

# Adur & Worthing Councils Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study (2019)



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

## Community and Stakeholder Consultation FINAL

# Adur and Worthing Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment - Consultation Report

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## Glossary of Terms

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Green Space Standard
ATP	Artificial Turf Pitch
BHS	British Horse Society
CIC	Community Interest Companies
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
DC	District Council
EA	Environment Agency
ECP	England Coast Path
FIT	Fields in Trust
GI	Green Infrastructure
JAAP	Joint Area Action Plan
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LCWIP	Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Area
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NCN	National Cycle Network
NICE	National Institute for Health Care and Excellence
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PC/TC	Parish Council/Town Council
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PROW	Public Rights of Way
RSPB	Royal Society of the Protection of Birds
SANG	Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
SDNPA	South Downs National Park Authority
SIP	Strategic Improvement Plan
SNCI	Site of Natural Conservation Interest
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
STP	Shoreham Sustainable Transport Package
TCV	The Community Volunteering Charity
WASt	Woodland Access Standard

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is one of four reports provided within the overall *Sport, Leisure and Open Space Study 2019*. It is a supporting document to three main reports: The Open Spaces Study, the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and the Built Facilities Study. It provides consultation findings from various stakeholders and feeds into other aspects of the study as explained below:

### 1.1 Study Overview

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to set out policies to help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation. These policies need to be based on a thorough understanding of local needs for such facilities and opportunities available for new provision.

In view of the above, in 2019 Adur & Worthing Councils appointed Ethos Environmental Planning to review a joint study completed in 2014 to provide an up-to-date and robust assessment identifying needs, surpluses and deficits in open space, sport and recreation to support the Local Plans. The two councils have separate local plans; this study will assist Worthing Borough in the preparation of a new plan and will support the implementation of the Adur District Local Plan which was adopted in 2017. The study will also inform the Council's asset management process, health and well-being plans and its investments and infrastructure funding process.

In summary the requirements of the brief are to provide:

- A comprehensive Open Space Assessment, Sport and Recreation Facilities Assessment that represents an update to the existing (2014) assessment.
- A Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Advice to inform the allocation of potential development sites and large-scale strategic development infrastructure funding and investment priorities.

In order to meet this brief Ethos are providing:

- An Open Spaces audit and assessment<sup>1</sup>
- A Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy
- A Built Facilities audit and assessment

As such the overall outcome of the study will comprise of three main reports drawing upon an evidence base comprised of:

- Consultation and engagement with all relevant key stakeholders, agencies and organisations as well as the wider community and general public.
- A detailed audit of all facilities within the scope of the study.
- Analysis and assessment of the adequacy of current and future facility provision based on recommended methodologies such as Sport England's "Assessing Needs and Opportunities" national planning guidance (July 2014) and Playing Pitch Strategy guidance (October 2013).

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<sup>1</sup> Including play space and natural green space/recreation

## 1.2 The Community and Stakeholder Needs Assessment

This report makes a cross-cutting contribution to the overall study in providing evidence that will be used in all three of the main study reports<sup>2</sup>. It primarily relates to the Open Spaces Assessment, but relevant findings and information will also be carried forward in the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Built Facilities Study.

In the three main reports the consultation findings will be combined with other evidence, findings and assessments such as that completed in the audit, mapping and analysis process.

Undertaking comprehensive consultation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders and the wider community is an essential part of the overall process. It is an expectation of the National Planning Policy Framework and is needed to ensure that the study is robust in relation to recommended national guidance such as that recommended by Sport England.

The report examines the local need for a wide range of different kinds of open space, sport and recreation facilities. It has drawn upon a range of survey and analytical techniques including a review of consultation findings from relevant play, sports, leisure and open space studies. It outlines the community consultation and research process that has been undertaken as part of the study as well as the main findings.

The report is made up of 4 main sections:

- General community consultation
- Neighbouring local authorities and town and parish councils
- Parks, green spaces, countryside and rights of way
- Play and youth facilities

Each section provides additional detail on the consultation process relevant to that section and at the end of each section there is a short summary of the key findings.

The consultation and research programme was undertaken from February to May 2019. The extent of the research reflects the breadth and diversity of the study and a consequent need to engage with a wide a cross section of the community and stakeholders as possible<sup>3</sup>.

In summary, questionnaire surveys were undertaken as below:

- A general household survey
- A survey of town and parish councils
- Local groups and organisations' surveys

In addition to the above a number of one to one stakeholder interviews/surveys were undertaken.

The result of this consultation and other analyses will help amongst other things to inform the content of the recommended local standards as appropriate. This will be explained further in the three main reports.

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<sup>2</sup> Additional consultation has been also undertaken to pitch sports and built facilities as advised in Sport England guidance. These additional findings will be included in the other reports as appropriate.

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that this report provides consultation evidence in the form of the observations and views/opinions sourced from many different organisations, individuals and studies. On occasion the views and observations expressed by individuals and groups may not be consistent with each other, nor are such individual contributions necessarily accurate or up to date.

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The consultation report also helps the study to understand stakeholder and local people's appreciation of open space, sport and recreation facilities, and the wider green infrastructure and the values attached by the community to the various forms of open spaces and facilities. This appreciation will have clear implications for the way in which open space, sport and recreation facilities are considered as part of plan making as well as dealing with planning applications.

## 2.0 GENERAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This section provides consultation findings that covered all aspects of open space, sport and recreation facility provision. In this sense it provides a useful overview across all these aspects rather than simply from groups and organisations with specific interests in just one aspect of open space, sport and outdoor recreation. This contrasts, for example, with the other sections of the report which supply findings from individuals, groups and organisations with specific interests in individual elements of open space, sport and recreation.

The section also includes engagement with public health stakeholders who have an interest running across all aspects of recreation facility provision, whatever activity that may be (in relation to encouraging an increase in physical activity - with associated health benefits).

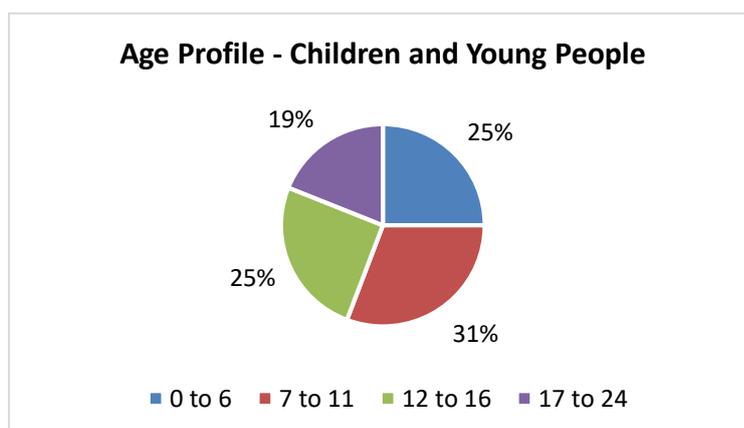
### 2.1 Residents' Household Survey

#### 2.1.1 Introduction

The Sport, Leisure and Open Space Study needs to secure a general understanding of how residents of Adur and Worthing currently make use of the various kinds of open space, sport and recreation facilities; in particular whether they think there are enough of such facilities; what they think of the quality of those facilities; how accessible they are; and what kind of facilities they think are priorities for future development and improvement. A good way of securing this general overview is to secure responses from a broad cross section of Adur and Worthing households.

An agreed questionnaire survey was therefore distributed to a random sample of 4000 households who could reply via Freepost or online. The online survey was also promoted to the wider public by the Council's Communications Team. Respondents were asked to provide a view on behalf of their household, rather than simply as individuals. 637 surveys were completed with a total of 1,516 people represented. The average household size of the households was 2.22 – which is lower than the UK and West Sussex average (2.3) but similar to Adur and Worthing as a whole (2.2).

Just over 31% of households who responded had children (representing household views on behalf of 296 children and young people) with ages well spread across the age range:



Key findings are noted below:<sup>4</sup>

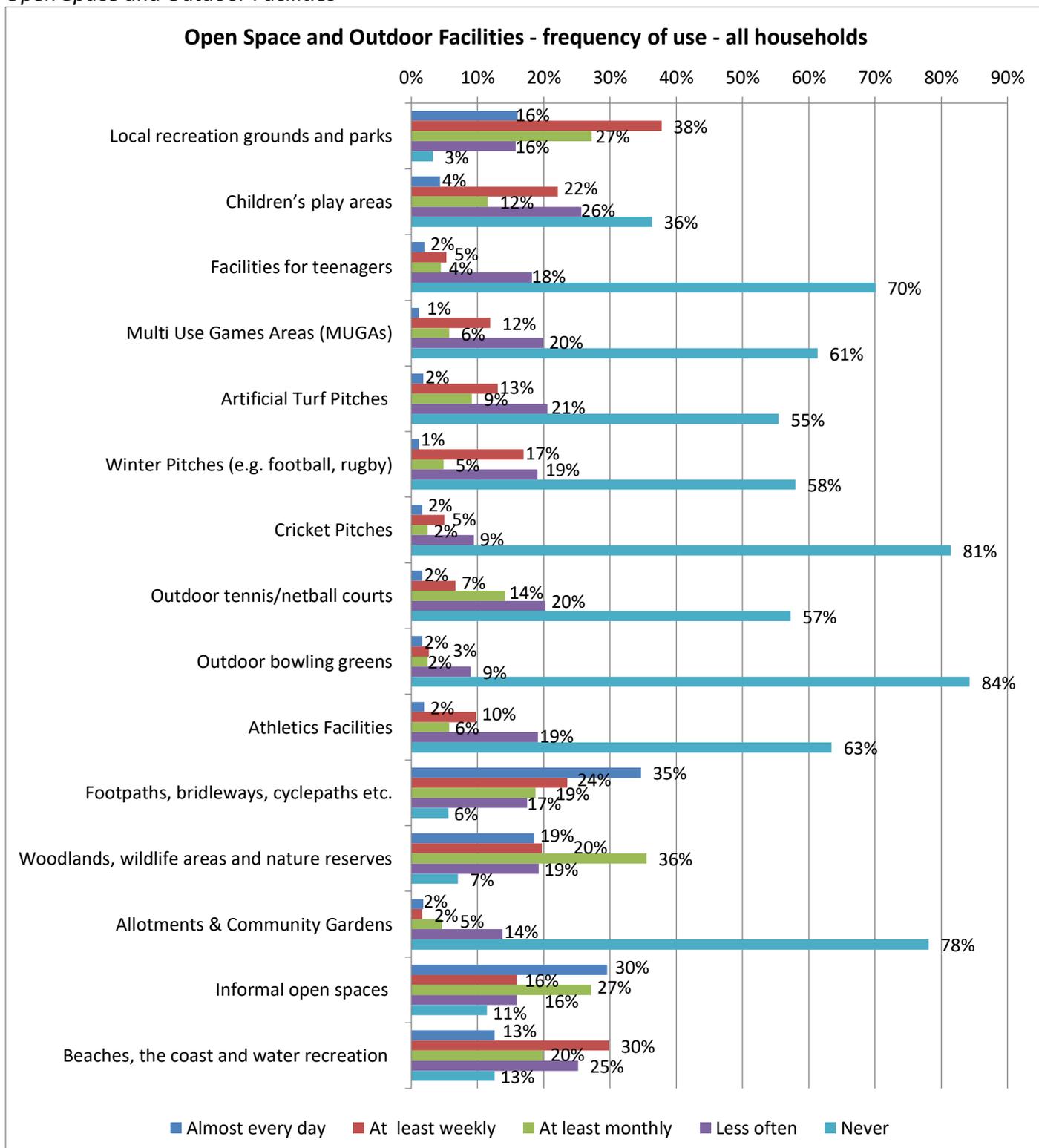
<sup>4</sup> The findings are further considered - in detail - in three main reports; along with consideration of regional and national participation frequencies from sources such as Sport England's Active people survey.

## 2.1.2 Frequency of use – All households

Please note that in all of the charts and commentary in Section 2.1 percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest full percentage. This means that on some occasions the total percentages relating to individual typologies may vary slightly from 100%.

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

### Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

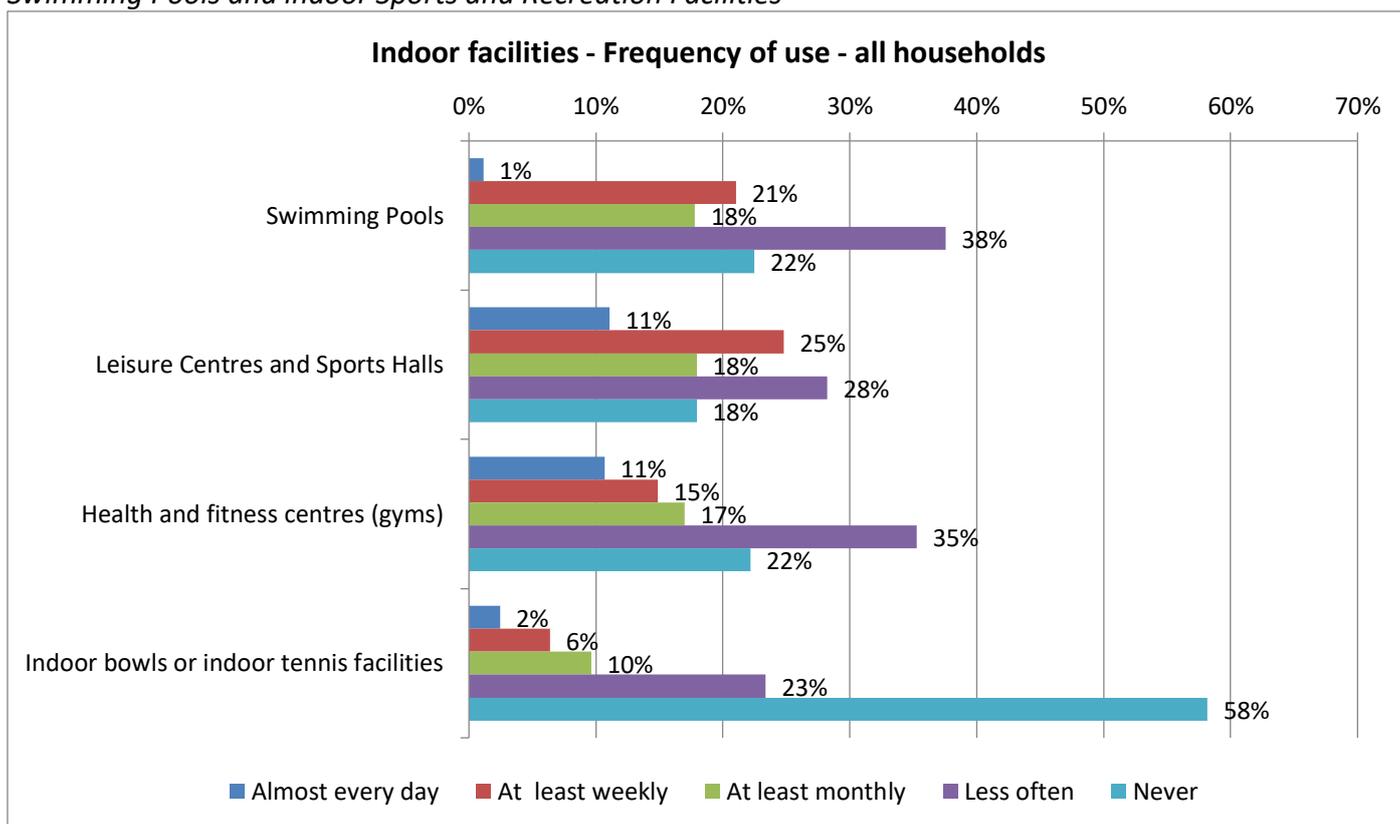


It is Adur and Worthing's parks and recreation grounds that are most commonly used by households at least monthly (81%); followed by footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths (78%); and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (75%).

Rights of way and parks/recreation grounds are also by far the most frequently used facility on both a weekly and daily basis: 59% use footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths etc. at least weekly (of which 35% make use almost every day); and 54% visit parks and recreation grounds at least weekly (16% of which visit almost every day).

Other spaces used at least weekly by more than 40% of households (including those who are more frequent users) are the beaches/water recreation areas and informal open spaces (for ball games, picnics, hobbies, dog walking etc).

### Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



Leisure Centres and Sports Halls are used regularly by significant numbers (54% of households report using them at least monthly - many more regularly). 43% of households make use of health and fitness centres at least monthly and 40% visit swimming pools.

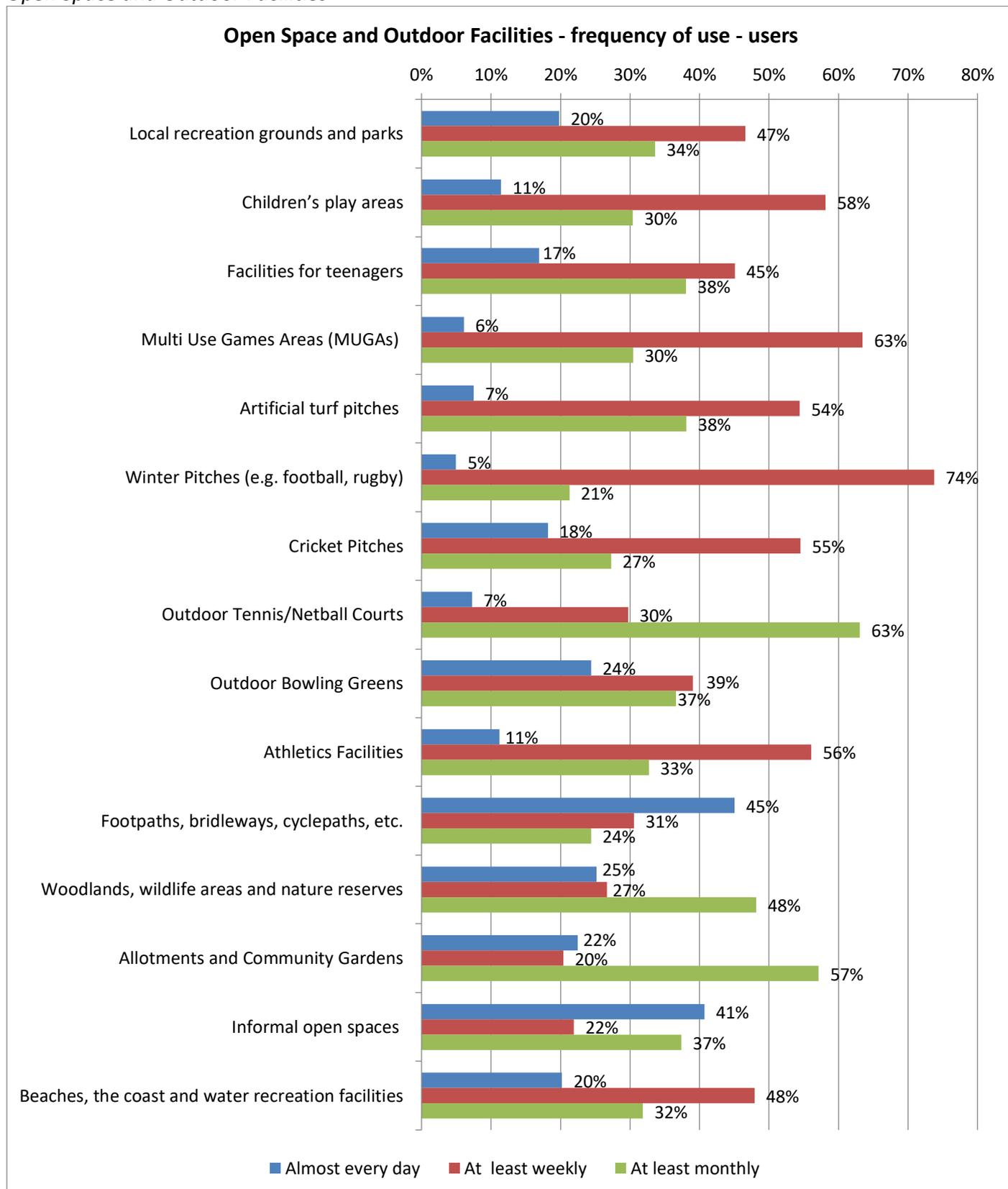
Leisure Centres and Sports Halls are also the most frequently used on a weekly and daily basis (36% of households report using them at least weekly of which 11% visit almost every day). 26% of households visit health and fitness centres on a weekly or more regular basis.

Indoor bowls/tennis centres are used by fewer households and less regularly - 58% of households never use them.

### 2.1.3 Frequency, regularity and times of use – Regular Users<sup>5</sup>

It is interesting to look at the frequency with which regular users of facilities visit them as for some facilities this is not immediately obvious from looking at the overall figures.

#### Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

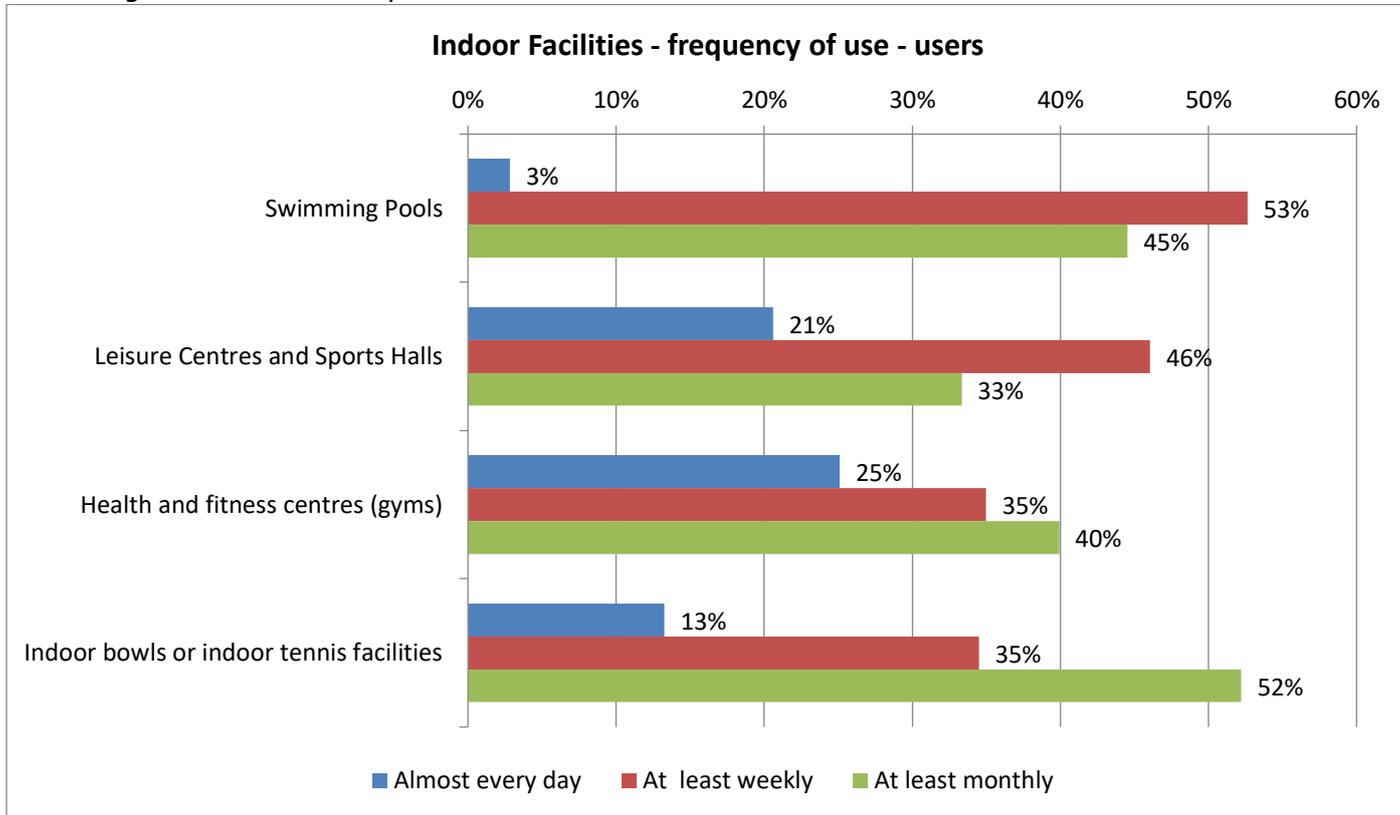


<sup>5</sup> By regular users we mean those households where open spaces/facilities are used/visited at least monthly.

