



OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY FOR WEST MERSEA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

THIS REPORT UNDER CONSTRUCTION June 2018 to November 2020

The yellow highlighted sections are subject to removal or amendments.

This report is based on the

COLCHESTER PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY - November 2007

which was prepared for the whole of the Colchester District and some of the analysis is included within this report to give the Borough wide context.

The specific data extracts relating to the Borough report are normally shown in Italics though out the document.

Maps remain to be updated to reflect alteration and corrections since Nov 2007

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The study

- 1.1 As part of the Neighbourhood Plan a study has been undertaken to audit and assess the open space, sport and recreation in the Parish of West Mersea, with also some references to the whole Island of Mersea as one unit. In accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide (September 2002). The assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities was undertaken alongside a playing pitch assessment, which considers provision of football, cricket, rugby and hockey pitches in more detail.
- 1.2 The study includes an audit of all open space provision providing a clear vision, priorities for existing and future open space and a direction for the allocation of future resources.
- 1.3 The prime objectives of the study are to:
 - provide a robust assessment of the demand for open space and recreation facilities throughout the Town of West Mersea and Island, addressing issues of quantity, quality and accessibility
 - provide an analysis of identified surpluses or deficiencies and other issues of provision
 - provide clear recommendations for the setting of locally derived quantitative and qualitative standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - provide evidence for the Colchester Borough Council's emerging Local Plan and West Mersea's Neighbourhood Plan
 - inform the preparation of planning policies in the Local Development Framework
- 1.4 *Colchester Borough is in north east Essex and is bordered by the districts of Babergh, Braintree, Maldon and Tendring. The Borough covers an area of 33,375 hectares. The main town is Colchester plus Tiptree in the south west and West Mersea, which covers 1,061 hectares, to the south and Wivenhoe to the south east.*
- 1.5 *The population of the Borough is 155,796 (2001 census) 173,074 @2011. The borough is a mix of urban and rural areas hence the average population density 5.25 per hectare (ppha) compared to the East of England average of 2.7 ppha and England average of 3.77 ppha. West Mersea 7,183 population @ 2011 census which equates to 6.77 persons per ha.*

Why public open space?

- 1.6 Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) states that well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are fundamental to delivering broader government objectives, which include:
- supporting an urban renaissance
 - supporting a rural renewal
 - promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
 - promoting health and well being
 - promoting sustainable development
 - relieving recreational pressures on sensitive European Natura 2000 sites e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- 1.7 Open space and recreation provision in the Parish has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of these objectives.

Function and benefits of open space

- 1.8 Open spaces can provide a number of functions within the urban fabric of towns and villages. For example the provision for play and informal recreation, a landscaping buffer within and between the built environment and a habitat for the promotion of biodiversity.
- 1.9 Each type of open space has various functions. For example allotments for the growing of produce, play areas for children's play and playing pitches for formal sports activities. Open space can additionally perform a secondary function, for example outdoor sports facilities have an amenity value in addition to facilitating sport and recreation.
- 1.10 There is a need to provide a balance between different types of open space in order to meet local needs. Not all residents' needs in particular areas will show a demand for open space in the form of playing pitches or allotments, for example. Some areas may have specific local demand for 'green corridor' sites, such as nature walks or bridleways, instead.
- 1.11 Changing social and economic circumstances, changing work and leisure practices, more sophisticated consumer tastes and higher public expectations have placed new demands on open spaces. They have to serve more diverse communities and face competition from various developers including sport and leisure. Open spaces can also promote community cohesion, encourage community development and stimulate partnerships between the public and private sector.
- 1.12 Parks and open spaces are accessible to a wider range of people than some sport and leisure facilities so may be better able to realise the aims of social inclusion and equality of opportunity. The provision of open spaces and recreation is key to a sustainable and thriving community.
- 1.13 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality 'public realm' facilities such as parks and open spaces can assist in the promotion of an area as an attractive place to live and can result in a number of wider benefits. These are highlighted in Appendix A.

National Policy Context: Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17): Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation & Assessing Needs and Opportunities - PPG17 Companion Guide

- 1.14 PPG17 states that local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities (paragraph 1).
- 1.15 It also states that local authorities should undertake audits of existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs, and opportunities for new open space and facilities (paragraph 2).

- 1.16 Paragraph 5 states that “The Government expects all local authorities to carry out assessments of needs and audits of open space and recreational facilities” and that “local authorities should use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their areas”.
- 1.17 The policy guidance sets out priorities for local authorities in terms of:
- assessing needs and opportunities – undertaking audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities
 - setting local standards
 - maintaining an adequate supply of open space
 - planning for new open space.
- 1.18 The Companion Guide sets out the process for undertaking local assessments of needs and audits of provision. It also:
- indicates how councils can establish the needs of local communities and apply provision standards
 - promotes a consistent approach across various types of open space.
- 1.19 The NP Group have followed the recommendations of PPG17 throughout the study. In following these recommendations, this study has the potential to make a difference to the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in West Mersea.

Need for local assessments

- 1.20 This assessment of open space and local needs will enable the Neighbourhood Plan to:
- plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space
 - ensure an adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet the needs of the local community
 - ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need
 - conduct Section 106 negotiations with developers from a position of knowledge with evidence to support such negotiations.
- 1.21 Where no assessment exists, developers can undertake their own independent assessment to demonstrate that open space is surplus to requirements. It is therefore desirable for the NP to have robust data to protect and provide for additional open space within the Parish, if found necessary.

Structure of the report

- 1.22 The report is split into 16 sections. Section 2 sets out the methodology for undertaking the study. Section 3 sets out the strategic context to provide the background and context to the study. Section 4 provides a brief summary of the consultation undertaken, while some of the key themes are drawn out within each typology section.
- 1.23 Sections 5-15 relate to each of the typologies identified within the scope of the report. Each typology chapter sets out the strategic context to that particular typology, the recommended quantity, quality and accessibility standards and the applications of these standards through the geographical areas and value assessments. These are not applicable to all typologies.
- 1.24 There are also a number of appendices that support the report and are referenced throughout.

SECTION 2

UNDERTAKING THE STUDY

Introduction

- 2.1 This study was undertaken in accordance with PPG17 and its Companion Guide. The Companion Guide suggests ways of undertaking such a study. It emphasises the importance of undertaking a local needs assessment as opposed to following national trends and standards. The four guiding principles in undertaking a local assessment are:
- (i) local needs will vary even within local authority areas according to socio-demographic and cultural characteristics
 - (ii) the provision of good quality and effective open space relies on effective planning but also on creative design, landscape management and maintenance
 - (iii) delivering high quality and sustainable open spaces may depend on both improving and enhancing existing open space as well as providing new open space.
 - (iv) the value of open space depends primarily on meeting identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife and the environment.
- 2.2 PPG17 recognises that individual approaches appropriate to each local authority will need to be adopted as each area has different structures and characteristics. The resulting conclusions and recommendations of this study are therefore representative of the local needs of the Parish.

Types of open space

- 2.3 The overall definition of open space within PPG17 is:
“all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”
- 2.4 PPG17 identifies ten open space typologies. These categories include nine types of green space and one category of urban open space. This study adapts the standard classification to include the assessment of the following typologies:
- amenity green space
 - parks and gardens
 - natural and semi-natural open space
 - provision for children
 - provision for young people
 - outdoor sports facilities
 - allotments and community gardens
 - green corridors also beaches and coastal areas
 - churchyards and cemeteries
 - civic spaces
- 2.5 ‘Children and young people’s facilities’ has been split into ‘provision for children’ and ‘provision for young people’. This change is introduced to recognise the differing needs of young children and teenagers.
- 2.6 In addition, a supply and demand assessment for outdoor & indoor sports facilities was undertaken and an additional typology of beaches and coastal areas was introduced to recognise this as an important open space resource in the Borough. Full details of these typologies, their definitions and primary purpose are outlined in Appendix B.
- 2.7 The study takes into account open spaces provided, owned and managed by public and private organisations to provide an accurate picture of current provision.

2.8 The PPG17 companion guide sets out a five step process for undertaking a local assessment of open space. This process was followed in this study.

2.9 **PPG17 Five Step Process**

- STEP 1 Identifying Local Needs
- STEP 2 Auditing Local Provision
- STEP 3 Setting Local Standards
- STEP 4 Applying Local Standards
- STEP 5 Analysis & Drafting Policies

Step 1 - Identifying local needs

2.10 In order to identify local needs, a series of consultations were carried out. These included:

- Residential survey Appendix M (to capture the views of users and non users of open space)
- surveys to all identified sports clubs. Appendix L

2.11 Further details on the Step 1 process are included in Section Four.

Step 2 - Auditing local provision

2.12 The NP has carried out a thorough audit of open spaces within the Parish through desk research and site assessments. This included ensuring consistency between the open space typologies used in the Parish study against PPG17 typologies.

2.13 A total of 59 sites across the Mersea Island were identified through the audit. Where accessible, these sites were assessed on quantity, quality, accessibility and value using a scoring matrix. The site assessment matrix and definitions of the assessment categories can be found in Appendices H and I.

2.14 The set specific parameters for the inclusion of open spaces in this study to refine the audit process set out in the Companion Guide:

- sites were only included if circa 75% of their land was freely accessible to the public
- private sites were only included if access was expressly permitted by the landowner e.g. the Ministry of Defence (MOD) permit public access to some of their sites. For example, private woods were excluded, even if unfenced
- inaccessible sites that may provide visual benefits & limited access by boat for the local community have been considered.
- school outdoor sports facilities were only included if known dual-use community access is permitted.

2.15 Each open space site which met these criteria was then either physically measured and or measured on the Ordnance Survey Map at scale 1: 5000 and through Google Earth mapping.

2.16 This analysis enables individual sites or specific geographical locations to be examined in detail where necessary and updated at a later date.

Steps 3 & 4 - Setting and applying provision standards

2.17 From the analysis of the data collected and site ratings in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility and value of the sites, the NP is able to:

- determine a set of provision standards for each type of open space
- apply such standards for each type of open space
- identify gaps in provision across the different types of open space and therefore the areas of priority for improvement, re-designation or new provision.

2.18 Setting robust local standards based on assessments of need and audits of existing facilities will form the basis for addressing quantitative and qualitative needs through the planning process.

- 2.19 Further detail regarding the process for the setting and application of each type of provision standard is outlined in Appendix C.
- 2.20 The quantity calculator showing the levels of provision in each analysis area is provided in Section 16 summary

The use of analysis areas

- 2.21 The analysis has therefore been undertaken by type of open space, looking at different geographical areas of Mersea Island.
- 2.23 Mersea Island is made up of two Wards/Parishes, West Mersea and Pyefleet, with the majority of the Island's population residing in West Mersea. Additionally, the majority of the population of the ward of Pyefleet reside in the proportion of Pyefleet located on the mainland to the north of the Island. The Island of Mersea is generally perceived by local people as one whole area and any perceived open space deficiency issues is seen as an Island issue.
- 2.24 To enable Mersea Island to be analysed as a whole, one analysis area called 'Mersea' has been created, comprising of West Mersea and the section of Pyefleet- East Mersea Parish based on the eastern half of the Island. However actual areas have been identified as being outside the West Mersea Parish boundaries as they are beyond the Neighbourhood Plan area of plan.

Step 5 – Drafting policies - recommendations and strategic priorities

- 2.25 Application of the standards help to identify strategic priorities and recommendations for each typology. Step 5 has been carried out by the NP Group and forms part of this report.

SECTION 3

Strategic context

Introduction

- 3.1 It is important to consider the findings of the local needs assessment and audit within the local, regional and national context.
- 3.2 The following sets out the national, regional and local strategic context for West Mersea within the Colchester Borough Council District. Further national guidance is contained within ***Green Spaces, Better Places - The Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, DTLR (2002)***

National context

- 3.3 At the national level, Planning Policy Statement One states that:
'Planning should facilitate and promote sustainable and inclusive patterns of urban and rural development by protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities.'

Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)

- 3.4 Local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sport and recreational facilities. These assessments should cover the distinctive needs of the population for open space and built sports and recreational facilities.
- 3.5 When planning on developing new areas of open space, sports and recreational facilities, local authorities should:
- promote accessibility from walking, cycling and transport links
 - locate sites that will contribute to town centre viability and vitality
 - avoid loss of amenity to residents
 - improve the quality of the public realm through good design
 - look to produce areas of open spaces in industrial or commercial areas
 - improve the quality of existing facilities
 - consider the safety of the people using them, ie children
 - meet the regeneration needs of areas, therefore keeping greenfield sites untouched
 - consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses
 - assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion
 - consider the recreational needs of visitors and tourists.

Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation (2005)

- 3.6 Sport England's aims are for a larger proportion of the population to become involved in sport and provide more places to play sport. Sport England seeks to:
- develop and improve the knowledge and practice of sport and physical recreation in England
 - encourage and develop higher standards of performance and the achievement of excellence
 - foster, support and undertake the development of facilities
 - advise, assist and cooperate with other government departments and local authorities.
- 3.7 Sport England will provide advice on what type of sports facilities are needed for communities in the future. They will also advise on how to protect and improve the current stock of facilities, in particular protecting playing fields.
- 3.8 Sport England takes the definition of spatial planning as set out in Planning Policy Statements 1 (PPS1) as its starting point. This states that:
'Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.'

- 3.9 Sport England sees the planning of the spatial system as an opportunity to deliver its own aspirations for sport and recreation, whilst contributing to the goals of partners in public, private and voluntary sectors. With this there is the opportunity to deliver a planned approach towards the provision of facilities helping to reach sustainable development goals. These are:
- taking a broader view of the role of spatial planning as an enabling function which goes beyond the setting and delivery of land-use policy
 - identify opportunities for delivering an enhanced quality of life for communities, in the short, medium and longer term
 - recognising and taking full advantage of the unique ability of sport and active recreation to contribute to a wide array of policy and community aspirations
 - the development of partnership working stimulated by, and perhaps centred on, sport and active recreation as a common interest
 - using sport and recreation as one of the building blocks of planning and delivery of sustainable communities.

Colchester Borough Council Area context

- 3.16 The Draft Colchester Borough Local Plan currently provides the framework for the consideration of planning applications.
Draft Local Plan or Emerging Local Plan for Colchester Borough August 2017 for period to 2033

- 3.17 The Draft Local Plan sets out detailed planned policies to control future development. There are many policies within the plan which relate to the protection or provision of open spaces and sports facilities. These include:

- Policy SG7: Infrastructure Delivery and Impact Mitigation
- Policy SG8: Neighbourhood Plans
- Policy ENV1: Environment
- Policy ENV2: Coastal Areas
- Policy ENV3: Green Infrastructure
- Policy ENV5: Pollution and Contaminated Land
- Policy CC1: Climate Change
- Policy PP1: Generic Infrastructure and Mitigation Requirements
- Policy PPS8: Annex A & B Definitions of Open Space and NPFA Minimum Standards
- Policy PR1: Open Spaces
- Policy PR2: People-friendly streets
- Policy SS12a: West Mersea
- Policy SS12b: Coast Road, West Mersea
- Policy SS12c: Mersea Island Caravan Parks
- Policy DM1: Health and Wellbeing
- Policy DM2: Community Facilities
- Policy DM3: Education Provision
- Policy DM4: Sports Provision
- Policy DM5: Tourism, Leisure, Culture and Heritage
- Policy DM6: Economic development in rural areas and the countryside
- Policy DM15: Design and Amenity
- Policy DM16: Historic Environment
- Policy DM17: Retention of Open Space and Recreation Facilities
- Policy DM18: Provision of Public Open Space
- Policy DM20: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Changing Travel Behaviour
- Policy DM21: Sustainable Access to Development
- Policy DM22: Parking
- Policy DM23: Flood Risk and Water Management
- Policy DM25: Renewable Energy, Water, Waste and Recycling
- Policy DP15: CBC Development Policy October 2010 revised 2014
& Retention of Open Space and Indoor Sports Facilities
- Policy DP16: Private Amenity Space and Open Space Provision for New Residential Development
- Policy PPS: Colchester Borough Council Playing Field Strategy & Action Plan 2015-2025
- RAMS : Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy 2018-2038

- 3.18 Refer to Colchester's Draft Local Plan for full detail of these policies at www.colchester.gov.uk. Also see CBC Publication Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) Section Two – Habitat Regulation Assessment Report June 2017. This document lays out the effect of Recreation Disturbance to both the physical and birds. See also RAMS policy.
- 3.19 Also see Colchester Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) October 2017 sections 10, 11 & 12. The 2.83 hectare (7 acre) standard set applies to the whole Borough. However, due to the isolated nature of some settlements and potential difficulty in accessing open spaces in rural areas, this standard is applied to individual village settlements, of which there may be two or more in a single ward. In parallel with the 2.83 hectare standard, the CBC will aim for all the main town and village settlements to each have a multi-use recreation ground.
- 3.20 Under the IDP Document Section 106 contributions/CIL will be used to help provide, upgrade and maintain these areas. The standards are set out in Section 16 together with summaries of areas and definition. Also RAMS requires a monetary contribution of £122.30 per new dwelling.
- 3.21 A key outcome of this assessment is to update these standards in line with the typologies contained with PPG17 and based on an up to date audit and local needs assessment. This strategy will also inform relevant planning policies that will be contained within the emerging Local Development Framework and also West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan.

Colchester Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

Colchester Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan 2015 – 2025

- 3.22 A Parks and Green Spaces Strategy has been drafted and presented to the Policy Review Panel. The strategy emphasises the importance of public space in terms of economic value, health benefits, children and young people, community safety and community cohesion. The strategy will provide a framework for the planning and development of new and existing green spaces, relating use to management and maintenance and setting out a plan for greater community involvement. When finalised it will consolidate parks and green space planning into one overall strategy in accordance with CABE Space guidelines.
- 3.23 The Draft Parks and Green Spaces Strategy positions open space in a national and local context and sets out a variety of policies that underpin existing and future provision. Funding is an essential factor to sustain maintenance and the presence of a clear adopted strategy strengthens the Council's position for requesting appropriate maintenance contributions to retain standards and attracting external funding to support the provision or enhancement of green space.
- 3.24 Policies are set out under the headings of quantity and quality and endorse the position that good quality green spaces are an essential element of urban neighbourhoods and make a profound contribution to the quality of life of communities. Quality green spaces make a vital contribution to delivering our ambitions of being a prestigious regional centre.
- 3.25 The Draft Strategy will be informed by the PPG17 findings and the locally agreed standards for quality and quantity. Consultation feedback will be further incorporated into the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy.

Colchester's Play Strategy

- 3.26 The importance of play in the lives of children, young people and their families has been recognised through a variety of studies. Appropriate play provision allows children to let off steam, build social relationships and challenge their own boundaries in a constructive way. Play is essential for children's healthy development and for community cohesion. To develop their competence and self confidence when becoming young people, children need the ability to meet up with friends, visit the local park or swimming pool or shops independently. Being able to have fun in public spaces and participate in cultural life is one of the hallmarks of a vibrant community.
- 3.27 The strategy was adopted in September 2007 and sets out a number of Play Strategy Statements to help deliver high quality play in a variety of forms. The strategy aims to maintain existing play areas along with securing new opportunities throughout the Borough. It also aims to obtain funding from developers and grants for improvements to existing areas for the benefit of the whole community.

Sports and Playing Pitch Strategy

- 3.28 This document provides a planning framework for the future development of pitches and ancillary facilities for the main pitch sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey. The Sports and Playing Field Development Plan was adopted on 8 April 2004 based on survey and evaluation undertaken in 2001.

Playground Development Plan

- 3.29 This document sets out policies, objectives and future plans for equipped playground provision in the Borough. It includes standards for provision, guidelines for design and maintenance of playgrounds and identifies areas of need for new facilities
- 3.30 The current Plan was adopted in January 2001 and is due for review. The review has been delayed due to the production of the Play Strategy which will help inform the provision and delivery of equipped play areas within the Borough.

Development Plan for Sport

- 3.31 This document sets out the strategic direction for the delivery of sport in Colchester, connecting a range of different activities into one comprehensive plan, linking community sport, sports development and facility planning/site development.
- 3.32 The plan identifies the key issues and priorities and sets the framework for managing performance. The plan was adopted by the Borough Council on 31 July 2003.

Local cultural strategy

- 3.33 The development of a local cultural strategy is seen as a key instrument to help focus the cultural agenda in Colchester and the surrounding area. The strategy covers the whole spectrum of cultural interests in the area, taking into account the activities of the voluntary and private sectors and other public agencies as well as the Borough Council and West Mersea Town Council, adopting the wider definition of culture as defined by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport including parks and green spaces, countryside, tourism and sport, as well as arts, museums and events
- 3.34 The local cultural strategy is a plan for the area not the Council. The local cultural strategy was adopted by the Borough Council on 21 May 2003.

SECTION 4

Consultation and assessment of need

Introduction

- 4.1 A series of consultations have been undertaken amongst both users and non-users across Mersea to establish the views on open space, sport and recreation provision.
- 4.2 Consultations were carried out with many organisations and individuals using various methods, including:
- **a household survey** – surveys were distributed to all households in Mersea via the Courier free newspaper and available on line. Summer 2017.
 - **a sports club surveys** – to all identified sports clubs in Mersea. From April 2017.
- 4.3 The information gained from these consultations has been used to inform the study and to help understand:
- the needs and requirements of local residents
 - the attitudes and expectations for open space
 - good and bad points about the existing provision
 - existing open space, sport and recreation provision at a strategic level
 - the key issues/problems facing the West Mersea Town Council and outside agencies.
- 4.4 The information collected through the consultation forms the basis of the recommended local standards.
- 4.5 Overleaf is a summary of how the consultations have been used to inform the study and where the information and statistics can be found relevant to quality, quantity and accessibility.

Household survey

- 4.6 The household survey is one of the most important features of the consultation, allowing households to comment on quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sport and recreation facilities, as well as providing the opportunity to comment on site-specific issues. It allows non-users to be consulted, as well as users.
- 4.7 A copy of the household survey can be found on NP web site, as well as full analysis of the result of the survey.
- 4.8 Specific questions in the household questionnaire feed into the standard setting process. For example, respondents were asked whether they consider there to be enough of each type of open space. They were also asked to explain their answer. This provides a sound, opinion-based basis for the quantity standards. It can be further analysed to assess, for example, whether a perceived lack of open space is really a need for better quality facilities or a need for additional facilities.
- 4.9 The full Analysis of the household survey results can be read in Mersea NP supporting documents.

Sports club survey

- 4.10 The sports club survey forms part of the information collected to inform standards and recommendations for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Surveys were sent to sports clubs on Mersea Island who use West Mersea facilities. 11 surveys were successfully completed and returned, accounting for the following types of sports clubs:
- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| • football (2) | • cricket (1) | • rugby junior (1) | • netball (0) | • bowls (2) |
| • martial arts (1) | • gymnastics (0) | • tennis (1) | • sailing (3) | • rowing (0) |
| • boarding and kyacking (0) | | | | |
- 4.11 A summary of the sports club survey responses can be found within the various areas concerning each sport or activity. For instance Football within Glebe Recreation area, Yacht Clubs within Civic Open Spaces and Board Sailing within Beach areas.

SECTION 5

Indoor sports facilities

Definition

- 5.1 An assessment of indoor facilities is slightly different to other PPG17 typologies in that specific demand modelling can be undertaken in line with Sport England parameters.
- 5.2 Alongside the main audit of open space, an audit of indoor sport and recreation facilities has been undertaken. This has included:
- sports halls – squash - badminton – carpet bowls – boxing – judo -
 - health & fitness
 - indoor bowls.

Supply and demand

Demand for facilities

- 5.3 Current demand for facilities has been assessed through desk research and a review of documents, demographic analysis and an analysis of consultation findings.
- 5.4 Mersea Island Community Association (MICA). From the West Mersea Residential Survey Questionnaire Question 47 Indoor Sport at MICA of the 76% of the people answering the questionnaire 78% never partake in the sports offered 18% do occasionally and 9% partake often.
- 5.5 Keep Fit/ Indoor Sport/ Exercise Question 47 of the 78% that answered the question 53% never partake, 23% partake occasionally and 23% partake often.
- 5.6 Bowls. Question 47 of 76% that answered 89% never partake, 3% occasionally partake and 7% partake often.

SECTION 6 Parks and Gardens

Introduction and definition

- 6.1 The PPG17 Companion Guide and the adopted definition for this study defines Parks and Gardens as urban parks, formal gardens and country parks that provide opportunities for various informal recreation and community events.
- 6.2 This type of open space often has a variety of functions and provides a wide range of benefits, e.g. ecological, educational, cultural and heritage, social inclusion and health benefits. Parks provide a sense of place for the local community, helping to address social inclusion issues within wider society and providing structural and landscaping benefits to the surrounding area. They also frequently offer ecological benefits, particularly in more urban areas, and social benefits associated with the interaction with the natural environment.
- 6.3 Many parks also provide sports pitches and facilities (although the actual pitch areas have been separately audited within the Outdoor Sports Facilities category). The provision of high quality local parks can be instrumental in the achievement of increased physical activity targets, ensuring that all residents are able to access local facilities for informal recreation – particularly walking.

Setting local standards

- 6.4 In setting local standards for this typology there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and the findings emerging through the consultation on local needs.
- 6.5 The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in Section 2. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices C, D and E. The recommended local standards and the justifications for these standards have been summarised below
- 6.6 These standards have then been applied to West Mersea in order to determine surpluses, deficiencies and priorities for action. This section deals with parks and gardens in isolation, although analysis in conjunction with other open space typologies (notably NSN and AGS sites) is necessary to give a more comprehensive picture of public open space provision.
- 6.7 The general questionnaire 42 indicated that out of the 87% who responded only 10% never went to Cudmore Grove. 62% went occasionally and 28% visited often.
- 6.8 West Mersea Park. Of the 83% that responded 53% never went there, 34% made occasional visits and 13% visited often. This possibly reflects the lack of knowing it exists, because the site is adjacent to the School Gardens play area and Skateboard park.

