OPEN SPACE STUDY FOR ASHFORD BOROUGH
Final report
December 2008

Part 2
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| PART 2 | Application of Standards to Ashford Urban Area and Rural Area |
1.0 Application of the Quantity component of the recommended standards

1.1 Quantity standard: Urban Ashford area

The following chart compares the overall levels of provision of open space within the urban area (blue) and compares this with the level of provision that might be anticipated if the recommended minimum standards are applied. The rural area is covered through a series of parish maps and included later.

The most obvious points to make are that:

- The current levels of Natural and or Informal Greenspace are, combined, much higher than the space required when the recommended minimum standard for Natural/Informal Space is applied. The existing area of Green Corridor is also a considerable natural/informal open space resource.
- The chart indicates an under provision of Outdoor Sports Space compared to the recommended standard. It is worth noting though that if Education land (which is largely laid out to playing fields) is combined with existing Outdoor Sports Space (excluding golf), the land available would approximate to the amount required by the recommended standard.
- When applying the recommended standard for Other Open Space (which can include space for Parks, Recreation Grounds, Children and Youth Provision, and Allotments), the amount of land required is less than that currently devoted, although this overlooks:
  - that equipped space currently provided for children and young people totals less than 4 hectares. This is far less than the amount required when the suggested component of this standard for children and young people (0.3 hectares/000= 19.50 hectares) is applied; and,
  - that land devoted to allotments at just over 8 hectares is less than the amount required when the suggested component of this standard for such space is applied (0.2 hectares/000 or 13 hectares space).

The above comments do not address whether space is of an appropriate quality; in the right place; and easily accessible in other ways. These matters are dealt with under ‘Accessibility’ and ‘Quality’.
1.2 Quantity standard: urban sub areas

The following charts provide similar information for the three urban sub areas. The same points made above are also relevant here.

**North**

Although the provision of Natural Greenspace is low in this sub area, the area devoted to Green Corridor is high and together with the identified Informal Greenspace, it satisfies the recommended minimum standard. If Education land were ‘opened up’ for wider use it could contribute to meeting the identified shortage of Outdoor Sports Space relative to the recommended standard.

**Central**

The same comment as above applies here to the potential role Education land in this part of the urban area.
Once again, the potential role of Education land is apparent with regard to making up the deficit in Outdoor Sports Space relative to the recommended standard.

### South

The following maps apply the general access components of the proposed standards to current provision within the urban area.

The rural area is covered through a series of parish maps and included later.

#### 1.2 Application of the Accessibility component of the recommended standards

- **Informal Greenspace**: 47.0 hectares
- **Parks & Gardens**: 25.3 hectares
- **Allotments**: 4.5 hectares
- **Green Corridor**: 9.3 hectares
- **Natural Greenspace (LA)**: 6.9 hectares
- **Natural Greenspace (other)**: 126.3 hectares
- **Total all Outdoor Sports (excl. golf)**: 48.6 hectares
- **Total Education**: 60.8 hectares
- **Total Outdoor Sports Space required**: 24.3 hectares
- **Total Natural/Informal Space required**: 40.0 hectares
- **Total Other Space required**: 80.0 hectares
Allotments

The coverage of allotment sites within the urban area is patchy. Many of the areas that lack good access to such a facility have absorbed much new housing in recent years. This pattern probably reflects the lack of strong guidance on the provision of allotments in the Local Plan.
Natural and Informal Greenspace

The map on the left shows the catchments of Natural Greenspace of at least 2 hectares in size. Obviously, it is development close to the fringe that is physically closest to large spaces of this type. Such space will not generally be available for completely open access and use, but will be accessible by Rights of Way and other permissive routes.

In the more central parts of the urban area, access to large natural space is clearly more difficult. The river corridor is itself an important Green Corridor/Space. In addition there are several large areas of Informal Greenspace that may have the potential to be ‘naturalised’ as appropriate.
Outdoor Sports Space

This map shows the distribution of Outdoor Sport Space in the urban area. The various facilities are managed by either the local authority, or else private/voluntary organisations. However, they all tend to be available for the community to use either on a casual basis, or else as a member of a club or organisation that is fairly easy for people to join.