Many users of outdoor sports facilities use them at least weekly. For example, 79% make use of grass pitches at least weekly of which 5% use them nearly every day); 69% for MUGAs (6% nearly daily); and 67% for athletics facilities (11% nearly daily).

69% of households using play areas visit at least weekly (of which 11% make use nearly every day).

*Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities*



In terms of indoor facilities, health and fitness centres are most used nearly every day by regular users (25%) and a further 35% use these at least weekly).

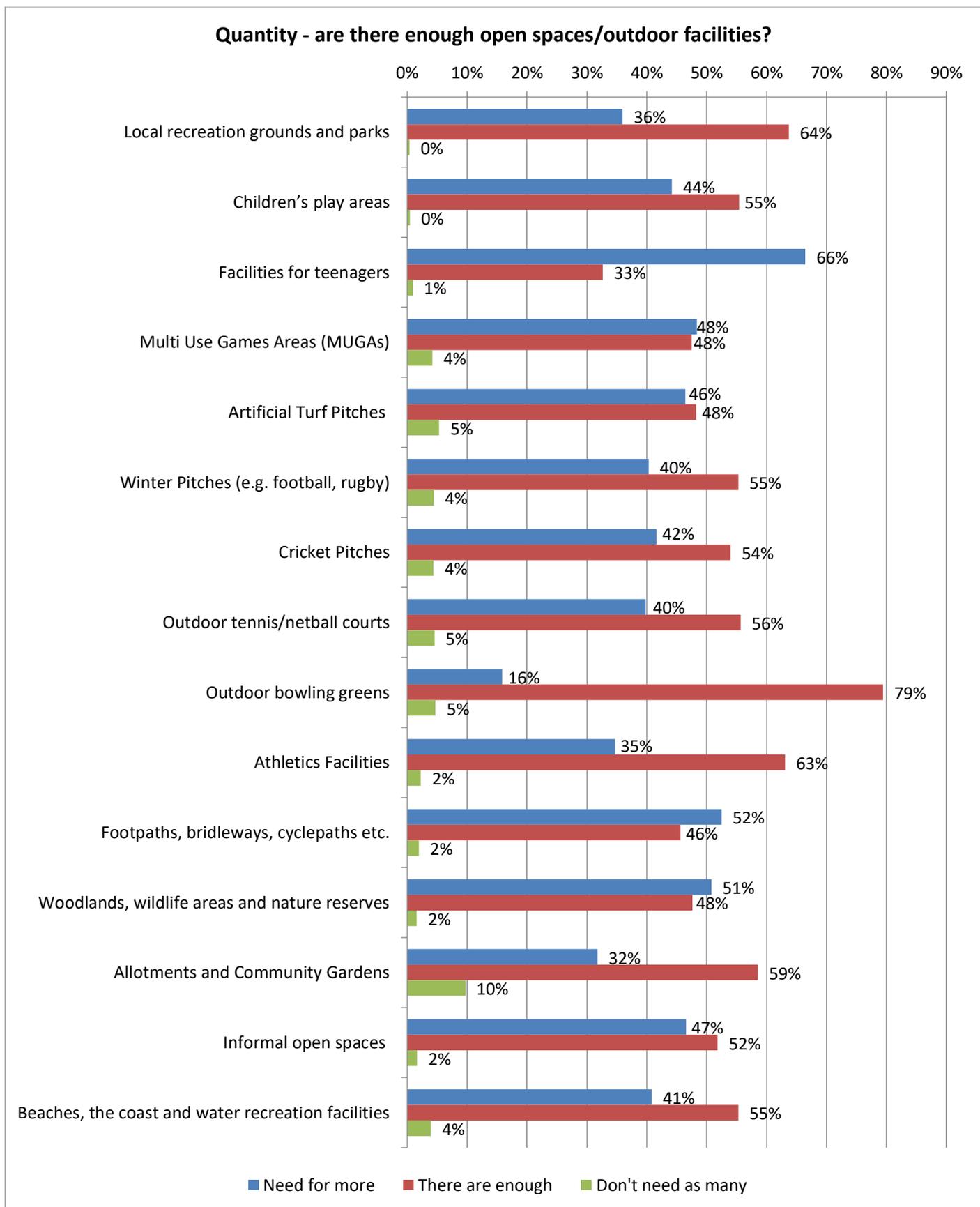
The most frequently visited by regular users (at least weekly) are the Leisure Centres and Sports Halls (67% use these at least weekly of which 21% make use almost every day).

48% % of users of indoor bowls/tennis centres use them at least weekly (of which 13% use them nearly daily).

**2.1.4 Quantity of open space, sport and recreation facilities**

Residents were asked if they needed more, the same or fewer of different types of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Findings are illustrated in the chart below and will influence the “quantity” component of local standards as appropriate (this will be explained further in the three main reports).

*Open Space and Outdoor Facilities*

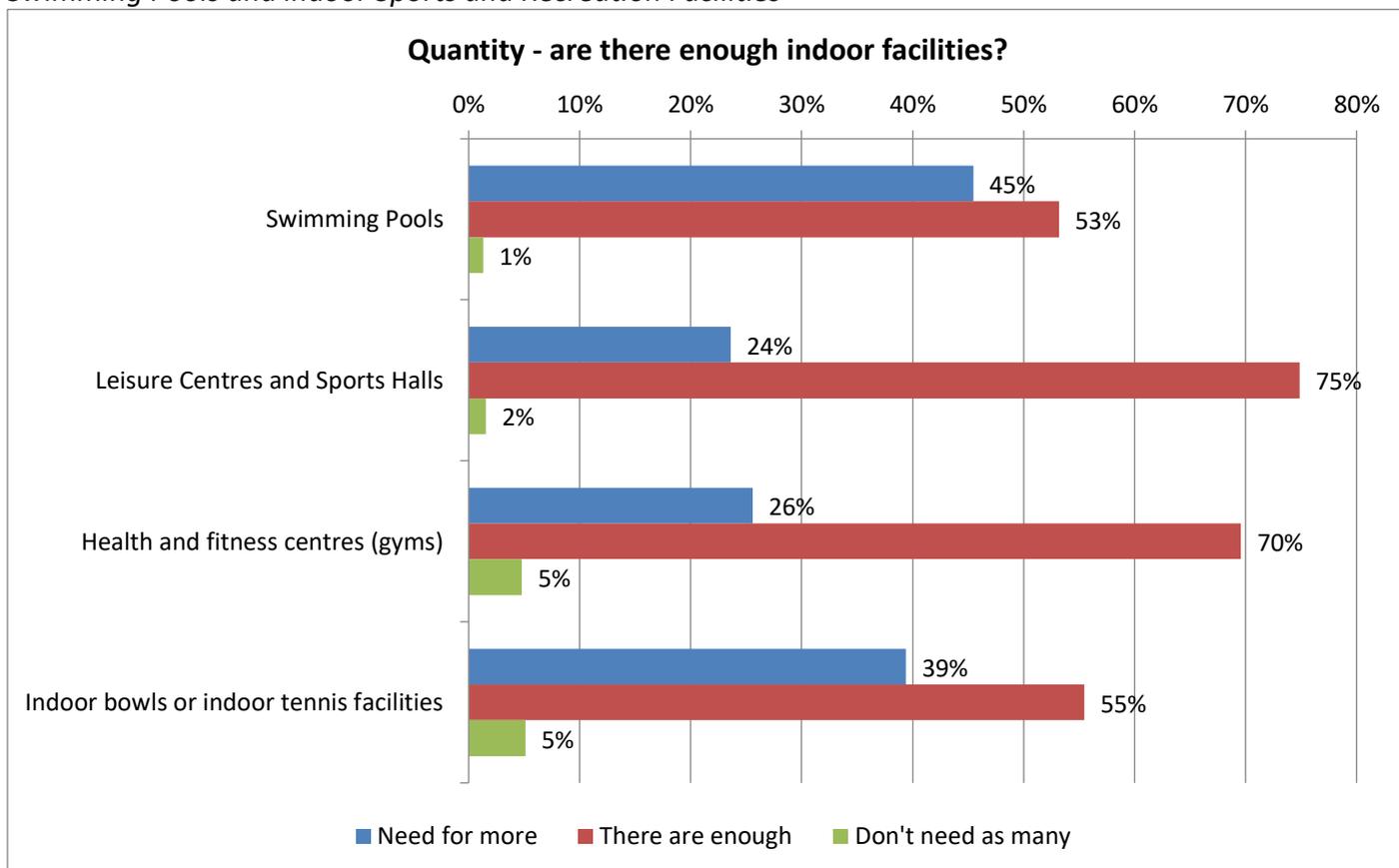


There are a number of open space typologies that a majority of respondents suggest there is a general need for more. 66% highlight a shortfall of facilities for teenagers and just over half suggest a need for more footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths (52%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (51%).

Following this, other aspects where there was considered to be an overall shortfall by significant numbers (over 45%) were: MUGAs (48%); informal open spaces (47%); and Artificial Turf Pitches (46%); and

For most other kinds of open spaces/outdoor facilities the view tended to be that the quantity of provision is sufficient. A large majority thought that overall there are enough outdoor bowling greens (79%) and an additional 5% said that we don't need as many. Smaller majorities think that in general there are enough parks/recreation grounds (64%); allotments/community gardens (59%); and tennis/netball courts (56%).

### Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



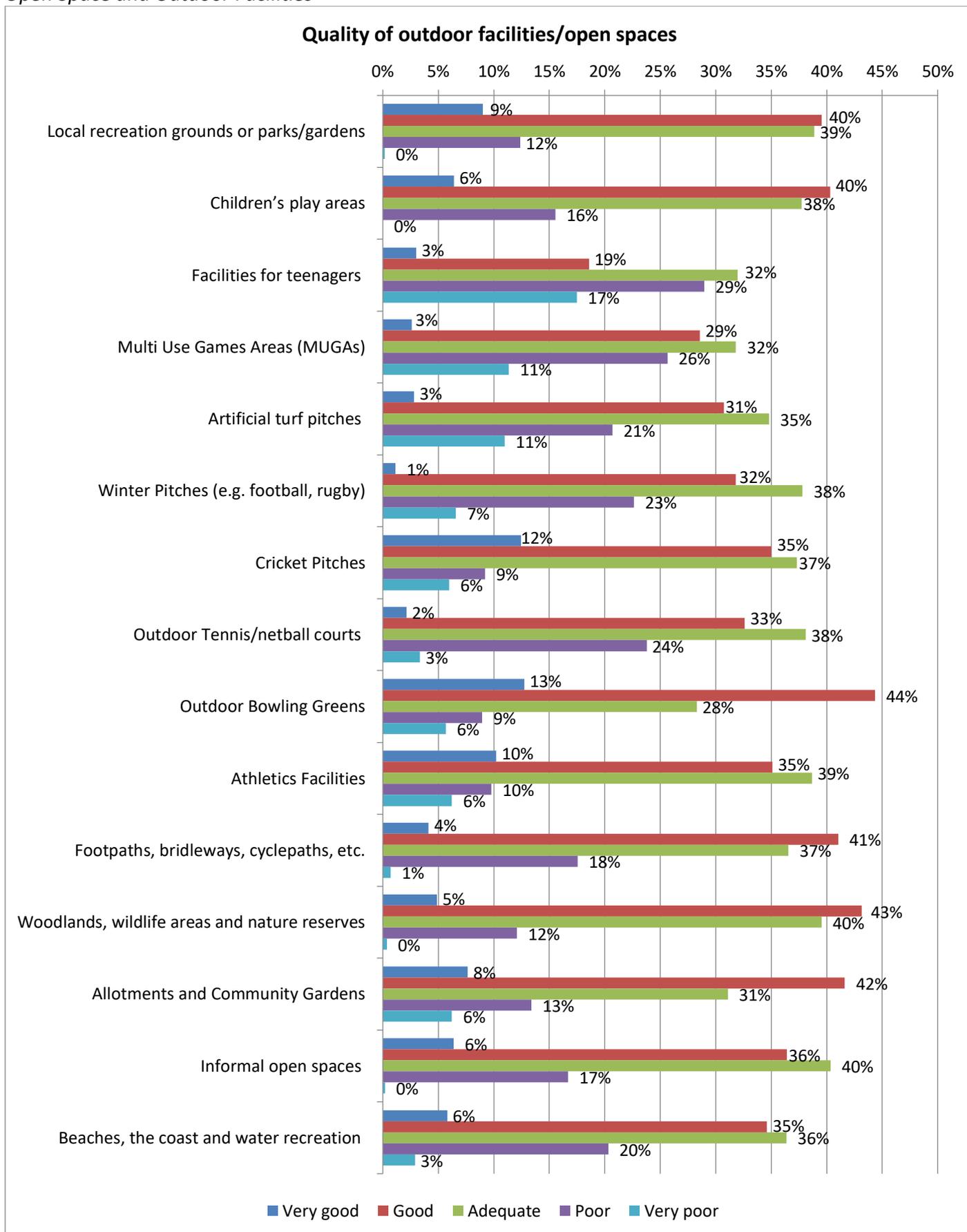
A clear majority of households reported that overall there are currently enough of all of the various kinds of indoor sport and leisure facilities; most notably in relation to Leisure Centres/Sports Halls (75%) and gym/health and fitness facilities (70%).

The two kinds of facility where a significant minority of respondent households (over 35%) believe that overall there is a need for more are swimming pools (45%) and indoor bowls and tennis centres (39%).

#### 2.1.5 Quality of open space, sport and recreation facilities

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

## Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

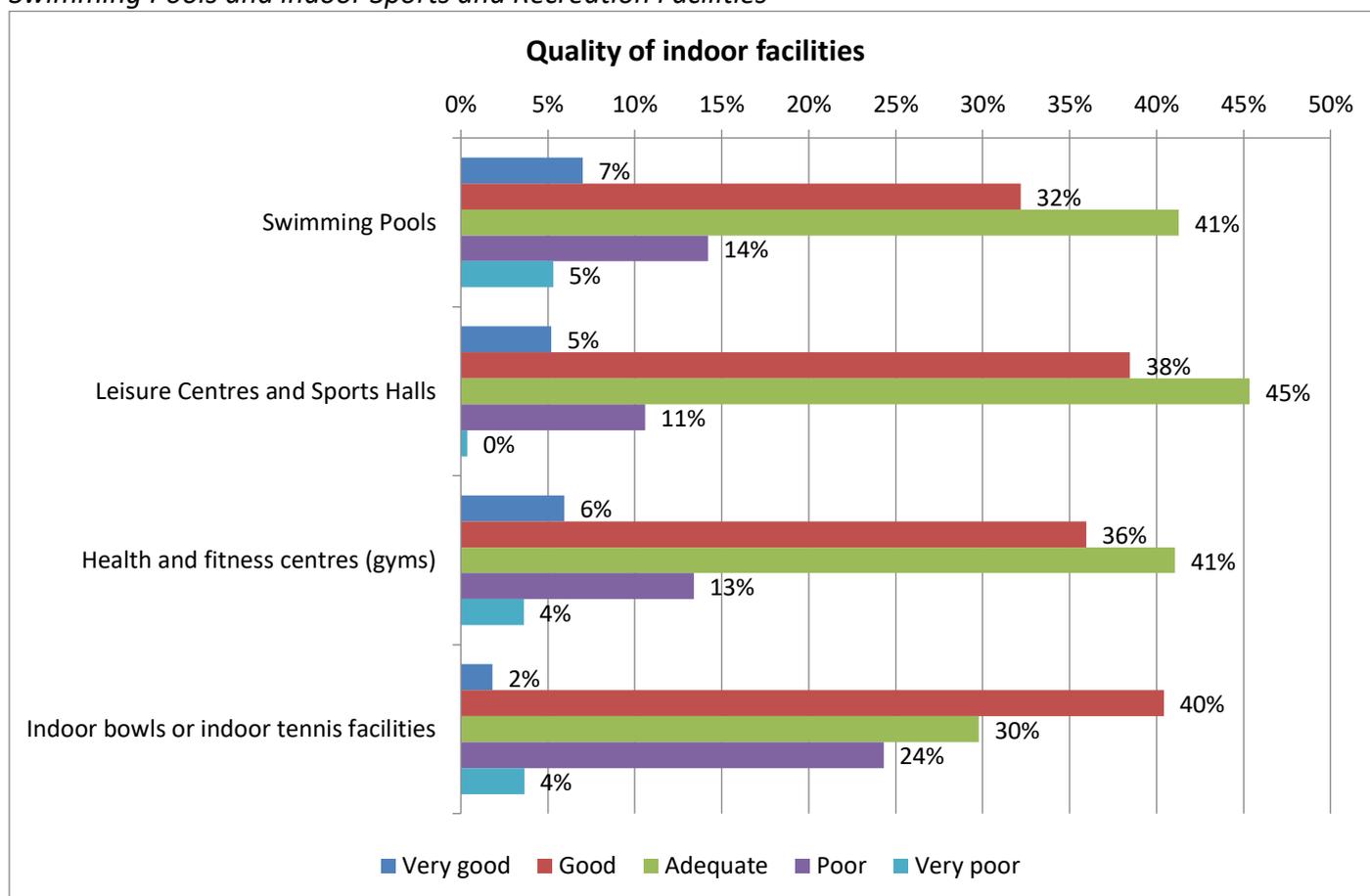


For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of adequate or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "adequate").

Some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated relatively highly in terms of quality. These include: outdoor bowling greens (57% rate them as good or very good); allotments and community gardens (50% similarly); parks and recreation grounds (49%); and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (48%).

However, 46% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor compared to 22% believing them to be good/very good. The quality of MUGAs was rated as poor or worse by 37% of respondents.

### *Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities*



In broad terms respondent households appear quite satisfied with the quality of indoor sports and recreation provision. All are commonly rated as being of adequate or better quality.

The indoor facilities most commonly regarded as being of good or very good quality are leisure centres and sports halls (43%); gym/health and fitness facilities (42%); and indoor bowls/tennis centres (42%).

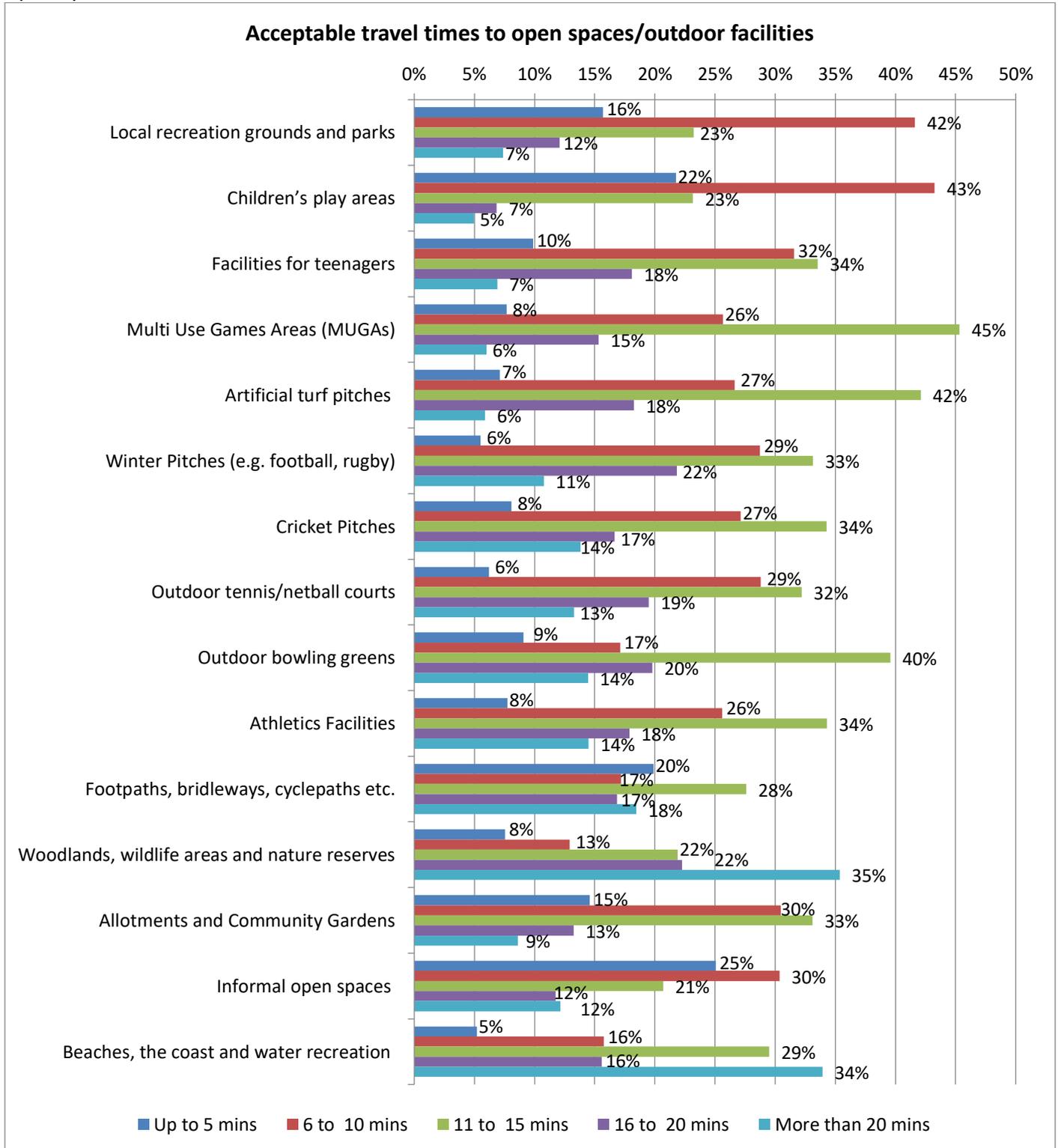
The detailed findings regarding quality will be useful in relation to reviewing the “quality” aspect of local standards.

#### **2.1.6 Access Issues (Geographical)**

An important component of this study is to develop and recommend a series of local standards of provision for different types of open space, sport and recreation opportunity. The following provides a means to gauge people’s willingness to travel to use different types of facility/open space (which might be by car, foot, bike, public transport etc). Where appropriate, these results will feed into the determination of the “access” element of local standards.

In looking at the travel times in the first set of charts below it should be noted that these do not specify the mode of preferred travel (this is covered by the next set of charts).

