

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

Green Space Strategy 2019 to 2033



North Warwickshire
Borough Council

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

DRAFT GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

2019 to 2033

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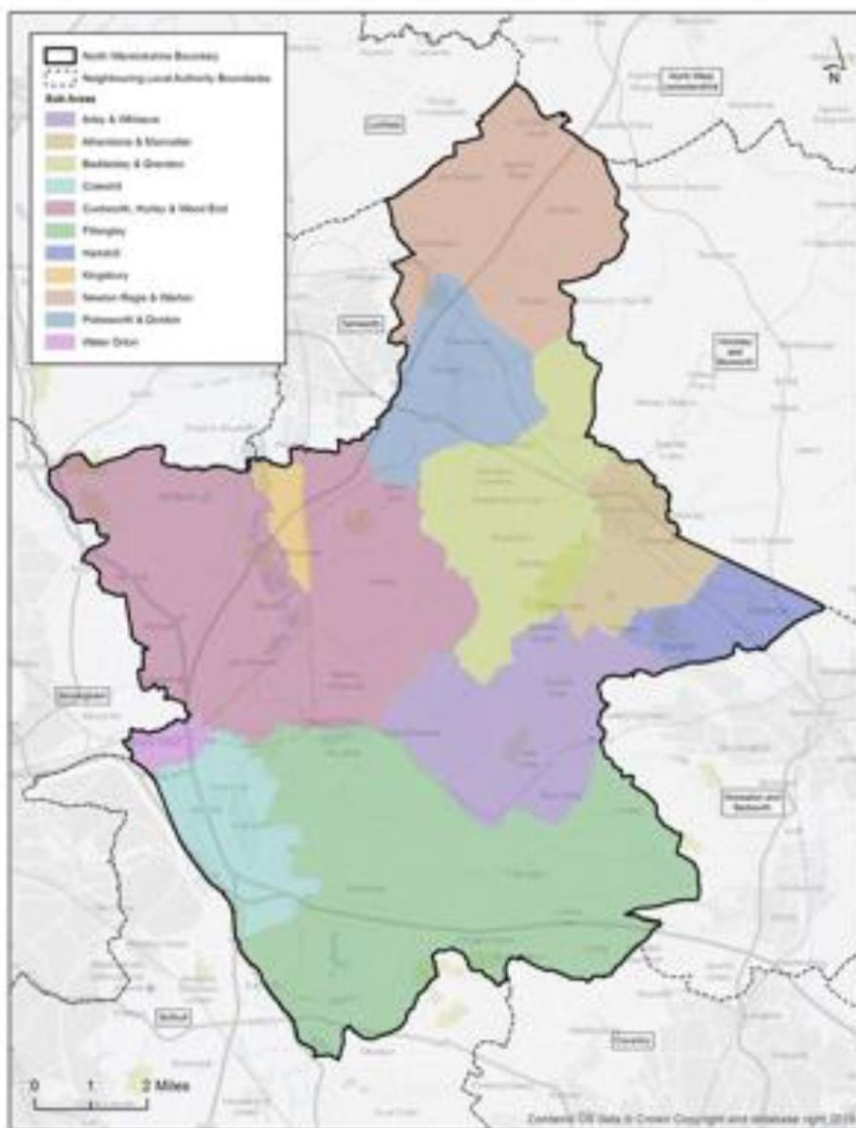
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Introduction to North Warwickshire

The Borough is the northernmost district in the county of Warwickshire. It has several large urban settlements on its doorstep, including Tamworth, Nuneaton, Coventry, Sutton Coldfield and other settlements within the Birmingham, conurbation.

North Warwickshire itself is overwhelmingly rural in nature with approximately two third of its area designated as Green Belt. The population of the Borough is 62,124 (Census 2011), most of which is centred in the three main towns in the Borough: Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth. The rest of the population is dispersed throughout a number of smaller rural settlements. The dispersed nature of the Borough has particular implications for the provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities.

The map below shows the local authority spatially, illustrating the location of North Warwickshire and its borders with Lichfield and North West Leicestershire to the North, Hinckley & Bosworth, Nuneaton & Bedworth to the East. To the South of NWBC are Coventry and Solihull, and Birmingham to the West.



