HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

APPEAL BY

MATTHEW SCOTT

AGAINST THE REFUSAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION

FOR ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING HOUSE

AT 21 ADRIAN DRIVE, BARWELL

HBBC REFERENCE

08/00963/FUL

THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE

APP/K2420/A/08/2091552/WF

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This statement is a written submission in support of the decision by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to refuse planning permission for the erection of a dwelling on land adjacent to 21 Adrian Drive, Barwell, Leicestershire (Planning Application reference number 08/00963/FUL). It should be read in conjunction with the information previously supplied as part of the attachments to the Appeal Questionnaire.

1.2 Adrian Drive is a 1970's residential development comprising mainly semi-detached properties set back from the highway behind front gardens with grassed lawns and driveways. Number 21 is located on the western corner of the junction between Adrian Drive and Glyn Close, with a garage and off street parking located adjacent to the boundary with number 19 Adrian Drive. The application site consists of the grassed area to the south of the 21 Adrian Drive and includes the existing vehicle access and garage.

2.0 Site History

2.1 There is no relevant planning history.

3.0The Development Plan Policies

3.1 At the national level the relevant Planning Policy Statements are:

- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1 Delivering Sustainable Development sets out the overarching planning policies on delivering sustainable development through the planning system.

- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3- Housing – gives guidance on the Governments delivery of high quality housing.

3.2 The Development Plan for the purposes of this appeal is the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan (adopted February 2001).

3.3 Policy BE1 of the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan – Design and Siting of Development – states that the Borough Council will support development that

compliments or enhances the character of the surrounding area with regard to the scale, layout, mass and design and seeks to avoid the loss of open spaces which contribute to the character of the local area.

3.4 Policy RES5 allows new residential dwellings within the settlement boundary providing the proposal complies with other policies within the Local Plan.

3.5 Policy REC3 seeks to provide play and open space within a walking distance of every child's home and seeks new residential development to provide or contribute towards local provision.

3.6 Policy IPM1 seeks contributions towards the provision of infrastructure and facilities.

3.7 Supplementary Planning Guidance on New Residential Development provides guidance on the standards of density, design, layout and separation Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council expect to see applied to new residential development.

3.8 Guidance on the development contributions for play and open space and how they area calculated is contained within Supplementary Planning Document 'Play and Open Space.

3.9 Full copies of the relevant local development plan policies and explanatory text together with the Council's adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance on New Residential Development have been included in the Appeal Questionnaire.

4.0 The Local Planning Authorities Case

4.1 The Council refused to grant planning permission for this development for the following reasons:

1 In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the proposed dwelling by virtue of its siting and size would be out of character with other development in the vicinity and would therefore result in an incongruous and dominant form of development contrary to Policy BE1 of the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.

2 In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, the lack of any definitive financial contribution to address the increase in pressure placed on the existing play and open

space by the proposed development would not accord with circular 5/05, Policy IMP1 and Policy REC3 of the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan, and the Borough Council's Supplementary Planning Document on Play and Open Space Developer Contributions (September 2008).

4.2 The character of Adrian Drive is considered to derive from the regular pattern of semi-detached house and the degree of set back from the highway. This creates an open, bright cul-de-sac. The proposed dwelling would be located one metre from the back edge of the highway on a prominent corner location within the streetscene and bears no relation to the existing urban grain. It is therefore considered that this would result in an incongruous and dominant from of development within the streetscene, exacerbated by the line of Adrian Drive to the north west of the site.

4.3 Planning Policy Statements 1 and 3, paragraphs 13 and 34 respectively make reference to the importance of design in delivering good quality development and appropriate design in the context of the surrounding area. At the local level this is amplified within Policy BE1 of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan which allows development the compliments or enhances the character of the surrounding area. It is considered for the reasons stated above that the proposal does not fulfil this requirement and is therefore contrary to Policy BE1 and does not follow national guidelines.

5.0 Comments on the Grounds of Appeal

5.1 The appellant has gone into considerable depth with regard to the grounds of appeal and particularly detailed argument about the supposed inconsistencies of the reasons for refusal of the application. This has been done by attempting to disassociate the various aspects of what constitutes acceptable development on the appeal site without addressing the key objection to the scheme in respect of size and particularly siting.

5.2 The Local Planning Authority are fully aware of recent changes in National Guidance with regard to innovative and sustainable development but believe that this should not be at the expense of good quality design and layout which should be sympathetic to the character and appearance of the area in which the new development is proposed and also a fundamental part of Government Guidance. The appeal proposal does not respect the form of existing development and represents a classic example of 'cramming' to the detriment of the wider visual appearance of the area.

5.3 Deletion of the porch from the scheme; as indicated in Appendix II of the appellants statement, has little or no effect on the bulk and proximity of the proposal development to Adrian Drive. The appeal proposal will introduce a two storey property much closer to the highway than any other dwelling in the vicinity and in a particularly prominent corner location. The presence of a 1.8 m boundary fence and ephemeral vegetation on this corner has no relevant to the un-acceptability of a dominant two storey house in this position.

5.4 The appellant then cites the amount of development if a two storey extension is applied for rather than a separate dwelling and considers that the mass would be comparable. If an application were to be submitted, it would be assessed on its merits. However Supplementary Planning Guidance on House Extensions, advises amongst other things that extensions should respect the scale and character of the existing dwelling, must be subordinate to ensure it is in visual harmony and in the case of side extensions they must not exceed half the width of the existing house. A full copy of this guidance is attached as appendix B. Given the above it is considered that a side extension of a scale similar to that of the proposed dwelling would not be likely to receive planning permission because of its similar impact on the appearance and character of the street at this point.

5.5 With regard to the contributions towards the maintenance of play and open space, policy justification was submitted with the appeal questionnaire. The Kirkby Road Recreation Ground is located within the 400m of the proposed dwelling resulting in occupiers of the property using these facilities. This recreational site has been given a score of 64.1% within the Open Space Quality Audit 2004 document (relevant extracts attached as appendix C). The Quality Audit has then been incorporated into the Green Space Strategy adopted October 2005 which seeks for all neighbourhood parks to have a quality score of 65% or more by 2010. Whilst Kirkby Road is close to this objective, contribution by properties most likely to use the facilities is required to ensure this standard is maintained. It is therefore considered that the Local Planning has sufficient grounds on which to justify a financial contribution in this instance.

5.6 In the opinion of the LPA, the appellant has failed to provide details of any other special circumstances or relevant material considerations in the grounds of appeal to justify the proposal.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires applications for planning permissions and appeals to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan for the area unless material considerations indicate otherwise. There is an up to date Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Guidance on New Residential Development and Play and Open Space Developer Contributions which have been based on sound audits. The proposed single dwelling is considered to result in development that is out of character with the area of Adrian Drive resulting in a prominent and incongruous feature within the streetscene. This is considered contrary to Development Plan Policies and the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on New Residential Development.

6.2 In the view of the Local Planning Authority, the appellant has not been able to demonstrate that there are other material considerations that indicate that the appeal proposal should be determined otherwise than in accordance with the adopted Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance. On the basis of the information contained in this written statement and to previous information attached to the Appeal Questionnaire the Local Planning Authority respectfully requests that the appeal be dismissed.

5.3 If the Inspector were minded to approve the appeal the Local Planning Authority would request the inclusion of the conditions itemised in Appendix A.

Appendix A- Suggested Conditions

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with the requirements of Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. Before any development commences, representative samples of the types and colours of materials to be used on the external elevations of the proposed dwelling shall be deposited with and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and the scheme shall be implemented in accordance with those approved materials.

Reason: To ensure that the development has a satisfactory external appearance to accord with policy BE1 of the adopted Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan.

3. Before any development commences the access and parking shown on drawing number 08890-03-SK01 shall be provided.

Reason: To ensure that adequate off street parking is provided in the interests of road safety and in accordance with Policy BE1 of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan.

4. The development hereby permitted shall not commence before the provision and maintenance of off-site open space or facilities whether by off-site physical provision or financial contributions as required in accordance with policy REC3 of the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan and the approved Play and Open Space Guide has been secured in such a manner as is approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the provision of adequate play and open space within the vicinity of the site in accordance with policy REC3.

Note To applicant

Condition 4 of the application relates to play and open space contribution. In this instance a contribution of £1,250.80 is required towards the provision and maintenance of off-site play and open space.

Appendix B

AMANDA

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH

BOROUGH COUNCIL



SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

Revised July 1997

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

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SECTION 1B

HOUSE EXTENSIONS

HOUSE EXTENSIONS

14. INTRODUCTION

14.1. The purpose of this guidance note is to advise householders and their agents of the revised guidance for house extensions which was adopted by the Council in April 1996. It also outlines the limitations which apply in cases where planning permission is not required because extensions fall within "permitted development"

15. EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING DWELLINGS

15.1. This leaflet is therefore intended to encourage good design in respect of new house extensions and to advise applicants of the general principles that will be followed when any applications for planning permission are considered.

15.2. It is not intended to limit imaginative or innovative design and each application for planning permission will be judged on its merits.

16. WHEN IS PLANNING PERMISSION REQUIRED?

16.1. A new extension to a house will not require planning permission if it is considered to be "permitted development".

17. LIMITS OF PERMITTED EXTENSIONS

17.1. The permitted development rights relating to dwelling houses which are most frequently used consist of:

A Terraced houses and houses in conservation areas can be extended by up to 50 cubic metres or 10% subject to a limit of 115 cubic metres (measured externally).

B Non-terraced houses can be extended by up to 70 cubic metres or 15% subject to a limit of 115 cubic metres (measured externally).

These permitted development allowances will apply subject to the following circumstances:

- where no part of the extension fronting the highway projects beyond the front part of the house as originally constructed.

- where the height of the extension is no higher than that of the roof of the house.

- where no part of the extension, within 2 metres of the boundary exceeds 4 metres in height.

- where the extension does not cover more than 50% of the garden.

C Porches with under 3 square metres of floor area (measured externally), under 3 metres in height and not within 2 metres of the highway boundary.

D Garages more than 5 metres from the house, not extending in front of the house and with a pitched roof ridge height under 4 metres or 3 metres in any other case.

E Roof alterations are permitted which do not:

- exceed the height of the existing roof

- extend beyond the plane of an existing roof slope facing the highway

- increase the size of the house by more than 40 cubic metres for a terraced house or 50 cubic metres for other houses.

17.2. The permitted development allowance is excluded for Listed Buildings or where they have been removed by a previous planning permission.

18. WHEN PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED

18.1. When an application is received for an extension, the Council must consider the impact that the extension will have on the neighbourhood. It is recognised that sensitivity and care must be encouraged to ensure the massing, scale and design complement the existing built environment and protect the amenity of adjacent occupants.

18.2. The principles outlined below will be used to assess these applications although each case will be considered on its merits.

19. GENERAL PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO ALL EXTENSIONS

19.1. The extension should respect the scale and character of the existing dwelling and street scene and should not overwhelm the existing house or neighbouring properties.

- A new extension must be subordinate in size to the existing house to ensure it will be in visual harmony.

  - The roof of the extension should reflect the main house. In particular a two storey extension to a house with a pitched roof should have an extension with a similar roof form and normally so should single storey extensions.

  - The ridge and eaves line of the extension must be level or lower than the ridge and eaves line of the original house.

19.2. Extensions should retain adequate parking within the curtilage of the property to meet the Council's adopted standards. This will require the provision of spaces 5 metres in length by 2.5 metres in width for parking a car.

  - Where an extension increases the number of bedrooms in a dwelling, unless material considerations indicate otherwise, the Authority will normally expect a minimum of 2 car spaces to be provided.

  - Dwellings with 3 or less bedrooms must have 2 car spaces.

  - Those with 4 or more bedrooms must have a minimum of 3 car spaces within the curtilage.

  - A distance of 5.6 metres between the highway boundary and any garage doors will normally be required.

19.3. External materials of the extensions should match the existing house in terms of type, colour and method of construction

  - Where brick or stone is used they should match existing sizes, coursing, finish and method of pointing.

  - Pitched roofs and dormers should have materials to match the existing roof.

  - Window materials should be consistent with the original house.

19.4. Architectural features should normally mirror the character of the existing building to help create a unified overall appearance.

  - Details such as lintels, corbels, eaves, and sills should reflect the method of construction and where possible match the original house.

  - Chimneys often contribute to an interesting roof form and should be retained where possible.

- New windows and doors should match the style, the size and proportions of those on the original building.

19.5. The extension should not be unduly detrimental to the amenities of occupiers of adjoining houses or gardens.

- Windows should be located to avoid overlooking adjoining houses or gardens, particularly areas having the most activity such as patios. Where permitted however overlooking may be resolved by using obscure glazing for non-habitable room windows, high level windows and rooflights.

- Balconies should be avoided where they overlook adjoining properties.

19.6. The extension should not prevent the proper maintenance of an adjoining building or property.

19.7. A two storey rear extension must be carefully sited to avoid undue loss of daylight and sunlight to the windows and garden of the neighbouring property.

19.8. Significant trees should not be felled or endangered to make way for an extension. Separate advice on trees and landscaping is given in Supplementary Guidance Notes 2A and 2B.

20. TYPES OF EXTENSION

Side Extensions

20.1. In order to respect the character of residential areas the space between houses should not normally be infilled completely.

20.2. Two storey side extensions should not be constructed closer than 1 metre from the site boundary and should normally be set back 1 metre from the main elevation of the existing property to prevent the terracing effect which would be created if this were repeated on other houses.

20.3. Single storey side extensions will normally be acceptable up to the side boundary where they are set back 0.5 metres from the front elevation. In both cases adequate access should be provided to the rear garden.

20.4. To avoid being visually obtrusive they must also not exceed half the width of the existing house.

20.5. Where the window of a habitable room faces a blank wall, the distance between them should be not less than 14 metres for 2 storey and 12 metres for single storey development.

Rear Extensions

20.6. Rear extensions will not be permitted if they extend more than 2 metres along the common boundary with an adjoining dwelling in the case of 2 storey and 3 metres in the case of a single storey extension.

20.7. Where a window of a habitable room in the extension is opposite a similar window in a neighbouring house, the distance between them should be at least 25 metres.

Extensions in the roof

20.8. Because of their prominence careful design is required for dormer windows to ensure the original house roof remains dominant. Overlooking from dormers is very difficult to screen and the relationship with adjoining properties is an important consideration which may sometimes preclude such extensions.

20.9. Usually roof light windows are cheaper to install, maintain and are less obtrusive. They may also reduce the possible problems concerning overlooking. Generally such rooflights will not require planning permission.

20.10. Dormer window extensions should generally :

- be located at the rear of the building where it may be permitted development
- not exceed the height of the original roof
- be pitched to match the existing roof
- be set in a minimum of 1 metre from the main wall with cheeks a minimum of 700 mm from the side boundary of the property.

20.11. Traditional style dormers may be acceptable on front roof elevations in principle, in appropriate locations but the design should match the scale and characteristics of the original house. In particular the vertical line, style and proportions of existing windows should be carefully considered.

20.12. Dormer cheeks should normally be clad in materials to match the existing roof.

21. FURTHER ADVICE

21.1. For further advise regarding the contents of this leaflet and to discuss your proposals before making a formal submission please contact:

The Planning Section
Hinckley and Bosworth Council
Council Offices
Argents Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire LE10 1BZ

Telephone 01455 238141

Applicants should also apply for consent under the Building Regulations to the Building Control Section at the same address.

Appendix C

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INTRODUCTION

Background:
The Government published Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17) '*Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation*' in July 2002, within which a great deal of emphasis has been placed on the need to ensure the provision of good quality open spaces, a theme that has also been emphasised within reports such as *Green Spaces Better Places*, produced by the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce. To help achieve this, PPG 17 suggests that local authorities should undertake robust assessments and audits of existing areas of open space, considering both quantitative and qualitative aspects. Considerable importance is placed on the value of quality audits, as they will enable local authorities to identify the potential for increased usage through better design, management and maintenance.

Following the publication of PPG 17, an additional guidance document was produced in September 2002, '*Assessing needs and opportunities: Planning Policy Guidance 17 companion guide*'. This outlines ways in which local assessments and audits can be undertaken, drawing on nationwide examples of best practice. Importantly, it also states that local authorities should not feel restricted from modifying or developing alternative approaches as long as they fall in line with requirements detailed within PPG 17.

Applying PPG 17 to Hinckley and Bosworth:
In line with this planning guidance, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has already undertaken an extensive quantitative audit of the boroughs open spaces during 2003. This involved dividing the borough into its constituent wards, then calculating the proportion of open space per 1000 population. Comparing these values with National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) guidance levels, it was then possible to identify those areas that were deficient in open spaces.

Whilst the quantitative audit outlined the gap between existing open space provision and that required by the NPFA, it provides no information relating to the quality of the open spaces. Therefore, in order to complement this work, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council decided to undertake a quality audit during the summer of 2004, the findings of which are presented in this report.

The sites assessed were taken from the 2001 report *Parks and Recreation Areas in the Hinckley and Bosworth Area*. This report listed all open spaces within the borough, including both the sites managed directly by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, as well as a range of open spaces maintained by various Parish Councils. Therefore, this represented an excellent basis from which to identify all sites to be included within the Quality Audit.

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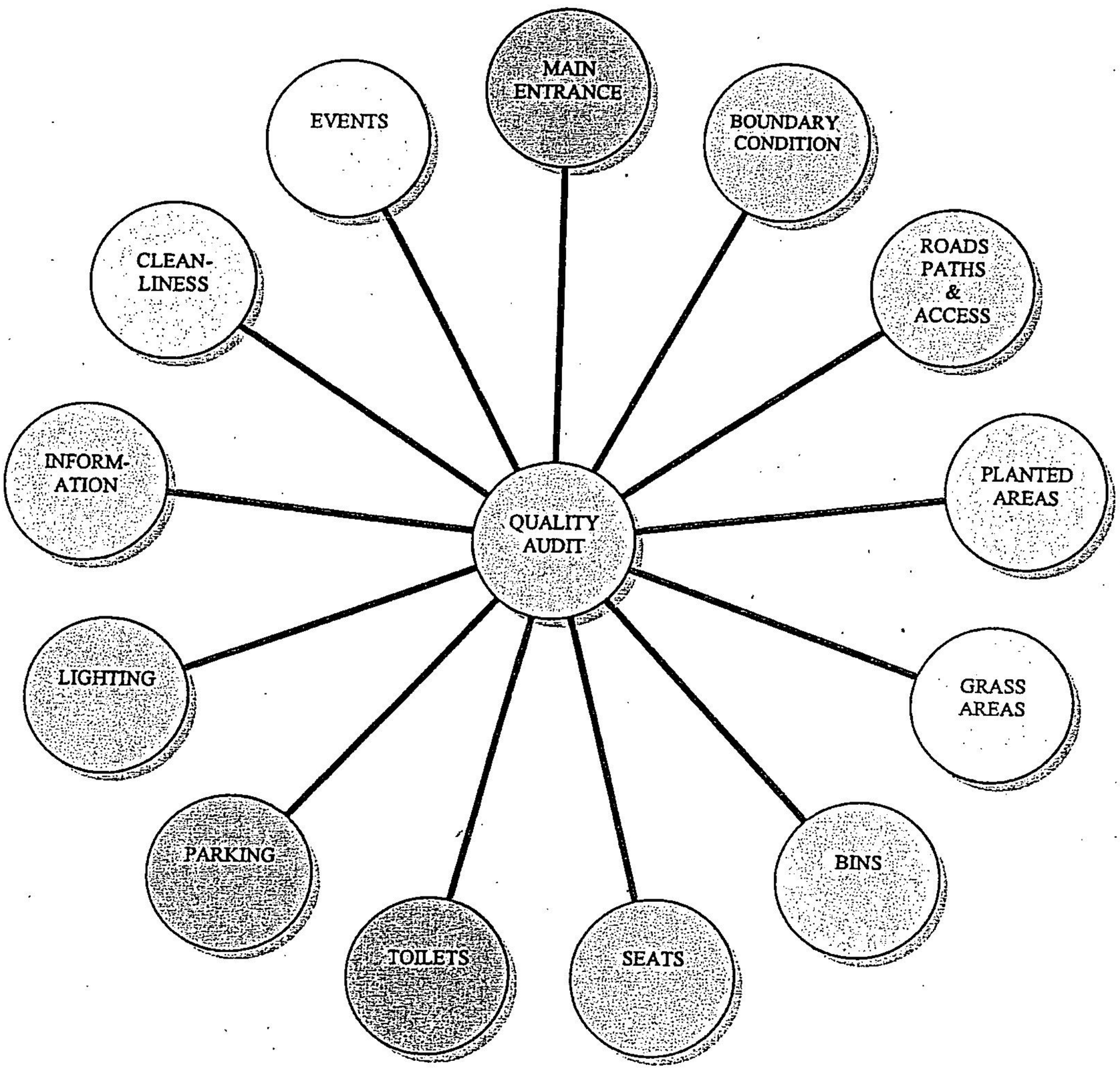
DEVELOPING THE QUALITY AUDIT

Producing a Quality Assessment Scoring System:

The companion guide to PPG 17 states that 'any assessment of the quality or nature of existing open spaces or sport and recreation facilities needs a clear set of benchmarks, related to set standards, and, ideally, some form of scoring system.' With this in mind, the quality assessment scoring system outlined within Annex B of the companion guide represents an effective, repetitive procedure for assessing a large number of sites, as is the case with the Hinckley and Bosworth borough. Included within this scoring system is a range of factors, namely:



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Using this list detailed within PPG 17, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council decided to produce a modified version that retained all of the aforementioned factors, but also included a further six:

- Fencing
- Play Area/ Equipment
- Security
- Signage
- Disability Discrimination Act Compliance
- Community Involvement

These additional factors were included as they were deemed to be important considerations when assessing the quality of open spaces. Indeed, they were chosen based on the fact that they are linked, either partly or fully, to the broad assessment criteria used in the government supported *Green Flag Award* - an award scheme that is increasingly recognised as representing the national standard for parks and open spaces. Thus, a total of nineteen factors were included in the quality audit, and each of these was broken down into a number of possible options, as shown on the following pages.