### Open Space and Outdoor Facilities



In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor sport/recreation facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies.

For example, 57% of user households are prepared to travel 20 minutes to visit woodlands, wildlife area and nature reserves; and 35% of these report that they would in fact travel more than 20 minutes. 50% would also travel similar lengths of time to visit the beaches/water recreation areas.

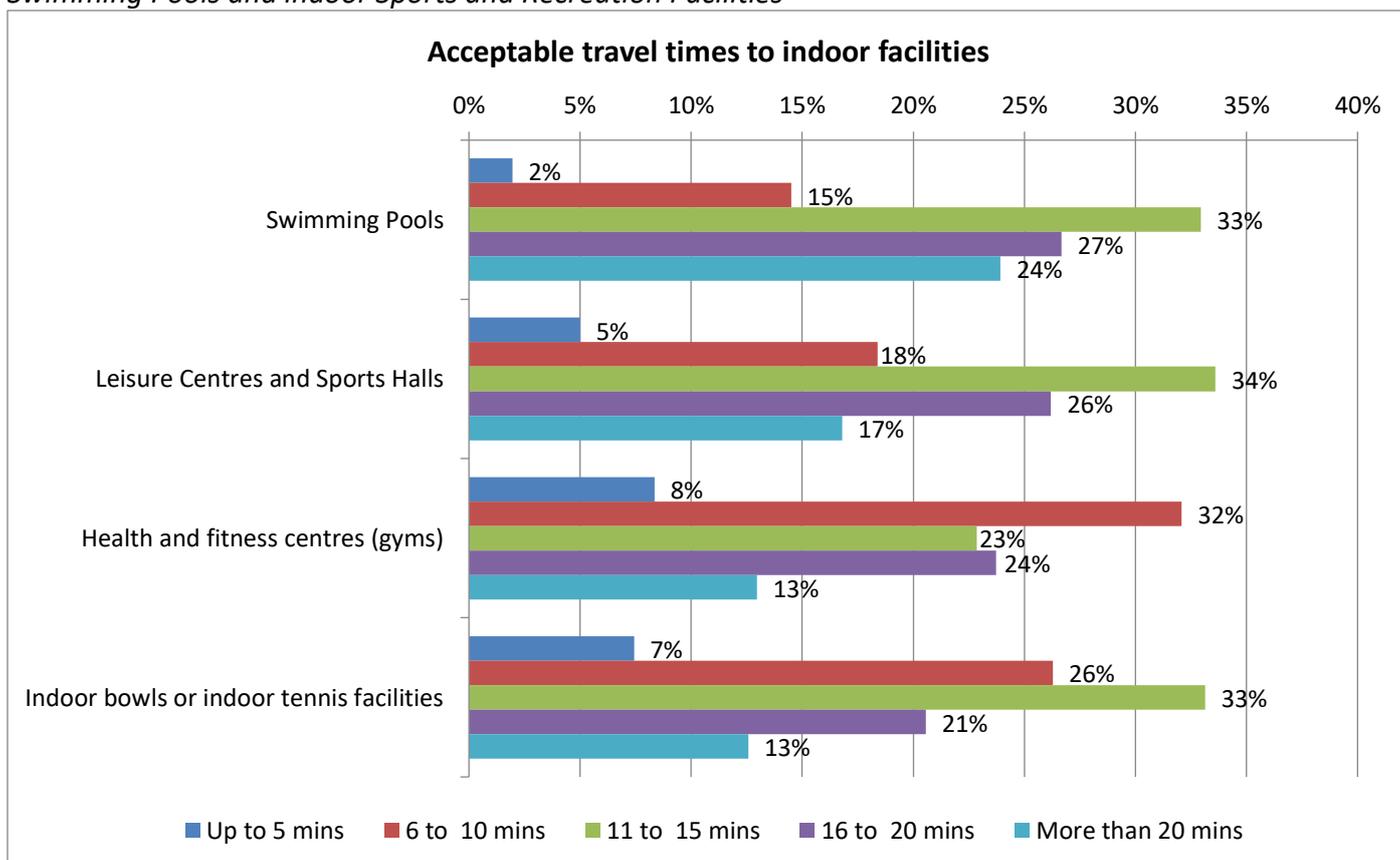
In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, play areas and park/recreation grounds).

- 65% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10-minute travel time, of which 22% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
- 58% of users would expect local parks/recreation grounds and informal open spaces to be within a 10-minute travel time, of which 16% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

In general, household members will travel further to various outdoor sports facilities and MUGAs than parks and play areas:

- 66% will travel for 15 minutes to use Artificial Turf Pitches (of which 18% would travel 20 minutes – some further). 65% would travel similar lengths of time to make use of MUGAs, winter pitches and cricket pitches
- 74% will travel for 15 minutes to use outdoor bowling greens (around 20% of these would travel 20 minutes – some further). 66% would travel similar lengths of time to access Athletics facilities.

#### Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



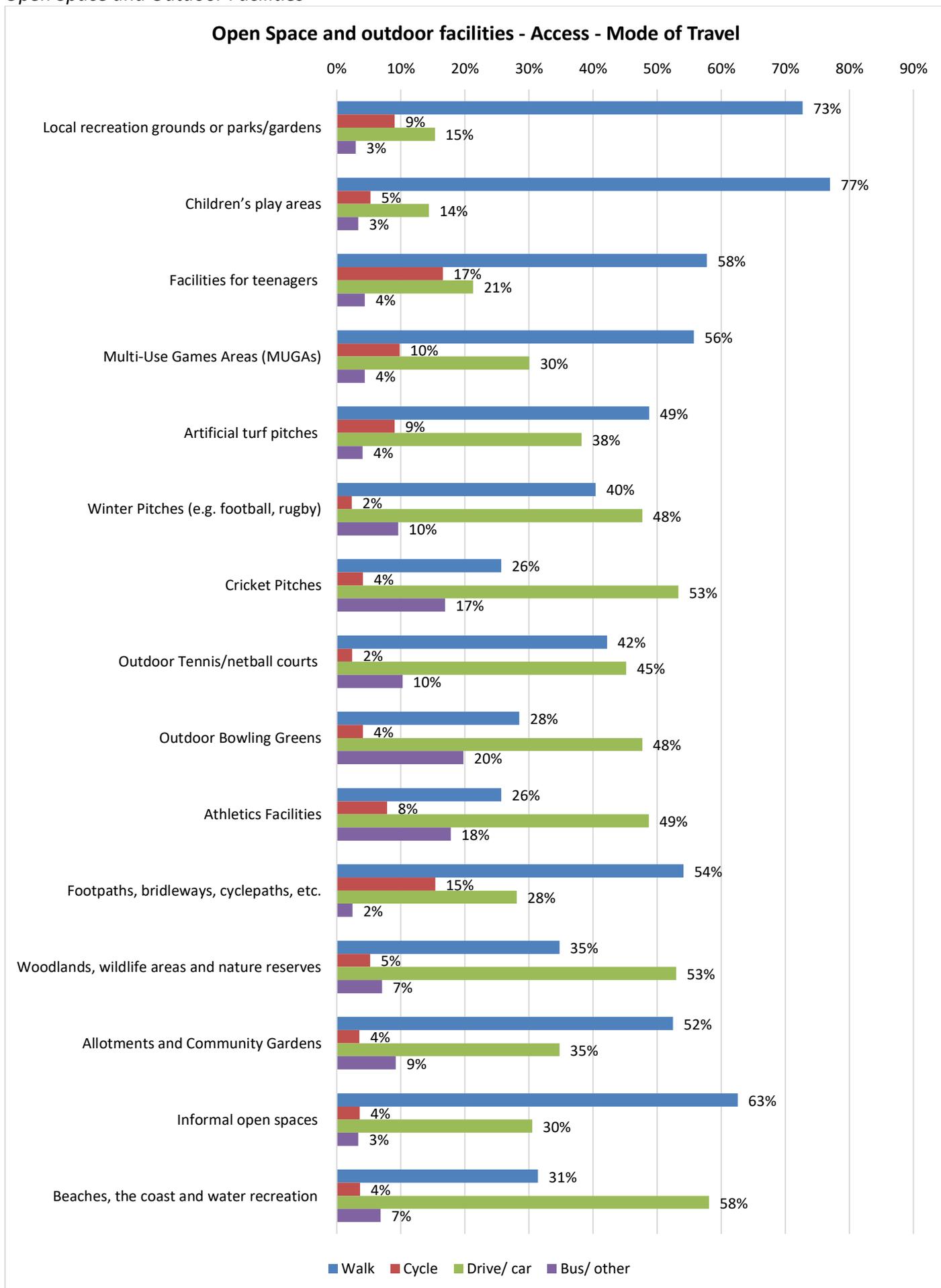
In the cases of swimming pools and sports/leisure centres at least 75% of users are prepared to travel 15 minutes to make use of such facilities. For swimming pools just over half would travel up 20 minutes (of these 24% would travel more than 20 minutes). For sports/leisure centres 43% would travel up 20 minutes.

For health and fitness centres 40% of users would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes to access facilities of which 8% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

It is clear from the above that for both indoor and outdoor facilities there is great variance in respondents' apparent willingness to spend time travelling to different types of opportunity. In drawing up the "access" element of specific local standards for different kinds of open space/facility it is clearly very important to take careful note of all of these findings (combined with the preferred mode of travel options discussed below).

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

Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

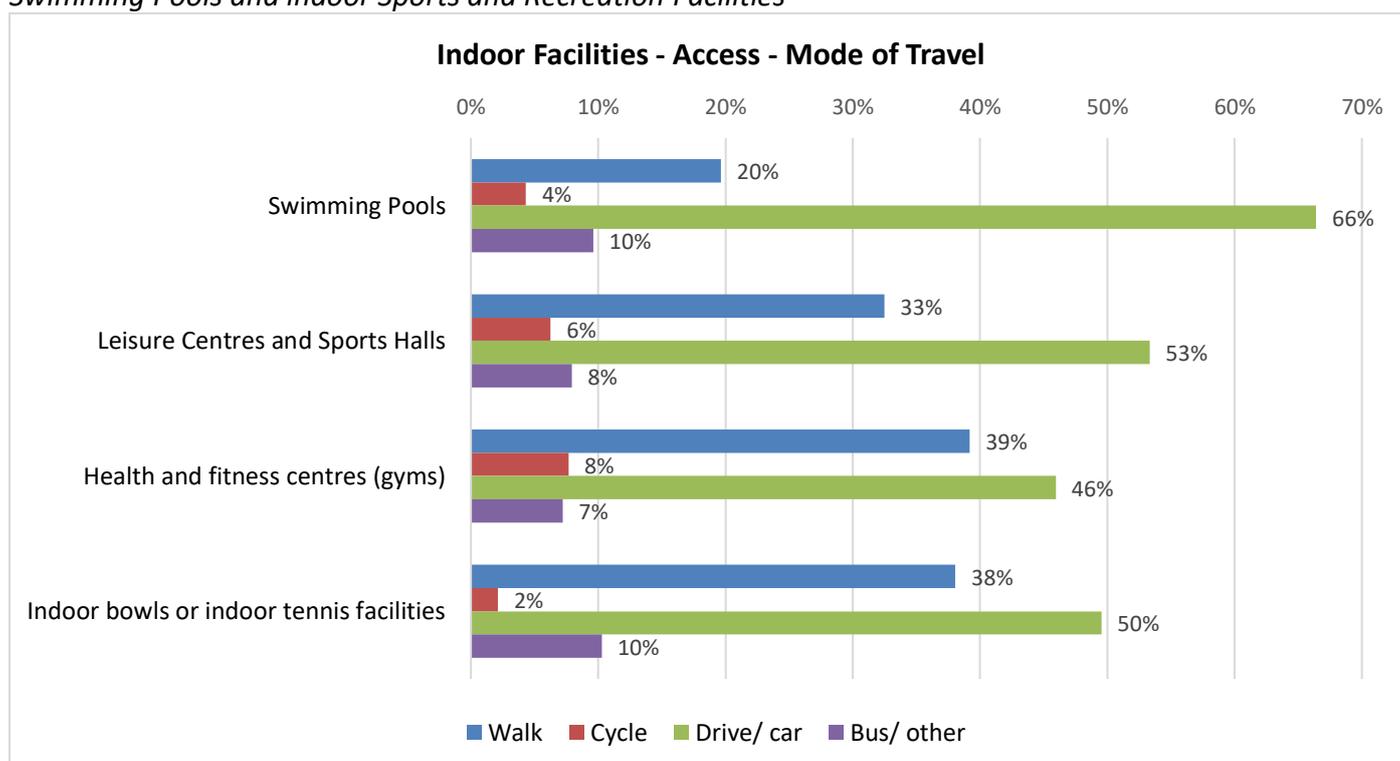


For most typologies walking is the norm, most notably for facilities such as play areas (77%); recreation grounds and parks (73%); and informal open spaces (63%).

However, a majority of respondent households would normally drive to beaches/water recreation facilities (58%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (53%). In addition, a higher proportion of households would normally drive rather than walk to most sports facilities such as winter pitches, cricket pitches, tennis/netball courts; outdoor bowling greens; and athletic facilities.

For a small but significant minority access by bus is important. For example, 17% or more make use of bus services to access cricket pitches, athletics facilities and outdoor bowling greens. Similarly, a number of household members cycle to use facilities. For example, 17% normally cycle to visit teenage facilities; 15% to footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths; and 10% to MUGAs.

### *Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities*



In relation to indoor sports and recreation facilities respondents are more likely than not to drive to all facilities; most notably in the cases of swimming pools (66%)

For a small but significant minority access by bus and bicycle is important. For example, 10% make use of bus services to visit swimming pools and indoor bowls/tennis centres. In addition, 8% of households cycle health and fitness centres.

It is not of course surprising that in broad terms walking is the predominant mode of travel to facilities such as local parks, children's play areas, recreation grounds, and other informal recreation areas. In contrast, motorised transport is more common for larger and more specialised facilities such as swimming pools and leisure centres which may be some distance removed from many potential users. It is however of great importance when it comes to drawing up the access element of local standards in terms of whether access thresholds should primarily be provided in terms of walking, cycling or drive times.

The main implications for deriving access standards are that, in general, walk times would be more appropriate for:

- Parks and recreation grounds
- Informal open space
- Play areas for children
- Teenage facilities
- Allotments
- MUGAs
- Rights of way

Based on the above drive times would, in general, be more appropriate for:

- Swimming pools and leisure centres
- Indoor tennis/bowls facilities
- Gym/health and fitness facilities
- Sport pitches
- Woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves
- Tennis courts and bowling greens
- Athletics facilities

The 3 main reports will also discuss in detail the way different typologies should be treated in relation to spatial planning standards. For example, recommendations for the beaches, footpaths' bridleways and cycle paths etc. may not be focused on specific quantity or distance/time threshold standards.

### ***Importance of Footpath/cycle access***

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

- 78% of households confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved
- 81% also said that if the quality of the route was improved, they would make the journey more often.

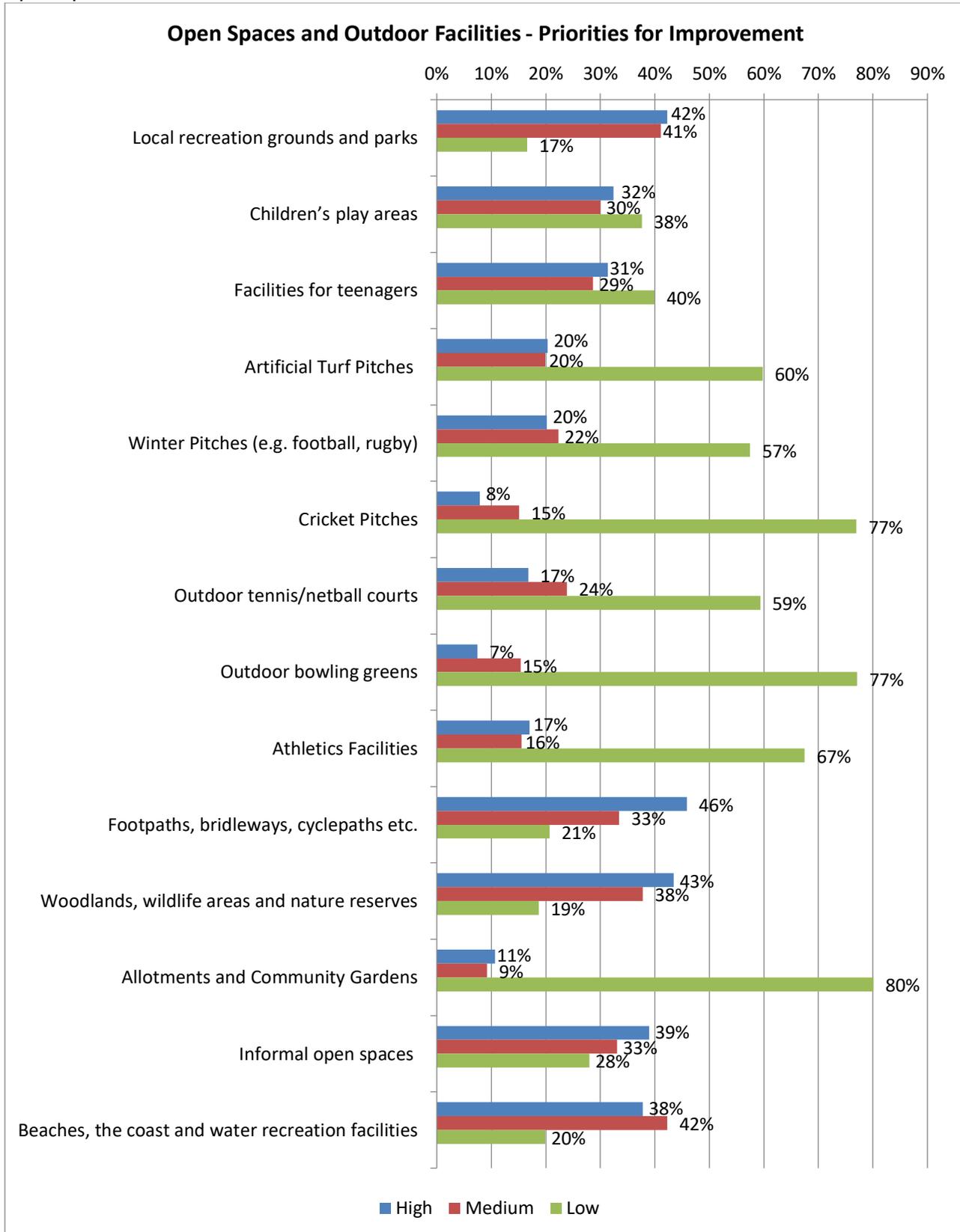
This is a significant finding in terms of illustrating the potential benefit of ensuring good foot and cycle path access to facilities.

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

### **2.1.7 Key Issues and priorities for improvement**

Households were also asked what their priorities for improvement in provision were. Findings are illustrated on the table below. Respondents were asked to rate the need for new or improved facilities by indicating priorities at three levels – high, medium or low.

## Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

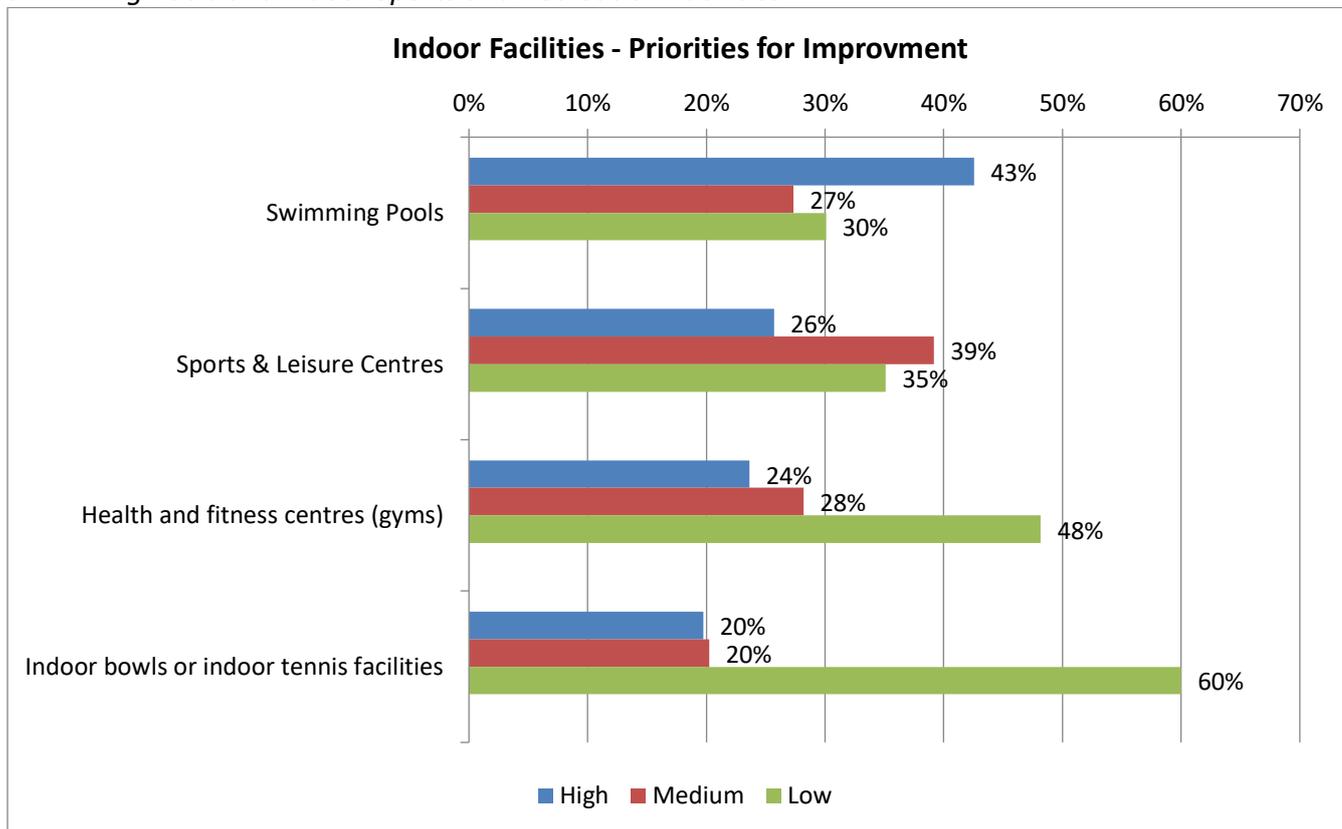


In relation to Open Space and Outdoor Facilities the category highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was better footpaths, bridleway and cycle path provision (46%) followed by woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (43%).

Other notable high priorities for improvement noted by significant numbers were parks and local recreation grounds (42%); informal open spaces (39%) and the beaches/water recreation (38%).

Children's play areas also score quite highly as a priority need (a combined high/medium priority choice for 62% of households - 32% high/30% medium). Youth facilities were rated similarly (a combined high/medium priority choice for 61% of households - 31% high/29% medium).

