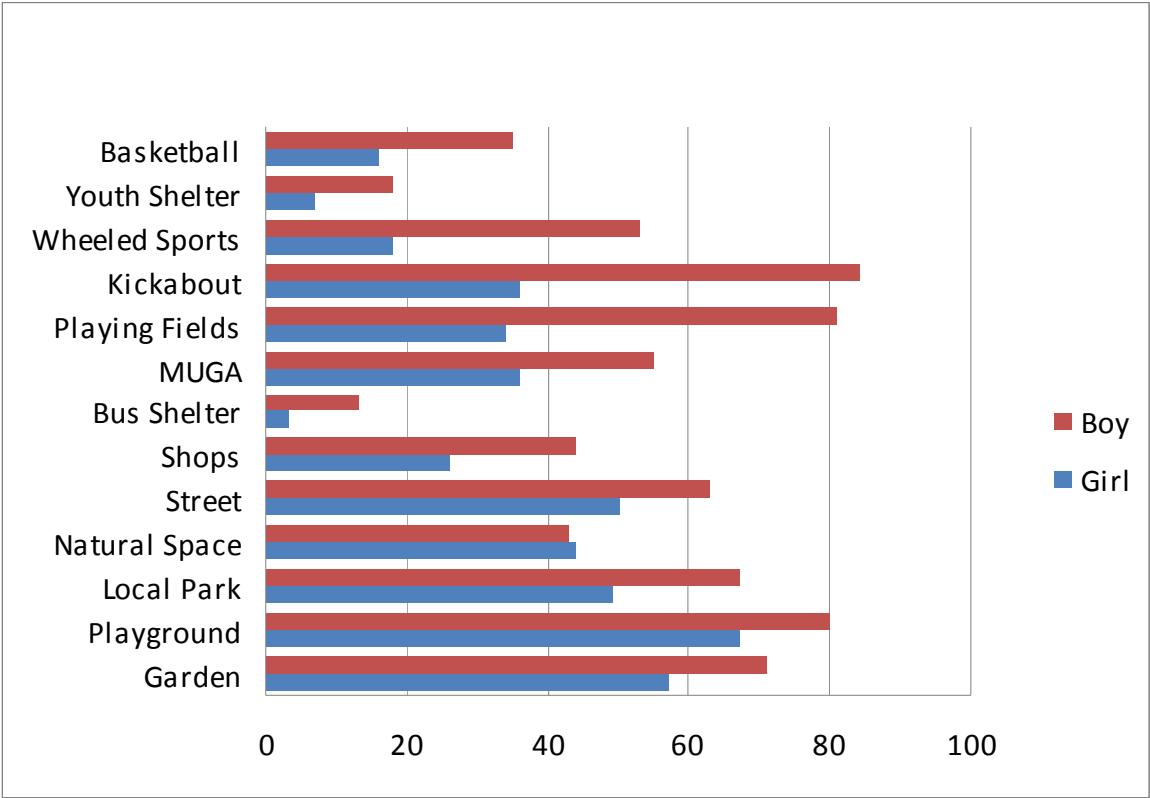


Figure 3.17 : Frequency of use



The gender differences were looked at.

Figure 3.18 : Gender breakdown of respondents

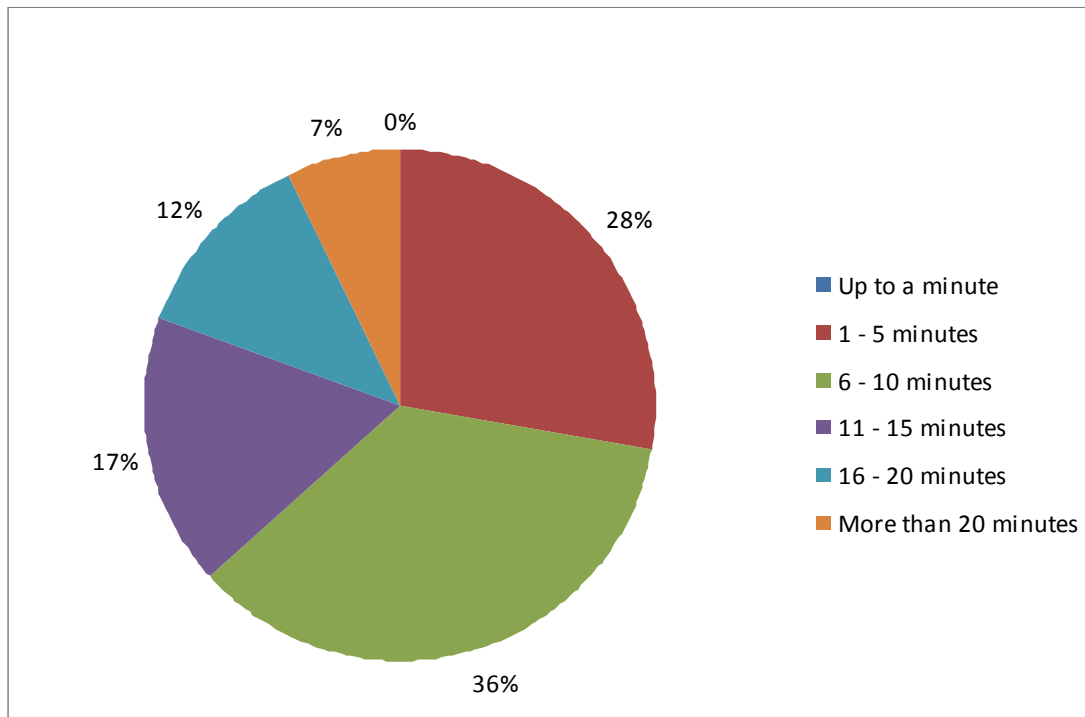


The most popular places for children to play are play areas, with a majority saying they use them most days. Gardens, kickabout areas, playing fields, parks and the street are common venues too. More than 50% of children who play in the street do so most days. Sports orientated venues, like kickabout areas and wheeled sports facilities are more popular with boys.

Access to most used local play/hang out space

Children were asked how long it takes them to reach their most used space.