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The Assessment Criteria and Scoring System used in the Audit:

Attributes	Description	Score
Main entrance (If appropriate)	Easy to find, with a welcome/advisory sign, appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting	4
	Appropriate size, clear, clean, tidy, well maintained and inviting	3
	Obvious, open, inviting and clean	2
	Apparent as an entrance and clean	1
	No clear obvious entrance, untidy or poorly maintained.	0
Site boundaries (All sites)	All clearly defined and/or appropriately maintained	3
	All clearly defined – maintenance 'patchy'	2
	All clearly defined – maintenance poor	1
	Not clearly defined – maintenance needed	0
Roads, paths, cycleways and accesses (All sites)	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, surfaces clean, debris and weed free, good disabled access in most areas	4
	Suitable materials, level for safe use, edges well defined, disabled access in most areas	3
	Suitable materials, level for safe use, some disabled access	2
	Suitable materials but with some faults, disabled access poor	1
	Road/paths in correct place, but in need of obvious repair, disabled access poor and very restricted and/or no paths	0

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Attributes	Description	Score
Fencing (If appropriate)	All fencing in good condition and well maintained	4
	All fencing in good condition, maintenance 'patchy'	3
	All fencing in good condition but maintenance poor *OR* Fencing in average condition and maintenance average	2
	Fencing in average condition and maintenance poor	1
	Fencing in poor condition	0
Planted Areas (Shrub beds, trees, hedges, floral displays etc) (If appropriate)	Numerous planting, (with appropriate mix), and/or planted and maintained to a very high standard or appropriate planting for site well maintained	4
	Numerous plants, (with an appropriate mix), planted and maintained to a reasonable standard	3
	Numerous plants, (with an appropriate mix), and/or 'patchy' maintenance	2
	Limited range of plants, maintenance acceptable	1
	Limited planting and/or maintenance poor	0
Grass Areas (If appropriate)	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour, cleanly cut, weed free	4
	Full grass cover throughout, dense sward, good colour and cleanly cut, few weeds, cut frequently to keep length short	3
	Full grass cover in main area but some 'thin' patches; some bald areas discreet; grass cut frequently length excessive between cuts, cut quality good, (no tearing)	2
	General grass cover average and patchy with some bald patches, cut infrequently or at poor frequency, clippings obvious or cut quality poor	1
	General grass cover poor, wear has led to patchy and poor cover with little or no serious attempts to correct the problem, clippings obvious and cut quality poor	0

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Attributes	Description	Score
Play Area/ Equipment (If appropriate)	Good range of play equipment catering for all age groups & users, complying with safety standards, dog proofed, with high play value, in good condition/ well maintained.	4
	Play equipment complies with safety standards, dog - proofed, in good condition and well maintained.	3
	Play equipment complies with safety standards, dog - proofed, maintenance/condition could be improved	2
	Play equipment limited, condition/maintenance adequate	1
	Play equipment condition/maintenance poor.	0
Security (All sites)	Site has good natural surveillance by nearby dwellings or pedestrian routes, lighting if appropriate, planting and design helps in the reduction of crime	4
	Site has natural surveillance by nearby dwellings or pedestrian routes, planting and design of site could be improved to reduce crime	3
	Site has limited natural surveillance but measures taken to reduce crime i.e. CCTV	2
	No natural surveillance, planting & design of site reduces the risk of crime, further improvements needed *OR* Limited surveillance, design of site increases risk of crime	1
	No natural surveillance of site, planting and design of park increases risk of crime	0
Facilities: Bins (Litter and Dog Bins) (All sites)	Adequate number, appropriately located, good condition	4
	Adequate number, appropriately located, average condition	3
	Adequate number, inappropriately located, suitable condition *OR* Adequate number, appropriately located, poor condition	2
	Insufficient number but in good/average condition	1
	Insufficient number in poor condition / no bins	0

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Attributes	Description	Score
Seats (All sites)	Adequate number for the size of the site, appropriately located and in good condition	4
	Adequate number for the size of the site, appropriately located and in average condition	3
	Adequate number, inappropriately located, in good/average condition *OR* Adequate number, appropriately located, poor condition	2
	Insufficient seats but in good/average condition	1
	Insufficient seats in poor condition	0
Toilets (If appropriate)	Provided within the site, easy to access, signed and well maintained	4
	Provided within or adjacent to the site, difficult to find, maintenance/condition is average	3
	Provided within the site or adjacent to it and visible, but not well cared for and generally uninviting	2
	Provided within the site or adjacent to it, but in very poor condition and generally avoided by park users	1
	Temporary toilet provision for events only	0
Parking (If appropriate)	Parking integral to, or adjacent to site, adequate spaces, site clean, tidy, in good condition and well signed – to include provision for cycle parking	4
	Parking integral to, or adjacent to the site, limited spaces, maintenance good	3
	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the site, limited spaces, maintenance adequate	2
	Parking provided integral to, or adjacent to the site, limited space, maintenance poor	1
	Parking provision very limited	0

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Attributes	Description	Score
Lighting (If appropriate)	Good lighting scheme installed and well maintained	4
	Good lighting scheme, poorly maintained	3
	Reasonable lighting scheme and well maintained	2.
	Reasonable lighting scheme, poorly maintained	1
	Poor lighting scheme	0
Signage (All sites)	Clear signage displayed, appropriate to site, detailing all relevant information including contact details, up-to-date, clean and well maintained.	4
	Sufficient signage that is up to date, clean and well, maintained, given the size of the site	3
	Insufficient signage, clean and well maintained *OR* Sufficient signage but maintenance could be better	2
	Insufficient signage, condition/maintenance average.	1
	No signage/insufficient signage, condition/maintenance poor.	0
Information (If appropriate)	Information available for locals and visitors (could be on boards or leaflet form) in some detail	2
	Limited information about the site/ parish made available	1
	No information available about the site	0
DDA Compliance (All sites)	Site fully accessible and usable by disabled people	3
	Site acceptable for use by disabled people	2
	Site partially acceptable for use by disabled people	1
	Site unacceptable for use by disabled people	0

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Attributes	Description	Score
Cleanliness (All sites)	No evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti	4
	Very limited evidence of litter, dog fouling or graffiti	3
	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade B	2
	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade C	1
	Litter, dog fouling no worse than Grade D	0
Community Involvement (All sites)	'Friends of'/community management group actively involved in managing site	4
	Local community involved in decision-making but no formal management group	3
	Local community consulted about site use	2
	Local community kept informed about site use/management	1
	No community involvement in site management	0
Events Programme (If appropriate)	Full events programme with supporting leaflets	4
	Full events programme	3
	Events programme is in place which delivers at least one major event each year with some minor events	2
	Some events	1
	No events	0

Undertaking the assessments – adopting a consistent approach:

For each of the identified open spaces the same approach was adopted in order to ensure that the methods used to complete the assessments were consistent, and therefore the findings comparable. During each survey, initial inspections involved walking around the site and visually assessing its features. The assessment criteria previously detailed were then used to allocate a score for each of the site's relevant characteristics. This involved looking at the site and deciding which of the descriptions detailed on the assessment sheet applied to the site under consideration.

Once the site survey had been completed, the results were than tabulated and an overall percentage score calculated for each of the open spaces, based upon the scores awarded for each of the sites relevant criteria. Whilst these scores provide an excellent way of comparing different sites, a site visit report was also compiled in order to provide a greater level of detail about each of the individual sites, something that is not possible by solely using the assessment-scoring sheet.

However, despite ensuring that the same procedures were used to conduct each survey, there were limitations associated with the timing of the surveys. To expand on this further, the cleanliness of open spaces will be dependent upon when the survey was conducted. For instance, a survey may have taken place on a day when graffiti was seemingly widespread, consequently resulting in a low mark being awarded. However, for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council maintained sites, an external contractor *Comm-Spray* is responsible for providing a quick response to remove graffiti. Therefore, if the survey had taken place on any of the following days, the graffiti may have been removed, thus ensuring that a higher mark would have been awarded for the cleanliness of the site.

Similar issues arise when considering the grass cover of any given site, as its appearance is dependent upon the timing of the mowing regime. Thus, when reviewing the site scores in the results section it must be realised that these scores are only based upon one site inspection and therefore represent a snap shot of each site's appearance and condition.

Furthermore, although the quality assessment-scoring sheet included a total of nineteen factors, it must be acknowledged that open spaces vary in their nature, and so not all of the assessment criteria previously outlined were applicable for all of the sites. With some of the factors, value judgements had to be made as to whether or not a factor was applicable. An excellent illustration of this is 'parking'. Generally speaking, parking facilities are desirable for open spaces, although for a small area of informal residential open space this is not necessarily the case, due to the fact people are unlikely to travel great distances to visit and use such sites. Therefore, for the purpose of the audit, parking was deemed to be applicable for all open spaces that provide equipped play opportunities.

Value judgements also had to be made relating to the 'information' criterion. Again, whilst information boards should be in place for formal parks, they are not essential for small residential amenity greenspaces, and so were classed as 'not applicable' for all sites with the exception of formal parks.

With regards other factors, whilst the 'main entrance' criterion was applicable to every formal park, this was not the case with some of the residential and village open spaces such as village greens, which were entirely open and accessible. Therefore, for sites that had no main entrance, this criterion was not included in calculating the overall percentage score for those sites.

It should also be noted that 'community involvement' was not assessed for every site even though this criterion was deemed to be appropriate for all of the sites. Those sites maintained and managed by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council were awarded a mark, but for all sites maintained by parish councils advice needs to be sought as to how the local community are involved with the sites management, and so in such instances, this feature was excluded from the assessment.

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

SITE: **Kirkby Road**

LOCATION: **Barwell**

CLASSIFICATION: **Parks and gardens**

DATE OF INSPECTION: **19/05/2004** TIME: **1320**

ASSESSOR: **Alex Jones**

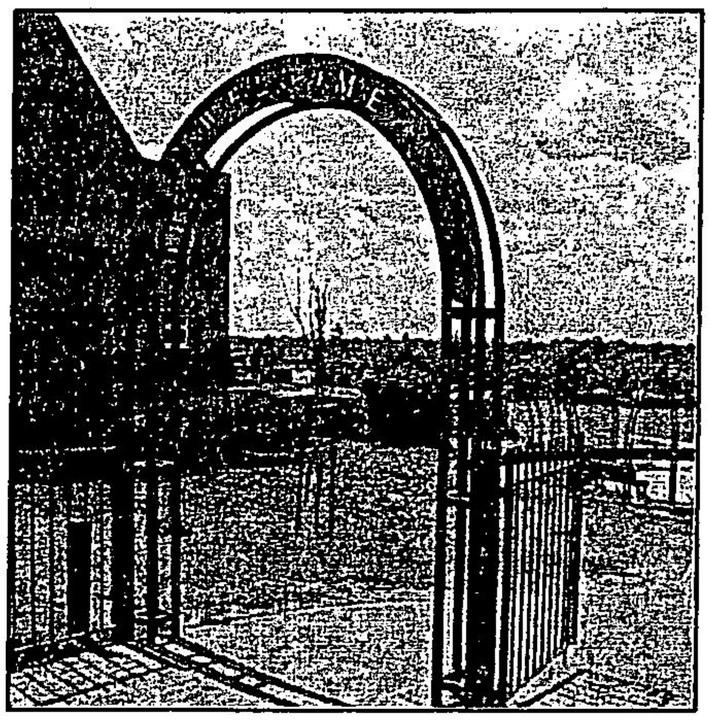
		0	1	2	3	4	NA
Main Entrance						4	
Site Boundaries				2			
Roads/Paths, cycleways & access					3		
Fencing					3		
Planted Areas			1				
Grass Areas			1				
Play Area/Equipment						4	
Security					3		
Facilities	Bins					4	
	Seats					4	
	Toilets						NA
	Parking			2			
	Lighting						NA
	Signage			2			
	Information	0					
DDA Compliance				2			
Cleanliness				2			
Community Involvement						4	
Events Programme		0					
	Total Score						41
	Out Of						64
	Score As %						64.1

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION: **Kirkby Road**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:



This open space was the first community park in the borough and the first thing evident when accessing the park is its warm, inviting entrance, as shown opposite. The arched entrance point is clean and bright and has the word 'welcome' written across it. There is also signage present at the entrance point, one of which welcomes people to the play area. Furthermore, the fencing at the entrance point is bright and well maintained – factors that all help to create a positive first impression of the park.

In terms of play opportunities provided at the site, there is a modern dog proofed play facility providing a range of innovative slides, swings, and climbing frames. Within the enclosed area are seating and a litterbin, and trees have been planted to provide some variety. Next to this there is a multi-purpose sports court providing opportunities for basketball and football.

Facilities within the park are good with a designated car park situated close to the park, (located next to the cemetery), providing a limited number of spaces for park users. Within the park, five litter-bins, two dog bins and twelve benches were observed during the survey. Nearly all of these facilities are in excellent condition and well maintained, particularly the benches. However, one area in which the site failed to score was for information. Given that this is a community park there is clearly scope for community information boards to be in place. Furthermore, there could be increased signage, particularly at the entrance points to the enclosed play areas where there were no signs in place at the time of the survey.

Cleanliness also brought the overall site score down, despite the fact that there is good provision of bins. Litter was found around the footpath and on the grass areas, and this included shards of glass. There was also graffiti written over some of the fencing around the perimeter of the park. Whilst assessing the perimeter of the park, it was apparent that the site boundaries were well defined, although in parts, the hedgerows needed cutting back; and the fencing backing onto the park was also damaged in places, with holes evident.

In terms of the Disability Discrimination Act, the site is reasonable with a good footpath network in place throughout the park, and, importantly, the footpaths are wide and level. This helps to complement the wide access points evident at the main entrance to the site.

The only slight drawback was the area where a small shrub bed has been created. Here the path is much narrower, making it difficult for wheelchair users. Also, more could be done by way of providing a greater range of play equipment specifically for people with learning and physical disabilities e.g. providing low level equipment with hand supports.

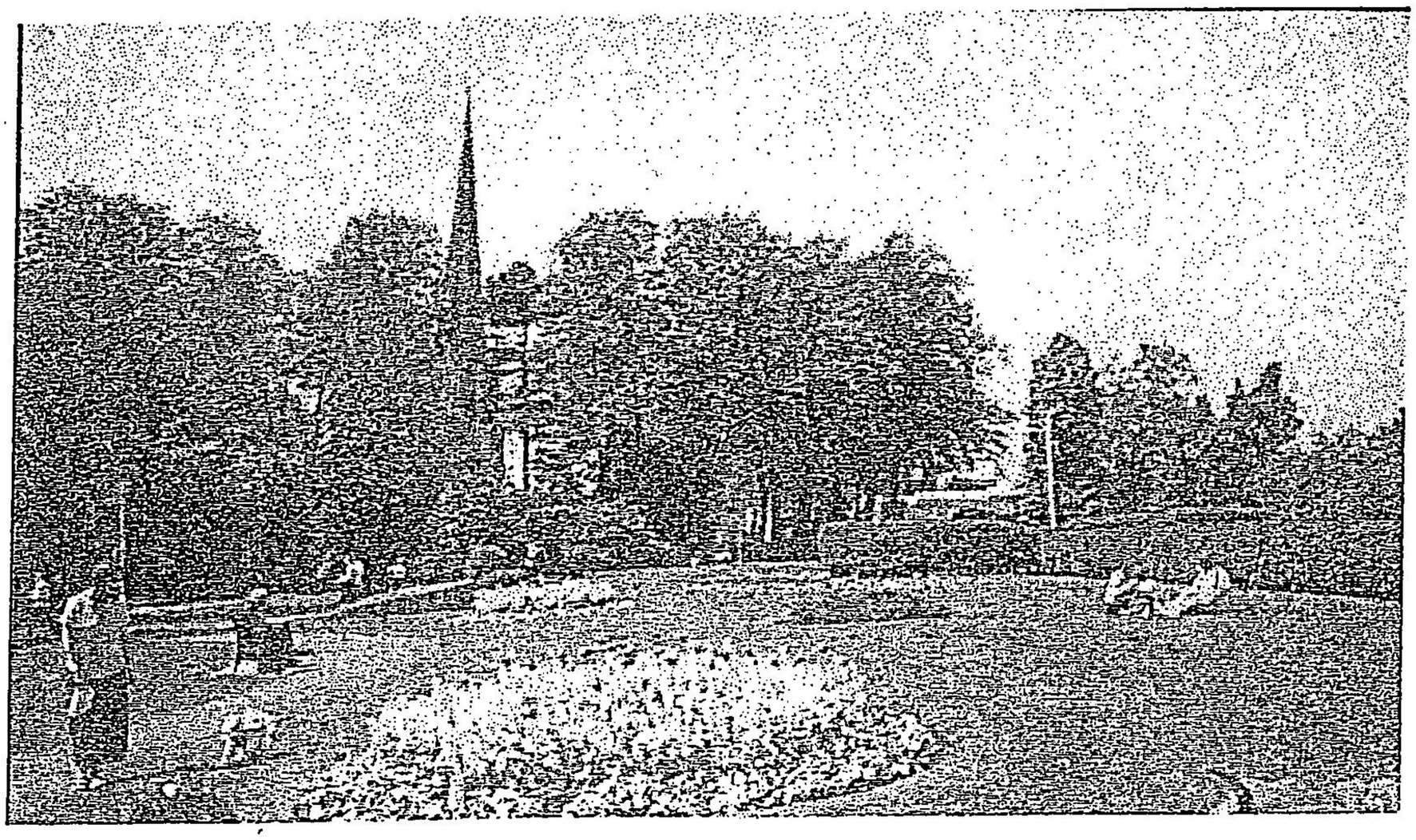
The grass areas within the park need improving. The cut quality within the main grass area was adequate, but clippings were noticeable on the encircling footpaths. At the western end of the park, the grass has been left unmanaged, and there was also a largely bare area of grass near to the main entrance of the park. Finally, security within the park is good with housing on three sides of the park, and with Kirkby Road running adjacent, this further enhances user safety and security.

Appendix D

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

2005 – 2010



Adopted October 2005

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FOREWORD

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council recognises the importance of green space to our local environment and quality of life. It helps to make the borough a better, more pleasant place to live, work and visit.

This Strategy sets out the Council's vision for its green spaces and how we intend to improve provision over the next five years. It identifies priorities for action based on comprehensive assessment of current standards and the needs and aspirations of local people. In total over 350 hectares of open space have been audited and views gathered from almost 600 local people and 19 Parish Councils.

Running through the Strategy is the Council's commitment to partnership working. We recognise the importance of community involvement in the planning and management of green space and how this can help with the regeneration of facilities. I would like to thank everyone who has participated in consultation on the Green Space Strategy, including those who sent in their views as part of various questionnaire surveys, without which the Green Space Strategy would not be possible.

The aim of the Green Space Strategy is to achieve measurable improvements in the quality and accessibility of green space provision throughout the borough. Better parks, play areas and more opportunities for outdoor recreation will be indicators of the Strategy's success, as will a Parks & Countryside Service that provides quality services to the local community.

I am pleased to act as a Champion for parks and green spaces in the Borough and support a Strategy that will help improve provision in Hinckley and Bosworth. Together we can make a borough of which we are proud.

John P. Ball



1. INTRODUCTION

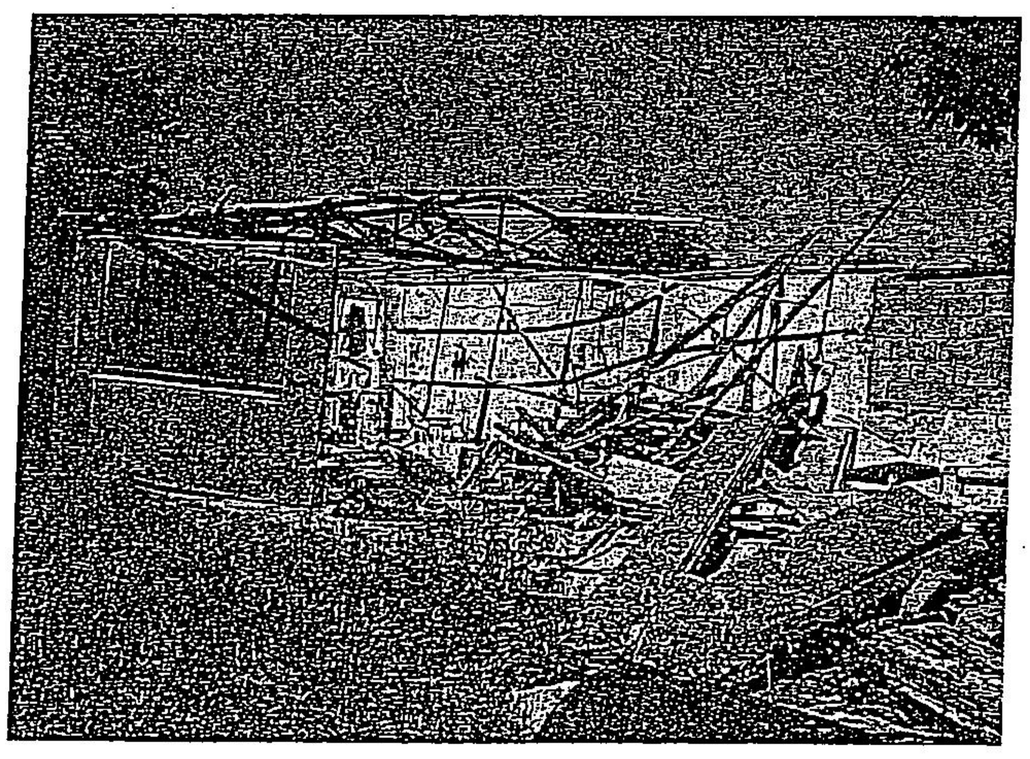
1.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council recognises the importance of having a clear strategy for the future management and development of its green spaces. This strategy will set out the Council's vision for green space provision and identify priorities and targets for improving the Parks and Countryside Service for at least the next five years.

