

## Objectives and Supporting Evidence for Section 7

**To provide a wider range of better-quality community, sport / leisure and education facilities for all ages**

Summary of Evidence Gathered Evidence Theme	Reference in Supporting Evidence
Initial thinking as to our objectives following first public consultations.	
List of four detailed objectives following consultation with experts, special focus groups, Local Authorities and other governmental officials etc.	
<p><b>A coherent play space strategy</b></p> <p>a) There is a wide feeling in the town that the interests of children and young people are not adequately addressed. A key area for improvement is the provision of quality play space. The Neighbourhood Plan is proposing that the transfer of a number of play spaces from East Suffolk Council (ESC) to Halesworth Town Council (HTC) provides an opportunity for a planned approach for ensuring these important assets are properly protected maintained and significantly developed. Such an approach would also need to encompass those sites that may not be transferred to HTC.</p> <p>c) The development of a coherent play space strategy necessitates the designation of play spaces using widely used standard categories developed by Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association). This will bring a clear focus to how best to invest in equipment and maintenance.</p> <p>d) In considering any play space, be it existing or new, its facilities must take into consideration what local children actually want.</p> <p>e) Existing play equipment in most play areas are recognised as being substandard to one degree or another, apart from the Town Park (Jane Kircher play space)</p> <p>f) While ESC is currently undertaking and district-wide study of open spaces, the particular circumstances in Halesworth requires a town-specific response, especially because of the planned transfer of some of these assets. In addition, it is essential that the users (ie. children) are enfranchised by ascertaining their views.</p> <p>g) Improvement to public play spaces. This applies to whichever Council is responsible for them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey via questionnaire with children at Edgar Sewter primary school. (Ref. 1.1)</li> <li>• Sentinel Survey 2017 (Ref. 1.2)</li> <li>• HTC survey 2021 - play / open spaces (Ref. 1.3)</li> <li>• Fields in Trust website - (Ref. 1.4)</li> </ul>

<p>(Currently, East Suffolk Council (ESC) but there are plans for transferring many, if not all, of them to Halesworth Town Council (HTC).</p> <p>h) The Neighbourhood Plan proposes that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding generated by housing and other development is used to improve existing play spaces. These proposals differs in approach from the Waveney DC Local Plan in that they do not seek new play spaces to replace any that, in exceptional circumstances, are re-purposed. Rather, they concentrate on developing the most popular and geographically relevant play spaces to a much higher level, while improving the smaller sites to provide interest for younger children.</p>	
<p><b>Opening up access to and developing green spaces</b></p> <p>a) Development of a greater range of bio-diverse spaces for people, flora and fauna to enjoy and co-exist.</p> <p>b) Linking these areas wherever possible providing leisure / health / connectivity opportunities.</p> <p>c) Potential of utilising land under the CROW Act 2000</p> <p>d) Potential for safeguarding land as a Local Green Space</p> <p>e) Potential of landowner taking advantage of ELMS second level which rewards the provision of various habitat management options, tree and hedge planting, options to mitigate flooding, permissive access and educational visits.</p> <p>f) Applying for Local Green Space status where relevant / appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support policy proposals for revitalising the waterways, enhancing biodiversity and protecting, improving and expanding our green spaces. (Ref. 2.1) (Obj./policy 1)</li> <li>• Identification of nature reserve on SE edge of the town. Discussions with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) / Environment Agency (EA) on potential. Site visit undertaken on 17.6.21 with highly positive response. SCC PROW team also contacted. (Correspondence Ref. 2.2) Following site meeting with SWT / EA, an approach has been made to landowner in writing.</li> <li>• The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 extract (excl. land) (Ref. 2.3)</li> <li>• Agriculture Act 2020 (Ref. 2.4)</li> <li>• Maintaining and improving the main entrances / exits to and from the town Supporting Obj. 5 and reflecting AECOM Design Codes Report. (Ref. 2.5)</li> <li>• NP proposal to create a circular footpath around the perimeter of the town, linking existing paths with proposals for new ones. (Ref. 2.6)</li> <li>• Connectivity (Ref. 2.7)</li> <li>• ESC confirmation that Local Green Space status does not necessarily require a landowners agreement (evidenced by Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan Examiners Report (Ref. 2.8)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Educational Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Issues to be addressed:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Low educational achievement</li> <li>b) High level of unskilled / semi-skilled low paid employment</li> <li>c) Low level of people in skilled jobs requiring high qualifications</li> <li>d) Impact of middle school closure</li> <li>e) Lack of town-based secondary education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- impact on parental involvement</li> <li>- impact of pupil transport costs on family finances</li> <li>- impact on community cohesion</li> <li>- impact on demography</li> <li>- environmental impact</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistical Information - Source: 2011 Census (Ref. 3.1) NP draft 1d, chapter Local Context / Halesworth Today / 2.33 / pages 12-14.</li> <li>• Population statistics for Halesworth &amp; surrounding villages. (Ref. 3.2)</li> <li>• Formulae for calculating secondary school pupil numbers. (Ref. 3.3)</li> <li>• County Council pupil transport costs. (Ref. 3.4)</li> <li>• Correspondence / communication with Seckford Educational Trust, Edgar Sewter Primary School, Asset Education, SCC (Ref. 3.5)</li> <li>• Existing pupil oversubscription at Bungay High School noted in local press published 24.6.21 (ie. prior to proposed significant expansion of homes / population in Halesworth). [<b>According to SCC &amp; East Anglian Schools Trust, this is incorrect and in fact, numbers are undersubscribed. (Ref. HNPSG / Education meeting on 7.3.22)]</b> (Ref. 3.6)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Leisure Opportunities for Children &amp; Young People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Neighbourhood Plan proposes the active promotion of non-sport-related leisure activities. This could be achieved by ESC planners enabling retail units to be used for activities such as a games café.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HNPSG consultation sessions with children from Edgar Sewter primary school. (Ref. 4.1). The results support many aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan as well as children and young people related leisure issues</li> </ul>
<p><b>Aspirational Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Centre development.</li> <li>• To protect the use of the Campus site for sports / leisure activity.</li> <li>• To protect the use of the Dairy Hill sports ground for sports / leisure activity.</li> <li>• Apollo Youth Club development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All noted in the Local Plan but Neighbourhood Plan highlights the principle which should involve HTC and a range of community organisations.</li> </ul>

## Initial ideas following the first round of consultations

Objectives we wish to achieve.	People/Organisations we need to consult
<p><b>Protecting &amp; Improving Play Space</b></p> <p>It is generally recognised that there is a deficit in leisure provision for children and young people in the town. This section of the Neighbourhood Plan concerns outside play space which is currently managed by ESC but some, if not all sites are likely to be transferred to HTC over the next year.</p> <p>It is clear that in general terms, all the play spaces bar the Jane Kircher playground are poorly maintained and lack facilities, particularly (but not only) for older children. There is significant demand from children for zip wires, climbing frames / walls / adventure course, slides and swings (differing sizes for different age groups). Reference is also made to a scooter or cycle track (ref. Harleston example) and trampoline (Diss example) / 'bouncy pillow'.</p> <p>In addition, the existing skateboard area in the Town Park is in desperate need of replacing. There have been some thoughts of relocating a new one elsewhere but the Neighbourhood Plan is clear that its current location is the only logical one. This is because the Park is in a central location, and it is overwhelmingly, the most popular play space destination in the town. There are technical access problems involved in building a new skateboard area on the current site, but these can almost certainly be addressed by creating a temporary bridge over the New Cut waterway adjacent to the existing one which would be unable to cope with heavy loading.</p> <p>Based on the evidence of the survey undertaken of children at the Edgar Sewter Primary School (2021), and those undertaken by Sentinel for Waveney District Council (2017) and by HTC (2021), the Neighbourhood Plan proposes</p>	<p>Local children, parents, ESC, &amp; HTC.</p>

a strategy of developing four existing play spaces in strategically geographical located areas as Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs). These are:

- Old Station Road (north)
- Town Park & 'Jane Kircher' (central)
- Chediston Street (new development – subject to final planning approval)

These sites should be provide the range of equipment noted above, the full details of what should be located and where to be devised by HTC and / or ESC. It may be possible to refurbish some existing equipment but new and different items will be required, both in addition to the existing and also as replacements for items which are unsafe or cannot be refurbished. In addition some, if not all, safety surfaces are likely to need replacement and thought being given to the connections between items of equipment.

The remaining play areas in the town should be all be maintained as Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) or Local Area for Play (LAPs) These designations provide for children up to the age of 8 and perhaps a little older. The exception is Bensly's Drift which has very limited provision and is in poor condition. In addition it will in effect, be replaced by a new play area nearby, located in a new housing development.

The CIL is the only realistic source of funding and should be considered accordingly

- Designate play spaces formally as an amenity, and a presumption that play spaces will be retained, subject to a four level policy:-
  - a) Where identified H & S / safeguarding issues cannot be resolved, consideration may be given to removing play equipment.