Quantity standard (see Appendix C – standards)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.128 hectares per 1000 population 5.07 Hectares if Cudmore Grove included	1.76 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is 0.128 ha per 1,000 population in West Mersea & for Mersea Island with Cudmore Grove included 5.07 ha .</p> <p>Despite locational deficiency, the responses from the household questionnaire indicate that there is a general satisfaction amongst the public as to the provision of formal park space in West Mersea. This suggests that the major parks are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them. This will enable the WMTC to focus on improvements to the quality of parks and gardens. Moreover, given the population growth that is anticipated to 2033, it will be important for the WMTC to enhance accessibility to existing parks and gardens – for example by improving routes to them, access points to the individual sites, as well as maintaining quality standards in the face of likely increasing visitor numbers as the population grows. Also stress on these areas from high growth rates elsewhere within the Borough and from the Garden Communities.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix D- standards)

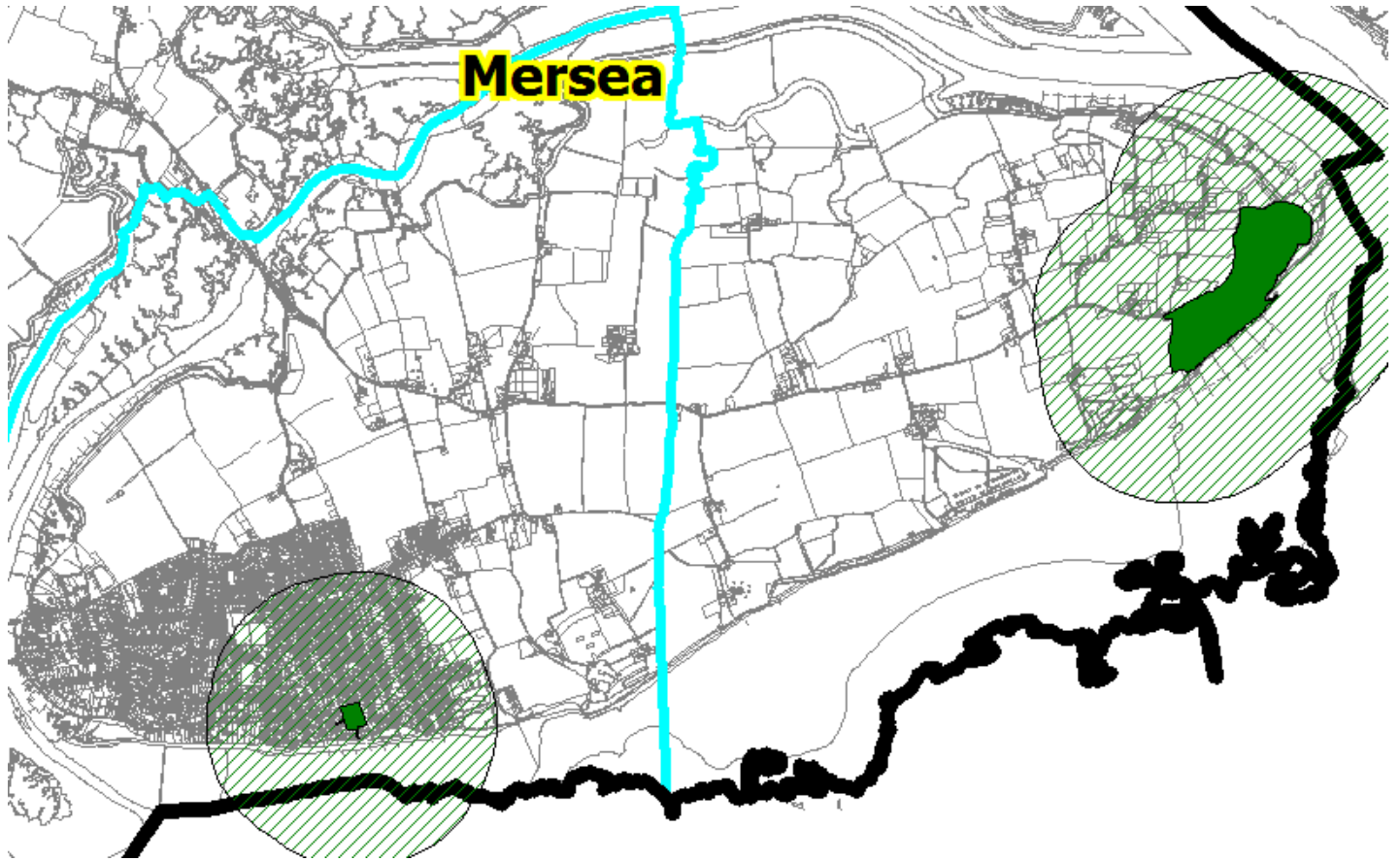
Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features: All parks to be maintained to Blue Flag standard. Implementation of Park Management Plans. All sites to be clean, well maintained and have good provision of flowers and trees.</p>	<p>Desirable features: All parks to achieve Blue Flag status. All new parks to be linked to other open spaces via cycle routes. Larger sites to provide well maintained toilet facilities.</p>
Justification	
<p>A quality standard has been devised which reflects both aspirations and concerns expressed through local consultations (as demanded by PPG17) and also the Blue Flag Award criteria (the national benchmark).</p> <p>In order to improve the quality of parks the WMTC must achieve a quality standard that will ensure consistency and high quality provision. Attractive, well-designed and well-maintained parks are key elements of good urban design and are fundamentally important in delivering places in which people want to live. The standard has been formulated to ensure that park provision is sustainable, balanced and ultimately achievable. The improvement of quality and accessibility to parks and the promotion of best practice sites such as Cudmore Grove (inclusion of Childrens' play area excepted) should increase local aspirations and encourage usage of parks.</p> <p>The most significant problem currently experienced at parks and gardens is their misuse. In many instances, play facilities are provided within existing parks and gardens. As a consequence, it could be argued that the achievement of the quality standard for these parks (and the delivery of high quality green spaces) will be influenced by the corresponding delivering of high quality play areas and sites for young people within them as addressed in Sections 5 and 6. Cudmore Grove installed a play area in summer of 2017 and it has changed both the type of usage and increased the number of users quite considerably. (road count numbers have shown about a 70% increase in vehicle numbers). However is this for the good of a natural park like Cudmore?</p>	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix E - standards)

Recommended standard
<p>15 minute urban walk time (960m) 15 minute rural drive time</p>
Justification
<p><i>From CBC study in 2007 "Household questionnaire responses indicated that people would be willing to travel up to 15 minutes to a park and garden, with the majority of people indicating a walk time rather than a drive time, except in the rural areas. The general perception (75% level) is that a travel time of up to 15 minutes is reasonable, a view that is reflected in both the urban and rural analysis areas. The majority of people in the rural areas indicated a preference for a drive time rather than a walk time.</i></p> <p><i>These findings reflect current patterns of behaviour for people using parks and gardens most frequently. 56% stated that they travel to parks and gardens on foot, with the 75th percentile falling in the 11-15 minutes category. A 15-minute urban walk time is in line with the majority of PPG17 accessibility standards set by PMP on similar projects for local authorities."</i></p> <p>It is important to seek to enhance the accessibility of all existing parks, for example by promoting new entrance points or better routes to them and/or information, publicity and signage.</p> <p>In terms of investigating the spatial distributions of unmet demand, the proposed park and garden standard should be considered in the context of other open space standards set. Those living with access to alternative open space sites may not necessarily need access to a formal park. This could be the case for those living on the Western end of Island who have access to the Beach areas and open spaces around the sea front.</p>

PICTURE OF MERSEA PARK

6.7



The above map needs updating & Cudmore Grove size is bigger!

6.8 For the purposes of this study, the following three sites have been identified as being parks and gardens:

ID No.	PLACE	SIZE	NOTES
19 to 22	Mersea Park & School Garden	0.938	Also contains Skate Park, Youth Play apparatus and Children's play equipment
50	<i>Cudmore Grove</i>	36.2	<i>Now includes as of 2017 a large children's play area</i>

- 6.9 In calculating the size of parks and gardens, other typologies that are located with the park, such as outdoor sports facilities and children and young people's facilities, have been included here only to give the total size (hectarage). They are separately accounted for in other typologies, thereby preventing the double counting of open space provision.
- 6.10 There is a deficiency of parks and gardens in Mersea. Mersea Park is the only official park and garden, provided within the town of West Mersea. The park's 15 minute walktime catchment area covers approximately 75% of the town. The area to the east of the town has no formal park provision, however it does have areas such Willoughby Open Space and the Beach area.
- 6.11 Cudmore Grove Country Park skews the quantity figures in Mersea. The overall provision of parks and gardens for the island is 5.07 hectares per 1000 people, significantly above the recommended standard of 1.76 hectares per 1000 people. In reality, Cudmore Grove is located on the south east corner of the island and can only conveniently be accessed by car or bicycle. If Cudmore Grove is excluded from the analysis the town of Mersea only has 0.938 hectares of parks and gardens (0.128 hectares per 1000 people).
- 6.12 Parks and gardens should be analysed in conjunction with amenity green spaces and natural and semi-natural sites that may have dual functionality. The level of natural and semi-natural land within Mersea (analysed in detail in Section 8) is possibly below the quantity provision recommended, This under provision of natural and semi-natural open space within Mersea is offset by the beach area together with Willoughby and the Esplanade area, which offers opportunities for informal recreation.
- 6.13 The level of amenity green space provided in West Mersea per 1000 people is above the average level of provision throughout the whole Borough.

SECTION 7

Amenity green space

Introduction and definition

- 7.1 This section relates to amenity green spaces and sets out the definition and background of the typology, strategic context, consultation and current provision. Recommended local standards have been established and applied. It also includes recommendations for the future development of amenity green space within West Mersea.
- 7.2 This type of open space is most commonly found in housing areas. It includes informal recreation spaces and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work, enhancing the appearance of residential or other areas. Amenity green space provides more of a visual amenity for older residents and a meeting place for young people.
- 7.3 There are a number of benefits in providing this type of open space including recreation value, a meeting place and/or focal point for communities. It is also important to recognise and take account of the secondary functions of amenity green space, in particular the visual benefits.
- 7.4 Amenity green spaces can play an integral role in increasing participation in physical activity across the parish, providing local opportunities to participate in activity and informal sport.

Quantity standard (see Appendix C – standards)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.51 hectares per 1000 population	1.1 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 1.51 hectares per 1000 population. The public opinion within the Borough regarding the level of provision of amenity green space across the Borough as a whole is fairly evenly split, with a slight majority stating that there is an undersupply. The major issues with regards to under provision relate to certain pocket areas (to be outlined shortly) where specific deficiencies exist. However when the two new housing developments take place this will add some 8 hectares of open space most of which will be AGS, bringing the level to about 2.34 hectares per 1000.</p> <p>The recommended standard has been set at 1.1 hectares per 1000 population. This is to reflect the slight undersupply perceived by the public and the significant population growth expected in Colchester by 2032. Public consultation revealed that residents are concerned about insufficient levels of accessible open space provided in new developments so an increased amenity provision standard is required to address this perception. Indeed the 2017 village survey indicated that amenity green space was about right.</p> <p>This will enable the Town Council to focus on improvements to the quality of sites, as well as focus on specific areas of deficiency to ensure that each area fulfils a role that is complementary to the surrounding green space network.</p>	

Quality Standard (see Appendix D - standards)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features: Sites should be clean and litter free with adequate bin provision. Grass should be well maintained. Sites should be free from graffiti.</p>	<p>Desirable features: Sites should have good lighting and appropriate seating provision. Where appropriate, character must be maintained within sites. Sites should be linked to other open spaces by walking and cycling routes.</p>
Justification	
<p>Provision of amenity green space needs to be considered in the context of parks and gardens, to ensure that they are complimentary to the wider green space network and increasing their level of usage. For this reason, it is particularly important for larger sites to contain informal play opportunities and for smaller sites to provide an important visual amenity function and promote a sense of ownership.</p> <p>Amenity green spaces can serve an important function in urban areas, breaking up the urban fabric. As a consequence, one of the important aspects in the vision is for a spacious outlook. The standard incorporates both public and council aspirations and has been designed to promote best practice encouraging informal play where sites are large enough.</p>	

Accessibility standard (see Appendix E - standards)

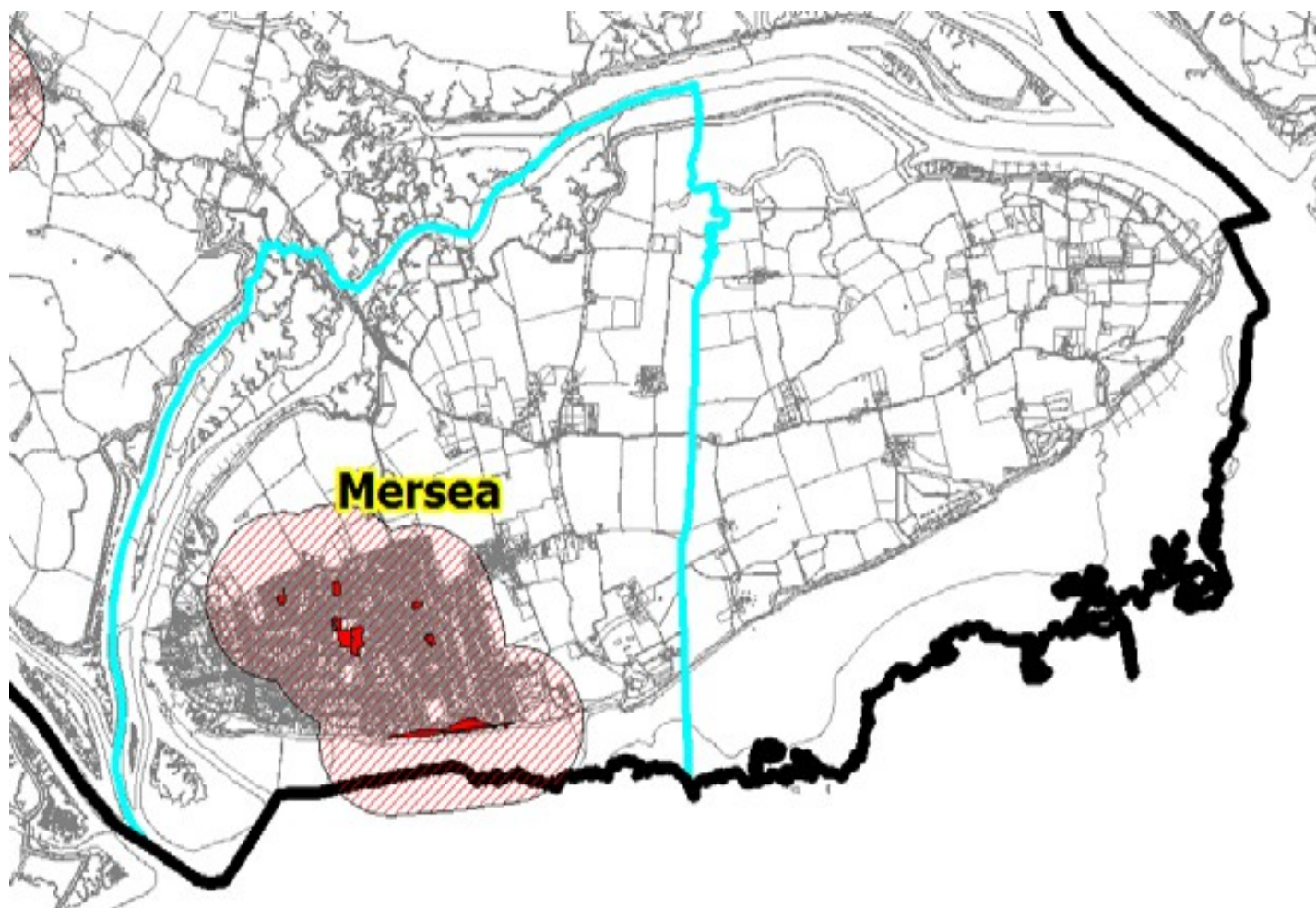
Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m) equivalent of 1.79 mph
Justification
<p><i>Given the large emphasis on walking rather than driving in terms of the expectations of respondents in 2007 it is suggested that a walking standard is set. The expressed desire for local amenity green space supports the perception that a standard based on travelling on foot is most appropriate. This is true for both urban and rural areas, where amenity green space is deemed to be necessary within a 10 minute walk time. However it can be observed that at some of the bigger green spaces a number of vehicles are driven to these locations to walk dogs as well as just walk.</i></p> <p><i>In the absence of other forms of open space, sport and recreation provision within close proximity to residents, the value of localised amenity green spaces is particularly important. Applying a strict walk time will highlight real priority areas of deficiency. Furthermore, whilst having a smaller distance threshold can reveal a larger number of accessibility deficiencies, within these areas the provision of alternative forms of open space can often substitute for provision of informal amenity green spaces and new amenity green spaces will not also be a priority in these areas. A smaller accessibility catchment area is also appropriate for the Town of West Mersea and will ensure all residents have local access to some type of open space, facilitating delivery of increased participation. The importance of local provision to break up the urban landscape should not be underestimated.</i></p>

- 7.5 The overall quantity of amenity green space in Mersea meets the recommended standard at 1.1 ha per 1,000.
- 7.6 The open space at Barfield Road is deemed to be very important to the town, as it forms the major open space site for most residents, both in terms of quantity and accessibility, as it is located centrally and provides for many activities for both young and old.
- 7.7 The location of the amenity green space sites means that they are not accessible to all residents of the Town. The Table below show that the western edge of the island does not have much access to open space, mainly being the older part of the Town which originally did not require specific Amenity Areas. However it does have access to the waterfront area and St. Peters Well village green.

Current Position and Quantity of Amenity Green Spaces

No.	SITE NAME	AREA Ha.	NOTES
2	Open Space	2.12	Areas around playing pitches
2a	<i>Glebe 3</i>	5.2	<i>Allocated land for sport pitch, car park and AGS</i>
3	Open Space middle of Wellhouse Green	0.045	For the houses around has some shrubs and seating
4	Open Space mid Seaview Avenue	0.076	Grassed area with single Oak Tree in middle with PF 31 around northern and western perimeter.
5	Fairhaven Avenue open space	0.060	Grassed Area with some shrub beds and seating
6	Old Putting Green - Victoria Esplanade	0.422	Was a Putting Green now just a grass area with seating and shelter
7	Victoria Esplanade Car Park	0.838	A tarmac road runs around the area which is all grassed for car parking
8	Beach Hut Area	1.874	Actual 600 beach huts excluded.
10	Gainsborough Close Open Space	0.256	Estate grass open area
11	Oakwood Avenue Open Space	0.231	Estate grass open area
12	Oakwood Avenue Open Space	0.276	Large area of grass verge cul de sac
14	Chatsworth Road Open Space	0.411	Estate grass area
15	Whittaker Way Open Space	0.293	Estate grass area
16	Strood Close Open Space	0.079	Estate grass area
17	Green Space Upland Road	0.098	Ex Council house estate grass area
20	School/Legion Field	----	Area in OSF list as also used as Hockey Pitch
21	Youth Field/Village Green	1.050	Area around not used by Skate and playground
23	Open Space Sensory Garden Melrose Road	0.025	A triangle grass area with seats and sensory garden around edge, also area opposite.
28	Churchfields Open Space	0.05	Ex Council house estate grass area
29	Village Green Top section of St. Peter's Well	0.627	Registered Village Green VG185. with footpaths and greenswards and marsh beyond noted under NSN areas.
30	Village Green in front of Parish Church High Street	0.030	Small green with benches and the Town's War Memorial
35	Broomhills Greensward	0.074	Small area at the end of the Esplanade
36	Willoughby Open Space	0.76	Areas around the car park and to east of the site
36	Willoughby Car Park	0.70	Grass car park unmarked and picnic area.
44	<i>Brierley Paddocks</i>	3.1	<i>Proposed amenity area as part of the new estate</i>
47	Seaview Avenue Car Park	0.268	Top area grassed area suitable for picnics
55	Water Ski Club Site	0.212	Leased land from CBC
56	Greensward Glebe corner	0.063	Visual amenity grass area with some planting
58	Firs Road Cemetery o/s Green	0.105	Grass area at the entrance to the cemeteries
	TOTAL	11.042	+ 5.2 + 3.1 = + 8.3 with Glebe3 and Brierley

Figure 7.8 Amenity green space accessibility in Mersea



This map needs updating

ID No.29

St Peters Well meadow this top section above the marsh area and up to the footway beside Coast Road is all part of the VG 185 and SSSI. In 2014 a new Bridleway was created at the bottom of the grass bank running from Boardwalk at the western end to the footpath by the Monkey steps some 349m with help of Natural England. The pathway used re-cycled plastic where required and a 17m stairway was created halfway along opposite St Peters Road up to Coast Road and 3 information boards were installed and sign posting. There is a covered well at the eastern end which used to provide the water for a most of the Island in days past.

ID No. 2a & 44

The extension to Glebe2 from the building of the new Dawes Lane development will see some 5.2 hectares of new open space some will be required for another football pitch to replace a lost one on Glebe1. The rest of the area will be available for car parking and amenity recreation area. The completion of Brierley Paddocks estate will see an additional 3.1 hectares of open space some will be a new children's playground whilst the remainder will be AGS.

SECTION 8

Natural and Semi-Natural areas

Introduction and definition

- 8.1 Natural and Semi Natural (NSN) open space includes woodlands, urban forestry, scrubland, grassland (eg downlands, commons, meadows, wetlands, nature reserves and wastelands) with the primary purpose of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Picture of St. Peter's Well Meadow



Context

- 8.2 *59.7% of residents indicated that they use NSN areas more than once a month and 30.7% indicated that they use the sites at least once a month. These results mirror closely the results for parks and gardens. This reflects the number of NSN sites that exist within the Borough, as well as the rural nature of much of the Borough's land. Also, given the strategic importance and popularity of High Woods Country Park, it is quite possible that respondents may have viewed parks and gardens usage as being the same as, or similar to, that of NSN sites.*
- 8.3 *Consultation highlighted that there was generally a good supply of NSN areas in Colchester Borough, but that the rapid growth of the town is a threat to their continued presence. Outside of the suburban woodland areas, such as Layer Wood and Friday Wood, the Essex Wildlife Trust has nine Nature Reserves in Colchester Borough (not all have been included in our study for the accessibility related reasons outlined earlier in this section). There are examples of large strategically important sites at Middlewick, Hilly Fields and Cymbeline Meadows and there are publicly accessible woods owned by the Woodland Trust and the National Trust such as Fordham Community Wood and Copt Hall.*
- 8.4 *Mersea has a particularly low level of NSN provision, however this analysis excludes Cudmore Grove Country Park as it is considered under the heading of park and garden, and excludes farmland which is prevalent on the island.*

- site assessment tells us there is significant variation in the quality of NSN sites in Colchester Borough. Each analysis area had a site that scored a score below 40%, and each had a site that scored above 74% (with the exception of Mersea, which had only two sites scoring 42.2% and 55.6% respectively)
- consultation told us the protection of nature reserves and access to nature was seen as important. Budget issues that impact on maintenance, and the ever-increasing suburbanisation of Colchester means rural natural areas are under threat. Increased public land acquisition was mooted as an important and effective way of addressing this issue
- site assessments suggest that the maintenance at some sites was poor, with fences not being repaired and paths overgrown. The major issues from both site assessment and household survey analysis are that in some instances there were either no formal paths or that paths were often worn through heavy usage
- consultation revealed that people valued the retention of the natural state of many NSN sites and feared fragmentation if sites were split into areas of woodland and areas of more amenable space suitable for recreation, for example. However, others also valued the potential for sites having multifunctional values, such as NSN surrounding outdoor sports facilities (OSF)

Current position – accessibility

- 8.5 The key issues arising from Table 8.3 above and the consultations are as follows:**
- the public perception of the quality of NSN sites is deemed to be good, with 95% of household respondents indicating the quality of NSN sites was either good or average
- 8.6** 48% of respondents across the Borough indicated that the preferred mode of transport was on foot. 63% people who use this open space type most frequently also travel by foot. Across the Borough, the 75th percentile expected travel time is 15 minutes, an opinion shared across all the analysis areas, however the 77th percentile expected travel time is 20 minutes.
- 8.7** Site assessment indicated that information and signage at NSN sites was poor. However, this is generally the case with NSN sites, and the lack of signage can be seen as a positive way of maintaining the wildlife-focussed nature of these sites.

Setting local standards

- 8.8** In setting local standards for natural and semi natural open spaces there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and the findings emerging through consultation on local needs.
- 8.9** The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in Section 2. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices C, D & E. The recommended local standards and the justifications for these standards have been summarised overleaf.
- 8.10** These standards have then been applied to the existing Colchester Borough provision in order to determine surpluses, deficiencies and priorities for action.

Quantity standard (see Appendix N – standards)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
6.14 hectares per 1000 population	5 hectares per 1000 population (excluding rural analysis area)
Justification	
<p>From the CBC November 2007 report: <i>Current provision across Colchester is equivalent to 9.83 hectares per 1000 population. However, this figure is heavily skewed by the rural analysis area that has 34.5 hectares per 1000 population. The rural analysis area, by its very nature, has many natural and semi-natural open space sites so setting a standard to be applied to urban and suburban areas based on the level of provision in rural areas is not realistic. Thus, we have recommended setting an urban quantity standard.</i></p> <p><i>The spread of natural and semi-natural provision across the Borough's 'urban' areas varies. The Urban South provides the highest levels of provision, 7.71 hectares per 1000 people, with Mersea providing the lowest, 0.47 hectares per 1000 people.</i></p> <p><i>The overall public opinion between provision being about right and insufficient is fairly evenly split with 53% of responders who expressed an opinion stating that the provision was about right or more than enough and 47%</i></p>	

stating that the provision was nearly enough or not enough.

Consultation highlighted public concerns regarding the loss of natural areas to development and the lack of open space provision provided with new developments. To address this imbalance, an urban standard of 5 hectares per 1000 people is recommended. The standard would protect existing levels of provision whilst also placing demands for new provision close to residential areas. This recognises the value of these spaces and the importance of protection, offering opportunities for development of such facilities in areas perceived to be lacking. The Council should continue to consider incorporating natural areas within other typologies as a key mechanism for achieving the local standard.

The recommended standard (which should be viewed as a minimum level of provision across all areas) is lower than current levels of provision in the Urban South and Tiptree Analysis Areas but above the standard in the Urban North, Central and Mersea analysis areas.

Quality standard (see Appendix D - standards)

Recommended standard	
<p>Essential features: Clean/litter free; nature features; footpaths well maintained Council retain control where possible to prevent fragmentation of sites Maintain current site management processes</p>	<p>Desirable features: Combine site uses where possible, whilst remaining wary of site fragmentation</p>
Justification	
<p>Again from the CBC report November 2007: From consultation it is evident that the majority of users of natural areas believe that these areas are of good quality and are generally well maintained. People value these natural sites for their recreational value, (for example, walking, as a picnic area etc) indicating that ancillary facilities will be an important quality feature of this type of open space. Maintaining sites in their natural form is a clear issue for local residents that needs to be addressed at these sites and this has been reflected in the quality vision. Some consultees expressed the opinion that site uses should be combined, for example, adding sports pitches and play areas to natural sites, however this should be approached with caution to ensure that sites are not fragmented. Despite the quality being generally rated as good, the main issues that were identified through local consultations centre around litter and dog fouling that is reflected in the need for sites to be clean and litter free. The standard also incorporates the Council focus on site management plans and highlights the need to link with the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan and the Haven Gateway project definitions of quality.</p>	

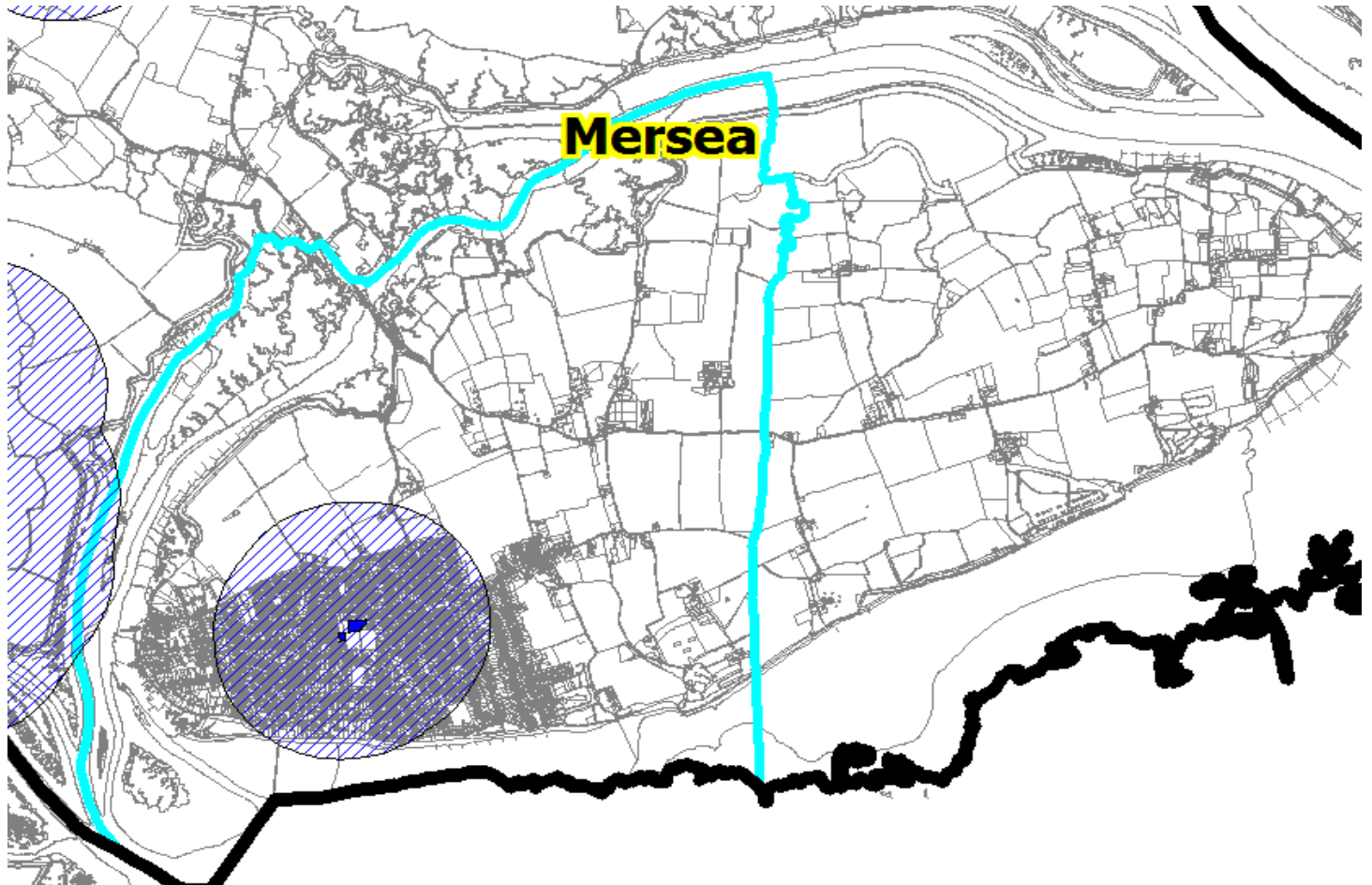
Accessibility standard (see Appendix E - standards)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720 metres)
Justification
<p>Again from CBC report November 2007: The recommended standard of a 15 minute walk time for natural and semi-natural areas is based on results from public consultation. The local consultation serves to highlight the split in opinion regarding whether natural and semi natural sites should be accessed by walking or driving (48% of respondents would travel on foot, whilst 52% of people stated that they would travel by car). To a certain extent, this will relate to the varying size and function of spaces within each locality. However, of the people who use this type of open space most frequently, 65% of those travel on foot. A drive time standard would produce a significantly larger distance threshold than a walk time standard. PPG17 states that higher thresholds may be appropriate if there is no realistic possibility of sufficient new provision to allow lower thresholds to be achievable, but can result in levels of provision that are too low and may not meet some local needs. In the context of the local consultation findings, regarding the quantity of provision (28% think that there is not enough as opposed to only 4% who think there is more than enough) and given the importance of facilitating everyday contact with nature, a standard based on a walk time is recommended as this will help to deliver a greater number of localised natural and semi natural spaces.</p>

An assessment of the 75% threshold level across the Borough suggests that residents are willing to walk up to 15 minutes to a natural and semi natural open space. Given the high levels of agreement from respondents to the household survey regarding the appropriateness of a 15 minute walk time, it is recommended that the standard is set at this level, reflecting and supportive of nationally derived standards.