### *Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities*



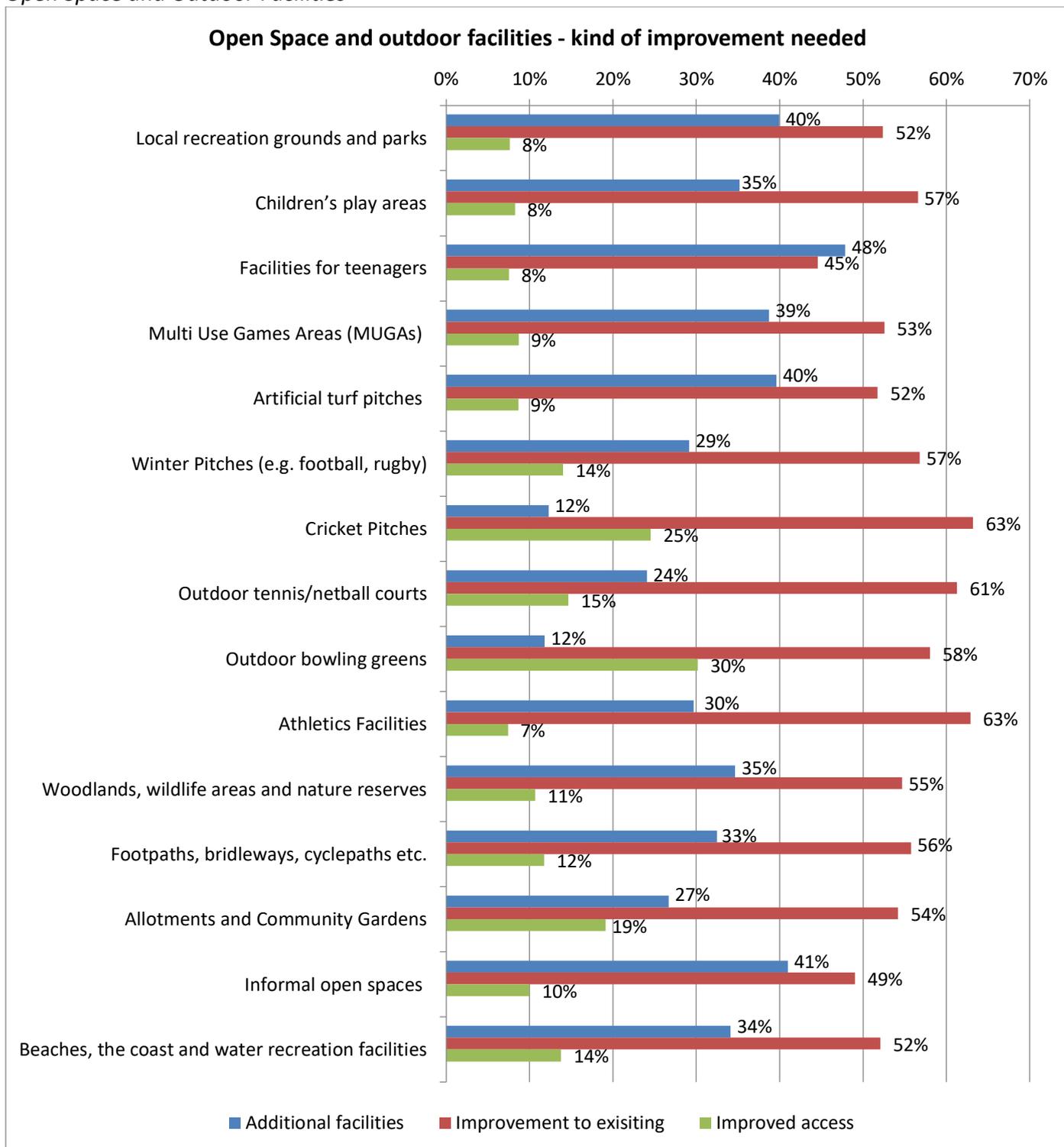
For indoor sports and leisure facilities in general, fewer households highlighted high priority needs. Improvements to swimming pool provision gained the highest proportion of high priority ratings (43%) along with an additional 27% of medium priority ratings.

Following this, improvements to sport and leisure centres were rated as a high priority by 26% with an additional 39% of medium priority ratings.

### *Kind of Improvement Needed*

Associated questions asked households to indicate whether the kind of priority need was primarily for more facilities, improved quality of existing, or improved access. In relation to the priorities noted above these findings are shown in the charts below:

## Open Space and Outdoor Facilities

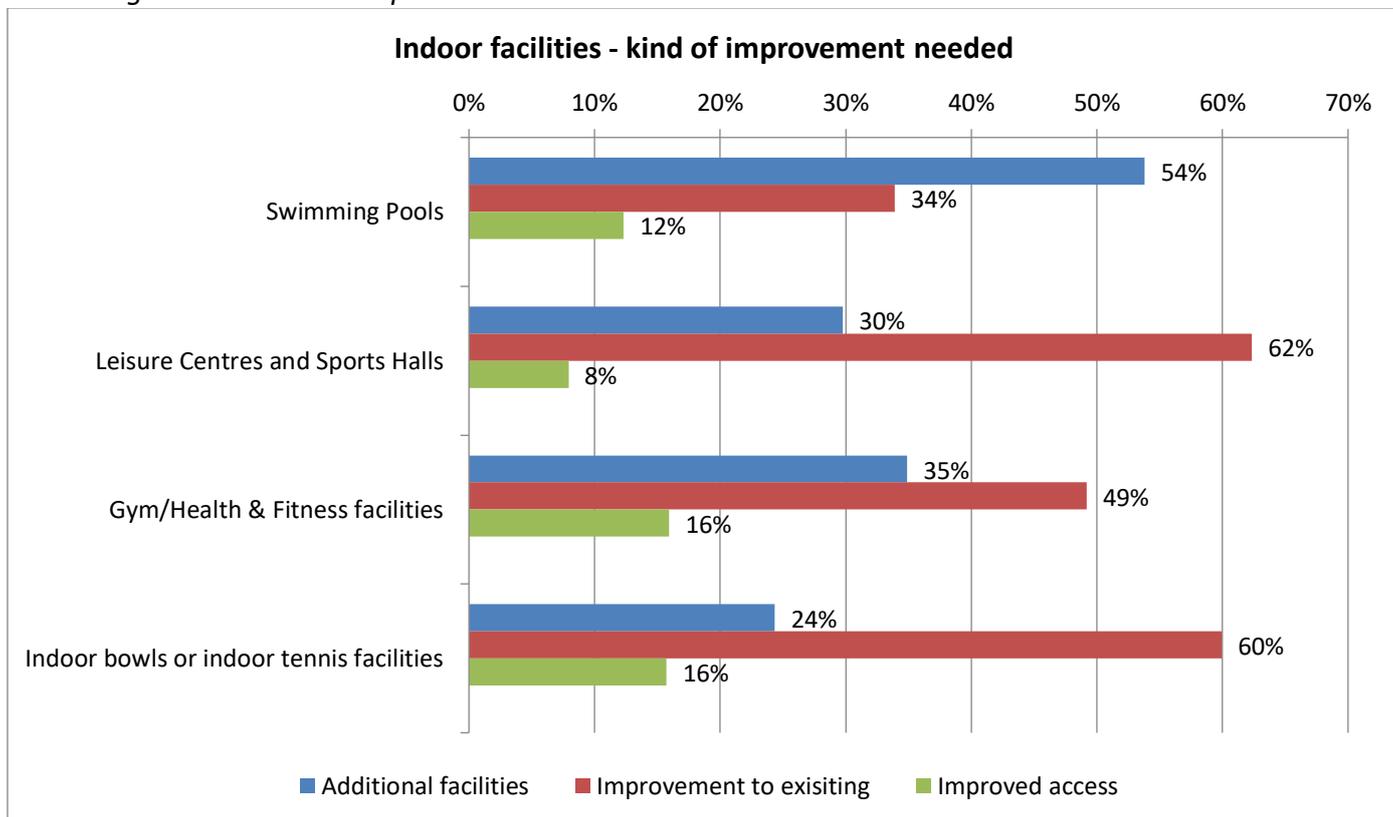


From this it can be seen that:

- For all typologies the general view that the primary need was improvement to existing rather than additional open spaces and outdoor facilities.
- Typologies with the highest proportion (over 60%) noting a primary need for quality improvements to existing provision are cricket pitches; outdoor tennis courts; and athletics facilities.
- The category with the highest proportion of households suggesting a primary need for more facilities is provision for teenagers (48%).

- Other typologies with a relatively high proportion (at least 40%) indicating a need for more rather than improvements in quality include: local parks/recreation grounds; artificial turf pitches; and informal green spaces.
- The highest identified need for access improvements was outdoor bowling greens (30%).

### Swimming Pools and indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities



From this it can be seen that:

- A majority of households (54%) identified the primary need for swimming pools as being additional facilities rather than improvements to existing.
- For leisure centres/sports halls and indoor bowls/tennis facilities a clear majority (at least 60%) identified the primary need as being for improvements to existing facilities.
- Considerably more households thought that the primary need was for improvements to rather than additional health and fitness facilities (49% compared to 35%).

## 2.2 Stakeholder Views - Public Health

### 2.2.1 Introduction

This section highlights stakeholder views on the value of open space to the wider public health agenda. This includes national perspectives from organisations such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Public Health England.

### 2.2.2 National perspectives on the value of open spaces and physical activity to health and wellbeing

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) have pointed out that “physical activity is not only fun and enjoyable, it is essential for good health, helping to prevent or manage over 20 conditions and diseases. This includes heart disease, diabetes, some cancers and obesity. It can also help improve people’s mental health and wellbeing<sup>6</sup>.”

#### **NICE Local Authority Briefing – Public Health**

Supporting people of all ages to be more physically active can help local authorities meet their new public health responsibilities. Specifically, it will impact on a range of indicators identified in the public health and the adult social care outcomes frameworks including:

- Use of green space for exercise/health reasons
- Child development
- Excess weight in children and adults
- Proportion of physically active and inactive adults
- Self-reported wellbeing and health-related quality of life
- Falls and injuries in the over-65s
- Mortality from cardiovascular diseases (including heart disease and stroke), cancer and respiratory diseases.

More specifically in relation to the Open Spaces Study, Public Health England has provided a health equity briefing: *Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces*<sup>7</sup>.

#### **Public Health England – health equity briefing: Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces. Summary of key points:**

- There is significant and growing evidence on the health benefits of access to good quality green spaces. The benefits include better self-rated health; lower body mass index; overweight and obesity levels; improved mental health and wellbeing; increased longevity.
- There is unequal access to green spaces across England. People living in the most deprived areas are less likely to live near green spaces and will therefore have fewer opportunities to experience the health benefits of green space compared with people living in less deprived areas.
- Increasing the use of good quality green space for all social groups is likely to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities. It can also bring other benefits such as greater community cohesion and reduced social isolation.

<sup>6</sup> NICE Local government briefing (LGB3) – April 2013

<sup>7</sup> Health Equity Evidence Review 8 – September 2014

- Local authorities play a vital role in protecting, maintaining and improving local green spaces and can create new areas of green space to improve access for all communities. Such efforts require joint work across different parts of the local authority and beyond, particularly public health, planning, transport and parks and leisure.

Providing opportunities for physical activity by developing and maintaining appropriate facilities such as parks and open spaces is therefore very important in relation to promoting better public health. Public Health services nationally therefore tend to have an interest in all aspects of active recreation facility provision.

### 2.2.3 West Sussex County Council – Public Health

The West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board provides support and advises on work to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of West Sussex through joined up commissioning across the NHS, social care, public health and other services. It oversees the development of the health and social care needs assessment referred to as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The Board is also responsible for the development of the Better Care Fund Plan to support and transform the health and social care system in West Sussex to meet the challenges of a growing population and reduced budgets.

The board consists of leaders from the County Council, district and borough councils, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), voluntary sector and Healthwatch.

The County Council Public Health Team recognises the value of access to open space in relation to promoting health and wellbeing and public health objectives. The key aspects to note are:

- Public Health England provides information on local health indicators relating to access to green spaces in recognition of their importance to promoting public health. Indicators include; use of outdoor space for exercise/health reasons, people's access to woodland and Healthy Assets (including access to public green space). These can be found here – <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/green%20spaces>
- There is strong evidence to suggest that green spaces have a beneficial impact on physical and mental wellbeing and cognitive function through both physical access and usage.
- Having access to green spaces supports wellbeing and allows people to engage in physical activity.
- The Access to Health Assets and Hazards index is designed to allow policy/decision makers to understand which areas have poor environments for health.
- A recent report from the Children's Commissioner for England report highlights the importance to children of play and physical activity in relation to health and wellbeing.
- Obesity contributes to the increasing levels of poor health and long-term conditions such as diabetes, therefore promoting physical activity through local open space and active recreation can help reduce the obesity levels.
- Evidence identified that people in communities with access to quality open space have improved mental wellbeing, with less stress, improved physical health and feeling less socially isolated. On the other hand, when access to open spaces is reduced and areas become unpleasant, the impact on people's emotional wellbeing becomes adversely affected.

## West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 - 2024

This revised strategy set outs the main plan for improving health and wellbeing for West Sussex Residents. The strategy outlines the main priorities that the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board feels it can significantly contribute to achieve its vision. It highlights how with the increasing pressure on resources that it is important for all organisations to work together.

The three themes that have been identified as priorities are; starting well, living and working well and ageing well.

Starting Well	Living and Working Well	Ageing Well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved mother and baby health and wellbeing.</li> <li>Good mental health for children.</li> <li>Children growing in a safe and healthy home environment with supporting parents and carers.</li> <li>Children and young people leaving care are healthy and independent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals, families, friends and communities are connected.</li> <li>People are able to look after their own health.</li> <li>People have access to good quality homes providing a secure place.</li> <li>People live, work and play in environments that promote health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fewer older people feel lonely or socially isolated.</li> <li>Older adults stay healthier, happier and independent for longer.</li> <li>A reduction in the number of older people having falls.</li> <li>People receive good quality end of life care.</li> </ul>

### 2.2.4 Adur & Worthing Councils – Communities and Wellbeing Team

The Communities and Wellbeing Team aims to develop and promote sport and physical activity relating to healthy lifestyles, active recreation and active travel. Key aspects that they work on include supporting the Wellbeing Hub, working on fuel poverty and supporting neighbourhoods on health and wellbeing.

#### Overview – Adur and Worthing Health Profile

The health profile for the period 2017 indicates that the health of people in Adur and Worthing is good compared to the England average. Life expectancy for both males and females is higher than the England average. The percentage of children living in low income families is below the national average with 16% of children living in low income families in Adur and 15% in Worthing. Obesity levels in children is also below the national average with 17.8% of children classed as obese in Adur and 15.9% in Worthing. However, diabetes diagnoses (17+) is significantly higher in Adur than the England average but is lower in Worthing.

#### Public Health Strategy 2018 -2021: *'Start well, Live Well, Age Well'*.

This strategy was developed by Adur & Worthing Councils with input from the County Council and follows on from the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Even though the health profile of Adur and Worthing is generally good compared to the England average, it has been identified that there are significant differences within ward areas. There are high levels of binge drinking, low rates of physical activity and a high level of mental health issues amongst young people.

The study also notes that there has been progress made and achievements since the 2014 -2017 Public Health Plan, which includes increased knowledge and skills across the Council and promotion of good health via the Wellbeing Hubs.

In line with the West Sussex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024 and using health data and consultation information, the strategy identified the following priority areas:

1. We all have the opportunity to enjoy good mental wellbeing and emotional resilience.
2. We contribute to improved environmental sustainability that supports our health and wellbeing.
3. We can all access and make positive use of our open spaces.
4. We all have the opportunity to enjoy a healthy lifestyle throughout these stages.
5. We can all enjoy good social connections via purposeful activity at all stages of our life.

The joint up strategy replaces both previous councils' Public Health Plan and outlines the roles both Councils need to play in both in promoting good health and wellbeing.

There are also two notable studies that are currently being worked on by the Communities and Wellbeing Team; The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and The Activities Strategy.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan builds on the county wide West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-2026. The plan is being developed by a range of stakeholders, led by Adur & Worthing Councils Sustainability Officer and Head of Regeneration. The plan aims to identify a network plan for walking and cycling around Adur and Worthing which identifies preferred routes and core zones for further development and a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment. The full report will be published later in 2019.

The Activities Strategy, led by Communities and Wellbeing, aims to move inactive people to being active people. The process for this strategy is currently been undertaken including a wide consultation process (representatives from Ethos attended one of the consultation meetings). The outcomes of the strategy include compiling a delivery group to advance proposals, source funding and keep the momentum of the strategy going.

## 2.3 General Community – Key Findings

This section provides some key consultation findings from the Adur and Worthing household survey and public health stakeholders.

### Quantity

#### *Open Space*

- For most other kinds of open spaces/outdoor facilities the view tended to be that the quantity of provision is sufficient.
- A large majority thought that overall there are enough outdoor bowling greens (84%). Smaller but notable majorities think that in general there are enough parks/recreation grounds (64%); allotments/community gardens (59%); and tennis/netball courts (56%).
- There are a number of open space typologies that a majority of respondents suggest there is a general need for more. 66% highlight a shortfall of facilities for teenagers and just over half suggest a need for more footpaths, bridleways, cyclepaths and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves.
- Other aspects where there was considered to be an overall shortfall by significant numbers (over 45%) were: MUGAs (48%); informal open spaces (47%); and Artificial Turf Pitches (46%); and

#### *Indoor Facilities*

- A clear majority of households reported that there are enough of all of the various kinds of indoor sport and leisure facilities; most notably in relation to Leisure Centres/Sports Halls (75%) and gym/health and fitness facilities (70%).
- The two kinds of facility where a significant minority of respondent households (over 35%) believe that there is a need for more are swimming pools (45%) and indoor bowls and tennis centres (39%).

### Quality

#### *Open Space*

- For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces a majority of households suggested that in general they were of adequate or better quality (though the most common rating tended to be only "adequate").
- Some kinds of facilities/open spaces were rated highly in terms of quality. These include: outdoor bowling greens (57% rate them as good or very good); allotments and community gardens (50% similarly); parks and recreation grounds (49%); and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (48%).
- However, 46% of households highlighted the overall quality of outdoor facilities for teenagers as being either poor or very poor compared to 22% believing them to be good/very good. The quality of MUGAs was rated as poor or worse by 37% of respondents.

#### *Indoor Facilities*

- In broad terms respondent households appear quite satisfied with the quality of indoor sports and recreation provision. All are commonly rated as being of adequate or better quality.

- The indoor facilities most commonly regarded as being of good or very good quality are leisure centres and sports halls (43%); gym/health and fitness facilities (42%); and indoor bowls/tennis centres (42%).

## **Access**

### ***Open Space***

In general, a majority of household respondents report that they would not normally travel more than 15 minutes to visit the different kinds of open spaces and outdoor sport/recreation facilities. There is considerable variation however between the typologies. For example:

- 57% of user households are prepared to travel 20 minutes to visit woodlands, wildlife area and nature reserves; and 35% of these report that they would in fact travel more than 20 minutes. 50% would also travel similar lengths of time to visit the beaches/water recreation areas.
- In contrast, for significant numbers of residents, facilities need to be much more locally accessible before they will be used (for example, play areas and park/recreation grounds).
  - 65% of users would expect play areas to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 22% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.
  - 58% of users would expect local parks/recreation grounds and informal open spaces to be within a 10 minute travel time, of which 16% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

In general, household members will travel further to various outdoor sports facilities and MUGAs than parks and play areas:

- 66% will travel for 15 minutes to use Artificial Turf Pitches (of which 18% would travel 20 minutes – some further). 65% would travel similar lengths of time to make use of MUGAs, winter pitches and cricket pitches
- 74% will travel for 15 minutes to use outdoor bowling greens (around 20% of these would travel 20 minutes – some further). 66% would travel similar lengths of time to access Athletics facilities.

For most typologies walking is the norm, most notably for facilities such as play areas (77%); recreation grounds and parks (73%); and informal open spaces (63%). However, a majority of respondent households would normally drive to beaches/water recreation facilities (58%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (53%). In addition, a higher proportion of households would normally drive rather than walk to most sports facilities such as winter pitches, cricket pitches, tennis/netball courts; outdoor bowling greens; and athletic facilities.

### ***Indoor Facilities***

- In the cases of swimming pools and sports/leisure centres at least 75% of users are prepared to travel 15 minutes to make use of such facilities. For swimming pools just over half would travel up 20 minutes (of these 24% would travel more than 20 minutes).
- For sports/leisure centres 43% would travel up 20 minutes.
- For health and fitness centres 40% of users would not wish to travel more than 10 minutes to access facilities of which 8% would not wish to travel more than 5 minutes.

### ***Importance of footpath/cycle access***

- 78% of households confirmed that they would be prepared to walk/cycle further if the quality of the route was improved; and 81 % also said that if the quality of the route was improved they would make the journey more often.

## **Priorities**

### ***Open Space***

- The category highlighted by the largest number of households as a high priority for potential improvement/new provision was better footpaths, bridleway and cyclepath provision (46%) followed by woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (43%).
- Other notable high priorities for improvement noted by significant numbers were parks and local recreation grounds (42%); informal open spaces (39%) and the beaches/water recreation (38%).
- Children's play areas also score quite highly as a priority need (a combined high/medium priority choice for 62% of households - 32% high/30% medium). Youth facilities were rated similarly (a combined high/medium priority choice for 61% of households - 31% high/29% medium).

### ***Indoor facilities***

- Improvements to swimming pool provision gained the highest proportion of high priority ratings (43%) along with an additional 27% of medium priority ratings.
- Following this, improvements to sport and leisure centres were rated as a high priority by 26% with an additional 39% of medium priority ratings.

## **Public Health and other issues**

- Adur & Worthing Councils recognise the value and importance of access to open space, sport and outdoor recreation facilities in relation to health and wellbeing to residents' quality of life.
- The overall health profile of the area is generally good compared to the England average, but there are certain areas where there are improvements to be made.
- The Public Health Strategy 2018 – 2021 highlights that everyone should have access to open spaces, and this is a key priority of the strategy.
- Examples of the Councils health projects include; Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and Activities Strategy.
- Some sectors of the community face particular barriers to access including children, young people and some deprived wards of the area.

## 3.0 NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES, PARISH COUNCILS and WARD MEMBERS

### 3.1 Introduction

This section provides information and feedback from neighbouring local authorities, ward members and the two Adur District Parish Councils. It is important to consult with neighbouring local authorities under the "duty to co-operate" requirement. This places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils in England and public bodies to "engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters"<sup>8</sup>.

The need to consult and engage with local parish councils arises from the fact that some parish councils are responsible for the management of open spaces, play areas and recreation grounds; and the local councils also tend to have a good understanding of local needs and priorities in relation to local sport, play and recreation facilities. They are also statutory consultees on planning matters, and some are involved in neighbourhood planning.

Section three is comprised of three main sub-sections:

- Neighbouring Authorities - Cross-boundary and strategic issues
- Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plans
- Ward Members

There is a summary of key issues at the end of the section. The information and findings of this section will be taken forward in the three main reports.

### 3.2 Neighbouring authorities - Cross boundary and strategic issues

#### 3.2.1 Overview – Adur and Worthing

Adur & Worthing Councils share borders or have strategic engagement with the Local Authorities of Arun, Brighton & Hove, Chichester<sup>9</sup>, Horsham, Mid Sussex, and West Sussex County. In addition, part of the study area falls within the remit of the South Downs National Park Authority.