- b) Where a play space may be lost as part of a legitimate rationalisation policy, then it must be retained and managed as an open space amenity.
- c) In exceptional cases where a play space may be sold for other purposes, then the receipt for it must be used to improve and maintain other play spaces.
- d) In considering any play space, be it existing or new, its facilities must take into consideration what local children actually want by canvassing them accordingly.

### **Development of a Nature Reserve**

- To provide a nature reserve and access for walkers as part of town perimeter walk between Kennedy Close and the Bramfield Road, following the course of the River Blyth. It encompasses an existing public open space adjacent to Kennedy Close, a significant area of private land and the Basley open space and outside gym, (adjacent to Bramfield Road). The proposal is almost entirely within an Environment Agency designated flood zone 3 and the land is unsuitable for building development or agriculture. However, it has great potential for the development of a damp-loving bio-diverse habitat. The proposal would provide a great opportunity for flora and fauna to flourish and, with careful management, for local people and visitors to enjoy this as a satisfying leisure experience. In addition, such a scheme would support a range of Plan objectives, these being:-
  - As part of NP proposals to promote walking and footpath development, this initiative would form part of a circular footpath around the perimeter of the town, by creating a connection to an existing public path leading to the Millennium Green.
  - Supporting proposals for revitalising the waterways, enhancing biodiversity and protecting, improving and expanding our green spaces. (Obj. 1),

Local people, SWT, SCC, EA, ESC, HTC, landowner(s)

- Maintaining and improving the main entrances / exits to and from the town (AECOM Design Codes Report), by the inclusion of Basley open space and outdoor gym (on the Bramfield Road, owned by HCSL) and existing open space, (owned by ESC) at the end of Kennedy Close as access points to the reserve.
- There is potential to designate this land as a Local Green Space

**Address Low Educational / Employment Achievement**

- Promote the development of a secondary school resource in Halesworth.

Seckford Education Trust (SET), Asset Education, SCC, Edgar Sewter Primary School (incl. parents) &, ESC, HTC.

To date there has been early communication with SCC followed by various e-mails and a number of meetings with SET's CEO. SET showed great interest in our objectives and informed us of the scope of models they would consider developing. SET stressed the importance of community involvement and in the first instance, having discussions with Asset Education, which manages the town's primary education. On that basis, two three-way meetings with SET and Asset took place, and SCC indicated its willingness to participate in further discussions. Following a meeting which included a senior SCC officer, it became clear that there was a need for Bungay High School and the academy which manages it (East Anglia Schools Trust - AEST) and ESC to become involved and a meeting was arranged, accordingly. However, SET has now decided to withdraw from the project (e-mail dated 7.3.22). In addition, at a meeting on 7.3.22, which took place after SET's withdrawal, it became clear that neither SCC nor ESC will support the development of a new school in Halesworth, on the grounds of their projections of general population increases in both the town and the wider district, and the resulting pupil numbers. However, that meeting (which included representatives from SCC, Asset Education, Bungay High School, AEST and ESC) was very positive. The focus is now on how existing education services can be better tailored to the needs of young people

from Halesworth. A working group is being set up to consider the issues starting with a small core of people but with a view to involving community representatives, including young people.

The issues noted above occurred after the 1<sup>st</sup> draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation process but nevertheless has implications for the relevant section and action point in the Plan. Therefore, the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft has been amended to reflect the change of circumstances.

### **Leisure Opportunities for Children & Young People**

- HNPSG's survey of primary school children suggests they have leisure time interests that go beyond the usual sports / leisure considerations. For example, some kind of gaming / coffee / non-alcoholic drinks resource in a shop unit. The NP therefore encourages the planning authority to enable this type of resource in the town centre, especially where a change of planning category use is required.

### **Aspirational Objectives**

- Community Centre. This is noted in the Local Plan but the HNPSG wishes to register its support for the principle which should involve HTC and a range of community organisations.
- To protect the use of the Campus site for sports / leisure activity. Although this site is noted in the Local Plan, the HNPSG wishes to reinforce the need for its retention.
- To protect the use of the Dairy Hill sports ground for sports / leisure activity. Although this site is noted in the Local Plan, the HNPSG wishes to reinforce the need for its retention.
- Apollo Youth Club. This is noted in the Local Plan and in relation to the Campus Development. However, while Campus can allocate a site, it cannot fund works. This element has to be considered by

Local children & young people. Commercial property owners, ESC Planning & Community officers, HTC.



HTC, Halesworth Volunteers Centre (HVC), ESC and SCC. However, there is also an issue as to whether a bricks & mortar solution is the right one. There is supposed to be a working group considering these matters. For the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan, we can only reference the matter in the strongest terms, to urge this working group to make speedy progress.

## Evidence Gathered

### 1. A Coherent Play Space Strategy

#### 1.1 Survey via questionnaire with children at Edgar Sewter Primary School.

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Questions  
Responses

60

## 60 responses

**Please tick the playgrounds and open spaces you use (you can tick more**

**than one box): 59 responses**

Town Park	57 (96.6%)
Kennedy Close open space	5 (8.5%)
Basley Playground	6 (10.2%)
Gainsborough Drive Playground	8 (13.6%)

Dairy Hill	6 (10.2%)
Chichester Road Playground	5 (8.5%)
Swan Lane Playground	11 (18.6%)
Bensley Drift Playground	1 (1.7%)
Old Station Road	16 (27.1%)
Bramfield Road (This is Basley Playground)	2 (3.4%)
Holton playground (not in Plan area)	2 (3.4%)
Holton Park (not in Plan area)	1 (1.7%)
Out of town	1 (1.7%)
Bramfield Road Park	1 (1.7%)
Bigod close play area (not in Plan area)	1 (1.7%)
The folly/millennium green (an open space)	1 (1.7%)
The folly and Holton park	1 (1.7%)
Walpole park (not in Plan area)	1 (1.7%)

**Could you tell us why you use the playgrounds / open spaces that you ticked above. Tick the answers that most apply to your reasons? 59 responses**

It is the one nearest to my home	45 (76.3%)
It is on my way home from school	15 (25.4%)
It is where my parents take me	10 (16.9%)
It is on our way to / from the town centre	20 (33.9%)
It is because it has the best play equipment	28 (47.5%)
It is near friends or relatives houses	10 (16.9%)
It is near to a car park (parents to answer)	10 (16.9%)

**Additional comments**

Best of a poor selection in town	1 (1.7%)
Best available in Halesworth. Dog walking route	1 (1.7%)
It's the only one I know of	1 (1.7%)
It's a good park and out of the way	1 (1.7%)
Only just moved here so haven't found others	1 (1.7%)

**What is your age? 59 responses**

0-2 years	0 (0%)
2-5 years	21 (35.6%)
6-8 years	20 (33.9%)
9-12 years	14 (23.7%)
13+ years	5 (8.5%)

**In normal times (i.e not in lockdown) how many times would you have visited the playgrounds / open spaces you ticked above, on average? 59 responses**

once a week	40
once a fortnight	15
once a month	4
never	0

**If you could choose, what types of new play equipment would you like to see in playgrounds? 48 responses**

- Zip line
- Zip lines, imbedded trampoline (take a look at Diss playground - near the mere – EXCELLENT
- Zip wire or big slides
- Zip wire
- Updated swings and slides climbing frames
- Zip wire More for younger children Climbing wall
- Zip wire, swings, climbing frame
- Zip line, climbing wall, trampoline in the ground
- Mixed ages and ability, zip wire, climbing wall, bouncy pillow list is endless
- More climbing activities
- Climbing equipment. A bike track (like one in Harleston) would be very well used.
- Climbing
- Roundabout, larger slide, zip line, more climbing equipment, perhaps a circular path around the outer play area for younger children to scooter
- A slide, some smaller climbing frame equipment, a football net. Bigger swings. (GAINSBOROUGH DRIVE PARK)
- Big high slide and a old kinda roundabout
- Monkey bars and climbing frames for older children - adventure course
- Swings, generally more equipment for a 5 year old
- Sometime for older children
- For the Chichester Road site a whole new playground. It's in dreadful repair, but a beautiful space we take a ball and play hide and seek
- Equipment for older children
- Slide, football goal and bigger swings
- climbing equipment

- A zip wire, more benches to sit, climbing equipment / wall
- Old Station Road is really old and could do with updating, it's a large space and could definitely be improved with more equipment ie a trim trail, proper swings, more items like the town park
- Monkey bars, climbing wall, zip line
- Zip wire, bigger slides, more swings, better play equipment at basley ground
- Big slides
- Swings and slides
- A slide at Gainsborough drive and something else other than the big climbing frame as it's not suitable for the younger children
- Swings - they were taken away and never replaced
- Trampolines
- Zip line, more swings
- Zip wire. There isn't any in Halesworth
- Climbing stuff
- Zip line and more climbing
- Climbing frame treehouse zip wire big slide
- Zip wire, more equipment at Basley ground, football nets, monkey bars, bigger climbing frame (Ellingham park is our favourite park!!)
- Football goals
- Monkey bars
- Slide and older swings at Gainsborough drive
- I would of liked to have seen something for younger children age 2. A little house that's not so high up with smaller slide
- More things for older children my age not just little ones