8.11 The Mersea analysis of NSN areas. It is served by 6.06 hectares of NSN land per 1000 people. This is above the standard of 5 hectares per 1000 people. However access to the the largest site Ray Island is very restricted and mainly by boat in the summer months.

NSN accessibility in Mersea



The map above needs updating

- 8.12** In reality, there is a significant amount of open space on the Island however much of it is officially private farmland and so, whilst in some cases it may be unofficially accessible to the public, has not been included within this study.
- 8.13** It could be argued that **Cudmore Grove Country Park** (see under Parks and Gardens) serves the secondary function of a NSN area, however the site is not within a 15 minute walk time of the majority of the residents of the Mersea analysis area. Whilst falling within an 'urban' analysis area, the park is significantly away from the main settlement on the Island. Applying the rural parks and gardens 15 minute drive time to the site makes it accessible to all of the residents of the island. The park's status as a Country Park also indicates that applying the drive time catchment area may be more appropriate in this case.
- 8.14** The NSN area within the town is located off Barfield Road as part of Mersea Park. The importance of this site has already been highlighted in the parks and gardens and amenity green space sections. The other area is to be found off Coast Road, the Marsh area forming part of St. Peter's Well Meadow.

Current Position and Quantity of Natural and Semi – Natural Areas

ID No.	PLACE	SIZE	NOTES
1	Glebe 1 Wood	0.096	
18	Reymead Wood	0.60	
20	School Wood	0.129	Area west of Legion field, used by school
29	St. Peter's Well Marsh	2.56	Part of VG185. As well as being within an area designated SSSI
53	Packing Marsh Island	0.59	Was 1.82 ha when sold in August 1914
54	Ray Island Nature Reserve	40.47	Strood Channel off Mersea Island
	Total	44.45	44.45/7326 = 6.07

Area ID No. 1

GLEBE 1 This a small wooded area to the north-east of Glebe1.

Area ID No.18

Reymead Wood is the area to north of Mersea Park with some paths and a natural spring running north to south at it's east end.

Area ID No. 20

School Wood is the small area to west of the Mersea Park leased to the School in exchange for the use of the "Legion Field" used as part of the Mersea Park open space and a Hockey pitch on occasions in the winter months.

Area ID No. 29

St Peters Well Marsh is the marshy section between the beach and the grass area below Coast Road and is part on SSSI area.

Area ID No. 53

Packing Marsh Island is a private Island presently some 200 metres long owned by the Tollesbury and Mersea Native Oyster Fisheries Co. and leased to the Packing Shed Trust just to the south west of the main Island. On Bank holidays and other specified weekends the Trust runs trips out to the Island from the floating Causeway. Today, the Shed is used by various organisations, including other local charities as well as individuals, for a variety of outdoor activities including overnight camping, bird watching, art classes, birthday parties, wedding receptions and other special occasions.

Area ID No. 54

Ray Island Nature Reserve is a small Island off the North-west of Mersea Island. This is a nature reserve managed by Essex Wildlife Trust access is restricted from 1st March to 31st August for Wildlife Trust members only. A footpath circles the Reserve and is open to the public – but access to the path is via boat only. The public sail in dinghies to the Island and generally take boats to middle north side where there is a sandy beach and picnics are had on the Island. The main Island part is about 8/9 hectares with salt marsh all to the south, north and east.

Applying Quality standard

8.15 Appendices J & K has a maintenance standard set out in some detail.

Near-by Areas

Name of Area	Area in Ha	Distance from West Mersea "as crow flies"	NOTES
Cudmore Grove Park	29.00	6 km	ECC ownership. 9 mins by car.
Colne Pt Nature Reserve	276.0	9 km	EWT ownership. By car 35km 56 mins. drive
Abberton Reservoir	24.2	6 km	EWT ownership. By car 11km 16 mins. drive
Old Hall Marsh	631.0	3 km	RSPB ownership. By car 15.4 km 20 mins. drive
Abbots Hall Nature Reserve	283.0	4.5 km	EWT ownership. By car 8.5km 10 mins drive
Ray Island	40.0	2 km	EWT ownership
Tollesbury Wick	243.0	4 km	EWT ownership
Bradwell Shell Bank	12.0	3.5 km	EWT ownership by boat
Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve	48.0	7.7 km	EWT ownership. By car 11.4km 17 mins.

Section 9

Outdoor Sports Facilities

Introduction and definitions

- 9.1 Outdoor sport facilities represent one of the broadest typologies included within the PPG17 Companion Guide. It includes all natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for outdoor sport and recreation. Types of outdoor sports facilities include; sports pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and golf courses. This category of open space also includes school playing fields (both community and non-community facilities).

PICTURE OF GLEBE 1 RECREATION GROUND

a picture from the north west corner

- 9.2 Increasing the number and quality of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity is likely to assist in the implementation of other equally important objectives such as the need to reduce crime, improve community health, raise levels of self-esteem and provide employment opportunities. Increasing levels of physical activity is becoming increasingly important both locally and nationally.

Colchester Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) May 2015

This document lays out the present position in Colchester and gives a background to where Mersea stands in the Borough:

KEY ISSUES

Using the key issues identified in the Assessment Report, the following priorities are identified for each sport and provide the context for the development of the recommendations made within the Strategy.

2.1: Football grass pitches

Half of pitches in Colchester are rated as either standard quality (40%) or poor quality (10%) and 50% rated as good quality.

Clubs generally rate changing accommodate as good, however, five sites have no changing rooms and of those that have changing accommodation available to them, 41% rate it as good quality, 30% as standard quality and 19% as poor quality 10% didn't provide a quality rating.

Of the clubs surveyed there is latent demand of 27 teams reported. In particular, Rowhedge Juniors express latent demand for 5 youth teams.

The future of football in Colchester based on population growth would require the need for an additional three adult, 11 youth and ten mini soccer pitches in total.

There are 95 pitches showing spare capacity. 13 of these have actual spare capacity namely due to the good quality of some of these pitches. A review of usage of play on these pitches and number of games should be investigated.

There are two sites with significant spare capacity, however, these two sites are the University of Essex and the Garrison which are privately owned, do have community access but the University students and Ministry of Defence will take priority.

There are six sites overplayed in Colchester. Most overplay is recorded at King George Playing Field (Boxted)(1.5 matches) and Birch Park (3 matches).

The analysis is showing that for adult football there are sufficient match sessions, however, for youth football there is a shortfall of 4.5 match sessions per week.

2.2: Artificial grass pitches

There are three sand based AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Colchester and two full size 3G AGPs.

Re-surfacing of the two 3G AGPs is a priority to meet the FA standard code of rules and to ensure both training and competitive activity is retained on these pitches.

Of the two 3G AGPs within Colchester these are all used solely for Football. The two sand filled AGPs, at Leisure World Colchester and the University of Essex, are also used for Football.

On the basis there are 395 teams playing competitive football in Colchester, there is a recommended need for six full size 3G pitches. Currently there are two in the area. The Sport England Facilities Planning Model also highlights that much of the usage of the AGPs is football for which a sand base is not the most suitable surface.

Key sites for new 3G pitches include Wivenhoe (Central/East), Stanway (Central/East), Mile End (Central/East) and the North, this is based on consultation with Essex FA as to the need in relation to the number of teams within the areas.

2.3: Cricket

In total, there are 24 cricket squares provided in Colchester, of which only three are unavailable for community use. Cricket pitches accommodate 51 senior teams and 48 junior teams.

Site assessments generally score the quality of pitches as good or standard. No pitches were assessed as poor quality.

Three education sites have cricket facilities which are not available for community use all are located across key areas within the Borough, having access to these would ease the demand for facilities at peak times. Spare capacity totals 78 wickets across 7 grounds. This excludes the educational sites, of which there are 18 grass and two artificial on three sites.

Overplay at cricket sites is high with a total of 174 matches across the Borough per season. Overplay is particularly high at West Mersea Cricket Club. Overall in Colchester there is a shortage of 11.4 cricket grounds (based on ten wickets per ground) when over play, latent and future demand is considered. The biggest shortage is in the South with three grounds.

Definitions

Square: The area in the middle of the ground where the wickets are prepared

Wicket: The pitch

2.4: Rugby union

The two clubs based in Colchester are Colchester Rugby Union Football Club and Mersea Island RUFC. In total, 24 rugby union pitches located in the South, West and Central/East Analysis areas. Of which 17 of these are at Mill Road.

All pitches are assessed as standard quality, no pitches were assessed as poor quality.

Mersea Island RUFC is overplayed at The Glebe by 0.5 matches per week. (Now two pitches 2017)

The need for an International Rugby Board compliant pitch potentially lies in the north of the borough and in respect to the housing growth anticipated and the small midweek training capacity the concept of a 3G pitch would help to alleviate this pressure at current and the subsequent additional midweek demand.

The Glebe cannot accommodate Mersea's growth and is holding back MI RUFC developing new teams as it is in a position to increase participation. An additional pitch at the same site will support their needs to grow.

2.5: Hockey

There are three sand dressed AGPs suitable for competitive hockey within Colchester.

There is no latent or unmet demand for hockey in Colchester as the current facilities meet the demands of Colchester Hockey Club. The sand filled pitch at Leisure World Colchester is six years old, this will need carpet replacement within the next four years.

The pitch at Leisure World Colchester is not used by Hockey, potentially this pitch could accommodate hockey due to the surface.

The pitch at the Garrison which was refurbished in 2006 therefore eight years old will require replacement to an England Hockey sand dressed high quality standard.

In order for hockey to grow the pitches at The Garrison and at the University of Essex will need to be maintained and ensure that both have continued community use.

2.6: Tennis

There are 60 tennis courts identified within Colchester, 17 of which are located at privately owned sites.

The standard of tennis courts in Colchester is either good or standard with only a small amount (10) being rated as poor.

There is a desire by eleven of the Tennis clubs to increase their membership and they have expressed that they have the capacity to do so.

Based on the consultation with the Tennis clubs there appears to be enough courts for current and potential growth in membership however access to indoor courts was expressed as a desire from the clubs.

Colchester currently has a Tennis Development Officer who is based at the Colchester Tennis centre (West End sports ground, Eudo Road) and who already manages a coaching programme, pay and play and ensures that the maintenance programme is managed.

To further develop the Colchester Tennis Centre and reduce the maintenance budget of the grass courts consideration should be made as to the covering all/some of the courts to allow for all year round tennis, attract new players and also become a focal centre for the tennis community.

The development of a Tennis Development Plan in partnership with the LTA would capitalise on the good facilities and aspirations of the clubs to increase participation

2.7: Bowls

There are 10 bowling greens in Colchester provided across ten sites.

All of the greens in Colchester are assessed as good quality.

There are 10 clubs using bowling greens in Colchester with an average playing membership of 74. The clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their home green or in the area would not lead to an increase in club membership.

The majority of clubs are actively seeking to increase membership across senior and junior members.

Mersea Island has two clubs one wishing to increase membership the other has enough members.

There are variances within the amount of capacity available in the analysis areas depending on the site.

The central/east and the south both have sites that show capacity and the ability to cater for more members.

The following greens show capacity Mill Road Playing Fields, Old Heath Recreation Ground, Colchester road bowling green and Keepers Green Braiswick

2.8: Athletics

There is one athletics track within Colchester. It has a synthetic surface which has been assessed as good.

Colchester Harriers Athletics Club has expressed that they are currently at capacity and require additional training time, as current numbers at the track for training evenings due to the numbers results in overcrowding although not huge amounts.

All athletes must travel outside of Colchester if the Garrison Athletics Stadium is not available for league matches and this takes away the home league match.

The Northern part of the Borough has been identified as a priority for England Athletics in relation to the development of recreational running through marked run routes.

2.9: Rugby League

In consultation with the Rugby Football League (RFL), Colchester was not identified as a priority in terms of facility development or club development, any new developments for Rugby League in Colchester should be developed in consultation with the RFL

Quantity standard (see Appendix C – standards)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
1.26 hectares per 1000 population	1.5 hectares per 1000 population

Justification

Golf courses (Waldegraves) have been removed from calculations due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. Although the school sports site is not accessible at the current time, it is identified as a resource in both the Playing Pitch Strategy. However, for this study only school facilities with secured community access have been included. Also Mersea Outdoors has been ignored in this assessment.

Due to the broad nature of this typology, this standard should be applied for planning need only. Whilst local consultation suggests that the level of provision of grass pitches is about right, the Playing Pitch Strategy that has been undertaken provides detailed research into the demand for specific sporting facilities and the supply of Pitches locally. The Playing Pitch Strategy incorporates relevant national guidance from the NPFA, in order to provide a more detailed demand for outdoor sports pitches.

In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports facilities, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that the standard is set above the current level of provision (1.25ha per 1,000) at 1.5 ha per 1,000 population. Additional consultation should inform where this demand is needed most; however results from the local consultation suggest there is demand for at least one more Football pitch. The standard has been set at an increased level to reflect Colchester Council aspirations to increase participation and to provide sufficient outdoor sports facilities for the growing population of the Borough. Examination of other local authority provision levels shows that Colchester's is below the level of many other local authorities. For example, Chelmsford has 2.27 hectares of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 people and Maidstone has 2.11 hectares per 1000 people.

When golf courses are included within the outdoor sports facility category (16.64), the level of provision is 2.3 hectares per 1000 people. Under this scenario, the level of provision per 1000 people meets the other areas.

Quality standard (see Appendix D - standards)

Recommended Standard

Essential features:	Desirable features:
Meet relevant national sport governing body (NGB) specifications for sports facilities. Grass to be well-kept Provide appropriate ancillary facilities, such as toilets and changing rooms, where appropriate	Staff should be on site where appropriate Parking provision should be adequate to meet the demands of the facilities they serve

Justification

In addition, national governing body guidance for sporting sites should be used to ensure that appropriate playing area dimensions, maintenance and safety guidelines are followed where appropriate. Given that there is a general satisfaction regarding the quality of outdoor sports facilities, it is important that careful consideration is giving to meeting aspirations for new sites. Consultations discovered that quality grievances have arisen out of quantity deficiencies and subsequent pressure on site maintenance.

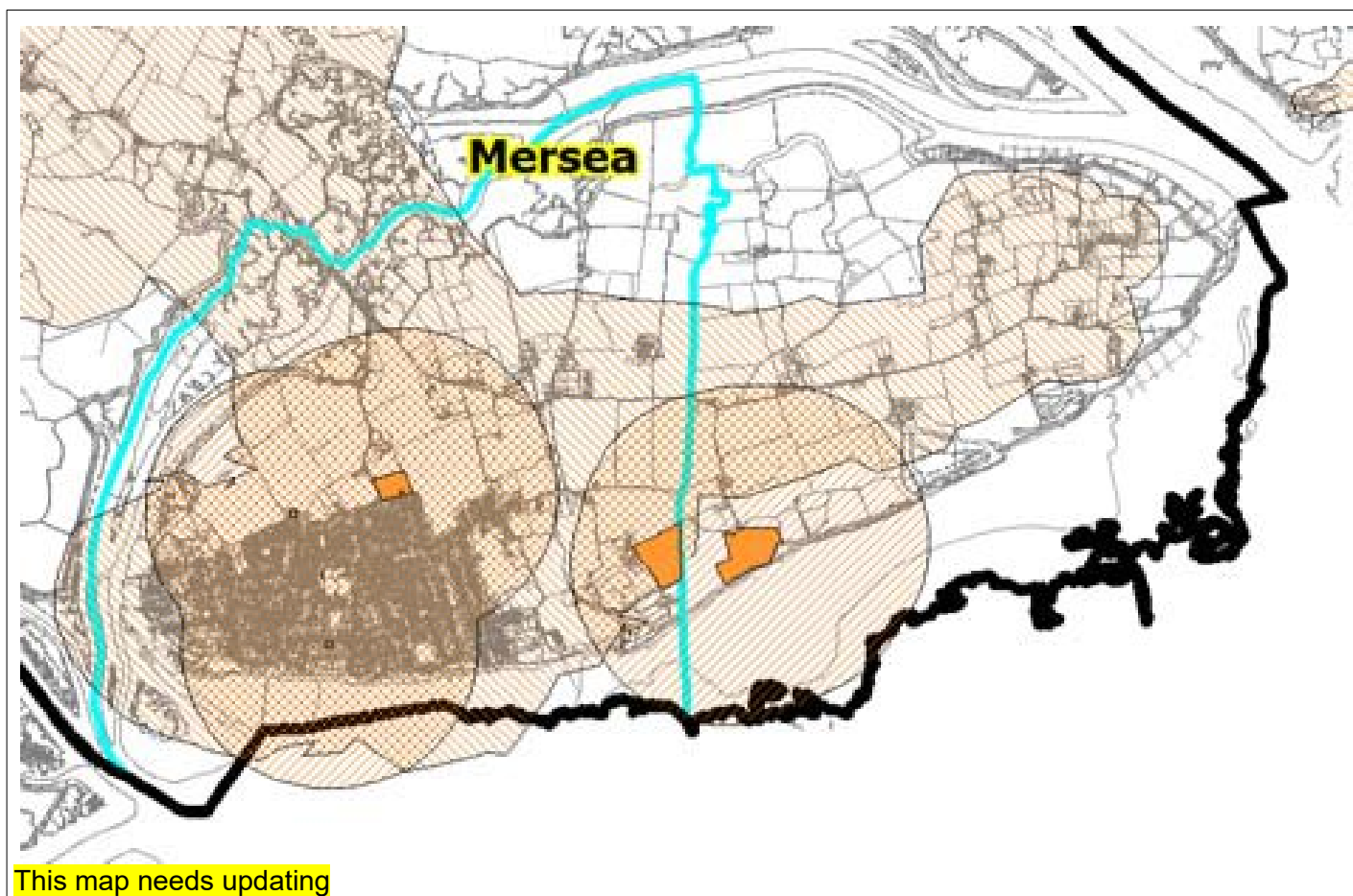
Given that the majority of sites will be of a substantial size, it is important that site are designed with careful consideration to their local context.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix E - standards)

Recommended standard
20-minute walk (720m) 1200m Field Trust 20-minute rural drive time
Justification
Recent Comprehensive Performance Assessments criteria has stated guidelines of a 20 minute walk time in urban areas and 20 minute drive time in rural areas for accessing quality facilities. There are several factors to consider in setting a standard for outdoor sports facilities. In particular, the range of facilities that lie within this typology makes it difficult to set a meaningful standard that can be applied across the board in accordance with PPG17 requirements. For example, residents have significantly different expectations for synthetic turf pitches (for which they are willing to travel further) than they do for grass pitches (where there is a presumption of more localised provision). Given the nature of the Borough, it is suggested that two standards are set, one for an urban catchment, and one for a rural one. The urban catchment is based on a walk time, whilst the rural is based on a drive time, thus reflecting local expectations.

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 9.3 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those analysis areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together.
- 9.4 The future level of provision required to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised in the Table below.
- 9.5 The location of outdoor sports sites on Mersea are shown on Map below



ID No.	PLACE	SIZE	NOTES
1	Glebe 1	3.345	Football pitches, Cricket Sq., Tennis Courts, 3 Pavilions & Car Park
2	Glebe 2	4.1	Rugger, football pitches & Cricket square
13	Colchester Road Bowls Club	0.582	West Mersea Bowls Club
25	Yorick Road Bowls Club	0.254	Mersea Island Bowling Club
20	School/Legion Field	0.968	West Mersea Hockey Club
	Total	9.249	
46	Mersea Outdoors	(13.4)	Private but rentable and just outside parish boundary by 100m
43	Waldegraves Golf & Fishing	7.61 1.025	Private facility hired out to public as well as the visitors to the Caravan site
45	Fishing Reservoirs Colchester Road	2.04	Private Club
59	<i>Mersea Boating Lake - Rewsalls Lane</i>	(2.63)	
	Mersea Island Watersports Coast Road	--	
14.4	Lifeguards	--	
14.5	Mersea Island Windsurfers and Kitesurfers	--	
15.25	West Mersea Yacht Club	--	
15.26	Dabchicks Sailing Club	--	
15.29	Mersea Island Rowing Club	--	
2a	Glebe 3	5.2	<i>Allocated for open space/outdoor recreation in CBC Local Plan</i>

ID No. 1 – 2 – 2a

Mersea Island Football Club: They play over 30 matches per season on their main pitch at the Glebe but they say more pitches are required, they use Glebe once a week till October and then they use Shrub End multi-pitch for winter training. They train off the main pitch and on Glebe2. Training rooms not required size to progress to Border League. Also would like a synthetic/ all weather pitch. They also consider that there is too little space or options for ALL sporting and leisure activities compared with other similar size villages, but do not indicate which villages have better. Priorities are the improvement of changing facilities and car park area. Happy to travel 25 to 30 minutes to primary site for football. Have two male adult teams with membership numbers remaining static @ circa. 50 of whom 60% live on Mersea. The length of grass with lack of maintenance and grooming of pitch together with poor parking facilities and litter/dog fouling are considered bad issues.

Oyster Football Club: They play over 80 matches per season with the maximum number possible of one on Saturday and two on Sunday they also train at the Glebe. They are limited to playing teams on Saturday due to lack of changing facilities/rooms. Their membership has increased over the last 5 years by 10% and they now have 150 in total, made up of 50 Adult, 15 Veterans (over 45), 85 Under 18 years old. They have 4 adult teams, 3 Mini (under 11) teams, 3 Junior (11 to 15) and 1 veteran team. 98% males and 90% live on Mersea. The length of grass is an issue as with goal mouths needing repair, litter/dog fouling and poor parking being all considered poor. They consider extra changing facilities with showers and expanded facilities are a priority along with a synthetic/all weather pitch and more good grass pitches. They also give lack of funding and poor relationships/facility usage with other clubs as issues and poor parking. They consider the best pitches in the area to be at Cavendish, the University and Tollesbury, whilst the worst are at Harwich, Mistle and Shrub End.

Mersea Island Rugby Club: No response as of July 9th 2018 after delivering three questionnaires to various person in charge of the club activities, including the president.

Mersea Island Junior Rugby Club: They play over 30 matches per season on their main pitch. They also train on their main pitch about 4 hours a week. The existing pitches are acceptable but the line marking is poor. They need more pitches (junior) and land also more facilities which they say are old on the Island. A synthetic/all weather pitch is required with adequate parking which at present is dangerous with no lighting. There is a lack of funding and difficult access (cost, lack of public transport etc.), most walk or are driven. They consider 15 to 20 minutes a reasonable travel time. They have 110 members under 18 years of whom 85% are male. They are a new club that has increased by 100% in last 5 years! (2017) They have 5 teams under 11 and 3 teams aged 11 to 15 years. Under 12 do not play in leagues. They wish to expand, extend and improve their facilities as the existing facilities do not meet their needs. The best pitches are in Colchester and the worst at Mistle.

West Mersea Cricket Club: They play over 30 matches a season and the pitch is capable of taking 2 matches a week. They use the Glebe for training and nets at the University. They have 40 adult members and 50 under 18 with 90% being male and 80% living on Mersea, membership has remained fairly static, but keeping members is an issue. They wish to expand the membership and facilities. Two adult teams and 3 junior teams at 11 to 15 years old and both play in the Two Counties League. They are happy with their quantity of facilities but would like to see synthetic/all weather pitches and a swimming pool on Mersea and any provision to have well maintained grass with costs of facility being an issue. They consider 5 to 10 minute travel time to their sport as acceptable. They do have a problem of a shared outfield with the football and consider their facility is poor value for money. Also poor litter and dog fouling issues. Parking and changing facilities as being acceptable.

There is Mersea Island Sports Association (MISA) which is the joint venture of the above clubs working together over the pavilions and playing grounds used on Glebe 1 & 2.

West Mersea Tennis Club: They play between 21 and 30 matches a season in Colchester and District League. They have 3 hard courts and 3 grass courts and would like to convert one grass court to a hard court as they do not have enough hard courts for the winter. They have 90 adult members and 10 under 18 years of age and 50% male 50% female of whom 90% live on Mersea. They have a pavilion without water but they also play Table Tennis. Most members cycle and would expect to for 10 to 15 minutes to facility. They need additional flood lights (now done) and better lighting from poor car parking to pavilion. Issue with dogs on playing fields. They lack external funding. They would like to refurbish facilities and expand range whilst increasing numbers. They believe the facilities meet their needs in quantity but not quality. The courts are available for private hire.

ID No. 13

West Mersea Bowls Club: They play on indoor and outdoor natural greens and consider their facilities are about right and meet their requirements. They can adequately cope with 4 or more matches a week. Their pitches are inspected and approved by County each year, therefore they rate their facilities as all good. They come mostly by car and would expect to travel some 25 to 30 minutes. They would priorities changing facilities and easy parking on any new or improved leisure facilities and consider Mersea's leisure facilities as generally good, but like to see a Swimming pool in Mersea. They have 240 adult members of whom 66% are male and 34% female. They have issues with membership numbers in both recruitment and retention. Future plans to increase membership and refurbish existing but not to expand.

ID No. 25

Mersea Island Bowling Club: 90% of their about 65 members live on the Island. They play on an outdoor rink only and have a club house. They consider their facilities to be about right. Most come by car and think that 10 – 15 minutes is about the right distance to travel to their sport. The members consider sports facilities on the Island are poor and not linked together! Membership has decreased. They have 2 male teams and one female team and play about 30 matches a season. Lack of funding will hinder their refurbishing.

ID No. 20

West Mersea Hockey Club: They play on the British Legion School field now having lost use of the Youth field because of the Skate board ramp and now Youth play equipment. Also their pavilion was removed so they would like a new one! The overall pitch quality is poor with long grass, unevenness and bounce of ball. Any new provision of leisure facilities should have well maintained grass, good drainage with changing facilities. They would like to see a synthetic/all weather pitches and youth facilities. 95% of it's members come from Mersea.

ID No. 43

Waldegraves Golf & Fishing: The Caravan Park provides the following facilities which are included within pitch rentals and are also available to Mersea residents and visitors for a small charge. The facilities consist: 9 Hole crazy Golf course – 18 hole grass Pitch and Put course – Under cover 10 bay Golf Driving range – Size 5 football 9 hole Footgolf Course – well stocked lakes for fishing and a private beach for sea angling.

ID No. 46

Mersea Outdoors: Whilst not within the Parish, the Centre forms part of Mersea's Sport and Recreation centres being only 350 metres from the Parish Boundary. They run twenty separate activities including adventure course, caving and zip wire plus a variety of land based and technical courses. Also they hosts music festivals, scooter, motorcycle and car rallies, scout and guide camps - These activities take place all year round.

ID No. 43

Fishing Reservoir Colchester Road: Private fishing on two separate ponds by arrangement with A M Gray & Co.

ID No. 59

MERSEA BOATING LAKE @ Rewsall Lane in East Mersea. Note this area is again just outside the Parish

This lake of some 12 ½ acres opened September 2020 and provides for a number of activities : family fun swimming, open water swimming, rowing boats, Kyak club 4 & 5 year olds and 6 and above, paddle board and pedlo hire. Whilst not in the parish being some 600 metres east of the parish boundary, it is well within 20 minute rural drive time and cycle time.