Sub areas in North Warwickshire



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What is Green Space?

Green Space refers to the range of green areas that are used by the public, and includes parks, landscaped spaces in and around housing estates, sports pitches, children's play areas, wildlife and countryside areas, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards.

The Borough Council has produced and adopted a Playing Pitch Strategy, which covers pitches used for cricket, football, hockey and rugby. These formal pitches will not, therefore, be considered alongside other green space in this strategy.

Why is Green Space Important?

“A network of well-designed and cared-for open spaces adds to the character of places where people want to live, work and visit. Open spaces also provide the vital green infrastructure that enables us to deal with floods or mitigate and adapt to climate change while providing wildlife habitats, sporting facilities or beautiful parks.”

CABE Space (2009) Open space strategies – Best practice guidance.

As identified in 'The value of public space' (CABE Space 2014), good quality green space has many benefits:

- **The Economic Value of Public Space** - The presence of good parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool: companies are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these in turn attract customers, employees and services.
- **The Impact on Physical and Mental Health** - Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve our physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. In other words, our open spaces are a powerful weapon in the fight against obesity and ill-health.
- **The Benefits to Children and Young People** - Play is crucial for many aspects of children's development, from the acquisition of social skills, experimentation and the confrontation and resolution of emotional crises, to moral understanding, cognitive skills such as language and comprehension, and of course physical skills. Good-quality public spaces can help to fill this gap, providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning.
- **Reducing Crime and Fear of Crime** - Fear of crime and, to a much lesser extent crime itself, can deter people, not just vulnerable groups, from using even good-quality public spaces. Children and young people, for example, are often prevented from using our parks, squares and streets because of their parents' fears about crime, whilst women often also face particular concerns. Physical changes to, and the better management of, public space can help to allay these fears. Such changes can help everyone to make the most of public spaces

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- **The Social Dimension** - Public spaces are open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, and as such they represent a democratic forum for citizens and society. When properly designed and cared for, they bring communities together, provide meeting places and foster social ties of a kind that have been disappearing in many urban areas. These spaces shape the cultural identity of an area, are part of its unique character and provide a sense of place for local communities.
- **Movement in and between Spaces** - Well-designed streets and public spaces encourage walking and cycling, and have the power to make our environment a safer one by reducing vehicle speeds and use. 'Home Zones' have begun to demonstrate the benefits of redesigning streets for shared use by residents and pedestrians, not just cars.
- **Biodiversity and Nature** - The significant increase in hard surfacing and the reduction in green spaces lead to higher temperatures in towns and cities than in the surrounding countryside. This is known as the 'heat island effect'. Vegetation – whether in public spaces or private gardens – can help to redress this imbalance. It brings many important environmental benefits to urban areas, including the cooling of air and the absorption of atmospheric pollutants.

Our Vision

The Green Space Strategy is about land, and about people. Our vision is:

North Warwickshire will have a well planned and managed network of sustainable, biodiverse green spaces that meets the needs of its communities and that maximizes the opportunities presented by new developments and by HS2.

Our Objectives

The Green Space Strategy sets out a framework to fulfil the following objectives:

- **Improve the management and maximise the benefits of green spaces:** New research from Fields in Trust demonstrates that parks and green spaces across the United Kingdom provide people with over £34 billion of health and wellbeing benefits. The report also calculates that parks provide a total economic value to each person in the UK of just over £30 per year. The value of parks and green spaces is higher for individuals from lower socio-economic groups and also from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. This means that any loss of parks and green spaces will disproportionately impact disadvantaged and underrepresented communities, precisely those who value them the most.
- **Co-ordinate action and develop partnership working:** Many local groups and other organisations and agencies are actively engaged in bringing forward a wide range of site improvement projects. There is a need to co-ordinate all of this activity to ensure that resources are effectively used and the benefits are maximised.

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- **Access more funding opportunities:** There is a range of funding possibilities for green spaces. By providing a clear and co-ordinated set of policies and proposals, the Green Space Strategy will ensure that an effective case for investment is made when submitting bids for funding. Experience shows that in areas of the country where a strategy has been produced, access to different funding sources has increased significantly.
- **Promote green space investment as a policy priority:** Having a Green Space Strategy will elevate the status of Green Space issues in the Borough in giving consideration to public policy priorities
- **Help create sustainable communities:** Attractive green spaces can play a vital role in creating sustainable, inclusive and cohesive communities where people will choose to live and work both now and in the future.