In practice many people will drive to sports facilities, as they also need to transport equipment. However, access by foot and bike should be encouraged. In this regard the location of Education land in parts of the urban area not within convenient walking distance of an existing outdoor sports venue is to be noted. It has already been mentioned that such land may have the potential to be opened up for wider community sporting use, with the agreement of schools and the education authority.

Because people tend to drive to sports facilities (with their equipment) they often come from outside the immediate area. The sporting use of a given site will not therefore necessarily reflect the aspirations and needs of the local area.
Parks and Gardens

This map shows the location and catchments of identified Parks and Gardens within the urban area. As can be seen, coverage in the northern part of the urban area is comparably far better than in other parts of the Ashford.
1.3 Application of the Quality component of the recommended standards

Individual site assessments have been conducted of 450, of the overall number of sites (864) included within this study. Time and resources did not permit a full audit of all the sites. Instead, the assessments focussed upon:

- Public informal greenspace
- Public parks, gardens and recreation grounds
- Areas for sport (both owned managed by councils and clubs and private organisations)
- Public equipped provision for children and young people
- Areas of natural green space clearly available for public use.

In addition to the assessment work undertaken for this study, consideration has been given to previous site assessment work conducted by the Borough Council, and this is referred to as appropriate. The full details of the site assessments are included within an electronic database. It is intended that this database can, in conjunction with the information held in GIS format, can be updated and changed as appropriate, and serve as an important tool for planning, management and decision making.

1.4 Overall comments

Urban area

In overall terms the following comments can be made about open space in the urban area:

- Much of the open space is small, fragmentary and dysfunctional. Whilst there is a clear and important role for ‘smaller’ spaces in an open space hierarchy. The location, size, and relationship of many such spaces to the built environment results in little attraction for recreation use of any kind.
- In relation to the ‘Quality’ elements of the proposed standards, there is frequently a gross mismatch between the ‘aspiration’ set by the standards, and the ‘reality’. The consultation has shown a clear desire on the part of the local community for well maintained spaces, but this aspiration is currently realised far less than it should.
- With the exception of the river ‘green corridor’, there are few if any clear and cogent green links within the urban area. Such links are not only important means of access to and between spaces, but can also serve as safe recreation and utility routes in their own right. This theme of connectiveness will be considered fully in the Green and Blue Grid Strategy. The public consultation demonstrated the importance attached to ease of access to open space and, again, this aspiration is often not achieved currently.
- There are, of course, examples of well planned and maintained open space but these are overshadowed by the overall impression left by the poorer quality and dysfunctional spaces. There is evidence of better planned and managed spaces in some of the most recent development areas, however.
- With specific regard to equipped play areas and provision for young people, the variable quality of sites and equipment was noted; an observation which coincides with the general conclusions of investigations.
- There is clear potential to improve the situation from within the current stock of space. Generally, many of the larger informal and natural spaces both within and fringing the urban area offer for improvement to offer imaginative local recreation opportunities. Specifically, the following map ‘Sites identified for improvement in the urban area’ with the accompanying table provides some suggestions on sites where improvements might be made with respect to the quality of provision. This is obviously not a definitive list, but reflects the views of the report authors and site assessors. Additional comments are included in other Borough Council ‘action plans and programmes’ including the Play Strategy.
- Equally, there are certain sites where all or partial redeployment to alternative use would not harm current functional open space provision within the locality, but could instead finance upgrading either of the remainder of the site, or else improvements in the wider area. The map ‘Sites identified for alternative use’ and the accompanying table, identifies some sites where the view might be taken that partial or wholesale redeployment of these sites would help achieve the above aim.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Ref</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Teenage shelter and half MUGA rebound wall next to community centre. Informal planting around the site would soften the visual impact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Play area and informal space serving towerblocks. The play area requires upgrading and informal area requires maintenance and replanting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Large private estate with vast natural and semi natural green space, potential limited public access would be beneficial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The site is situated within a cul-de-sac, there appears to be a former hard court/car park in the middle of the site but it is over grown and very untidy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The site is small park/informal amenity area serving the surrounding housing. The site has a well equipped children’s play area, teen shelter and an informal junior football pitch marked out. The site is in reasonable condition but an access path and signage would improve the use of the site. The site has a link to the local playing fields behind it which could be exploited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Semi natural amenity space within housing estate. Benches and access paths would improve the informal use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Open space laid out as part of the new development. Informal amenity space with junior goal posts. The site could accommodate a play area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Informal space/green corridor. Better maintenance required, improve signage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Informal space/green corridor. Better maintenance required, improve signage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Informal amenity/park. The site is situated in a central position within housing estate. It is well maintained and has a very good play area. The site has a good access paths and maintenance is good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>New play area which has been fenced off - in need of upgrading and better management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Amenity open space with no facilities. The site could accommodate a play area, but at the least requires access paths, planting and benches for informal use. Part of the site could be used for housing as access is very good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Inaccessible natural green space. The site requires entrances, access paths, benches and signage. The site has the potential to provide a link to the church and cemetery opposite, whilst providing a semi natural environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Natural green space within housing estate with a pond in the middle. Benches and paths would improve informal use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>No access, still in development. Will require signage to access from estate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Site needs better maintenance, improved entrances. Feels unsafe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Informal space with play area and football. Play ground in need of improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>The site has an excellent play area that caters for all ages. Boundaries are required and improved access paths to the play areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Large sports ground, would benefit from improved access and signage/information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Park &amp; Garden. The site has good boundaries and a range of tree planting. The site is fairly inaccessible as it has no paths. The site also has a play area but it requires upgrading. The equipment is dated and has no clear access to it. The site has the potential to be a very good formal park with investment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Large woodland area, access unclear - potential to make more accessible and provide community woodland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Large natural green space (common). The site is vast, greater signage from urban area is required to find site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Natural green space next to industrial/office estate. Requires access paths, seas for workers and more signage for public use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Large informal site. Needs overall improvement, particularly play, entrances and signs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Large sports facility. Potential to improve access to and within site. Signage/information required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Natural Greenspace. Large area. Needs improvements to entrances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Recreation Ground with limited public access. The site has a club house, which operates as an active community day centre. High quality football pitches and a semi natural landscaped area. The site has tennis courts, but they require significant investment to be brought back to use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Large natural green space (common). The site is vast, greater signage from urban area is required to find site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Natural greenspace, needs better access and signage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Large area of natural greenspace with football pitches, scrub land, river. Needs signage, information. Management plan required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Park and recreation ground. The site has a number of football pitches, a youth shelter, a play area, a hard court area and is linked to a cemetery. The site has good access points, but has no internal paths, which makes the site hard to access. The site requires paths, signage and new play area. There is potential to sell part of the site for housing and reinvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Large natural green space which requires greater signage along internal paths due to its size.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Natural and semi natural green parkland. The site is a very good natural green space. It has signage, paths, ponds, benches and is well maintained. The site is linked to Ashford Rugby Club. Natural play areas could be introduced to add to the park’s facilities and public attraction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Large natural green space, which requires greater signage along internal paths due to its size.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Golf course next to industrial estate. Limited public access. Requires signage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Ref</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Informal space in housing areas, also see 71, 72, 49, 54. Sites offer little other than grass, and have potential to be rationalised with a focus on improving one or two of the sites. Alternatively, the sites appear to be in an area lacking access to provision for children and young people, and allotments (for example). They might be considered for such use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Amenity open space with no facilities. Part of the site could be used for housing as access is very good. On the other hand, the area does appear to lack convenient access to many of the identified categories of open space, and therefore has potential to meet such needs. It could be redeployed as a small park, natural space, community garden/allotment etc. Children and young people’s provision is also lacking in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 7</td>
<td>Inaccessible scrubland - potential for alternative use. There may be scope to release some of this land for development. On the other hand some of these sites might be suited to allotment provision, a small park etc. Parts of the wider area also appear to lack convenient access to children and young people’s provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 9</td>
<td>On the face of it the sites appear fairly inaccessible, and are of poor quality. There may be scope to use at least part for development. On the other hand, both sites are close to recent and future planned development, and may help to meet the open space of future residents in particular. They are both of a size to accommodate good multifunctional and equipped space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Park and recreation ground. The site has a number of football pitches, a youth shelter, a play area, a hard court area, and is linked to a cemetery. The site has good access points, but has no internal paths, and this makes the site hard to access. The site requires paths, signage and a new play area. There may be potential to sell a small part of the site for housing and re-invest in the remainder of the park.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural area