1.2 The Green Space Strategy will help the Council realise its vision of a Borough to be proud of, helping to achieve:

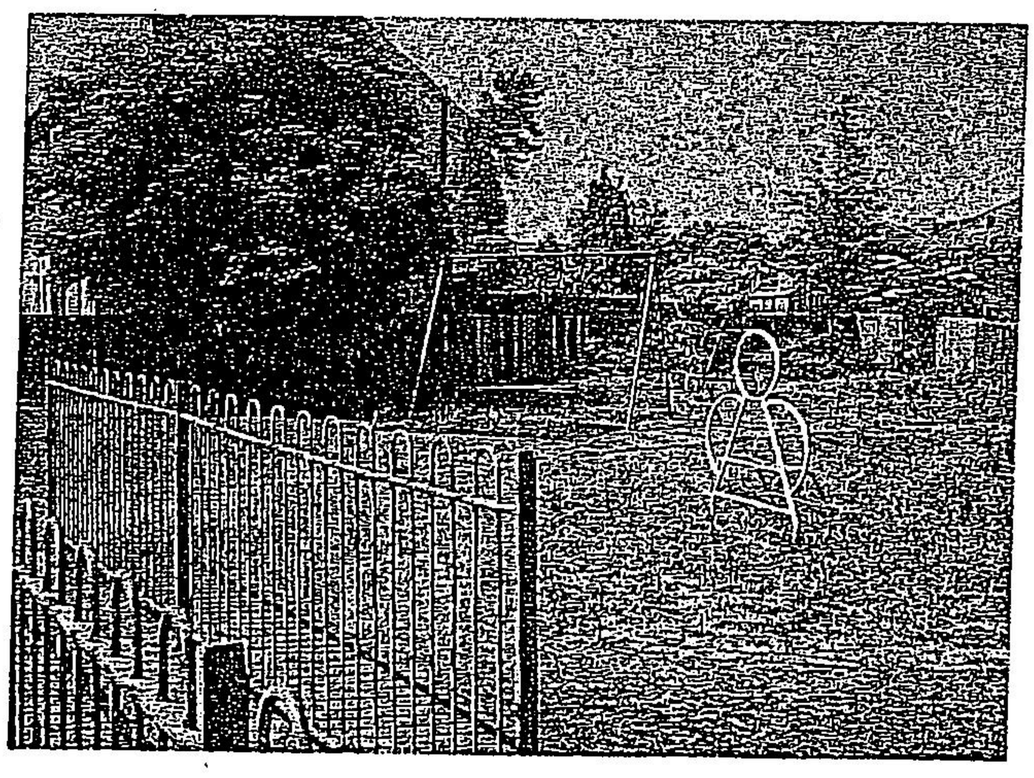
- **Excellence** in performance
- **Probity** and **honesty** in governance and management
- **Value** in service delivery and investment in people
- **Achievements** for the community
- **Reliability** in partnership working

1.3 The Green Space Strategy is based on a comprehensive assessment of supply and demand. It reflects the needs and aspirations of local people gathered through extensive consultation and the review of existing priorities.

1.4 Many existing green spaces across the borough are below recognised standards. The Strategy will address shortfalls in the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision and recommend a clear plan for improving green spaces throughout the borough. The outcome will be better parks, play areas and more opportunities for outdoor recreation.



Sheepy Magna Playing Fields



Rutland Avenue Play Area, Hinckley

1.5 The aims of the Green Space Strategy are to:

- Develop a vision for the future of green space in the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth, shared by politicians, officers, key partners and the local community.
- Determine the benefits and value of green space in the borough.
- Define how parks and green space meet the Council's Corporate and Community Plan aims and objectives.
- Identify local people's needs and aspirations for green space provision where they live, now and in the future.
- Identify existing shortfalls and surpluses in the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing green space provision.
- Demonstrate opportunities to enhance the quality and diversity of green space, promote civic pride and social cohesion.
- Set new quantity, quality and accessibility standards for green space provision.
- Create a policy framework for the protection, enhancement and use of parks and green spaces.
- Strengthen existing and promote and stimulate new partnerships for improving green space, involving the public, voluntary and private sectors.

1.6 Parish Council's will have an important role in improving green space provision across the borough, particularly in rural areas. The Open Space Quality and Quantity/Accessibility Audits provide specific recommendations for Parish Councils to improve green space provision. The Borough Council will work in partnership with the parishes to deliver these improvements. Supporting Parish Councils through the Parish & Community Initiative Fund and by offering advice and guidance on green space issues.

1.7 The following provides an executive summary of a number of detailed assessments, which together make up the Green Space Strategy. Full copies of the Green Space Strategy, Open Space Quality Audit and Open Space Quantity/Accessibility Audit can be viewed at the Council Offices, Argents Mead.

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2.1 The Green Space Strategy is a five year plan for improving the quality of green space provision in the borough. The following is a breakdown of the financial resources required to implement the Green Space Strategy and its five year Action Plan.

2.2 The Council's current capital programme has been approved until April 2008.

2.3 It is anticipated that further Section 106 money will be available by 2008. Where appropriate this money will be used on identified projects reducing HBBC Capital requirements. Budgets will be profiled more accurately annually to take account of Section 106 receipts.

2.4 It is impossible to predict what external funding steams may exist from 2008 onwards. Officers will identify potential external funding sources as they arise.

2.5 A full breakdown of each project and the financial resources required is provided within the five year Action Plan.

CAPITAL	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total expenditure	£359,000	£565,128	£991,618
Total HBBC contribution required	£278,129	£329,253	£473,625
Existing HBBC Capital allocation	£264,000	£692,000	£504,000
Additional HBBC Capital required	**£14,129**	**-£362,747**	**-£30,375**

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Total expenditure	£1,178,117	£486,500	£210,000
Total HBBC contribution required	£711,750	£251,500	£210,000
Existing HBBC Capital allocation			
Additional HBBC Capital required	**£711,750**	**£251,500**	**£210,000**

Capital Budget 2005 – 2011	
Total Capital Expenditure	£3,790,363
Total S106 Contributions	(£640,130)
Total Other Contributions	(£895,976)
Total HBBC Existing Capital Expenditure	(£1,460,000)
Total Additional HBBC Capital required	**£794,257**

REVENUE GROWTH FUNDING REQUIREMENT

PROJECT	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Tree Inspections		£16,000				
Community Events		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Playsafe Software			£10,000			
Marketing			£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
Electronic Cemetery Booking Service			£9,000			
In Bloom					£60,000	
TOTAL	**£0.00**	**£21,000**	**£29,000**	**£10,000**	**£70,000**	**£10,000**

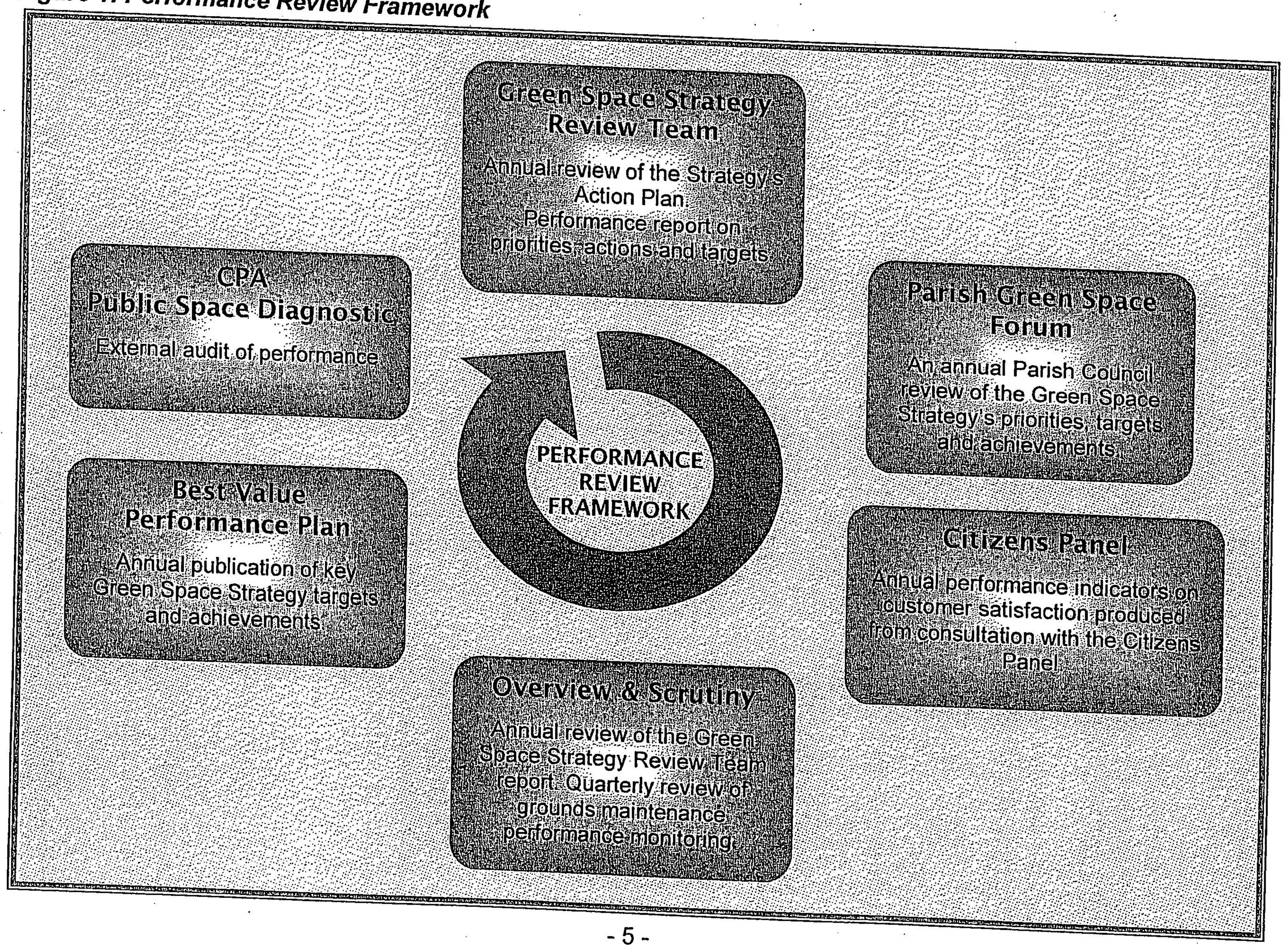
3. PERFORMANCE REVIEW FRAMEWORK

3.1 Figure one below illustrates the performance review framework within which the Green Space Strategy will be monitored and reviewed. The framework contains certain checks and balances that will ensure the Strategy is on track and its targets achieved over the next five years.

3.2 A Green Space Strategy Review Team will be established to overlook the process and monitor performance. This team will comprise of Council Officers, Members and other independent representatives.

3.3 Information on the performance of the Green Space Strategy will be made public to maintain probity and honesty in the delivery of our services.

Figure 1: Performance Review Framework



4. SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

4.1 In the context of this Strategy:

"Green Space is defined as any unbuilt public land, including areas of water or geological feature, within the boundary of a village or town, which offer opportunities for sport, recreation or visual amenity."

4.2 The definition of green space includes several classifications of provision. The Green Space Strategy adopts a typology developed by the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce as illustrated in figure two below:

Figure 2: Urban Green Spaces Taskforce – Typology of Open Space

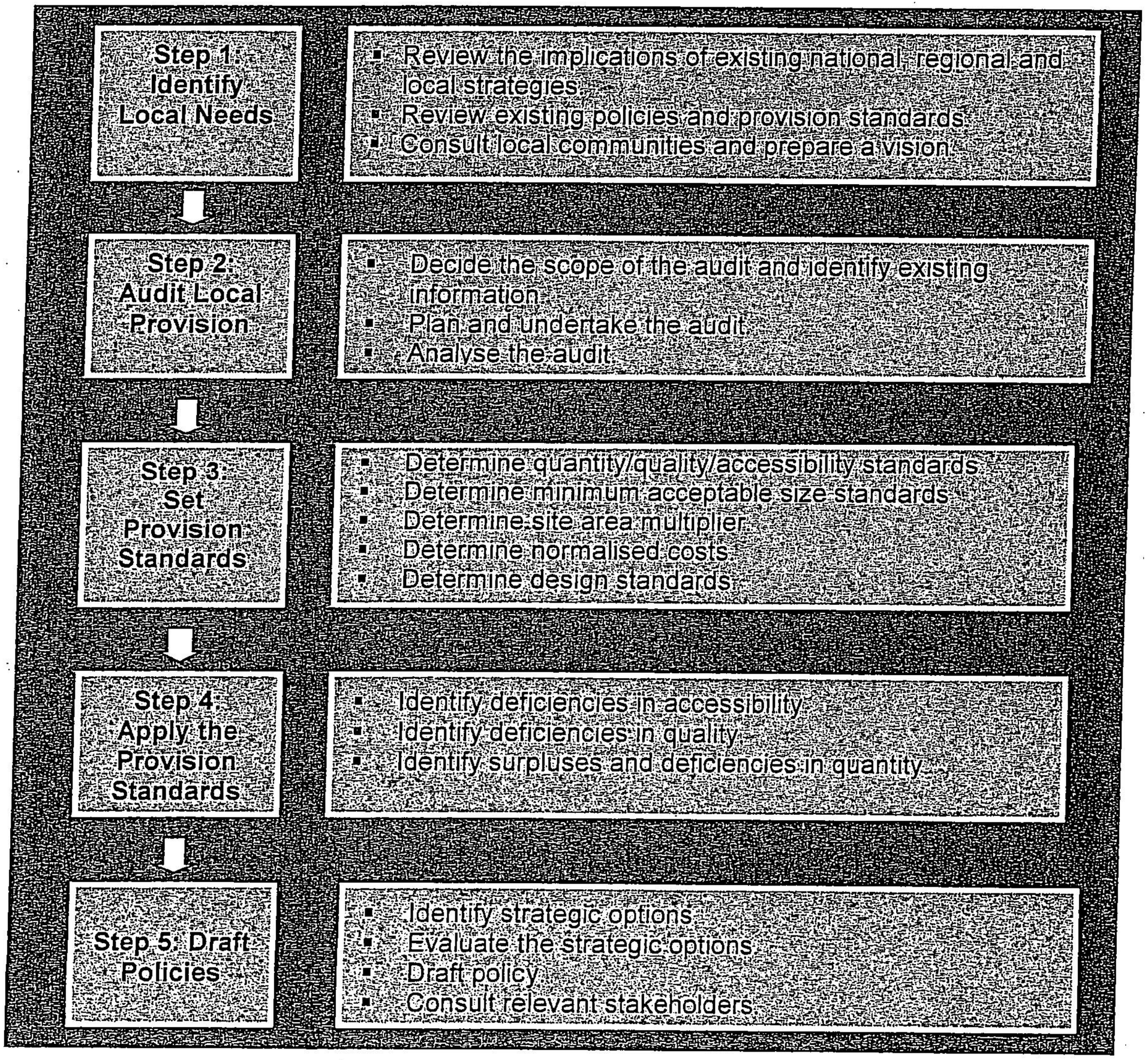
	PPG 17 Typology	Primary Purpose
Green Space	Parks and public gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
	Natural and semi-natural green spaces including urban woodland	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness
	Green corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration
	Outdoor sports facilities	Participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports
	Amenity green space	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters
	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity

4.3 The Green Space Strategy focuses on land owned and managed by the Borough Council, however, consideration is given to Parish Council provision and working in partnership with other providers to create a network of quality green space across the borough.

4.4 A quality and quantity audit of all land managed and maintained by Borough and Parish Councils has been carried out for the whole of the borough. To identify if this provision is meeting the needs of local communities consultation with users and non-users was completed. The Strategy uses the principles and guidance provided by *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17* (ODPM, 2002) to carry out its local assessments.

Methodology

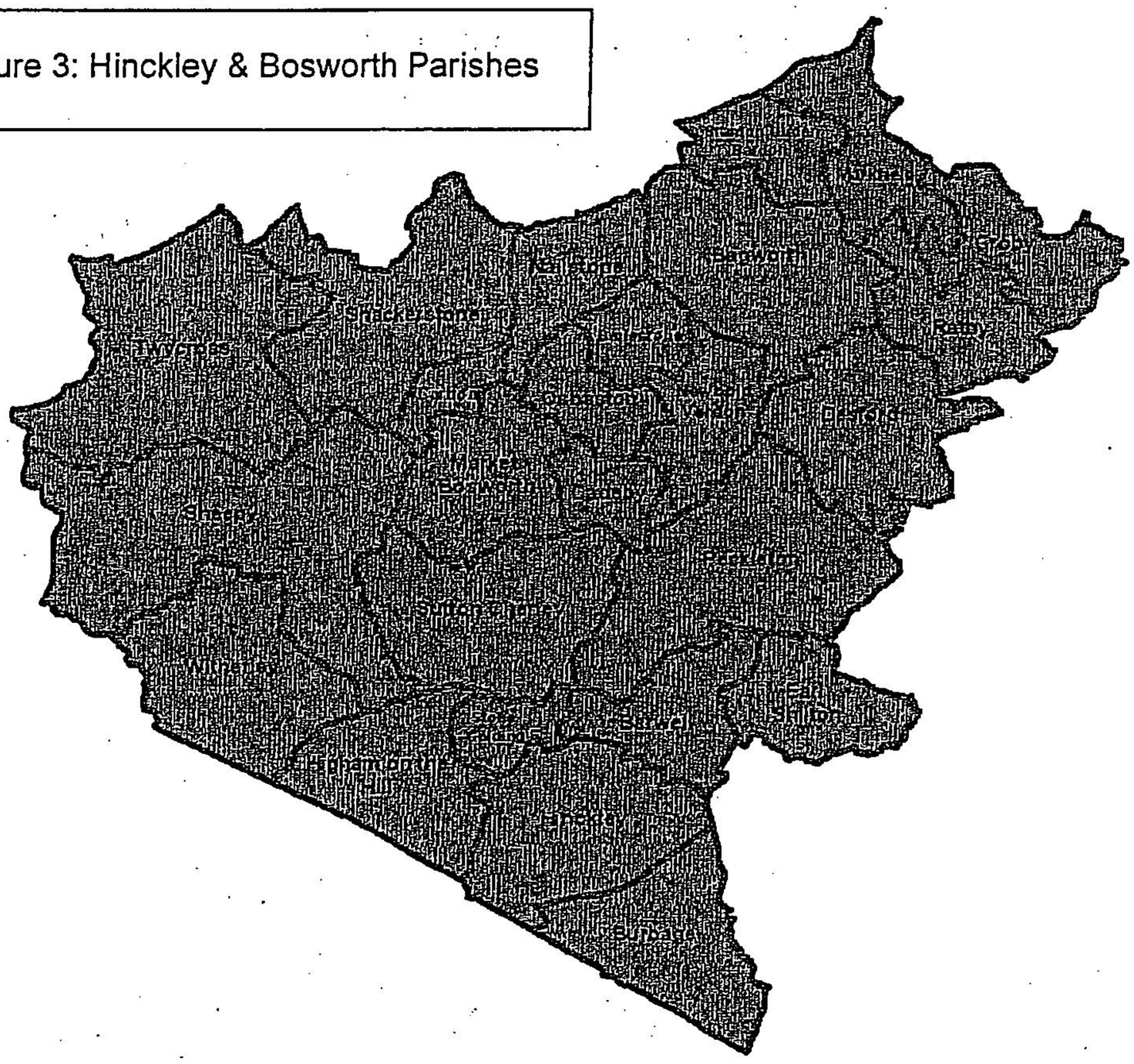
4.5 The preparation of the Green Space Strategy required the collection and analysis of extensive and diverse information on the provision and use of green spaces across the borough. In total over 350 hectares of open space have been audited and the views of almost 600 local people and 19 parish councils analysed. This work was completed within the framework provided by the companion guide to PPG17, following the methodology summarised below:



Rural Green Space – Provision in the Parishes

4.6 Outside of Hinckley and Barwell the provision of green space is predominately the responsibility of the twenty-three Parish Councils that currently make up the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth (see figure three below). Like the Borough Council each Parish Council must ensure that the green space in their area meets the needs of the local community.

Figure 3: Hinckley & Bosworth Parishes



4.7 The Strategy acknowledges that there are a number of different providers of green space in the borough e.g. Parish Councils, Leicestershire County Council, HBBC, private landowners, The Wildlife Trust etc. The importance of working in partnership to create a network of high quality and accessible green space is therefore important, particularly in the more rural areas of the borough.

4.8 The Green Space Strategy establishes the Borough Council's commitment to the provision of high quality and accessible green space. The Borough Council makes a commitment to support Parish Councils with the management and improvement of their green spaces and encourages a joined up approach to the delivery of green space services.

4.9 The Green Space Strategy provides Parish Councils with a detailed assessment of the current quality and quantity of green space in their area. It identifies shortfalls in the current standards of provision and makes recommendations for improvements. The Strategy has based its findings on the results of site inspections, consultation and comparisons with recognised national standards.

4.10 It is advised, that if they have not already done so, Parish Councils put in place plans for the protection, management and improvement of their green spaces. It is hoped that the Strategy will provide Parishes with the broad policy framework and recommendations to enable these plans to be easily developed. Parishes should adapt policies and priorities according to their own individual circumstances.

4.11 The Strategy's Five Year Action Plan is for Borough Council provision only. Individual settlement assessments, however, provide recommendations to Parish Councils on green space provision in their areas. It is hoped that these recommendations will be discussed and priorities developed based on consultation with local people. Parish Council's are encouraged to develop their own Action Plans based on the Strategy's recommendations and their own assessments of need.