Why we have developed a Green Space Strategy

The PPG 17 Audit undertaken to inform the Borough Council's first Green Space Strategy 2008 – 2018 identified the quality and quantity of the various forms of open space across North Warwickshire. It clarified the areas that were in need of significant attention, such as the provision of facilities which were uneven in spread and of varying quality. Maintenance, cleanliness and vandalism were all identified and were resulting in people feeling unsafe. There was a lack of provision for children and young people, and communities were disengaged from their local green spaces. Implementation of the action plan associated with the first Green Space Strategy saw major improvements to green space across the Borough. By auditing where we are, and looking to the future, we will be able to build on this and achieve our vision.

Key Achievements include:

- The delivery of the Borough Council's 12 year Play Area Development programme has resulted in an increase in quality provision across the Borough, with all of the Borough Council's own sites being improved and the local community to each being fully engaged in the process. **Just over £1M has been spent improving the sites, with just under £290K being brought in from external sources.** Support has also been provided to eight parish councils, ensuring that there is a relatively even spread of provision across the Borough.
- A review of the Grounds Maintenance service has resulted in specifications and budgets being revised and Service level Agreements being put in place.
- The Strategy provided the evidence for the Council to successfully apply for £225,249 to develop the Council's first Local Nature Reserves at Abbey Green Park - Polesworth, Kingsbury Meadow - Kingsbury, Cole End Park – Coleshill and Daffern's Wood – New Arley. A partnership agreement is in place with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for their ongoing management
- Management Plans have been produced for a number of key sites including: Abbey Green Park, Cole End Park LNR, **Coleshill Memorial Park**, Long Street and Kitwood Avenue Recreation Grounds, Daffern's Wood and Kingsbury Meadow.
- Two new allotment gardens have been developed in Hurley and Warton and the North Warwickshire Allotment Federation became formally constituted in 2009

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- Daw Mill sports ground has been regenerated and sub-leased to Hurley Kings Football Club Ltd
- An Artificial Grass Pitch has been installed, and a partnership agreement is in place for the management of community use with the Queen Elizabeth Academy in Atherstone
- A variety of activities have been supported or delivered in local green spaces to encourage greater community involvement and use, most significant of these are the 'Big Day Out' community fun days, eleven weekly walks delivered by volunteers through the North Walks programme, play area launch events, development of new cycle routes, engagement activities for young people including 'Pedal to the Park', 'Activities 4U' and 'Call4Sport' and community litter picks amongst many others.

Local Context

North Warwickshire Local Plan

This Green Space Strategy is underpinned by the preparation of a new Local Plan to guide development and land use. This review provides the evidence base for protecting existing provision and allocating new open space, it also is preparing for the impact from the construction of HS2 through the Borough.

At paragraph 2.15 in the North Warwickshire Local Plan Submission - March 2018, it is noted that:

'The Borough's own objectively assessed housing need and the need to consider delivering further growth for neighbours means that growth is much greater than ever experienced by the Borough before. This will bring many challenges. In particular due to the rural nature of the Borough making quality places that are integrated in to the fabric of settlements wherever possible will be important. Making settlements work will be just as important as delivering a specific site as this will lead to their long lasting success.'

Over the life of the Local Plan (from 2011 to 2033, the Borough will see a 37% increase in dwellings (from 26,000 to 35,600). Significant developments are due to take place in Polesworth / Dordon, Hartshill and Atherstone.

The Local Development Framework consists of the Core Strategy (adopted in 2014) and the Development Management Plan (adopted 2015).

The Green Space Strategy will run until 2033 to bring it in line with the current adopted Core Strategy and emerging Site Allocation plan periods.

North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy 2017 to 2031

The Playing Pitch Strategy is a strategic assessment in the context of national policy and local sports development needs that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the local authority. The assessment, for practical reasons, focusses only upon Football, Rugby Union, Cricket and Hockey. Key to the Green Space Strategy is the identification in the Playing Pitch Strategy of the future needs with regard to accessible, high quality green space, sports and recreation facilities.