Mersea Island Water sports Coast Road

Mersea Island's first and only dedicated windsurfing and paddle-board centre. Based right next to the water with a public launch ramp close to their base at 110 Coast Road. This gives them access to the water at all times. Being based around the western end of the island they are in a fairly sheltered area making it the perfect place to learn windsurfing or paddle-boarding. There is also canoeing and kayaking available.

See also paras

14.4 Lifeguards

14.5 Mersea Island Windsurfers and Kitesurfers.

15.25 West Mersea Yacht Club

15.26 Dabchicks Sailing Club

15.29 Mersea Island Rowing Club

SECTION 10 Allotments

Introduction and definition

- 10.1 This type of open space includes all forms of allotments with the primary purpose of providing opportunities for people to grow their own produce. This type of open space may also include urban farms.
- 10.2 Like other open space types, allotments can provide a number of wider benefits to the community in addition to their primary purpose. These include:
- improving physical and mental health
 - providing a source of recreation
 - bringing together people from different cultural backgrounds
 - making a wider contribution to the green and open space network
 - providing refuge areas for wildlife.
- 10.3 Allotments can be particularly important in dense, urban environments where many residents do not have private gardens. Allotments are also becoming increasingly popular as an alternative means of physical activity.

Context

- 10.4 *The results of the household survey November 2007 were not statistically robust enough to provide valuable evidence to support any decisions. However, consultations with Council staff as well as examination of Council plot waiting lists indicate that there is excess demand for allotment sites in Colchester.*
- 10.5 The WMTC is a key provider of Allotment plots in the Parish, with a site off east end of East Road, West Mersea

Strategic context

The Current Position in West MERSEA

Population	Ha	Number of Sites	Ha per 1000 population	NOTES
7326	1.94	1	0.26	Required 0.2

- 10.6 Allotment use is a private activity and therefore the best indicator of allotment quality is the feedback from users themselves. Our initial research indicates that there are no major issues with regards to lack of ancillary facilities, where they are deemed to be appropriate. However a fuller assessment of quality would be required to draw conclusions about the overall quality of allotment sites.
- 10.7 The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) have a set of standards that set out measures of quality relating to allotment sites, and can be consulted on matters of allotment quality.

Accessibility

- 10.8 *Over the whole Borough in 2007, 50% favour a walk time and 30% favour a drive time. The 75th percentile response suggests that a 15 minute walk time is reasonable for allotments. However in Mersea the footway access stops at the Fox public-house.*
- 10.9 *The rural area is the only area where a drive time is preferred (50% car versus 36% walk). The 75th percentile response for drive times indicates that a 25 minute drive time would be reasonable for allotments.*

Setting local standards

- 10.10 In setting local standards for allotments there is a need to take into account any national or local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison, site assessments and consultation on local needs. Full justifications for the local standards are provided within Appendices C, D & E.

Quantity standard (see Appendix C – standards)

Existing level of provision 0.26 hectares per 1000 population	Recommended standard 0.2 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>Provision of allotments is demand driven. There is significant evidence that sites are currently operating at capacity. In addition, in light of the wider health agenda it is important that any new site needs to be promoted.</p> <p>A full analysis of waiting lists will help identify exact further need, if any.</p>	

Quality standard (see Appendix D - standards)

Recommended standard
'The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) has a set of standards that sites in Colchester must work towards achieving. Further, sites must be vandalism/graffiti free and have well-maintained grass, as well as aspire to have clear boundaries and on site management where appropriate.'
Justification
<p>Good quality allotments with appropriate ancillary facilities will help attract more people to run allotment sites and contribute to a healthier community.</p>

Accessibility standard (see Appendix E - standards)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time (720 m) – Urban areas 15 minute drive time – Rural areas
Justification
<p>Deficiencies that are highlighted through the application of the study should be assessed further to indicate if there is any demand in that area.</p> <p><i>A standard has been set at 15 minutes walk time in urban areas, and a 15 minute drive time in rural areas. This reflects both household November 2007 questionnaire results, as well as being in line with the PPG17 Companion Guide, which gives a 75% threshold of a 15 minute walk time. A drive time is more relevant for the Rural analysis area.</i></p>

Section 11 Cemeteries and churchyards

Introduction and definition

- 11.1 Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church while cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church. According to PPG17, this typology includes private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards.
- 11.2 While the recognised primary purpose of this type of open space is for burial of the dead and quiet contemplation, the amenity and visual benefits should also be recognised, in addition to the opportunities to promote wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Cemeteries and churchyards may also usefully break up the urban landscape.

Feldy View Green Burial Site picture



Strategic Context

- 11.3 Churchyards and cemeteries make a significant contribution to the provision of urban green space, offering a quiet sanctuary for both people and wildlife. They represent a real opportunity for new kinds of conservation and green space policy. Cemeteries can provide some of the functions of parks and, unlike parks, the reassuring presence of people is generally guaranteed. Some are visited by significant numbers of tourists, and they can be important to family history researchers.

Current position – quality from CBC November 2007 household survey

- 11.4 *The quality of cemeteries and churchyards is equally as important as quantity. The consultation process revealed that the majority of cemeteries and churchyards are perceived to be in reasonable or good condition.*
- 11.5 *Issues identified as being important, and therefore maybe requiring improvement at some sites, were well-kept grass, cleanliness (especially litter) and good lighting (although the appropriateness of this can be questioned).*

Setting local standards

- 11.6 The process for setting standards is outlined in Section 2. Whereas provision standards for quality, quantity and accessibility are set for other open space typologies, PPG17 Annex recommends that only a quality vision is required for cemeteries and churchyards stating "*many historic churchyards provide important places for quiet contemplation, especially in busy urban areas, and often support biodiversity and interesting geological features. As such many can also be viewed as amenity green spaces. Unfortunately, many are also run-down and therefore it may be desirable to enhance them. As churchyards can only exist where there is a church, the only form of provision standard which will be required is a qualitative one.*"
- 11.7 PPG 17 Annex also states, "*every individual cemetery has a finite capacity and therefore there is steady need for more of them. Indeed, many areas face a shortage of ground for burials. The need for graves, for all religious faiths, can be calculated from population estimates, coupled with details of the average proportion of deaths which result in a burial, and converted into a quantitative population-based provision standard.*"
- 11.8 In line with PPG17 and the Companion Guide, only a quality standard has therefore been set.

Quantity standard (see Appendix C – standards)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
No local standard to be set	
Justification	
No quantity standard has been set in line with PPG17. The appropriate level of provision should be calculated taking into account population estimates, birth and death rates. This does not equate to a standard per 1000 population. However for Mersea it has to be noted the high percentage of 40% for 60+ age group about twice the number for Colchester as whole.	

Quality standard (see Appendix D – standards)

Recommended standard
<i>Use the Cemetery of the Year Awards criteria as a benchmark for standards. Cemetery quality should provide the basis for reflective contemplation.</i>
Justification
It is essential that sites be regularly maintained so as to provide an appropriate environment for those who visit the sites. It is important that good practice is promoted throughout the Borough, which can be developed and standardised through the Cemetery of the Year Awards.

Accessibility standard (see Appendix E– standards)

Recommended standard
No local standard to be set
Justification
There is no requirement to set catchments for cemeteries and churchyards as they cannot easily be influenced through planning policy and implementation. However the scale of fees set by the Parish council for their parish area can influence the burials across boundaries within the Borough as a whole.

Applying local standards

- 11.9. As it is inappropriate to set quantity and accessibility standards for cemeteries and churchyards, it is not possible to comment on areas of deficiency for this type of open space. The value of cemeteries and churchyards should, however, be recognised and opportunities should be seized to promote these sites sensitively for both human and wildlife use.
- 11.10 There are many wider benefits of churchyards and cemeteries including heritage, cultural, natural and landscape values. It is wrong, therefore, to place a value on them which focuses solely on quantity, quality and accessibility. However, it is important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards anticipating future demand as well as assessing the current level of provision.
- 11.11 The Council should produce management plans for closed cemeteries and churchyards to ensure that the good quality and accessibility of these sites is maintained. The action plan should consider the implications of the future population growth on the requirements for burial grounds.

AREA No.	AREA NAME	HA	NOTES
37	Parish Churchyard	0.233	Closed churchyard
38	Barfield Road Burial Ground	0.396	Closed churchyard
39	Firs Road Burial Ground 1	0.789	All plots sold
40	Firs Road Burial Ground 2	0.873	
41	Feldy View Woodland Burial Ground	0.933	
	TOTAL	3.224	

Area ID No.37

Parish Churchyard now a closed burial ground. Is maintained by the Church Parish Council with help from WMTC. The area is well maintained and tidy. The big trees surrounding the area have been recently trimmed to reduce their head.

Area ID No. 38

Barfield Road Burial Ground was purchased in 1897 with the first burial taking place on 5th January 1900. This burial ground is now closed to new burials. Some of the grave stones are leaning at close to dangerous angles. A group of volunteers has been working here once a month during the WW1 centenary anniversary to clear the site and make it more presentable. The two seats on the southern end of the drive have been restored by a volunteer. The front gates need attention as they do not close properly. The hedges to the south and east are somewhat over grown with ivy but do have an abundance of bird life. Some attention to the big Fir trees in the centre of the site is required.

Area ID No.39

Firs Road Burial Ground 1 received it's first burial 6th November 1944. It is now almost full with only pre-booked spaces available. The whole area is surrounded by hedging which has suffered from lack of maintenance and in places has invasive trees and ivy. There are also some trees growing through grave spaces. The hedge to the north between the burial grounds is in a poor state however it is under Fir trees which makes it difficult to replace. The roadway is need of maintenance/resurfacing and the roundabout at the north end is more run over than gone around. (since completed in 2019)

Area ID No. 40

Firs Road Burial Ground 2 received it's first burial 1993

Area ID No.41

Feldy View Woodland Burial Ground received it's first burial on 1st June 2001

Summary & Recommendations

- 11.12 *There is a relatively uneven distribution of cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough with high levels of provision in the Mersea, Rural and Urban South analysis areas. Cemeteries offer opportunities for quiet recreation as well as acting as important wildlife sanctuaries and are effective in breaking up the urban landscape texture.*
- 11.13 *The quality of cemeteries and churchyards in the borough is considered reasonable but with some sites considered to be in need of improvement . In Mersea the standard of maintenance is reasonable to good.*
- 11.14 The distribution of cemeteries and churchyards is largely opportunity led. While cemeteries/ churchyards may provide a local open space, many residents will also travel significant distances to reach the facility of their choice.
- 11.15 Consideration should also be given to the wider benefits offered by cemeteries and churchyards. In line with PPG17 Companion Guide guidance, local standards for accessibility and quantity have not been set. Instead, achievement of the quality standard should guide the future improvement of cemeteries and churchyards across the Parish.
- 11.16 It remains important to consider the future delivery of cemeteries and churchyards, anticipating future demand in the context of current level of provision. This should be undertaken through detailed analysis of birth, death and burial rates within Mersea. However now is the time to consider preparing plans for extensions to the Burial Ground and the logical site being adjacent to the Feldy Burial ground, therefore provision must be allocated/maintained for access to this land through Feldy.

SECTION 12

Provision for Children

Introduction and definition

- 12.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its eight green space typologies. It states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 12.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity green space) to large multi purpose play areas. The National Playing Fields Association categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically;
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 12.3 PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children such as teenagers. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. It is therefore important to divide the typology into two separate categories and analyse provision for children separately to provision for young people.
- 12.4 Provision for children is taken to include the following areas:
Equipped Children's Play Areas
Adventure Play Grounds.
- 12.5 The role of amenity green space sites in the delivery of facilities for children is important. It should be recognised that children play in a variety of locations and can gain equivalent or greater stimulus and benefit from playing in the natural environment and informal open spaces as well as equipped play areas. Consultees can have a tendency to focus on equipped play provision and therefore overlook the informal places where children play.
- 12.6 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for children in West Mersea. Local standards have been derived from the local consultation undertaken as part of this study and are therefore directly representative of local needs. The application of these standards provides the NP with a number of policy options for the delivery of children's provision. The Issues identified should complement those highlighted within the Colchester Play Strategy.

PICTURE OF NEW PLAYGROUND

- 12.7 *In the CBC survey November 2007 the level of provision per 1000 population ranges from 0.02 in Central, Urban South, and Mersea analysis areas, to 0.07 in the Rural analysis area the highest levels of dissatisfaction with current levels of provision can be found in the Central area, where 64% of responders who expressed an opinion stated that there was nearly enough or not enough provision, and in Tiptree, where 64% of responders who expressed an opinion stated that there was not enough provision the highest levels of satisfaction with current levels of provision were expressed in Mersea although the sample of responders from Mersea was not enough to be statistically significant quality ratings were lowest in Tiptree where 25% of responders rated the provision of facilities as being of poor quality the highest quality ratings were achieved in Mersea where 50% rated them as being of good quality, however, the small sample size must be noted when considering this with regard to the IT Young People Survey, the highest response level (30%) stated that their most frequently used open space was play areas 80% of respondents stated that the quantity of play areas in their area was good or fair a perceived lack of play provision for young children was expressed by both Abberton and Langenhoe Parish Council and Tiptree Parish Council • a specific lack of provision was highlighted at the Tiptree drop-in session.*
- 12.8 *The current quality of provision for children is illustrated below. The key issues arising from this analysis, detailed site visits and consultation are highlighted below: the average quality of sites is fairly consistent across the Borough, with the overall highest quality in the Central area and the lowest quality in the Urban South analysis area only 16% of children responding to the survey indicated that the overall quality of facilities is poor the largest range in quality scores can be found in the Rural analysis area, highlighting the variety in the quality of facilities when asked what improvements children would like to see at a new or improved facility there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response (29%) almost all play areas were also perceived to be well used, reinforcing the importance placed on these facilities by local residents.*

Current position – accessibility

- 12.9 *30% of children responding to the CBC IT young people survey stated that facilities for children was the open space type visited most often. As may be expected, most children walk to their local facilities and the vast majority (78%) travel under 10 minutes. This view was also reflected by residents through the household survey with the majority expecting a walk-time of between 5 and 10 minutes to their nearest play area.*
- 12.10 *Other consultation, particularly the drop-in sessions, suggested there is a lack of play facilities. In addition, many residents cited poor locations and distance from their home as the primary deterrents for use. This reinforces the necessity of local facilities, a point that was further emphasised through the children's survey, where the proximity of facilities to the home was considered to be a significant factor in determining the likelihood of use of facilities.*

Local standards and justifications (quantity, quality and accessibility)

- 12.11 *In setting local standards for children's facilities there is a need to take into account any national or existing local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs. The IT Young Peoples survey and neighbourhood drop in sessions were particularly important in determining local needs.*
- 12.12 *A full assessment of local needs both borough wide and within each area has been undertaken for Colchester, and the key messages emerging from this assessment, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit have been used to determine provision standards required to meet local needs.*
- 12.13 *The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section one. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendix C, D & E. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.*

Quantity Standard (see Appendix C – standards)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.0184 hectares per 1000 population	0.05 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.0184 hectares per 1000 population. Existing sites are spread very evenly across the Borough in terms of the analysis areas. However, locational deficiencies do exist (illustrated later in this section through the application of the relevant accessibility buffer). A key theme emerging from the consultation has been a shortage of provision for children. This is supplemented by comments regarding the quality of existing sites. A standard has been recommended (derived from the local consultation) that seeks to encourage small quantities of new provision in some areas, and quality improvements in other areas</p> <p>The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision across all analysis areas, except for the Rural and Tiptree analysis areas, and will therefore require further provision within most area. However in West Mersea the recent up-grading of equipment on the main School Gardens play area, also the Victoria Esplanade play equipment. Along with supply of the new site at the Wellhouse Estate has vastly improved the quality of provision at West Mersea.</p>	

Quality Standard (see appendix D - standards)

Recommended standard	
Essential features	Desirable features
<p>All play areas must adhere to LEAP and NEAP national standards.</p> <p>All play areas must adhere to CBC's 2007 Play Strategy standards. CBC document Annex F which sets out the conditions which CBC has adopted in their supplementary planning document for the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities. On page 9 the Glossary it lays out Local Equipped Area for Play "Leap Standard" for local play facilities.</p> <p>All play areas must be clean/litter-free, safe, free of graffiti, provide seating and provide a stimulating environment which encourages children's imaginations</p>	<p>Toilets should be provided on larger sites.</p> <p>Play areas should be located alongside other open space types where possible</p>

Justification
<p>Following feedback from the November 2007 consultations, recognition of the need for places to go to meet friends is incorporated in the need for seating and the provision of facilities which provide an environment that stimulates a child's imagination rather than a focus only on formal equipment.</p> <p>The standard encompasses the need for play areas to meet the standards set out in the Council's Play Strategy, which reflect the national standards for LEAPs and NEAPs.</p> <p>The opinions of members of the public relating to improving standards of cleanliness and maintenance in some facilities are reflected in the quality standard.</p>

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix E - standards)

Recommended standard
10 minute walk time (480m)
Justification
<p>The majority of respondents to the November 2007 household questionnaire indicate that they would expect to walk to a childrens' play facility. The opinion that provision for children should be localised was emphasised in</p>

responses to the Young People’s Survey and a walk-time was also expressed by most responders.

Furthermore, the distances that parents are willing to let their children travel unaccompanied from their homes to play facilities has reduced as concerns over safety have grown. However, PPG17 suggests that distance thresholds should be reflective of the maximum distance that typical users can reasonably be expected to travel. For children’s facilities there was a clear consensus throughout the Borough for a walk-time based accessibility standard of between 5 and 10 minutes. The 75th percentile expected travel time is a walk time of 10 minutes, an opinion shared across all the analysis areas. Analysis of the schools questionnaire showed that the majority of children travel less than 10 minutes to reach their preferred open space. The majority of children (61%) currently walk to their preferred sites however the largest majority (45%) would prefer to cycle to such sites.

Setting the standard in accordance with the 75% threshold level is advocated in PPG17. Moreover, going for a larger accessibility catchment is recommended in terms of providing the Council with greater flexibility in terms of striking a balance between qualitative and quantitative improvements in provision. A 5-minute catchment would place a greater requirement on new provision, but local consultation revealed the importance of high quality sites and not just new facilities. The Council should continually seek to promote measures designed to improve accessibility, such as better public transport or cycling routes.

A standard of 10 minutes walk time (480m) therefore meets user expectations and provide a realistic target for implementation. This is broadly equivalent to existing policy that seeks to ensure that Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) are located within 400m walking distance of every home. Furthermore, this local standard encompasses all types of provision for children, including the larger, more strategic sites that people could be expected to travel further to visit.

Applying provision standards

- 12.14 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together. Consideration should also be given to the quality of facilities in order to determine the value of specific sites.
- 12.15 Consideration has been given to the provision of facilities for young people in the context of other open space types. Amenity green space has a particularly important role to play in the delivery of facilities for children, providing a key opportunity for informal play.

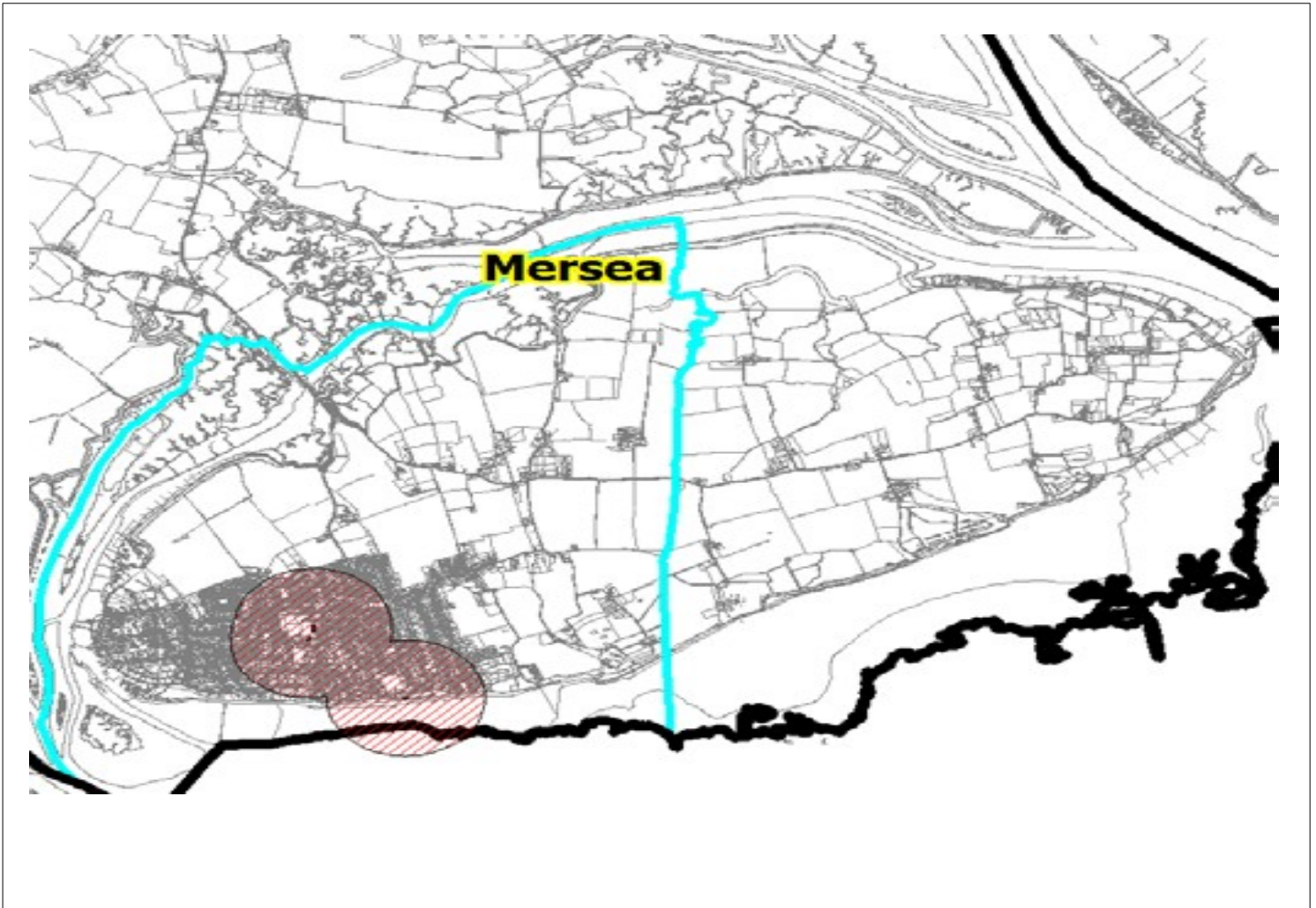
Identifying deficiencies in quantity

- 12.16 The recommended local standard is higher than the current level of provision across all geographical areas of the Borough except for Tiptree and the Rural analysis areas, and achievement of this standard will therefore require further provision within most areas (see Table 12.4 below).
- 12.17 This is reflective of the findings of the consultation, in which further provision for children emerged as a key priority for local residents in some areas. In order to meet the minimum quantity standard by 2021, something in the region of 4 hectares of play space would be required. This is an increase of approximately 69% on the current level of provision up to 2021.

Mersea

12.18 The Mersea analysis area has a slight shortage of play areas. 0.23 hectares of play areas are required by 2021 if the area is to meet the proposed accessibility standard. The accessibility map below demonstrates that provision should be focused on the west of the town of Mersea as the central and eastern areas of the town have access to play areas within a 10 minute walk time.

ID No.	Description	Area (ha)	Notes
2	Glebe 2 Children’s Playground	0.05	6 pieces of equipment
9	Victoria Esplanade Children’s Playground	0.051	7 pieces of equipment
22	School Gardens Children’s Playground	0.034	7 pieces of new equipment. Plus old swings and climbing frame.
	TOTAL	0.135	



The Map needs updating

Area ID No.2

Glebe 2 Children's Playground has some 5 pieces of equipment which were put in by the Developer when the Weelhouse Green Development was being built. There are 5 pieces of Equipment all on special surface. The area is metal fenced with two hydraulic gates. There is one seat for a watching responsible person. The equipment and area are all in good condition. Owned and maintained by WMTC.

Area ID No.9

Victoria Esplanade Children's Playground is situated at the back of the Beach area and close to the road and main car park. It metal fenced with two hydraulic gates/. There are 7 pieces of play equipment and the surface is all special soft landing safety type. There are two seats for watching responsible persons. The equipment and area are all all in good condition, owned and maintained by CBC.

Area ID No. 22

School Gardens Children's Playground is situated in the eastern end of school gardens next to the Co-Op store. There are 6 pieces new play equipment, as of November 2017, all with special soft landing safety type surface around. The old swings have been refurbished with a new safety surface installed. There is also the old climbing net framework. There are two picnic table/seats for watching the children by responsible persons. The main footway access for the park passes through the equipment. At the present time there are no self-closing gates or notices about dog controls as the play area is unfenced. (See recommend standards above)

SECTION 13

Provision for young people

Introduction and definition

- 13.1 PPG17 defines provision for children and young people as one of its green space typologies. It states that the broad objective of provision for children and young people is to ensure that they have opportunities to interact with their peers and learn social and movement skills within their home environment. At the same time, they must not create nuisance for other residents or appear threatening to passers-by.
- 13.2 This typology encompasses a vast range of provision from small areas of green space with a single piece of equipment (similar to the typology of amenity green space) to a large multi purpose play areas. The National Playing Fields Association (now know as Fields in Trust) categorises play facilities into three distinct types of facility, specifically;
- Local Areas of Play (LAPs)
 - Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs)
 - Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play (NEAPs).
- 13.3 PPG17 notes that using these sub-types of provision for children and young people often ignores the needs of older children such as teenagers. Each site and range of equipment has a different purpose and often serves a different age group and catchment. It is therefore important to divide the typology into two separate categories and analyse provision for children separately from provision for young people.
- 13.4 For the purposes of this assessment, provision for teenagers is taken to include the following types of provision:
- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
 - skateparks
 - basketball courts
 - youth shelters
 - informal kickabout areas
 - BMX tracks.
- 13.5 This section of the report sets out the background, strategic context, consultation and current provision for young people in West Mersea. Recommended local standards have been established and are derived from the local needs assessment. The application of these standards provides the WMTC with a number of policy options for the delivery of facilities for young people and complements Colchester Borough Council's Play Strategy.

PICTURE OF NEW YOUTH PLAY AREA MERSEA PARK

Context

- 13.6 78% of young people responding to the IT Young People survey November 2007 stated that provision of play/teenage facilities is good or fair in Colchester, whilst 15% felt that the quantity of facilities is poor. This was consistent with quality, with 16% feeling that the quality is poor. The key improvements desired by young people were more interesting play areas (29%), a skate park (14%), a BMX park/ multi-use games area (11%) and a teen shelter (10%).
- 13.7 Many residents highlighted the importance of providing facilities for young people, indicating that a lack of facilities and opportunities can generate a culture of antisocial behaviour and misuse of other sites.
- 13.10 Key issues arising from the consultations undertaken include:
- a general lack of provision for young people was a consistent theme throughout all consultation and there are concerns that a lack of provision is causing safety issues at other open space types, specifically parks, during the evenings. The audit revealed a low level of provision for teenagers across Colchester – equivalent to only 0.008 hectares per 1000 population. It should be noted that the quantity of facilities available to young people is perhaps more important than the area/size of facilities. Teenagers often want areas where they can congregate and socialise, the quantity rather than the area being the important key indicator
 - the Tiptree drop-in session yielded many opinions relating to the lack of teenage facilities in terms of both quality and quantity
 - the level of provision per 1000 population ranges from 0.005 hectares in the Urban South analysis area to 0.014 hectares per 1000 population in the Central analysis area
 - 63% of respondents to the household survey stated that there were not enough teenage facilities. This was the highest percentage response indicating 'not enough' than any of the other open space types
 - the household survey revealed that a majority of residents in all of the analysis areas believe that there is an undersupply of teenage facilities within the Borough, with Tiptree residents expressing the strongest opinion (69% of respondents stating 'not enough')
 - the sports club survey revealed that facilities for young people and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) were the facilities most in demand in the local area
 - the IT Young People survey revealed that multi use games areas usage was selected as the most frequently used open space by 11% with a further 7% using a specific teenage facility such as a skate park.
- 13.12 The main comments to arise from Table 13.3 and the consultation findings and site visits are summarised below:
- the low number of sites in some analysis areas make the average score slightly superfluous however a general trend showing 57% as the average score is not particularly positive
 - the range of scores achieved during site visits was significant, indicating that there are good sites in existence
 - young people indicated that lighting, cameras and staff on site were the three main things that would make them feel safer when using open spaces. Site assessments revealed that few facilities for young people and children are currently lit. It should be said that the majority of respondents to the young peoples survey rated the overall quality of play/teenage facilities as good or fair, although this was from a limited sample size and does not appear to reflect the other consultation responses and site assessments
 - vandalism and graffiti is a problem at sites for young people according to some consultees and this was reinforced from the site assessments findings
 - when asked what improvements children would like to see at new or improved facilities there was no clear consensus, although more interesting play areas was the top response (29%). Outdoor sports facilities (15%), a skate park (14%), a BMX park/ multi-use games area (11%) and a teen shelter (10%) were the most popular responses in order thereafter
 - children and young people were asked the reasons why sites were not used. The most popular responses were issues of time (17%), distance from home (11%), not being allowed (11%) and feeling unsafe (11%)
 - concerns were expressed through local consultation undertaken that provision for young people is mostly very dull and could be more innovative

Current position – accessibility

- 13.13 Analysis of the IT Young People survey suggests that as may be expected, the majority of residents walk to facilities with 89% of young people walking less than 15 minutes, whilst 53% of young people would walk for 5 minutes or less. 45% of young people indicated that they would cycle to reach open spaces, emphasising the importance of cycleways and green linkages between sites.
- 13.14 The household survey indicated that the majority of people walk to teenage facilities with the 75th percentile expected travel time being a walk time of 15 minutes.