Where appropriate, specific comments and observations on provision in the rural parishes are included with the relevant parish maps and charts over the following pages. However, some general observations are:

- Overall the quality of spaces is better in the rural area compared with the situation in Ashford Urban area.
- There are exceptions to this general picture in relation poor playing surfaces and low quality (or non existent) changing accommodation on recreation grounds where they are used regularly for sport.
- There are a few locations where play equipment is unattractive and requires improvement/upgrading.
- Matters relating to Quantity of and Access to provision are included on the parish maps and charts.
1.5 The future

The urban area of Ashford is subjected to major planned expansion over the next two decades. Whilst the total allocations have been determined, the specific locations for new development have yet to be finalised. Nevertheless, the map and accompanying notes identify the general anticipated locations, together with an indication of additional open space requirements generated by the development when the recommended standards are applied. (The areas in purple are the current local plan allocations, some of which will be wholly or partly built out.)

In the larger development sites it may be possible to include certain open space provision ‘on site’. However, contributions might also be sought for the open space ‘off site’, where it can be demonstrated (using the Access component of the recommended standards) that such space will be within easy reach of residents.

1.6 The parishes

The following maps and charts indicate the general findings of the study in the rural area.
Population: 981

Parish Council view: Insufficient provision for teenagers

Most used space: Reynolds Playing Field

Other points raised by parish council: New children's playground and amenity space to be provided in former prison site under Section 106 agreement.

General comments: Quality of provision is generally high and access good. There is a large area of informal greenspace (Quarry) which would benefit from natural planting, seating/picnic benches (for example).
Population: 754

Parish Council view: Improved teenage provision.

Most used space: Recreation Ground, The Street.

Other points raised by parish council: No questionnaire returned.

General comments: Quality of provision is generally high and access good. There is a natural greenspace behind the community hall which would benefit from improved access. Provision for teenagers is lacking. There is a managed countryside site outside the village to the north, which is well used. The allotments lack mains water supply.
Population: 1443

Parish Council view: no questionnaire received.

Most used space: likely to be recreation ground and play area.

Other points raised by parish council: No questionnaire returned.

General comments: quality of provision is generally considered to be good and there is a good range of open space types. However, play and teenage provision is concentrated in the north east of the village and not within easy reach of other parts. An appropriate location for additional play provision would be near the school.
Population: 2434

Parish Council view: improved teenage provision.

Most used space: “Children’s Play Areas and football pitches”

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: quality of provision is generally good, although children’s play equipment could be improved. Provision for teenagers is lacking.
Population: 109

Parish Council view: insufficient provision for teenagers.

Most used space: Reynolds Playing Field (Aldington).

Other points raised by parish council: new children’s playground and amenity space to be provided in former prison site under Section 106 agreement.

General comments: this small parish is sparsely populated and is therefore reliant on neighbouring villages for facilities.
Population: 1099

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned.

General comments: the populated part of this parish falls within the Ashford Urban areas and is therefore covered by comments in that part of the report.
Population: 1442

Parish Council view: insufficient provision for teenagers, Insufficient football pitches, insufficient MUGAs.

Most used space: “Playing field and children’s playground/village green”.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: provision is this parish must be considered in conjunction with that in neighbouring Smeeth Parish. Provision of play facilities and the recreation ground (In Smeeth) is poorly related to much of the residential area, where the informal greenspaces offer scope for provision closer to home.
Population: 307

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned.

Most used space: Brook Recreation Ground and Play Area.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: the quality, quantity and accessibility of key forms of open space are all considered to be good.
Population: 843

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned.

Most used space: unknown

Other points raised by parish council: None

General comments:

PLAY AREA AND SPORTS GROUND MISSING
Population: 2694

Parish Council view: insufficient MUGAs, poor quality changing facilities, insufficient provision for teenagers, shortage of footpaths and routes.

Most used space: Piquets for the under 12s and the Arthur Baker Field for sports facilities.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: the quality, quantity and accessibility of key forms of open space are all considered to be good. There is some dysfunctional informal space; notably, the “picnic area”. The nature conservation area next to the recreation ground is in a process of gradual improvement.
Population: 1595

Parish Council view: insufficient MUGAs and insufficient provision for teenagers.