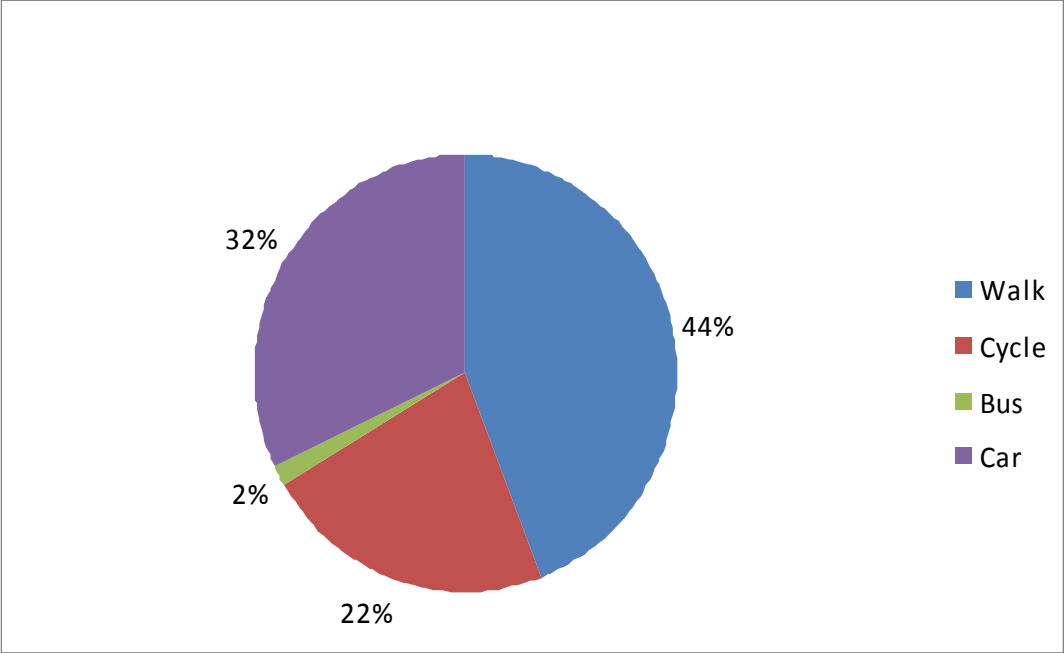
Figure 3.19 : Travel time to most used space



About 72% of children travel under 10 minutes to their most used space and 89% under 15 minutes.

Children were asked how they normally travelled to this space.

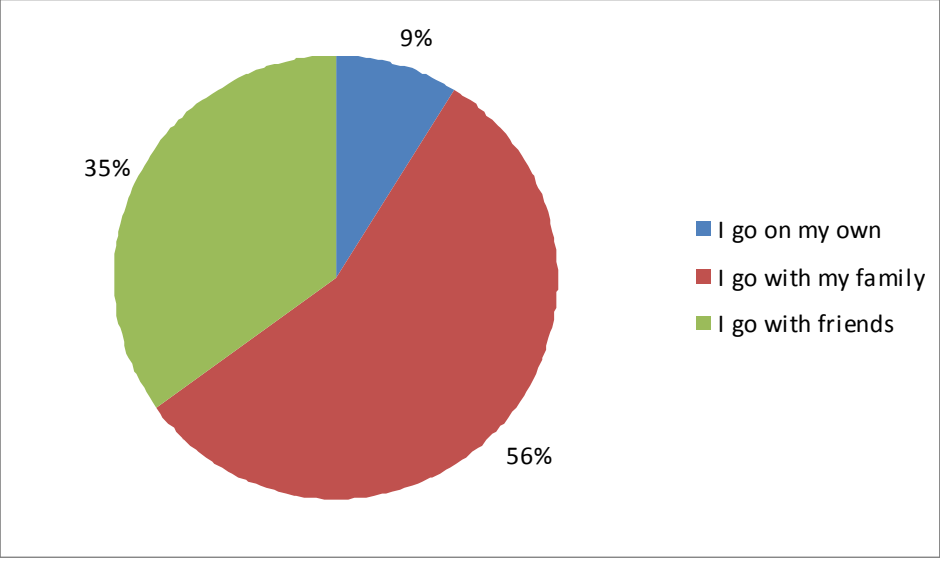
Figure 3.20 : Mode of transport to open space



While 66% walk or cycle, 32% are driven, which is a high proportion for this kind of survey.

Children were asked who they normally go to this space with.

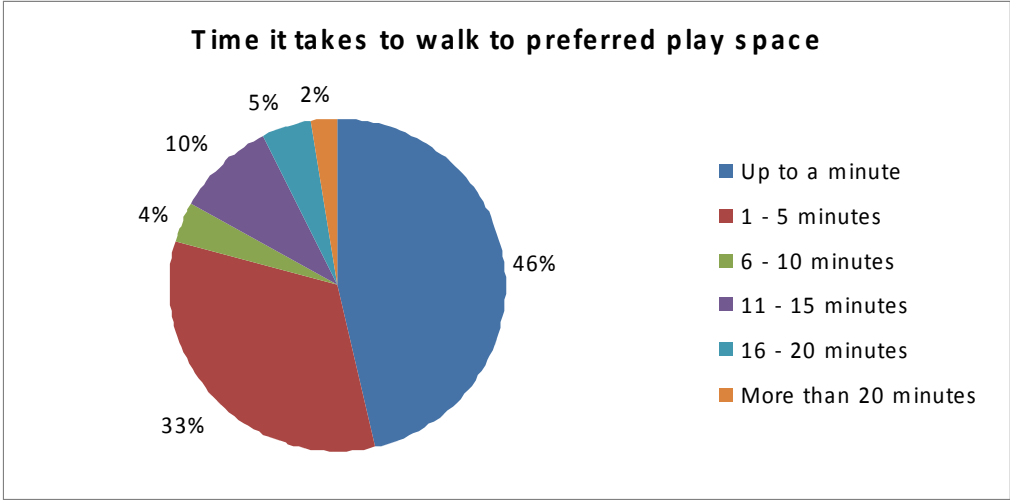
Figure 3.21 : Who do you use open space with?



56% of children travel with their family, 35% go with friends and 9% travel alone to their most-used play space.

Because of the high proportion of children being driven by the family to their most-used space it is important to look specifically at the walk travel times of those children who need to walk to their nearest play space (this is the critical measure in relation to PPG17).