Local standards and justifications (quantity, quality and accessibility)

- 13.15 *The process for setting local standards for facilities for young people has taken into account existing national and local standards, current provision, other local authority standards for appropriate comparison and consultation on local needs.*
- 13.16 *The key messages emerging from the assessment of local needs, coupled with an evaluation of the existing audit have been used to determine provision standards. The application of these provision standards therefore provides an understanding of the priorities in order to deliver effective provision for young people across the Borough.*
- 13.17 *The process for setting each type of standard is outlined in section one. The rationale for each recommendation, including assessment of local need, existing provision and consultation is provided in Appendices C, D and E. The recommended local standards have been summarised overleaf.*

Quantity Standard (see Appendix C – standards)

Existing level of provision	Recommended standard
0.02 hectares per 1000 population	0.05 hectares per 1000 population
Justification	
<p><i>The current level of provision is equivalent to 0.02 hectares per 1000 population. Across the analysis areas, the quantity of provision ranges from 0.01 within the Central analysis area to only 0.004 within the Urban South analysis area – a wide variety but all relatively low amounts compared to other local authorities. The extent to which locational deficiencies may exist within each analysis area will be dependent on the specific location of each site (illustrated through the application of the relevant accessibility buffer).</i></p> <p><i>Both adults and young people made similar comments regarding the lack of facilities at drop-in sessions held in Colchester and Tiptree. Given that the existing level of provision is lower to that for children, a standard has been recommended that will increase the numbers to similar levels of provision. This will facilitate new provision in all areas, something that the household survey results concurred with.</i></p> <p><i>The recommended local standard is higher than the current provision in all six of the analysis areas. In order to meet the minimum quantity standard, provision in the region of 8 hectares of facilities for young people would be required up to 2021.</i></p>	

Quality Standard (see Appendix D - standards)

Recommended standard
<p><i>Facilities must be designed in consultation with local young people; must be clean and litter-free, have no vandalism and provide a mixture of formal and informal facilities</i></p> <p><i>Facilities should attempt to provide skate/BMX features alongside youth shelter areas</i></p>
Justification
<p>Consultation with young people reinforced the findings in similar studies that highlight the importance to regular users of such spaces to ‘meet friends’, as somewhere to go and not specifically to use the equipment. Promoting a sense of ownership with the sites may also help to reduce the level of vandalism. It is important that these sites are clean, safe and secure. This was a key element emerging from local consultation and is therefore reflected within this standard. It is important that sites continue to improve and the council works towards the achievement of the quality vision.</p> <p>A recent CABE Space study shows that well designed, well maintained public spaces can contribute to reducing the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, and result in long term cost savings and this is reflected in the quality vision.</p>

Accessibility Standard (see Appendix E - standards)

Recommended standard
15 minute walk time - 750 m

Justification

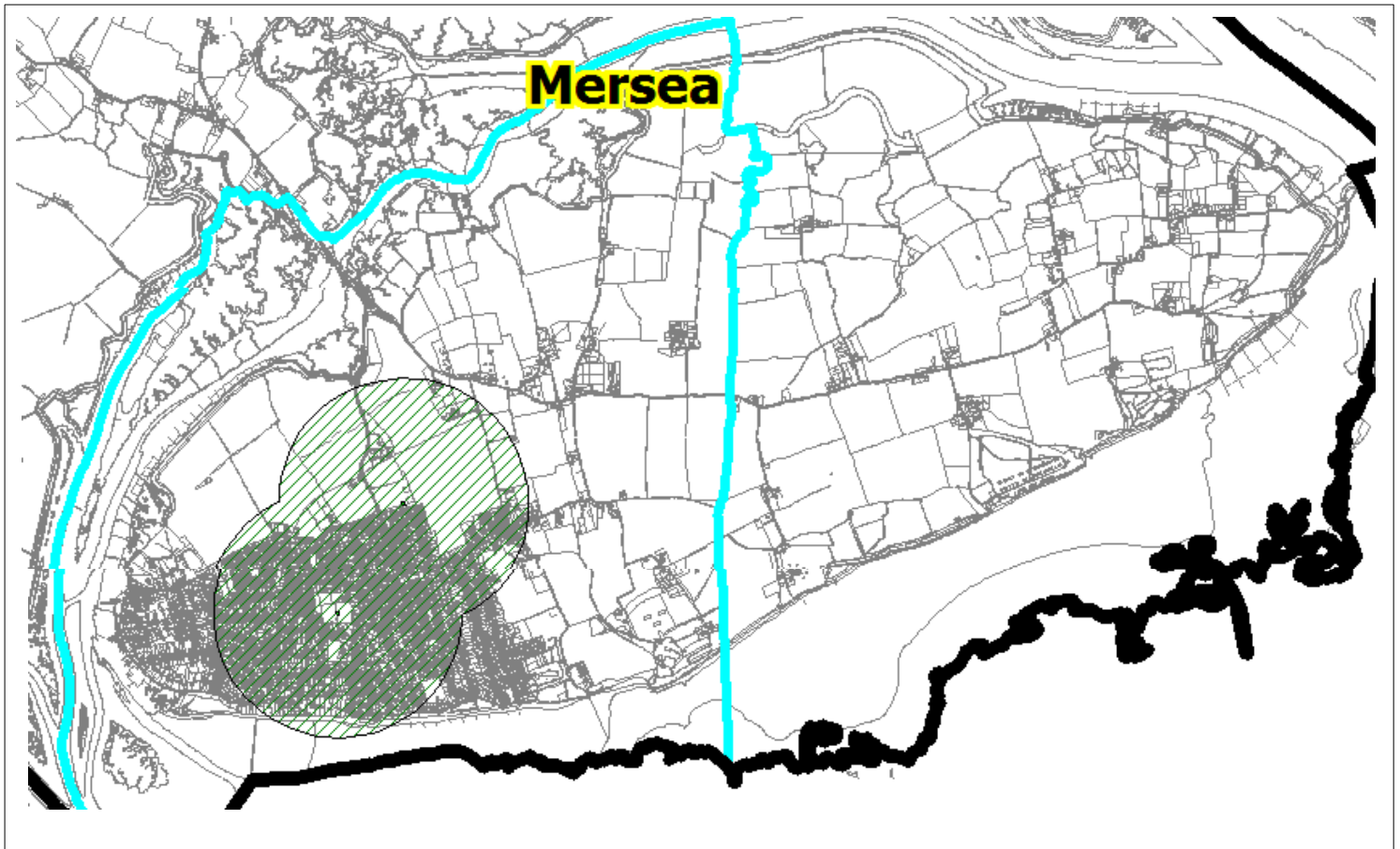
The majority of people stated that walking is the most preferred method to travel to a young person's facility therefore it is recommended that a walk time standard be adopted. A walk time is considered most appropriate as these facilities are for young people who do not always have access to a motorised vehicle and consequently a walk time enables access for all ages and users.

The recommended standard of 15 minutes walk time is in line with the 75% threshold level, as per PPG17 guidelines.

Applying the quantity, quality and accessibility standards

- 13.18 In order to identify geographical areas of importance and those areas where local needs are not met, the quality, quantity and accessibility standards are applied and interpreted together. Consideration should also be given to the quality of facilities in order to determine the value of specific sites.
- 13.19 The future level of provision required across the Borough of Colchester to satisfy the local quantity standard is summarised below. This has been summarised at both an analysis area and ward area level.
- 13.20 Provision of teenage facilities falls below the recommended standard across all of the analysis areas, with the largest deficiencies being in the Urban North, Urban South and Rural analysis areas.
- 13.21 Whilst these tables provide a starting point for the quantitative application of the local quantity standard, it is particularly important to consider the spatial location of provision for young people and their geographical relationships to one another.
Map below illustrates the geographical distribution of provision for young people and the catchment areas they serve.

ID No.	Description	Area (ha)	Notes
1	Basketball Court @ Glebe 1	0.029	
2	BMX Area on Glebe 2	0.03	
21	Concrete Skate ramp	0.032	
21	Youth Play Equipment on VG 241	0.050	
22	Shelter in School Gardens	0.003	
	Total	0.144	
46	Mersea Outdoors	13.4	This area is just outside the Parish however is has facilities for Youth which can be hired.



This map needs updating

Area No. 1

The Basketball Court on Glebe 1 was re built in 2015 after the construction of the new Rugger Pavilion and is in good condition. There is a move to establish a Basketball Group.

Area No. 2

The BMX Area on the northern part of Glebe 2 has a chequered history as it came about through a parent having access to material and machinery. It fell into a neglected area for a while used by dog walkers. WMTC has now cleared the area and Kids are now using, however the area needs further upgrading.

Area No. 21

The concrete Skate Ramp on the Village Green 241 also originally called Youth Field. This Ramp was constructed in 2014 and provides a good well used facility for the Youth.

Area No. 21

Play equipment on the south-eastern corner of of the VG 241 has been recently up graded and substantial added to including a Zip-wire. Total of 4 new pieces plus existing rope roundabout, climbing wall and frame. This will provide a much improved facility for the Youth of Mersea.

Area No. 22

The stylish Shelter built over the old pond in the School Gardens provides an area for the Youth to gather when wet. The area is very visual to the road but has suffered minor vandalism.

Area No. 45

Mersea Outdoors is now divorced from Essex County Council and runs as a commercial concern which offers many out-door activities. However the area total is not include as the site is outside the Parish.

13.25 Map above shows the areas of Youth Play Areas for West Mersea and where residents do not have access to a teenage facility within a 15 minute walk-time. New provision in the future should be focussed in these areas, in the west of the town and in the south east corner of the town. The west of the town does not currently have access to a park or an amenity green space so new provision will be required but Victoria Esplanade park in the south of the town could provide the ideal location for a teenage facility that will address the accessibility issue in this area. It should be noted however that the Dabchicks Sailing Club and West Mersea Yacht Club provide sailing activities for the young. Also Rowing Club, Board paddling and Kyacks provides for water activities. So the west end of the town does provide for organised and general access to the water.

SECTION 14

Green Corridors and Beaches/Coastal Areas

Introduction and definitions

- 14.1 Green corridors are linear features of mostly open character, including canal towpaths, riverside paths, footpaths, cycleways and bridleways, which act as wildlife corridors and attractive, safe off-road links between residential areas, open spaces, urban centres, leisure facilities and employment areas. They also give residents access to natural green space and the open countryside and provide opportunities for recreation. Green corridors increase in value if they are linked to form a network which extends within and beyond the Borough boundary.
- 14.2 Local networks of high quality and well-managed and maintained open spaces, sport and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe. Therefore the connectivity of all spaces through the provision of “green corridors” in Colchester Borough is an important strategic consideration.
- 14.3 PPG17 states that the need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard, just as there is no way of having a standard for the proportion of the land in an area which it will be desirable to allocate for roads. Instead, planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense, green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as the canal and riverside towpaths, roads, river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to 'plug in' access to them from as wide an area as possible.
- 14.4 *From CBC report 2007: **Due to the Borough’s coastline, which extends inland along the Colne and around Mersea Island, a separate category of ‘beaches and coastal areas’ is included in this study. Coastal areas offer a whole host of benefits from recreational purposes (for residents and tourists, tourism on Mersea NPG report 2020) to landscape, environment and biodiversity benefits.***

Context

- 14.5 Green corridors are a key component of the green infrastructure of Colchester Borough and provide important links to the neighbouring local authorities for residents.
- 14.6 PPG17 suggests that all corridors, including those in remote rural settlements, should be considered. However, the Companion Guide suggests that unless a green corridor is used as a transport link between facilities (ie home and school, town and sports facility etc) it should not be included within an audit.
- 14.7 The strategic context of green corridors is discussed in the Table below.

Current position

- 14.8 Beaches were also deemed to be clean, with 64% of respondents rating quality as satisfactory, and only 4% rating quality as poor.
- 14.9 Beaches and coastal areas on the south of Mersea Island have been included because of their importance as an area for informal recreation. There are no Green Corridors as such on Mersea Island at present.
- 14.10 Only 4% of the 92% responses said they didn’t use Beaches at all. Beaches are the most frequently used open space site on the Island

Setting local standards

- 14.11 In light of the nature of green corridors it is inappropriate to set quantity and accessibility standards for green corridors. Annex A of PPG17 supports this, stating that there is no sensible way of setting an appropriate provision standard.
- 14.12 PPG17 goes on to state that:
“instead planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing areas to the Sustrans national cycle network, town and City centres, places of employment and community facilities such as schools, shops, community centres and sports facilities. In this sense green corridors are demand-led. However, planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines, roads or canal and river banks, as green corridors, and supplement them by proposals to ‘plug in’ access to them from as wide an area as possible”
- 14.13 There are currently no local standards relating to the provision of either green corridors, or beaches and coastal areas.
- 14.14 The Environment Agency are responsible for installing and maintaining flood banks/ **SEAWALLS** in the Borough
- 14.15 *Consultation with Natural England in 2006 by CBC revealed the following information:*
- *Natural England manage at a Nature Reserve at Colne Estuary – essentially a coastal habitat/saltmarsh. They are advisors over all SSSI and European protected sites*
 - *due to safety issues, Natural England are satisfied with the current level of accessibility at their coastal sites. However they would like to see a linear access corridor around the whole country, which would of course have implications for Colchester Borough. Through the Local Development Framework, Natural England is keen to ensure more green links and open space infrastructure in order to cater for the expected growth in population in the area over the next few years.*
 - *Natural England has of June 2018 proposed(still not approved September 2020) an Island Coastal Footpath around the Island and suitable diversions to allow for coastal erosion. This is all under S25 CROW Salt marsh and Mudflats.*
- it was noted that with physical access comes risk – in particular with tidal areas. The value of visual access to open space sites is often forgotten
 - the level of use of coastal areas is currently satisfactory, and the further promotion of the coastal areas may prove dangerous, as the area is ecologically valuable and vulnerable.
 - in areas where the population is increasing, it is important to provide alternative green infrastructure sites in order to meet the additional demand. In an urban context there is always scope for more access.
- 14.16 The Blue Flag award is a national standard award scheme for beaches. It is an annual accreditation scheme that tests water quality of the sea, the beach and intertidal area, the information and education facilities available as well as the environmental management of the site. *“The beach at Mersea is ecologically sensitive and has significant tidal safety issues. Therefore the Blue Flag Award scheme may (is) not be deemed to be a suitable measure of beach quality.”* from NE report 2006
- 14.17 Only a quality vision has therefore been set for green corridors, beaches and coastal areas.
- 14.18 Site assessment scores have not been included in this analysis, as it is not feasible to assess the length of all footpaths/corridors. However, the quality vision should be used as an aspiration for the introduction of new linkages.

Quality standard for green corridors (see Appendix C)

Recommended standard	
Essential features	Desirable features
Accessible paths with natural features where possible Clean/litter free Dog litter bins	Provide for both walking and cycling
Justification	

It is important that any new provision meets this local quality standard that incorporates all the Villages visions and public aspirations. Ultimately sites need to be safe with clear pathways and well maintained to encourage usage. These routes also need to be well lit (if Urban) and secure. While green corridors have an important recreational role, it is important to ensure that there is a balance between recreational and wildlife/biodiversity to maximise the role these assets play.

Quality standard for beaches and coastal areas (see Appendix C)

Recommended standard

<p>Essential features Clean and litter free Popular areas to have reasonable access to clean and FREE toilets where possible</p>	<p>Desirable features Maintain current levels of access for summer recreation and winter walking/exercise Maintaining summer bathing water quality</p>
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Justification

CBC REPORT NOV 2007; *The nature of the beach areas in Mersea means that the Blue Flag award is not deemed a relevant standard for the Councils to aspire to. It also went on to state “ The beach is inaccessible and dangerous in certain areas due to the changeable tides and mud plains. The beach is deemed to be an area primarily for wildlife as opposed to recreational value, and therefore current restricted levels of access are deemed appropriate, something that is supported through consultation with Natural England.(FROM CBC PPG17 2007)”.*

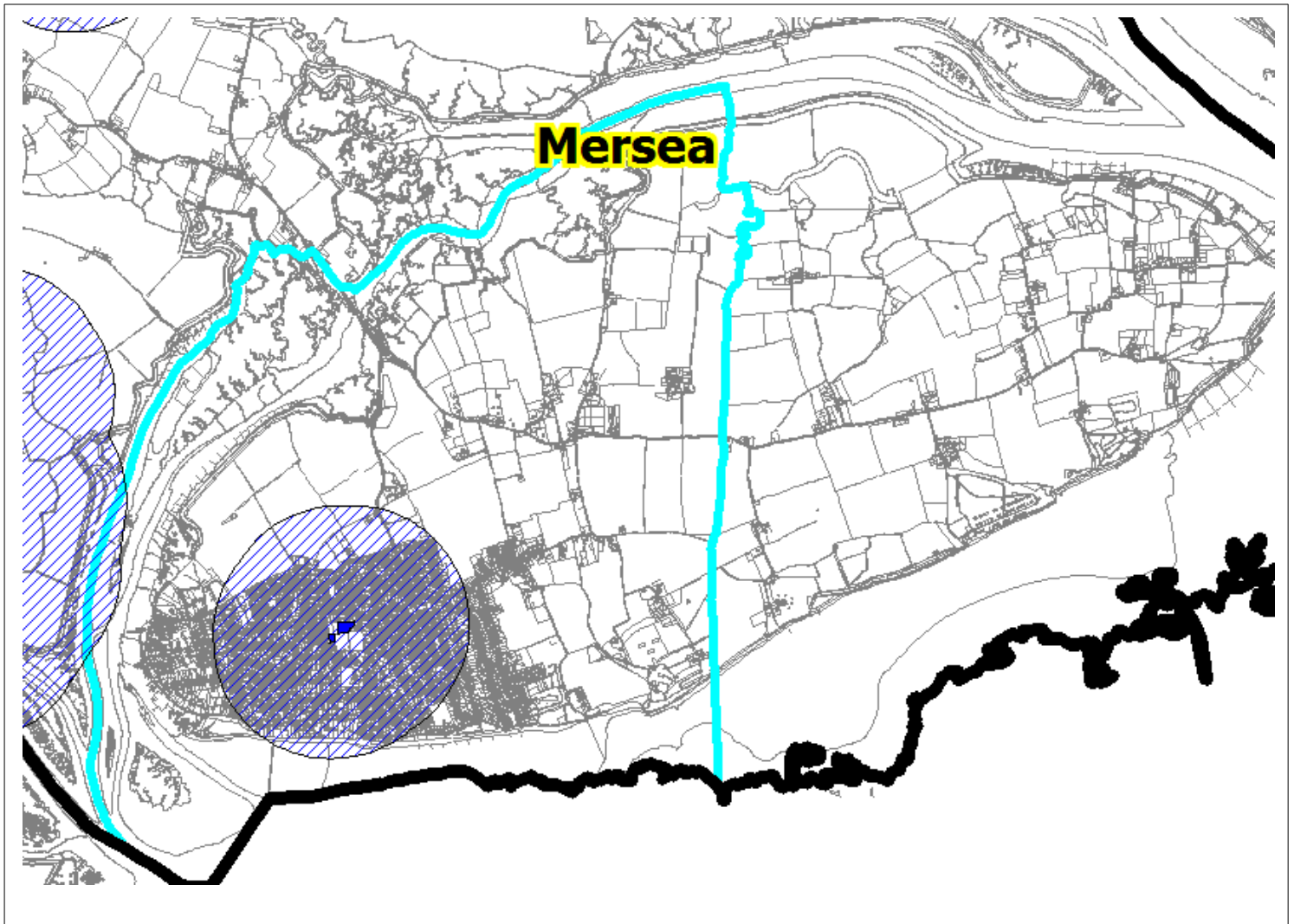
Applying local standards

- 14.19 Given that it is not appropriate to set any local quantity or accessibility standards, it is also not appropriate to state areas of deficiency or need.
- 14.20 The aim is to provide an integrated network of high quality green corridors linking open spaces together and opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport. Consideration should also be given to the provision of effective wildlife corridors, enabling the migration of species across the Island.
- 14.21 Green corridors provide opportunities close to people’s homes for informal recreation, particularly walking and cycling, as part of every day routines, for example, travel to work or shops. The development of a linked green corridor network will help to provide opportunities for informal recreation and improve the health and well-being of the local community. Green corridors are key to the achievement of increased participation targets.
- 14.23 Future development needs to encompass linkage provision between large areas of open space, create opportunities to develop the green corridor network. Development should consider both the needs of wildlife and humans.

EXISTING BEACHES AND COASTAL AREAS OF MERSEA ISLAND

ID No.	Description	Area (ha)	Notes
29	Beach - St Peter's Well	0.580	Area from the Wetland area to High water of Beach. From Houseboats to Monkey Step Wall The whole beach is within an area designated SSSI.
31	Beach - Monkey steps to Broomhills	1.53	Private foreshore owned by the properties adjacent with public right of way over.
32	Beach - Broomhills to Seaview Avenue	1.83	Land leased from Crown Estates by CBC.
33	Beach - Seaview to Waldegraves	0.70	Private foreshore belonging to Seaview Caravan Site but with public right of way over.
34	Beach - Waldegraves	0.60	Private foreshore belonging to Waldegraves Caravan Site but with public right of way over.
	TOTAL	5.24	Total if East Mersea Parish below is added = 14.00 Ha
42	Coastal Footpath	-----	In final stages of consultation awaiting ratification Sept 2020
48	Beach Areas in front of Mersea Outdoors Cooper's Caravan site Fen Farm Caravan site Mersea Island Holiday Park	3.66	All this area is mostly covered by the water and above mean HW the areas belong to adjacent site owners
49	Beach Cudmore Grove Country Park	5.10	The western end is under crumbling cliffs but the eastern end has a good beach and some dunes.

- 14.24 West Mersea named one of the most dog-friendly beaches in the UK by the Vets association "Vets Now" in 2017 and again in 2020.
- 14.25 The residential survey indicated that 9% of the people did not answer the question of the most used beach area which was the Esplanade 26% followed by the Monkey steps area 20% and then Seaview 13%, Houseboat Point Besom 12%, Kingsland 6%, Cudmore Grove 5%, Beach Road 3%, Waldegraves 2% and 6% did not visit the Beach at all.
- 14.26 11% people did not answer the swimming question and 49% never swam, 25% seldom and 10% often swam and 5% can not swim.
- 14.27 11% that answered the question on cleanliness 57% were satisfied, 21% said it needed to be improved, 3% said it was poor and 8% believed it to be excellent.
- 14.28 Only 8% used the Toilet at Willoughby and 4% at Fairhaven out of the 90% people who responded. 27% never used the Toilets (most used one was at the Library 26% and Coast Road 23%).
- 14.29 45% of the people answering the question of charging for toilet use were not in favour whilst 29% were in favour but 16% had no opinion and 10% did not answer the question. (Small increase in the Car Park charge to cover the cost would be a simple and cost effective solution)
- 14.30 Dogs on the Beach question - 44% had no objection, 10% only in winter, whilst 25% believed they should be on a lead at all times, with 7% only in winter and 6% indicated they should never be allowed on the Beach. 8% people did not responded to this question.
- 14.31 The residential survey indicates that 12% never visit the seawall 45 occasionally and 28% often visited with 15% not answering the question.
- 14.32 The quality of the bathing water is causing some concern as it was "Excellent" and then fell to "Good" in 2015 and 2016 but in 2017 & 2018 it was just "Sufficient". By 2019 it was again "Good"



This map needs updating/revising to suit area

ID No. 29

- 14.31 Beach Area from the Houseboats to Monkey steps. This beach has a steep access to the sea at the North end and shelves off towards the Monkey Steps end. The North end has a Boardwalk from the road which follows the Public Footpath and goes to the top of the Beach at it's seaward end.)
- 14.32 The beach is used by local residents as there is little parking or access for visitors. The back of the beach has a rough grassed area useful for a picnic and sitting. Best swimming is from about two hours before High Water on the flood. The tide on the ebb can be quite strong at the houseboat end. It should be noted that the beach area has been growing for the last 20 – 30 years north-westwards towards the houseboats and now extends considerably further north-west than it has ever done before. (This can be seen more dramatically by looking at Google satellite map). This area of beach is mostly outside the VG designated area and is privately owned above the Highwater line.
- 14.33 At very high tides the top of the beach can be close to being covered with the tide and passage off the beach will be covered by deep water. As with all beach areas the sandy top around the high-water mark gives way to mud below which can contain old oyster shells which are very sharp and will cut feet if unprotected.
- 14.34 During the winter months migrating birds gather on the foreshore to feed during the day.

ID No. 31

- 14.35 This area from the Monkey Steps through to Broomhills Road and it's junction with Victoria Esplanade. This Beach area belongs to the adjacent properties but the public have a right of way over. The Beach is mainly used by local residents who access it via either the Monkey steps and FP 26 or via Beach Road.
- 14.36 Footpath 26 which comes from Coast Road to the High water line then turns east runs along the high water line continuously towards East Mersea. Again the mud below the sandy beach does contain old Oyster shells.

ID No. 32

- 14.37 This area runs from Broomhills to bottom of Seaview Avenue and belongs to CBC with the Beach huts behind. This is a mostly sandy Beach for the Beach huts and public visitor using the adjoining Car Parks.
- 14.38 The Beach has breakwaters, diving rafts moored off. There is also a part-time Lifeguards which operate from a Beach hut at times of High water during the busier holiday periods.
- 14.33 At the Easternmost end between the last two breakwaters is a marked area for the Board sailors to launch and recover their boards. Swimmers and beach users are advised to keep clear. The board sailors also have their own Beach Hut as a headquarters on the Beach.
- 14.39 There are now some 600 Beach Huts in this area, In 1919 there were 70 and by 1922 there were 194. The Esplanade Car Park has a capacity of approximately 350 vehicles (a photo from about 1960 shows over 400 cars). Whilst Willoughby Car Park has a capacity of approximately some 350 vehicles and Seaview Car Park some 100 vehicles. This gives a total of some 800 vehicles however as the car parks do not have specific marked spaces totals can be a bit fluid.
- 14.40 There are two Public Toilets of questionable standard but serviceable on the north side of the Victoria Esplanade Road which does give access issues of crossing the highway. One is situated close the entrance to Willoughby Car Park whilst the other is adjacent to Fairhaven Avenue.
- 14.41 There is a small **Cafe** at the back of the Beach area opposite the entrance to Willoughby Car Park. It owned by CBC and leased to tenant.
- 14.42 There is a disabled/wheel chair friendly platform area overlooking the beach directly opposite the main car park entrance. It is understood that WMTC is about to install a disabled changing facility close by to improve their use of the beach area.
- 14.43 The **Lions Club** have a beach hut for community activities and can be rented. There is also a company which lets out beach huts. **Beachwatch** Group (voluntary) patrols the area and generally acts as co-ordinators for the beach huts.
- 14.44 **Mersea Lifeguards** are a voluntary group of about 7 persons mainly from the Basildon area who operate from their own dedicated Beach Hut. Their patrols/guard take place during the mid day high tides in the summer months mostly at weekend only.
- 14.45 The **Mersea Windsurfers & Kitesurfers Club** operates from a double size Beach hut at the east most end of the public beach and has a dedicated launching and recovery area between the wooden sea groin directly below end of Seaview Avenue and westward to the next groin. This keeps swimmers and others users from using this area to rationalise beach use. They have 60 adult members and 5 under 18's of which 90% are male and 10% female, of which 15 – 20 % live on Mersea. They would like to see better signage and area marking to define their launching/recovery area to avoid accidents, also Public education of their sport. Dog and litter are an issue. From the household survey of the 75% that answered 82% never partake 7% often partake whilst 11 % occasionally
- 14.46 Again the mud below the sandy beach does contain old Oyster shells. There can be soft areas in the mud due to bait-digging that takes place below HW mark. Bait-diggers did at one time have licences from the Local Town Council to dig bait, which then allowed some control over their activities. CBC have a set of Bye-laws that covers activities on the Beach Area. There are some offshore "hillocks" which can allow visitors to be caught un-awares and to be cut off by the tide.