Most used space: parish recreation ground.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: the quality, quantity and accessibility of key forms of open space are all considered to be good, although youth provision could be improved in the south of the parish.
**Population:** 168

**Parish Council view:** no questionnaire returned.

**Most used space:** N.A.

**Other points raised by parish council:** N.A.

**General comments:** a very sparsely populated parish offering little scope for provision.
Population: 119

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned

Most used space: N.A.

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: a very sparsely populated parish offering little scope for provision. The parish fringes the urban area.
Population: 1104

Parish Council view: 11 to 14 year olds.

Most used space: recreation ground and Green on the Glebe

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: There appears to be a good range and distribution of open space, including for teenagers, although the parish council’s concerns about provision are noted. The pavilion on the sports field is in need of improvement or replacement.
Population: 366

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned.

Most used space: N.A.

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: a very sparsely populated parish offering little scope for provision.
Population: 4206

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned.

General comments: the populated part of this parish falls within the Ashford Urban areas and is therefore covered by comments in that part of the report.
Population: 226

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned

Most used space: N.A.

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: although there is a recreation ground/sports field there does not appear to be any play facilities for children, which is a noticeable omission. This is a very rural and sparsely populated parish.
Population: 1463

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned.

Most used space: likely to be recreation ground/sports field and related play provision.

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: the main settlement has a good range and distribution of open space type that is of reasonable quality.
Population: 210

Parish Council view: no questionnaire returned.

Most used space: N.A.

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: this is a very rural and sparsely populated parish with no single cohesive settlement.
**Population:** 239

**Parish Council view:** insufficient provision for children and teenagers.

**Most used space:** village green (for cricket and casual recreation).

**Other points raised by parish council:** none.

**General comments:** there is no play provision within the main village, other than small and temporary items in a small paddock to the rear of the village hall. The Village Green would be an appropriate location for such provision due to remoteness from village core, and a central location would be required. Overall the space available is very attractive, and well maintained.
Population: 1058

Parish Council view: insufficient football pitches; insufficient MUGAs, poor quality play areas; insufficient provision for teenagers; shortage of footpaths/routes, and wildlife areas.

Most used space: village green and Junior Playing Field (although the latter is underused).

Other points raised by parish council: the parish council would like to have a licence/lease to manage the rail link cut and cover (Eurostar Meadow) to create a wildflower meadow/informal recreation area and to provide a footpath link between Church Road and the existing footpath network.

General comments: all provision is of a reasonable quality, although play facilities at the Junior Playing Field could be improved. There is no youth provision in the parish which is a noticeable omission.

Generally, the Junior Playing Field is well located to attract greater use if it were improved and re-equipped.
**Population:** 249

**Parish Council view:** no provision required due to nature of parish/population.

**Most used space:** natural spaces (e.g. woods).

**Other points raised by parish council:** none.

**General comments:** this is a very rural and sparsely populated parish.
Population: 193

Parish Council view: no provision required due to nature of parish/population.

Most used space: sports field (Recreation Ground).

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: provision and coverage appears reasonable for a parish and settlement of this size.
Population: 1281

Parish Council view: no response received.

Most used space: Likely to be the recreation ground and play areas.

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: Hamstreet is the settlement in the parish. There is generally a good range and coverage of open space in this settlement. However, provision for teenagers appears to be lacking.
Population: 1050

Parish Council view: insufficient football and cricket pitches, MUGAs. Poor quality play area, insufficient teenage provision. Insufficient wildlife areas.

Most used space: recreation ground and footpaths through adjoining audiences.

Other points raised by parish council: more space required so that football and cricket can be played in the parish.

General comments: the general level and range of provision is good for a settlement of this size. However, the recreation ground is very constrained for the activities the parish council would like to encourage (see above).
Population: 1495

Parish Council view: poor quality football pitches and changing accommodation. Poor quality play areas, insufficient teenage provision.

Most used space: recreation ground (Benenden Road) and play areas.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: the general level and range of provision is good, but there is no teenage provision. In addition the pitch playing surfaces are of rather low quality, and lack (good) changing accommodation.
Population: 727

Parish Council view: no response received.

Most used space: likely to be recreation grounds.

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: there are two informal recreation fields to serve the dispersed population of this parish. However, there does not appear to be any equipped provision for either children or teenagers.
Population: 318

Parish Council view: (see for Mersham)

Other points raised by parish council: (See for Mersham).