Figure 3.22 : Walking time to preferred play space

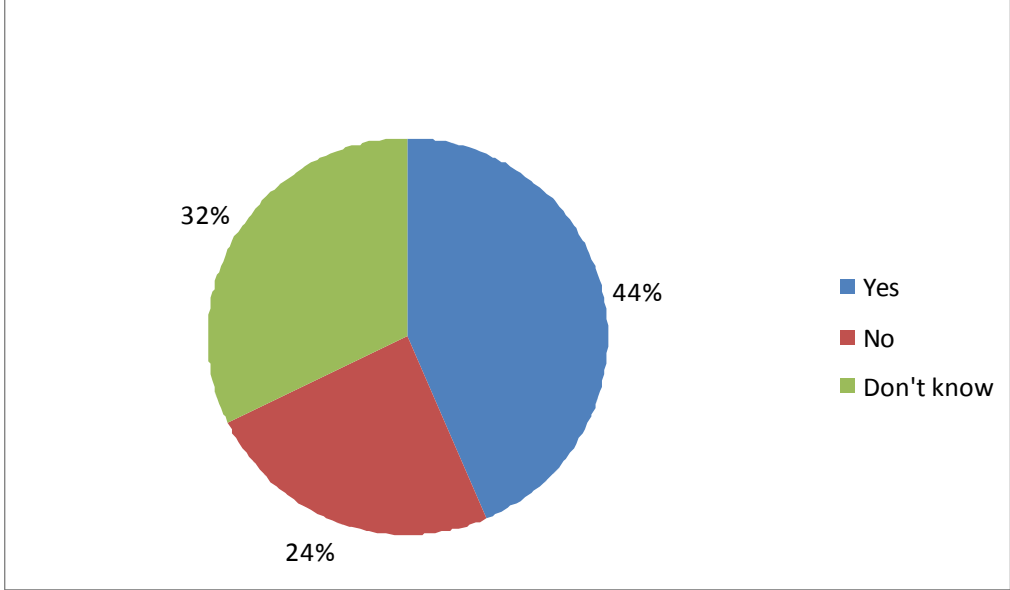


From this it can be seen that 79% of children walk less than 5 minutes to their most-used space for play.

Quantity and quality of play/hang out spaces

Quantity: Children were asked if they think there are enough places to play in their area.

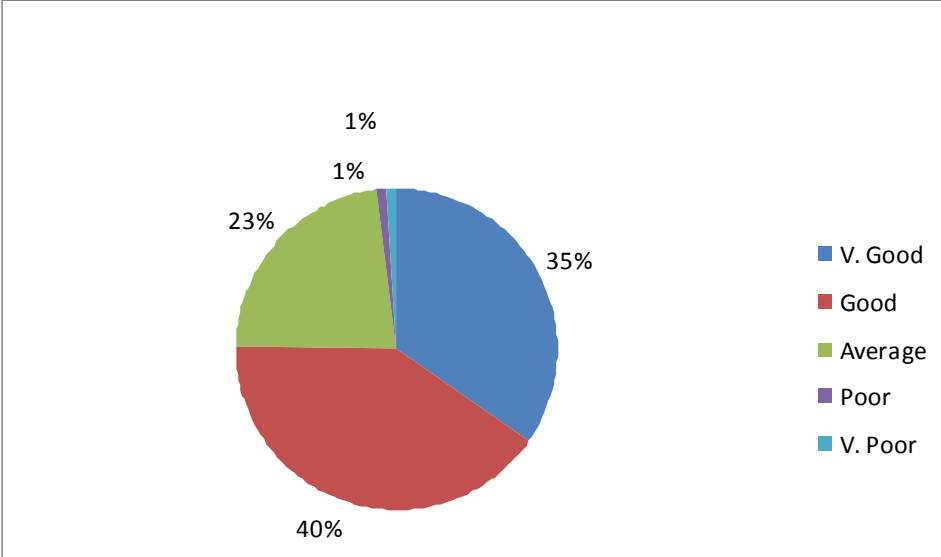
Figure 3.23 : Sufficient play spaces



Of those expressing an opinion nearly 65% think that there are enough play spaces available locally.

Quality: We asked how good the children and young people thought the space they used most was.

Figure 3.24 : Quality of most used space

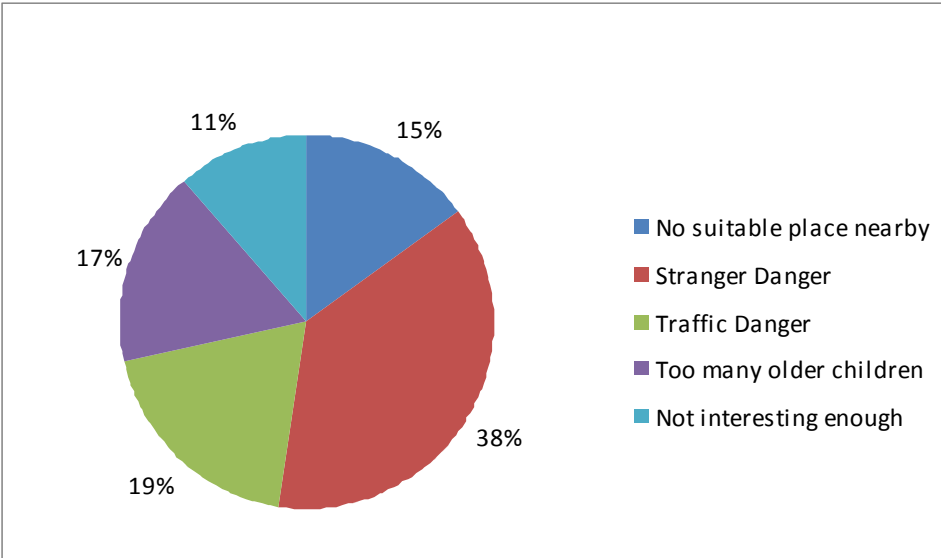


75% of children rate their most used space as good or very good.

Barriers to use of play/hang out space

We asked the children what the main reasons were for not using local public spaces for play more.