4.12 The Strategy's assessment of provision in the parishes will be used by the Borough Council to assess applications for grant funding in the future. Future use of Section 106 funding will also take into consideration the Strategy's recommendations and Parish Council's own green space Action Plans if they choose to develop them.

4.13 The Green Space Strategy can be used by Parish Councils to demonstrate support for proposals, for example, when applying for external funding.

4.14 The Strategy recommends the use of a Forum to share information and good practice between the Borough and Parish Councils on green space issues. This will be important in raising standards of provision and ensuring that the Borough Council is providing the appropriate support to parishes.

4.15 The Green Space Strategy will be referred to when developing policies for the Borough's new Local Development Framework. This will determine the future provision, protection and enhancement of green spaces throughout the borough.

4.16 The Strategy recognises that residents in rural areas of the borough are currently served less well than the more urban settlements. Through the Strategy's support for improvements in the parishes it is hoped that inequalities will begin to be addressed and a greater importance placed on green space provision in rural areas.

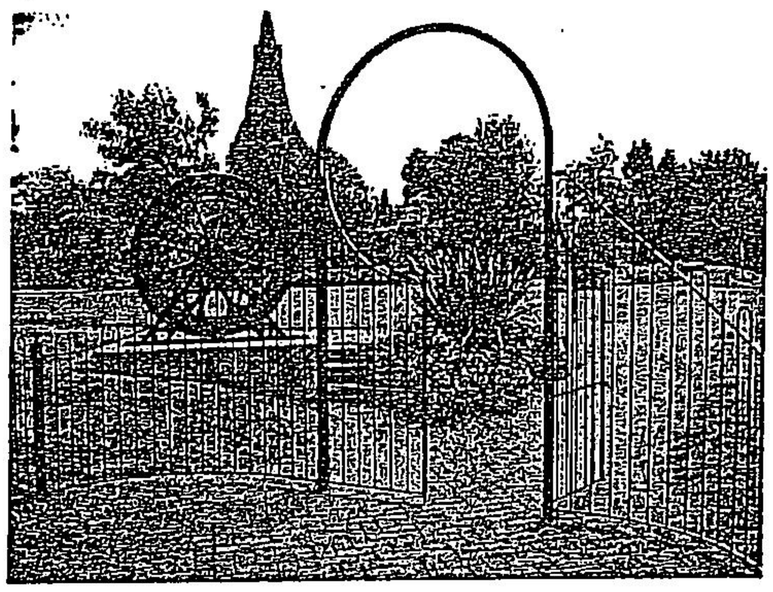
5. THE VALUE OF GREEN SPACE

5.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council recognises the important role parks and green spaces play in improving people's quality of life. This is reflected through the Council's planning policies and priorities as laid out by both the Community and Corporate Plans.

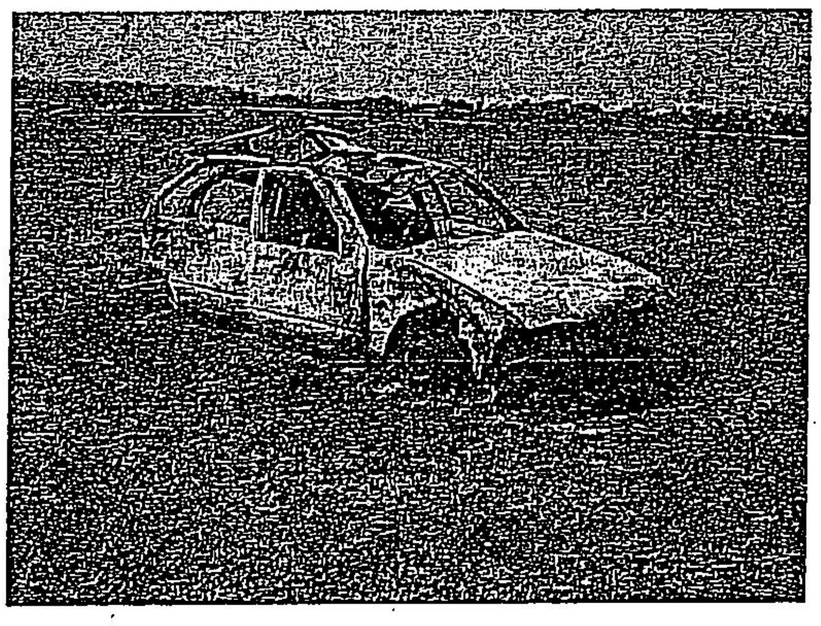
5.2 The Council is committed to the protection and improvement of green space, working in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors to provide a network of high quality accessible green spaces throughout the borough.

5.3 Parks and green spaces are an essential part of where we live. At their best they improve our quality of life, make neighbourhoods more attractive, providing opportunities to play and relax and natural habitats for wildlife to thrive. At their worst they harbour anti-social behaviour, becoming unused derelict blots on the landscape. Good or bad they affect our perception of the places we call home, our quality of life and new business investment in our towns or village centres.

GOOD! or BAD!



Church Road, Nailstone



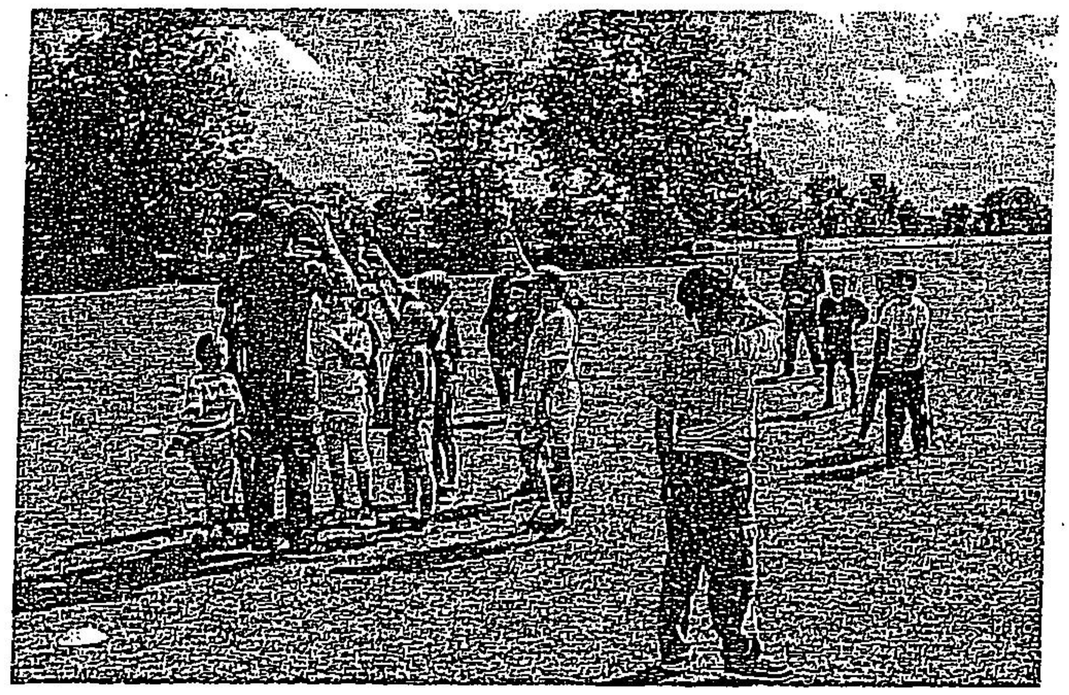
Wykin Park, Hinckley

5.4 Good quality green spaces can enhance the image of a neighbourhood or whole town, contributing to **urban regeneration and renewal projects**. They can increase property values, encourage business investment and improve local economies. Conversely, poor quality parks and green spaces can contribute to a spiral of decline and urban decay.

5.5 The quality of parks and green spaces can be a visible indicator of what an area is like and whether it is a good place to live or work. Public open space will play an important part in the Council's Master Plan for Hinckley Town Centre, where regeneration will be dependent on making the town a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

5.6 The positive effects that good quality parks and green spaces can have on people's **health and well-being** has been well documented.

Obesity is now a major public health concern, particularly amongst children. Parks and green spaces offer many opportunities for both children and adults to exercise, whether through formal sport or informal play. Research also shows the positive effect natural environments can have on people's mental health, helping to lower stress levels and improve quality of life. Hinckley & Bosworth already has a successful Walking for Health scheme at Burbage Common and Woods and a summer Sports Roadshow at a number of parks across the borough.



Clarendon Park, Hinckley

5.7 Good quality parks and green spaces can contribute to **social inclusion and community development**. The majority of green spaces are accessible free of charge and do not discriminate against people of different ages, backgrounds or abilities. If parks and green spaces are well managed communities can be brought together to socialise or take part in community activities or events. There are already three 'Friends of' groups at Council managed parks, bringing together a variety of people to help manage the parks and organise community activities.

5.8 Parks and green spaces can be used as outdoor teaching resources for **education and lifelong learning**. Schools may use them for nature studies, geography lessons or citizenship projects. Opportunities for apprenticeships, work experience in grounds maintenance or environmental management should not be ignored. Burbage Common in Hinckley is frequently used by schools and community groups to learn about the natural environment.



5.9 Parks and green spaces have been described as the 'lungs' of our towns and cities. They counteract the effects of pollution, absorb noise and provide sustainable urban drainage systems. Parks and green spaces help improve the **environment and ecology** of an area, providing havens for wildlife and increasing biodiversity. They also make a major contribution to stabilising the urban climate.

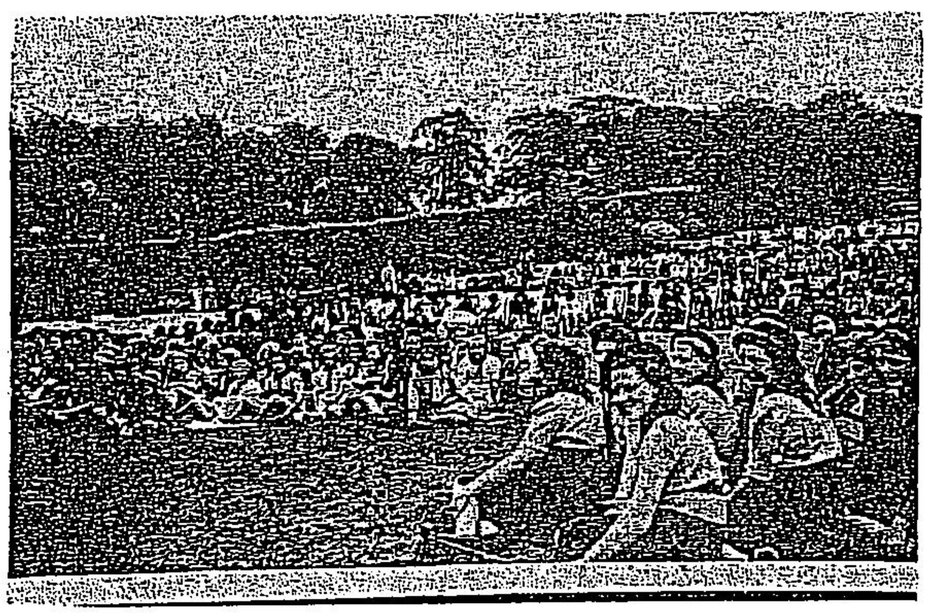


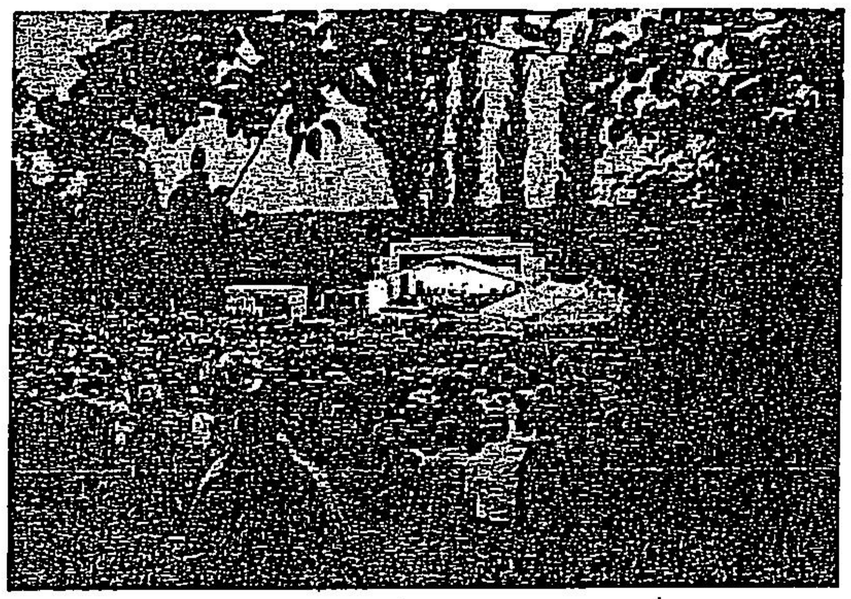
Hill Hole Quarry, Markfield

5.10 Parks and green spaces are an integral part of local communities **heritage and culture**. They range from venues for festivals, fairs and performances to burial grounds with historic monuments and memorials. Hollycroft Park bandstand in Hinckley has staged events for the last 70 years and every year those who lost their lives in the first and second World Wars are commemorated within the grounds of the War Memorial at Argents Mead, Hinckley.

Hollycroft Park Celebrations

Then! & Now!





5.11 The Green Space Strategy provides a framework for the protection, management and improvement of the Council's parks and green spaces. It formally acknowledges the value of green space and the contribution that it makes in improving local peoples quality of life. The Strategy is the Council's commitment to work in partnership with the local community to provide a network of good quality, accessible green space that meets the needs of local people. The Council will strive to provide high quality, high value green space and support other providers to do the same.

6. POLICY CONTEXT

6.1 The provision of green space in Hinckley and Bosworth is influenced by an array of plans, policies and strategic priorities at the national, regional and local levels (Figure 4). Green space policies must, therefore, be developed within a framework of existing guidance adapted to meet local needs.

Figure 4: National, Regional & Local Policy Framework



6.2 At a national level green space issues have moved up the political agenda and an immense body of new policy guidance has been produced by The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in the last five years.

6.3 In 2000 the Urban White Paper (*Our Towns and Cities: the Future. Delivering and Urban Renaissance)* recognised the importance of parks and other green spaces and challenged all involved in their provision to think more imaginatively about how to improve them. The White Paper was instrumental in setting up the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, which in 2001/02 set about reviewing the current provision of green spaces nationally. In 2002 the Taskforce published 52 recommendations for achieving a better future for urban parks and green spaces and presented them to the Government. The Government responded with its report *'Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener'* (2002) which sets out national policy for creating public spaces, which are cleaner, safer and more attractive.

6.4 One of the main outcomes of the Governments *'Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener'* (2002) was the setting up of a new green spaces unit within the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) called CABE Space in 2003. For the first time parks and green spaces have now got a national champion. CABE Space has produced a variety of best practice guidance on a range of green space issues from preventing anti-social behaviour to producing Green Space Strategies. Their research has even given us a national picture of what it is people love and loathe about green spaces:

10 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT PARKS

- They are community assets.
- They are places to relax and escape.
- They are places to experience nature.
- They are well-designed.
- They are good for children and young people.
- They are kept clean and safe.
- They are green spaces.
- They provide a sense of open space.
- They benefit our mental health and well being.
- They are free and inclusive.

10 THINGS WE LOATHE ABOUT PARKS

- They are not kept clean or safe.
- Park land is being lost to development.
- They do not receive enough money.
- There's too much litter.
- There's too much vandalism.
- There's too much crime and anti-social behaviour.
- They are not safe.
- Too much dog mess and too many untrained dogs.
- Facilities are in a poor state or non-existent.
- There's a lack of park keepers and wardens.

6.5 At the same time as the Government set up the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce to review the provision of green spaces nationally, *Planning Policy Note 17: Sports and Recreation* was being revised. This resulted in the publication of the new *Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation in September 2002* along with *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: a Companion Guide to PPG17.*

6.6 PPG17 (2002) provides the planning policy framework for open space, sport and recreation facilities. It provides policy guidance for local Planning Authorities to determine individual planning applications and develop their Local Development Documents. *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: a Companion Guide to PPG17* provides additional guidance on undertaking local assessments and developing green space strategies.

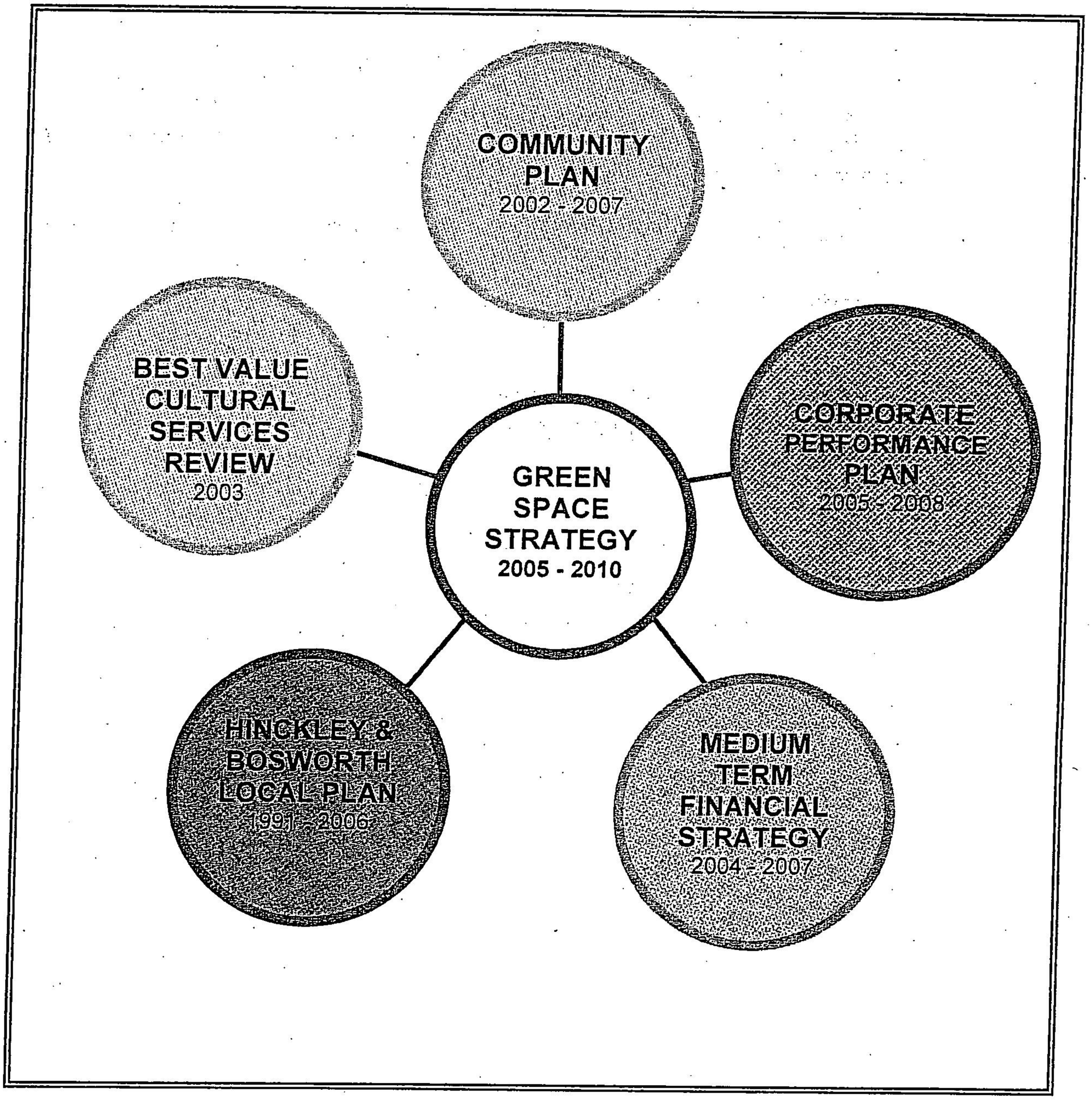
6.7 It is recognised that there are many national Government departments, public and voluntary organisations and agencies with a green space agenda e.g. Sport England, The Environment Agency, The Countryside Agency, The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), English Nature, English Heritage etc. It is hoped that in the future CABE Space will work closely with all stakeholders to improve co-ordination and partnerships at the national level.

6.8 Regional policy for green space provision is currently provided by the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands to 2021 and the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan (1996 – 2016). Along with more specific guidance from such agencies as the National Forest, regional planning guidance provides the broad framework from which the Borough Council must set more specific local policy objectives.

6.9 Locally the delivery of Council services is guided by a number of short, medium and long term plans. These plans guide service improvements and the deployment of resources. The Green Space Strategy supports existing Council policies and priorities and demonstrates how key objectives will be delivered.

6.10 The diagram in figure five below illustrates the Council's current strategic documents and the framework from which the Green Space Strategy is created. A review of all these plans and their effect on the delivery of green space has been undertaken and the aims, objectives and priorities of the Parks & Countryside Service aligned. In the case of the Local Plan the Green Space Strategy has reviewed current planning policy in light of the new PPG17 guidance. This has resulted in the recommendation for new green space policy and standards to be adopted within the Local Development Framework, which will eventually replace the Local Plan.

Figure 5: H&BBC - Key Strategic Documents



6.11 The delivery of green space services is cross-cutting and, therefore, it is also important to consider the policy agendas of different Council Service areas as well as external organisations. The Green Space Strategy reflects local policy from planning, health, culture and sport to crime and disorder. The Green Space Strategy aims to complement other local strategies including the Community Safety Partnership Strategy, the Leicestershire Cultural Strategy and the Leicestershire Biodiversity Action Plan, to name just a few.

6.12 To ensure a co-ordinated approach to the provision and management of green space locally it is essential that the Parks & Countryside Service works in partnership within a multi-agency setting.