**Please tell us what days / times you mostly use the playgrounds (you can tick more than one box): 59 responses**

Weekends	58 (98.3%)
Weekdays	19 (32.2%)
Mornings	8 (13.6%)
Afternoons	25 (42.4%)

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## 1.2 Sentinel Survey 2017

### PLAY SPACE EVALUATION REPORT AND ACTION PLAN (WAVENEY 2017)

(name redacted), Director of Business Development  
(name redacted), Community Sport and Leisure Development Manager  
Sentinel Leisure Trust

Waterlane Leisure Centre

(name redacted), Property Services Manager  
Waveney Norse

(Contact addresses redacted)

## **Introduction**

In April 2015 Sentinel Leisure Trust (SLT) was commissioned by Waveney District Council (WDC) through the partnerships added value measures to undertake the strategic role of Play Development. The Main focus being to audit and review WDC owned provision and to create and deliver an action plan to improve and sustain play their play provision.

Through this added value service, Sentinel provides evidence of the effective allocation and management of the WDC play revenue budget (held and managed by Waveney Norse and the S106 budget (held by WDC).

For clarity, Waveney Norse are commissioned by WDC to manage, maintain, repair and keep clean all WDC owned play areas however, Sentinel's strategic role is to advise Waveney Norse on resource focus and developments to enable a more strategic provision and service throughout the district. It is also to oversee the service of Waveney Norse in terms of play maintenance to ensure that it is delivered effectively with strategic support.

Following the transfer of the majority of play spaces earlier this financial year from WDC ownership to the newly formed Lowestoft Parish Council and Oulton Broad Parish Council the evaluation was reformed to reflect in this report WDC owned play spaces only. To support the newly created parish councils Sentinel also audited and provided both with their own evaluation report and action plans that have been provided to the respective organisations to review, consider and adopt to assist them in their new local roles and responsibilities over the assets.

This report shows the findings from the Play Space Evaluation Audit undertaken during October 2017 for WDC owned play provision. It presents recommendations based on these findings for the future planning and management of strategic resource and assets to help facilitate improvements to play provision and services whilst considering the initial budgets allocated. This report and subsequent updates will help inform WDC's Green Infrastructure Strategy (2015) and subsequent updates in the future to provide a coordinated approach to delivering and maintaining open space for the benefit of the wider community and the environment.

The Play Evaluation (Audit) considers the following areas:

- **Play Value**
  - The quantified quality of play provision across the District.
- **Condition<sup>1</sup>**
  - The visual condition of play provision (attractiveness);
  - Ancillary provisions (bench, bin, and access).

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed health and safety condition and regulation compliance does not form part of this report as the annual ROSPA report for all play spaces fulfils this obligation.

- **Catchment**
  - Play spaces were evaluated in terms of their catchment and age related provision. The report highlights areas of under and over provision.
- **District and sub-region priority<sup>2</sup>**
  - The report identifies each the priority of play spaces in the District and sub areas (town/parish) to assist communities to prioritise locally;
- **Current resource (Norse)**
  - Staff resource;
  - Technology currently used and available;
  - Inspection regimes;
  - Repair and maintenance budget.
- **Current budgets and funding**
  - Current S106 process and funds;
  - Current and future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process and funds.
- **New developments**
  - Liaison with developers;
  - Input and influence at pre-planning stages;
  - Sustainability, inclusion and quality through design.

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<sup>2</sup> Public consultation on the usage of each play space was not conducted.

## **1. Summary**

### **Play Spaces**

There are now only 46 equipped play spaces under the ownership of WDC across the district with no clear or consistent pattern of ownership. All of these have been audited within this report. Non-WDC sites that do directly impact on WDC owned sites have not been considered within this action plan.

With the recent play space asset transfers to local councils Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Parish, WDC now own and are responsible for 46 equipped play spaces across the district compared to 87 play spaces in 2008.

With the budgetary pressures and limits on the Council it is proving hard if not impossible to maintain all equipped play spaces to a high standard. S106 funding budgets are being phased out and are being used effectively to address play provision / value deficits however, these funds are finite and will be completely depleted within the next 12-24 months.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is the process for collecting and distributing developer contributions that has superseded S106 agreements. This is now a fixed charge for developers depending on the location and size of the development itself.

The CIL contribution is split between WDC and the local council from which the development takes place 85/15 respectfully. Unless the local town / parish council has an adopted neighbourhood plan in which case it is split 75/25 respectfully.

CIL funds can be used to improve play and open space provision, however, they are intended to deliver facilities that will serve new development. The use of a significant proportion of these funds is decided by the WDC as stated above with the priority focus on unlocking development through infrastructure. This report can help justify where and what type of investment is required in play spaces in the District. If an existing play space has the potential to serve a new development given its location then it could qualify for CIL funding.

Considering the recent changes to ownership, the following recommendations are proposed in order to sustain good quality play provision across the district for future generations of the community to enjoy.

1. Reduce the amount of play spaces operated by WDC to ensure that current budgets maximise the benefit for the remaining provision and community. This will clarify the strategic approach to play provision across the District and set out a clear approach to the forward capital replenishment plan utilising existing revenue funds and funds generated through new development.
2. To actively seek to transfer play spaces to appropriate organisations such as Town and Parish Councils who wish to take ownership and liability for them ensuring that they remain available to the community and are managed and maintained effectively through the local utilisation of current and future CIL funds.
3. To consider how non-equipped play spaces (or play spaces that have had their play equipment recently removed) function within an area and the value they provide for the community. The undertaking of an open space needs

assessment<sup>3</sup> will help identify if these open spaces are still required. If they are judged to no longer be required, to then consider if alternative uses are appropriate. If so, consider how funds raised can be reinvested in other open spaces to increase the quality of play.

4. To suggest inclusion of priority play space equipment within the Council's forward capital replacement programme to ensure that play equipment is treated as a public asset and that its replacement is planned within the Council's forward capital programme.

## **Inspection and maintenance resource**

Due to the recent mass transfer of play spaces to the newly formed Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Parish Councils, a new adaptive strategy needs to be adopted.

Sentinel Leisure Trust are working with the Parish Councils and Waveney Norse throughout the initial transition period to ensure support can be given in terms of a strategy for play spaces and play development across the district. Sentinel will provide both Lowestoft PC and Oulton Broad PC with an initial year review, audit and strategic action plan for their respective areas and play spaces.

Although play spaces have been transferred to Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Parish Councils – Waveney Norse are still providing the management and maintenance services throughout the initial transition period.

The following recommendations are still appropriate to provide an improved and comprehensive inspection / repair and maintenance regime for play:

1. Reduce the amount of equipped play spaces where appropriate to do so in order to free up resource from the inspection regime to complete more reactive minor repair / maintenance works.
2. Review the inspection regime and produce more efficient inspection routes as well as risk assess each play space and set appropriate frequencies of inspection based on play value, equipment condition, usage and any historical data, thus enabling more time to be allocated to maintenance and repair.
3. To develop and deliver a public reporting system so that users of play spaces and parents can more easily report any issues direct to those with the responsibility of addressing the issues. Such systems can include QR code links and information on updated play signage so that the communication can be electronic, instant and recorded through smart phones etc.

The current budget transferred to and managed by Waveney Norse for play inspection and maintenance services is £103k per annum following the recent

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<sup>3</sup> Open space needs assessments are used to identify open space in an area, its function and how it relates to other aspects of the open space and green infrastructure network provided to meet the needs of the community. Over time the function of an open space (e.g. play space) can change affecting how an area is serviced with community facilities. An open space needs assessment can assist with identifying the short-term and strategic impact of such changes and assess if open space still provides the value it was originally designed for, if it could provide greater community benefit if used as another for of open space or in some cases if an open space is still required and alternative uses could be considered.

Where an open space needs assessment is undertaken this should involve appropriate stakeholders such as Planning and Environmental Health who can support the process with advice related to how an open space serves an area and information about unseen constraints that might be associated with the site which may be a reason why the site was designated as open space originally.



transfer of play spaces to Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Parish Councils. The following future allocation of the budget at Waveney Norse is recommended. This has been discussed and agreed by Waveney Norse and forms part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between SLT and Waveney Norse.