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North Warwickshire Borough Council – Corporate Plan

Although much has been achieved, there is still much more to do. At the local level, the Green Space Strategy will help the Borough Council to deliver its Corporate Priorities:

- **Responsible Financial and Resource Management**
- **Creating Safer Communities**
- **Protecting Our Countryside and Heritage**
- **Improving Leisure and Wellbeing Opportunities**
- **Promoting Sustainable and Vibrant Communities**
- **Supporting Employment and Business**

North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 to 2026

The Green Space Strategy will contribute to meeting all three priorities identified in the North Warwickshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 to 2026:

Priority 1	Raising aspirations, educational attainment and skills
Priority 2	Healthier Communities
Priority 3	Tackling Poverty

North Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2017 to 2020

The Green Space Strategy will help to deliver the North Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2017 to 2020 Aim : To encourage and support the local community to adopt a proactive approach in the positive self-management of their health.

In particular it will directly impact upon the theme to increase the number of adults and children who are physically active and reduce the percentage of adults and children with excess weight. It further has the advantage of having a positive impact upon mental health, an issue of concern nationally for people of all ages.

Typology and Local Standards

The audit undertaken for the first Green Space Strategy looked at the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces. Following on from this, research was undertaken to enable the Borough Council to adopt **minimum local standards** for the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces that we need in North Warwickshire.

SECTION 2 – KEY PRIORITIES

The audits provided an understanding of the current condition, amount and location of the following types of green spaces throughout North Warwickshire:

Green Space Typology

- **Parks and public gardens** - accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
- **Informal / amenity open space** - typically green spaces in and around housing estates and village greens.
- **Equipped children's play areas and places for young people** - areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
- **Outdoor sports areas** - areas providing opportunities for participation in formal competitive outdoor sports (Note: Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey are covered in the North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy).
- **Natural and semi-natural spaces** - woodland and other spaces that are managed in a way that promotes biodiversity and allows nature to develop.
- **Cemeteries and churchyards** - burial grounds providing opportunities for quiet recreation and contemplation, and biodiversity.
- **Allotments** - plot of land subdivided to provide opportunity for people to grow produce
- **Green corridors** - Routes used for walking, cycling and / or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, which also provided opportunities for wildlife migration.

The standards are key to planning for and managing green space in the future.

Local Green Space Standards

The North Warwickshire Local Standards are based on the results of local consultation, and also informed by pragmatic considerations, and are intended to be achievable. The standards proposed are for minimum levels of provision. It should be noted that just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards does not mean there is surplus provision, as all such provision may be well used. In addition, the standards (as they relate to various forms of open space) reflect only the importance for given recreational activities. Open space may have intrinsic value for other reasons, including visual and ecological. The recreational utility of open space must, therefore, be viewed in the context of broader environmental and planning considerations.

The standards are split in to three categories – Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

The 'Quantity' Local Green Space Standards are detailed in **Appendix A** and should be read in conjunction with Section 6 of **Appendix B** - the *Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report - Part 1: Context, Overview of Supply and Demand. Local Standards and Action Plan*, which provides more detail regarding the quality and accessibility of green space.

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Policy Priorities

The value of green spaces to local communities is well understood. North Warwickshire is due to see unprecedented amounts of development over the next ten years and will be significantly affected by the construction of HS2. It is critical that green space is protected and that green space development is also planned in a considered, strategic and sustainable manner.

Protection and Enhancement of Existing Green Space by:

- PP01 Informing the Planning process in the consideration of planning applications to protect against the loss or inappropriate development of green space
- PP02 Informing any review of the Borough Council's land holdings and any proposals for disposal
- PP03 Informing the development of a Green Space Strategy Action and Funding Plan
- PP04 Undertake an audit, to include an assessment of quantity, quality and accessibility, of all green space and maintain and update on GIS

Seek New Green Space by:

- PP05 Informing the Planning process through the Local Plan, consideration of strategic allocations and planning applications
- PP06 Using the identified local Green Space Standards along with the Audit of Green Space to identify green space needs in local communities