7. LOCAL ASSESSMENTS OF NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 *Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17* provides comprehensive guidance to planning authorities on carrying out local assessments of need and audits of green space provision. It suggests a logical methodology based on identifying needs, setting standards, identifying deficiencies and developing policies. The Green Space Strategy has followed this process by:

- ✓ **Identifying local needs** through the review of existing strategies and plans and consultation with green space providers, users and non-users;
- ✓ **Auditing local provision** to determine the current quantity, quality and accessibility of green space in the borough;
- ✓ **Setting new provision standards** for quantity, quality and accessibility of green space based on the needs and aspirations of local people (see section eight);
- ✓ **Identifying deficiencies** in the quantity, quality or accessibility of green space provision;
- ✓ **Drafting green space policies** that reflect local circumstances and the priorities of local people.

Identifying Local Needs

7.2 A review of existing local strategies and plans revealed a number of local priorities relevant to the provision of green space. The Council's own Community and Corporate Plans, for example, contain a number of aims and objectives based on results of consultation with local people and their priorities for improvement. The Parks & Countryside Service has a responsibility to deliver these objectives unless consultation indicates a change in these priorities. A recent Cultural Services Best Value Review and CPA Inspection also clarify what areas the Council must improve to fully meet the needs of local people.

7.3 To identify local needs properly it is essential to involve local communities. Consultation was, therefore carried out to identify local people's attitudes to existing provision, their expectations and aspirations. Without local people's views the Green Space Strategy is at risk of ignoring key issues and making poor policy decisions.

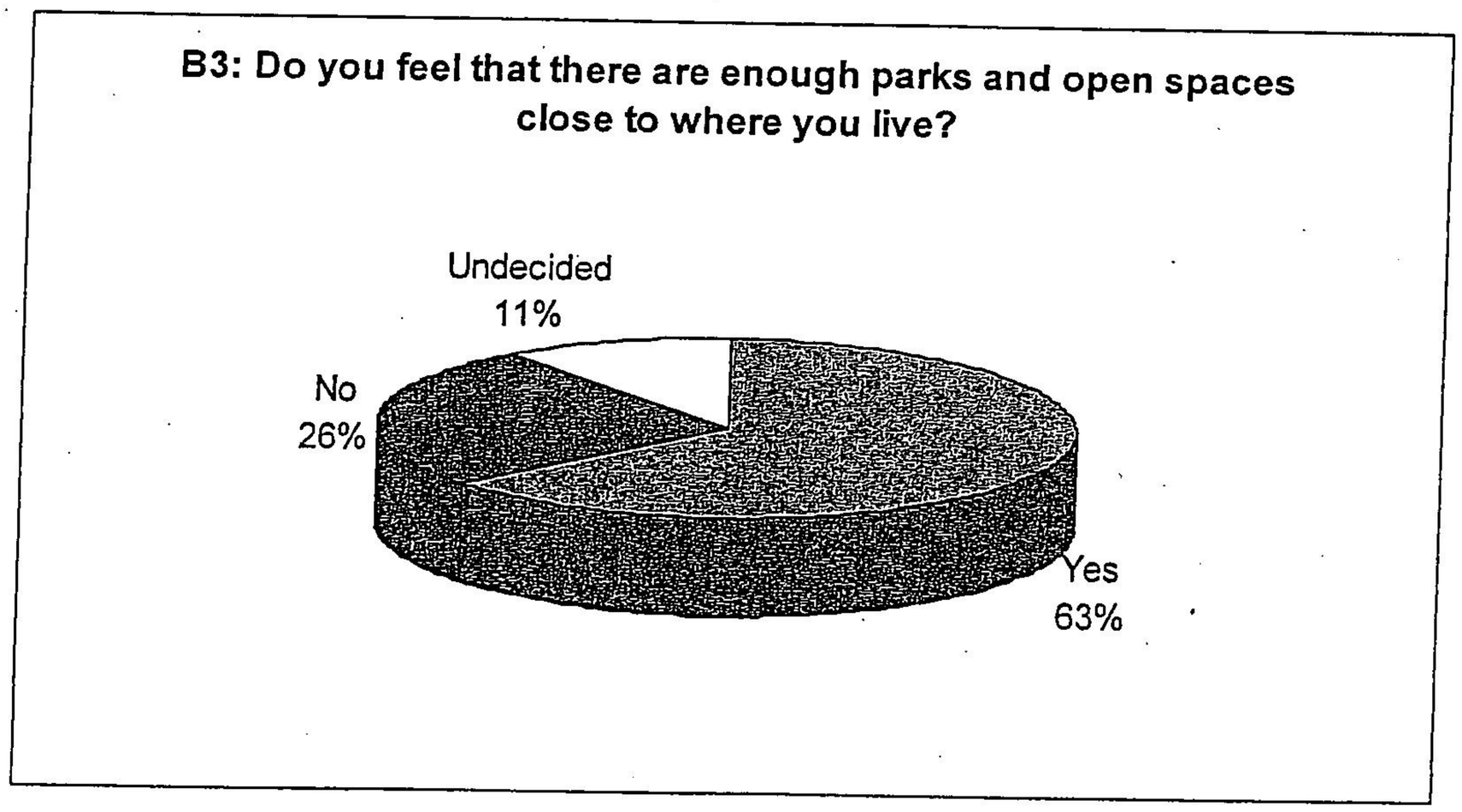
7.4 To ensure that the views of a range of people from across the borough were represented in the Green Space Strategy the Council carried out a variety of consultation, including a Parish Council survey, random household survey, press survey (Herald & Journal) and Citizens Panel survey. The main aims of this were to:

- identify people's attitudes to existing provision, establishing a baseline of current standards and indicators of how the Council is performing.
- identify people's aspirations for green space provision and how they want facilities to be provided and managed.
- identify key issues that local people want addressing.
- identify a vision for the future based on people's aspirations and expectations.

7.5 The response to all the surveys carried out was very good, demonstrating the importance of the subject to many people. In total 571 questionnaire responses were collected from across the borough together with the views of nineteen of the twenty-three Parish Councils.

7.6 The results of the consultation showed that the majority of local people are satisfied with the amount of parks and open spaces provided where they lived. However, localised deficiencies in the amount of green space provided are indicated by at least one quarter of people responding to both a random household and citizens panel survey (figure 6).

Figure 6: Quantity Indicator (Household and Citizen Panel Surveys)



7.7 Rural deficiencies in the quantity of outdoor sports provision were highlighted by the Parish Council survey. This view is supported by research done by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Playing Field Assessment.

7.8 Deficiencies in allotment provision in Burbage and Ratby were highlighted by consultation with Parish Councils.

7.9 There are significant deficiencies in the amount of provision for children and young people across the borough. Parish Councils indicate shortfalls, particularly provision for teenagers. Over half of people responding to both the household and citizens panel surveys also thought there were not enough children's play areas near to where they lived.

"I would really appreciate a park within easier walking distance with better facilities. Clarendon Park is my nearest – 20 minutes walk and no toilets are provided, which is not ideal when you have a two year old."

7.10 Consultation indicates that the quality of green spaces is also affecting its ability to meet the needs of local people. Whilst the amount of provision may be sufficient the poor quality of some facilities is reducing their capacity to meet local demand. This is particularly true for outdoor sports provision and children's play facilities. 21% of people responding to the household survey and 24% of the Citizens Panel thought that the quality of children's plays facilities are poor or very poor.

"More money should be invested in play areas on the equipment as they are good spots but lacking in variation."

7.11 The most significant issues affecting the quality of green space across the borough are:

- ☹ lack of good quality facilities for young people;
- ☹ anti-social behaviour;*
- ☹ dog fouling;*
- ☹ litter;*
- ☹ lack of provision for the disabled;
- ☹ poor seating provision;
- ☹ poor signage;
- ☹ poor toilet facilities.

** = Top ten things nationally people loath about parks – CABE Space.*

7.12 Deficiencies in provision for young people (12 – 18 year olds) was a consistent view across all of the consultation carried out. Parish Councils highlighted lack of provision in rural areas whilst over three-quarters (77%) of people responding to both the household and citizens panel surveys also thought there is a lack of facilities for this age group.

"Provide things for young people (12-18 year olds) like a skate park to give them something to do instead of them hanging around in big groups drinking and smoking, etc."

7.13 Tackling anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces was an important issue in all the surveys carried out. The majority (89%) of Parish Councils considered this as one of the main barriers to providing a good quality open space service. Users and non-users of green spaces also viewed it as a major factor in deterring them from using facilities.

7.14 When asked how parks and open spaces could be improved many comments highlighted the need to deal with anti-social behaviour, particularly by young people. A visible staff or security presence was viewed as important in dealing with the issue and many people felt that bringing back 'Park Keepers' would be effective.

"I used to live in Earl Shilton in the sixties. I used to play at the park near St. Simon & St. Judes Church. There was never any trouble because there was a park keeper in control."

7.15 Other barriers to the use of green space were the quality of disabled provision, particularly disabled children's play facilities.

7.16 The consultation revealed that the majority of people are willing to walk ten to fifteen minutes to a good quality play area (400 – 600 metre straight line distance). These findings will be used to help set local accessibility standards for the borough.

7.17 Parish Councils identified a main barrier to providing a good open space service was finance and requested greater financial assistance from the Borough Council i.e. grant aid. They also requested the need for expert advice and guidance from Borough Council Officers on the provision and management of green space. Topics include play provision, employing external contractors, tree works, grounds maintenance, provision for the disabled, applying for funding, involving the local community etc. A Forum to exchange ideas and good practice was suggested.

7.18 People strongly agreed that the future priorities of the Parks and Countryside Service should be:

☑ To continue to develop community parks, working with residents to plan and implement a programme of improvements.

☑ To continue to support Parish Councils to provide parks and open spaces through grant aid.

☑ To target resources at providing more things for young people to do.

☑ To target resources at reducing anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces.

☑ To manage open spaces to encourage and protect wildlife habitats.

7.19 The majority of people also agreed that the Parks and Countryside Service should:

☑ Continue to enhance the town centre with hanging baskets and horticultural features and in the future enter the National Britain In Bloom competition.

☑ Provide more events, activities and things to do in its parks and open spaces.

7.20 Specific site improvements identified by the consultation include:

- New provision for children and young people at Brodick Road, Swallows Green, and Hollycroft Park, Hinckley;

- Improved visitor facilities at Burbage Common, including toilet provision, more dog bins and new children's play area;

- Consistent staffing of Hollycroft Park facilities and better opening and cleaning of toilets.

- Improved facilities at Richmond Park, Hinckley.

- Completion of project at Ferndale Park, Ratby.

- Improvement of Wykin Park, Hinckley with new facilities and children's play provision.

7.21 The new aims and objectives of the Parks & Countryside Services (section 9) and the Strategy's Five Year Action Plan (section 12) are based on a combination of existing priorities updated to reflect the results of consultation.

Auditing Local Provision

7.22 The Green Space Audit measures provision in terms of its Quantity, Quality and Accessibility. The full results of the audit are provided as three annexes to the Green Space Strategy:

i) Annex one: Open Space Quantity/Accessibility Audit
ii) Annex two: Open Space Quality Audit
iii) Annex three: Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Playing Field Assessment

7.23 The Quantity Audit measures the amount of green space currently provided in Hinckley and Bosworth and its distribution across the borough. The Audit identifies that:

- There is a deficiency in the amount of equipped children's play space currently provided within the borough. When compared with the National Playing Field Associations (NPFA) 'Six Acre Standard' there is a shortfall of 4.62 hectares. This is equivalent to approximately 46 equipped children's play areas throughout the borough. This does not necessarily mean providing new play areas. It could include improvement and expansion of existing areas of children's play. There are particular deficiencies in provision for young people e.g. multi-games areas.

- The biggest quantitative shortfalls in the provision of equipped play space are in Hinckley (1.2 ha), Burbage (1.11 ha), Earl Shilton (0.60 ha) and Groby (0.59 ha). Within these settlements it is recommended that as well as new provision existing equipped areas are improved and expanded to include a range of facilities. In Hinckley it is recommended that five new multi-games facilities be installed over the next five years. This alone will be the equivalent to an additional 0.25 hectares of equipped play space.

- The borough has a surplus of 29.32 hectares of casual/informal children's play space when compared to the NPFA's minimum recommended standard. This is an area equivalent to approximately 39 football pitches. This does not, however, mean that the borough has too much casual/informal children's play space. This type of green space may include valuable natural/semi-natural green space or land used for natural drainage and the prevention of flooding. Casual/informal children's play space is often multi-functional and all of its uses/purposes must be considered before it is judged as surplus to requirements. Some casual/informal play space could be equipped to address current deficiencies in children's play provision.

- The Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Playing Field Assessment identifies a 10.59 hectare surplus of sports pitches in Hinckley and Bosworth – the equivalent to approximately 14 football pitches. These figures, however, disguise localised deficiencies and the poor quality of facilities, which is affecting their capacity to meet demand.

- There are currently not enough allotment plots to meet demand in Hinckley, Groby and Burbage.

7.24 When local accessibility standards are applied the results show:

- there is a lack of equipped play space in the North East of Hinckley (East of Ashby Road or Swallows Green area) – *figure seven.*

- the equipped play areas of Granville Road, Granby Road and Rutland Avenue serve the same catchment population and could potentially be rationalised into one site of better quality – *figure seven.*

- Trinity Vicarage Play Area is located in close proximity to Clarendon Park Play Area and could be potentially removed with future provision concentrated at Clarendon Park.

- there is potential to develop equipped play provision in Hinckley Town Centre to meet demand from the retail centre and local populations.

- Market Bosworth has a shortfall of equipped children's play provision within the centre of the village – *figure eight.*

- The poor location (access) of some formal sports pitches.

- The lack of pitch space at Burbage.

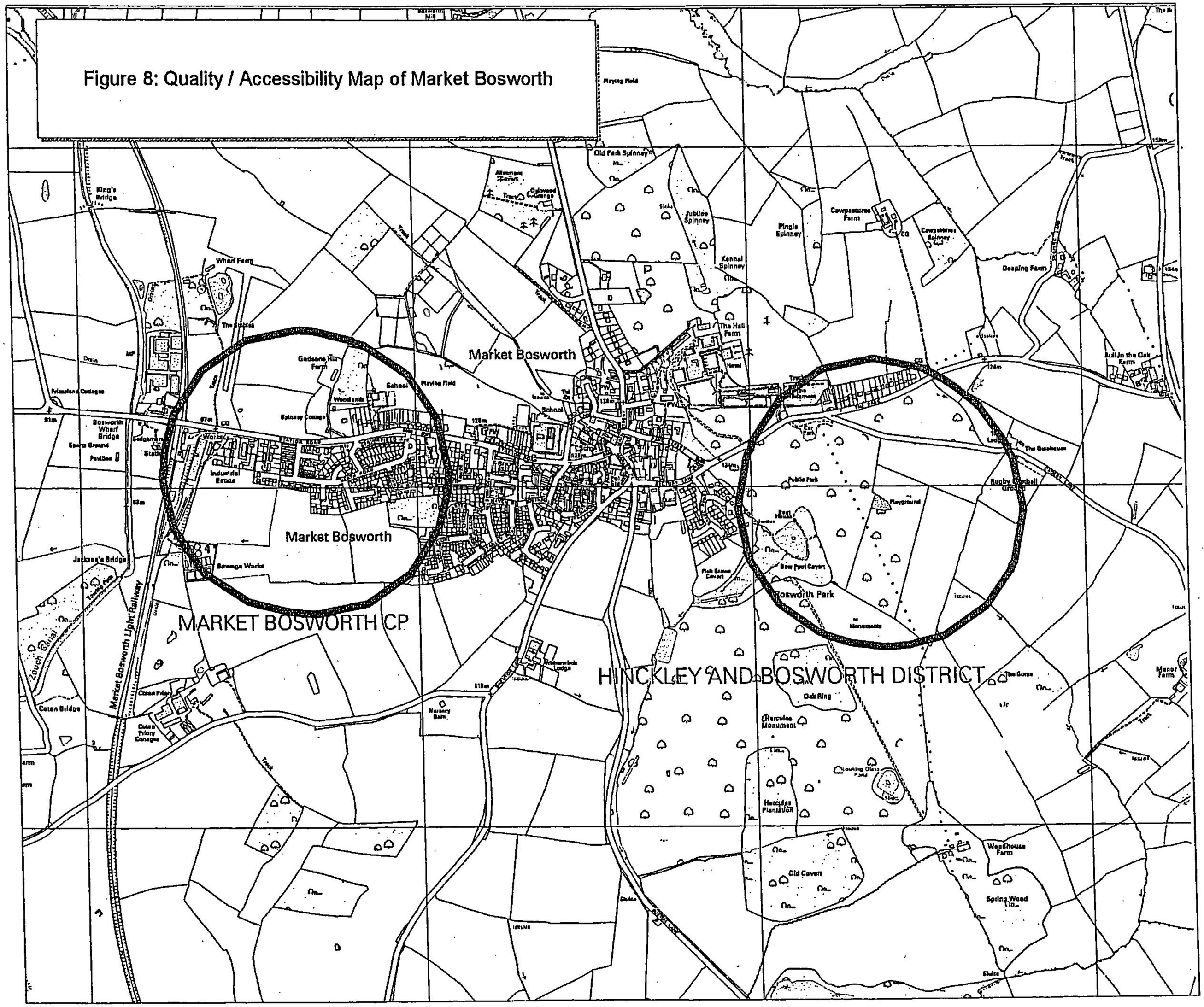
- The lack of playing pitches in the West of the borough and large concentration of pitches in the South.

- The deficiency, across the district, in junior pitch provision.

7.25 Quantity assessments also indicate that there is an estimated requirement each year for 825m² new burial land at Ashby Road Cemetery, Hinckley. 310m² of new burial land is required each year at Barwell Cemetery. This means that the new Cemetery extension at Ashby Road will be required in approximately 2010 and new burial land at Barwell will also be required by 2010.

7.26 It is recommended that a full audit of accessible natural green space in the borough be completed in Year 2 of the Strategy, complying with English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGSt) model.

Figure 8: Quality / Accessibility Map of Market Bosworth



Play Areas: Quality Scores

- Under 45.00%
- 45.00 % - 54.99 %
- 55.00 % - 64.99 %
- 65% and above

Typology

- LEAP: 400m buffe
- NEAP:600m buffe

N

1:16742

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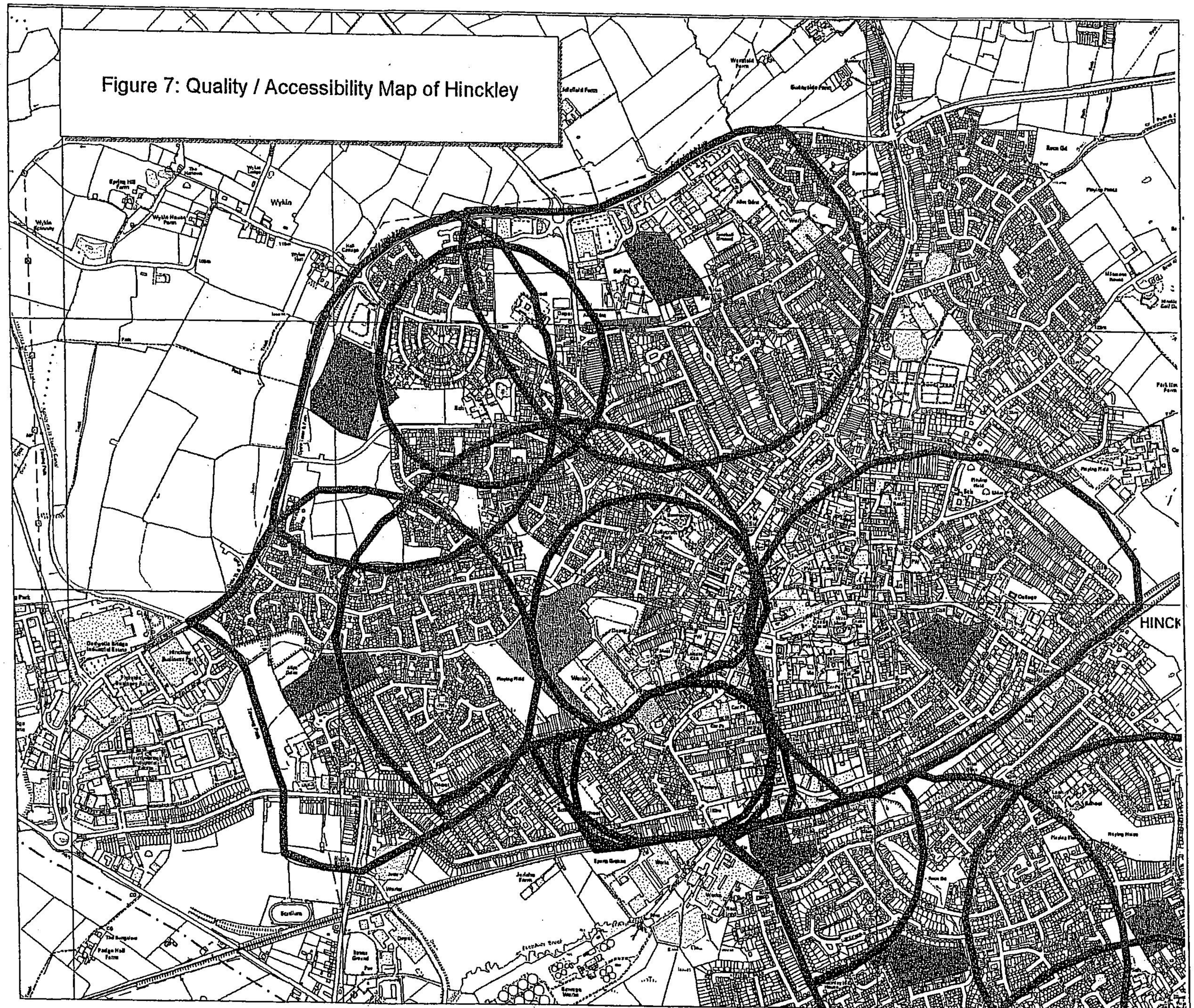
Figure 7: Quality / Accessibility Map of Hinckley