ID No. 33

- 14.47 This private beach area runs from the Bottom of Seaview Avenue to Waldegraves Caravan Site at Decoy Point is privately owned site, but with a public right of way over. This is a good sandy beach with private Beach huts behind on the Caravan site land and public footpath No. 34 runs behind the beach huts. Whilst the Public footpath No. 26 runs along the mean high water line.
- 14.48 There is a launching area for jet ski/speedboats et. al. With concrete aprons to below high water mark. There are seasonal marker buoys off the beach to lane the vessels out to deeper water where there are other buoys along the beach defining the 8 knot speed limit inner zone to the beach.
- 14.49 Again the mud below the sandy beach does contain old Oyster shells. There can be soft areas in the mud due to bait-digging that takes place below HW mark. Bait-diggers did at one time have licences from the Local Council to dig bait, which then allows some controls over their activities. There are some offshore "hillocks" which can allow visitors to be caught un-awares and cut off by the tide.

ID No. 34

- 14.44 This private beach area is directly in front of the Waldegraves Caravan site running from Decoy Point to the Parish Boundary in the east. The whole area belongs to the caravan site but with a public right of way over. The foreshore Public Footpath No. 26 runs along the mean high water line whilst the Coastal Foot Path will run along the top of the sea wall, where possible. (when the seawall is in danger of collapse the FP will follow an inland route shown on the Coastal Footpath Map)

ID No.48

14.50 This mostly all private beach in front of Mersea Outdoors, Cooper's Caravan Site, Fen Farm Caravan site and Mersea Island Holiday Park (Cosways) above mean HW mark which comes to the bottom of the sea wall along most of this stretch till just east of Cooper's Caravan site where there is a good sandy beach, but with mud going east. Note all this area is outside West Mersea Parish. It should be noted that the seawall has collapsed just to the west of Mersea Outdoors and there is severe collapse of the sea wall between Mersea Outdoors and Cooper's Caravan Park.

ID No. 49

14.51 This beach around Cudmore Grove Country Park all within the East Mersea Parish, on the western end is mostly under the cliffs and is impassible at high tide here the footpath and Coastal Path will divert inland around the north of the Mersea Island Holiday Park at high tides. The eastern end of Cudmore Park going into the River Colne has more beach above high water and there is also a concrete ramp onto the beach. There is a dune type beach above high water mark.

SECTION 15 Civic spaces

Definition

- 15.1 Civic spaces include civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas designed for pedestrians with the primary purpose of providing a setting for civic buildings and community events or gatherings.
- 15.2 Civic spaces can also be important open spaces in some areas particularly in urban areas and town centres.
- 15.3 As PPG 17 states *'the purpose of civic spaces, mainly in town and city centres, is to provide a setting for civic buildings, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. They are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design led basis. Accordingly it is for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centre areas'*.

Setting provision standards

Quantity

- 15.4 Only one civic space was official identified in the Borough, Culver Square in the main shopping area of Colchester town centre in 2006. However Mersea considers the concrete Esplanade VG 241 and Floating Concrete Causeway with associated Red Brick Toilet block fall within this category.
- 15.5 There are no definitive national or local standards for civic spaces.
- 15.6 The village survey indicated that 18% of respondents stated they never visited the concrete Esplanade area, 34% visited occasionally and 31% visited regularly whilst 17% did not answer. The floating pontoon was never visited by some 9% and occasionally by 43% and 34% visited often, 14% of the people did not respond
- 15.7 It is not possible to make a reasoned judgement in setting provision standards for civic spaces across the village area due to the limited amount of civic space provision. Furthermore, PPG17 suggests that it is not realistic to set a quantity standard for civic spaces.
- 15.8 Therefore from the analysis it is suggested that no provision standard is set. However, PPG17 adds that it is desirable for planning authorities to promote urban design frameworks for their town and city centres.

RECOMMENDED LOCAL STANDARD

No Local Standard to be set

Quality

- 15.9 No quality standard has been set for civic spaces as it is not felt to be appropriate to set a quality standard relating to one specific space in the Borough.

RECOMMENDED QUALITY STANDARD

No Local Standard to be set

Accessibility

- 15.10 However, there is no realistic requirement to set catchments for such an open space typology as they are limited in their scope to provide additional provision. Civic spaces tend to be located in town or local centres or indeed opportunity led through the development of civic or large buildings.

15.11 This is particularly the case in rural areas, where there would be little expectation to find civic spaces located in such areas.

RECOMMENDED LOCAL STANDARD

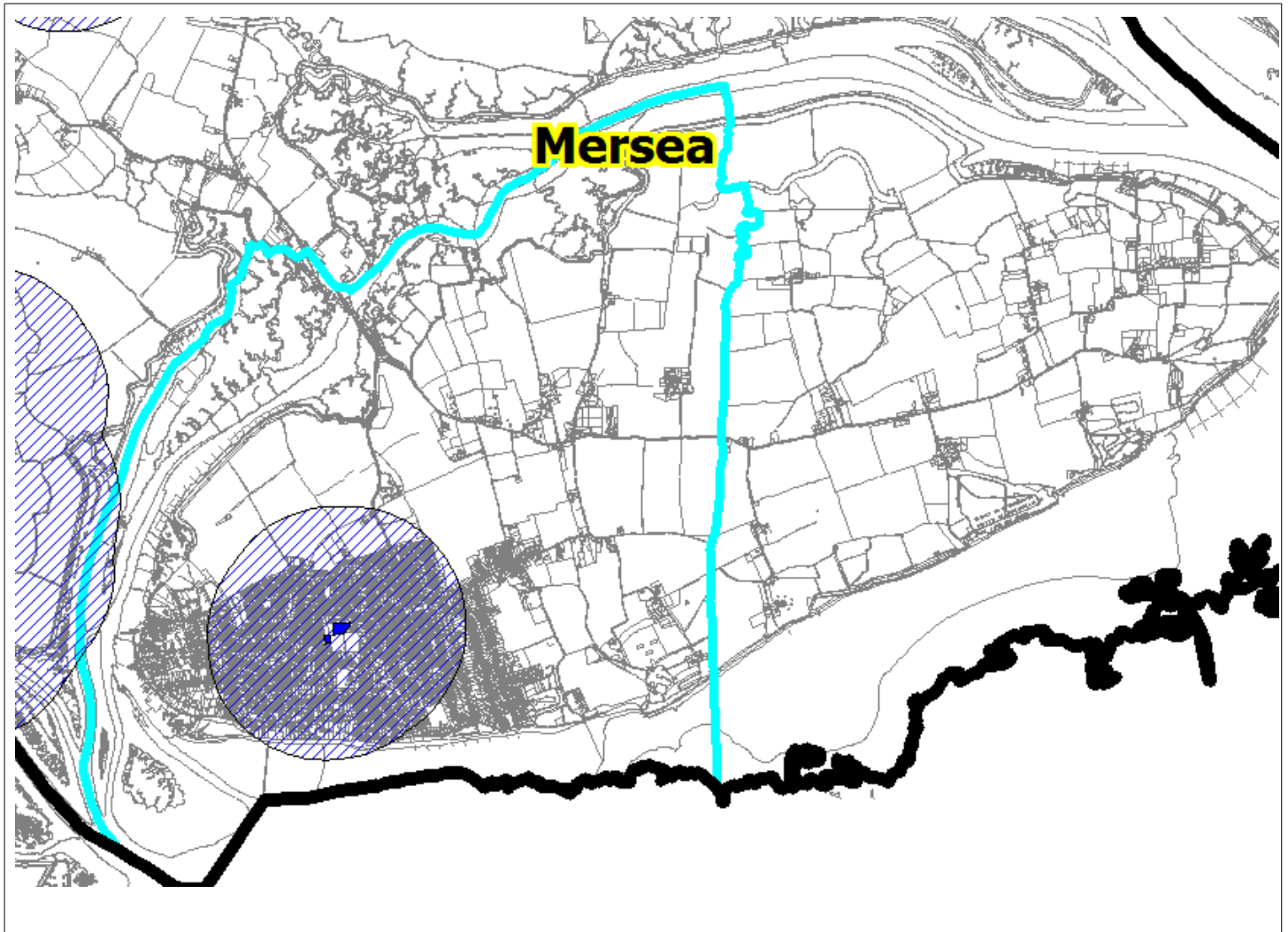
No Local Standard to be set

Summary

15.12 The rural nature Mersea areas means there is possibly only one civic space.

15.13 Due to the existence of such a small number of sites it is considered inappropriate to set quantitative, qualitative and accessibility local standards for civic spaces.

CIVIC SPACES MAP



THIS MAP NEEDS REVISING TO SUIT AREA

14/11/2017

Google Maps



Photo of area this from Goggle

ID No.	Description	Area (ha)	Notes
27 & 26	Concrete Esplanade Coast Road & Dabchicks Green at bottom of The Lane	0.049 0.035	Both part of Registered VG 241
27	Floating Causeway	0.096	
57	Civic Space in front of Library	0.015	Area in front of library
	Total	0.195	

Area No. 27 CONCRETE ESPLANADE - COAST ROAD

15.16 This concrete area is part of the Village Green 241 in front of the Coast Road Car Park and runs from the road access to Town Hard northwards to the Floating Causeway. This area provides a Promenade area for the public and is owned by CBC.

15.17 There is a large Red Brick Public Toilet at the Northeast end which is now owned by the WMTC. Also there is a compound with several Eurobins to collect rubbish from those boaters and fishermen coming off the water.

15.18 There is a Fisherman's Store with allocated fisherman's 5 car parking spaces. Locally caught fresh fish sales take place at present for an hour or so on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (2018).

- 15.19 The area is important for the annual Town Regatta, sailing events, held in August each year with Fireworks on the final Saturday set from the seaward end of the Town Hard and many residents and visitors attend.
- 15.20 The area to the south of the Dabchicks Sailing Club in front of The Lane is part of the registered Green VG 241. This has a number of old vessels on the foreshore/beach area whilst the northern end is concreted and forms part of the DSC outside amenity area. The land is owned jointly by the DSC and William Wyatt's boatyard.
- 15.21 In the winter months many wildfowl can be seen off this area feeding.

AREA No. 27 CAUSEWAY and Surrounding Area

- 15.22 The Concrete floating causeway attached to the Esplanade provides tidal access to water both for leisure boating and commercial fishing. It also a very popular Crabbing venue for both local and visiting children, this does create serious crowding at busy holiday times which inevitably presents a safety issue for all users. Visitors do stroll down the causeway to view the area.
- 15.23 The causeway is a very important asset owned and managed by CBC. There are pleasure yachts moored in the Harbour and Creeks, also one of most active East Coast inshore **Fishing Fleets**. The **Oyster** industry is also operated from this area and is world renown for it's Oysters. See Appendix G. Also a private ferry/tour vessel "Lady Grace" runs from the "hammerhead" end "T" piece of the causeway. There are about 5 or 6 vessels operating from the Hammerhead for day anglers, each of these vessels operating day trips and take about 6 persons trip. The Packing Shed Trust also runs a ferry service to and from Packing Shed Island on Bank Holidays and other special weekends though-out the summer months.
- 15.24 This causeway does form a focal point for the area, however as the road behind, Coast Road, is a cul-de sac in that The Lane at its northern end is "No Entry" from Coast Road. The congestion in fine weather can be an issue. The car park only holds some 32 cars whilst the private car park, summer only use, to the south by some 400 metres, on the area known as the Burma Road, has space for some 99 cars. This area also stores some 150 yachts during the winter months and on Town Regatta week the Fair takes place upon this ground.
- 15.25 Adjacent there is **West Mersea Yacht Club** with some with 750 Adult members and 100 veterans. 157 under 18 years and Cadets a total of some 986 members (2017 - 1020) with about 60% living on the Island. The club has two Car Parks one behind the Club house on Coast Road for about 27 vehicles and in City Road a larger summer parking area for approximately 50+vehicles. The City Road Car park also acts a winter laying facility for some 24 boats The activities take place in the creeks around Mersea and in the Blackwater and Thames Estuary where they run local races. The Club also puts on National and International Race events. The dinghies launch from the two Hards adjacent to the roadway and the floating causeway provides access to the water via their own launch service or tender dinghies to their larger vessels moored in the Creeks. Both Clubs report on the danger of "crabbers" on the floating causeway and express concern for safety. This we believe is being addressed in the spring of 2018 with a wider causeway section in areas and some fencing with additional Warning Signage.
- 15.26 Also at the end of Coast Road is the **Dabchicks Sailing Club** with 200 Adult members and 100 veterans. 136 under 18 years & Cadets a total of some 986 members 81% live on the Island. he club has no Car Park but does rent two areas on shore side for storage of Dinghies. The activities take place in the creeks around Mersea and in the Blackwater where they run local races. The Club also puts on National and International Race events. The dinghies launch from the two Hards adjacent to the roadway and the floating causeway provides access to the water via launch service or tender dinghies to their larger vessels moored in the Creeks. The club would like the facilities to be improved to provide more car parking and the relaxation of the time for yellow lines operation (5pm) to allow evening sailing to operate better.
- 15.27 The village survey indicates that 43% never partake in Yachting 18% occasionally partake and 22% often partake whilst 17% did not answer the question.

TOWN HARD & Wm WYATT'S HARD

- 15.28 The main Town Hard is a public launching hard which is free of charge. The Harbour area is an uncontrolled area with a number of Creeks with no Harbour Authority with the ground under being privately owned by owners of Oyster Layings and by Mersea Haven who bought in 1972 a Royal Charter, dating back to King Charles 2 in 1667.
- 15.29 The **Mersea Island Rowing Club** with some ??? members operate from it's base in 21 City Road launching from the Public Hards off Coast Road. In the village survey on Rowing, Sculling and Kayaking 55% never partake, 14% occasionally partake and 9% never partake whilst 22% did not answer the question.
- 15.30 Operating from this area is also the Mersea Punts a working punt from the early 1900's used by wild-fowlers for shooting of wild fowl and now rejuvenated with newer models, recently built, also used as a sailing punt to compete in sailing races from the Town Hard at high water. There is also a Paddle Board organisation operating from the Town Hard based at the back of 110 Coast Road. This company also has Kayaks for rent which belong to the School Trust which are available when not required by the local school.
- 15.31 There are two active Boatyards servicing the waterfront. One operates from the Burma Road area in front of the Victory Hotel/Pub which has a dock for launching yachts and winter storage for about 120 yachts with a summer Car Park at the south east corner for some 78 + 21 for Oyster Restaurant cars. The other boatyard operates from sites either side of the floating causeway with about a 12 spaces for laying up yachts in front of 110 Coast Road together with two slipways. Also about 90 vessels either side of the RNLI Boathouse, this area is used for dinghy storage during the summer months. It also has storage for about 16 vessels on the landward side of Coast Road together with paint spray Shop and covered storage.
- 15.32 There is also a Yacht Chandlery and a Yacht Sail-makers on the landward side of Coast Road here.
- 15.33 The RNLI has a station beside the Wyatts Hard form which it can launch an inshore lifeboat which covers the Rivers Blackwater and Colne.
- 15.34 There are a number eateries (some 9 in Total) along Coast Road which attract a large number of visitors and with limited Car Parking can cause traffic congestion at peak periods. This congestion does lead to issues for the Emergency Services as well as resident access.
- 15.35 There are some 400 plus moorings within the creeks of Mersea.

AREA No. 57 CIVIC SPACE IN FRONT OF LIBRARY

- 15.36 This area in front of the Library is a small but essential part of the village centre with the Village Sign, notice boards, seating and Bicycle Racks at the entrance to the Public Car Park and Toilets all behind the Library. Also village Christmas Tree with own compound.

Section 16 - OVERALL SUMMARY

No	SITE NAME	CODE TYPE	AREA Ha	PUBLIC PRIVATE	COMMENTS & NOTES
1	Glebe 1 Recreation Ground Tennis Court Youth Play area Wood north east	OSF OSF PY AGS	3.345 (0.329) 0.029 0.096	PUBLIC TOTAL AREA 3.47 Ha	Two senior football pitches and junior pitch. Cricket square and training nets. Three hard surface tennis courts and three grass courts. Basket ball court. Two Pavilions with car park for about 64 cars.
2	Glebe 2 playing field extension. Children's playground. BMX Area. Open space	OSF PC PY AGS	4.1 0.05 0.03 2.12	PUBLIC Total Area of this OPEN SPACE= 6.3 in original application documents	Two Rugger pitches. One senior and two junior football pitches, training area with flood lights. BMX track. Young Children's Playground. open space with meadow grass and tracks through. No Car parking, pedestrian access only from Glebe 1 or Wellhouse Estate. Also potential access from/to Glebe 3
2a	<i>Glebe 3</i>	<i>OSF</i>	<i>(5.2)</i>	<i>Area allocated</i>	<i>Allocated land for recreation proposed in CBC Local Plan Document (development 5.0Ha)</i>
3	Open space middle of Weelhouse Green	AGS	0.045	CBC	
4	Open space mid Seaview Avenue	AGS	0.076	CBC	
5	Open space bottom Fairhaven Avenue	AGS	0.060	CBC	
6	Old Putting Green	AGS	0.422	CBC	Victoria Esplanade
7	Victoria Esplanade Car Park	AGS	0.838	CBC	
8	Beach Hut area	AGS	1.874	CBC & Private	
9	Children's Playground	PC	0.051	CBC	Victoria Esplanade
10	Gainsborough Open Space	AGS	0.256	CBC	
11	Oakwood Ave Open Space	AGS	0.231	CBC	East Side behind housing on East road
12	Oakwood Ave Open Space Oakwood Ave Open Space	AGS AGS	0.143 0.133	CBC CBC	North end on east side of road South end on east side of road to East Road
13	Colchester Road Bowls Club	OSF INSF	0.582 (0.089)	Private Private	
14	Chatsworth Rd Open Space	AGS	0.411	CBC	
15	Whittaker Way Open Space	AGS	0.293	CBC	
16	Strood Close Open Space	AGS	0.079	CBC	
17	Green area Upland Road	AGS	0.098	CBC	
18	Reymead Wood	NSN	0.60	CBC & WMTC	Joint ownership with CBC
19	Mersea Park Reymead Open Space	PG	0.611	CBC & WMTC	Joint ownership with CBC
20	School/Legion Field Wooded Area	(AGS) OSF NSN	0.968 0.129	Private Public WMTC	The field is open to community use. WM Hockey Club use this field 1 to 10 games Wooded area in west set aside for school use.

21	Youth Field/Village Green Skate Park Youth Playground	AGS PY PY	1.050 (0.032) (0.050)	WMTC	Registered VG 246
22	School Gardens Children's Playground Shelter with seats	PG PC PY	0.327 (0.034) (0.003)	WMTC	
23	Open Space Sensory Garden Melrose Road Open Space opposite	AGS AGS	0.022 0.003	WMTC WMTC	Grassed area with seat around tree and seating around flowers borders. Also small Green opposite with tree and seat.
24	Mersea School Playing Fields	OSF	0.742	Private	Sole use of school for recreational activities.
25	Yorick Road Bowls Club	OSF	0.254	Private	Greensward for bowls
26	Village Green Dabchicks	CS	0.06	Private	Reg. part of VG 241 part concrete/ part beach.
27	Promenade Floating Causeway	CS CS	0.07 0.12	CBC CBC	Reg. Part of VG 241 Concrete area in front of Car Park. Total VG area 0.80 Ha
28	Churchfields Open Space	AGS	0.050	CBC	Green area with commemorative tree and car park area at north end.
29	St. Peter's Well Village Green Top Section Marsh Beach	AGS NSN B	0.627 2.56 0.580	WMTC WMTC WMTC	This whole area is a registered VG 185 and SSSI area. Grassed area with seats and pathways. Part of the VG between top section and Beach Part of VG from marsh to High Water
30	Village Green in front of Parish Church	AGS	0.030 registered as 0.12 Ha .068	WMTC	Registered VG116 is used by the Town as a community area which also has the War Memorial maintained by the RBL
31	Beach Monkey steps to Broomhills	B	1.53	Private	
32	Beach Broomhills to Seaview Avenue	B	1.83	CBC	
33	Beach Seaview to Waldergraves	B	0.70	Private	
34	Beach Waldegraves	B	0.60	Private	
35	Broomhills Greensward	AGS	0.074	WMTC	
36	Willoughby Open Space Car Park	AGS AGS	0.76 0.70	WMTC	
37	Parish Churchyard	CEM	0.233	Church	
38	Barfield Road Burial Ground	CEM	0.396	WMTC	
39	Firs Road Burial Ground 1 Outside Green and roads	CEM AGS	0.789 0.105	WMTC CBC	
40	Firs Road Burial Ground 2	CEM	0.873	WMTC	
41	Feldy View Woodland Burial Ground	CEM	0.933	WMTC	Natural woodland burial ground
42	Coastal Footpath	B	-----		
43	Waldegraves Golf &	OSF	7.61	Private	Golf Driving Range – 18 hole Pitch & Putt Golf- 9 hole Footgolf – Crazy Golf

	Fishing		1.025	Private	4 off Fishing Ponds
44	<i>Brierley Paddocks</i>	AGS		3.1 Ha ? 9.2 Ha site total	<i>Allocated land for recreation proposed in CBC Local Plan Document</i>
45	Fishing Reservoir 2 off Colchester Road	OSF	0.980 1.06	Private	Farm reservoir AM Gray & Co. Leased to Colchester Angling Preservation Society
46	Mersea Outdoors	OSF PY	(13.4)	ECC	Outside the Town but close enough to be available for WM residence
47	Seaview Avenue Car Park	AGS	0.268	WMTC	Top end grass suitable picnic area in quite times
48	Beach Areas in front of Mersea Outdoors Cooper's Caravan site Fen Farm Caravan site Mersea Island Holiday Park	B	(3.66)	Private	Approximate areas added up give total
49	Beach Cudmore Grove Country Park	B	(5.1)	ECC	Approximate areas added up give total
50	Cudmore Grove Country Park	PG	(36.2)	ECC	ECC give the park size as 120 acres 41.3 ha less the beach area above = 36.2ha
51	MICA Main Hall, Squash, Gym etc	INSF	0.054	Public	
52	Allotments	A	1.94	WMTC	
53	Packing Marsh Island	NSN	1.82	T & M N O F Co..	Leased by The Packing Shed Trust
54	Ray Island Nature Reserve	NSN	(65.0) 40.47	Essex Wildlife Trust	Access by members only during 1 st March to 31 st August.
55	Water Ski Club	AGS	0.212	CBC	Water Ski Club leases land from CBC
56	Greensward Glebe corner	AGS	0.063	WMTC	Visual amenity grass area with some flower planting
57	Civic Space in front of Library	CS	0.015	ECC	Paved area with Village sign, bicycle racks, planters and seating.
58	Firs Road Cemetery Green and roads	AGS	0.105	CBC	Grass area at entrance to Firs Road Cemetery
59	<i>Mersea Boating Lake Rewsalls Lane</i>	OSF	(2.63)	<i>Sunncks family</i>	<i>Opened September 2020 site 12 ½ acres. Previous one opened in 1930's behind Broomhills Road, now Shears Crescent</i>

1 Hectare = 2.47105 Acres = 10,000 sq. metres

1 Acre = 0.4047 Ha

CBC in the IDP Oct 2017 Report, shows requirements for West Mersea with the extra the 200 Dwellings and 448 persons:

Parks and Gardens:	0.79ha	
NSN:	2.24ha	
AGS:	0.49ha	
Allotments:	0.09ha	£8,960
Playspace:	0.11	£0
Youth Needs:	0.13	£0
Grass Sports Pitches	0.54	£80,000 (equivalent of one adult football pitch)
MUGAs	0	
LEAPS:	0	
NEAPS:	0	
Community Centre Needs	150sq. m	
Community Centre Needs facilities	0	

SUMMARY TOTALS OF AREAS BY TYPE

AREA CODE	TYPE	AREA in Ha	NOTES
ISF SEC 5	Indoor Sport and Recreation	0.143	Indoor Bowls facilities and MICA
PG SEC 6	Parks and Gardens	0.938 <i>(36.2)</i>	Mersea Park <i>Cudmore Grove in East Mersea Parish</i>
AGS SEC 7	Amenity Green Spaces	11.042 <i>(19.0)</i>	<i>The two new developments will add some 8 hectares to this figure</i>
NSN SEC 8	Natural and Semi-Natural Areas	44.45	
OSF SEC 9	Outdoor Sports Facilities	8.413 0.836 7.610 3.065 <i>(13.40)</i> <i>(0.742)</i> <i>(2.63)</i>	Glebe 1 & 2 and Legion Field Bowls Golf Fishing ponds <i>Mersea Outdoors (outside Parish)</i> <i>School Playing Field Private</i> <i>Boating Lake Rewsall Land(outside Parish)</i>
A SEC 10	Allotments	1.94	Rented field by WMTC
C SEC 11	Cemeteries & Churchyards	3.224	
PC SEC 12	Provision for Children	0.135	
PY SEC 13	Provision for Young People	0.144	<i>This does not include Mersea Outdoors of some 13.4 ha</i>
GC SEC 14	Green Corridors		
B SEC 14	Beaches and Coastal Areas	5.24 <i>(8.76)</i>	Beach area in Parish <i>Beach area outside Parish but in East Mersea Parish</i>
CS SEC 15	Civic Spaces	0.265	
	TOTAL OF ALL AREAS	76.77	
	Above + Golf + Fishing	87.445	
	Above + Mersea Outdoors	<i>100.845</i>	
	Above + Cudmore Grove Park	<i>137.045</i>	
	Above + School Playing Field	<i>137.787</i>	
	Above + Boating Lake	<i>140.417</i>	
	Above + Beaches in East Mersea Parish	<i>149.177</i>	

NOTE IN THE ABOVE TABLE:

1. In the TOTAL OF ALL AREAS above the provision for open spaces in the developments at Dawes Lane and Brierley Paddocks have **NOT** been included but appear in the list only for information.
2. In the Totals above the areas outside the Parish i.e. in East Mersea but still on the Island have not been included in the totals but are listed separately.

NOTES

- 16.1 The study has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the latest Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002) and its Companion Guide "Assessing Needs and Opportunities" (September 2002).
- 16.2 The prime objectives of the study were to:
 - provide a robust assessment of the demand for open space and recreation facilities throughout the Parish, addressing issues of quantity, quality and accessibility
 - provide an analysis of identified surpluses or deficiencies and other issues of provision across the Parish
 - provide clear recommendations for the setting of locally derived quantitative and qualitative standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities
 - provide evidence for the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan.
 - inform the preparation of planning policies in the CBC Local Development Framework
 - underpin the development of the CBC Parks and Green Space Strategy.
- 16.3 It is important to note that the WMTC or CBC only controls some of the sites audited through this study. Where the report has stated that the WMTC/Parish needs to provide new sites or improve the quality of sites, the reality is that the relevant Authority may need to take responsibility for implementing change with Colchester Borough Council providing various means of support wherever possible. Partnership working will be key to achieving success.
- 16.4 Population of West Mersea in March 2011 from the Census Data was 7183 in 3551 dwellings equivalent of 2.023 persons per unit. The Colchester Borough Council tax department best estimate was at 31st March 2011 some 3527 dwellings. The same department recorded 3580 at 17th November 2016. This would indicate about 10 extra dwellings per year therefore at 31st March 2018, this equates to a population of approximately **7326**. East Mersea dwellings in 2016 was 121 at the same density as West Mersea this equates to a population of **246**. Therefore the whole Island is **7572**.
- 16.5 The two new developments, one at Brierley Paddocks and the other at Dawes Lane are due to add a further 200 dwellings. At the above 2.023 persons per unit this would add a further 405 persons bringing the total to some **7731** population. This figure has been used in the table below to show the change likely to happen to requirement figures.