As regards the South Downs National Park Adur and Worthing Council Officers noted that the most relevant related piece of work is the SDNP Green Infrastructure Framework (2016). It is understood that this work is being expended to form a strategy that could be used at the local level<sup>10</sup>.

#### 3.2.2 Neighbouring Local Authorities

Planning policy officers were also contacted from the seven authorities noted above to check if they had identified any wider strategic or cross-border issues of relevance to Adur and Worthing that they thought should be taken into account. Comments and observations from officers of these authorities are provided below<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/duty-to-cooperate>

<sup>9</sup> Please note that Chichester District does not share a border with Adur and Worthing.

<sup>10</sup> See comments below from the South Downs Planning Policy Officer which provides an update on the Green Infrastructure Strategy

<sup>11</sup> The officer responses were collected via an emailed pro-forma.

**Arun District Council**

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border and strategic issues <sup>12</sup>
Indoor Sports Facility Strategy	Study completed in 2016 (KKP).	We opened a new leisure centre in Littlehampton earlier this year. This has a x8 lane 25m pool, large multi-use pool with moveable floor, 85 station H&F gym, large studio and x4 court sports hall.
Playing Pitch Strategy	Current strategy completed in 2016 (KKP)	The main sports pitch project that we are currently working on that potentially has cross border implications with Adur/ Worthing is a community sports hub at Angmering. We are planning one full size 3G pitch, but this may be increased to two.
Green Infrastructure Study	Arun Green Infrastructure Study 2012 (LUC)	Arun is commissioning work looking at north south leisure access from the coast to the South Downs. There is also an aspiration to deliver the Arun river valley footpath - there may also be linkages with east west corridors with further planned improvements to the A27 and to the A259.
Open Space/PPG17 study	Open Space Study – completed in 2016 (KKP)	No specific comments noted.
Play/youth facility strategy	Play Area Strategy (2018-2028) - completed 2018.	No specific comments noted.

**Other Points:**

Arun DC recently adopted its Local Plan 2018 (for the period 2011-2031). We are currently updating our evidence base and strategy in relation to leisure/sports-built facilities and playing pitches.

The adopted plan makes some housing provision towards unmet needs in Arun as well as meeting unmet needs in Chichester and the West Sussex area. It is relevant that your evidence preparation and emerging policies and infrastructure delivery (e.g. s.106 and CIL contributions where appropriate) recognise and make some allowance for the potential cross boundary implications that this generates in terms of demand and supply and catchment travel. Linking up provision of facilities both formal and informal through cross boundary access planning should also be a consideration where new housing accommodates close to the shared administrative boundary and opportunities for transport and travel links including walking and cycling, allow.

Arun DC is also currently working on:

- Preparing an Open Spaces, Built Facilities and Playing Pitches SPD (to consult on later in the summer 2019).
- Consulting on a Draft Charging Schedule for CIL purposes.
- Considering Non-Strategic Sites Allocations DPD (to consult on later in the summer 2019)
- Considering Gypsy & Traveller Sites Allocation DPD (to consult on later in the summer 2019)

<sup>12</sup> These comments will be taken forward and considered in the main report.

## Brighton &amp; Hove City Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border and strategic issues
Indoor Sports Facility Strategy	Indoor Sports Facilities Study (2012). The Indoor Sports facilities Plan 2012-22 aims to improve overall supply, quality and accessibility of sports facilities in the city to meet the current and future demands.	<p>Cross-border issues are relevant to the larger indoor sports facilities.</p> <p>It is understood that a section of the population from Brighton and Hove use sports facilities in Adur and Worthing. It is expected that once the King Alfred Leisure Centre is delivered, there will be some reduction in the number of people using facilities outside of the City. The plans for King Alfred include a 25 metre, eight lane swimming pool with moveable floor and over 300 seats for spectators. It will also include a 20m by 10m teaching pool that will be suitable for lessons for young children. It will have a large gym with around 120 equipment stations, a bike spinning room, a workout studio for instructors to hold their own classes, a quiet activity studio that would be suitable for yoga classes including a gymnastic centre, a crèche and a soft play room among others.</p>
Playing Pitch Strategy	Playing Pitch Strategy (2016). The B&H Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan. Completed in Dec 2016, still evolving especially Action plans.	Cross-border issues are also relevant to some outdoor sports facilities.
Green Infrastructure Study	Green Infrastructure Study (2009). This report describes a methodology developed by Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Sussex Environment Partnership, Geospec and Brighton & Hove Council to define a green network for Brighton and Hove.	There is not much cross border communication regarding green infrastructure and the issue of GI does not appear to be high on the agenda. The principle of increase in the cross-boundary use of open space across the Adur/Worthing/South Down boundaries is acknowledged.
Open Space/PPG17 study	PPG17 OS Study completed in 2008. The study incorporates the Council's audit of all open space provision in Brighton & Hove, and aims to provide a clear vision, identify priorities for future open space, recreation and sport provision, and consequently provide direction for the allocation of future Council and developer resources. The study provides the	Cross-border issues are also relevant to some large natural green spaces.

	<p>standards set for the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces, split by PPG17 typology. The study was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG 17) Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, (July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002).</p> <p>A refresh was completed in 2011 which provides further information and evidence to the open space, sport and recreation facilities study delivered in 2008.</p>	
Open Space Strategy (2017)	Open Space Strategy 2017 – a wider study setting out the opportunities as well as the challenges facing parks and open spaces. It builds on the priorities and many helpful ideas and suggestions identified by all those who contributed to the consultation and incorporates recent research undertaken on playing pitch provision and play areas. It is an evolving piece of study, which will potentially shape the future plans.	No specific points noted.
Other	<p>Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013-2018. Up for a refresh.</p> <p>Public Health and wellbeing Strategy 2019-2030: This strategy sets out our vision for improving the health and wellbeing of local people and reducing health inequalities</p>	No specific points noted.

#### Other Points:

Based on the city's objectively assessed open space needs and subsequent local standards it is estimated over 200 additional hectares of open space will be required by 2030 to meet the demand from the city's increasing population. However, it is acknowledged that due to the existing and increasing densities and the constraints upon the city, between the National Park and the sea, such a significant increase in open space is unlikely to be met in full. Whilst the city will work towards increasing the capacity of its existing open spaces and other innovative solutions it is recognised this is unlikely to meet the demands for all the various types of open space in full.

As part of the City Plan Part 1 preparation, other authorities within the sub-region were contacted to establish whether any significant new open space schemes are being developed within their administrative area which could also help address the future open space requirements of Brighton & Hove. There are a number of existing locations outside the City's boundaries which are used by a proportion of the city's residents for leisure purposes but they mostly fall outside Worthing and Adur LA boundaries.

The following scheme has been identified which have the potential to provide open space and outdoor sport facilities which could serve Brighton & Hove's residents: A new golf course under construction between Lancing and Shoreham.

#### Chichester District Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border and strategic issues
Indoor Sports Facility Strategy	Completed 2018.	None identified.
Playing Pitch Strategy	Completed 2018.	None identified.
Open Space/PPG17 study	Completed 2018.	None identified.

#### Other Points:

We do not adjoin Adur and Worthing so do not have specific points to highlight.

#### Horsham District Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border and strategic issues
Indoor Sports Facility Strategy	A Built Facilities Strategy is nearing completion.	It is likely residents in Horsham District, especially those in the southern section, visit facilities in Adur and Worthing and vice versa.
Playing Pitch Strategy	A Playing Pitch Strategy is currently being prepared – planned completion April/May 2019.	None highlighted.
Green Infrastructure Study	Green Infrastructure Study completed in 2014. A further study is in progress to cover cycle ways.	There could be issues of cross border significance depending on the outcome of any study. An appropriate approach has to be found to seek to sustainably meet the development needs and infrastructure needs without undermining the quality of the environment. To date however needs have been met without significant cross border significance. There are opportunities for linkages to Adur/Worthing, for example, the Downslink and south coast cycle path. Further ongoing dialogue on potential opportunities and pressures will be

		opportunities and pressures will be welcomed.
Open Space/PPG17 study	Open Space Study completed in 2014. A further document 'Additional Guidance Notes for Developers' has been produced offering guidance to developers. However, we intend to review the open space standards so that the Local Plan Review is supported by up to date evidence, the timescales for this have not been finalised.	The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment identifies a number of deficiencies of open spaces, sport and recreation. These include, but are not limited to allotments, Artificial Turf Pitches, Athletics tracks, Indoor Bowls, Swimming Pool, Rugby Pitches, Multicourts, youth activity areas. The emerging Playing Pitch and Built Facilities audit updates the assessment of deficiencies and provides a clearer updated picture of the areas with under or over supply. We intend to review the open space standards so that the Local Plan Review is supported by up to date evidence, the timescales for this have not been finalised.
Green Space Strategy	Green Space Strategy (2013-2023).	The Green Space Strategy promotes the importance of planning good quality multi-functional neighbourhood green spaces with excellent green corridor connectivity. Green transport i.e. cycle and walking routes should be a fundamental consideration in the planning. (This potentially links in with the opportunities identified against Green Infrastructure).
Play/Youth facility strategy	Horsham Play Strategy (2017 - 2027)	The Play Strategy encourages the development of child friendly environments which offer stimulating and challenging play opportunities. This should not just be limited to play areas, but also to encouraging play in natural environments.
Other	Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (completed 2016) Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre are currently doing joint Horsham and Crawley GIS EcoServ modelling	

### Other Points

- The Additional Guidance notes for developers is yet to be adopted but further refines quantity and quality standards for sports, open space and recreation associated with new developments in the Horsham District.
- As raised above against Green Infrastructure there are opportunities for linkages to Adur/Worthing, for example, the Downslink and south coast cycle path. There are other public rights of way links

across the Downs between the local authorities, for example, via Truleigh Hill, Lancing Ring and Cissbury Ring. Further ongoing dialogue on potential opportunities and pressures will be welcomed.

- Our current evidence shows that leisure and recreation needs of the community in HDC are met or can be met locally but this will need to be kept under review, and it will be important to understand any DTC outcomes that may arise from the Worthing and Adur study. We are aware that there is some limited and cross boundary use of sites in the wider sub region.

### Mid Sussex District Council

Type of study	Notes/updates on relevant studies	Comments and observations – cross border and strategic issues
Indoor Sports Facility Strategy	In progress.	Unlikely to be issues relating to Adur/Worthing.
Playing Pitch Strategy	In progress.	Unlikely to be issues.
Open Space/PPG17 study	In progress.	Unlikely to be issues.
Play/Youth facility strategy	In progress.	Unlikely to be issues.

### South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)

The South Downs National Park Authority is the planning authority for the National Park. Part of Adur and Worthing falls under the SDNPA jurisdiction for planning purposes. The SDNPA Senior Planning Policy Officer commented that:

The South Downs National Park Authority is not a local authority as a district, city or borough Council is and is therefore not responsible for the delivery of sports and recreation facilities. The SDNPA has therefore not sought to undertake this sort of study as this would already be undertaken by the relevant district/borough/city council. ***As Local Planning Authority, the SDNPA emerging Local Plan will adopt the appropriate standards identified through such studies undertaken by the relevant district/borough/city council.***

### Green Infrastructure

As regards Green Infrastructure it was noted that:

The *SDNPA Green Infrastructure Framework* has been in progress for the last 3-4 years or so. A draft of the framework was completed and circulated for comment in 2017. Work on the Framework was temporarily paused, but has recently resumed. The Framework area includes all district local authorities which have some area within or adjacent to the South Downs National Park. The Framework has been prepared in partnership with a several stakeholder meetings over the preparation period. In summary, the aim of the Framework is to create, protect and enhance a network of green and blue infrastructure for people and nature. The Framework identifies a series of overarching strategic GI principles, and also identifies area of potential opportunity for GI improvements – one of which is the coastal communities to the south of the SDNP, which include Adur and Worthing.

Green Infrastructure is a key cross boundary strategic issue for the SDNPA. The emerging Green Infrastructure Framework identifies an area of potential opportunity for GI improvements – one of which is the coast communities to the south of the SDNP, which include Adur and Worthing. The Framework identifies that climate change, coastal flooding and development pressures in the coast communities as a

threat to green infrastructure. Opportunities include making multifunction use of strategic gaps, connecting green spaces/creating wildlife corridors, and investment in existing and new GI assets as part of development proposals.

### ***South Downs Partnership Management Plan***

The South Downs Partnership Management Plan 2014-2019 brings together and coordinates the aspirations of many different partners who help contribute towards the purposes for which it was designated. The Plan is the single most important policy document for the National Park. It consists of a vision, three linked strategic themes and 11 outcomes which set where we would like to get to by 2050. The themes and outcomes work together and have equal importance.

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/partnership-management-plan/>

### **West Sussex County Council**

The County Council response noted that while the District, Borough and City Councils have primary responsibility for sport and recreation provision, the County are responsible for rights of way and planning for cycle path development. The *West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028* provides detail of key issues and forward planning.

The *West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-2026* was also highlighted and it was noted that “from a wider countryside services view the *Walking and Cycling Strategy* is the relevant strategy, it includes the Downs Link, which is an important route to Shoreham managed for recreation and as a wildlife corridor”.

Further detail was provided as below:

Proposals recently identified through the Shoreham Area Sustainable Transport Package (STP) Feasibility Study would need to make use of some areas of green space in various local parks and recreation grounds to provide cycling infrastructure. The feasibility reports from this study are available to view at:

<https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=4036#mgDocuments>

Plans A1-A5 contain details of proposals for cycle facilities along the south side of the A259 between Shoreham Adur Ferry Bridge and the Brighton and Hove border which would require the use of areas of green space/recreation grounds at The Ham (Eastern Avenue junction), at Kingston Beach and various stretches of Adur Homes land along the corridor in order to provide for wider and realigned highway space to facilitate the cycle facilities. Both the The Ham and Kingston Beach are Village Greens and the progression of these proposals and the implications for the Village Greens is being considered through the Shoreham Harbour Transport officer subgroup.

Plans B1 to B9 detail similar proposals for cycle facilities throughout the Lancing and Sompting area. One corridor considered through this work is the Western Road Corridor which passes Brooklands leisure park. I attach previous officer comments in response to the Brooklands Park Masterplan proposals which highlight opportunities for improving cycling facilities to support proposals for cycling facilities on the Western Road corridor, but also potential connections to East Worthing, and circular leisure cycling opportunities within the park.

WSCC is also in the process of undertaking a similar Worthing Area STP Feasibility Study which is considering the potential for cycle facility improvements on 2 key north-south corridors within Worthing Borough:

- (1) A24 Worthing Town Centre to Grove Lodge
- (2) Goring Seafront to Durrington

Regarding corridor 1, opportunities to utilise the north-east edge of Broadwater Green to provide a cycle and pedestrian path could enable cycle facilities to connect between the Broadwater shopping area and Grove Lodge. There appear to be opportunities to also improve pedestrian (as well as cycling) connectivity into the Green from the residential areas on the opposite side of Broadwater Street West utilising suitable crossing facilities. It is noted that this also has 'Village Green' status. The potential to utilise a section of Broadwater Green has yet to be discussed in detail with Worthing Borough Council officers or members, but this is something that we would need to be considered.

Regarding corridor 2, opportunities to widen the existing footpath on the southern boundary of Worthing Leisure Centre/West Park Recreation Ground between Shaftesbury Avenue and Robson Road could facilitate a key section of this route connecting Goring Seafront with Durrington, and this is something that it is anticipated will be explored through this ongoing feasibility study.

Separate to the STP feasibility study work above, WSCC is also currently in liaison with Worthing Borough Council regarding design work it has been undertaking on extending the NCN2 promenade path from George V Avenue to Sea Lane Café (Goring) which would also assess the potential to utilise part of Broadwater Green / Village Green.

Aside from the potential cycle routes described above identified through the WSCC feasibility studies, Adur & Worthing Councils is developing its own Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to identify priority cycle routes around Adur and Worthing. This LCWIP work also builds on the county wide West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-2026. In my officer view, greater use could be made of the wide range of parks and recreational areas across Adur and Worthing to facilitate cycling infrastructure, including useful connections for longer strategic routes, local links between community areas surrounding these parks, and leisure cycling opportunities within the parks themselves.

### 3.3 Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plans

Worthing Borough Council's administrative area is not parished but there are two parish councils in Adur District - Lancing and Sompting. Both Parish Councils responded to the survey. In addition, Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum are in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

The parish responses are outlined below:

#### Lancing Parish Council<sup>13</sup>

##### Management responsibilities

##### *Open Space and Outdoor Sport/Recreation*

The Parish Council is responsible for managing the following outdoor facilities: Widewater Lagoon; Beach Green; stretch of beach from Beach Green to Widewater; East Lancing Recreation Ground; East Lancing Allotments; Monks Recreation Ground; Headborough Gardens; Wenceling Gardens; and Croshaw Recreation Ground. They note that The Village Football Club hire East Lancing Recreation Ground; and Monks Recreation ground is hired via the Horsham & Worthing Sunday League.

In response to the question "are there any issues or constraints which make it difficult for you to manage and/or maintain sports pitches to the standard you would like?" the Parish Council noted "budget constraints and lack of expertise".

Outdoor facilities in the parish provided by Adur District Council are: - The Manor Recreation Ground; Elm Grove play area; Larkfield Close Recreation Ground; Shadwells Road Recreation Ground; Lancing Ring; Manor Park Gardens; Irene Avenue Allotments; and North Lancing Allotments.

##### *Indoor Provision*

Lancing PC manages The Parish Hall which has one large hall and two smaller rooms; Monks Rec Sports Pavilion; and East Lancing Rec Sports Pavilion. Indoor sport/recreation facilities in the parish managed by others include: Impulse Leisure Centre; Sussex County Football Association; Brighton & Hove Albion Training Ground; and the Eco Gym at The Perch.

##### Quality factors - open space provision

We asked the local councils to highlight what they thought, in general, were high priorities as regards qualitative factors of recreational open spaces. The quality factors Lancing PC deemed to be of a high priority as regards recreational public open spaces were:

- They should be safe and secure for those using them
- They should be easy to get to and to get around within for all members of the community
- There should be good footpath and cycleway links to and between them
- Equipment and grounds should be of high quality and well maintained
- They should provide a contribution to biodiversity and wildlife
- They should be multi-functional providing for all sectors of the community.
- There should be adequate opportunities for dog walking and freedom from dog fouling
- There should be control of noise and unsocial behaviour

<sup>13</sup> As a manager of sports pitches the Parish Council sat on the steering group of the current Playing Pitch Strategy.

## Typology specific comments

Typology	Comments
Indoor facilities	The Parish Hall needs some general improvement works due to the age of the building. Monks Rec Sports Pavilion is in dire need of replacing. East Lancing Rec Sports Pavilion is in need of renovating and has no disabled access.
Winter pitches - Football/Rugby	Both Monks Rec and East Lancing Rec football pitches need drainage works.
Children's play areas	All four of the Parish Council's play areas are in desperate need of replacing.
Teenage facilities (e.g. skateparks)	Thankfully, the skatepark at Beach Green is only 18 months old and does not need any attention at this time.
Allotments	East Lancing Allotments are in a fairly decent state.
Parks, rec. grounds, village greens etc.	Wenceling Sensory Garden and Hedborough Gardens which are located in Lancing parish are tended to sufficiently.
Wildlife areas, nature reserves, woodlands	Widewater Lagoon is overseen by a 'friends of' group who act as the eyes and ears of the Council. A Management Committee consisting of LPC, World of Widewater, West Sussex County Council and Shoreham & District Ornithological Society meet twice a year to ensure the lagoon is managed proficiently.

## Plans and Aspirations

- The Parish Council is currently undertaking a Monks Recreation Ground Improvement project, which is now in its third year. To date, the project is at RIBA Stage 3, designed drawings stage and sourcing relevant funding is proving difficult. The scheme includes a new sports pavilion with an integral cafe, new children's play area, MUGA, realigned football pitches, viewing terraces and general landscape improvements.
- East Lancing Sport Pavilion is slowly being improved by The Village Football Club with the help of some matched funding from the Parish Council.
- It is hoped that Croshaw Rec play area will be renovated this year with funding from LPC and Sompting Big Local.
- Investigations are being made to install solar panels on the Parish Hall to reduce the electricity costs. The heating system will need updating before long and some dampproof works are needed. Maintenance is carried out only as and when at the moment, but it would probably be helpful to have the building surveyed to gauge an extent of the full works required to keep it fully functioning.

## Sompting Parish Council

### Management responsibilities

The parish council does not manage any open spaces or outdoor sport/recreation facilities in the parish. They noted that Sompting Recreation Ground is managed by Adur & Worthing Councils.

Sompting PC manage the Harriet Johnson Centre - rooms hired out to community groups/members of the public for classes/activities e.g. yoga, calligraphy, ballet, art, bingo, lunch club, birthday parties, wedding receptions etc.

Indoor sports/recreation facilities managed by others and used by local residents include: Lancing Leisure Centre; Wadurs Swimming Pool, Shoreham; and Splashpoint Swimming Pool, Worthing.

The Parish Council did not comment further on local needs and aspirations in the parish<sup>14</sup>.

### **Sompting Neighbourhood Plan (withdrawn for amendment)**

In 2017 Sompting Parish Council submitted a Neighbourhood Plan to Adur District Council. Though this was withdrawn in 2018 as the parish council wished to amend it, it does provide an indication of local residents' views of relevance to this study. For example, the plan notes findings from consultation with local people as below:

- Sompting's parks are important. They should be safeguarded and improved through the Neighbourhood Plan to add to the quality of life in our community.
- A number of the local services/facilities that are appreciated are on the periphery of Sompting or outside it – e.g. Boundstone Children's and Family Centre, Lancing Leisure Centre, Penhill Road Youth Club. Many respondents spoke about the need for more children's facilities specifically a youth club/drop in centre. If possible.

Sompting Parish Council is currently preparing a revised Plan.

### **Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Plan**

Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum is in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The draft of February 2018 contains a number of elements of relevance to this study:

#### **Strategic Objectives<sup>15</sup>:**

The Plan's objectives include protecting and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity of Shoreham Beach by stimulating public awareness and engagement and by encouraging investment to provide attractive, resilient and engaging public green spaces, creating spaces where people can meet and socialise, and supporting the transition towards sustainable transport.

Emerging policies are likely to address matters such as Local Green Spaces, increasing and improving the network of cycleways and footpaths, and supporting the extension of the existing pedestrian boardwalk.

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<sup>14</sup> Adur and Worthing Officers understand that Sompting PC have an aspiration to remove changing rooms from the Harriet Johnson Centre and build a pavilion on the nearby sports field.

<sup>15</sup> It is important to note that these Strategic Objectives are as stated in the draft plan of February 2018 and are subject to change.