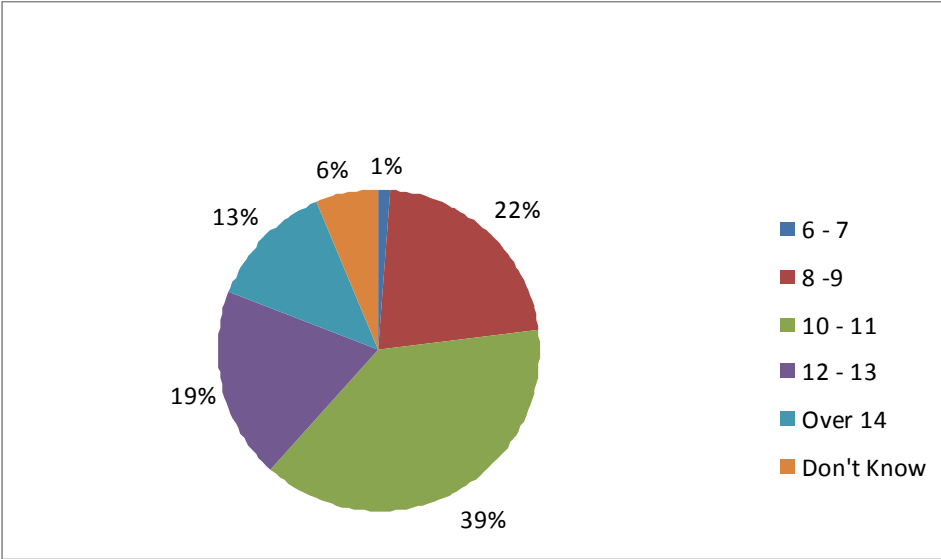
Figure 3.25 : Reason for not using open space



The main things that prevent the majority of children making greater use of their local playground are danger from traffic and lack of permission from parents to go alone, due to so-called 'stranger danger'. Fear of bullying by older children is a barrier for around one in five children.

Children were asked at what age they should be allowed to travel to a play area park or other open space without an adult.

Figure 3.26 : Age to travel to open spaces

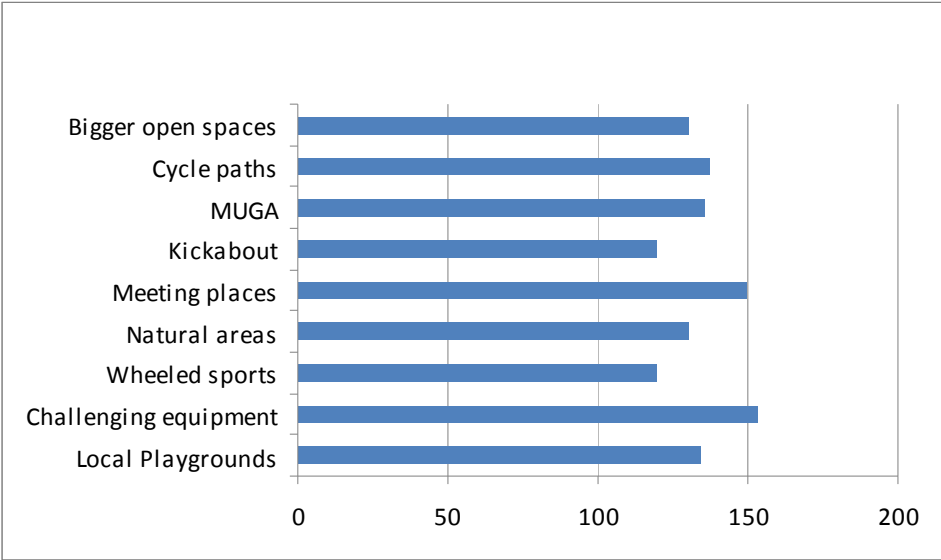


61% think children need to be over ten before they should travel unaccompanied by an adult to their local play area.

Improvements and priorities

Children were asked which “open access” outdoor facilities they would like to see more of, or be improved, and to give their top 4 priorities.

Figure 3.27 : Which spaces should be improved



Most children would like to see improvements to and increases in all kinds of provision, more challenging equipment, wild natural areas, meeting places and multi-use games area are the top four preferences.

Finally children were asked if there was anything else that they wanted to say about provision for them, comments are in the appendices.

4.4.3 Meetings with Youth Services (statutory and voluntary)

Meetings were held with the County Youth Service who organise the *Oadby and Wigston Youth Forum* and the voluntary sector organisation *Re-Active - Young People’s Forum* whose aim is to represent the views of young people in South Wigston and to work with them to improve local services and facilities.

County Youth Service - Oadby and Wigston Youth Forum

We met with the County Council Area Youth Work Co-ordinator Adrian Clifford who is responsible for youth services in the Borough and the Oadby and Wigston Youth Forum. The Youth Forum is a Borough-wide group of young people who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and interest to local young people.

Adrian welcomed the opportunity to feed into the study and highlighted a lack of indoor dedicated youth club space in the Borough, particularly in Oadby. He also pointed out the good work undertaken on the Mobile Youth Bus that was active in the Borough (delivered in partnership with the Borough Council).

The youth service also deliver “detached” youth work in various parts of the Borough and their consultation and engagement with young people has identified a widespread need for outdoor unsupervised youth facilities on public open space including, for example, wheeled sports and youth shelters. Young people that the service engage with reported that they were often moved on from one area to another by residents and sometimes the police and that this was because they had

very few places that were accepted to be “theirs” and where they could legitimately hang out.

Adrian thought that the provision of more youth facilities would reduce the level of perceived “nuisance” and moreover such provision would enable the detached youth workers to meet and engage with young people using those facilities. He emphasised the importance that the delivery of any such provision should involve the active participation of young people in the locality being considered.

Adrian advised that the Youth Forum would be a good place for the Borough Council to consult further with young people on specific ideas for improved youth facilities.

Re-Active - Young People’s Forum

We met with Lyn Noonan who co-ordinates this forum of young people in the South Wigston area. She pointed out that this is one of the most deprived areas of the Borough and there is a great need for facilities for young people. She noted that the area had lost youth club provision over recent years and that such provision was much needed.

Lyn reported that local young people thought that Blaby Road Park was a particularly good site for potential development of both indoor and outdoor provision. There was a strong aspiration for a youth club space to be provided as part of any improvements to the pavilion and she advised that local young people should be involved in any planning of future youth facilities (indoor and outdoor) on site. She highlighted than one specific need that the young people had identified was for improved lighting to allow for extended use of park facilities in the darker evenings.