Play Areas:
Quality Scores

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- 45.00 % - 54.99 %
- 55.00 % - 64.99 %
- 65% and above

Typology

- LEAP: 400m buffer
- NEAP:600m buffer

N

1:20928

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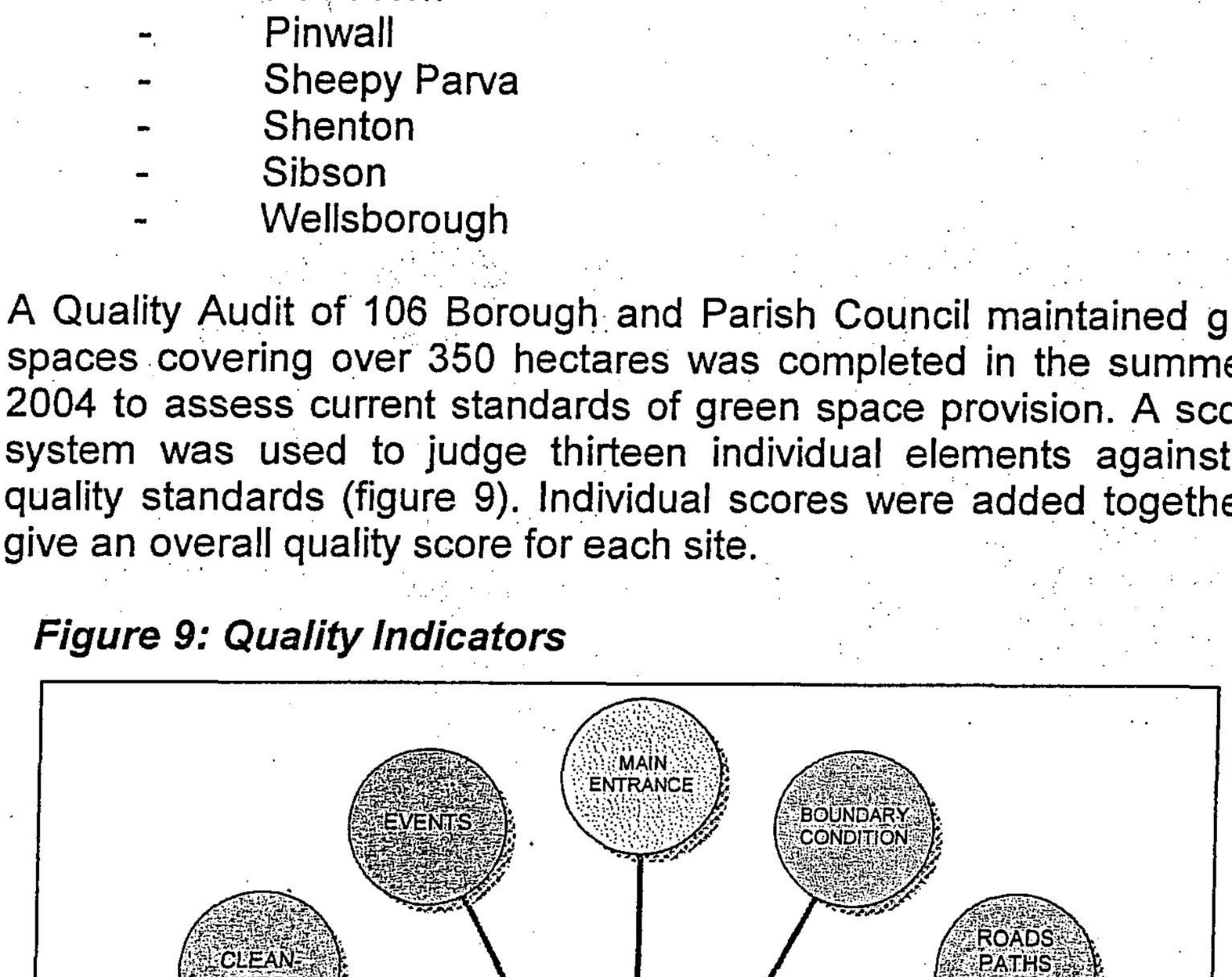
7.27 The following settlements have no publicly owned formal green space:

- Atterton
- Barton in the Beans
- Bilstone
- Cadeby
- Orton on the Hill
- Osbaston
- Peckleton
- Pinwall
- Sheepy Parva
- Shenton
- Sibson
- Wellsborough

7.28 A Quality Audit of 106 Borough and Parish Council maintained green spaces covering over 350 hectares was completed in the summer of 2004 to assess current standards of green space provision. A scoring system was used to judge thirteen individual elements against set quality standards (figure 9). Individual scores were added together to give an overall quality score for each site.

Figure 9: Quality Indicators



7.29 The results of the quality audit are provided in table one below and show that:

- quality of green spaces within the borough varies considerably - the worst site scoring only 16% whilst the best was awarded 64.1%.
- Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council maintained sites feature prominently amongst the highest scoring sites with the top three scoring sites managed by the Council (the highest scoring site was Kirkby Road Community Park, Barwell). However, sites within Hinckley and Barwell also dominated those that scored the lowest (five out of the seven bottom sites were found within these locations).

TABLE 1: Green Space Quality Audit Scores

Priority	Site	Location	Classification (Typology)	Overall Quality Score (%)
1	Rutland Avenue	Hinckley	Provision for children and young people	16.0
2	Granby Road	Hinckley	Provision for children and young people	18.0
3	Church Field	Congerstone	Provision for children and young people	20.4
4	Preston Road	Hinckley	Provision for children and young people	20.7
5	Howards Close	Barwell	Amenity Green Space	21.7
6	Weaver Springs	Earl Shilton	Provision for children and young people	22.4
7	Wykin Park	Hinckley	Parks & Gardens	22.7
8	Bambrook Close	Desford	Amenity Green Space	23.8
9	Main Street/Thornton Reservoir	Thornton	Provision for children and young people	24.1
10	Masefield Close	Barwell	Provision for children and young people	24.1
11	Rugby/Bridge Road	Burbage	Provision for children and young people	24.1
12	Waterfall Way	Barwell	Provision for children and young people	25.9
13	Odstone Play Area	Odstone	Provision for children and young people	26.0
14	Northfield Road/Station Road	Bagworth	Amenity Green Space	26.1
15	Oakdale Road	Earl Shilton	Amenity Green Space	26.1
16	Community Centre, Station Road	Bagworth	Provision for children and young people	26.7
17	Dragons Lane	Newbold Verdon	Provision for children and young people	26.8
18	Trinity Vicarage	Hinckley	Provision for children and young people	27.4
19	Barwell Lane	Hinckley	Outdoor sports facilities	27.6
20	Hall Drive	Stoke Golding	Provision for children and young people	27.6
21	Pickard Rec	Desford	Provision for children and young people	27.6
22	King George V Playing Field	Higham on the Hill	Parks & Gardens	27.8
23	Langdale Road	Hinckley	Outdoor sports facilities	27.8
24	The Leys	Kirkby Mallory	Outdoor sports facilities	27.8
25	Colts Close 2	Burbage	Provision for children and young people	29.6
26	Elmdale Road/Maple Way	Earl Shilton	Provision for children and young people	29.6

Priority	Site	Location	Classification (Typology)	Overall Quality Score (%)
27	Orton Lane Playing Fields	Twycross	Provision for children and young people	29.6
28	Cricket Ground, Nuneaton Lane	Higham on the Hill	Outdoor sports facilities	30.4
29	The Common	Barwell	Parks & Gardens	31.0
30	East of Ferndale Drive	Ratby	Provision for children and young people	31.5
31	Mallard Drive	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	31.5
32	Stanton under Bardon Primary School	Stanton under Bardon	Provision for children and young people	31.5
33	Queens Park	Hinckley	Parks & Gardens	32.4
34	Spinney Close	Groby	Green Corridor	32.6
35	Recreation Ground	Stapleton	Provision for children and young people	33.3
36	Borrowdale Close	Earl Shilton	Amenity Green Space	34.6
37	Beacon Close	Groby	Amenity Green Space	34.8
38	Burroughs Road	Ratby	Provision for children and young people	35.2
39	Ferndale Grove	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	36.0
40	Brodick Road	Hinckley	Provision for children and young people	36.2
41	Forest View	Groby	Provision for children and young people	37.0
42	St Peters Close	Market Bosworth	Amenity Green Space	37.0
43	Britannia Recreation Ground	Burbage	Parks & Gardens	37.5
44	Ratcliffe Culey Playing Field	Ratcliffe Culey	Provision for children and young people	37.9
45	May Meadow	Barlestone	Provision for children and young people	38.0
46	Brookside Place	Sheepy Magna	Provision for children and young people	38.9
47	Kirkby Road Rec	Desford	Provision for children and young people	38.9
48	Heath Road	Market Bosworth	Provision for children and young people	39.1
49	Meadow Way/Sycamore Drive	Groby	Amenity Green Space	39.1
50	Spinney Drive/Ferrers Croft	Barlestone	Amenity Green Space	39.1
51	Laxford Close	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	40.0
52	Village Green 2	Carlton	Amenity Green Space	40.5
53	Alans Way	Newbold Verdon	Outdoor sports facilities	40.7
54	Rear Woodland Avenue	Burbage	Amenity Green Space	40.7
55	Richmond Park	Hinckley	Parks & Gardens	41.2
56	Farm Road	Burbage	Amenity Green Space	41.3
57	Featherstone Drive	Burbage	Parks & Gardens	41.7
58	Kirfield Drive	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	42.0
59	Northumberland Avenue	Market Bosworth	Amenity Green Space	42.9
60	Stanley Road	Market Bosworth	Amenity Green Space	42.9
61	Flaxfield Close	Groby	Amenity Green Space	43.1
62	Barwell Park	Barwell	Parks & Gardens	43.3
63	Jellicoe Way	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	44.0
64	Botcheston Playing Field	Desford	Provision for children and young people	44.4
65	Bosworth Road	Barlestone	Provision for children and young people	44.8

Priority	Site	Location	Classification (Typology)	Overall Quality Score (%)
66	Hinckley Road Recreation Ground	Burbage	Parks & Gardens	44.8
67	Granville Road	Hinckley	Provision for children and young people	45.2
68	Canal Way	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	45.7
69	Weston Drive	Market Bosworth	Amenity Green Space	45.7
70	Boston Way	Barwell	Provision for children and young people	46.0
71	Far Lash	Burbage	Amenity Green Space	46.0
72	Drayton Close	Fenny Drayton	Provision for children and young people	46.3
73	The Hall Field	Earl Shilton	Parks & Gardens	46.7
74	Wood Street & 65 Club	Earl Shilton	Provision for children and young people	46.8
75	Glenbarr Drive	Hinckley	Green Corridor	48.0
76	Willow Tree Close	Barwell	Amenity Green Space	48.0
77	Market Bosworth Country Park Playground	Market Bosworth	Provision for children and young people	48.3
78	Forest Road	Groby	Amenity Green Space	50.0
79	King Richards Hill	Earl Shilton	Amenity Green Space	50.0
80	Laundon Way/Kings Way	Groby	Amenity Green Space	50.0
81	Odstone Drive	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	50.0
82	Stamford Drive/Sycamore Drive	Groby	Parks & Gardens	50.0
83	The Rock Gardens	Hinckley	Parks & Gardens	50.0
84	Village Green	Dadlington	Amenity Green Space	50.0
85	Witherley Memorial Grounds	Witherley	Provision for children and young people	51.7
86	Brosdale Drive	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	52.0
87	Cunnery Close	Barlestone	Amenity Green Space	52.2
88	Glebe Close	Barlestone	Amenity Green Space	52.2
89	Parish Field	Market Bosworth	Amenity Green Space	52.2
90	Mallory Close	Newbold Verdon	Amenity Green Space	53.1
91	Argents Mead/Castle Mount	Hinckley	Parks & Gardens	53.3
92	Clifton Way	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	54.0
93	Cottage Close	Ratby	Amenity Green Space	54.3
94	Forest Rise/Drovers Way	Desford	Amenity Green Space	54.5
95	Chitterman Way	Markfield	Amenity Green Space	54.8
96	Village Green 1	Carlton	Amenity Green Space	54.8
97	Jubilee Playing Fields	Markfield	Parks & Gardens	55.2
98	Clarendon Park	Hinckley	Parks & Gardens	55.9
99	Wykin Road North	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	56.0
100	Church Road	Nailstone	Parks & Gardens	56.4
101	Launde Road	Markfield	Amenity Green Space	56.5
102	Colts Close 1	Burbage	Provision for children and young people	57.4
103	Station Road	Shackerstone	Provision for children and young people	58.9
104	Mount Road Car Park	Hinckley	Amenity Green Space	59.3
105	Hollycroft Park	Hinckley	Parks & Gardens	60.3
106	Kirkby Road	Barwell	Parks & Gardens	64.1

7.30 The Quality Audit also showed:

- green space across the borough is of a generally poor condition with an overall average score for all sites of only 40.5%. The quality of provision for children and young people was particularly unsatisfactory.

- the basic infrastructure (i.e. seating, bins, paths, and fencing) at many sites was unsatisfactory with a general lack of facilities and poor maintenance.

- main entrances were particularly poor at most sites across the borough with only two sites scoring more than two (out of a possible four) points for this feature.

- the audit identified a lack of diversity in planting within most green spaces. Maintenance of these and grass areas was also variable across the borough.

- security was identified by the audit as one of the better features. Many of the sites were located within residential areas, ensuring natural surveillance by neighbouring properties. A number of lighting systems were in place across green spaces and CCTV camera surveillance at some sites.

- signage was generally adequate at most sites audited, however, vandalism of these signs was identified as an issue.

- a large proportion of the sites were deemed to be at least partially acceptable for disabled users. However, equipped play areas did not cater well for a diversity of physical abilities.

- litter and dog fouling appeared well controlled at most sites audited but graffiti and vandalism was problematic at a number of sites. Graffiti was a noticeable problem in the Parish of Earl Shilton, where the majority of sites were adversely affected.

7.31 The Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Playing Fields Assessment also revealed the key quality issues of:

- The variable quality of ancillary provision
- Poor drainage of pitches
- Poor pitch surfaces
- Lack of quality grounds maintenance

Identifying Deficiencies

7.32 The main quantitative deficiencies identified by the Green Space Strategy are in the provision of equipped children's play facilities and provision for young people (12 to 18 year olds). Shortfalls are evident across the borough when current provision is compared against national standards. Consultation also indicates the failure to meet the needs of local people.

7.33 Qualitative deficiencies in green space provision are identified by both the Quality Audit and local consultation. These deficiencies are affecting the capacity of existing sites to meet the needs of local people and are creating unnecessary shortfalls. Provision for children and young people, outdoor sports, toilet and disabled facilities are particularly poor across the borough.

7.34 The overall quality of green spaces across the borough achieved a score of only 40.5%. Significant improvement is needed to prevent any further decline and raise quality standards in the future.

7.35 Rural areas are more likely to suffer accessibility problems, particularly for more formal green space provision. The Quantity Audit identifies twelve settlements where no publicly accessible formal green space is provided.

7.36 Rural communities often have to travel further to access facilities than residents of more urban settlements. Many rural settlements, however, are typically too small to justify all types of green space provision. PPG17 accepts the '*residents in rural areas cannot realistically expect to have the same level of access to the full range of different types of open space, sport and recreation facilities normally available in more densely populated urban areas. This means that residents of rural areas usually have to travel further than most urban residents to some forms of provision'.* Village appraisals should identify the needs and priorities of local communities and make provision accordingly. It may be necessary for nearby settlements to share provision. Over supply in one settlement may, therefore, cater for neighbouring shortfalls.

7.37 Parish Council's need the Borough Council's support to improve deficiencies in green space provision. Greater financial support (i.e. through the Parish & Community Initiative Fund) and better advice and guidance from Borough Council Officers on the provision and management of green space are essential.

7.38 Parish Green Space Forum for Clerks and Parish Councillors should be established to exchange ideas, share good practice and drive through improvements in the parishes. The Borough Council should support this group and develop effective working partnerships with each of the Parish Councils.

7.39 The Open Space Quality and Open Space Quantity/Accessibility Audits completed by the Borough Council highlight specific deficiencies in parish provision. Parish Council's should use these assessments to guide future improvements.

7.40 The Borough Council should assist Parish Councils to secure additional funding to improve rural provision of green space in the borough.

7.41 The results of local quality, quantity and accessibility assessments have been used to set new provision standards for the borough and develop new green space policies aimed at improving provision and the delivery of green space services. The remaining sections outline these standards and how the Parks & Countryside Service intends to address local deficiencies to meet the needs of local communities.

8. A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Our Vision:

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Parks and Countryside Service will work in partnership with the local community and other service providers to create a network of high quality and accessible green space that meets the needs of local people.

We will provide clean, safe and well-maintained parks and green spaces, which offer varied leisure opportunities for all ages, helping to make a Borough to be proud of, supporting regeneration, biodiversity and healthy living.



Jubilee Playing Fields, Markfield

9. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

9.1 To achieve our vision, the Parks and Countryside Service have developed a number of key aims and objectives. These combine the results of the Green Space Audit/Strategy and the current aims of the Council, as described by the Community, Corporate and Best Value Plans. Long term aims address the priorities of the Parks & Countryside Service for the next 10 years:

LONG TERM AIMS (10 YEARS)

1. To develop and maintain high quality and accessible parks and open spaces throughout the borough, providing varied leisure opportunities for all age groups in high quality landscapes

2. Provide safe, clean and interesting play areas within reasonable distance of every child's home (no more than 600m or a 15 minute walk).

3. Address the needs of young people by developing a variety of outdoor leisure facilities and crime diversion activities specifically for teenagers.

4. Encourage active healthy lifestyles, increasing participation in sport and physical recreation by ensuring the availability of high quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities.

5. Create opportunities for people to enjoy and take part in the arts and entertainment through a programme of outdoor events and activities across the borough.

6. Manage and maintain green space to ensure the sustainability and diversity of wildlife habitats.

7. Encourage positive use of green space, tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing levels of littering and dog-fouling

8. Improve and maintain green space to support regeneration and encourage tourism, making the borough a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

9. Raise awareness of environmental issues through educational and life-long learning programmes at green space sites

10. Provide a high quality cemetery and bereavement service which is responsive and sympathetic to the needs of its customers

Medium Term (<5 Years) Objectives

9.2 To achieve our long-term aims the Parks and Countryside Service has developed medium-term objectives. These will help the Service stay on course and achieve its targets. The objectives are based on the results of the Green Space Audit/Strategy and Community Plan but also respond to the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

9.3 The objectives of the Service are founded on a 5 year plan to take into account the demands on the Service and size of projects involved. The Green Space Strategy and medium-term objectives will be reviewed in 2010.

9.4 Our medium-term priorities for 2005 – 2010 are:

A To implement a programme of improvements to children's play provision in Hinckley and Barwell.

Our Target: i) Reduce quantity deficiencies in children's play provision by 50% in Hinckley and Barwell by 2010 (compared to 2004 audit)
ii) For all designated provision for children and young people in Hinckley & Barwell to achieve a quality score of 65% by 2010.

B To provide multi-games areas within all Council-managed neighbourhood parks.

Our Target: Install 5 multi-games areas at neighbourhood parks in Hinckley and Barwell by 2010.

C To create new provision for children and young people at Swallows Green, Hinckley.

Our Target: New facilities to be in completed by 2009.

D To continue the Community Parks development programme working with local residents to plan and implement improvements to parks.

Our Target: For all designated neighbourhood parks to have a quality score of 65% or more by 2010.

E To effectively tackle issues of anti-social behaviour in our parks and green spaces.

Our Target: To reduce complaints about anti-social behaviour in our parks and green spaces by 30% between April 2006 and April 2010.

F To reduce the frequency and levels of littering and dog fouling within our parks and green spaces.

Our Target: i) All Council managed parks and green spaces to have litter and dog bins by 2010
ii) Reduce complaints by 25% between April 2006 and April 2010

G To develop leisure facilities for young people at Richmond Park, Hinckley.

Our Target: Work in partnership with the local community and young people to implement scheme. Facilities to be in place before the end of 2007/08

H To develop Hollycroft Park as Hinckley's Premier Park for formal recreation.

Our Target: Apply for Heritage Lottery Funding for the restoration and regeneration of Hollycroft Park. Implementing programme of improvements by 2008.

I To improve opportunities for informal recreation at Burbage Common whilst maintaining the natural integrity of the site.

Our Target: Implement programme of improvements to visitor facilities including visitor centre and site infrastructure by 2009

J To raise the quality of our parks to a recognised national standard.

Our Target: To obtain Green Flag or Green Pennant awards for 5 Council managed parks or green spaces by 2010

K To maximise opportunities for enhancing the provision of green space through new development in the Borough.

Our Target: To review and update the Council's Play and Open Space Guide for developers in line with the Green Space Strategy and Action Plan.

L To continue to run the Parish and Community Initiatives fund to support improvements to leisure and community facilities in parishes.

Our Target: Priority to be given to green space sites identified as most in need of improvement by the quality audit with a minimum 50% of all grants awarded to identified priority sites.

M To improve recreational opportunities for the disabled at green spaces across the borough.

Our Target: i) To make 90% of all Borough Council green spaces acceptable for use by the disabled by 2010
ii) All new equipped play areas in Hinckley & Barwell to offer inclusive opportunities for the disabled

N To develop a network of park user and 'friends of' groups to help improve and maintain parks and open spaces.

Our Target: All parks and green spaces in Hinckley & Barwell to be represented by an Area Parks Forum by 2010

O To achieve and maintain Quality Standards for our Cemetery Service

Our Target: Cemetery Service to achieve ICCM Charter for the Bereaved Membership and ISO 9001 status by 2010

P To increase the proportion of the total Service budget obtained from external sources.