<b>Staffing</b>	<b>£'s pa</b>
Play Manager (0.5 FTE) & Inspector (1.0 FTE)	24,700
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>£'s pa</b>
- ROSPA Annual Inspections (annual inspection and report)	3,000
- Software(licence for inspection / R&M programme and equipment)	1,700
- Repair & Maintenance (reactive budget)	27,600
- Replacement (planned budget)	22,000
- Grounds Maintenance (grass cutting schedules etc.)	24,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103,000</b>

Although the budget has been reduced directly proportionally to the number of play places that have been recently transferred – the budget may not reflect the size, condition or quantity of remaining play spaces owned by WDC.

#### Recommendations:

- That regular meetings are held between SLT and Waveney Norse that monitor, review and continually improve the following regarding WDC owned play spaces;
  - Management systems and processes ensure that they are the most efficient and streamline process to cut down time required to process orders and works;
  - That the Repair and Maintenance (R&M) budget is effectively allocated as above table;
  - Grounds maintenance schedules regarding seasonality, usage and growth.
  - Inspection regime to ensure an efficient split between inspection and maintenance works;
  - Play equipment replacement be considered within WDC forward capital replacement programmes, external funding applications and CIL applications.
- That delegated power is given to the Strategic Director for the allocation and specification of S106 monies on WDC owned sites & equipment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Customers & Communities. Ward Councillors / Town and Parish Councils will be notified of any major projects / improvement for comment to gauge local feedback and input into future schemes and provision.
- SLT will produce FREE initial play space evaluations, review and strategic action plan to both Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Parish Council's for review and adoption if they so wish.

## New developments

As identified in the play space audit and play evaluation, there are a large majority of play spaces that are located at the periphery of estate developments, towns and villages.

This manufactures play spaces with catchments that may not maximise the potential coverage of the residential areas that they are intended to service.

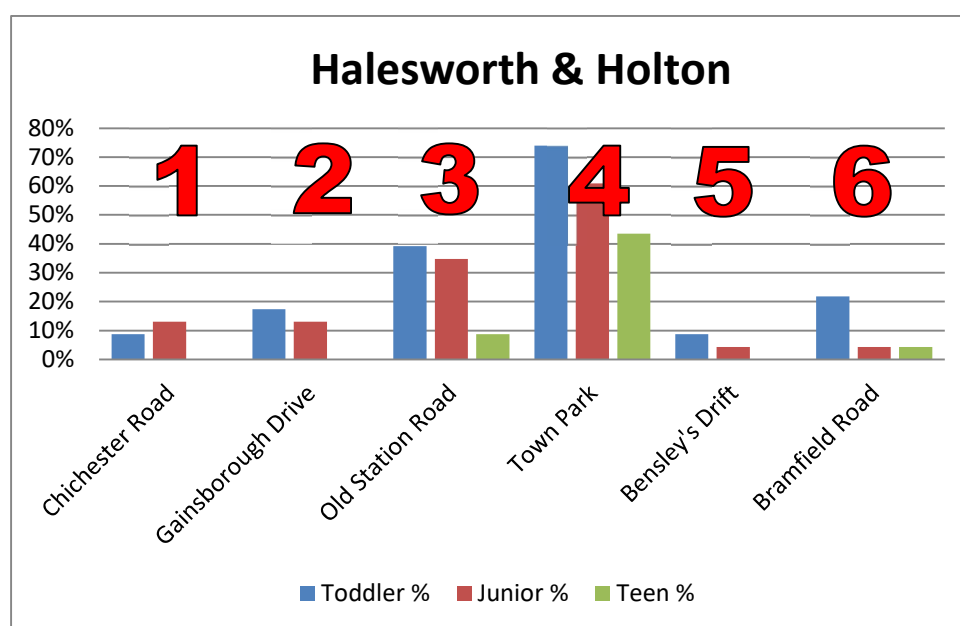
This can lead to underused and inappropriately located play spaces that fall by the way side leaving the local community with little or no play provision or play value.

Moving forward it is essential that the play evaluation tool and catchment mapping is utilise at pre-planning stage for any new development to ensure that appropriate feedback and recommendations to the developer are given in order that future play spaces and provision are best located to serve the residential areas they are intended to serve.

Recommendations:

- That SLT and Waveney Norse are continued to be consulted as part of the pre-planning consultations / review for any new developments that include on-site play space to ensure that an appropriate range and standard is acquired
- That SLT and Waveney Norse continue to work with Planning to establish a clear and defined route to apply for CIL funding to deliver improvements based on the priority and requirements generated through the play evaluation audits.

## Halesworth & Holton

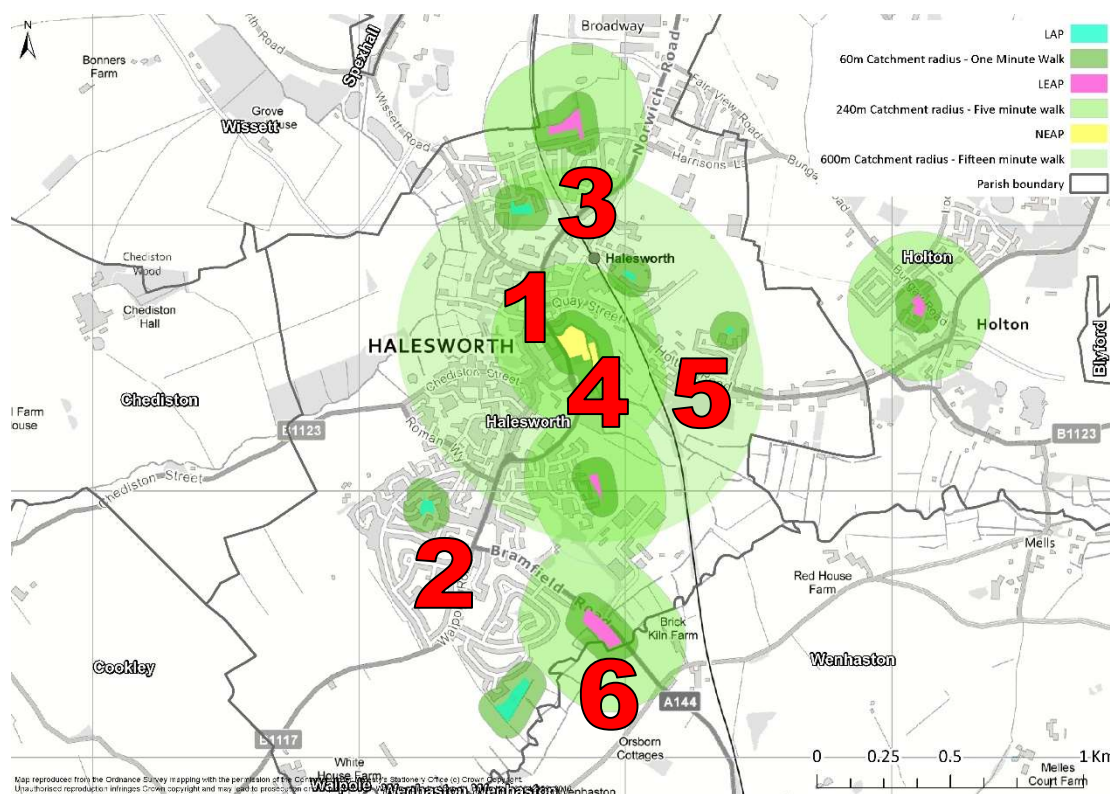


Sub area overall banding: detailed site specific banding is included at appendix C.

HALESWORTH & HOLTON sub area play value – Overall Medium Quality (19.8%)		
Toddler	28.3%	High Quality
Junior	21.7%	Medium Quality

Teen	9.4%	Medium Quality
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### Halesworth: Equipped play spaces and respective catchments



Sourced from WDC OSNA (2015)

### APPENIX D: League Table of all sites (overall play value average)

Area	Site	Site %	BANDIN G
BECCLES	Darby Park	55.1 %	EXCELLENT QUALITY
CARLTON COLVILLE	Carlton Meadow Park	52.2 %	
HALESWORTH & HOLTON	Town Park	49.4 %	
BECCLES	Townlands	44.9 %	
NORTH LOWESTOFT	Denmark Road (Smith's Marsh)	43.5 %	
KESSINGLAND	Marram Park	39.1 %	
WORLINGHAM	Werrels - Pepy's Avenue	39.1 %	
WORLINGHAM	Cedar Drive	37.7 %	
S/W & REYDON	Winston Road	36.2 %	
SOUTH LOWESTOFT	Marine Parade (Royal Green)	36.2 %	
CARLTON COLVILLE	Matlock Dale	33.3 %	HIGH QUALITY
BECCLES	The Common	29.0 %	