Lyn reported that the forum was very happy with the support provided by Parks Manager Simon Lucas in relation to improvements that had already been made and wished to continue this successful partnership in relation to future planning.

Many young people locally were keen on sports activity and in this respect Lyn reported that the young people in the area very much appreciated the Borough Council’s delivery of coaching and activity programmes on the parks. She felt that such provision met a clear need and should be developed further. She thought that for local young people informal recreational provision was equally if not more important that informal education and information services.

Lyn also highlighted a need for additional County Youth Service support in relation to part-time youth workers or alternatively funding to enable the Forum to supply and train local youth workers themselves. For any such work it was important for a continuity of staffing to be provided as in her experience building trusting relationships with young people needed a long-term process and commitment.

Key Issues - Children and Young People

General

- As well as public green space the study should consider issues about making streets and public areas more child-friendly.
- Provision for teenagers is thought to be particularly poor.
- Many children and young people think that it is reasonable for under 11 year olds to visit play and youth facilities and services without an adult (suggests a need for safety and security in design, routes to facilities etc).

Young People

- The street is used as a place to hang out for around half of young people surveyed.
- The majority of young people's most used space is walked to either with friends or alone and is under 10 minutes away.
- Around half of young people rate this space as good or better, but the other half say it average or worse.
- Half of young people think there are not enough places to play or hang out and around one in five say there are no suitable places for them nearby.
- Around a third don't go to parks etc at all, or very often, because they are not interesting enough, whereas another third are put off by feeling unsafe due to anti-social behaviour by other young people.
- Young people's top four priorities for improvements are public areas with more challenging equipment for teenagers, safe places to meet up and chat with friends, a youth café and traditional equipped playgrounds.

Children

- The most popular places for children to play are play areas, with a majority saying they use them most days.
- Gardens, kickabout areas, playing fields, parks and the street are common play spaces too.
- 79% of children who walk to their most-used play space (excluding their own garden) do so in under 5 minutes
- While the majority walk or cycle, almost one in three is driven. This is an unusually high proportion.
- The majority of children travel with their family, 35% go with friends and 10% travel on their own.
- Three quarters of children rate their most used space as good or better.
- The main things that prevent the majority of children making greater use of their local playground are danger from traffic and lack of permission from parents to go alone, due to so-called 'stranger danger'.

4.5 Sports clubs consultation

This section contains findings from 2 surveys (pitch and non-pitch sports) and issues raised at a Sport Clubs Focus Group. Much of the survey was aimed at gaining club specific information in relation to the playing pitch study. This section summarise some of the general themes and issues that the survey revealed.

4.5.1 Survey of Pitch Sport Clubs

A general analysis of need for outdoor pitches (football in particular) is currently being conducted using a method endorsed by Sport England, and this will be attached as an Appendix.

Pitches used by respondents:

Pitch	Team
Ridgeway, Oadby, Leics	Gartree High School
Uplands Park, Uplands Rd, Oadby U13-U14; Oakfield Park, Hospital Lane, Oadby & Wigston U11, U1, U16, U17; St John Fisher Primary School - U8, U9; Meadows Primary School, Wigston - U10 and Academy	Wigston Youth Football Club
Oval Park, Wigston Road, Oadby	Oadby Wiggestonian RFC
Pitch 2, Davenport Rd, Leicester	Leicester Echos FC
Willow Park	Wigston United

Where and when clubs normally train:

Location for training	Team
During school week - either on fields or in sports hall	Gartree High School
Outdoors on local parks during summer periods and Guthlaxton College during winter.	Wigston Youth Football Club
Mon, Wed, Thur, and Sun	Oadby Wiggestonian RFC
Various	Wigston United
Weds PM, Manor Rd, Oadby	Leicester Echos FC

Quantity of Provision

Comment	Team
Majority of our teams play at Oakfield Park, Oadby & Wigston due to lack of suitable playing/changing facilities within Oadby and Wigston Borough.	Wigston Youth Football Club
Just due to sheer numbers on Sunday space can sometimes be a problem.	Oadby Wiggestonian RFC
If students want pitch at Manor Rd, they get priority	Leicester Echos FC

The views of the respondents indicate a potential requirement for additional rugby pitches and more (or improved) pitches and changing facilities for football.

Quality of Pitches/facilities and value for money:

Pitch	Gartree High School	Oakfield Park Oadby & Wigston	Oval Park, Pitch 1	Willow Park	Davenport Rd Pitch 2
Drainage	Good	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable
Playing surface	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good	Good
Level/eveness	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Good	Acceptable
Maintenance	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable
Free from litter	Acceptable	Good	Acceptable	Good	Acceptable
Posts and sockets	Acceptable	Good	Good	Acceptable	Good
Grass cover	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good	Good
Showers	Good	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Acceptable
Car parking	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Acceptable
Firmness	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good	Good
Grip	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable
Bounce	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good	Good
Length of grass	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Good	Acceptable
Free from dog fouling	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Acceptable	Good
Line marking	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good
Overall pitch quality	Acceptable	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable
Changing	Acceptable	Poor	Good	Good	Acceptable
Value for money	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Games played last season on main pitch	10	36	30	19	25
Games cancelled due to pitch condition last season	0	2	1	0	1 or 2
Difficulty in accommodating all home matches/expanding?	No	No	Yes - Only 3 pitches means the continual hiring out of off-site pitches which may become a problem if Sunday rugby continues to grow.	No	No

Overall for football and rugby pitch quality is generally deemed to be good or acceptable and similarly with changing facilities (other than for Oakfield Park which is in Oadby & Wigston Borough).

Value for money

- Unusually for this kind of survey the pitches listed are all the first choice of home pitch for all the respondents within the Borough. Apart from the School team the others do not own their pitches and hire them from local authority bodies.
- Of the clubs that lease or hire pitches half of them do not consider that the charges they pay represent value for money.
- Leicester Echos FC specifically say that the pitch they hire from Leicester Schools (Pitch 2 Davenport Rd) is 'too expensive'.