Our Target: To maximise the opportunities and applications made to external funding bodies

Q To conserve and enhance biodiversity through the protection, creation and improvement of natural habitats.

Our Target: Adopt English Natures Accessible Natural Greenspace standard (ANGSt) and develop a new ring fenced fund for the creation or enhancement of natural green space.

R **Monitor and improve levels of satisfaction with the Parks and Countryside Service.**

Our Target: To have a comprehensive system for monitoring the quality of grounds maintenance and customer satisfaction with the Parks and Countryside Service by 2006 with performance indicators that are reviewed and published annually.

S **To develop and review site management plans for all our Neighbourhood and Countryside Parks.**

Our Target: All Neighbourhood and Countryside Parks to have current up to date Site Management Plans by 2010.

T **To increase the number of events and activities held in parks and open spaces across the Borough.**

Our Target: To provide a small grant scheme for community events held in parks and open spaces by 2006/07.

U **To improve access and raise awareness of the Parks and Countryside Service.**

Our Target: A full range of information to be available to the community via the Community Portal, leaflets and newsletters by 2010.

V **Investigate potential to secure lake site off Coventry Road, Hinckley for water based activities and public recreation**

Our Target: Acquire and improve site, providing opportunities for public recreation and use.

W **To improve the quality of public spaces in Hinckley Town for local residents - encouraging civic pride, regeneration and tourism.**

Our Target: To enter Hinckley in the Britain In Bloom Competition by 2010.

10. PROVISION STANDARDS

10.1 The assessment of local needs and opportunities has allowed the Green Space Strategy to develop provision standards for the Quantity, Quality and Accessibility of green space in the borough. These standards can be used to improve existing or provide new green space through new residential development.

10.2 The new quantity standards for green space in the borough are as follows:

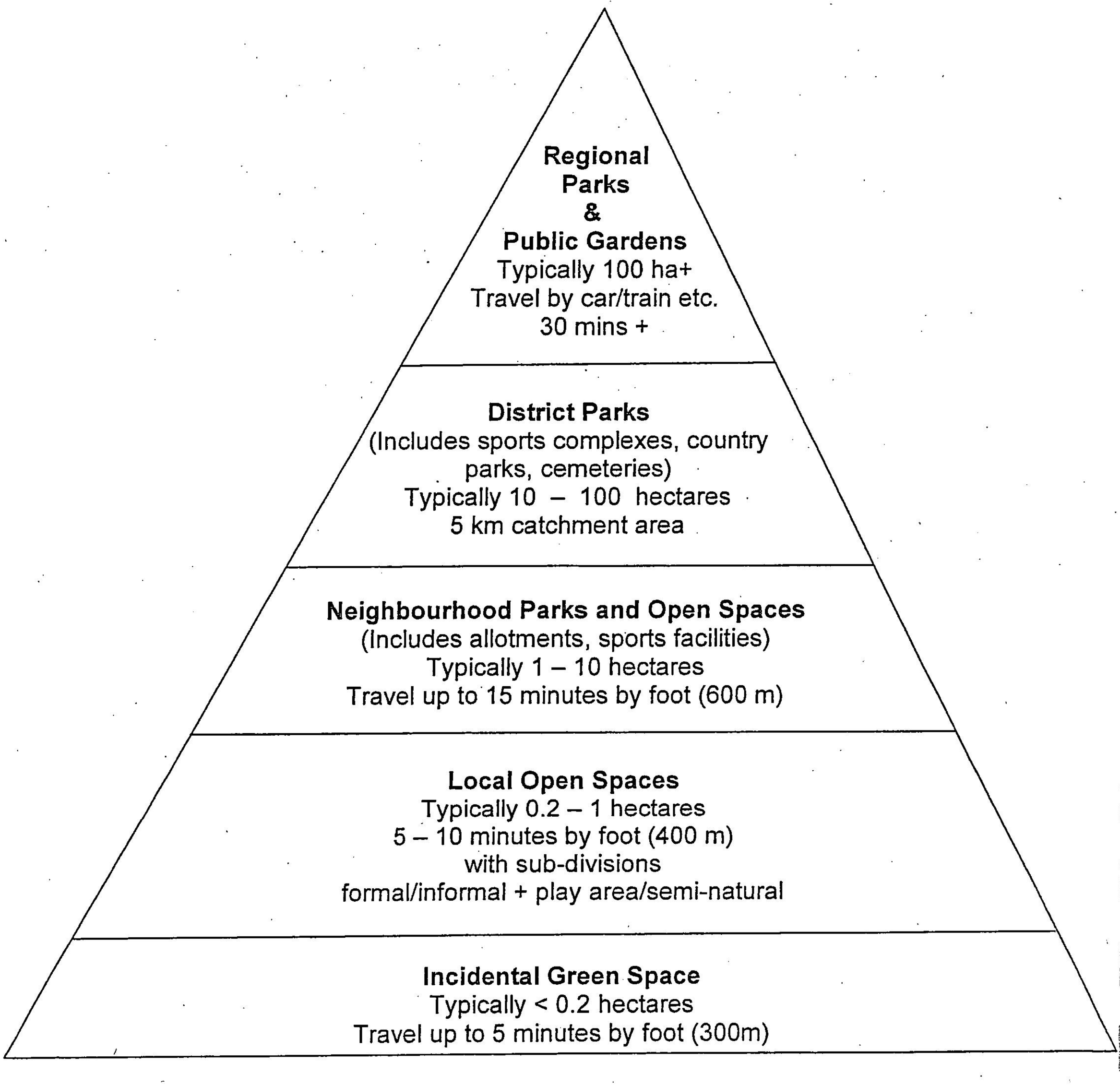
Equipped Children's Play Space (excluding buffer zones)	0.15 ha/1000 population
Casual/Informal Play Space	0.7 ha/1000 population
Outdoor Sports Provision	1.6 ha/1000 population
Accessible Natural Green Space	2 ha /1000 population

10.3 Quality standards are based on a combination of quality based site inspection scores and performance indicators obtained through consultation with the local community. It is recommended that a system for monitoring quality performance indicators is adopted and reviewed annually.

10.4 Accessibility standards have been developed based on national models adapted to reflect local circumstances. The result is a local standard based on a hierarchy of provision (figure 10) as follows:

- **District Parks and Green Spaces**: all households should be within 5 kilometres of an open space of at least 10 hectares which provides general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting.
- **Neighbourhood Parks and Green Spaces**: all households should be within 600 metres of an open space of between 1 and 10 hectares which provide general facilities for recreational activity within a landscaped setting.
- **Local Parks and Green Space**: all households should be within 400 metres of an open space of between 0.2 – 1.0 hectare which provide facilities for recreation within a localised area, catering for the specific informal needs of the local community.
- **Incidental/Amenity Green Space**: all household should be within 300 metres of a small formal or informal area of open space that is suitable for informal use and has high amenity value.

Figure 10: Hierarchy of Green Space Provision



11. SUMMARY OF GREEN SPACE POLICY

POLICY GS1– PARKS

The Council will seek to protect and improve existing regional, district and neighbourhood parks within the borough.

The Parks & Countryside Service will promote parks managed by other providers through its website and distribution of marketing information. Partnerships with other providers will be developed to maximise opportunities to improve parks and to raise awareness and accessibility of sites.

The Parks & Countryside Service will work with Parish Councils to raise the quality of their parks. Financial assistance will be available through the Parish & Community Initiatives Fund. A Green Space Forum will also help share information and good practice.

Borough Council managed and maintained parks will be protected and improved with the aim of all parks achieving a quality score of at least 75% by 2010. This will be achieved by:

- Implementing a programme of capital improvements to existing parks in Hinckley and Barwell.

- Adopting site Management Plans for all Council maintained parks by 2010.

- Implementing a comprehensive system of monitoring the quality of parks and producing key performance indicators.

- Seeking funding to expand the current Ranger Service or Community Warden scheme to provide a more visible on-site staff presence.

- Supporting and encouraging 'Friends of' groups at all Council managed parks.

- Seeking funding to provide a Community Green Space Officer to work with the local community and Parish Councils on improving parks and green spaces across the borough.

- Continuing the Parish & Community Initiative grant scheme to help fund park improvement projects in the parishes.

- Introducing a small grant scheme for community events in the Council's parks and green spaces.

- Working in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership to address issues of anti-social behaviour in parks.

POLICY GS2– PROVISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council will seek to improve the quantity and quality of equipped children's play provision in the borough and protect and enhance areas of unequipped play space.

The provision of facilities for young people (12 – 18 year olds) will be a high priority for the Parks & Countryside Service. Facilities will be provided by the Council at eight strategic locations in Hinckley and Barwell to ensure that the majority of households are within a fifteen minute walk of facilities for this age group.

Equipped play facilities for children aged 0 – 12 years will be provided at a minimum of eleven strategic locations in Hinckley and Barwell. The quality of these facilities will be improved through a programme of improvements.

The Parks & Countryside Service will encourage accessible play space which is inclusive in its design and meets the needs of disabled users.

The Parks & Countryside Service will reduce deficiencies in the quantity of equipped play space in Hinckley and Barwell by providing more facilities of improved quality at existing sites.

Parish Councils will be encouraged to improve the provision for children and young people through the Parish & Community Initiative Fund. A Green Space Forum will also be set up to encourage good practice and provide information on the design and maintenance of play space.

POLICY GS3 – NATURAL & SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE

The Council will seek to protect and enhance the wildlife value and biodiversity of natural and semi-natural green space across the borough. These areas will be conserved for their environmental, ecological, social and flood prevention benefits.

The Council will protect important natural habitats from development. Where development is permitted that will result in the loss of wild fauna or flora the Council will ensure effective mitigating measures are taken to replace or reinstate the conservation value that has been lost.

Informal recreation will be encouraged at the Council's natural and semi-natural green spaces but careful visitor management will ensure an appropriate balance is struck between recreational use and nature conservation objectives.

To improve the provision of natural and semi-natural green space in the borough the Parks & Countryside Service will:

- identify and protect additional sites of importance for nature conservation (SINC's);
- act positively on any opportunities which arise to acquire or create new areas of natural or semi-natural green space;
- work in partnership with other agencies, organisations and the local community;
- promote responsible use of the natural environment through education, information and interpretation;
- adopt management plans for all Council maintained Countryside sites;
- maintain local provenance;
- reduce the use of chemical herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and fertilisers at all of the Council's green spaces;
- explore opportunities to increase visible site staff presence and maximise opportunities to involve volunteers and student placements in the improvement and maintenance of the natural environment;

POLICY GS4 – OUTDOOR SPORTS PROVISION

The Council will seek to protect existing outdoor sports facilities in the borough and improve the quality and accessibility of existing provision.

The Council will work to improve the quality of its pitches, greens and courts through improvements to drainage, playing surface and maintenance. A programme of improvements to the quality of ancillary facilities e.g. changing rooms will also be a high priority.

The Council will work with the Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Sports Forum, Parish Councils, schools, colleges and sports clubs to improve the quality and accessibility of outdoor sports provision in rural areas and areas of urban deprivation.

POLICY GS5– AMENITY GREEN SPACE

The Council will seek to protect and improve the quality of existing amenity green space in the borough.

The Council will only ever dispose of existing areas of amenity green space if they are shown to be of low quality and value. Even then restrictions on building on or enclosing the space may be applied.

The Parks & Countryside Service will maximise opportunities to improve areas of amenity green space along highways for floral displays and bulb planting. Floral gateways and improvements to traffic roundabouts in and around Hinckley and other urban centres will be implemented in partnership with the County and Parish Councils.

The Parks & Countryside Service will work to improve the biodiversity and wildlife value of its amenity green spaces through planting and maintenance regimes.

The Parks & Countryside Service will not install any new 'no ball games' signs on amenity green space unless a majority of local residents see this as the only way forward. Instead alternative measures will be taken working in partnership with the Council's anti-social behaviour specialists.

POLICY GS6 – ALLOTMENTS

The Council will seek to protect existing allotments in the borough and improve the quality and quantity of its own provision. Where allotments are to be lost and there is sufficient demand illustrated, replacement facilities will be provided in an appropriate location.

The Parks & Countryside Service will improve the quality of maintenance at its allotments, ensuring vacated plots are re-tenanted quickly and overgrown plots rotivated prior to letting. Information will be provided to allotment tenants on environmental sustainable methods of cultivating their plot, including reduction of water use, composting and organic gardening techniques.

The Council will undertake a full audit of all allotments in the borough including privately managed sites.

POLICY GS7 – GREEN CORRIDORS

The Council will seek to protect existing green corridors and improve opportunities for their use for walking, cycling and horse-riding.

The Parks & Countryside Service will manage its green corridors to encourage wildlife migration. Planting and maintenance regimes will reflect the value of green corridors as important wildlife habitats and seek to improve biodiversity.

The Council will give high priority to protecting from development green corridors that link existing areas of green space within urban areas and green corridors that link urban green spaces to the open countryside.

POLICY GS8 – CEMETERIES & CHURCHYARDS

The Council will seek to protect burial land across the borough and improve the quality and safety of the two cemeteries and eight closed churchyards that it manages.

The Parks & Countryside Service will improve the quality of maintenance within its existing cemeteries and closed churchyards and apply for Charter for the Bereaved and ISO 9001 status for its Cemetery Service.

The Parks & Countryside Service will continue a rolling programme of inspecting and making safe memorials within its cemeteries and closed churchyards. All new memorials will be installed by members of the Council's Memorial Masons Registration Scheme to NAMM standards.

The Health & Safety of users of the Council's cemeteries and closed churchyards is a high priority.

The Parks & Countryside Service will promote the heritage and wildlife of its cemeteries.

The Parks & Countryside Service will work in partnership with funeral directors, memorial masons and cemetery users to improve the quality of provision and services for the bereaved.

POLICY GS9 – COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council will continue to work with the local community to manage and develop its green spaces. The Parks & Countryside Service will support existing partnerships with the local community and actively encourage more people to get involved in the decision making process.

POLICY GS10 – 'FRIENDS OF' GROUPS

'Friends of' groups will be supported and encouraged by the Parks & Countryside Service. A small grants scheme will be established to help set up new groups and fund community events in the Council's green spaces.

POLICY GS11 – EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council will continue to hold a programme of events and activities at open spaces across the borough. A Strategy for developing this service will be adopted to ensure a co-ordinated and innovative approach to delivering events in the future. A small grants scheme will also be made available to help fund community events and activities in the Council's green spaces.

POLICY GS12 – GREEN SPACE IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council will continue to negotiate with developers the on and/or off site provision of green space for all new residential developments.

National planning guidance will be used to develop new policy and inform the review of the Local Plan.

POLICY GS13 – PLAY & OPEN SPACE GUIDE

The Play & Open Space Guide will be reviewed to take account of the Green Space Strategy and recommended new green space provision standards. In the future the Play & Open Space Guide will be replaced by a supplementary planning document (SDP) for Green Space.

POLICY GS14 – THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The new Local Development Framework will adopt new green space policies to reflect local circumstances and deficiencies in the quantity, quality and accessibility of green space.

POLICY GS15 – DOG FOULING

Dog fouling will not be tolerated at any open spaces owned or maintained by the Borough Council. Anyone caught failing to clean up after a dog will be issued with a fixed penalty fine of £50 or face prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

The Borough Council will work to educate responsible dog ownership and provide dog waste bins where appropriate. Parish Councils will be encouraged and supported to enforce dog fouling legislation under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

POLICY GS16 – ABANDONED CARS

It is the Council's policy to remove all abandoned vehicles within its parks and green spaces within 24 hours of being notified.

POLICY GS17 – LITTER & FLY TIPPING/POSTING

The Council will take action against any person caught littering, fly tipping or fly posting a public place.

The Parks & Countryside Service will ensure all of its green spaces are regularly litter picked and litter bins emptied before they become full. Fly tipping will be cleaned up within 24 hours.

POLICY GS18 – VANDALISM

The Council will respond to all reports of vandalism in its green spaces within 48 hours. The site will be made safe on inspection and if possible a full repair made. Alternatively the item will be replaced as soon as is possible.

The Parks and Countryside Service will work with the Community Safety Partnership to tackle vandalism and implement a programme of schemes to reduce the problem.

POLICY GS19 – UNDERAGE DRINKING

The Parks and Countryside Service will report all underage drinking on green spaces to the Police and the Council's Community Safety Unit. The Service will continue working with the Community Safety Partnership to implement projects, which help reduce underage drinking and divert young people towards more positive pastimes.

The Council support the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's), Dispersal Orders, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) for young people and Child Curfew Schemes in tackling the problem of underage drinking.

POLICY GS20 – DRUG ABUSE

The use or dealing of drugs within green spaces will not be tolerated and all incidents will be reported to the Council's Community Safety Unit for investigation.

The Parks and Countryside Service will keep its green spaces free of the products of drug use e.g. needles by carrying out regular inspections. All reports will be dealt with immediately.

The Parks and Countryside Service will implement a programme of improvements to facilities for young people and provide diversionary activities in green spaces to encourage more positive healthy lifestyles.

POLICY GS21 – PERSONAL SAFETY

The Parks and Countryside Service will seek to improve people's feeling of personal safety when using its green spaces. The quality of green spaces will be maintained and improved to discourage anti-social behaviour and encourage positive use.

New green spaces will be designed to address key safety issues and where possible provide natural surveillance from neighbouring properties.

Staffing and supervision of green spaces will be reviewed and the potential for an improved Ranger Service and/or Community Warden Initiative investigated.

The Parks and Countryside will provide supervised activities to encourage people that might not otherwise use green spaces.

POLICY GS22 - BIODIVERSITY

The Council will seek to conserve and enhance biological diversity in Hinckley and Bosworth through the protection, creation and improvement of natural habitats across the borough.

The Council is committed to working with other environmental agencies and organisations to deliver the objectives of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (LLRBAP).

The Council will adopt English Nature's Accessible Natural Greenspace standard. This new standard will be applied to all new development in the borough to provide new natural habitats on site or an off-site financial contribution. Off-site contributions will be ring fenced in a new funding scheme for the creation or enhancement of natural green space in the borough or projects that further LLRBAP targets.

POLICY GS23 – WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Parks & Countryside Service will continue to work in partnership with external organisations and agencies on cross-cutting issues that affect the management and development of green space in the borough.

POLICY GS24 – WORKING WITH OTHER LANDOWNERS

The Parks and Countryside Service will continue to support other landowners with advice and seek additional resources to expand their work with Parish Councils.

POLICY GS25 – SITE MONITORING & INSPECTION

The Parks & Countryside Service will regularly inspect and monitor the Health & Safety of the green spaces that it maintains. Performance Indicators on the quality of grounds maintenance will be produced quarterly and annually.

POLICY GS26 – TREE CONDITION INSPECTION & MONITORING

The Council will implement and resource a programme of inspecting all of its tree stock.

The Parks & Countryside Services in a joint venture with Leicestershire County Council will carry out risk assessments of all trees within the Council's green spaces.

A maintenance regime to deal with high and medium risk trees will be implemented.

POLICY GS27 – MEMORIAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS

The Council will continue a rolling programme of inspecting and making safe memorials at its two cemeteries and eight closed churchyards.

POLICY GS28 – PROCUREMENT

The Council will ensure best value in the procurement of all its services and regularly review options for their delivery.

The Parks & Countryside Service will seek value for money when procuring goods and services by:

- tendering smaller works/projects jointly to secure discounts e.g. new play equipment contracts;
- investigating opportunities to develop joint ventures with neighbouring authorities;
- working with other Council departments;
- developing select tender lists;
- carrying out regular market testing.