### 3.4 Adur and Worthing Ward Members

Ward members of Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils were invited to feed in initial views of issues for their ward and/or more general observations relating to their ward or the wider study area. The ward member responses are noted below:

Adur District	
Ward	Comments
Buckingham (Adur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leisure centres and sports halls are well used by all ages from 2 to 90. Carparks often full. Impulse provides team sport facilities that are not provided by private providers.</li> <li>Adur does not have any formal parks but has in general good parks particularly around Shoreham.</li> <li>Lack of all weather pitches, esp for 5 aside football. These are very popular in urban areas and do not take up much space.</li> <li>Outdoor facilities for teenagers limited to skate parks. If facilities are to be provided they need to be managed as they tend to attract antisocial behaviour at worse or many complaints from neighbours.</li> <li>Many good sailing clubs that cater for all levels from absolute beginners to Olympic standard. Slip ways are available for non club members for a fee.</li> <li>Very lucky to have the range of wildlife environments we have in Adur. Very popular and have great value to Adur residents.</li> <li>Community “ownership” of open and public spaces is really important. They act as guardians and also increase the spaces’ use.</li> <li>Are these facilities used as part of the social prescribing project?</li> <li>Good range of allotment facilities.</li> <li>Given development planned for Adur these facilities must be maintained as key community assets.</li> <li>Need to ensure that all facilities have good pedestrian and cycle links and cycle facilities. Latter often missing eg Buckingham Park, Beach Green, Widewater etc.</li> <li>Appalling light spill from Southwick football ground. Lighting must be modernised and light pollution reduced.</li> </ul>
Marine (Adur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leisure Centres and Sports Halls - Shoreham is in need of a leisure centre/sports hall – people otherwise have to travel to Southwick or Lancing.</li> <li>Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities - Adur Rec is in my ward – it’s unsuitable for sports pitches as the land is heavily contaminated. I would resist the use of Beach Green (north of south) for formal leisure use as it’s the only open green space on Shoreham Beach.</li> <li>Parks and recreation grounds - Good provision in Shoreham and also within my ward (Adur Rec).</li> <li>Children’s play areas - Good provision both on Beach and at Adur Rec.</li> <li>Youth facilities - Nothing on Shoreham Beach but the Adur skatepark is within easy reach via the footbridge.</li> <li>MUGAS - None on Shoreham Beach and I don’t believe Beach Green is a suitable area. Would act as a magnet for anti social behaviour after hours and is flanked by houses/houseboats.</li> <li>Footpaths etc. Good provision on Beach and footbridge (cycling and pedestrians).</li> <li>Beaches and water recreation - Shoreham Beach is flanked by the river and the sea – so excellent provision. The Shoreham Slipways Group argues that a public</li> </ul>

	<p>slipway is required but I don't get complaints from residents regarding access. Shoreham Sailing Club and the Harbour Club on the Beach both have new slipways, funded by the Environment Agency as part of the Adur Tidal Walls project. Nice unspoiled beach that's a designated Local Nature Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Green Space - Designated LNR and also RSPB reserve to protect the riverbed by the bridge.</li> <li>• Informal open spaces - Beach Green is ideal for this – Falcon Close also has a green at the eastern end of the beach, which is used accordingly.</li> </ul>
Southlands (Adur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisure Centres and Sports Halls - None. We do have Wadurs and Shoreham Academy nearby, and it would be helpful if the community had low cost access to community activities in these locations.</li> <li>• Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities - None - again Shoreham Academy and Middle Road park are nearby but not in the ward. We need a good 4G pitch or similar as diversionary activity - lots of low grade anti-social behaviour, cycle theft and cars damaged routinely in ward.</li> <li>• Parks and recreation grounds - Parklands - needs some attention in terms of planting and facilities.</li> <li>• Children's play areas - again in Parklands only - condition of the play equipment is poor and some has recently been reported as dangerous. Southlands and Parklands in particular seems to be missed from priority areas despite it being a poor LSOA area. It does not get the level of funding or routine updating that Buckingham or Beach Green parks get, for example.</li> <li>• Youth facilities - None. Teens are reported regularly on community social media in the area for 'hanging around' and low level anti-social behaviour. There is a gap in ward for teen facilities, and 8-12 facilities.</li> <li>• MUGAS - None</li> <li>• Footpaths etc: Middle Road is part of the NCN but is a known hotspot for near misses and Shoreham Academy has daily call ins from concerned members of the community about children cycling. There are between 150-500 children cycling into the Academy daily and this must be encouraged, and a safe environment provided. I am looking at this as part of the LCWIP with Shoreham by Cycle and parents. It's hoped we can apply for a community highways scheme, and anything that can be done to support this would be appreciated.</li> <li>• Water Recreation - None</li> <li>• Natural Green Space - None - I would like to look at the two Pocket Parks in King George Road which I have brought to attention as they have been closed off for 4/5 years, to create a community woodland, incredible edibles, and so on - with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). I have a group of community members who wish to get involved.</li> <li>• Allotments - We have Williams Road Allotments and a Community Allotment within it. We have no formal community garden but please see answer above.</li> <li>• Informal open spaces - Small piece of land joined onto Parklands known as Williams Road Green. Community have asked for wildflower planting. Also, we have green space around the 14 courts which I have spoken with Housing and Parks about making better use of in a cost-neutral way. Again, we have willing volunteers.</li> </ul> <p>Other Comments As at 18/4 I'd really like someone senior to troubleshoot and give the okay to get these</p>

	community initiatives started, as for TCV they aren't a 'priority' ward and they are owned by Adur Homes. It just needs all parties in agreement.
Widewater (Adur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leisure Centres and Sports Halls - None in the ward. However, Lancing Leisure Centre is nearby.</li> <li>Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities - There are football pitches in Lancing with well organised teams. Plus the facilities provided by Brighton and Hove Albion at their practice grounds.</li> <li>Parks and recreation grounds - I am regularly contacted regarding dog mess in open spaces.</li> <li>Children's play areas - The play equipment in Larkfield Close is tired and could do with a revamp or with being replaced.</li> <li>Youth facilities - Skateboard Park Beach Green. This has proved to be a focus for petty crime and anti-social behaviour. Many residents tell me that their children no longer use the skateboard park because they have experienced repeated bullying. There are no informal open spaces for teenagers to gather in the evening. This means they hang around in the high street where there is seating, lighting and shelter from rain. The result is that shoppers and late night diners feel intimidated.</li> <li>MUGAS - None in my ward – I'm sure the area could do with some.</li> <li>Footpaths etc. Issues I have had reported are, again, dog mess. Plus dangerous cycling along the footpath adjacent to the beach.</li> <li>Beaches and water recreation - Dinghy sailing from Lancing sailing club is popular. However, a planning condition of the club limits numbers. Kitesurfing is popular and well managed from the club on Beach Green. The beach and the path along the beach is well managed. However, the beach patrol is a shared facility between Adur and Worthing – which seems to spend a lot more time in Worthing. Parking at Beach Green has had the charging structure changed and I receive many complaints about this change.</li> <li>Natural Green Space - The Widewater Lagoon is a nature reserve. There seem to be regular problems with the pipe which is supposed to allow sea water to enter the lagoon. Southern Water regularly say they are about to fix the problem. But I never hear that it's fixed.</li> <li>Other Comments - We have a particular situation in Lancing. Lancing Parish Council run some of the parks, ADC others. This means there is little or no joined up thinking. Political difference mean that the two councils do not work together.</li> </ul>
<b>Worthing Borough</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Marine (Worthing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leisure Centres and Sports Halls - Worthing Leisure Centre is situated at the top of West Park. It is an excellent location for people in Marine and neighbouring wards and is well used. However, it was built in the 1970's and now needs to be updated or replaced. There is not currently a swimming pool in Worthing Leisure Centre. Given demand for this facility in the town, I think that this would be a great addition to the Centre</li> <li>Worthing leisure centre has astroturf pitches, and West Park has a football pitch. The Friends of West Park group would like to see a cricket strip in the Park and are looking at fundraising opportunities for this</li> <li>Parks and recreation grounds - The park is about to receive adult gym equipment. The Friends of group continue to look for funding opportunities to add to this equipment, and to develop a community garden. West Park is a great open green</li> </ul>

	<p>space for free play, dog walking etc. The space would benefit from more seating areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s play areas - West Park has recently received funding for an update to the Children’s playground equipment.</li> <li>• Youth facilities - The park would benefit from more provision for teenagers. There is currently a basketball court.</li> <li>• Footpaths etc. There is a footpath running through the park that is kept in good repair by the Council.</li> <li>• Beaches and water recreation - The beach is situated at the bottom of Marine Ward, and is a 10 minute walk from the top of Marine Ward.</li> <li>• Natural Green Space - West Park is a great area of green space. The Friends of group would like to develop a community garden that attracts more insect and wildlife to the area.</li> <li>• Allotments - Please see above for community garden proposal. There are currently allotments on the West Park site.</li> </ul> <p>Other Comments Please note above comments on adult gym equipment for West Park, ongoing fundraising for Community Garden etc. The local schools (Elm Grove and West Park Primary) are actively involved</p>
Northbrook (Worthing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities – are there adequate facilities in new West Durrington development?</li> <li>• Parks and recreation grounds - are there adequate facilities in new West Durrington development?</li> <li>• Youth facilities - are there adequate facilities in new West Durrington development?</li> <li>• Informal open spaces - are there adequate facilities in new West Durrington development?</li> </ul> <p>Other Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am not aware of any particular issues or problems with green spaces in Northbrook. There seems to be adequate amounts of green space and of course there is close access to immediate countryside such as Highdown and the South Downs. However I would be concerned that there are adequate facilities in the new West Durrington Housing Development. It would be good to have an update on ‘green’ infrastructure provision.</li> </ul> <p>I am involved with Action Northbrook and various projects are supported by and managed by TCV, the Conservation Volunteers, such as the Longcroft Park Community Orchard, and summer 2018 activities such as the Green Gym in Whitebeam Woods and Family Bush Craft in Longcroft Park playground.</p>
Offington (Worthing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisure Centres and Sports Halls - There is a gym at Worthing College that is part of the Fit4 offer but other than that nothing north of the A27. Hard to see where something could go though.</li> <li>• Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities - Lots of playing pitches at Hill Barn Rec and the Rotary Ground but changing facilities need to be improved for both. There are nascent plans for one to be upgraded soon and the other hopefully in time if Worthing United are able to raise some funds.</li> <li>• Parks and recreation grounds - We are well served in Findon Valley on the Gallops and Charmandean at the Rotary Ground.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s play areas – As above.</li> <li>• Youth facilities - We have none to speak of. We received some interest from a group with regard to BMX facilities a little while ago but they didn't follow up on that.</li> <li>• MUGAS - None except at Vale Primary school.</li> <li>• Footpaths etc. Lots of footpaths and bridleways on and around The Gallops and Cissbury. Cyclepaths around the ward could be improved particularlry along the A24.</li> <li>• Beaches and water recreation - None</li> <li>• Natural Green Space - Plenty of woodland around Cissbury but none designated as a wildlife or nature reserve. Definitely potential for this on the National Trust land at Cissbury.</li> <li>• Allotments – None</li> <li>• Informal open spaces - Some small spots in Offington Park and Charmandean. Plenty in Findon Valley (Gallops and Cissbury) and room for improvement.</li> </ul>
Selden (Worthing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Play Areas - Very limited space for children’s play areas.</li> <li>• Youth facilities - No facilities for teenagers</li> <li>• These are the key requirements. People in the ward have access to Brooklands at the eastern end of the ward, access to Splashpoint swimming pool and the area of Windsor Lawns. However, these are some distance from the centre of the ward and skewed to one area.</li> </ul>
Tarring (Worthing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisure Centres and Sports Halls - I think Worthing is well provided for at the moment but demand is likely to increase as the various wellbeing programmes kick in.</li> <li>• Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities - The “dog fouling” problem continues and every effort should be made to deter the guilty offenders.</li> <li>• Parks and recreation grounds - dogs again! We should encourage the forming of “Friends” groups.</li> <li>• Children’s play areas - Very popular but tend to get out of fashion very quickly.</li> <li>• Youth facilities - The problem is with the minority element who spoil these facilities for others. Making them vandal proof is the big challenge.</li> <li>• MUGAS - Very popular and should be encouraged.</li> <li>• Footpaths etc: Keeping them free of litter and fly tipping is the problem.</li> <li>• Beaches and Water Recreation - The sea is our great asset. We are blessed - but not in Tarring!</li> <li>• Natural Green Space - Should be encouraged all the time.</li> <li>• Allotments - Very popular at the moment.</li> <li>• Informal open spaces - Our parks cater well for this.</li> </ul> <p>Other Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a demand for all of the facilities above but they do suffer from some vandalism and anti-social dog walkers.</li> </ul> <p>Holding “community events” in our parks and open spaces encourages their use and tends to deter anti-social behaviour. Friends groups are a major asset and must be encouraged.</p>

### 3.5 Neighbouring Local Authorities and Parish Councils - Observations and key issues

#### Neighbouring Local Authorities – Cross Boundary Issues

Section 3.1 above briefly reviewed feedback from neighbouring Local Authorities in relation to the status of their open space strategies/associated studies and any cross-border issues of significance. The variety of documents and strategies in place (and their relevance to current planning policy) is considerable, embracing green infrastructure studies, open space strategies, and sport, recreation and play strategies. The approach adopted by each authority is very much locally derived.

A number of authorities highlighted issues relating to Green Infrastructure but relatively few cross border and wider strategic issues have been specifically identified. There may be scope for neighbouring local authorities to work more together along these lines to make the most of accessible natural green space resources and to develop additional common themes and agendas.

Examples of specific issues of cross/border and wider strategic observations noted by officers from the neighbouring authorities included:

- Arun: The main sports pitch project that we are currently working on that potentially has cross border implications with Adur/Worthing is a community sports hub at Angmering.
- Brighton and Hove: It is understood that a section of the population from Brighton and Hove use sports facilities in Adur and Worthing<sup>16</sup>. It is expected that once the King Alfred Leisure Centre is delivered, there will be some reduction in the number of people using facilities outside of the City.
- Horsham: It is likely residents in Horsham District, especially those in the southern section, visit facilities in Adur and Worthing and vice versa.
- South Downs: As Local Planning Authority, the SDNPA emerging Local Plan will adopt the appropriate standards identified through such studies undertaken by the relevant district/borough/city council. Green Infrastructure is a key cross boundary strategic issue for the SDNPA. The emerging Green Infrastructure Framework identifies an area of potential opportunity for GI improvements – one of which is the coast communities to the south of the SDNP, which include Adur and Worthing.
- West Sussex County: Proposals recently identified through the Shoreham Area Sustainable Transport Package (STP) Feasibility Study would need to make use of some areas of green space in various local parks and recreation grounds to provide cycling infrastructure.

It is notable that many authorities are currently involved with commissioning new open space, sport and recreation related studies or updating previous strategies that are out of date.

#### Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Plans and Adur & Worthing Ward members

Section 3.2 above provided findings from the parish councils' survey undertaken for the study as well as various points highlighted by ward members.

<sup>16</sup> Regarding residents using facilities in adjacent authority areas this can work both ways. For example, Adur residents may use Brighton and Hove facilities – eg the gymnastics centre at King Alfred's.

### ***General Overview***

- Worthing Borough Council's administrative area is not parished but there are two parish councils in Adur District - Lancing and Sompting. Both Parish Councils responded to the survey and provided useful information in relation to the audit of open spaces, sport, and recreation.
- Lancing Parish Council is responsible for a number of open spaces and outdoor facilities as well as a Parish Hall and two sports pavilions. Sompting PC does not manage any open spaces or outdoor recreation facilities. It has management responsibility for the Harriet Johnson Centre.
- Lancing Parish Council highlighted various specific needs for improvement in both outdoor and indoor provision.
- In 2017 Sompting Parish Council submitted a Neighbourhood Plan to Adur District Council, though this was withdrawn in 2018 as the parish council wished to amend it. Shoreham Beach Neighbourhood Forum is in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Both Neighbourhood plans are likely to cover areas of specific relevance to this study; but are in relatively early stages of the statutory Plan making process.
- Specific comments were received from borough/district council members in the following wards: Buckingham, Buckingham, Marine (Adur), Marine (Worthing), Northbrook, Offington, Selden, Southlands, Tarring, and Widewater.
- The sector of the community most commonly identified as needing improved provision were children and young people/teenagers.

### ***Detailed responses on open space, sport and recreation typologies***

Lancing Parish Council and Adur and Worthing ward members also provided additional responses relating to aspects of quantity and quality of the various kinds of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities within the scope of the study.

## 4.0 PARKS, GREEN SPACES, COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY

### 4.1 Introduction

This section covers consultation responses and findings in relation to non-sporting recreational open spaces, including parks and recreation grounds, allotments, natural green spaces, water recreation and rights of way.

Consultation undertaken for this section included key stakeholder's surveys, and a survey of relevant (non-sports) groups and organisations.

The information and findings from this section will be taken forward in the Open Space Study main report.

This section is comprised of 8 main sections:

- Review of policy and strategy
- Key stakeholders – strategic context and overview
- Community Organisations (non-sporting) overview
- Parks and recreation grounds
- Allotments
- Natural green space, wildlife areas and woodlands
- Water recreation – Beaches, the Coast, Canals, Rivers and Lakes
- Rights of Way – Footpaths, Cycling and Bridleways

There is a summary of key points and issues at the end of the section.

### 4.2 Review of policy and strategy – Adur & Worthing Councils

This section provides a brief overview of relevant council policy and strategy documents, helping provide a well-established framework and context for further open space planning.

#### 4.2.1 Adur & Worthing Councils Platforms for our Places

Platforms for our Places sets out Adur & Worthing Councils' ambition for our places' and our communities' prosperity and wellbeing over three years. The five platforms identified are:

1. Our Financial Economies
2. Our Social Economies
3. Stewarding our Natural Resources
4. Services & Solutions
5. Leadership of our Places

Extracts from the plan directly relevant to this study are noted below:

Commitments	Activities and Projects
Promoting the good physical and mental health of our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to address the wider determinants of health in our localities through programmes such as GoodGym and Wellbeing Hubs.</li> <li>• Promote and support our Local Community Networks with particular focus on the prevention principles of Start Well, Live Well, Age Well.</li> <li>• Develop our Public Health and Sports and Activities strategies for</li> </ul>

	Adur and Worthing that not only improves the quality and availability of sports facilities, but which improves health and inequalities across Adur and Worthing.
Use our natural environment to promote health and wellbeing in our community's economy and places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Growing Communities Project to empower our communities to gain health and wellbeing outcomes from our natural environment.</li> <li>• Supporting the development of our public realm, green spaces and natural environment, including accessing the South Downs National Park to promote and enhance our visitor economy and wellbeing within the Community.</li> </ul>

#### 4.2.2 Adur and Worthing Open Space Study (March 2014)

The 2014 study analysed the supply and demand of the various types open spaces, playing pitches and indoor built facilities across the council's area. It provided standards for the following types of provision:

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural greenspaces
- Amenity greenspace
- Provision for children and young people
- Allotments
- Green Corridors
- Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds
- Civic spaces

#### Quantity

The standards proposed for quantity and access are summarised below:

Typology	Current Standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Parks and Gardens	0.26
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	2.48
Amenity Greenspace	0.82
Provision for children and young people	0.05
Allotments	0.16
Cemeteries/churchyards	0.20
Civic Space	0.01

#### Access

Typology	Applied Standard
Parks and Gardens	15-minute walk time (1200m)
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	15-minute walk time (1200m) 30-minute drive time
Amenity Greenspace	5-minute walk time (400m)
Provision for children and young people	15-minute walk time (1200m)
Allotments	10-minute walk time(800m) 10-minute drive time

The 2014 standards and findings will be reviewed, and new standards proposed in the current study. The new standards will then be applied across Adur District and Worthing Borough.

### 4.3 Key Stakeholders - strategic context and overview

This section includes general comments from key stakeholders consulted. Responses specific to individual typologies from the stakeholders consulted will be noted under each of the focus topic headings.

#### 4.3.1 Adur & Worthing Councils – Head of Parks and Foreshores

The Head of Parks and Foreshores for Adur & Worthing Councils was interviewed, and some key general points noted were:

- The Parks and Foreshores Team is made up of 70 people who manage the parks and recreation grounds, youth facilities, amenity green spaces, allotments (in Adur District) and beaches across the Adur District and Worthing Borough.
- Adur District and Worthing Borough own all and manage the majority of the open spaces within Adur and Worthing apart from in Lancing where the parish council manages their open spaces.
- The demographic of the council's area is changing from an elderly population to a younger population with an increasing amount of families moving into the area. This will have an impact upon the levels of provision especially parks and recreation grounds, play spaces and youth provision.
- There is an opportunity for local businesses to offset their carbon emissions and give back to the council's area. There is a similar scheme being undertaken in Manchester called "Manchester Green Bank".
- Local friends and volunteer groups are doing a great job of development and managing local areas, notably Shoreham Beach Friends Group and Lancing Ring Friends Group.

Additional points relating to the various typologies can be found in the appropriate sections later in the report.

#### 4.3.2 Strategic Organisations

A semi-structured pro-forma was circulated to all relevant strategic organisations considered to have a bearing on the study. The organisations consulted were (✓ indicated response received):

- West Sussex Local Access Forum ✓
- RSPB South East
- Natural England ✓
- Sussex Wildlife Trust ✓
- Coastal West Sussex Partnership (declined to comment)
- Woodland Trust
- Sussex Ornithological Society
- Ouse & Adur River Trust ✓
- Adur Floodwatch Group
- Green Tides (formerly Adur & Worthing Green Space Partnership) ✓
- Worthing Community Council Association
- British Horse Society ✓

Where responses have not been received additional desk-based investigation have been conducted to gain insight into policies of organisations as they relate to Adur and Worthing area.

## **Natural England – Sussex and Kent Area Team Lead**

### ***Standards of Provision***

Natural England has proposed standards for provision of natural green spaces, the Accessible Natural Green Space (ANGSt) standard<sup>17</sup>. These standards recommend that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural green space:

- Of a least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes' walk) from home.
- At least one accessible 20-hectare site within two kilometres of home.
- One accessible 100-hectare site within five kilometres of home and;
- One accessible 500-hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- Statutory local Nature Reserve at a minimum level of one hectare per thousand population.

Natural England suggest that these standards should be a target to achieve; and particularly that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural green space of at least two hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes from home).

### ***Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGS)***

The Natural England view is that developments should include the provision of well-designed Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGS) proportionate to its scale. Such provisions can help minimise any predicted increase in recreational pressure to the European sites by containing the majority of recreation within and around the development site boundary away from European sites. We advise that the SANGS guidance can be helpful in designing this; it should be noted that this document is specific to the SANGS creates for the Thames Basin Heaths; although the broad principles are more widely applicable.

***Management of Local Sites*** – Natural England is responsible for the management of the two SSSIs within Adur & Worthing Councils (Adur Estuary and Cissbury Ring).

### ***The Importance of biodiversity and multi-functional open spaces***

Natural England highlights the importance of measurable net gain in creation of habitat and improvements to biodiversity and refer you to the [Governments 25 Year Environment Plan<sup>18</sup>](#) and paragraph 174 of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#), specifically:

*“promote the conservation, restoration and enhancements of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity”.*

Developments within Adur and Worthing can provide opportunities to provide enhancements and creation for biodiversity both on-site and off-site. These can include wildflower meadows, enhancing hedgerows with mixed native species and enhanced ponds for wildlife such as great crested newts.

<sup>17</sup> Understanding the relevance and application of the Access to Natural Green Space Standard – May 2008.

<sup>18</sup> A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment – January 2018 (last updated May 2019).

## Green Corridors

Natural England encourages the development of Green Networks to provide linkages between areas of existing green open space. The process would involve:

- The identification and mapping of all public green space and existing Green Infrastructure and any off-site linkages.
- Identification of potential development sites (e.g. garage courts, brown field sites) that would require Green Infrastructure as part of the development to provide green linkages.
- Green space nearby community facilities (e.g. schools) are identified as places for education and volunteering.