4.5.2 Survey of other (non-pitch) Sport Clubs

About the clubs

- 60% of clubs are affiliated to their sports governing bodies
- 15% of clubs are accredited with a quality standard from their governing body
- 35% of clubs who have not yet achieved Club Mark/Accreditation are interested in working toward this, in the near future
- 45% of club's playing membership has increased over the last 3 years
- 20% of playing membership has decreased over the last 3 years
- 60% of clubs have an active junior sporting section

Teams run by the clubs

Teams	Club
This changes depending on competitions and exams.	Oadby & Wigston Life Saving Club
Senior Men x 2, Senior Women x 2, U18 x2, U18G x 1, U16 x 1, U16G x 1	Leicester Beauchamp Cannons
Men's team (1-6), Ladies team (1-5), Vets teams (Men's/Ladies), Mixed teams (1-3), Winter League teams (Mens/Ladies), Junior teams.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club
5 boys, 3 girls Summer League, National/Country Club League. 2 mixed Winter League teams. Mini red team, mini orange team.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis and Social Club Limited
3 mens, 2 ladies, 1 mixed, 3 vets.	Wigston Tennis Club
2 mens team, 1 ladies team, 3 mixed teams	Glen Magna Badminton Club

Comments on membership trends included:

- All tennis clubs seem to have decreased membership.
- Lack of facilities according to Fudochi Karate Club
- Word of mouth/advertising/reputation

Comments on links with local schools included:

Comment	Club
We run a pony club, also we train 14-16 yr olds during afternoons on school release.	Mere Lane Riding School
We have a School Sport Partnership (SSP) agreement which offers coaching sessions, competition, coach and official education to the SSP cluster schools.	Leicester Beauchamp Cannons
Unable to interest schools only when GCSE for sport and Bronze Medallion is needed.	Oadby & Wigston Life Saving Club
OWBC funds our coach to go into all Oadby Primary schools. Culminates in Tennis Festival at our club. V. Successful.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club
Our coaching team have developed links with some local primary schools.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis and Social Club Limited
Oadby and Wigston - Dance mats	Jinz Ladies Health and Fitness Club
Coaching in local schools	Wigston Tennis Club

Facilities and venues used by clubs- Main venues used:

Facility/venue	Club
Wigston Tennis Club	Wigston Tennis Club
Wigston Pool	Oadby & Wigston Life Saving Club
St. Pauls Church Hall, Hamble Road, Oadby	Fudochi Karate
Parklands Leisure Centre	Parklands Badminton
Oadby Tennis Club - courts and clubhouse.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club
Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club, Leicester Road, Oadby	Oadby (Granville) Tennis and Social Club Limited
Mere Lane, 2 riding arenas.	Mere Lane Riding School
Courts in the sports hall of Beauchamp College, Oadby.	Beauchamp Badminton
Bushloe High School	Glen Magna Badminton Club
Brocks Hill. By the canal and other footpaths.	Voluntary Action for Oadby & Wigston
Beauchamp College, Oadby	Leicester Beauchamp Cannons
Bassett St. Centre	Bassett St Indoor Bowls Club

Other venues used:

Venue	Club
We use indoor facilities at Knighton Indoor Tennis Centre during the winter months for some of our junior training sessions. We hire this at an hourly rate.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis and Social Club Limited
Knighton Tennis Centre (Oct - March) Cafes.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club Voluntary Action for Oadby & Wigston
Beauchamp College	Fudochi Karate

- 15% of clubs own the main facility/venue they use
- 40% of main venues are owned by the Borough Council
- 30% of main venues are owned by School/Education Authority
- 30% lease their main venue
- 40% hire their main venue

Quality of Facilities

The quality ratings of the main facility/venue used by clubs is summarised below:

	<i>Average score (5 = v good, 1 = poor)</i>
Value for money	2.6
Ease of booking/hiring	3.4
General quality of facility	2.9
Changing and shower facilities	2.5
Ease of getting to the facility	3.2
Facilities for the disabled	2.3
Equipment and storage	2.9
Lighting	3.1
Car parking	3.0
General environment	3.2

Most aspects of quality are deemed to be at least adequate (2.5). In general clubs seem to appreciate the ease of booking facilities, ease of getting to the facility, and its general environment. In general, however, clubs think that facilities for the disabled are not adequate.

Needs and Potential Improvements

Improvements clubs would like to see include:

Comment	Club
We will be looking at obtaining planning permission to erect floodlighting on the two courts which do not yet have lighting. We have four floodlit at present. We have a budget plan in place to fund this.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis and Social Club Limited
We have an on-going programme of maintenance and repairs. Possible application for additional floodlighting soon.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club
We are building a new office and training facility. Funded privately.	Mere Lane Riding School
There is no room for resuscitation class. This has to be done in play area.	Oadby & Wigston Life Saving Club
The colour of the walls in the new sports hall (Bushloe High School) is unsuitable for badminton and should be painted a darkish colour.	Glen Magna Badminton Club
The centre requires outside facilities for football which is played inside sports hall thus taking up badminton usage.	Parklands Badminton

4.3.3 Other information (Covering both Pitch and non-pitch sports)

55% of clubs wish to expand their activities and the following were highlighted as barriers to development:

- 8% Shortage of good quality OUTDOOR facilities/resources
- 15% Shortage of good quality INDOOR facilities
- 8% Cost of hiring/using facilities
- 8% Falling membership/shortage of playing members
- 8% Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising)
- 8% Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport)
- 15% Shortage of personnel to run/coach teams and/or administer the club

Other comments on barriers to expansion include:

Comment	Club
We have a very big problem with people to help to: a. Run the club (admin); b. Trainers to teach Bronze medallion and up.	Oadby & Wigston Life Saving Club
This indoor bowls club is used mainly by OAP on a Thursday afternoon. It is more a social gathering than a serious game of bowls.	Bassett St. Indoor Bowls
The colour of the sports hall walls (Bushloe High School).	Glen Magna Badminton Club
Lack of courts to meet demand. Been unable to buy more land - no one interested in selling and we would have to raise funds.	Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club
Insufficient number of courts due to football usage of sports hall.	Parklands Badminton

Priorities for new or improved sports and recreation facilities

Improvements to existing facilities and new resources clubs would most like to see within the Oadby & Wigston area:

- Young people's facilities, South Wigston
- More outdoor football pitches to cater for demand thus freeing up badminton courts.
- Better and cheaper indoor facilities
- Basketball is well represented within the borough
- An indoor tennis facility
- A well maintained cricket pitch.
- Young people's facilities, Wigston

Other comments

Comment	Club
We have recently worked more closely with OWBC and these links have proved beneficial. 1. Funding for primary visits - it is essential this continues if the programme is to roll into 2009; 2. Publicity of tennis locally	Oadby (Granville) Tennis Club
Very disappointed with the lack of facilities at Parklands especially their reluctance for new clubs to open.	Fudochi Karate
The wish list swimming pool with at least 2 pools in the same area with rooms off so we can run resuscitation classes.	Oadby & Wigston Life Saving Club
Is it possible for the Council to provide the Bowls Club at Bassett St. with a new bowls mat. The one we use is wearing out. Once this happens the bowls group will cease.	Bassett St. Indoor Bowls
Planning to add a 'rubber crumb' all weather pitch.	Gartree High School
Continue to maintain Charter Standard award to provide quality football coaching with FA qualified coaches to provide football for youth of Oadby and Wigston Borough in a healthy and safe environment.	Wigston Youth Football Club
Somewhere to store/lock goal posts and balls etc.	Wigston United
We have wanted to improve the changing and shower facilities at Davenport Road. Also want to improve the Road / Drive Access Want to improve Concrete Tennis Courts	Leicester Echos FC

4.3.4 Sports Clubs' Focus Group

On Tuesday 20th May 2008 a consultation event was held at the Council Offices in Wigston for local Sports Clubs. A summary of findings and issues raised is provided below:

Strengths and good aspects of provision

- Good range of activities and facilities for sports across Borough
- Most facilities are well maintained
- Lots of local activities provided by council and local clubs but not always well co-ordinated or publicised.
- Good "stock" of talented coaches in Borough in many sports
- Prices for facilities are generally fairly reasonable - but can be expensive for families and children
- Some clubs developing good web-sites e.g. tennis club
- Plenty of open space overall but not always enough for needs of specific sports

Weaknesses/Room for Improvement

- Shortage of accessible/affordable rugby pitches
- Meadow Sports ground - quality of changing rooms and shortage due to number of teams and need for boys/girls changing.
- Municipal Golf - fees quite high particularly for children
- Council budgets for leisure - small in relation to need and lack of understanding among public as to how they are spent. Are budgets fair re allocation across sports and other activities? Leisure provision should be statutory responsibility for councils.
- Need to open up sports more to diverse ethnic populations (which are growing) in the Borough.
- Swimming - should be more accessible for people with disabilities.
- Need for more opportunities in sport for those who haven't played much sport as children. Have a go type sessions, publicity etc
- Red tape, bureaucracy and regulations are making it hard for clubs to get volunteers
- Getting coaching qualifications is expensive and some people can't afford it
- Need to encourage more girls to play some sports e.g. tennis
- Need help from planners in relation to getting permission for floodlights as required for suitable pitches and courts e.g. tennis and football.
- Orienteering - need more markers for Brocks Hill course to make it suitable for beginners and to vary course. Need more parental involvement to allow children to take part. Need for better transport to access facilities outside of Borough.
- Cricket - shortage of clubs and facilities to encourage more participation
- Should be free access to swimming etc for older people who can't afford it and for children (as there is in some council areas).
- Need better subsidy scheme so that the less well off can participate
- No squash courts in the Borough
- Artificial pitches - available on school and college sites but expensive

Ideas for improvement/priorities

- Better publicity and promotion of activities and facilities that are already available
- Better networking between clubs e.g. to encourage more participation by girls, ethnic minorities etc
- Partnership with Council to create better club web-sites and links with Council web-site
- More "have ago" sessions for different sports - How about a Sports "festival" or "conference" to promote clubs and to provide "taster sessions"? Should be free to participants and for all ages. Link with 2012 promotion?
- More advice and support from councils to clubs e.g. advice on grant applications - feedback on strategic value of club etc.
- Make better use of available open space to meet diverse local needs once results of study are known

4.3.5 Meeting with Oadby Angling

An individual representation was made by the owner of Oadby Angling, a fishing tackle shop on London Road, Oadby on behalf of the local angling community. While local anglers were well served by the Grand Union Canal it was noted that there was a strong local demand for a carp fishery. It was also pointed out that fishing was one of the top participation sports nationally. Future planning it was requested that when possible consideration should be made of the potential for fishing lakes to be provided in relation to recreational provision in developed open space.

Sports Clubs - Key Issues

- Need for additional rugby pitches and more (or improved) pitches and changing facilities for football.
- Pitch quality of existing facilities for football and rugby is generally deemed to be good or acceptable.
- Of the clubs that lease or hire pitches half of them do not consider that the charges they pay represent value for money.
- 45% of the clubs' playing membership has increased over the last 3 years and 60% of clubs have an active junior sporting section
- Most aspects of quality are deemed to be at least adequate by the "non-pitch" sports clubs. In general clubs seem to appreciate the ease of booking facilities, ease of getting to the facility, and its general environment.
- Clubs think that facilities for the disabled are generally not adequate.
- 15% of non-pitch clubs think there is a shortage of good quality affordable *indoor* facilities
- Long-term aspiration for an indoor tennis facility
- Need for new swimming pool with 2 separate pools
- Need for better publicity and promotion of activities and facilities that are already available
- Potential for greater community use of school facilities
- Need to open up sports more to diverse ethnic populations (which are growing) in the Borough
- Cricket - shortage of clubs and decent facilities to encourage more participation
- Need better subsidy scheme so that the less well off can participate in sport and swimming
- Local demand for additional ponds/lakes for coarse fishing

4.5 Schools survey

The survey of schools was made primarily to establish open space, sport and recreation facilities on schools sites and hence to assist with the audit. Questionnaires were sent to all schools in the Borough. In relation to the assessment of local need we did however secure some useful data regarding the need for community use of school facilities and the needs for schools. These findings are summarised below.