STANDARDS SET: NATIONAL – CBC REQUIREMENTS- WEST MERSEA REQUIREMENTS & ACTUALS

TYPE OF PROVISION	National Standards Hectares per 1000 POPULATION	Colchester Borough Council REQUIREMENTS per 1000 population	ACTUAL AREA REQUIREMENT for WEST MERSEA @ 7326 (Island 7572) in Hectares	ACTUAL AREAS FOR WEST MERSEA	WEST MERSEA ACTUALS per 1000 population
Open Space wildlife and countryside areas, woodland/shelter belts, lakes and ponds, new tree/woodland planting	1.63		11.94	11.042 AGS 44.45 NSN 0.938 PG 5.24 B <u>0.265 CS</u> = 61.94 + 8.0 for new developments =69.94	8.45 9.05
Parks & Gardens	0.8	1.76	12.89 Cudmore Grove	0.938 + 36.2	0.128 5.07
Amenity Green Spaces	0.6	1.1	8.06 <i>New developments add approx a further 8.0</i>	11.042 <i>@ 7731 population</i>	1.51 2.46
All Natural & Semi- Nat Open Space Areas	1.8	5.0 (Urban) 9.83 (Urban/Rural)	36.63 72.01	44.45 +5.24 Beaches = 49.69	6.07 6.78
For Children's Play Area	Per 1000 population (target 1 play area per 300 population aged 0-9 years assuming 13% population in this age range = 0.5) factoring in catchment and physical barriers limitations			3 Play areas 0.135	0.0184
Provision for Children		0.05	0.366	0.135	0.0184
Provision for Youth		0.05	0.366	0.144	0.02
LEAP Local Equipped Areas of Play	1.0		7.33		
NEAP Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play	0.28		2.05		
11 + FACILITY	0.28		2.05	0.144	0.02
Outdoor Sports changing/ancillary	1.20		8.79 10.99	9.25	1.26 1.26
Outdoor Sports Facilities inc. Golf also inc. Fishing	FIT all Outdoor Sports 1.6	2.1 1.5	15.38 11.72 10.99	9.25 16.86 19.93	1.26 2.30 2.72
Indoor sports facilities (four court hall)	1 per 13,800 population or 0.072 per 1000 population		0.53	0.143	0.02
Swimming (4 lane pool)	1 per 20,650 population or 0.0484 per 1000 population		.355	0	0
Allotments	0.2 ha per 1000 population FIT Media 0.3	0.2	1.47 2.20	1.94	0.26
Public Art	1.0 per 1000 pop.		7.33	2 in number	0.27

APPENDIX A - Benefits of open space

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all ages of the local population to mix and socialise · • social cohesion - potential to engender a sense of community ownership and pride· • providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising· • providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a wide range of outdoor sports and activities.
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing easily accessible recreation areas as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits· • offers wide range of leisure opportunities from informal leisure and play to formal events, activities and games.· • open spaces, particularly parks, are the first areas where children come into contact with the natural world· • play opportunities are a vital factor in the development of children.
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing motor car dependence to access specific facilities· • providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity· • helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity· • providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials • providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities.
Educational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valuable educational role in promoting an understanding of nature and the opportunity to learn about the environment. • open spaces can be used to demonstrate virtues of sustainable development and health awareness.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues· • contribution to urban regeneration and renewal projects· • contributing to attracting visitors and tourism, including using the parks as venues for major events· • encouraging employment and inward investment · • complementing new development with a landscape that enhances its value.

APPENDIX B - Open space typology definitions

AREA CODE	TYPE	DEFINITION	PRIMARY PURPOSE/EXAMPLES
ISF SEC 5	Indoor Sport and Recreation	Opportunities for participation in indoor sport and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sports halls • swimming pools • health and fitness facilities • indoor tennis • indoor bowls.
PG SEC 6	Parks and Gardens	Includes urban parks, formal gardens and country parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal recreation • community events.
AGS SEC 7	Amenity Green Spaces	Most commonly but not exclusively found in housing areas. Includes informal recreation green spaces and village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informal activities close to home or work • enhancement of appearance of residential or other areas.
NSN SEC 8	Natural and Semi-Natural Areas	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons, meadows), wetlands, open and running water and wastelands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife conservation • biodiversity • environmental education and awareness.
OSF SEC 9	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. Includes school playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outdoor sports pitches • tennis and bowls • golf courses • athletics • playing fields (including school playing fields) • water sports.(not included as an area only as an activity)
A SEC 10	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. May also include urban farms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • growing vegetables and other root crops. <p>N.B. does not include private gardens.</p>
C SEC 11	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Cemeteries and churchyards including disused churchyards and other burial grounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quiet contemplation • burial of the dead • wildlife conservation • promotion of biodiversity.
PC SEC 12	Provision for Children	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipped play areas.
PY SEC 13	Provision for Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving young people, typically teenagers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ball courts • outdoor basketball hoop areas • skateboard areas • teenage shelters and 'hangouts'.
GC SEC 14	Green Corridors	Includes towpaths along canals and riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way and disused railway lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking, cycling or horse riding • leisure purposes or travel • opportunities for wildlife migration.
B SEC 14	Beaches and Coastal Areas	Includes both public and private beaches, estuaries and coastal areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leisure purposes • walking.
CS SEC 15	Civic Spaces	Includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced community areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designed for pedestrians • primary purpose of providing a setting for public events.

- 1.1 There are a number of types of land use that have not been included in this assessment of open space in conjunction with PPG17, namely:
- grass verges on the side of roads
 - small insignificant areas of grassland or trees – for example on the corner of the junction of two roads
 - SLOAP (space left over after planning i.e in and around a block of flats)
 - farmland and farm tracks
 - private roads and private gardens.
- 1.2 For multi-functionality of open spaces there is a requirement to classify each open space by its **‘primary purpose’** as recommended in PPG17 so that it is counted only once in the audit. However were there is distinct areas on such places as Glebe 2, these have been identified and measured separately so as to be added to their correct classification of area type for the Parish.
- 1.3 This should be taken into account when considering additional provision. For example - in areas of deficiency of amenity greenspace, playing pitches may exist that provide the function of required amenity greenspace but its primary purpose is as an outdoor sports facility.

APPENDIX C Quantity Standards

TYPOLOGY	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quantity Standards	Quantity Standard	NOTES Standards set from 2007 report for CBC by PMP
Indoor Sport and Recreation				
Parks and Gardens	No national standards	2.83ha/1000 (for settlements of 1000+) 0.2ha within 400m of all homes	1.76 HECTARES per 1000 POPULATION	The current level at 2006 of provision is 1.76 ha per 1,000 population in Colchester Borough. Responses from the household questionnaire indicate that there is a general satisfaction amongst the public as to the provision of formal park space in the Borough. This suggests that the major parks are popular sites and people are willing to travel to them. Therefore we recommend the adoption of a quantity standard equivalent to the current level of provision in Colchester Borough
Amenity Green Spaces				
Natural and Semi-Natural Areas	English Nature (Natural England) Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural greenspace / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha. English Nature Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population Rethinking Open Space Report - Average of all LA applicable standards = 2 ha per 1,000 population - areas that promote biodiversity and nature conservation	2.83ha/1000 (for settlements of 1000+) 0.2ha within 400m of all homes	5.0 HECTARES per 1000 POPULATION (excluding rural analysis area)	Current provision in 2007 across Colchester is equivalent to 9.82 hectares per 100 population. However this is heavily skewed by the rural analysis area and therefore an urban standard has been recommended of 5 hectares per 1000 population. This standard protects the existing provision levels whilst also placing demands on provision close to new residential developments. Mersea's results differed slightly, where 61.5% of respondents felt there was enough NSN in the area, which goes against audit findings. Cudmore Grove and the inherent rural nature of the east of the island may explain this result. However, these results are based of only 15 responses IN 2007

TYPOLOGY	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quantity Standards	Quantity Standard	NOTES Standards set from 2007 report for CBC by PMP
Outdoor Sports Facilities	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 4 acres (ie 1.62 per 1,000 population) for outdoor sport - includes pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, tennis courts training areas and croquets lawns</p> <p>NPFA - in the past some LA's have added 1 acre (0.4ha) arbitrary to cover 'amenity areas' and leisure areas' or something similar that may not be covered within the NPFA standard. In almost all cases, this additional requirement are intended for residential areas and do not cover open spaces such as parks or allotments</p>	NONE	1.5 HECTARES PER 1000 POPULATION	<p>In reflecting the demands placed on outdoor sports facilities, and the nature of this standard, it has been recommended that the standard is set above the current level of provision (1.18ha per 1,000) at 1.5 ha per 1,000 population. Golf courses have been removed from all calculations due to their size and subsequent tendency to skew figures. When golf courses are included, the level of provision is 1.8 hectares per 1000 people. Under this scenario, the level of provision per 1000 people remains below the level of many other local authorities so a standard of 2.1 hectares of outdoor sports facilities per 1000 people would be recommended.</p> <p>Due to the broad nature of this typology, this standard should be applied for planning need only. The Playing Pitch Strategy incorporates relevant national guidance from the NPFA, in order to provide a more detailed demand for outdoor sports pitches. It, along with specific sport demand analysis, should be used to determine what and where new outdoor sports facilities should be provided.</p>
Allotments	<p>National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners - 20 allotment plots per 1,000 households (ie 20 allotments plots per 2,200 people (2.2 people per house) or 1 allotment plot per 200 people. 1969 Thorpe Report suggested 0.2 ha per 1,000 population</p>	0.2ha/1000 population	0.2 HECTARES per 1000 POPULATION	<p>The standard set is higher than current provision (0.16 hectares per 1000 population), but is in line with policies set out in the adopted review of the Local Plan (2004).</p>
Provision for Children	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas</p> <p>(3) NEAPs aged min 8 ; min area size 1000 m² should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line),</p> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5 ; min area size 400 m² should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p>	NONE	0.05 HECTARES per 1000 POPULATION	<p>The recommended standard is higher than provision across all analysis areas except Rural and Tiptree. Sites are currently spread evenly across all areas although locational deficiencies do exist.</p>

TYPOLOGY	National Standards and/or Benchmarks	Existing Local Quantity Standards	Quantity Standard	NOTES Standards set from 2007 report for CBC by PMP
Provision for Young People	<p>NPFA - 6 acre standard (2.43ha) per 1,000 population for 'playing space' consisting of 2 acres (ie 0.81 ha per 1,000 population) for children's playing space - includes areas designated for children and young people and casual or informal playing space within housing areas.(Pocket Parks)</p> <p>(3) NEAPs aged min 8 ; min area size 1000 m² should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line),</p> <p>(2) LEAPs - aged min 5 ; min area size 400 m² should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line)</p>	NONE	0.05 HECTARES per 1000 POPULATION	The current level of provision is 0.01 hectares per 1000 population which is considerably lower than the level of provision for children. The subsequent standard set reflects the acknowledged lack of teenage facilities in the Borough and sets a challenging target for new provision
Cemeteries & Churchyards	No national standards			As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation
Green Corridors	No national standards			As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation
Beaches and Coastal Areas	No national standards			As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation
Civic Spaces	No national standards			As per PPG 17, no realistic requirement to set catchments for such typology as cannot be easily influenced through planning policy and implementation

APPENDIX D - Open space Quality Standards

AREA CODE	TYPE	Quality Standards
ISF SEC 5	Indoor Sport and Recreation	None
PG SEC 6	Parks and Gardens	The Green Flag Awards set out a national standard for the quality of Parks. Castle Park, High Woods Country Park and Cudmore Grove Country Park currently have this accreditation
AGS SEC 7	Amenity Green Spaces	None
NSN SEC 8	Natural and Semi-Natural Areas	Natural England state land should be managed to conserve or enhance its rich landscape, biodiversity, heritage and local customs
OSF SEC 9	Outdoor Sports Facilities	NPFA recommends various quality factors National Governing Bodies of sports highlight specific quality issues in relation to pitch provision
A SEC 10	Allotments	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardener standards (NSALG)
C SEC 11	Cemeteries & Churchyards	National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Cemetery of the Year Award – quality criteria
PC SEC 12	Provision for Children	NPFA Six Acre Standard sets out quality standards for LEAPs LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs indicate some quality aspirations in terms of needing seating for adults, varied range of equipment and teenager meeting places
PY SEC 13	Provision for Young People	Same as above for CHILDREN
GC SEC 14	Green Corridors	Natural England – a path provided by the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation; a path on un-vegetated natural surfaces.
B SEC 14	Beaches and Coastal Areas	Blue Flag Award Criteria. However Mersea Island does not have the facilities to enter for this award.
CS SEC 15	Civic Spaces	No national standards

APPENDIX E - Open space Accessibility Standards

AREA CODE	TYPE	Accessibility Standards
ISF SEC 5	Indoor Sport and Recreation	No national standards
PG SEC 6	Parks and Gardens	No National Standard
AGS SEC 7	Amenity Green Spaces	No national standards however many Councils have added one acre to the NPFA's six acre standard for this typology
NSN SEC 8	Natural and Semi-Natural Areas	English Nature (Natural England) Accessible Natural Green space Standard (ANGSt) recommends at least 2 ha of accessible natural green space per 1,000 people based on no-one living more than: 300m from nearest natural green space / 2km from a site of 20ha / 5km from a site of 100ha / 10km from a site of 500ha
OSF SEC 9	Outdoor Sports Facilities	Recent Comprehensive Performance Assessments criteria has stated guidelines of a 20 minute walktime in urban areas and 20 minute drivetime in rural areas for accessing quality facilities
A SEC 10	Allotments	No national standards
C SEC 11	Cemeteries & Churchyards	No national standards
PC SEC 12	Provision for Children	(3) NEAPs aged min 8 ; min area size 1000msq ; should be located 1,000 metres or 15 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (600 metres in a straight line), (2) LEAPs - aged min 5 ; min area size 400msq ; should be located 400 metres or 5 minutes walking time along pedestrian routes (240 metres in a straight line) (1) LAPs - aged 4-6 ; 1 min walk or 100m (60m in a straight line) ; min area size 100msq ; LAPs typically have no play equipment and therefore could be considered as amenity green space
PY SEC 13	Provision for Young People	As above for Children
GC SEC 14	Green Corridors	No national standards
B SEC 14	Beaches and Coastal Areas	No national standards
CS SEC 15	Civic Spaces	No national standards

Glossary

Local Area for Play 'LAP Standard'

1. Each site to be formally designated by the Council as a play area catering mostly for children aged 4-6, close to where they live (1 minute's walk/100m).
2. Each site to be enclosed by a fence or barrier (e.g. hedges or planting).
3. Each site to be of a minimum area of 100m².
4. Each site to have no play equipment.
5. Each site to be overlooked by housing, pedestrian routes, or other well used public facilities.
6. Each site to have signs excluding dogs.

Local Equipped Area for Play 'LEAP Standard' for local facilities for play, principally for children in the 0 - 9 age group

1. Each site to be of a minimum area of 400m².
2. All equipment and facilities to have been assessed as safe for continued use by a competent playground inspector.
3. All equipment with a fall height greater than 600mm to have appropriate impact absorbing surfacing.
4. Each site to have a minimum of seven different activities. Multi-play equipment may be counted as having up to three separate activities (e.g. sliding, climbing, rocking, swinging, or social play).
5. Each site to have a small games area (may be grassed) within the boundary of the playground.
6. Each site to be entirely fenced with self-closing gates.
7. Each site to have signs excluding dogs.
8. Each site to be overlooked by housing, pedestrian routes, or other well used public facilities, with surfaced links to the footpaths network.

Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play 'NEAP Standard' for neighbourhood facilities with separate infant (3 - 5 years) and junior (5 - 11 years) areas

1. Each site to be of a minimum area of 1000m².
2. All equipment and facilities to have been assessed as safe for continued use by a competent playground inspector.
3. All equipment with a fall height greater than 600mm to have appropriate impact absorbing surfacing.
4. Each site to have a minimum of eight different activities. Multi-play equipment may be counted as having up to three separate activities (e.g. sliding, climbing, rocking, swinging, or social play).
5. Each site to have a hard surfaced kick about/skating/cycle play area within the boundary of the playground.
6. Each site to be entirely fenced with self-closing gates.
7. Each site to have signs excluding dogs.
8. Each site to be overlooked by housing, pedestrian routes, or other well used public facilities with surfaced links to the footpaths network.

In addition to the Audit Commission definitions, the Borough Council recognises facilities for the 11+ age group as a distinct area of provision; the Borough Council's '**11+ Standard**' is:-

1. Each site to be of a minimum area of 400m².
2. Each site should normally be enclosed by a fence or barrier.
3. Each site to have a minimum of two activities plus a socialising or 'hangingout' area; appropriate activities might include a single basket ball skills goal, a climbing boulder or similar.
4. Each site to have signs excluding dogs.
5. Each site to have at least one litter bin.
6. Each site to be located so as to be part of their local area, without creating potential disturbance to nearby households or other public or private properties. AP

FISH AND MERSEA 2017

Commercial Boats have fished from Mersea for a long time and methods have changed as the boats became larger and more powerful. There are now about 10 boats which employ about 25 people, with more in ancillary activities, although some boats work from other ports when there is not much fish in this area.

They mainly lay afloat on moorings from which they have to ferry their catches ashore although the smaller ones can land their catches on the hammerhead from which they must be dragged to the icebox for storage. Most of the fish is consigned away to wholesale markets, mainly in Europe, although some is sold to local restaurants and shops and there are regular sales direct to the public. Gear storage and fuelling facilities are provided by redundant barges moored outside the Victory boatpark where the boats can also tie up for maintenance work.

The fleet has declined in recent years, as in many places, although it has survived better than most places around the Thames Estuary and we are yet to see what affects Brexit will have.

OYSTERS AND MERSEA 2017

The tradition of oyster cultivation in the creeks around Mersea Island goes back several centuries and this is probably the last area where this cultivation of the native oyster is carried out. Diesel-engined boats with hydraulic winches and electronic equipment have replaced the sailing boats with hand-hauled dredges but the basic principles have remained the same. Cultch (shells), on which the oyster spawn can settle, is laid on the seabed and throughout its life the oyster is cared for. It is separated from its siblings so that it can grow unimpeded and its predators (e.g. the starfish and the whelk tingle) are removed. To provide a supply of the quality oysters for which Mersea is famous, oysters from the river are finally laid in the shallow creeks where they are able to gorge on more food and fatten.

Also, to enable the oysters to thrive, the water quality must be at least maintained or improved and there must be pressure exerted on various authorities to achieve this.

A century and a half ago, there were 150 boats and probably four or five hundred men working in the river, today it is 10 boats and 20 men but these probably produce as many oysters as their predecessors. Ashore there are another 10 people dealing with the washing, grading, purifying and transport as well as the many people employed in the restaurants selling oysters as well as a wide range of local seafood.

MERSEA WATERSIDE 2017

Mersea has a working waterside throughout the year with a large increase in the number of users for pleasure and recreation during the summer months. It has been used by the oyster and fishing industries for centuries together with ancillary trades such as boatbuilding /repairing and sail-making originally and now diesel engineering.

All these services have also been increasingly used by the sailing and power boats which are mainly moored on former oyster layings. These activities provide year round employment for over 20 people in maintenance of the boats and their moorings as well as the launching and hauling out at the beginning and end of the season. In addition about 15 people are employed in sailmaking/repairing and other canvas work.

To cater for people's leisure time there are now 2 sailing clubs, 2 pubs/restaurants and 4 eating places specialising in seafood, especially local. At the peak of the season over 100 people are employed with probably half that number year-round. Space for any increase in activities is limited and will probably decrease if there is an increase in residential development as in many waterside areas. The nature of any development will also be influenced by the area's designation as a conservation area.

discover Cudmore country Park

Key

- Public Footpath
- Horse & cycle ride
- P Parking
- i Information
- A Picnic Area
- ♿ Toilets with disabled access

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, audio or on disk, please telephone 01245 437769



Below is the Park Run Map of course from Cudmore Grove



APPENDIX I

MICA TIME TABLE

The main and small hall are buzzing with activity all week long! Classes and activities marked MA are MICA Activity sessions which are charged at the activity rate on our price list page and MICA members get a discounted rate.

Monday

2pm Carumba with Carol Irvine
3pm Table Tennis Open Session MA
4:15pm- 6:15pm Junior Squash with Mersea Island School
7:30pm Mersea Island Free Fit Club

Tuesday

9:30am Open Badminton MA
3:45pm Kazen Kai Karate (3 sessions)
7:30pm Hatha Yoga with Nick Potter

Wednesday

9:30am Yoga MA
9:45am Diddi Dane with Charlotte Foxley
10:30am Pilates MA

Thursday

9:30am Carpet Bowls MA
9:30am Carumba with Carol Irvine
11:00am Tai Chi Advanced class- Contact Betty Bury for more information on 07713 924400
7pm & 8pm ((BOUNCE))

Friday

9:30am Ladies Hula Hoop and Fitness with Carol Irvine
10:00am Open Table Tennis MA
10:30am Men's 60+ Fitness with Carol Irvine

Saturdays and Sundays

BOTH DAYS AT 9am ((BOUNCE))

Squash Court £7

Junior Squash Court £3.50

Badminton court (30 mins) £6.50

Badminton Court Junior £3.50

Adult Activity Session- Members £4.00 (Non-members £7)

Junior Activity Session £3

Fitness Gym (over 17's only) £6

Fitness Gym Induction £FREE

Gym Gold Saver (12 months) £234.00 ** works out just £4.50per week

Gym Silver Saver (6 months) £143.00 **works out just £5.50 per week

Gym Bronze Saver (3 months) £78.00 ** works out just £6 per week

Gym Oyster Saver (1 month) £28.00 NOW AVAILABLE AS A DIRECT DEBIT!!

Guest Fee (non-members) £6.50

MICA FACILITIES

The Fitness Gym is available for use by members 7 days a week. With two rooms full of well maintained, modern equipment, The Mersea Centre Gym is the best in on the island. The gym has a regular group of users of all ages and has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

All new users are offered a FREE induction session to learn how the equipment works and how to safely use the machines.

To use the gym, you first need to purchase a membership for 12 months. You then have the flexibility to either pay as you go or, buy a saver card for unlimited use for 1, 3, 6 or 12 months. Saver card holders also get use of the sauna for FREE!

Squash Courts



The Mersea Centre has two fully ventilated squash courts available for members to hire in 45 minute time slots. The courts are popular with locals and it is recommended that sessions are booked in advance. This can be done up to a week in advance by personal visit to the centre reception. Squash balls and rackets are available to hire.

The Mersea centre is also home of Mersea Island School's Junior Squash league who meet here on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. For more information, contact Sally Meanley at Mersea Island School.

Badminton Court

When not in use, the main hall doubles up as a badminton court which is bookable up to a week in advance by personal visit to reception. We also hold three open sessions per week where anyone can join in as part of a group session. Badminton courts can be booked by members and their guests.



Table Tennis Sauna



There are two open sessions of table tennis during the week and we are looking into running an additional weekend session. Members and guests may come along and pay as part of a group. Please enquire if you wish to play table tennis at alternative times as we can provide use of the tables at other times, subject to availability.



The Sauna is a modern, wooden room, suitable for up to two people. It is a private space so you can guarantee that if you are using it, you will not be disturbed. Just ask for the key and for the sauna to be switched on before your gym session (or call in advance) and by the time you are ready to go, the sauna will be up to temperature. There is a shower cubicle in the room. Gym saver card users get FREE use of the Sauna.

ST PETERS WELL WEST MERSEA
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SITE

This site was notified as a SSSI in January 1993. The reasons for including St Peter's Well within the SSSI are that a number of coastal features are represented from shingle beach, that has a significant population of shrubby seablight; coastal reedbed, which is a rare habitat in Essex; saltmarsh, which is a declining habitat, through to coastal grassland with its specialist flora (annex 1). This represents the full range of coastal transitional zone in one area and is one of only a few sites in the county. The existence of hard coastal defences elsewhere prevents this transitional vegetation from developing.

REEDBED

If reedbeds are not managed, in time they build up and dry out, eventually shrub will invade and the interest is lost. To counter this a mowing regime of cutting one third of the reedbed each year and clearing all material, needs to be set up, this rotation will allow established wildlife to remain in the area. At present any water input onto the site is running away to sea, to counter this a small water control system will be required. This would only need to be a series of drop boards or a small earth bund with a pipe control, This would then allow control of the discharge to the benefit of the reeds and associated wildlife interest. English Nature has a reciprocating blade mower that could be made available for the cutting of the reeds

WILLOW TREES

The willow trees alongside the reedbed are now at an age where it is likely that a strong wind could bring down the larger specimens. This could result in the trees splitting and therefore rot getting into the trunk, and the tree being lost. English Nature therefore recommend that a program of pollarding is carried out to prolong the trees viability. This would consist of the larger third of the trees being pollarded down to a height of 2.5m allowed to resprout in the following 2 years to allow the establishment of any wildlife interest, followed by the pollarding of the next third of larger trees thus establishing a six-year pollarding cycle. This management is a recognised technique to maintain healthy long-lived willows.

GRASSLAND

The existing mowing regime appears to be reducing the Alexanders that were starting to dominate the grass sward this should be maintained with an early cut as the first Alexander plant appear, thus allowing the native plant species to establish. A second cut should be carried out in late summer once these native plants have set seed, this should reduce the population of Alexanders considerably.

SALTMARSH

Since the establishment of the footpath across the saltmarsh this has reduced the loss of vegetation throughout the site, we recommend this footpath be maintained.

APPENDIX K

Management Advice for REYMEAD PARK ----- WEST MERSEA PARK

RAYMEAD PARK - SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT

RAYMEAD WOOD

- This is the last proper natural woodland in West Mersea and is therefore unique and worthy of preservation. The main aim of managing this wood should be to maintain the special character of this bit of wild-wood, along with its paths which allow the public access to enjoy the area.
- The wood has a variety of trees in it such as oak, ash, field maple, crack willow, hornbeam, hawthorn, pear, blackthorn, elm and elder. It is in a healthy state with tall mature trees forming the canopy while lots of younger trees of varying ages form the understorey.
- The understorey / shrub layer of mainly hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble enhances the wildlife of the site by providing nesting sites for birds, bearing fruit for wildlife to eat, nectar flowers for insects as well as a general home for wildlife to forage in. The dense nature of these bushes offer a refuge and sanctuary for the wildlife to escape to. Many of these bushes have thorns which can help keep visitors and maybe some of their dogs too, to keep to the paths.
- There is a thick cover of ivy across the ground, which helps gives the wood a green carpet throughout the year, as opposed to a bare ground during the autumn and winter. In places where the ivy grows upwards its value to wildlife increases greatly by offering sanctuary and food. The ivy should not be cleared from the wood although one or two small areas could be cleared for other native woodland flowers to become established. Controlling all of the ivy would be a huge commitment on time and resources and the end result would be a completely different, poorer and an empty wood.
- The small network of paths winding through the wood are a real bonus to the site. Each path offers a different view of the site and allows a visitor to explore and discover new corners of the wood. It's a special feature of the wood and makes the site feel much bigger with every path offering something different in the woodland experience.
- Some of the main paths that cross through the wood could be levelled to ease access and have wood-chips laid down to make them accessible in the winter.
- Some of the nettles, brambles, thorns and other plants will need to be trimmed back a metre or so from the paths to help keep the paths open throughout the year. The main path could be widened slightly but only to keep the plants well off the paths.
- The ditch carrying water is currently blocked at the culvert crossing into the Youth Field. The culvert will need to be dug out and cleared so that water can flow along and away out of the wood. The culvert crossing could be extended to improve the access between the field and wood. The ditch with a small flow of water through it will help improve drainage, provide an aquatic habitat as well as a feeling of naturalness too. To cover over the whole ditch would be costly, unnecessary and unnatural.

- It's probably not worth having a pond in the wood because the area is well used by youngsters. Ponds are great for kids to splash around in but they also become dumping grounds for rubbish. Generally ponds inside dark and overgrown woods have less wildlife interest than those that are in the open and in the sunshine.
- Deadwood is an extremely valuable component of woodlands with a fifth of woodland species dependent on it. Dead branches and logs can be left to rot down out of sight amongst the bushes. Any dead branches overhanging paths need to be cut down for public safety.
- The metal railings could be removed from some boundaries of the wood if needed and if they were easy to reach. However some sections have got very hidden by overgrown bushes and trees that it may make sense to leave these undisturbed.
- The planting of young trees in the field adjoining the wood will become a great asset in a few years time allowing the woodland to spread out and get bigger.