WORLINGHAM	Codlins Lane	29.0 %	MEDIUM QUALITY
HALESWORTH & HOLTON	Old Station Road	27.5 %	
BECCLES	The Quay	26.1 %	
CARLTON COLVILLE	Dale End	24.6 %	
BUNGAY	Garden Close	23.2 %	
OULTON	Bloomsbury Close	23.2 %	
OULTON	Community Centre (Oulton Meadow)	23.2 %	
WORLINGHAM	Foxglove Close	21.7 %	
NORTH LOWESTOFT	Winnipeg Road (The Bleach)	21.7 %	
BUNGAY	Wherry Road	18.8 %	
BUNGAY	Meadow Road	18.8 %	
S/W & REYDON	Barn Close	18.8 %	
KESSINGLAND	High Street	15.9 %	
WORLINGHAM	All Saint's green	15.9 %	
BECCLES	St Anne's Road	15.9 %	
CARLTON COLVILLE	Staplehurst Close	14.5 %	
BUNGAY	Kings Road	13.0 %	
HALESWORTH & HOLTON	Gainsborough Drive	10.1 %	LOW QUALITY
HALESWORTH & HOLTON	Bramfield Road	10.1 %	
CARLTON COLVILLE	Kingswood Avenue	8.7%	
BECCLES	Glebe View	8.7%	
S/W & REYDON	Mount Pleasant	8.7%	
HALESWORTH & HOLTON	Chichester Road	7.2%	
BECCLES	Field View Gardens	7.2%	
BECCLES	George Brown Way	7.2%	
BECCLES	St Andrew's Road	5.8%	
SOUTH LOWESTOFT	Kirkley Cliff (Thatched Cottage)	5.8%	
CARLTON COLVILLE	Wannock Close	5.8%	
HALESWORTH & HOLTON	Bensley's Drift	4.3%	
OULTON	Cambrien Crescent	4.3%	
CARLTON COLVILLE	Lucerne Close	2.9%	
NORTH LOWESTOFT	Spashet Road	2.9%	

BECCLES	Demark Road (Pigs Lane)		<b>UN-EQUIPPED</b>
CARLTON COLVILLE	Ranville		
CARLTON COLVILLE	Ullswater		
CARLTON COLVILLE	Deepdale		
HALESWORTH & HOLTON	Kennedy Close		
OULTON	Holly Hill (Camps Heath)		
NORTH LOWESTOFT	Granville Road		
NORTH LOWESTOFT	Love Road		

**ACTION PLAN for WDC owned sites in Halesworth**

AREA	PLAYSPACE	RECOMMENDATION
Halesworth	Chichester Road	<p>A fairly large play space in the northern part of Halesworth but with poor play provision. It is located out of site at the rear of residential properties and only accessible via a narrow piece of land that overlooks the adjacent property. 80% of its catchment is overlapped by Town Park and Old Station Road play space catchments.</p> <p>Essential elements – 5/9</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Maintain the equipment through to the end of its serviceable life. Remove the equipment and maintain as an open space / amenity space. Once the equipment has been removed consider an open space needs assessment to establish its current value to the area, its potential use as an alternative form of open space use or if the open space is still required.</p>
	Gainsborough Drive	<p>A small green space with little play provision. The site is situated centrally to the surrounding residential development but provides little play value for toddlers only.</p> <p>Essential elements – 6/9 Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perimeter safety;</li> <li>- Bins;</li> <li>- Management signage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Utilise the whole of the site and improve the play provision to provide good play value for juniors and toddlers as and when funding is available. This will secure the site as a valued play space for the south west residents of Halesworth.</p>

		Project due to start end of 2017 / early 2018 to improve play space using Tesco Bags for Life Funds.
	Kennedy Close (non-equipped)	<p>A relatively large green space at the southernmost extremity of Halesworth with no equipped play value. 75% of its catchment covers green fields.</p> <p>Essential elements – 6/9</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Consider an open space needs assessment to establish its current value to the area, its potential use as an alternative form of open space use or if the open space (all or in part) is still required.</p>
	Old Station Road	<p>A large open space with some play units. Provision is located behind residences and is accessed by a corridor of green space. The site provides good play provision for junior and toddlers and below average provision for teens for northern area of Halesworth. 50% of its catchment covers open fields.</p> <p>Essential elements – 7/9 Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seating;</li> <li>- Bins.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> To maintain and where possible improve the play provision at the site as the main northern play space in Halesworth.</p> <p>Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Toddler (rocking, crawling, hanging);</li> <li>- Junior (climbing, swinging, rocking);</li> <li>- Teen (climbing, swinging, sliding).</li> </ul>
	Town Park	<p>The local park provides a multitude of excellent play value for all ages with nearby parking and toilets.</p> <p>Essential elements – 7/9 Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision condition;</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> To maintain and sustain the park as the Town's local park for all ages of play.</p>
	Bensly's Drift	A very small plot of green space at the extremity of a peripheral estate to the east of Halesworth. The site provides

		<p>very poor play value for toddlers and juniors.</p> <p>Essential elements – 6/9</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> To conduct local consultation as to the need for the play space. Depending on feedback either improve the play space for juniors and toddlers utilising any available funds or consider an open space needs assessment to establish its current value to the area, its potential use as an alternative form of open space use or if the open space is still required.</p>
	Bramfield Road	<p>A large green space to the south of Halesworth with a small amount of play provision aimed at toddlers. Some outdoor gym provision was installed c2011. Approximately 75% of its catchment does not serve any residences.</p> <p>Essential elements – 9/9</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> To maintain and sustain current provision through to the end of its serviceable life. To consider retaining it as an open / amenity space. If the equipment is removed consider an open space needs assessment to establish its current value to the area, its potential use as an alternative form of open space use or if the open space is still required.</p>

## Appendix A: Evaluation Method

### Play value:

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is the primary independent site assessor for all WDC owned play spaces / equipment.

RoSPA identify and categorise play provision into three age ranges / groups:

- Toddler (0-5 years)
- Junior (6-12 years)
- Teen (13+ years)

RoSPA define the motions that children conduct on play areas (swinging, sliding, climbing, flying, spinning, crawling, rocking, balancing and hanging).

Each play space is scored three times – separate score for each age range.

Each age range score is made up of the following scoring method.

- **0** The provision design does not allow for the element of activity
- **1** The provision design provides for the element of activity
- **2** The provision design provides a diverse, challenging range for the activity

An additional scoring element of 'Other' was included alongside the RoSPA activities and given a potential score of 0-5. This was to enable the scoring of items such as sports, shelters, landscaping and sensory equipment with the space that offers an alternative play experience to the RoSPA play activities. This element had a higher maximum score compared to each individual play activity as it covers a wide range of alternative features, but is capped at 5 points so to not skew favourable scores where no traditional play provision is provided.

### **For example:**

A play space has one slide that is accessible and appealing to 0-12 year olds will score 1 point for sliding in both toddler and junior groups (total of 2 points).

A play space that has two slides that are the same height and type that are accessible and appealing to 0-12 year olds will still only score 1 point for sliding in both toddler and junior groups (total of 2 points). This is because the same activity / motion is replicated.

A play space that has a slide and a fireman's pole that are accessible and appealing to 0-12 year olds will still only score 2 points for sliding in both toddler and junior groups (total of 4 points). This is because the provision provides a variety of sliding actions.

### **Essential Items:**

For the purpose of the play evaluation audit, essential items/elements are the basic features and appropriate conditions that should be present and correct within a quality play space.

Items included are:

- |                        |                       |                     |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • access / egress;     | • equipment;          | • perimeter safety; |
| • appropriate fencing; | • ground condition;   | • safety surfacing; |
| • bins;                | • management signage; | • seating.          |

Each items/ element could potentially receive one of two scores:

- 1 point for being present and appropriate /in good condition; or
- 0 for not being present or not appropriate/ in poor condition.

These items are referenced in the action plan for each site to portray a clearer picture of the condition and value of the site, however, do not contribute towards the overall play value score. All spaces should ideally score for all essential elements where possible to do so.



The following is a sectional screenshot of the main evaluation spreadsheet for reference:



Each play space after the assessment / audit will then have a play value score for each age group.

**For example:**

Gunton Community Park in North Lowestoft in 2015 has scored the following:

Toddler	Junior	Teen	Total
12	10	7	29

Each age group score is then represented as a percentage relating to the maximum score achievable as follows:

Toddler	Junior	Teen	Total
52%	43%	30%	42%

## 1.3 HTC survey 2021 - play / open spaces

### Environment Committee Report Swan Lane Community Garden

1) 150 letters describing the project, inviting comment, and asking for any offers of inclusion have been sent out to residents within the proximity of the site.

We will wait two weeks for any responses via the swan lane project e mail, or post to the Council office.

2) We have decided to purchase nine trees in order to make an immediate impact on the project site, (see attached map)

Initially we were going to wait for any free trees from a tree surgeon but he obviously could not be specific about the size, type or availability of the trees.

We have chosen

Three Crab apple (For dense foliage, shade and fruit that will not interest scrumpers)

Three Rowan (berries for birds and pollen for bees)

Three Wild Cherry (for bees, butterflies and blossom for residents) the cherries are not tasty!)