Seek Mitigation Due to the Construction of HS2 by:

- PP07 Promoting funding opportunities
- PP08 Supporting the local community to apply for funding, particularly those most directly affected.
- PP09 Assisting with the implementation of associated schemes
- PP10 Support the continued use, and availability, of facilities at Kingsbury Water Park and Pooley Country Park
- PP11 Working with other agencies and stakeholders to develop mitigation schemes

SECTION 2 – KEY PRIORITIES

Service Priorities

The consultation for the Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study brought out a number of common themes concerning green space provision. From these we have decided that in most areas there is no need for additional green space but we need to:

- Prepare site improvement and management plans for **all** green space sites, noting the need for more seating and improved signage / welcoming entrances
- Improve safety and security
- Continue to tackle vandalism and graffiti
- Continue to tackle anti-social behaviour
- Ensure an even spread and quality of facilities across the Borough
- Ensure that facilities are accessible to people in rural areas
- Improve partnership working between the Borough Council and other providers of green space
- Target providers' combined resources more effectively
- Increase provision for children and young people
- Increase provision of, and access to, bridleways and cyclepaths....**Expand**
- Encourage greater community engagement with local green spaces
- Increase awareness of the availability of recreation facilities by improving publicity and promotion

We will address these issues through the Service Priorities set out below:

Improvement, Maintenance and Cleanliness

The Borough Council recognises that effective, efficient and adequately resourced grounds maintenance is key to improving the quality of its green spaces and will:

- | | |
|----|--|
| SP | Review, when required, the current grounds maintenance arrangements to ensure coherent and appropriate work programming and adequate allocation of resources, in light of the potential for extensive new developments |
| SP | Review grounds maintenance operations and seek to identify opportunities for less intensive management practices that are cost effective and deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity |
| SP | Explore opportunities for alternative maintenance arrangements for some sites such as partnership working with other providers or community management projects |
| SP | Invest in basic service improvements, such as improving footpaths, site furniture and installing signage (including the use of Quick Response 'QR' codes, which will allow smart phone users access to additional information, thus making information available to people interested in new technology) |
| SP | Work in partnership with other providers and, where improvements to their green spaces have been identified, support them by offering advice and guidance |

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Safety and Security

Green spaces should be welcoming places where people can enjoy recreation and leisure activities in confidence and safety. We will:

Secure sites from unwanted incursions

- SP Adopt a programme of measures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in green spaces, ensuring that ‘secure by design’ principles are followed
- SP Audit unauthorised access from neighbouring properties and land grab. Licence or remove access. Identify legal resolution for land grab
- SP Develop a policy on the use of drones across NWBC sites
- SP Develop a policy on the use of metal detectors across NWBC sites

Tree Management

Expand

A well-managed, sustainable and renewable tree stock provides long-term benefits for our environment and is an essential element of attractive, good quality green space. We will:

- SP Prepare and adopt a Tree Management Policy to inform the management of the Borough Council’s tree stock
- SP Consider opportunities to plant native trees on open spaces in accordance with the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines – Arden, 1993
- SP In the interests of sustainability and increased biodiversity, aim to replant one or two tree’s in the same community for every tree that is removed

Biodiversity and Climate Change

Well-managed, multi-functional green space benefits both people and wildlife and can contribute to the mitigation of the effects of climate change. We will:

- SP Seek opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity through habitat creation and management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules
- SP Seek opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly increased flood risk, through appropriate planting and land management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules
- SP Support partners to enhance and conserve biodiversity on publicly accessible sites, particularly noting the need to mitigate the impact of HS2

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SP	Continue to be a Board member of the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership and support its work and vision ‘to create a wetland landscape, rich in wildlife and accessible to all’
SP	Work with partners to increase opportunities for community engagement in habitat creation and management projects
SP	Support and encourage the development of ‘green corridors’
SP	In partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, continue to manage and develop Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

Children and Young People

Green space plays a vital role in helping children and young people to develop skills through play and social interaction and to explore and learn in the wider environment. We will:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| SP | Review our current play provision to ensure that all built play facilities continue to offer good play value, meet current safety standards, are accessible and are secured by design. Prepare an action plan for enhancements and refurbishments |
| SP | Consider opportunities to provide more exciting and innovative play solutions for all ages, including for example ‘BMX / pump tracks’ and iplay opportunities |
| SP | When developing green spaces and / or play areas, consider the inclusion of natural ‘green’ play using natural and renewable materials |