## Sussex Wildlife Trust – Conservation Officer

The Trust oversees the designation, monitoring and ongoing protection of Local Wildlife Sites and locally designated sites (not in our ownership) of County importance for wildlife. This includes working with Adur and Worthing Councils along with friends of groups and community volunteer groups. The Trust also manages the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

Sussex Wildlife Trust highlights that the local authority should seek to protect and increase biodiversity to ensure that it can function and provide connectivity to aid climate change resilience. An example of this is within Regulation 18 Consultation for the Worthing Local Plan where it states to seek to protect the areas of Brooklands Park and Goring Gap where the approach is to integrate positive management for biodiversity alongside their wider use by the local community.

## The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is the country's largest woodland conservation charity with over 500,000 members and supporters and more than 1,000 sites, covering over 26,000 hectares across the country. The Trust protect and campaign, plant trees, and restore ancient woodland for the benefit of wildlife and people. It states that "Trees and woods filter our air, cool our cities, purify our water and enrich our soil. Yet the damage done to them has now reached catastrophic levels, and our plant and animal species are declining at an alarming rate."

The Woodland Trust has researched and developed the Woodland Access Standard (WAS<sup>t</sup>) for local authorities to aim for which is written in their Space for People publication<sup>19</sup>. They believe that the WAS<sup>t</sup> can be an important policy tool complimenting other access standards used in delivering green infrastructure for health benefits.

The WAS<sup>t</sup> is complimentary to Natural England's ANGST and is endorsed by Natural England. The Woodland Access Standard recommends:

- that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size.
- that there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round-trip) of people's homes.

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<sup>19</sup> Space for People: targeting action for woodland access – May 2017

## **The Environment Agency**

The Environment Agency (EA) protects and improves the environment and promotes sustainable development. It plays a central role in implementing the government's environmental strategy in England. The Environment Agency plays a lead role in managing flood risk and works to minimise the impact of flooding.

The EA note the importance of biodiversity and multi-functional open space through Green Infrastructure (GI). GI is a term which describes a network of interconnected and green and blue spaces such as; parks and gardens, playing fields and allotments, towpaths and wildlife corridors, beaches, watercourses, wetlands, woodlands, trees, grasslands, green roofs and swales. GI lies between cities towns and villages and can include both private and public spaces. A well planned and managed GI network can and should perform multiple functions and provide multiple benefits and services for communities such as:

- managing surface water and flood risk.
- improving water quality
- helping communities to address and adapt to climate change
- providing opportunities for recreation and improved wellbeing
- enhancing biodiversity
- promoting community interaction

Guidance is available <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>.

## **British Horse Society (BHS)**

The British Horse Society (BHS) is concerned with equine education, welfare, access and safety. In terms of access, their aim is to enhance and maintain the equestrian network. This includes launching new routes, bridleways and defending endangered rights of way, reinstating routes and providing advice, support and assistance. The aspiration of the BHS is to encourage WSCC and the local authority to seek to create a network of multi-use (walker, cyclist, equestrian) off-road routes to protect and improve the safety of all vulnerable road users. There are fears that unless a connected network of safe off-road routes is provided over the next few years that the equine industry will not survive. The A27 is a huge barrier to access for all non-motorised vehicles to accessing the South Downs National Park.

## **Green Tides (formally Adur and Worthing Green Spaces Partnership) - Chair**

Green Tides, formally Adur and Worthing Green Spaces Partnership, represents about 40 friends of groups, community green space volunteers and CICs, all of whom use and work in parks and green spaces. Green Tides bring together these groups every two months to share equipment, resources and skills and provide support to the groups. They also bid for funding and provide links between partners. There are lots of open spaces across Adur and Worthing in which community volunteers have spent lots of time and energy embarking on new projects to enhance the open spaces. Challenges that these groups face include the capacity constraints within their group, the turnover of volunteers and ongoing training needs. In 2018, groups making up Green Tides carried out a number of school visits and engagement with young people, began to develop two community orchards and started the development of community farm and nature trail. The aspirations for the future of the organisation include providing more support for groups, beginning sustainable training programmes and encouraging new volunteers.

## West Sussex County Council – Principle Rights of Way Officer

West Sussex County Council is the local highway authority for West Sussex and is responsible for maintaining recorded public rights of way for public use. WSCC is required to produce a “Rights of Way Improvement Plan”; the [West Sussex Plan](#) has recently been published.

WSCC is also developing a SIPs (Strategic Improvement Plan) which identifies future infrastructure improvements for the county, however a SIP is not presently complete for the Adur District and Worthing Borough.

## Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust – Director

The Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust was formed in 2011 from the amalgamation of the Sussex Ouse Conservations Society and the River Adur Conservation Society. It is dedicated to the environmental protection and enhancement of the Sussex River Ouse, the River Adur and their tributaries and impoundments. Some of the activities undertaken include river restoration, provision and easement of fish passage, habitat restoration, monitoring of water quality and habitat surveys. The main project they are currently working on is creating a new area of open space with public access and a river trail within Sompting Brooks strategic gap between Worthing and Sompting (EPIC project).

## 4.4 Community Organisations Survey (non-sports): overview

An online survey was set up for local organisations with an interest in green spaces (non-sporting)<sup>20</sup>. Responses were received from Becket Residents Association, Findon Valley Residents’ Association, Friends of Homefield Park, Goring Chase Residents Association, Heene Residents’ Association, High Salvington Residents’ Association, Worthing Allotment Management, Worthing Allotments and Gardens Association, Goring and Ilex Conservation Group, Transition Town Worthing, Shoreham Society, Sustainable Sussex and Friends of Whitebeam Woods. Detailed comments from the groups are found in the typology-based sections 4.5 to 4.9 below.

### Quantity

- 10 out of 13 respondents reported that their organisations make direct use of open space or outdoor recreation facilities.
- Only two respondents thought that there aren’t enough open space and outdoor recreation facilities.

These two groups who reported there not being enough open space/outdoor facilities explained further:

- *Worthing Allotments and Gardens Associations* – land for allotments in Worthing Borough is less than the recommended in the Thorpe report<sup>21</sup> of 0.5 acre per 1000 population and this with a backdrop of an increase of households in Worthing Borough of between 20 and 600 per year.

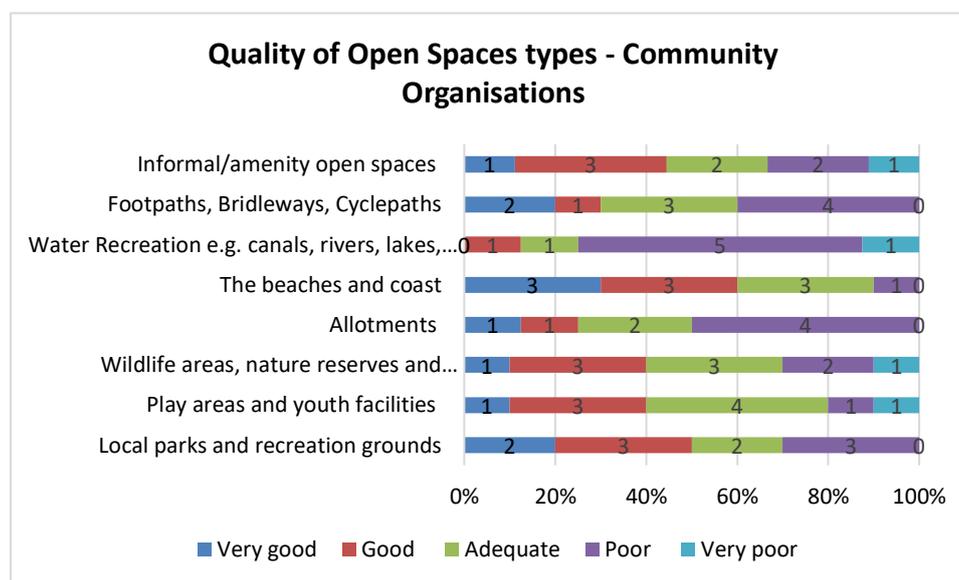
<sup>20</sup> The survey was sent to groups identified by the Adur & Worthing Councils and via website searches. Responses were received from a small range of groups with a wide range of interests. There may be additional organisations with an interest in open space that were not identified. The general findings may not therefore be entirely representative of all such groups across the Adur and Worthing.

<sup>21</sup> Departmental Committee of Inquiry into Allotments (otherwise known as Thorpe Report) published in 1969. This report was to review general policy on allotments in England and Wales and to recommend legislative and other changes that are required.

- *Worthing Allotment Management* – based on population, the area of land in Worthing Borough designated as allotments is below the recommended level. We currently have 174 people on our waiting list.

### Quality

The general view of these local community organisations who expressed an opinion as regards the overall quality of the different types of outdoor recreational provision in Adur and Worthing Council's area are summarised in the chart and information below:



- The quality of open spaces is very varied across the typologies.
- Informal/amenity open space was rated by 33% of respondents as good with 60% of respondents rating wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands as either good or adequate.
- Water recreation, allotments and footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths all had a majority of respondents rating as poor quality.
- Opinion on the general quality of other kinds of open spaces and outdoor facilities is more split with nearly equal proportions rating them as good/adequate/poor.

### Access

Respondents were asked whether their group faced any access issues in relation to open space and recreational facilities:

Four of the groups noted that they suffer from access issues and their specific comments are noted below:

Group	Comments
Goring and Ilex Conservation Group	Aggressive and illegal cycling on the coastal path can be a problem.
Transition Town Worthing	Not an access issue in the normal sense, but local groups have issues with vandalism, dangerous litter and dog fouling which can cause the shutdown of projects until these issues are resolved.
Heene Residents Association	Street drinkers spoil the town centre and seafront which discourages people from accessing these areas.
Findon Valley Residents Association	Poorly maintained rights of way and fencing.

### ***Sport and Recreation in environmentally sensitive areas***

The question posed was “Should we have more or less areas for activities that are noisy? If so, where should they go? Is countryside or wildlife damaged by outdoor recreation activity?”

The following points were raised by respondents:

- Tennis courts, skateboard parks and basketball courts are well used in our park. This is a busy and active and whilst we always need to balance the needs of local residents, this has been done well here.
- Outdoor recreational activity if well managed should not damage countryside or wildlife but expert advice should be sought before new activities are planned.
- There should be somewhere for people who want to be noisy to go so that they don’t disturb others that enjoy peace and tranquillity.
- Sensitive areas should be respected to minimise the effects of noise on wildlife. Our society is already very noisy and noisy recreation should be discouraged by educating people about the effects of noise on wildlife and people.
- Fields leading up from Findon Valley to Cissbury Ring are overused and have become scrubland, they should be managed to encourage downland mantle. Similarly, woodland is not well managed (part of the South Downs National Park).

### ***Other issues and observations***

The survey provided an opportunity to highlight any other issues that didn’t specifically fall into observations on particular typology types. Comments are noted below:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Findon Valley Residents Association	We have an outdoor gym on the Gallops but nobody has ever come to show us how to use it! Open sessions for our residents would be very welcome.
Friends of Homefield Park	We have big plans and we know what needs to happen to make them a reality – we are just a small team with limited capacity. Any support always very much appreciated.
Sustainable Sussex	We are very happy that you have offered us this opportunity to feedback on open spaces. We would like to urge you to follow the advice of scientists in peer-reviewed studies rather than making decisions based on purely on the opinions of individuals and organisations. We are currently in a climate crisis and within extinction level environmental events and public opinion should not sway the council’s obligation to protect the public from these harms.
Transition Town Worthing	Thanks for the opportunity to contribute to this. I think Adur and Worthing do a great job within financial limitations with our parks and foreshore, helping the community to co-manage them. They need all the support they can get to make our town greener, more pleasant and safer for residents.

## 4.5 Parks and Recreation Grounds

### 4.5.1 Adur & Worthing Councils Parks and Foreshores Team

The Head of Parks and Foreshores suggested that currently there are enough parks and recreation grounds, but there is concern that with the continued pressure of more development this will soon not be enough. The quality of parks and recreation grounds is generally good compared with our surrounding local authorities. There are concerns over connectivity between sites with cycling not allowed through parks – this goes against the Councils policies on increasing cycling and walking provision.

### 4.5.2 Strategic Organisations

#### Sussex Wildlife Trust

Over the past couple of years, we have noticed that some parks and recreation grounds have been providing areas of more naturalistic and pollinator rich planting beds as opposed to bedding plants, which we are pleased to see. We understand that there is increasing pressure on park development budgets and would encourage the council to think creatively in their delivery mechanisms. This includes assessing the benefits that plants provide from carbon capture and pollination resources but also having awareness of the conditions need, size and management required.

There are multiple benefits that parks provide to the immediate local community and further afield. An example of this is Buckingham Park, which offers a play park, sporting resource and dog walking but also has strong biodiversity value especially the tree belt which provides excellent connectivity for small mammals, invertebrates and birds.

Formal gardens such as Highdown Gardens also contribute positively to the biodiversity value of the area.

#### Green Tides (formally Adur and Worthing Green Spaces Partnership)

Parks and recreation grounds are a fantastic resource in the Adur and Worthing community. There are several volunteer and friends of groups which create diverse spaces, run community events and deliver improvement projects.

### 4.5.3 Community Organisations

Comments from the Community Organisations Survey in relation to parks and recreation grounds are noted below:

Group	Comments
Friends of Homefield Park	Homefield Park is beautiful.
High Salvington Residents' Association	The location of High Salvington lends itself well to good outdoor facilities.
Sustainable Sussex	Large open spaces should be protected for the health of our residents. We feel that the best way that these spaces are protected is by being used and through education.
Goring and Ilex Conservation Group	Would like to see parks and recreation grounds more regularly maintained. Lack of toilets facilities is also a problem.
Transition Town	We have some great local parks which are used well. Issues and restrictions

Worthing	include health and safety for volunteers and the public due to the neglect and misuse by other users of the park. There have also been instances where some parks are used in the evenings for drug dealing/use. Parks and recreation grounds are well spread throughout Worthing Borough but can be go no areas at times due to the issues listed above. They would be used much more if they were more cared for and the threats weren't a deterrent to those who feel vulnerable in these kinds of situations.
Goring Chase Residents Association	We find the parks and recreation ground are excellent in Goring but there is the need to continually improve these for the use of the community.
Heene Residents Association	Drug paraphernalia found in Victoria and Homefield Park which puts families off visiting.

## 4.6 Allotment Provision

### 4.6.1 Adur & Worthing Councils Parks and Foreshores Team

The Parks and Foreshores Team manage the allotments in Adur District but not Worthing Borough. The quantity of allotments is very varied across the Council area, there are some areas where there are vacant plots and others where there is a long waiting list. Access is also an issue with people being less willing to travel a long distance to allotments. People would prefer to be able to walk to allotments rather than travel 10 minutes in a car.

### 4.6.2 Strategic Organisations

#### Sussex Wildlife Trust

As areas of Adur and Worthing expand by planned growth, we ask the Council to ensure that allotment standards are met. We also encourage the local authority to promote the use of allotments as a valuable resource within the community. When planned new development comes forward, especially areas with limited private outdoor spaces, we encourage the inclusion of allotments in the new developments. We also would like to see that allotments are located in areas that are easily accessed by the community and can be accessed without need for a vehicle.

#### Worthing Allotment Management

Worthing Allotment Management manage 7 of the 8 allotments within the Worthing Borough on behalf of the Councils who own the land. Currently there are not enough allotments in the Worthing Borough with 174 people on the waiting list for a plot. By self-management of the allotments this has enable allotment rents to be used effectively to improve sites.

### 4.6.3 Community Organisations Survey

Comments from the Community Organisation Survey in relation to allotments are noted below:

Group	Comments
Friends of Homefield Park	We have a community garden (Haven community garden) which is well loved and used. Events used to be held for the community but due to capacity being lower than usual, these types of events have declined in number. Would like to be able to hold more.
Worthing Allotments and Gardens	Worthing should strive to make more allotments available. These should be accessible by foot and ideally be within 0.75 miles of every household.
Sustainable Sussex	Worthing Allotment Management have done a great amount of work for allotments in Worthing. There is still a severe lack of allotment space in Adur and Worthing with long waiting lists. These spaces should be valued and protected for both amenity and wildlife value.
Transition Town Worthing	There is a lot of allotment space but there is a long waiting list so there is a requirement for more. There are lots of unused green spaces, but they are often in socially difficult areas and would need a lot of financial input to put them to use.
Goring Chase Residents Association	Self-management of allotments in Worthing has been a success.

## 4.7 Natural green space, wildlife areas and woodlands

### 4.7.1 Adur & Worthing Councils Parks and Foreshores Team

Natural green space, wildlife areas and woodlands are limited within the area due to urbanised nature of Adur and Worthing. It is important to have the small gaps of natural green space between settlements. The area is lucky to have the South Downs on its doorstep along with some unique wildlife areas such as Widewater Lagoon and Lancing Ring. There is an opportunity for increased awareness of these areas especially aimed at families.

### 4.7.2 Strategic Organisations

#### Natural England

There is one SSSI, Adur Estuary, which is within Adur District, the site is currently in a 100% favourable condition. Cissbury Ring SSSI is located in the National Park and the site is currently in a 19.19% favourable condition and 80.81% unfavourable – recovering condition.

#### Sussex Wildlife Trust

There are many valued assets within Adur and Worthing, ranging from SSSIs to Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) to areas which are not formally designated for biodiversity but offer a value resource.

We would like to encourage the local authority to ensure that there are sufficient resources available for these assets in the form of management, advice and funding. Recently, we have created an LWS partnership to encourage positive management of these resources. Also, we would like to ensure that there is recognition for the valuable natural resources as assets for the community. Connectivity between sites is also important to offer resilience in the face of climate change.

Although we are unable to offer site specific advice for every designated site within Adur and Worthing, we would like to highlight an example of Shoreham Beach Local Nature Reserve. The site was designated in 2006 for its internationally important vegetated shingle habitat. However, the site is being dominated by invasive species, which poses a threat to the long-term viability of the vegetated shingle habitat. We encourage the Council to work with Friends of Shoreham Beach Group to identify what is needed to ensure that the site has the resources to ensure long term positive management of the site.

#### Green Tides (formerly Adur and Worthing Green Spaces Partnership)

There are some beautiful areas of natural green space across Adur and Worthing, but our urban areas would benefit from different management regimes. For example, changing the way we manage our road verge cutting to encourage biodiversity and creating more wild spaces to encourage pollinating species. It is encouraging to see that the Shoreham Harbour regeneration project has a significant amount of biodiversity included within its plans.

#### Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust

There are not enough wildlife areas away from the South Downs National Park within Adur and Worthing. The provision of access to green space for wildlife experiences is very limited, with people expressing that paths are unkempt and attract anti-social behaviour. We feel that provision is poor and below the national green space standard set by Natural England. There is a lack of quantity of woodlands, but it is

unachievable to provide more provision due to the lack of available space and surrounding habitats which form the wildlife areas. Woodland blocks can be found within the South Downs National Park and these should be preserved and enhanced as much as possible.

### British Horse Society

The Coastal Plain is lacking in multi-use routes (bridleways/byways). If there was a creation of off-road routes through/around these specific areas these would provide safety for vulnerable road users. In the past, equestrians have always had to use the road network which is becoming increasingly dangerous with the increasing levels of traffic on the roads.

### 4.7.3 Community Organisations Survey

Respondents views in relation to natural green space, wildlife areas and woodlands are noted below:

Groups	Comments
Friends of Homefield Park	Homefield Park has a huge amount of naturally occurring flora and fauna but we feel there is more we can do to encourage this further. Currently we are adding signage to educate the community about what exists, and we will be developing projects to fund wildlife spaces and gardens. We would like to offer mindfulness, meditation, yoga etc but we would need to partner with other groups and the council to achieve this.
High Salvington Residents' Association	Across the area we have the Downs, woodland and the Nancy Price Sanctuary which all provide excellent areas for wildlife.
Goring and Ilex Conservation Group	The Plantation has seen some vandalism which detracts from efforts of our volunteers. The new proposals for Highdown Park include lots of opportunities for wildlife but the Brooklands proposals show some valuable wildlife has been lost. Goring Gap and Greensward are both fantastic spaces for residents and visitors and should be preserved and protected from commercialisation.
Sustainable Sussex	We are pleased to see grass verges and parks are being cut less which encourages wildflowers and plants. There are very few wild areas within Adur and Worthing - more could be created. As an organisation, we are currently creating a forest garden in Sompting and we would like to see more forest gardens being created. Any nature reserves and woodlands should be protected including street trees which form important havens for biodiversity.
Transition Town Worthing	There are very few natural green spaces, wildlife areas and woodlands within Worthing Borough. Whitebeam Woods is the only decent sized space of this kind unless you travel to the Downs (for those without transport this is difficult). The woods suffer from fly tipping and vandalism. It is hoped that more wild open space can be created.
Heene Residents Association	Brooklands Park has declined over the years in terms of its natural green space.
Goring Chase Residents Association	There is requirement to improve the spaces that we have.
Friends of Whitebeam Woods	We aim to maintain the woods to a high standard as we have seen less damage when the woods are well managed, and wildlife is plentiful. It has been advantageous as a volunteer group to have a conservationist in the group to advise us.

## 4.8 Water Recreation – Beaches, the Coast, Canals, Rivers, Lakes

### 4.8.1 Adur & Worthing Councils Area Parks and Foreshores Team

Beaches and the coast are a valued open space in Adur and Worthing, and are always busy with walkers, cyclists, families and runners. There are also two key play areas along the coast – Gull Island and Splash Point which are always busy. These areas could do with expansion especially to cater for tourism during the summer months. Access to these areas is good but there are frustrations around shared space between pedestrians and cyclists.

The sea is also used well for water recreation activities including rowing, canoeing and swimming. There are also opportunities for people to try new activities including kite surfing and new water sport centre. These opportunities only exist if you can afford it, leaving lower income families to miss out.

### 4.8.2 Strategic Organisations

#### Sussex Wildlife Trust

We wish to highlight the importance of Shoreham Beach Local Nature Reserve. (detailed in section 4.7.2).

#### Green Tides (formerly Adur and Worthing Green Spaces Partnership)

We know that our residents all recognise the value of living by the sea and river, as they add hugely to the health and wellbeing of communities. Lots of rivulets were hidden underground but with the EPIC project they are being brought back to life as part of Broadwater Brook.

#### Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust

There are lots of water recreation opportunities within Adur and Worthing including the Adur Estuary and the Brooklands Lake. The beach is a big focal point of the area and its bathing water quality is of a good standard. Even though there is a good quantity of water recreation, the quality is definitely well below standard. Any development should consider water recreation as a priority and should not be allowed to deteriorate in quality any further. Investments from development should be used to raise awareness and create wildlife areas. Where projects such as ours are being undertaken, support and finance should be made available to maximise the benefits and form greater recreational and engagement activities. One of our current projects is restoring the upper reaches of the Broadwater Brook through Sompting and will be opening the river to the public through the provision of footpath access, wildlife hides, seating areas and information regarding the local water environment and the recreational opportunities it provides.

#### British Horse Society

In an area with very few bridleways/byways, the beach is a valued asset to equestrian users and is highly valued.