These trees will be purchased locally and will be three feet in height (approx.) they will grow to 2 to 2.5 metres in about ten years. Their roots will not affect any properties.

We will be able to buy these for £25.00 each which would result in an outlay of £225 from the Environment budget but we hope to be able to offer £200.

3) From the map you will see a winding mown path through the trees. This will be mowed once per fortnight, whilst the rest is left to grow wild and will be sown with a variety of perennial wild meadow flowers. The flower site will only be mowed in October each year.

A Professional landscape gardener has offered to mow the path and the children's play equipment once a fortnight for £15.00 a time (i.e. £180 per year ) assuming no service during the winter. He will also take the debris away for us.

4) the length of the eastern boundary will be planted free of charge with the little saplings, surrounded by protective sleeves until established.

5) members of the committee have rallied round and gathered free mulching, tree protectors and many other useful pieces of equipment.

6) We have found a firm who will provide us with three metal two seater park benches for £75.00 each. We will not need to buy these just yet but need to have our order in for them to be made. They will be concreted into the site when it is clear where they are best placed.(ie, where residents would like to sit)

Green spaces

Two members of the committee will be completing the surveys of the remaining seven green sites within the next two weeks. We are putting the questionnaires out on Tuesday of each week and collecting them on Thursday. The First four spaces will be completed by 25th February with the remaining three completed by March 4th.

We will then produce for the next full Council a report on what the residents would like, and the state of any equipment on these sites.

Plans can then be made as to what might need to happen in each space in the future.

### **Bensly Drift Green Space Review**



As Hopkins Homes are creating a new children's playground just behind this site there seems little point in maintaining it as there are only two pieces of equipment a double scruffy swing and a rickety climbing frame overpowered by the one tree on the site.

The whole piece is in very poor condition and very slippery to walk on.

### **Gainsborough Drive Green Space Review**

This space is mainly used for children's play equipment and is very well used, although at this moment the ground is so churned up that it has become a mud bath.



15 Questionnaires were delivered 8 were responded to. (53%)

Question one

Is the children's play equipment used on a regular basis?

All respondents (100%) said that the children's play equipment is in regular and frequent use.

100% of respondents would like somewhere to sit whilst watching their children.

Question two

Would you like to see part of the site planted with trees, wildflowers, seats?

100% want some wild flowers planted for children to enjoy. Most want these to be on the adjoining plot that connects with Jermyn Way.

Question three

Would you be willing to help with the watering as the plants get established?

6 respondents (40%) would be willing to help with watering plants as they become established.

Resident's comments

The children's play area should be fenced as dogs are fouling the ground around the equipment. People are not taking this away with them they are just leaving it.

The climbing frame is great but the swings are only for babies, as most of the children who play there are now of primary school age the swings could be for their age group. Perhaps a football goal could be put on the spare land by Jermyn Way.

Another picnic table would be good as you have to stand all the time if someone else is using it. A little bridge of some kind over the soak away as small kids get wet feet when it is full of rainwater. Grass cut more often to be child friendly.

Last summer the space was left to "Wild" with just a path mown through the centre we rather liked that. The path between Gainsborough and Jermyn way needs more attention especially in winter when it is just a mud bath. Some seating up that end near Jermyn Way would be good.

The children's play equipment needs a bit of updating especially the ground around the pieces.

Our garden runs along the alleyway which connects Gainsborough and Jermyn Way, when the so called wilding was done the seeds all blew our garden, and it was just a mess. It caused us a lot of extra gardening.

The climbing frame (pictured) is in my opinion rather too large for small hands to hold on to, but residents say it is very well used.

Swings pictured below are too small for primary school age group who mostly use the equipment they cannot get their legs through the small bars.



A couple of replacement ordinary swing seats would be good.

As you can see without landing mats the ground gets very muddy.

## Possible enhancement costs

This site is very well used, although the large logs that make up the climbing frame look difficult the children apparently love it.

The swings need changing from baby ones to ordinary seats for older primary age children. The swings need landing mats under them as the ground is very muddy and fills with rainwater on wet days.

Residents are suffering from dogs fouling the play area so a dog notice to take their dog mess away and dispose of it responsibly would be good,

A couple of park benches for mums to sit while their children play £150.00

Wild flowers in patches £30.00

The borders all around are reasonable but one resident wants a fence between the play equipment and the lower grass patch to keep dogs out.

Short stretch of fencing £50.00

Another piece of play equipment would be interesting as there are only two at the moment. £150.00?

Costings based on using small local builders, artisans etc.

## Barley Meadow Green Space

This small space is in a turning off Dukes Drive it is surrounded by bungalows. The residents take great care already and have planted some Rowan trees and daffodil bulbs. They keep the two metal seats painted regularly.



15 questionnaires were delivered. 12 responses were collected 80% response.

### Question one

Is the children's play equipment used on a regular basis?

There is no play equipment on this site

### Question two

Would you like to see some of the space landscaped with trees, wild flowers seats?

7 (46%) residents would like to see trees, wild flowers, although they have already planted 5 trees and put in some daffodil bulbs.

1 resident would like a picnic bench rather than two metal park benches, so her family could sit together.

### Question three

Would you be willing to help with the watering as the planting becomes established?

Three residents (20%) would help with watering any plants.

### Resident's comments

Dog fouling is a nuisance since lockdown people seem to think they can just let their dogs go and leave it all with us.

I don't want the green to be turned into anything else as we gather there in the summer for little events as neighbours.

Don't particularly want any changes we can manage it ourselves with the exception of mowing.

We residents of Barley Meadow are quite happy with our green, don't change it.

We love it as it is so thank you we do appreciate it.

We have lunch parties in the space in the summer but a couple of flowering trees would be even prettier to sit under

Most of us who live in Barley meadow are of a "Mature Age" which means our input is somewhat limited. We cannot mow the grass. But we have planted trees and bulbs to make it look nice. We love our little green.

I keep an eye on the Rowan trees.

I don't feel safe taking my grandchildren to the green anymore due to the dog fouling. There is no dog bin so people who are too lazy to bag it themselves just leave the mess on the grass.

Picnic benches would be better than the park benches then families could sit together.

## Allington Road Green Space Review

This site is well loved by the residents and well used although there is only a couple of park benches there.

Possible enhancement costs



A picnic bench for families to use. £50.00

Some wild flower seeding in patches £30.00

A dog notice to take dog mess away and dispose of it responsibly

No problems foreseen with the boundaries

Please note all costings based on the use of small local builders, artisans etc.



## Chichester Road Green Space Review

This site is currently not on the transfer list



Slide is in an awful condition and is very dangerous and rusty at the bottom. No bannisters to the concrete steps all dirty and slippery.



The swings have recently been updated and are more robust than this photo

25 questionnaires were delivered 14 (56%) responded

Question one

Is the children's play equipment used on a regular basis?

7 residents thought yes (28%)

7 residents thought no (28%)

Question two

Would you like to see part of the site planted with trees, flowers, seats etc.?

11 residents (44%) said yes

3 residents (12%) said no

Question three

Would you be willing to help with watering whilst the plants get established?

6 residents (24%) said yes

8 residents (32%) said no

## Resident's comments

Somewhere safe to socialise and meet people would be nice.

It is not a nice area everything is unwelcoming, not looked after. The grass is too long and is like a field, just all run down.

### Update the play equipment

More and better play equipment and somewhere to sit for their mothers.

Leave it as it is to encourage nature not people.

Yes a proper play park with proper equipment slide and climbing frame etc. This site has been a mess since I moved here in 2006 the hedges are a mess the grass is a mess and as a council tax payer I think the whole thing is a waste of my hard earned money. Council tax will go up again and as usual nothing gets done in Halesworth.

Lots of children use this site and it would be nice to see better equipment for them to play on Flowers for all seasons of the year and some owl boxes would be nice. Adults need somewhere to sit here.

Cut the grass more often. mini-golf area for children. a seesaw, climbing frame a safe slide with handrails. A tarmac area for kids to play rounders. Seats for nannies as nannies often take their grandchildren to play but we have nowhere to sit. No litter bins for rubbish.

No picnic benches or seats as this will encourage teenagers late into the night. Leave it to wild over to attract wildlife not people.

There has been almost no investment over the last twenty years on this site. Desperate for better equipment. The site is big enough for a dog walk round the outer edge

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our opinions on our space it is so important to the community and the wildlife in general.

Outside fitness classes in the summer?

A community orchard would be lovely,

This site is not on the transfer list.

It is a huge space surrounded by houses on all sides.

The equipment is not in a good useful state and there is nowhere for residents to sit.

There are some huge trees on the boundaries and a lovely may tree which could have a circular seat round its trunk, under the blossom.