Community Engagement

Green space is for people. It is somewhere to relax, to enjoy sport and recreation and to enjoy the natural environment. Local spaces can provide a focus for family outings and for community activities. The Borough Council is keen to encourage people to use their local spaces and to take pride in their development. We will:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| SP | Support existing, and develop new, Friends Groups to participate in the development and oversight of local green spaces |
| SP | Continue to support and work in partnership with the North Warwickshire Allotment Federation to ensure that residents are able to access quality allotment sites |
| SP | Support allotment associations to reduce the number of unused plots and improve the quality of provision |
| SP | Publicise and promote our green spaces and play facilities through the internet, and through the promotion of activities and events on sites |
| SP | Develop guidance, procedures and pricing for the community and commercial use of green space for events |
| SP | Work with partners, stakeholders and developers to protect, enhance and increase connectivity between green spaces throughout the Borough |

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SP Develop a policy on the installation of memorial benches

SP Develop a method for measuring and monitoring the level of use of key parks and green spaces

Borough-wide Priorities

The following priorities apply to the whole Borough

- BP** Prepare site improvement and management plans for all parks and public gardens and relevant play areas / recreations grounds and natural / semi-natural sites
- BP** Support Town and Parish Councils and other providers to prepare site improvement and management plans for all parks and public gardens and relevant play areas / recreations grounds and natural / semi-natural sites in their ownership
- BP** Where appropriate, and in consultation with the local community, allow some informal open space to be developed for alternative green space uses such as new play space or for management as natural green space
- BP** Where appropriate, permit the release of some informal open space only where this will secure funds to improve existing facilities and avoid the loss of all other types of publicly accessible open space across the area
- BP** Support the development of green ‘tree and cycle’ corridors
- BP** As new housing sites are developed ensure new green space sites have appropriate management plans
- BP** When considering new housing developments or sites identified for disposal, ensure a strategic balance of play provision in the locality
- BP** Ensure adequate provision for formal outdoor sports not identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy, e.g. Bowls, BMX, Skate, etc.
- BP** Develop opportunities for the use personal technology to encourage greater use of green spaces and improve mental and physical health through increased activity
- BP** Target resources, particularly developer contributions, to improve the quality of open spaces in the area

Future needs caused by developments

Only adopt strategically significant new sites (those whose value extends beyond the immediate catchment community), with the benefit of appropriate commuted sums

SECTION 2 – KEY PRIORITIES

Area Priorities

Arley and Whitacre including Old Arley, New Arley, Hill Top, Over Whitacre, Ansley, Ansley Common, Furnace End, Devitt's Green and Birchley Heath	
AP	Support improved access to the countryside through the promotion of footpaths and routeways through the area
AP	Ensure the future and quality of both allotment and recreation facilities, should development take place in Ansley Common
AP	Develop a management plan for Bretts Hall Recreation Ground in Ansley Common, in conjunction with an improvement plan for the adjacent Bretts Hall Allotments site

Atherstone and Mancetter including Atherstone, Mancetter and Ridge Lane	
AP	Complete heritage improvements to Meadow Street Gardens, Atherstone
AP	Develop Atherstone Riverside Open Space as a Local Nature Reserve
AP	Prioritise the improvement and development of Mancetter Recreation Ground, consider the development of a community woodland / LNR to increase biodiversity and community engagement

Baddesley and Grendon including Baddesley Ensor, Grendon, Baxterley, Bentley, and Merevale	
AP	Work with partners to seek to ensure the sustainable long-term provision of publicly accessible open space in Baxterley
AP	Seek the provision of more play facilities, particularly youth facilities, taking into consideration the A5 corridor as a barrier to access, in the area

Coleshill	
AP	Following the installation of new equipment at the Memorial Park, advance the removal of play equipment at Brendan Close and consider the future of the site
AP	Support the Town Council to establish new allotment gardens before the allotment gardens next to the Memorial Park are developed upon
AP	Support as required the extension to Coleshill Cemetery
AP	Work in partnership with Tame Valley Wetland Landscape Partnership and the Environment Agency to create and implement the Cole Valley Landscape Project