Current Community use of school facilities

Name of club/ group	Facility used	School	Approximate frequency and time/day of use
Yoga Group	Hall	Woodland Grange Primary	Tuesday 6:30-8:00
Wigston Youth F.C.	Field	St John Fisher Catholic Primary	Sun am weekly
Sport4schools	Yard	Launde Primary	Once a week for 1 hour
Oadby Owls F.C.	Sports Hall	Gartree High School	Tues-Thurs 5:30-10p.m.
Oadby & Wigston B.C.	2nd hall	Parkland Primary	45 mins 1 x week
Mick Gannons Karate	Hall	Fairfield Community. School	Tues 3:30 - 4:30
Let out to a variety of groups including:	Sports Hall; Dance Hall	South Wigston High School	Mon - Thurs 7 - 10pm
Leicestershire Autism Group (?)	Soft Play	Birkett House Community School	1 per month
Kick boxing	Hall	Langmoor Primary	Once a week
Karate	School Hall	Glenmore Primary	2 evenings/week
Football	Field	All Saints Church of England Primary	Sunday
Dance	Both halls	Meadow Community Primary School	Evenings/Saturday
Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness	Hall	Bushloe Primary	x 1 a week evening; x 1 a week evening
After School Clubs	Frequently used	Brocks Hill Primary	After school

40% of schools have some kind of formal dual-use arrangement in relation to the facilities they make available to the local community and 65% of school's intend to maintain access for the community to its facilities at peak times (i.e. evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next 2 or more years.

Unmet demand for Community Use

40% of schools have requests from outside groups/clubs for the use of facilities which they were unable to accommodate. Specific examples are noted below:

Request from groups	School
Weddings; Archery	Bushloe Primary
Sometimes/use for parties.	All Saints Church of England Primary
Scouts and Youth Groups (Have facility but need renovation)	Langmoor Primary
Occasionally we get requests from Martial Arts groups which the governors do not want to accommodate.	Little Hill Primary
No record - occasional telephone contact re: parties and weddings - not available.	Brocks Hill Primary
Karate - Wed Evening use of sports hall. Football training - misc. Groups - sports hall (school holidays, evenings)	Gartree High School
Football teams wishing to hire pitches at the weekend. We trialled this but it threw up too many difficulties.	South Wigston High School

Current capacity for increased community use

Only 20% of schools said they had any 'spare capacity' (i.e. times when the facilities are not being used) when they would be happy for additional outside use to take place. Examples are provided below:

Spare Capacity - available times	School
Poss. Thursday evening.	Glenmore Primary
Hall - Wed evenings 6-10	Launde Primary
Community Wing - Thursday P.M. Monday, Thursday, Friday Evening.	Langmoor Primary
Any of halls available on certain days. Playing fields on certain days.	Fairfield Community School

Sport/activity within schools

The following schools highlighted particular sports/active recreation school that they wished to concentrate on, or to specialise in the development of:

Sport/activity	School
Swimming. Would like to use Wigston Pool to extend our more able swimmers. Our pool is limited!	Parkland Primary School
Sports offered - Football, Kwik Cricket, Athletics. Rounders and gymnastics throughout Key Stage 2.	St John Fisher Catholic Primary
Netball	Bushloe Primary

Netball/Football	Fairfield Community School
Football/Tag Rugby/Netball/Basketball/Cross Country	Little Hill Primary
Football, Tag Rugby, Basketball, Cricket, Tennis and Athletics	Brocks Hill Primary
Basketball	Glenmore Primary

School/Club links

Some schools had good links with local sports/recreation clubs for, for example, via coaching or training sessions as indicated below:

Links	School
Yes through School Sports Co-ordinator	Langmoor Primary
Yes - School Sports Partnership Oadby	Brocks Hill Primary
Wigston Youth F.C. - coach provides Years 3 and 4 football training every Wednesday.	St John Fisher Catholic Primary
Various sports coaches who do short courses at different parts of the year.	Woodland Grange Primary
Through the South Wigston School Sports Partnership, South Leicester Rugby Club, S.L. Hockey Club, Oadby Cub Athletics. LCFC football coaching.	Fairfield Community Primary
Oadby Owls - football training evenings/weekends. Leics Badminton - training after school.	Gartree High School
Multi-sports club held on Tuesday evenings at South Wigston High School.	Birkett House Community School
Knighton Netball Club	Bushloe Primary
Get Doing Sports Coaching	All Saints Church of England
Basketball coach	Glenmore Primary
Badminton coaching occasionally. Also, various dance groups. Short Tennis coaching occasionally.	Little Hill Primary
Arranged through Oadby & Wigston Sports Partnership.	Meadow Community Primary School

Potential Improvements/new facilities

79% of schools reported that they wished to make improvements to, or develop additional sports/recreation facilities. Details of desired improvements were:

Potential Improvement	School
We would love an all weather surface for hockey/football use mainly but could be used for other sports. No, we have no funding or plans for one at this stage.	South Wigston High School
We have been looking into outdoor changing facilities but have not found appropriate funding.	Glenmore Primary
Tarmac area on field not complete with markings.	Brocks Hill Primary
Raising money to include multi-sensory equipment	Birkett House Community

in the pool.	School
More playing fields. Dance studio. No plans at present.	Bushloe Primary
Long jump pit.	Gartree High School
Athletics pitches and tracks. General improvement needed to sports field as it has poor drainage and is flooded in poor weather during the winter months.	Little Hill Primary
All weather pitch/surface.	Meadow Community Primary School
Adventure trail is being planned and designed by OWBC to be located in school grounds.	Parkland Primary School
A sports hall would be great!	Launde Primary
A field that drains would be an advantage but too costly to address.	Woodland Grange Primary

Schools - Key Issues

- 40% of schools have some kind of formal dual-use arrangement in relation to the facilities they make available to the local community and 65% of schools intend to maintain access for the community to their facilities at peak times (i.e. evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next 2 or more years.
- 40% of schools have had requests from outside groups/clubs for the use of facilities which they were unable to accommodate
- Only 20% of schools said they had any 'spare capacity' (i.e. times when the facilities are not being used) when they would be happy for additional outside use to take place
- Some schools had good links with local sports/recreation clubs for, for example, via coaching or training sessions
- 79% of schools reported that they wished to make improvements to, or develop additional sports/recreation facilities
- The majority of schools are prepared to allow for community use of their facilities but many highlight that to do so properly additional investment is needed to provide good quality facilities suitable for community use.