## Old Station Road Green Space Review



The landing surface should be replaced before transfer to Halesworth. Weeds are growing up through the tarmac base.

Base is lifting up here and there with weeds coming up through on both pieces of equipment.

There was a very poor response from this area. Only 6 residents responded out of 20 delivered. (30%)

### Question one

Is the children's play equipment used on a regular basis?

100% respondents said yes.

### Question two

Would you like to see parts of the space landscaped with flowers, trees or seats?

5 responded yes one responded no

### Question three

Would you be willing to help with watering the plants as they become established?

3 said yes, 3 said no

## Resident's comments

I think a basketball post would be good for older children who maybe don't like football. The goal posts need a paint

I don't think people will appreciate flower beds but wild flowers in patches could be very attractive.

How about a couple of large flower containers one on each side of the entrance to the space. Residents could easily water them.

I would like anything that benefits children.

The more trees the better although someone uprooted the last lot that were put in.

A wild area would work here better than a landscaped, plot easier to maintain.

How about a nice pond surrounded by low fencing that would attract wildlife without too much attention.

Please keep the play equipment and football goals.

A couple of picnic benches and some seating would be good.

We have trouble at times with gangs of teenagers who shout and swear and show off.

The trees were taken last year not long after they were put in.

It is nice to hear the children enjoying themselves

Any new equipment should be fairly robust.

The whole site is very well used on a regular basis.

We are lucky to have such a space for residents and others to enjoy.



### **Kennedy Close Green Space Review**

Kennedy Close green space is a rough grass area leading to fields. It has a wall of elderly scrubland in bad condition to the right. The whole plot slopes away from the houses towards the further hedge. There is nothing at all on the plot for residents.



26 Questionnaires were put through resident's letterboxes.

11 responses were collected (ie) 42% return.

### Question One

Is the children's play equipment used on a regular basis?

There is no equipment on this site.

### Question Two

Would you like to see parts of the site landscaped with trees, seats, wild flowers?

9 residents would like wild flower planting and trees and particularly somewhere to sit. 81%

### Question Three

Would you be willing to help with the watering as the plantings become established

2 residents said yes 18%

Other comments

2 residents would like some swings put back there

8 residents would like to see somewhere to sit as many of them are "getting on a bit"

1 resident does not want anything put in the grass circle in the middle of the close.

1 would like to see trees planted between the Kennedy close and Kennedy Avenue parts of the green space.

Too many people drive into the field just to walk their dogs a pole or barrier would be nice for children's safety.

A community orchard would be great

One resident wants it all left alone and nothing done.

One said "This is a very quiet space on the edge of town away from the hub bub of the built up areas. We would prefer to see it left for all the wild creatures that have a right to live there undisturbed by more people and their dogs. We would prefer any intervention to be minimal and only if it encourages greater wildlife diversity Like wild flowers meadow planting etc. There are relatively few spaces like this left so please can we be consulted and informed before anything is done.

This site has nothing on it at all.

Residents would like somewhere to sit and something to look at like a couple of trees and some wild flowers.

### Possible costs

Two bench seats (metal) £150.00

Some wild flower sowings in patches £30.00

A couple of blossoming trees £50.00

Maybe a small double swing set? £150.00?

A pole to stop people driving onto the fields to walk their dogs?

A dog notice to take dog mess away and dispose of it as appropriate

There is a rather scruffy heap of dead tree cuttings to the Western boundary but this houses a multitude of wild life including hedgehogs. Residents want this left as it is.

No problems with the tree and hedge boundaries

Please note all costings based on the use of small local builders, artisans etc.

## 1.4 Play Space Categories

Fields in Trust website -

<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

## 2. Opening up access to green spaces

2.1 Revitalising waterways, enhancing biodiversity and protecting, improving and expanding our green spaces. (Obj./policy 1)

2.2 Correspondence with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Suffolk County Council (PROW Team), and Halesworth Town Council

2.2.1 Suffolk Wildlife Trust

2.2.2 Environment Agency

2.2.3 Suffolk County Council

2.2.4 Halesworth Town Council

2.3 Countryside & Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 – Extract re. land categories excluded from rights of way.

### **The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) Schedule 1**

The CROW Act excludes the right of access to land known as 'excepted land' even if it appears as open access land on maps, such as CROW Act maps.

Excepted land includes:

- buildings and their curtilage, such as courtyards
- land within 20 metres of a dwelling or building containing livestock
- parks and gardens



- land covered by structures like electricity substations, wind turbines or telephone masts (though this does not prevent use of access land around them)
- quarries and other active mineral workings
- railways and tramways
- golf courses and race courses
- aerodromes
- land being lawfully developed in one of the ways above
- land ploughed for the growing of crops or trees within the past year
- temporary livestock pens
- racehorse training gallops – at certain times
- land under Ministry of Defence byelaws, such as most military training areas

Some exceptions are different in the coastal margin - see [land that does not have public access in the coastal margin](#).

## 2.4 Agriculture Act 2020

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- Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
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- Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery

These schemes are intended to support the rural economy while achieving the goals of the [25 Year Environment Plan](#) and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

Through these schemes, farmers and other land managers may enter into agreements to be paid for delivering the following:

- clean and plentiful water
- clean air
- thriving plants and wildlife
- protection from environmental hazards
- reduction of and adaptation to climate change
- beauty, heritage and engagement with the environment

### **Sustainable Farming Incentive**

The Sustainable Farming Incentive scheme will pay farmers to manage their land in an environmentally sustainable way.

The scheme is made up from a set of standards. Each standard is based on a feature like hedgerows or grassland, and contains a group of actions you need to do.

You can choose which standards you want to do, and where on your land to apply them.

You'll be paid for doing the actions within the standards you choose.

[Read more about Defra's plans for piloting and launching the Sustainable Farming Incentive.](#)

### **Piloting the Sustainable Farming Incentive**

The Sustainable Farming Incentive will begin piloting in 2021 before it launches in 2022.

If you'd like to take part in the pilot you can submit an expression of interest. The deadline is 11 April 2021.

You'll get a pilot participation payment if you take part in the pilot.

[Find out more about submitting an expression of interest.](#)

### **Local Nature Recovery**

The Local Nature Recovery scheme will pay for actions that support local nature recovery and meet local environmental priorities.

The scheme will encourage collaboration between farmers, helping them work together to improve their local environment.

The scheme will begin piloting in 2022, and launch in 2024.

### **Landscape Recovery**

The Landscape Recovery scheme will support landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term projects, such as:

- restoring wilder landscapes in places where it's appropriate
- large-scale tree planting
- peatland and salt marsh restoration

The scheme will begin piloting around 10 projects in 2022, and launch in 2024.

2.5 AECOM Design Codes Report (see appendix x)

2.6 Walking / footpath development (Obj./ policy 6).

2.7 Town Centre connectivity proposals (Obj. / policy 7)

2.8 Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan Examiners Report

[Kesgrave-Neighbourhood-Plan-examiners-report-June-2020.pdf](#)  
([eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://eastsuffolk.gov.uk)). )

### 3. Educational Opportunities

3.1 Halesworth Neighbourhood Plan draft 1d, chapter Local Context / Halesworth Today / 2.33 / pages 12-14.

3.2 Population statistics - Halesworth & surrounding villages



### **The Case for Secondary Education Provision in Halesworth Draft Discussion Paper Revised 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Enquiries were made by the NPSG in May 2019, seeking Suffolk County Council's (SCC) lack of secondary school provision in Halesworth. In response, on 10<sup>th</sup> June

2019, SCC provided information it considered to prove there are not the numbers of secondary school children age children in Halesworth to warrant school provision there.

However, analysis of SCC's information shows it to be unclear and that further questions need to be asked to remedy this. The issues to consider are as follows:-

- SCC information states that, at the time of writing, there were 185 children of secondary school age attending schools in other towns (excluding those attending special schools. This amounts to approx. 3.9% of the overall population (4,726 – 2011 census).
- It is not clear whether the number of children accounts for the town only, or whether it includes surrounding villages. However, the wording of the correspondence indicates the former. On that basis, it would be reasonable to consider a range of villages within say, a 4 mile radius as being within a Halesworth catchment area. The exception to this is Reydon, Southwold and the villages between them and Halesworth. Whilst these towns are more than 4 miles away, Halesworth is far closer than Beccles, Bungay or Leiston, which is where children from Reydon and Southwold currently travel to for their educational needs.
- While catchment cut-off areas can be debatable, it is reasonable to consider the towns and villages in the table below as legitimate targets for populating a school in Halesworth.
- SCC's calculation does not consider the impact of the proposed housing developments in Halesworth, which if all are built, will increase the population by up to 2,000 people (\*total approx. 7,000). Given that the SCC communique states that any surplus at Bungay High School will be taken up by the impact of the Local Plan there and indeed, further expansion will be required, it is unclear as to where, or whether, Halesworth's proposed expansion fits into the picture.
- Further to the points above, we would want SCC to provide its impact analysis concerning the developments proposed for Bungay, Saxmundham, Reydon and Beccles, in respect of population growth and the projections for secondary school children as well.
- The general question raised in the points above highlights an extraordinary gap in SCC's Education & Learning Infrastructure Plan (ELIP), published in 2017. In its analysis, this Plan refers to needs in Bungay and Saxmundham but is entirely silent in respect of Halesworth. Based on the 2011 census, Bungay has a slightly larger population than Halesworth. However, taking the District Council's Local Plan into consideration, the housing units provided for in the latter will result in it having something in the order of 20% more people than Bungay and thus, more children of secondary school age. Meanwhile, Saxmundham's needs, with a population far smaller than Halesworth are considered in the ELIP. SCC needs to explain the logic behind the seemingly arbitrary omission of Halesworth in its calculations.
- While this paper has focused on secondary school age children, the situation concerning primary school children should be considered as well. While the Local Plan recognises a need in this area, as things stand, expansion of the Edgar Sewter School will be at the expense of its outside recreation space. This would only be a further example of a nation-wide trend recognised as deeply negative, in the context of a child obesity crisis.