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Curdworth, Hurley & Wood End including Curdworth, Wishaw, Middleton, Marston, Bodymoor Heath, Lea Marston, Whitacre Heath, Nether Whitacre, Hurley, Wood End and Piccadilly	
AP	Support the promotion of access to rights of way across the area
Fillongley including Corley, Maxstoke and Shustoke	
AP	Carry out a Risk Assessment in respect of the closed churchyard at Fillongley and implement the findings as appropriate
Hartshill	
AP	Ensure the future of the informal open space at Cherryfields as publicly accessible open space and improve the facilities it offers
AP	Consider allowing some development on Grange Road Recreation Ground, ensuring the provision of funding to improve other facilities in the area.
Newton Regis & Warton including Newton Regis, Seckington, No Man's Heath, Shuttington, Alvecote, Austrey and Warton	
AP	Support the Parish Council to provide sustainable, good quality play provision in Alvecote
AP	Support the improvement of the facilities at the playing field in Shuttington
AP	Support Austrey Parish Council with obtaining funding from HS2 to finance the relocation of its recreation ground
Polesworth & Dordon including Polesworth, Birchmoor and Dordon	
AP	Continue to work towards achieving Green Flag status for Abbey Green Park at Polesworth
AP	Support the development of green 'tree and cycle' corridors, thus maximising the assets on the development site to the east of Dordon, including the ancient woodland, the old orchard site (former brickworks mine), Hoo Hill and Margaret Wood
AP	As new economic sites are developed, support the relocation of allotment gardens and playing pitches in Dordon
Water Orton	
AP	Seek the provision of additional open space for children's play

SECTION 3 – DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Resources

There are clearly financial implications attached to the implementation of the Green Space Strategy. In providing and managing green space within the public realm the Borough Council does not, and cannot, work in isolation. In particular:

- It essential to secure the support and cooperation of local parish and town councils, associated trusts and committees responsible for the management and maintenance of much of the Borough’s stock of accessible green space.
- Nature conservation trusts, agencies, and the County Council have responsibility for much of the accessible natural green space found in rural areas, in particular-wildlife sites, country parks, designated habitats with public access.
- Agencies such as the Canals and Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency have the ability to control and influence the management and maintenance of green space associated with the Borough’s considerable network of water corridors and bodies.
- Institutional landowners such as the Coal Authority, and the Church control substantial tracts of land with great potential for development and use as accessible green space for the public good.
- Developers will be responsible for providing directly or indirectly new green space in relation to planned growth.
- The County Council and local schools control large amounts of educational land with areas of unexploited potential in terms of contributing to green space strategic goals.
- The County Council, with responsibility for highways and rights of way, can also help to influence and promote the creation of green corridors and routes.
- Other local and national agencies such as health authorities, the police, Natural England and Sustrans can help to achieve many projects that increase positive community interaction with, use and appreciation of, green space.

The following policies will help us to secure, co-ordinate and target resources effectively.

Resources	
<p>The study underpinning the Strategy clearly identified the value attached to green spaces by the community for many forms of recreation, both informal and organised. The evidence, both locally and nationally, points to the primacy of the outdoor environment in providing the majority of people’s physical recreation needs. To ensure, as far as we can, that our investment priorities reflect this the Borough Council will:</p>	
RP1	Prepare a four year rolling Action Plan and Funding Strategy that identifies how and when we and other stakeholders will achieve our key priorities
RP2	Review its investment of time and resources into the management and maintenance of local green space
RP3	Maximise developer contributions through the Open Space Supplementary Planning document through contributions including S106 Agreements and / or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

SECTION 3 – DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Resources - <i>continued</i>	
RP4	Seek opportunities to diversify funding streams for green spaces, including greater income from partnerships, commercial activity, fees and charges, developer contributions, sponsorship, grant funding and fundraising (such as crowd sourcing)
RP6	Consider assuming the adoption and future management of newly created open spaces and / or play areas only where these are of strategic significance and only where appropriate resources (staffing / finance) have been allocated, for example through the provision of a commuted sum

Monitoring

The Green Space Strategy must be kept up to date and must continue to meet its priorities whilst fulfilling the Borough Council's corporate objectives, local planning policies and the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This means that monitoring and review are essential. The following policies will help to ensure the currency and legitimacy of the Strategy.