General comments: the populated part of this parish falls within the Ashford Urban Area and is therefore covered by comments in that part of the report.
Population: 1135

Parish Council view: poor quality football pitches and changing accommodation. Poor quality and insufficient play areas, insufficient teenage provision.

Most used space: recreation ground and play areas.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: there is reasonable basic coverage and spread of open space, but quality is poor in respect of the playing pitch surface and changing accommodation. The provision for children and young people is also basic.

This is a linear settlement and there is no ideal central location for provision.
Population: 1122

Parish Council view: changing accommodation requires improvement.

Most used space: recreation ground and play areas.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: there is good range and distribution of provision, including a small skateboard park. The changing accommodation would benefit from improvement.
Population: 845

Parish Council view: insufficient MUGAs and provision for teenagers.

Most used space: playing field area

Other points raised by parish council: N.A.

General comments: provision in Smeeth also provides for the adjoining settlement of Brabourne. The latter is not well served spatially in terms of play provision, and there is no provision for teenagers in either Smeeth or Brabourne.

There is a small area of woodland in the centre of the village with informal access, although its status is unclear.

Generally, the quality of provision is reasonable.
Population: 393

Parish Council view: provision for children should could be improved

Most used space: the cricket field.

Other points raised by parish council: none

General comments: this is a rural and sparsely populated parish. Provision is centred on the cricket field where there is also a play area, which could be of better quality. There is no provision for teenagers.
Population: 7613

Town Council view: the council feels there is insufficient provision across a range of facilities including playing pitches, bowls, children and teenage provision, footpaths and wildlife areas. The council considers this could be compounded with additional development.

Most used space: recreation grounds and play areas

Other points raised by town council: as above.

General comments: overall, provision is generally of good quality. However, the distribution of provision for teenagers and children in particular does not provide town wide coverage.

There should be opportunities to improve and sign footpath links to the surrounding woodlands and countryside.
Population: 374

Parish Council view: no response received.

Most used space: sports field (Recreation Ground)

Other points raised by parish council: unknown, although the Military Canal runs through the parish.

General comments: this is a small and sparsely populated parish. There could be scope to provide some play equipment on the informal greenspace in the main hamlet.
Population: 740

Parish Council view: children's play facilities could be improved and there is no provision for teenagers.

Most used space: playing fields and play area.

Other points raised by parish council: none.

General comments: this parish fringes the Ashford Urban Area. However, provision in the Town is outside easy walking distance from the village of Westwell. There is no provision for teenagers within the village, and some upgrading of the children’s play area would be desirable.
Population: 1143

Parish Council view: insufficient MUGAs and provision for teenagers.

Most used space: playing fields and play area.

Other points raised by parish council: supporting letter from the parish council emphasises the lack of provision for teenagers.

General comments: this relatively large village has a range of open spaces. However, there is no provision for teenagers. The Coronation Field is in need of improvement for informal recreation and would be an appropriate location for a youth facility.

The Common would also benefit from some appropriate landscaping and planting.
Population: 1824

Parish Council view: insufficient for teenagers.

Most used space: the village green.

Other points raised by parish council: apart from provision for teenagers, provision is good- formal and informal recreation on the village green, but also lots of public rights of way and woods.

General comments: this relatively large village has a range of open spaces. However, there is no provision for teenagers. It is also noted that pitch sports are played on the village green, and there is no recognised recreation ground. Dedicated provision for outdoor sport could be worth considering.

Overall the quality of open spaces is considered to be good.
**Population:** 2405

**Parish Council view:** The council feels there is insufficient provision across a range of facilities including playing pitches, bowls, children and teenage provision, footpaths and wildlife areas. The council considers this could be compounded with additional development.

**Most used space:** likely to be recreation grounds and play facilities.

**Other points raised by parish council:** the village has a demographically varied and culturally diverse population with many students, and this needs to be reflected in terms of the recreation provision.

**General comments:** this relatively large village has a range of open spaces. However, there is no provision for teenagers. Provision for recreation grounds/outdoor sport is possibly distorted by the inclusion of the Imperial College sportsground which the parish council does not believe to be sufficiently available for community use.

This parish fringes the Ashford Urban Area. However, provision in the Town is outside easy walking distance from the village.

Overall the quality of open spaces is considered to be good.