### Based on 2011 Census

Town / Village	Population	Secondary school children based on 3.9%
Halesworth	4,726	184
Holton	832	32
Reydon	2,582	101
Southwold	1,098	43
Wangford	591	23
Bramfield	487	19
Wissett	268	10
Wenhaston	800	31
Rumburgh	327	13
Westhall	390	15
Chediston	195	8
St. James South Elmham	205	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,501</b>	<b>487</b>

### Based on 9% Uplift Since 2011

Town / Village	Population	Secondary school children based on 3.9%
Halesworth	5,151	201
Holton	907	35
Reydon	2,814	110
Southwold	1,197	47
Wangford	644	25
Bramfield	531	21
Wissett	292	11
Wenhaston	872	34
Rumburgh	356	14
Westhall	425	17
Chediston	212	8
St. James South Elmham	223	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,624</b>	<b>532</b>

### Based on 9% Uplift & Halesworth Population Estimate incl. Local Plan Developments (+ 1,902)

Town / Village	Population	Secondary school children based on 3.9%
Halesworth	7,053	275
Holton	907	35
Reydon	2,814	110
Southwold	1,197	47
Wangford	644	25
Bramfield	531	21
Wissett	292	11

Wenhaston	872	34
Rumburgh	356	14
Westhall	425	17
Chediston	212	8
St. James South Elmham	223	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,526</b>	<b>606</b>

All population figures quoted are based on the 2011 census. In addition, calculations are based on numbers of secondary school age children as a percentage of Halesworth's population (3.9%). However, SCC's communique confuses these calculations by using the Brightwell Lakes development in its justifications. In stating that 2,000 new housing units will produce 400 children of secondary school age (ie. 20%) it begs questions. Halesworth has 2,436 dwellings (2011 census) and based on the same calculations, there ought to be around 487 children of this age in the town, let alone in a 4 mile catchment area. Taking the Local Plan into consideration, this will increase to approximately 3,180 dwellings. Using the "Brightwell calculation", that would result in around 636 pupils of secondary school age living in the town excluding any catchments area. So, does the answer lie in Halesworth's demographics, are the numbers provided for Halesworth wrong, or is it a bit of both?

The major question concerning the figures shown above is demographical. Further research is needed concerning the villages and towns surrounding Halesworth. The information may be available from SCC or other routes may be needed. However, if the demographics across the area are anywhere near similar, the figures show the population of secondary school age children meets SCC's minimum starting point for providing a school.

Keith Greenberg  
pp. Halesworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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### 3.3 Formulae for calculating secondary school pupil numbers.

3.3.1 As noted in 3.2, the Neighbourhood Plan calculates that 3.9% of the population would be of secondary school age. The population difference between the 2011 consensus covering Halesworth and the feeder villages it assumes would form the town's catchment area is 3,025. Applying the 3.9% formula results in an increase of 118 secondary school age children

#### 3.3.2

**From: Name Redacted**  
**Subject: RE: Secondary Education in Halesworth**  
**Date:** 6 December 2019 at 15:06:18 GMT  
**To: (Name and contact redacted)**

Dear (name redacted),

Apologies if I didn't return that information on school forecasts in Halesworth. See attached the five year forecasts for Halesworth catchment schools.

I'm not sure what email you are quoting from, but I can tell you that when we are planning school capacity for future housing growth we use the following figures.

In a development of 100 houses we would expect:

- 25 primary school pupils
- 18 secondary school pupils
- 4 sixth form pupils

There are some nuances, for example we expect less pupils from flats and one bedroom dwellings, however when we are unaware of specific dwelling sizes (such as when estimating impacts from a local or neighbourhood plan) we assume the above as this gives us a 'worst case scenario'.

These are average figures that we apply to development across the county and are based on the number of pupils we have seen arise from past developments. A weighting is not applied to reflect the existing population profile, as we are estimating pupil numbers from the new population moving into the new dwellings, not pupils arising from the existing population who would be picked up as part of the 5 year forecast. The forecasts are reviewed annually.

Brightwell Lakes is a slightly different scenario. The secondary school included in that development is expected to provide places not only for pupils arising from the new housing, but to address a need for school places from the existing population. The expectation is that the school will be partly paid for by the developer and partly paid for by Basic Need Funding (an education funding source from Government)

For Beccles and Bungay (and the whole Waveney area) we worked closely with East Suffolk Council to provide school places to accommodate housing growth as part of making the Waveney Local Plan. I have attached the county councils responses to the Waveney Local Plan Preferred Options and Submission Version consultations.

In the Preferred Options Response we set out school capacities, their forecast roles, the number of pupils expected from proposed development and from that calculated the number of school places needed (using the figures I explained above),).

In the Submission Version response appendix there are tables which set out the area and catchment schools, the allocate sites in each area, the number of dwellings and resulting number of pupils expected, and the strategy for providing school places.

I hope that is helpful, please let me know if there is any other way I can help.

Kind regards  
Name Redacted

### 3.3.3

On this basis that the 762 housing units provided for under the Waveney Council Local Plan (incl. planning applications it notes were received prior to the Plan's completion, but not yet built), the County Council would expect 168 additional children of secondary school age. This is 50 more than considered by the Neighbourhood Plan calculation. Allowing for tolerances in both the County's and Neighbourhood Plan's calculations, there is little between the figures and splitting the difference implies a need for an additional 143 secondary school age children.

### 3.4 Suffolk County Council pupil transport costs.

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet approved the following charges for pupil transport costs on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

2021/2022 - £310 / term - Total £930 / annum

2022/2023 - £340 / term - Total £1,020 / annum

2023/2024 - £370 / term - Total £1,110 / annum

For students with SEND, the anticipated costs are currently expected to be:

2021/2022 - £250 / term – Total £750 / annum

2022/2023 - £260 / term – Total £780 / annum

2023/2024 - £270 / term – Total £810 / annum

### 3.5 Correspondence & Communication with Seckford Educational Trust, Edgar Sewter Primary School, Asset Education and SCC.

### 3.6 <https://www.becclesandbungayjournal.co.uk/news/education/new-headteacher-unveiled-at-bungay-high-school-8084650>

## 4. Leisure Opportunities for Children & Young People

### 4.1 Edgar Sewter primary school children consultation session.

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### **Edgar Sewter Primary School Consultation 16 July 2019 & 17 September 2021**

#### **Feedback**

The following is a list of the things the children said they would like to see in Halesworth in the next 20 years.

- Make Halesworth PLASTIC FREE / an ECO town
- More trees being planted
- More open spaces



- Build fewer homes, the children were concerned about the loss of fields, proposed building and its effect on the town, including the lack of infrastructure e.g. GP provision
- Pedestrianisation of the Thoroughfare
- More cycle lanes / routes
- Parking issues in town
- Upgrade the skate park, it is good for younger children but not older kids. The children would like a zip wire, football pitch, and a smoking area (???)
- Bigger shops, in terms of their size they want more shops to be accessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- Banks...cash points need to be made available for 24 hours, possibly at Coopers
- Traffic concerns, specifically Wissett Road and Norwich Road by the Primary school. The children said they would like a safe crossing nearer school, traffic calming measures near the school. Designated School parking along Norwich road, where the road has already allocated parking (facing the Bungay route out of town) opposite the Police station. This should be restricted to short term use, i.e. for school collection and drop-offs. For the main reason of safety.
- All said the Youth Club should still be around with its own purpose built building.
- All liked the SPAR shop in town.

Areas for improvement / things they would like to see:

- Clean up / change the underpass
- Teen cinema club / more teen films shown at The Cut.
- Clothes shops for the younger generation
- ALDI
- Starbucks
- Gaming facility
- Sports centre / swimming pool

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