### 4.8.3 Community Organisations Survey

Comments in regard to water recreation were received from community organisations as follows:

Groups	Comments
Friends of Homefield Park	Homefield Park is a crucial location along the way from the coast to the South Downs. We would like an official trail to be created with signage. It is also an aspiration to reinstate the lake within the park.
Goring and Ilex Conservation Group	The beaches are a great asset, but we have concerns over the potential loss of amenity to people enjoying the coastal path with views of the sea which are restricted in parts by the beach huts. There are proposals in place to add additional huts further restricting the views. We consider the path to be one of the major assets of Goring.
Sustainable Sussex	It was a shame to see the removal of various ponds within Worthing Borough Parks which meant a loss of key biodiversity. We are currently working with the Ouse and River Trust and Sompting Estate on the EPIC Broadwater Brook restoration and would like to see more schemes like this. There is also great work at Brooklands which will see habitats protected and enhanced.
Transition Town Worthing	The beach is a great asset which is well patrolled and local beach clean ups happen regularly with thanks a dedicated group of volunteers. It would be beneficial for more support for these volunteers and for more investment out into the beaches. There are some water recreational spaces and apart from Brooklands, they are neglected.
Heene Residents Association	An excellent open space but can be blighted by street drinkers and anti-social behaviour.
Goring Chase Residents Association	We should aspire for the beach to become a Blue Flag Beach to boost tourism. There is also a need for more water recreation activities.

## 4.9 Rights of Way – Footpaths, Cycling and Bridleways

### 4.9.1 Local Authorities

#### Adur & Worthing Councils Parks and Foreshores Team

There is an opportunity for more footpaths to connect water recreation open spaces. There is also a general lack of signage and information about routes which could be potentially valuable for more families to use rights of way. The South Downs seems particularly disconnected from the wider area in terms of rights of way and more marketing including online resources would be valuable.

#### West Sussex County Council

##### Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028

The West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028 sets out the County Council's approach to managing the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network over the next ten years.

PROW bring benefits to the health and wellbeing, the local economy and the environment, and used for a range of leisure activities, enabling residents and visitors to enjoy the Adur and Worthing area, as well as West Sussex in general.

The plan also summaries the opportunities available for improvements to be made to the network and sits alongside the West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy, which sets the County Council's approach to promoting and enabling walking and cycling.

The strategic plan covers the following themes:

- Pro-active maintenance of the PROW network
- Reactive issues on the PROW network
- Landowner engagement
- The Definitive Map and Statement
- Promotion of PROW
- Asset management on PROW network
- Improvements to the network
- Engagement with the planning process
- Consultations and legislative changes
- Initiative and campaigns
- Partnership and stakeholder relationships

#### West Sussex County Council – Principle Rights of Way Officer

Within the Adur District and Worthing Borough there are gaps within the PROW network limiting some people's enjoyment of access. This is primarily access to the countryside as the PROW is not generally found within urban environments (most of Adur and Worthing is urbanised).

The A27 has severed some local communities and presents a hazard for those needing to cross it but mainly to whose only means are 'at-grade'. This also prevents some people from accessing the National Park. There could be an opportunity to work with Highways England to identify how to overcome this.

There are also limited off-road cycling opportunities south of A27 and those that do exist often have no continuation that is safe and convenient. Finally, future residential and employment areas should give increased priority to delivering routes/paths for safe and convenient non-motorised access.

### **West Sussex County Council – Transport Planning and Policy Senior Planner**

The West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy 2016-2026 contains a prioritised list of over 300 potential walking and cycling improvements suggested by a range of stakeholders and partner organisations, a number of which relate to parts of Adur and Worthing. The strategy states that, subject to available funding, availability of land and other constraints they could be implemented during the strategy period.

There could be a greater use of the range of parks and recreation grounds to facilitate cycling infrastructure including useful connections for longer strategic routes, local links between community areas surrounding these parks and leisure cycling opportunities within the parks themselves.

There are currently a number of opportunities identified within the Adur District to make sure of some areas of open space in parks and recreation grounds to provide cycling infrastructure. The Shoreham Areas Sustainable Transport Package (STP) has detailed proposals for cycle facilities between Shoreham Adur Ferry Bridge and the Brighton and Hove border; this would connect The Ham recreation ground and Kingston Beach. Also there are proposals for cycle facilities throughout Lancing and Sompting including a new cycling corridor passing through Brooklands park. The detailed plans can be found at <https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=4036#mgDocuments>

WSCC is also undertaking a similar study in Worthing Borough which has identified two potential routes on two north-south corridors; A24 Worthing Town Centre to Grove Lodge and Goring Seafront to Durrington.

## **4.9.2 Strategic Organisations**

### **Natural England**

Natural England has a duty to align the England Coast Path (ECP) around the whole of the English Coast and is aiming to complete this by 2020. The ECP is new National Trail with an associated margin of land for the public to access and enjoy. Currently the proposals for the Adur and Worthing coastline have been submitted to the government but have not yet been determined.

### **Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust**

There are a number of rights of way, but these are disconnected from any major opportunities by the A27 and its lack of crossing points. There needs to be an increase in the provision of cycle paths to form a linked and safe route for the community and visitors. The South Downs and the Beach front form long and interesting walks but outside of these opportunities are limited.

### **British Horse Society**

PROW are highly valued by vulnerable road users (walkers, cyclists, equestrians) as they provide safe routes for leisure and recreation in addition to providing utility routes for local communities. Every opportunity should be taken to create a linking network of off-road multi-use routes which is especially important within new developments. PROW also play a part in green infrastructure as green corridors, improving and enhancing health and well-being, wildlife and biodiversity.

### 4.9.3 Community Organisations Survey

Groups	Comments
Friends of Homefield Park	Homefield Park is a crucial location along the way from the coast to the South Downs. We would like an official trail to be created with signage. It is also an aspiration to reinstate the lake within the park.
High Salvington Residents' Association	There are adequate footpaths, bridleways and areas which cyclists can use in High Salvington.
Goring and Ilex Conservation Group	There are adequate routes around Goring and we would stress that the coastal path remains for walkers only.
Sustainable Sussex	There is a severe lack of cycle paths in Adur and Worthing. Most routes take you entirely on the road.
Transition Town Worthing	Footpaths are well used but they can be cluttered with residents' bins, dog mess and the smell of urine. There is a lack of safe cycle paths. The promenade is well used by cyclists but there is a conflict of interest with pedestrians with lots of near misses of cyclists going too fast. Cycle paths on roads are too narrow and often people cycle on the pavements because its too dangerous on the roads.
Goring Chase Residents Association	There is no joined up seafront cycleway.
Findon Valley Residents Association	Cissbury Ring is located in Findon Valley which has various PROW. We campaign for PROW and access to green spaces.

## 4.10 Parks, Natural Green Space and Rights of Way: Key Findings

### Overview

- Platforms for Places (July 2018) highlights the key role that all kinds of open spaces can have in relation to improving health and wellbeing. There is also a particular focus on how to improve this within children in the Councils area.
- Natural England suggests that the ANGst standards should be a starting point for developing a standard for natural and semi natural green space. Variations from this standard should be justified.
- The Sussex Wildlife Trust provides guidance to the Councils and community groups to advise on managing and maintaining local wildlife sites and locally designated sites.
- Community groups and friends of groups play a key role in maintaining and developing open spaces across Adur and Worthing.
- Many stakeholders also highlighted the importance of biodiversity within open spaces, and how this needs to be considered alongside providing outdoor facilities for different ages of people.
- The importance of biodiversity and the health and wellbeing benefits associated with access to good quality open space were key issues highlighted by many stakeholders throughout the consultation.

### Quantity

- The Head of Parks and Foreshores notes that broadly there seems to be enough open spaces in total, but that demand is likely to increase as the population of the area increases.
- The majority of community organisations also thought that there was enough open space.

### *Household Survey:*

- The household survey highlighted that there was a need for more footpaths, bridleways and cyclepaths (52%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (51%).
- Generally, households thought there was enough provision of the other types of open space.

### Quality

- The Heads of Parks and Foreshores noted that the quality of open spaces is broadly good especially within parks and recreation grounds and play spaces.
- It was also suggested that improvements to the quality of PROWs, cycle paths and bridleways could be made to improve the quality and access potential.

*Household Survey:*

- For all kinds of outdoor facilities/open spaces, the majority of households suggested that generally they were of adequate or better quality. Although the most common rating was adequate.
- There were a few kinds of facilities/open spaces that were rated as high quality. These included outdoor bowling greens (57% rated as good or very good), allotment and community gardens (50%); parks and recreation grounds (49%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (48%).
- 46% of households rated the quality of facilities for teenagers as being poor or very poor. The quality of MUGAs was also rated as poor or very poor by 37% of respondents.

*Community group survey:*

- Views about the quality of open spaces were varied across the typologies.
- Informal/amenity open space and wildlife areas, nature reserves and woodlands are rated as good or adequate.
- Water recreation, allotments and footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths all had a majority of respondents rating as poor quality.

**Access***Household Survey:*

- Households suggested that they would walk to most typologies, most notably to facilities such as play areas (77%), parks and recreation grounds (73%) and informal open spaces (63%).
- A majority of respondents would normally drive to beaches/water recreation facilities (58%) and woodlands, wildlife areas and nature reserves (53%).
- A small majority would also cycle to facilities, including 15% to footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths.

**Other points raised**

- Access to the South Downs is frequently mentioned as a barrier for more people accessing natural green space. Barriers include physical access of lack of PROWs, cycle paths and bridleways, but also a lack of information.
- The Heads of Parks and Foreshores noted that the area has no tree policy strategy, which is important to have to protect all trees within open spaces.

## 5.0 PLAY AND YOUTH FACILITY PROVISION

This section provides feedback and information relating to outdoor play and youth facilities. It considers information and views provided by various stakeholders including the Councils, strategic organisations and local groups.

This section is structured into two main parts:

- Review of local policy and strategy
- Youth and Play – stakeholders

There is a summary of key points and issues at the end of the section.

### 5.1 Review of Existing Policy and Strategy

#### 5.1.1 Adur and Worthing Open Space and Recreation Study (2014)

The audits and analysis of play provision was undertaken in line with the FiT (Fields in Trust) guidance and was grouped into one typology combining both children and young people.

Typology	Size (ha)	Quantity Standard (ha per 1,000 population)
Provision for children and young people	8.81	0.05

Analysis conducted also showed that the majority of provision was identified as being of LEAP<sup>22</sup> classification.

LAP	LEAP	NEAP	Youth	Unclassified/Other	Total
11	28	13	9	2	63

In terms of quality, 72% of sites were assessed as high quality, but there were a number of sites that were assessed as low quality which were due to issues of vandalism and misuse. Consultation showed that residents rated the quality of play for children as good (32%), but the views on teenage/youth provision was unclear with 15% of respondents rating provision as good and another 15% rating as average.

There were no gaps found in accessibility provision against 10-minute walking standard, but a perceived lack of youth facilities was identified within the consultation.

The current local standard and Open Space Study findings for Play Spaces will be reviewed and new standards proposed in this current study. The new standards will then be applied across the Adur District and Worthing Borough in the main Open Space, Sport and Recreation report.

<sup>22</sup> Classification outlined in section 5.1.5 below.

### 5.1.2 West Sussex Partnership Families Strategic Plan 2020

The West Sussex Partnership Families Strategic Plan 2020 has been developed by West Sussex County Council about the ambitions to make a positive and significant difference to the life chances and experiences of children, young people and families in West Sussex. The plan builds from several of other county policies including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy identified in section 2.2.3. The plan outlines four outcomes that will enable children, young people and families to thrive and prosper, including “Children and young people get the best start in life, they are physically and emotionally healthy”.

### 5.1.3 Adur District Council Local 5 Year Play Strategy

The Adur Local 5 Year Play Strategy’s aim is to create play areas in Adur that are welcoming, safe, attractive, accessible and meet the needs of children and young people in a balanced and fair way across the District. It identified three key issues with the play provision; lack of provision for certain age groups, old equipment in need of replacement and the lack of youth facilities. The consultation findings highlighted that generally the quality of parks was good, but problems of dog fouling, litter and anti-social behaviour lowered the quality of some play spaces. The report also found that there were particular deficiencies within some of the most deprived ward including Mash Barn, Eastbrook and Southlands.

### 5.1.4 West Sussex County Play Strategy 2010-2015

The strategy aims to develop play across the County in line with the National Play Strategy. It is critical that the County works with the Councils and parish councils in the delivery in alignment with their local play strategies. The key outcome will ensure that play is recognised as a vital part of childhood ensuring that regardless of ability or environment that they have a safe, accessible, inclusive playable space within their residential area. This will be achieved by communication, partnership working and supporting the current play strategies within the District of West Sussex.

The strategy aims to deliver six key areas of play spaces:

1. Develop local community play spaces.
2. Play as a vital part of childhood
3. Making ‘playing out’ safe
4. Having children and young people at the heart of the community
5. Making play a local priority
6. Quality workforce – quality play

### 5.1.5 Fields in Trust (FiT)

In 2015 Fields in Trust produced the report: “Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play - Beyond the Six Acre Standard”. In relation to standards for children’s play space the following summary was produced as a guide for local authorities considering local standards:

Typology	Quantity guideline (hectares per 1,000 population)	Walking guideline (walking distance: metres from dwelling)
Equipped/designated play areas	0.25 (See table below for recommended minimum sizes)	LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m
Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and skateboard parks)	0.3	700m

FiT add that “quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as either a maximum or minimum level of provision; rather they are benchmark standards that can be adjusted to take account of local circumstances”.

The minimum sizes FiT recommend for play/youth spaces is noted below:

<b>Play space typology</b>	<b>Minimum size</b>	<b>Minimum dimensions</b>	<b>Buffer zones</b>
LAP	0.01 ha	10x10 metres (minimum activity zone of 100sqm)	5m minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings
LEAP	0.04 ha	20x20 metres (minimum activity zone of 400sqm)	20m minimum separation between activity zone and the habitable room façade of dwellings
NEAP	0.1 ha	31.6x31.6 metres (minimum activity zone of 1,000sqm comprising an area for play equipment and structures & a hard surfaced area of at least 465sqm – the minimum needed to play a five-a-side-football)	30m minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings
MUGA & Skateboard Park	0.1 ha	40x20 metres	30m minimum separation between activity zone and the boundary of dwellings

## Quality Guidance

FiT also provide general quality guidance for public open spaces.

- Quality appropriate to the intended level of performance, designed to appropriate technical standards.
- Located where they are of most value to the community to be served.
- Sufficiently diverse recreational use for the whole community.
- Appropriately landscaped.
- Maintained safety and to the highest possible condition with available finance.
- Positively managed taking account of the need for repair and replacement over time as necessary.
- Provision of appropriate ancillary facilities and equipment.
- Provision of footpaths.
- Designed so as to be free of the fear of harm or crime.
- Local authorities can set their own quality benchmark standards for play areas using Play England’s Quality Assessment Tool.

### 5.1.6 Play England

Play England also have some broad observations about overall policy direction and advice on local standards as summarised below.

#### **Quantity**

Play England recommend provision of a range of play spaces in all urban environments:

- A Doorstep spaces close to home
- B Local play spaces – larger areas within easy walking distance
- C Neighbourhood spaces for play – larger spaces within walking distance
- D Destination/family sites; accessible by bicycle, public transport and with car parking

They emphasise that play spaces do not just mean formal play areas. While these are included play spaces which cover all areas of public open spaces that are “playable” e.g. spaces that are accessible, safe, appropriate for play and where play use is welcomed and encouraged.

They also point out the need for standards for smaller settlements and rural areas where the doorstep, local, neighbourhood and destination hierarchy is unlikely to be appropriate.

#### **Quality**

Play England would like the Play England Design Guide *Design for Play* to be referenced and added as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Play England have developed a *Quality Assessment Tool* that can be used to judge the quality of individual play spaces. They recommend that local authorities consider adopting this as a means of assessing the quality of play spaces in the local area.

#### **Access**

Access is the key element for Play England as referred to in the Quantity section – a range of doorstep, local, neighbourhood and destination play spaces with appropriate catchments. Disability access is also an important issue for Play England, and they would like local authorities to adopt the KIDS publication *Inclusion by Design* as a Supplementary Planning Document.

#### **Priorities**

Play England have a guidance document: *Better Places to Play through Planning*. The publication gives detailed guidance on setting local standards for access, quantity and quality of playable space. It also shows how provision for better play opportunities can be promoted in planning policies and processes; giving detail of how local development frameworks and planning control can be utilised in favour of child-friendly communities. They recommend that local authorities adopt this guidance generally in terms of play and spatial planning.

## 5.2 Youth and Play Facilities - Stakeholders

### 5.2.1 Adur & Worthing Councils

Adur & Worthing Councils manage the majority of the open spaces within the area. These are managed by the Parks and Foreshores which is made up of team of 70 people. It is thought that currently there are enough quantity of play and youth facilities, but as the area moves away from having an older generation with families moving into the area and an increased amount of development there will be the need for more. It is important to note that tourists also use the play equipment in the area especially along the sea front.

Generally, the quality of facilities is very good and has high play value. There is a robust process for replacing old play equipment to provide a good turnaround in fixing it.

### 5.2.2 Parish Councils and Ward Members

Parish Councils and ward members were consulted through questionnaires and pro-forma, common themes across the consultation were as follows:

- There is a lack of youth facilities within parishes and wards. Some areas have provision but not enough for the demand.
- The lack of provision has caused teenagers to begin to “hang out” in town centres causing the public to feel uneasy walking through these areas.
- The variety of youth provision differs across the area with some areas having several basketball courts and no skateparks, whereas some lack basketball courts have a surplus of skateparks.
- Generally, there are enough quantity of play spaces, although there were several suggestions for improvements for individual parks, for example, more planting and more provision within the play space.
- Youth facilities are often the target of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. This has put some young people off using the facilities.
- Lack of MUGAs within parishes and wards with the requirement for more as the ones that are available are very popular.

### 5.2.3 Community Organisations

Group	Comments
Friends of Homefield Park	Homefield Park is well maintained due to the partnership between the community and the council. However, it hasn't had any investment for many years, and we are keen to work with the council on this. We would like to be more aspirational with the park to develop the play spaces and youth facilities.
Sustainable Sussex	We feel more needs to be done to encourage people to use play areas and youth facilities such as paid staff who can engage youth in activities. Health professionals have a clear understanding in the harmful effects of sedentary lifestyle and therefore we should encourage active lifestyles.
Transition Town Worthing	There are some great examples of play spaces and youth facilities, but not enough for the amount of young families that are moving into the area. This demographic change needs to be considered. Brooklands was a great site for children and teenagers, but the replacement plans do not seem to include

	facilities for young children. We need more facilities such as Shark Parks. Also, teenagers out of town don't have many places to hang out that are safe and interesting.
Heene Residents Association	Not enough play spaces that are clean and safe for children.
Goring Chase Residents Association	Youth facilities are generally good but would benefit from additional swimming facilities.
Goring and Ilex Conservation Group	There is a good mix of play spaces although the maintenance of new facilities could be better, for example, the electronic equipment in Goring playground has not worked for some time.
High Salvington Residents' Association	Children's play equipment at The Gallops has recently been updated. Children also use The Gallops for various informal sports such as football.

#### 5.2.4 Youth Organisations

Two youth organisations in Lancing and Worthing discussed play and outdoor youth provision. Some points raised by young people are noted below:

- Local play and youth facilities are well used and are mainly used for socialising. Parks are the main type of provision used.
- It was felt that the quality of open spaces is poor with vandalism, old equipment and the open spaces areas feel dirty.
- Monks Recreation Ground was highlighted a quality poor park with issues such as needles, rubbish and intimidation between young people.
- Also, Homefield Park was identified as being of poor quality with bad lighting, broken equipment, litter and frequent anti-social behaviour.
- A common theme was also anti-social behaviour within parks with a couple of young people sharing that they had been bullied.
- Not enough equipment in play spaces that is interesting for older children and teenagers – there is especially a need for this at Victoria Park, Tarring Park and Mash Barn Park. Areas where there is equipment aimed at older children is used frequently.
- There is a lack of places to socialise indoors.
- There is a need for football nets at Sompting Recreation Ground and Homefield Park.

## 5.3 Play Areas and Youth Facilities - Key Findings

### **Quantity**

- Parish councils and ward members thought that overall there are enough play spaces but a lack of youth facilities. The type of youth facilities available is also variable across Adur and Worthing.
- Young people and community organisations believed there were enough play spaces but highlighted that there are not enough outdoor youth facilities especially located within parks and recreation grounds.
- Across all stakeholders consulted it was suggested that there is a lack of MUGA provision.

### *Residents Survey*

- The majority of households (55%) think there are enough children's play areas.
- On the other hand, a larger proportion of households (66%) think there is the need for more facilities for teenagers.

### **Quality**

- Parish councils and ward members also highlighted that there are quality improvements to be made amongst provision and that key quality issues include vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- Young people highlighted that provision was of poor quality, with issues of outdated equipment, vandalism and litter.

### *Residents Survey*

- Youth provision is not rated as high in quality with 32% rating them as adequate and 29% rating them as poor.
- Children's play spaces were rated higher in quality with 40% rating them as good and 38% rating them as adequate.

### **Access**

- There were no issues with access brought up by any of the stakeholders.
- Lancing Parish did note that open spaces should be easy to get to by all members of the community.

### *Residents Survey*

- The majority of households (43%) would expect children's play spaces to be within a 6 – 10-minute travel time.
- It was clear that respondents would expect to travel between 6 – 15 minutes to youth provision with 34% willing to travel 11 – 15 minutes and 32% willing to travel to 6 – 10 minutes.
- A clear majority of households (45%) would expect to travel 11 – 15 minutes to MUGAs.

### **Priorities for improvement**

- Stakeholders clearly identified a need for more youth provision across the area to include a range of types of provision such as skateparks, BMX, basketball courts.

- The need to improve the quality of play spaces and youth provision was highlighted by both parish councils and ward members along with young people. The key quality improvements include updating old equipment, reducing the amount of litter and trying to reduce anti-social behaviour.

#### ***Other issues/general observations***

- As the demographic of the area changes and the population increases with more families moving into the area, there will be a need for more play spaces and youth provision.
- The lack of open spaces for teenagers within Adur and Worthing has caused young people to “hang out” within town centres.
- Play England and FiT provide useful guidance on play and spatial planning; play space design; and managing risk in play. Some of these could be adopted as guidance and Supplementary Planning Document.

## **6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The survey work, stakeholder consultation, and desk-based research have highlighted a wide range of issues of value to both the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Response levels to the residents’ survey, parish council surveys and from other stakeholders have been high. This has ensured that a wide and diverse range of views from local people with an interest in open space and outdoor sport/recreation facilities have influenced the findings of the study. A variety of main strategic stakeholders have also responded, and key issues have been identified to be further considered in the three main reports.

There is a strong degree of consistency across the various sources on key areas of local and strategic need/aspirations, from which we can be confident that the findings are robust and reliable. This provides a strong evidence base to be combined with the detailed facilities audit and analysis. As noted in the introduction there has also been an additional extensive consultation programme specific to the Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Built Facilities Study which are provided in the separate reports.

The information and findings from the consultation report are further considered and analysed in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, PPS and Built Facilities reports in relation to the various typologies of open space and outdoor recreation being analysed. In particular the findings provide evidence to support the spatial planning standards recommended for the different categories of open space and outdoor community recreation facilities.