SECTION 12 – FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN – HINCKLEY & BARWELL

N.B. ***The Section 106 figures stated in the Plan are liable to change and are not necessarily guaranteed if not already received by the Council. Additional Section 106 money may also become available in years two to five and these budgets will be more accurately profiled nearer the time.***

YEAR 1(September 2005 – April 2007)

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan Objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risk
1. Swallows Green, Hinckley	Lack of provision for children and young people in the area. Facility leased by Swallows Green Cricket Club until April 2008. Cricket Club lacks car-parking facilities and ancillary facilities need improvement.	Provide multi-games area for use by young people. Consult with Cricket Club on the duel use of site for cricket and children's play. Commission an independent report on potential layout/orientation of facilities to accommodate both uses. Work with the Cricket Club on purchasing additional land adjacent to the site and improving ancillary sporting facilities. If dual use of site found not to be possible consult with local people on alterative junior play provision at Kirfield Drive/Field Close Open Space.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5 Excellence 4	£40,000 £150,000	HBBC Capital 2005/06 £30,000 2006/07 £60,000 (Teenage Leisure Lifestyle) Section 106 £47,082* 04/00228/FUL Section 106 03/01424/OUT HBBC Capital 2005/06 £22,918 (Parks Major Works) Other Grants £30,000	Project funding Health & Safety Partnerships Site acquisition Lack of revenue funding to maintain improvements in the long term Project Officer funding

Key: * = S106 money not yet received o = S106 money received

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
2. Richmond Park, Hinckley	Poor quality of facilities and lack of provision for children and young people in area. Identified as next Community Park for development before strategic assessment completed so expectations have been raised.	Develop facilities for children and young people. To include, for example, a new children's play area and multi-games area. Establish a local 'Friends of' group to guide improvements.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£100,000	Section 106 £21,076° 01/00030/FUL £71,779* 02/00871/FUL HBBC Capital £7,145 (Parks Major Works 2006/07)	Project funding Lack of revenue funding to maintain improvements in the future. Project Officer funding Partnerships
3. Rutland Avenue, Hinckley	Small play area in close proximity to Granby Road and Granville Road play areas. Site of very poor quality having been condemned and closed for more than two years.	Dispose of land and invest proceeds in the regeneration of children's play facilities at Granville Road.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	Funding to be invested at Granville Road.	N/A	Sale of asset
4. Granby Road, Hinckley	Small play area in close proximity of Granville Road play area. Site of poor quality and of little play value.	Dispose of land and invest proceeds in the regeneration of children's play facilities at Granville Road.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	Funding to be invested at Granville Road.	N/A	Sale of asset

Key: * = S106 money not yet received ° = S106 money received

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
5. Trinity Vicarage, Hinckley	Problems of anti-social and nuisance behaviour at site. Poor quality equipped children's play area of little value in its current condition. Proximity to Clarendon Park Play Area.	Decommission equipped play area and consult local residents on the re-classification of the site as amenity green space or allotment provision. Future investment for equipped play to be targeted at Clarendon Park Play Area.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People A Safer Community	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£15,000 (Amenity Green Space) £30,000 (Allotments)	Section 106 £28,628* 02/00739/FUL	Change of land use Project funding Lack of revenue funding to maintain improvements
6. Brodick Road, Hinckley	Poor quality of facilities and lack of provision for children and young people in area.	Install new play area offering a range of equipment for children and young people. Establish new 'Friends of' group to guide improvements.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£82,000	Section 106 £82,000° 03/00381/FUL Other Grants	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Project Officer funding
7. Boston Way, Barwell	Community have requested new play area at site and carried out work on consulting local people, drawing up plans and securing funding.	Install toddler/junior play area at site as per agreed plans.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£43,000	Living Spaces £21,607 Section 106 £12,182° 03/00205/FUL HBBC Capital £9,211 (Teenage Leisure Lifestyle 2005/06)	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Project Officer funding

Key: * = S106 money not yet received ° = S106 money received

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
8. St Mary's Churchyard, Hinckley	St Mary's wall condemned as a dangerous structure by HBBC Building Control Officers.	Implement five year repair programme with arboriculture works.	A Safer Community Supporting Cultural Life	Value 4 Achievements 5,6	£97,500	HBBC Capital + (GROWTH)	Health & Safety Project Funding
9. Ashby Road Cemetery, Hinckley	Need for new burial land at Hinckley Cemetery.	Move sewer from current location under proposed Cemetery extension.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 5	£100,000	HBBC Capital	Project funding
10. Burbage Common	Visitor facilities at site need improvement to respond to needs of local people.	Undertake survey of users of Burbage Common and Woods to identify improvements required at site. Apply for external funding for programme of improvements.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Achievements 1,2,5,8	£1,000	Leisure Revenue Funding	Project funding
11. Kirkby Road Community Park, Barwell	Continuous improvement	Adopt new site management plan. Enter Park for Green Flag Award. Work with 'Friends of' group and the Community Safety Partnership to deal with problems of anti-social behaviour at the site. Install swings in play area following requests from 'Friends of' Group.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment A Safer Community	Excellence 5 Achievements 1,2,5,6,8 Reliability 5	Staff time £5,000	Section 106 £2,392* 04/01370/FUL HBBC Capital £2608 (Parks Major Works 2006/07)	Project funding Partnerships Maintenance funding Unsuccessful Green Flag entry

Key: * = S106 money not yet received o = S106 money received

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
12. Service Improvement (Service Review)	Changes to the priorities and objectives of the Parks & Countryside Service as a result of the Green Space Strategy and assessments of local needs and opportunities.	Undertake a review of the current roles and responsibilities of the Parks and Countryside Team to reflect new priorities for the Service based on the needs of the local community.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment A Safer Community	Value 5,8	Staff time	-	Skills / knowledge compatibility
13. Service Improvement (Ranger Service Review)	Local assessments of needs identified demand for more staff presence at the Council's parks and green spaces to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour.	Review current Parks & Countryside Ranger Service and investigate opportunities to develop Community Warden Scheme.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment A Safer Community	Excellence 4 Value 5,8	Staff time	-	Staff resources
14. Service Improvement (Memorial Safety)	Health and safety of users of the Council's cemeteries and closed churchyards.	Continue rolling programme of memorial inspections at the Council's two cemeteries and eight closed churchyards. Undertake structural/liability survey at eight closed churchyards.	Supporting Cultural Life A Safer Community	Excellence 4 Value 4 Achievements 5,6	£145,000 £15,000	HBBC Revenue 2005/06 & 2006/07 £95,000 HBBC Capital 2005/06 £52,000 HBBC Capital 2006/07 £13,000 (Growth)	Health & Safety Funding Faculty Permission Negative publicity

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
15. Service Improvement (Tree Safety)	Lack of comprehensive system for the management and maintenance of the Council's tree stock, resulting in a significant Health & Safety risk.	Investigate options for tree inspections and maintenance. Carry out inspections of all Council tree stock.	Protecting Our Environment A Safer Community	Excellence 4 Value 2,4 Achievements 5,6	£16,000	HBBC Revenue Budgets (Growth)	Health & Safety Funding
16. Borough Wide Improvement (Green Space Supplementary Planning Document)	Current planning policy does not comply with PPG17 guidance and biased towards formal green space provision and out of date national standards.	Review current Local Plan and Planning Policy Guidance (Play & Open Space Guide) for green space in accordance with the findings of local assessments of needs and opportunities.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Probity 2 Achievements 5,8	T.B.C	Planning Delivery Grant	Funding
17. Service Improvement (Performance Monitoring)	No systems for monitoring the quality of green space provision and customer satisfaction.	Implement system of performance monitoring and publish annual performance data.	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 1,2,3,4,5 Probity 2 Achievements 2	Staff time	-	Staff resources Ongoing maintenance of systems
18. Borough Wide Improvement (Parish Forum)	Identified need for sharing of information and good practice between Parish and Borough Councils.	Set up Parish Green Space Forum for Parish Councils to share knowledge and hold topic based discussions.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Probity 2 Achievements 1,5,6,8 Reliability 4	Staff time	-	Staff resources

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
19. Service Improvement (Cemetery Liaison Group)	Lack of communication with users of Cemetery Services.	Set up Cemetery Liaison Group comprised of all key stakeholders in the Service.	Supporting Cultural Life	Probity 2 Achievements 1,2	Staff time	-	Staff resources
20. Service Improvement (Charter for the bereaved)	Lack of quality indicators for the Cemetery Service.	Apply for ICCM Charter for the Bereaved Membership.	Supporting Cultural Life	Excellence 4,5 Probity 2	Staff time	-	Staff resources Failure of application
21. Service Improvement (Site Management Plans)	Site Management Plans due for review and renewal.	Update Site Management Plans for Burbage Common, Billa Barra Hill, Manor Farm, Groby Pool Nature Area and Station Nature Gardens, adopting standard format and methodology.	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Probity 2 Value 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	Staff time	-	Staff resources
22. Service Improvement (Floral Gateways)	Floral and gateway improvements.	Create and improve floral gateways into the town and on major routes. Including landscaping of key roundabouts	Supporting Cultural Life A Vibrant Economy	Achievements 4,5	£80,000	HBBC Capital Budgets	Funding County Council partnership Maintenance funding
23. Service Improvement (Community Events)	Increase community involvement in the management of the Council's parks and green space.	Establish a small grant fund for community events in the Council's parks and green spaces. Maximum grant value £1,000.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 1,5,8 Reliability 5	£5,000	HBBC Revenue Budgets (Growth)	Funding Staff resources

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YEAR 2 (April 2007 - April 2008)

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
1. Clarendon Park, Hinckley	Site of good quality and high value but lacking in facilities for teenagers and young people. Poor quality provision of football facilities in Hinckley.	Provide multi-games area and other facilities for teenagers and young people. Develop site as centre for football excellence.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People A Healthier Community	Achievements 1,2,5,6,8 Reliability 5	£50,000 £233,000	HBBC Capital £50,000 (Teenage Leisure Lifestyle) Football Foundation + Various	Project Funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Partnerships
2. Hollycroft Park, Hinckley	Historic park in need of restoration to original glory. Basic infrastructure decaying and in need of investment. Park of high value as an outdoor venue for the arts and community events. Facilities including tennis courts, bowling green, pitch and putt course, bandstand, water feature, pathways and horticultural features all in need of improvement.	Prepare and submit Project Preparation Bid to Heritage Lottery Fund. Undertake project preparation work if bid to HLF successful.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£48,000	HLF Section 106 £23,376° 01/00095/FUL	Failure of HLF funding bid Project funding Project Officer funding

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
3. Brodick Road /Langdale Road, Hinckley	Poor quality of facilities and lack of provision for young people in area.	Develop site as a Community (neighbourhood) Park with a range of new facilities and improvements for all age groups. To include, for example, a multi-games area, new paths, bins, seating and landscaping. Improvements to be done in partnership with the local community and a new 'Friends of' group.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Achievements 1,2,5,6,8 Reliability 5	£100,000	HBBC Capital £45,000 (Teenage Leisure Lifestyle) Section 106 Including £4,785* 03/00094/FUL & 03/00909/OUT HBBC Capital £20,000 (Growth) Other Grants	Project Funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Project Officer Funding Partnerships
4. Richmond Park, Hinckley	Lack of leisure facilities for young people.	Develop new leisure facilities for young people at Richmond Park in partnership with Hinckley Club for Young People.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£417,000	HBBC Capital £227,000 Section 106 £40,000 Other Grants £70,000	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements in the future. Partnerships

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
5. Granville Road, Hinckley	Site of a good size with central play area of reasonable quality. Site lacks basic infrastructure and toddler provision. Quality of facilities could be improved significantly.	Invest proceeds from sale of Rutland Avenue and Granby Road sites in regeneration of play area and open space. Extend play are to include more equipment, particularly for toddlers. Provide new paths, seating, bins and signage.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	T.B.C	Sale of land at Rutland Avenue & Granby Road Section 106 £9,600* 02/00031/FUL £2,393* 02/01435/FUL	Project Funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Project Officer funding
6. St Mary's Churchyard, Hinckley	St Mary's wall condemned as a dangerous structure by HBBC Building Control Officers.	Continue with five year repair programme with arboriculture works.	A Safer Community Supporting Cultural Life	Value 4 Achievements 5,6	£31,625	HBBC Capital (GROWTH)	Health & Safety Project Funding
7. Barwell Park, Stapleton Lane, Barwell	Existing children's play area of poor quality.	Remove existing poor quality children's play area following installation of new play area at Boston Way.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£5,000	HBBC Capital £5,000 (Parks Major Works)	Boston Way project failure Funding
8. Ashby Road Cemetery, Hinckley	Need for new burial land at Hinckley Cemetery.	Employ consultant to plan new cemetery, liaise with users and consult on proposals.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 1,5	£10,000	HBBC Capital	Funding

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
9. Wykin Park, Hinckley	Poor quality of facilities and lack of provision for children and young people in area.	Establish 'Friends of' Group and begin consultation on proposed new community park in year 3.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Probity 2 Achievements 1,5,8 Reliability 5	£15,000	HBBC Capital (Growth)	Funding Partnerships
10. Hill Hole Quarry, Markfield	Continuous improvement and raising quality standards.	Enter park for Green Flag Award	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 3,5 Achievements 5,8	Staff time	-	Staff resources Failure of Green Flay application
11. Stanton under Bardon Old Sewage Works	Site poorly accessible to local community and would be vastly improved if became part of neighbouring lands National Forest Tender Scheme.	Dispose of land to National Forest Tender Scheme.	Protecting Our Environment	Achievements 5,8	Legal Costs	Existing Revenue Budgets	Funding Staff resources Land disposal
12. Service Improvement (Marketing)	Poor marketing of the Parks & Countryside Service and green space provision in the borough.	Create new interactive web page for green spaces on the Council's Community Portal. Update the Parks & Countryside Service Leaflet.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4,5 Probity 2 Value 3 Achievements 1,2 Reliability 5	£5,000	HBBC Revenue Funding (Growth)	Funding

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
13. Service Improvement (ANGSt Audit)	No borough wide data on current provision of natural accessible green space.	Carry out full audit of accessible natural green space following English Nature's ANGSt model.	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Achievements 5,8	Staff time	-	Staff resources
14. Service Improvement (Wildlife Monitoring)	No formal system for monitoring the quality of natural/semi-natural green spaces.	Utilise existing methods of monitoring the wildlife value of the Council's Countryside sites to produce annual reports on the health of sites.	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 5 Achievements 5	Staff time	-	Staff resources
15. Service Improvement (Cemetery Administration)	Antiquated systems for booking funerals and storing Cemetery data.	Introduce suitable electronic administration system for Cemetery Service.	Supporting Cultural Life	Probity 2 Value 3	£9,000	HBBC Revenue Funding (Growth)	Funding
16. Service Improvement (Site Management Plans)	No site Management Plans for Neighbourhood Parks	Write and adopt Management Plans for Richmond and Clarendon Parks.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 2,5 Probity 2 Achievements 1,5,6,8 Reliability 5	Staff Time	-	Staff resources
17. Service Improvement (Playsafe Software)	Inefficient systems for inspecting and maintaining Council's play areas.	Introduce electronic system for inspecting and monitoring play areas e.g. PlaySafe	Supporting Cultural Life Young People A Safer Community	Value 3 Achievements 5,8	£10,000	HBBC Revenue £10,000 (Growth)	Staff resources

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
18. Service Improvement (ISO 9001)	Lack of quality indicators for the Cemetery Service.	Apply for ISO 9001 for Cemetery Service.	Supporting Cultural Life	Excellence 5 Probity 2	Staff time	-	Staff resources
19. Service Improvement (Non-pitch sports Audit)	Lack of information on current provision for non-pitch sports in the borough e.g. tennis, bowls.	Carry out full audit of non-pitch sports provision in the borough and compare with NPFA Standards.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 1,8	T.B.C	Planning Delivery Grant	Funding
20. Service Improvement (Allotment Audit)	Lack of information on current provision of allotments in the borough.	Carry out full audit of all allotments in the borough.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 1,5,8	T.B.C	Planning Delivery Grant	Funding
21. Service Improvement (In Bloom)	Future entry of National In Bloom Competition.	Investigate potential for introducing a local gardening competition in partnership with local gardening clubs and supported by local businesses.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 1,4,5,8	Staff time	-	Staff resources

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YEAR 3 (April 2008 – April 2009)

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
1. Wykin Park, Hinckley	Poor quality of facilities and lack of provision for children and young people in area.	Develop as a Community (neighbourhood) Park with a range of new facilities and improvements for all age groups. To include, for example, new children's play area, multi-games area and landscaping. Improvements to be done in partnership with the local community and a new 'Friends of' group.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 4 Probity 1 Achievements 1,2,5,6,8 Reliability 5	£175,000	Teenage Leisure Lifestyle £95,000 Section 106 Other Grant Funding	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Project Officer funding Partnerships
2. Burbage Common	Visitor facilities at site need improvement to respond to needs of local people.	Implement programme of improvements to site and visitor facilities (depending on outcome of funding applications).	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Achievements 1,2,4,5,8 Reliability 5	£292,000	HBBC Capital £212,000 Other Grants £80,000	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Project Officer funding Partnerships

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
3. Hollycroft Park, Hinckley	Historic park in need of restoration to original glory. Basic infrastructure decaying and in need of investment. Park of high value as an outdoor venue for the arts and community events. Facilities including tennis courts, bowling green, pitch and putt course, bandstand, water feature, pathways and horticultural features all in need of improvement.	Undertake restoration of the park and all of its important features in partnership with the local community and Friends of Hollycroft Park.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,4,5,8 Reliability 5	£350,000	HLF Section 106 Including £15,143* 03/01464/FUL £13,560* 04/01346/FUL & 02/00534/OUT 03/00492/OUT HBBC Capital £110,000	Project Funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Partnerships
4. Barwell Park, Stapleton Lane, Barwell	Lack of facilities for teenagers and young people. Site ideally located for this type of facility as located away from housing and already accommodating a skate park.	Develop site for provision for young people. Install BMX track and other ancillary facilities e.g. shelters and seating.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Achievements 1,2,5,8 Reliability 5	£70,000	Section 106 Including £61,367° 03/00545/FUL HBBC Capital £9,000 (Growth)	Project Funding Revenue Funding to maintain improvements Staff resources

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
5. Ashby Road Cemetery Extension, Hinckley	Need for new burial land at Hinckley Cemetery.	Implement Cemetery extension in light of consultation on layout and design.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 1,5	£200,000	HBBC Capital £117,000 + £83,000 (Growth)	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Staff resources
6. St Mary's Churchyard, Hinckley	St Mary's wall condemned as a dangerous structure by HBBC Building Control Officers.	Continue with five year repair programme with arboriculture works.	A Safer Community Supporting Cultural Life	Value 4 Achievements 5,6	£5,750	HBBC Capital (GROWTH)	Health & Safety Project Funding
7. Clarendon Park, Hinckley	Continuous improvement and raising quality standards.	Enter park for Green Flag Award	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 5 Achievements 1,5,8	Staff time	-	Staff resources Failure of Green Flag application
8. Burbage Common	Continuous improvement and raising quality standards.	Enter park for Green Flag Award	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 5 Achievements 1,5,8	Staff time	-	Staff resources Failure of Green Flag application

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
9. Service Improvement (Performance Monitoring)	Lack of quality monitoring information and performance indicators	Repeat general consultation to measure improvements in provision and the Parks and Countryside Service. Produce performance indicators and report.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 2,4 Achievements 1,2 Reliability 5	Staff time	-	Staff resources
10. Service Improvement (Site Management Plans)	No site Management Plans for Neighbourhood Parks	Write and adopt Management Plans for Brodick and Hollycroft Parks:	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 2,5 Probity 2 Achievements 1,5,6,8 Reliability 5	Staff Time	-	Staff resources

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YEAR 4 (April 2009 – April 2010)

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
1. Queens Park, Hinckley	Poor quality of facilities and lack of provision for children and young people in area.	Develop as a Community (neighbourhood) Park with a range of new facilities and improvements for all age groups. To include, for example, new children's play area, multi-games area and landscaping. Establish 'Friends of' Group to guide service improvements.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 4 Probity 1 Achievements 1,2,5,6,8 Reliability 5	£175,000	Section 106 £42,715° 02/01079/FUL £51,682° 02/01418/FUL £25,800* 04/00028/FUL HBBC Capital £40,000 (Growth) Other Grants	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Project Officer funding Partnerships
2. Hinckley Town Centre	Potential to develop equipped play provision within the Town Centre to meet the demand of the retail centre and local communities.	Carry out consultation and feasibility study for new equipped play provision within the town centre. Subject to Town Centre Master Plan and developer contributions.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Achievements 4,5,8 Reliability 5	£100,000	Town Centre Re – development contributions.	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Staff resources

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
3. Masefield Close, Barwell	Poor quality of play equipment and infrastructure of site.	Undertake renovation of play area. Include infrastructure improvements i.e. paths, bins, seating, fencing etc.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,5,8 Reliability 5	£65,000	Section 106 including 03/01076/OUT HBBC Capital (Growth)	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Staff resources
4. Preston Road, Hinckley	Poor quality of play equipment and infrastructure of site.	Undertake renovation of play area with emphasis on provision for the under 12's. Include infrastructure improvements i.e. paths, bins, seating, fencing etc.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,5,8 Reliability 5	£50,000	Section 106 HBBC Capital (Growth)	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Staff resources
5. St Mary's Churchyard, Hinckley	St Mary's wall condemned as a dangerous structure by HBBC Building Control Officers.	Continue with five year repair programme with arboriculture works.	A Safer Community Supporting Cultural Life	Value 4 Achievements 5,6	£11,500	HBBC Capital (GROWTH)	Health & Safety Project Funding

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
6. Hollycroft Park, Hinckley	Continuous improvement and raising quality standards.	Enter park for Green Flag Award	Supporting Cultural Life Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 5 Achievements 1,5,8	Staff time	-	Staff resources Failure of Green Flag Application
7. Service Improvement (Area Green Space Forums)	Need to involve local community in decision making process.	Set up Area Green Space Forums to cover all green spaces in Hinckley & Barwell.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Probity 2 Achievements 1,2,5,6,8 Reliability 5	Staff Time	-	Staff resources
8. Service Improvement (Site Management Plans)	No site Management Plans for Neighbourhood Parks	Write and adopt Management Plans for Wykin Park, Queens Parks and Swallows Green.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 2,5 Probity 2 Achievements 1,5,6,8 Reliability 5	Staff Time	-	Staff resources
9. Service Improvements (In Bloom)	Raising civic pride and acknowledgement of improvements in the quality of green spaces in the borough.	Enter national In Bloom competition.	Supporting Cultural Life	Achievements 4,5,8	£60,000	HBBC Revenue (Growth)	Funding Staff resources

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YEAR 5 (April 2010 - April 2011)

Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
1. Waterfall Way, Barwell	Play area of low quality and in need of refurbishment.	Identify need for equipped play area at this location and the views of the local community. Refurbish if demand illustrated.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,5,8 Reliability 5	£60,000	HBBC Capital (Growth) Section 106	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Staff resources
2. The Common, Barwell	Play area of low quality and in need of refurbishment.	Identify need for equipped play area at this location and the views of the local community. Refurbish if demand illustrated.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People	Excellence 4 Achievements 1,5,8 Reliability 5	£60,000	HBBC Capital (Growth) Section 106	Project funding Revenue funding to maintain improvements Staff resources
3. Service Improvement (Site Management Plans)	No site Management Plans for Neighbourhood Parks	Write and adopt Management Plan for Barwell Park.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 2,5 Probity 1 Achievements 1,5,6,8 Reliability 5	Staff Time	-	Staff resources

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Site	Key Issues	Recommended Action	Links to Community Plan objectives	Links to Corporate Plan Priorities	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding	Risks
4. Service Improvement (Green Space Strategy Review)	Need to review and update Green Space Strategy and Audit.	Repeat Quality Audit at all Parish and Borough Council sites to measure improvements and set new priorities. Review and update Green Space Audit following assessment of needs and opportunities.	Supporting Cultural Life Young People Protecting Our Environment	Excellence 2,3,4,5 Probity 2 Achievements 1,2,5,6,8 Reliability 5	T.B.C	HBBC Capital (Growth)	Funding

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