RAYMEAD FIELD

There's already a valuable grassland margin around most of this field where a strip of long grass has been allowed to develop. This is not only good for the wildlife but it also acts as a screen and a buffer zone between the users of the field and the back-gardens. The site would be enhanced if the long grass were allowed to grow around the whole perimeter.

Extending the areas of long grass around the field not only provides more variety for wildlife, it also offers something different to the eye rather than looking at an wide expanse of mown grass. Regular mowing through the growing season takes up time, ties up machinery and labour and it costs money too.

Allowing an area, or areas, to grow as a flower meadow would be beneficial for wildlife and provide interest for the visitors. A meadow needs to be cut once a year in late summer after the plants have dropped their seeds with the cuttings removed to reduce the fertility of the soil. New native plants could be introduced either by planting seed, plug planting or by scattering bales of grass from another rich wildflower meadow (Essex Wildlife Trust could provide these).

The exact area and size for a flower meadow will be determined by a variety of factors. The more sunshine on the meadow the better, so ideally not tucked under the shade of trees. It could be a single block alongside the existing long grassland or even a linear block alongside the perimeter grassland. The area could be quite extensive and with paths mown through it so that people can walk through it to appreciate the area. Local residents may not appreciate large areas not being regularly mown. Consultation and education can help put the case for long grass flower meadows.

OTHER FIELDS

Maintain the current amenity grassland for recreation.

Provide access gaps through the two main hedge-lined boundaries so that each field is linked both physically and visually. Metal railings can be removed to help open up access between the fields.

Encourage a natural screen of bushes and long grass where possible around the whole perimeter on both fields.

APPENDIX L
West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Sport & Recreation Study Questionnaire



West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Sport and Recreation Study

This questionnaire is put out on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) of West Mersea. The Group is in the process of drawing up a plan for Mersea's future covering the next fifteen years to 2032/3. This survey follows the example of questionnaires sent out in 2007 by Colchester Borough Council with an update done in 2014/15. In order to complete in more detail our local Neighbourhood Plan we need to audit and evidence the facilities and activities we have on the Island. Also we would like to find out any deficiencies and requirements your organisation may have for the future. Please can you spare some of your time to complete this questionnaire on behalf of your club/organisation. Please only answer question applicable to your type of Sport/Recreation as this questionnaire is dealing with all types of Sports and Recreation - Football, Judo, Sailing etc..

If you require any further information or help regarding this questionnaire please contact David Cooper on Tel. 01206 382923

Thank you.

The information we collect regarding personal data will remain confidential and will comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. West Mersea Town Council is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your answers will only be used for research purposes to inform the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan or any other relevant Development Plan Documents. If you have any queries in relation to this survey please contact plan@westmersea.org

Q1 Please state the name of your club/organisation:

Q2 Where is your primary location based (Address and post code & contact address if different):

Contact & Phone No -----

Address-----

Email Address:-----

Q3 Please state nature of your activity (Football, Sailing, etc.):

Q4 Which of the following groups does your club cater for? (You may circle more than one):

Adults Families Young people/Teenagers Cadets Primary age children
Older people (50+)

Q5 What type of facilities does your club primarily use? (Clubhouse, Grass &/or hard pitch)

Q6 Of your chosen facility type (Q5), please indicate whether you feel there is enough or not enough provision in West Mersea (Circle most applicable)

More than enough About right Nearly enough Not enough &
Reason

Q7 If there is a second facility that you use on a regular basis please state it here: (provide site name and location)

continued over

Q8 What mode of transport do the majority of your members use to travel to the above facility (Q2)?

Walk	Cycle	Bus	Car	Taxi	Motorcycle
Other (please specify)					

Q9 How long do you believe to be reasonable to travel to use a site for your primary sporting purpose (in minutes)?

0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30+
-----	------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-----

Q10 Do the existing leisure facilities you use meet all the needs of your club/organisation?

Yes	No
-----	----

Q11 If no, please explain the main reasons why not (please state facility name):

Q12 What types of leisure facilities would you like to see more of, and/or think there is a demand for in your local area? (You may CIRCLE more than one option).

Swimming pool (lane swimming)	Leisure pools	Sports halls	Health and fitness gym
Synthetic turf / All weather pitches	Multi-use games area	Grass pitches	Squash courts
Youth facilities	Indoor bowls	Tennis courts	Other

Q13 How would you rate the overall provision of leisure facilities in terms of QUALITY on Mersea Island?

Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor
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Please explain the reason for this choice:

Q14 What top TWO features would you prioritise within any provision of new / improved leisure facilities?

Well maintained grass	Level surfaces / good drainage	Changing facilities
Range of activities on offer	Ease/security of parking	Cost of facility
Geographic access to the site	Welcoming staff	Refreshment facilities

Q15 If you have any general comments that you would like to make us aware of regarding the provision of leisure facilities please use the space provided below (or continue on an additional page) and specify the area you are commenting on:

The following questions are a more in depth study of your club/organisation

Q16 How many members does your club have?
Adult Veteran under 18 Junior/cadet Male % Female %

Q17 Over the last 5 years has membership....
Increased Decreased Remained static Approx percentage change %

Q18 How many teams does your club have?
Mini (Under 11) Junior (11-15) Adult (16 to 45) Veteran (over 45)
Male Female Mixed Not applicable

Q19 Do any of your junior teams currently use an adult sized pitch? Yes No
If yes would you prefer them to be using a junior sized pitch? Yes No

Q20 Which leagues/ competitions do your teams participate in? Please include contact name and telephone number for the league/ competition organisers (if possible, please attach a fixture list) email address also.

Q21 Does your club currently have a written development plan? Yes (please enclose a copy) No
continued over

Q22 Which of the following issues are currently problematic for your club? (please tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of internal funding (subs/fund raising)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of external funding (Town Council, governing bodies etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of appropriate local facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access difficulties for members (cost, lack of public transport etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of information about local facilities / services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor / No relationship with other local clubs (facilities usage / exit routes etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of voluntary assistance (committee members/coaches etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership recruitment / retention
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other please specify below

Q23 Please state below, listing the venue(s) that your club use for home matches and training:
Home Matches

Training

Q24 Are the match-day pitches listed in Q23 your preferred location to play home matches?
Yes No
If NO, please state your preferred location (site name and address with postcode)

Q25 How many matches do you play on your main pitch each season? (please circle)
1 to 10 11 to 20 21 to 30 over 30

Q26 How many games were cancelled due to the pitch condition last season (excluding frozen pitches)? (please state approximate number)

Q27 How many matches per week do you feel that your main match pitch can adequately sustain? (please circle) 1 match 2 matches 3 matches 4 matches or more

Q28 Does your club train on your main match pitch?
 Yes If YES, for how many hours per week? _____
 No If NO, do you train on another grass pitch or area? If so, where?

Details:

Q29 What are the three BEST pitches in Colchester Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

- 1
- 2
- 3

Q30 What are the three WORST pitches in Colchester Borough you have played on this season (home or away)? Please state site name and address:

- 1
- 2
- 3

Q31 Please rate the following aspects of your main match pitch if applicable:

	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Firmness of surface			
Grip under foot			
Bounce of ball on pitch			
Evenness of pitch			
Length of grass			
Grass cover			
Posts and sockets			
Line marking			
Free from litter, dog fouling etc.			
Changing facilities			
Showers – clean, hot, plenty of water			
Parking			
Value for money			
Overall pitch quality			

Other (please state below)

Q32 What future plans does your club have?

Increase the number of members	Yes	No
Expand the range of facilities provided	Yes	No
Refurbish existing facilities	Yes	No
Relocation to different premises	Yes	No
None	Yes	
Other - please state below (over)		

Q32 cont.

Q33 What percentage of your members/players live on Mersea Island? %

Q34 In your opinion are the facility provisions in West Mersea area sufficient to meet your clubs needs?

In Quantity Yes - No and in Quality Yes - No

Q35 If your club does not use public pitches, would you consider doing so in the future?

Yes No

Q36 In your opinion, do the ancillary facilities at the site where you play your home matches meet the requirements of people with disabilities?

Yes No

Q37 Does your club operate an equal opportunities policy for membership?

Yes No

Q38 Does your club have a child protection policy?

Yes No

Q39 If you have any other comments about any sports/recreation provision in West Mersea please let us know below. If you wish to write more please do so and attach on separate sheet(s).

Please return this questionnaire in the envelope provided as soon as possible. Many thanks for your assistance.

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS/ CLUBS involved in organised sports/activities on Mersea Island

Mersea Island Football Club
Oyster Island Football Club
Mersea Island Rugby Club
Mersea Island Junior Rugby Club
Cricket Club
West Mersea Tennis Club
Squash Clubs
Badminton
Mersea Island Bowls Club
West Mersea Bowls Club

West Mersea Yacht Club
Dabchicks Sailing Club
MICA
School Sailing Club
Windsurfers Club
Colchester Water Ski Club
Scouts Offshore
Mersea Island Rowing Club
Paddle Boarders Club
Mersea Punts

Hang Gliding Club
Mersea Outdoors
Fitness Club
Bootcamp
Mersea Outdoors Water Activity
Anglers Club
(Stacey Boat Trips)
Velo Club Oyster
Judo Club
Boxing Club

Other recreational organisation, clubs and societies will form a separate assessment.

Sports facilities questionnaire April 2017 rev1.0dt

APPENDIX M

West Mersea Residential Survey Questionnaire

West Mersea Residential Survey

Dec '17?

Mersea Matters - How should West Mersea look in 15 years time?

Your chance to "Have Your Say" in this West Mersea Residential Survey



West Mersea

On behalf of the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group we are pleased to invite you to respond to our General Residential Survey which includes an opportunity to win Co-op vouchers courtesy of our local store. Each survey submitted will be entered into a free prize draw, which will be drawn on the 4th January at the Council offices before the full Council meeting at 7:15pm. You could win £100 of shopping vouchers for an online application or £50 of vouchers for a paper entry.

The questionnaire can be submitted in paper form by filling in these accompanying questions and handing it in at either the Council Offices in Melrose Road, the Esso garage in Kingsland Road or the Mersea Island Community Centre (MICA) in the High Street. Alternatively, if you are equipped to answer online then please do so using this address:

www.westmersea.org/General-Residential-Survey

Online submissions will greatly help the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as the analysis is automatically achieved without the need to manually input all paper copies.

It is a legal requirement of the Neighbourhood Plan process that every West Mersea resident be given the opportunity to state their views; have the chance to say how they would like their local environment to look in the future; and comment on what they regard as important for the development of our town.

The earlier Housing Needs Survey and the Sports and Recreation Study covered specific sections of the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan. Within the next few weeks a Business Questionnaire will also be available for all businesses to have their say on future developments.

A West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan will reflect YOUR views, the residents of West Mersea, and will, once adopted, carry legal weight within the planning system. This will ultimately form part of the Colchester Borough Council Local Plan. It is therefore important to the future of West Mersea that as many residents as possible complete this survey.

The information we collect regarding personal data will remain confidential and will comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. West Mersea Town Council is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your answers will only be used for research purposes to inform the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan or any other relevant Development Plan Documents.

We very much hope you are able to take part and will find the survey both interesting and straightforward to complete. Do remember your answers should take into consideration the 15 year lifetime of the West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan. Please ensure you complete and submit by 18th December 2017.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is a community based committee, chaired by the Mayor and made up of residents and town councillors. If you have any queries in relation to this survey please contact the council office or e-mail plan@westmersea.org

Supported by



West Mersea General Residential Survey

1: Please indicate the maximum number of years any resident of your house has lived on Mersea?
Please total the number of years this resident has lived on Mersea, even if at different times:
Number of years _____

2: Travel and Transport - How often do you typically cross The Strood?
For more than one member of the household either base the answer on the person who travels the most or each person can fill out an additional survey.
Choose ONE answer only.

- Every day - one return journey
- Every day - two return journeys
- Approximately 2 - 3 times a week
- Approximately 2 - 3 times a month
- Seldom
- Never

3: Travel and Transport - At what times do you typically cross The Strood leaving the Island and returning? Mark ONE box in each row that applies.

- Leaving
- Before 06:00 06:00 - 07:00 07:00 - 08:00
 - 08:00 - 09:00 09:00 - 10:00 After 10:00
 - Varies

- Returning
- Before 15:00 15:00 - 16:00 16:00 - 17:00
 - 17:00 - 18:00 18:00 - 19:00 After 19:00
 - Varies

4: Travel and Transport - When crossing The Strood, what is your most regular method of transport? Choose ONE answer only.

- Motor Bike Car
- Bicycle(pedal bike) Bus
- Taxi Other: _____

5: Travel and Transport - How many vehicles does your household have and where do you park them?

- 1 2 3 4+ In garage or on drive at home
- 1 2 3 4+ On the road
- 1 2 3 4+ Private space away from home
- 1 2 3 4+ Public car park
- 1 2 3 4+ Other
- I do not have a vehicle

6: Travel and Transport - When ON the island what are your most regular methods of transport? Choose all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Walk
- Bicycle (pedal bike)
- Motor Bike
- Bus
- Car
- Mobility Scooter
- Other _____

7: Travel and Transport - How often do members of your household use the existing bus service? Choose ONE answer only.

- Daily Weekly Monthly
- Occasionally Never

8: Travel and Transport - Do you use a senior citizen bus pass when using the bus service? Choose ONE answer only.

- Yes Have one but haven't used it
- No Don't have one
- Don't qualify

9: Travel and Transport - How do you usually get to the bus stop? Choose ONE answer only.

- Drive and park
- Walk
- Cycle and lock bike
- Get a lift
- Other _____

10: Travel and Transport - Which of these options would encourage you to use a bus service more?

	Yes	No	No difference
Ticket was cheaper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More frequent service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There was a chargeable Park & Ride with Island based Hopper Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Bus route always went via East Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain the Bus service direct to the Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11: Travel and Transport - In which locations would you believe it would help to have more yellow lines operative? Select an answer to all that apply, move on to next question if not.

	All year	April - Sept	No change
On Coast Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In Town Centre area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Victoria Esplanade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any congested area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12: Travel and Transport - What advantage would you see for "resident only parking" in some roads on the Island? Choose ONE answer only.

- Big advantage Some advantage
- No advantage

13: Travel and Transport - At which of the following areas do you find it difficult to cross the road? Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Queens Corner
- Barfield Road - Tesco Corner
- High Street / Church Road Corner
- Yorick Road / High Street
- Barfield Road - School / Coop
- High Street / Post Office
- Coast Road / Monkey Steps
- Two Sugars to car park / toilets
- Other _____

West Mersea Residential Survey

14: Travel and Transport - To what extent does the tidal coverage at The Strood (B1025) cause you a problem or inconvenience? Choose ONE answer only.

- Frequently
- Around five times a year
- Only when I forget to look at the Tide Table.
- Seldom
- Never

15: Future Improvements - Please choose from the following list to which three suggestions you would give most priority? If none of these are of interest there is an opportunity to add your suggestion below. Choose 'none of these' and move on to next question.

	Priority		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
More open space for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More comprehensive bus route	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More buses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better protection of natural habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of these	<input type="checkbox"/>		

16: Future Improvements - Please indicate any further suggestions you may have?

Please provide your answer here:

17: Housing - Which of these following property types would you support in any future housing development?

Please indicate your top three preferences numbering 1 to 3, or leave blank for none.

	Priority		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Bedsits / Studio Flats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Flats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large Flats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Bungalows 1 - 2 Bedrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger Bungalows 3 - 5 Bedrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Houses 2 - 3 Bedrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larger Houses 4+ Bedrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18: Housing - Would you be supportive of extra affordable housing specifically for local people with proven needs? Affordable housing ranges from rented to part ownership usually owned and managed by a registered housing association. Choose ONE answer only.

- Very supportive
- Not supportive
- Have no view

19: Housing - Would you be supportive of development that either included or consisted of the following for local people? Small scale community led schemes are likely to be undertaken in partnership with charities such as Alms Houses and Housing Associations. For more on this visit the self-build.co.uk website. Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Community led Self Build scheme for Purchase / Long Term Rent
- Community led Custom Build scheme
- Community led Housing Association scheme

20: Environmental - how would you rate your recycling 'performance' currently?

	Food Waste	Paper	Plastic	Glass & cans
Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quite Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When I remember	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Need 'L' plates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not very good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Garden waste

- Excellent
- All goes in my compost
- Put some out and rest to compost
- Have no garden waste
- Not very good

21: Environmental - How often do you use the local recycling centre in Upland Road? Choose ONE answer only.

- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Never
- Take it to the Colchester Centre instead

22: Environmental - How do you heat your home? Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Oil
- Gas
- Ground or Air Source Heat Pump
- Electricity (such as Night Storage Heaters)
- Wood Burning Stove
- Coal
- Biomass
- Other _____

23: Environmental - Which of these Renewable Energy systems do you have at your home? Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Air Source Heat Pump
- Ground Source Heat Pump
- Low Voltage Wind Turbine
- PV Solar Panels
- Solar Water Heating
- Solar Boost Immersion System
- Battery Storage System (such as Tesla Powerwall)
- None of these
- Other _____

24: Environmental - What is your principal attitude to the prospect of a new Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell? Choose ONE answer only.

- I would welcome new Nuclear at Bradwell
- I am in favour of new Nuclear but not at Bradwell
- I do not care where my electricity comes from
- I think Nuclear Power is an essential part of the energy mix
- I am against new Nuclear
- Other _____

25: Environmental - Which, if any, of these Renewable Energy systems would you welcome in order to see Mersea become known as an ECO-Island? The West Mersea Neighbourhood Plan could include a Community Energy Project that would both provide houses with a competitive tariff and a revenue stream back to the community. Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Compact Wind Turbine
- PhotoVoltaic (PV) Solar Panel Array
- Large Ground Source Heat Pump

26: Medical and Healthcare - Which of the following are members of your household registered with? Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Mersea Island Medical Practice (West Mersea Surgery)
- West Mersea Dental Practice (Dentist)

27: Medical and Healthcare - Which of the following healthcare services on the island do members of your household use? Tick all that apply, leave blank if none.

- Chiropodist
- Osteopath
- Optician
- Physiotherapist
- Hearing Care Centre
- Other _____

28: Medical and Healthcare - Which of the following services do any members of your household rely on (if any)? Please answer this from a health perspective rather than a lifestyle one. Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Visiting Carer / Care Services
- Family Member for care / Support
- Cleaner
- Gardener
- Meals on Wheels / Lunch Club
- Other _____

29: Medical and Healthcare - Which of the following healthcare centres have members of your household (for personal health reasons) visited in the past 5 years? Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

- Colchester General Hospital
- Essex County Hospital
- Colchester Walk-in Centre (Turner Road)
- Private Hospital or Clinic (e.g. The Oaks)
- Accident and Emergency (A&E)
- Other _____

30: Medical and Healthcare - Which do you consider to be the three most important issues, if any, that are facing the Mersea Island Practice (West Mersea Surgery)?

If none of these are a priority, in your view, move on to next question. Indicate your answer by placing one tick in the relevant column

	Priority		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
The lack of weekend and night-time GP / Doctor's cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The waiting time for a Surgery appointment is too long	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The lack of parking at the Surgery is problematic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The current position of the Surgery is inconvenient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is too difficult to obtain an appointment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insufficient GP recruitment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of community involvement by the practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No current issues perceived	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not applicable / Not registered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

31: Education - What use do you make of the following educational provisions on the Island?
Choose ONE answer per row.

Regularly	Occasionally	Never	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre school / nursery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mersea Island School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mainland Secondary Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further and Higher education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult education Independent training courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School's wraparound service - before and after school care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

32: Education - Please indicate any further thoughts you may have on educational matters.
Optional question. Please provide your answer here:

33: Communications - Telephone, Mobile and Broadband. Please rate your connection?
Choose ONE answer per row.

	Landline	Mobile	Broadband
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not have	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

34: Shopping and Retail - Which of the following local sources do you regularly purchase from?
Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

<input type="checkbox"/> Bakers	<input type="checkbox"/> Butchers
<input type="checkbox"/> Delicatessen / Cake Hole	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishmonger / Local Catch
<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy / Chemist	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewellers
<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Store	<input type="checkbox"/> Hardware
<input type="checkbox"/> Garden Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Chandlery
<input type="checkbox"/> General Foodstores / Supermarkets	
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage / Car Service and Repair	

35: Shopping and Retail - Which of the following places do you PREFER for your usual food purchasing? Choose ONE answer only.

<input type="checkbox"/> Local (on Island and Bonners)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mainland (Colchester / Tiptree / Ipswich / Chelmsford etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Online with home delivery

36: Services - Which of the following local island based services do you or members of your household regularly use? Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

<input type="checkbox"/> Hairdressers / Beautician
<input type="checkbox"/> Dry cleaners / clothes washing service
<input type="checkbox"/> Accountants / Bookkeepers
<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor / Legal Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Brokers

37: Services - How important are the following Island service providers to you?

Barclays Bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Vital use	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasional use
	<input type="checkbox"/> I bank online only	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Only visit to use cash machine	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bank not important	

Post Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Vital use	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasional use
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have alternative arrangements	
Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Vital use	<input type="checkbox"/> Occasional use
	<input type="checkbox"/> I never visit	

38: Services How often do you visit the local Island cafés, pubs, clubs, takeaways and restaurants?

	Every day	Weekly	Monthly	Seldom	Never
Just for light refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To eat out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Just for a drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To buy and eat at home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To socialise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

39: Places of Worship - which churches and/or places of worship do you attend?
Tick all that apply, leave blank for none.

<input type="checkbox"/> West Mersea Parish Church
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic Church - Barfield Road
<input type="checkbox"/> Free Church
<input type="checkbox"/> Methodist Church
<input type="checkbox"/> City Road chapel (evenings)
<input type="checkbox"/> East Road Brethren Assembly
<input type="checkbox"/> East Mersea Parish Church
<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhere off the Island
<input type="checkbox"/> Other place of worship on the Island

40: Historical and Heritage - In addition to the buildings and structures already listed by Historic England please indicate if you think any others qualify? To see a report of the buildings already listed: http://www.westmersea.org/uploads/Mesea_Listed_Buildings.pdf

Please provide your answer here:

41: Facilities and Amenities - What are your thoughts on the following questions about the beach areas?

41A) Which one of these beaches do you visit the most? Choose ONE answer only.

<input type="checkbox"/> Shingle / Besom Point	<input type="checkbox"/> Monkey
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach Road	<input type="checkbox"/> Kingsland
<input type="checkbox"/> Esplanade	<input type="checkbox"/> Seaview
<input type="checkbox"/> Waldegraves	<input type="checkbox"/> Cudmore Grove
<input type="checkbox"/> I don't visit the beach	

41B) I swim if I visit? Choose ONE answer only.

<input type="checkbox"/> Often	<input type="checkbox"/> Seldom
<input type="checkbox"/> Never	<input type="checkbox"/> I can't swim

41C) How do you find the cleanliness of the beaches? Choose ONE answer only.

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs to improve	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> No opinion	

41D) What is your view about dogs on the beaches? Choose ONE answer only.

<input type="checkbox"/> No objections	<input type="checkbox"/> Only when on a lead
<input type="checkbox"/> Should not be allowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Only allowed in winter
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer on lead	<input type="checkbox"/> No opinion

42: Facilities and Amenities - How often do you or any member of your household visit or use any of the following facilities on the island?
Questions on Sports and Recreation follow - then there will be an opportunity to add any extras.

	Often	Occasionally	Never
Harbour / Launch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
areas by new and old Lifeboat Stations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Causeway / Hammerhead	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sea wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coast Road village green at St Peter's Well	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Glebe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Footpaths and Bridleways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cemeteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cudmore Grove	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esplanade play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wellhouse / Glebe play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Gardens play area and swings (Barfield Road)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate Park on Legion Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BMX Track on Glebe extension	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Mersea Park between Upland and Barfield road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Which of the Island's public toilets do you use most? Tick ONE box only.

<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Road	<input type="checkbox"/> Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Willoughby
<input type="checkbox"/> Fairhaven	<input type="checkbox"/> Cudmore Grove	
<input type="checkbox"/> Never use them		

43: Facilities and Amenities - What improvements, if any, could be made to footpaths and facilities for better accessibility?

Please provide your answer(s) here:

44: Facilities and Amenities - What is your view on the idea of implementing a charging system to be able to use the public toilets? This would help offset the running costs. Choose ONE answer only.

<input type="checkbox"/> In favour	<input type="checkbox"/> Not in favour
<input type="checkbox"/> No opinion	

45: Facilities and Amenities - What is your view on West Mersea's open spaces as an amenity? Choose ONE answer only.

<input type="checkbox"/> More needed	<input type="checkbox"/> No more needed
<input type="checkbox"/> No opinion	

46: Sports and Recreation - How often do you or any members of your household play or support any of these sport and recreational activities at the Glebe? There will be an opportunity to add Glebe sports that are not included here in Question 48. If you do NOT take part in any just select 'Never' on any option and move on to next question.

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	Often	Occasionally	Spectator or supporter	Never
Football (soccer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rugby	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bootcamp	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

47: Sports and Recreation - How often do you or any members of your household take part in the following recreational or sporting activities? The next question allows you to add additional recreational activities that are not included here that you take part in.
If you do NOT take part in any of these select 'Never' and move on to next question.

	Often	Occasionally	Never
Sailing / Yachting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kitesurfing / Windsurfing / Paddleboarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rowing / Sculling / Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running / Jogging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking / Rambling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horse Riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycling (pedal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor sports at the Mersea Centre (MICA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep Fit / Indoor Sport / Exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

48: Sports and Recreation - What are the details of the sporting and recreational facilities that were not included in the two previous questions that you take part in?

At the Glebe:

Other:

49: Sports and Recreation - What is your view on recreational space for organised sports on the Island? Choose ONE answer only.
22.5% 31.2% 46.2%

50: Caravans and Tourism - How and when does the increase of visitors to the Island affect you? Choose ONE answer only.

During the summer months only 325 54.3%

All year round 80 13.4%

Does not adversely affect me 93 15.6%

An increase of visitors benefits the Island 100 16.7%

51: Caravans and Tourism - How and when does the level of visitor parking affect you? Choose ONE answer only.

During the summer months only 382 63.9%

All year round 31 18.2%

Does not adversely affect me 125 20.9%

52: Caravans and Tourism - What is your view on the number of Static Caravans or Lodges / Chalets on the Island? The next question will cover Camping and Touring Vans. Choose ONE answer only.

Sufficient 435 71.5%

Insufficient 3 0.5%

No opinion 100 15.2%

53: Caravans and Tourism - What is your view on available space for Camping or Touring Vans on the Island? Choose ONE answer only.

Sufficient 451 68.8%

Insufficient 22 3.4%

No opinion 118 18%

54: Crime and Safety - Do you, or any member of your household, already belong to, or would consider joining, any of the following local organisations? If you do NOT take part in any of these just select 'Not possible' for any of the options and move on to next question.

	Already a member	Might consider	Not possible
Neighbourhood Watch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beach Hut Watch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Responder (Mersea Island)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HM Coastguard (West Mersea)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RNLI Lifeboat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
On Call Firefighter (West Mersea)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Another Similar Voluntary Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

55: Crime and Safety - Would any member of the household consider becoming a Police Special Constable (voluntary part-time post)? Choose ONE answer only.

Yes No

Yes - but only if restricted to Mersea Island only

56: Crime and Safety - Would you support introducing an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera at the Strood to help deter crime and detect suspicious vehicles? Inevitably there may be some cost to Mersea residents.

Yes No

57: Crime and Safety - In which area, if any, on the Island do you not feel safe? Please give as much information as you see fit.

Please provide your answer here:

58: Community - What cultural activity that is currently not provided in West Mersea would you like to be available? This could include any arts / entertainment.

Please provide your answer here:

59: Community - Please choose your top four community projects from the following in order of preference. The subsequent question provides an opportunity to detail your alternative ideas, simply leave all these options blank. All projects such as these are subject to sites and funding / sponsorship becoming available.

Choice	1	2	3	4	
All day pre-school nursery care facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19
More open space including sports pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Multi-use pavilion on Glebe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21
New Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	316
Outdoor Adult keep-fit exercise equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12
Outdoor multi-use games area (MUGA)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50
Park and Ride scheme with shuttle bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30
Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	137
Youth Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22

60: Community - What sort of project would you like to see in West Mersea? Please provide your answer here:

61: Community - What one thing would you most like to see in West Mersea? Please provide your answer here:

62: Any other comments you would like to make? Thank you!

63: If you would like to take part in the prize draw for the Co-op vouchers, please provide your e-mail address or telephone number. Optional.

Address

Telephone

Email