Monitoring	
To be effective the Green Space Strategy must be a living document, kept under constant review and revision. We will:	
MP1	Review and update the Action and Funding Plan annually
MP2	Set out in the Action Plan performance targets against which delivery of the Green Space Strategy and Action Plan will be monitored and, if necessary, revised
MP3	Report, as a minimum, annually to Borough Councillors on progress in delivering the Green Space Strategy and Action and Funding Plan
MP4	Ensure that the Green Space Strategy continues to relate to the Borough Council's corporate objectives and is embedded therein
MP5	Review and refresh the Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation Study and the Green Space Strategy on a five-year cycle

SECTION 4 – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This strategy has been prepared using the following supporting documents, which are available to view on the North Warwickshire Borough Council website www.northwarks.gov.uk or can be obtained from Customer Services at The Council House, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1DE, Tel: 01827 715341, Email: customerservices@northwarks.gov.uk

CABE Space – Guide: ‘Creating an open space strategy: a guide to best practice,’ 06/01/2008

CABE Space – Report: ‘The Value of Public Space,’ 08/01/2014

North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy 2008 - 2018

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report - Part 1: Context, Overview of Supply and Demand, Local Standards and Action Plan

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report - Appendix 1: Quality Assessment Form (electronic spreadsheet)

Appendix A - Minimum Local Green Space Standards - Quantity

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY	National Standard QUANTITY GUIDELINE (ha / 1,000 population)	National Standard WALKING GUIDELINE (Walking Distance: Metres from Dwellings)	North Warks QUANTITY GUIDELINE (ha / 1,000 population)	North Warks WALKING GUIDELINE (Walking Distance: Metres from Dwellings)
Parks and Public Gardens	0.80	710m	0.50	450m
Informal / Amenity Greenspace	0.60	480m	0.50	100m
Equipped / Designated Play Areas	0.25	LAPs – 100m LEAPs – 400m NEAPs – 1,000m Other outdoor provision (MUGAs and Skateboard Parks) – 700m	No minimum space spec – just sufficient for creative play 1:1,000 people 1:2,000 people 1:15,000 people	TOPS – 250m JOPS – 450m YOPS – 600m FOPS – 15min drive *see note
Natural and Semi-Natural Spaces	1.80	Natural Green Space 2 ha – 300m 20 ha – 2km 100 ha – 5km 500 ha – 10km Woodland 2 ha 500m 20ha – 4km	0.50 ha – 450m	Natural Green Space Focus on improving provision within easy walking distance
Allotments	0.20	N/A	0.40	Straight line distance of 1,000m (15 mins walk time)

*Note:

Explain

- Explanation of play area types is in Appendix B - the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report (June 2007)- Part 1: Context, Overview of Supply and Demand, Local Standards and Action Plan
- Need for flexibility
- For settlements of 2000 people or more there should be full provision of TOPS, YOPS and JOPS
- For settlements of 1000 – 2000 people there should be provision of TOPS and JOPS relative to the standard plus a youth meeting place for young people
- For settlements of 500 – 1000 people there should be at least 1 JOP plus a youth meeting place
- For settlements of 100 – 500 there should be at least 1 TOP

Appendix B - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for North Warwickshire Borough Final Report (June 2007)- Part 1: Context, Overview of Supply and Demand, Local Standards and Action Plan

Appendix C – List of Consultees

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Environmental Health
Forward Planning
Health and Wellbeing Working Party
Housing ?
Leisure and Community Development
Streetscape

Other Councils

Birmingham City Council
Coventry City Council
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Tamworth Borough Council
Warwickshire County Council

Town and Parish Councils

Partner Organisations

Canal and River Trust
Environment Agency
Sports England
Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
Woodland Trust

Community and Voluntary Sector

Age Concern
Friends of Abbey Green
Friends of Daffern's Wood
North Warwickshire Allotment Federation
Tame Valley Wetland Partnership