

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT 2013

### BISHOP'S WALTHAM

The open space standard for Winchester District, set out in Policy CP7 of Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy, derives from the City Council's 2008 *Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study*. It stands at **4 ha per thousand people**, compared with the 2006 Local Plan standard of 2.8 ha. The revised standard is broken down into 5 categories -

Type of open space	Quantity per 1000 population	Access
1. Allotments	0.2 ha	480m
2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space <sup>1</sup>	0.5 ha	480m / 650m
3. Informal Green Space	0.8 ha	400m
4. Natural Green Space	1.0 ha	700m
5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds	1.5 ha (0.75 ha for outdoor sport)	650m
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 ha</b>	

The latest population statistics for the market towns are set out in a 2011 background paper to the LDF, *Market Towns and Rural Area Development Strategy*. For the purposes of this assessment, the population of Bishop's Waltham is 6,835. Applying the new standards to this figure, and comparing them with measured existing provision, indicates whether there is a notional surplus or shortfall in the quantity of open space for each category. Map-based and on-site surveys were used to determine the accessibility, distribution and quality of open spaces in the settlement.

<sup>1</sup> This definition differs from the 2006 Local Plan standard which required '*equipped playgrounds, other opportunities for outdoor play and casual play space*'. Accordingly, this assessment has measured only equipped playgrounds, BMX and skatepark parks and Multi Use Games Areas, but not '*other opportunities for outdoor play and casual play space*' as this land is now included under category 3 (Informal Green Space) or category 5 (Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds). The lower total area figure reflects this change.

## 1. Allotments

### Quantity

The standard requires a minimum quantity of allotment space of 1.367 ha. Information supplied by the parish council and the Council's GIS system reveals only one site (below) - a small **surplus** of 0.644 ha.

Location	Site area
Albany Road	2.011 ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.011 ha</b>

Despite this surplus, there are large waiting lists and a growing demand for more allotment spaces within the town. Consequently, an area of 1.13 ha has been identified for further allotment space by the parish council at West Hoe Farm on the east side of the town.

### Access and Distribution

The allotments are easily accessible, but are confined to a single site on the far western edge of the settlement (Albany Road). Distribution is therefore poor and every effort should be made to acquire the site at West Hoe Farm.

### Quality

The quality of the site at Albany Road is good.

## 2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space

### Quantity

The standard requires a minimum quantity of 3.42 ha within a 480m walk for toddlers and juniors, and a 650m walk for youth.

Location	Site area
1 Hermitage Heights	0.0811 ha
2 Priory Park	0.3104 ha
3 Claylands Road	0.1211 ha
4 Blanchard Road	0.0550 ha
5 Jubilee Hall	0.0367 ha
6 Oak Road	0.2500 ha
7 Hoe Road	0.0734 ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9277 ha</b>

Measurements from the City Council's GIS maps (above) reveal a shortfall of 2.49 ha against the standard. The development at Pondsides will add approximately 85 people to the town's population which will marginally increase the standard to 3.46 ha. There would, however, be 0.105 ha of new play areas provided on site, reducing the **shortfall** very slightly to 2.43 ha.

### Access and Distribution

Despite the shortfall in space for children's play, the distribution is good with very few parts of the town more than the recommended 480m from a play area of some description. The single exception is Garfield Close on the northern edge of the town.

### Quality

The quality of play areas is good having benefitted for several years from input from the parish council's grounds staff and the City Council's Open Space Funding System.

## 3. Informal Green Space

Informal Green Space is defined in the 2008 Open Space Study as publicly accessible and useable open space which is not allocated for any other use, and is neither laid out nor managed for a specific function such as a play area, a park, a recreation or sports ground, a nature area or allotment.

### Quantity

The standard requires a minimum of 5.47 ha and a site within 400m of every household. Measurements (below) show a **shortfall** of 3.11 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Victoria Road	0.4887 ha
2	Palace Grounds	0.7242 ha
3	Langton Road	0.3212 ha
4	Jubilee Hall	0.2974 ha
5	Shore Lane	0.0991 ha
6	Penfords Paddock	0.1485 ha
7	Cricklemede	0.2796 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.3587 ha</b>

Abbey Field (0.6 ha) is proposed to become publicly accessible informal green space in association with the new Sainsbury's development. This will increase the total area to 3.14 ha and reduce the shortfall to 2.33 ha.

### Access and Distribution

Distribution of informal green space is concentrated toward the central area of the town, with significant gaps in provision both in the far west (west of The Avenue), and in the north-east (Rareridge Lane).

### Quality

Most areas are maintained by the parish council's contractors and are of a high quality.

## 4. Natural Green Space

Natural Green Space is defined in the 2008 Open Space Study as publicly accessible woodland, wetland, grassland / heathland or meadow, i.e. spaces which have natural characteristics and wildlife value, but which are also available for public use and enjoyment.

### Quantity

The standard requires at least 6.84 ha of natural green space to serve Bishop's Waltham. The area available (below) **exceeds** the minimum requirement by 19.08 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Priory Meadow	1.3046 ha
2	Claylands Nature Reserve	2.7956 ha
3	South Pond	1.1200 ha
4	North Pond	3.0706 ha
5	The Moors	17.6268 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>25.92 ha</b>

An additional 'ecological enhancement area' of 1.29 ha is proposed for the Pondsides development. This will increase the amount of natural green space to 27.21 ha, and the **surplus** to 20.37 ha.

### Access and Distribution

Distribution is very good. No part of Bishop's Waltham is more than 700m from a natural green space.

### Quality

The quality is good.

## 5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds

### **Sports grounds**

#### Quantity

According to the standard, there should be 10.25 ha of parks, sports and recreation grounds, of which half (5.13 ha) should be sports pitches. According to the measurements below, there is a **surplus** of 4.73 ha.

Location		Site area
1	Albany Road – cricket	2.16 ha
2	Priory Park – football	4.45 ha
3	Priory Park – bowls	0.23 ha
4	Priory Park – petanque	0.03 ha
5	Hoe Road	2.99 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>9.86 ha</b>

### Access and Distribution

Distribution is reasonably good with two major sports pitch areas at each end of the town serving the two main areas of more recent growth east and west of the historic central core. Consequently, most of the population lives within 650m of a sports pitch, although there is a gap covering the historic core.

### Quality

Quality is very good.

### ***Parks and Recreation Grounds***

#### Quantity

The remainder of the standard requires 5.13 ha of parks and recreation grounds for the town. There is a **shortfall** of 1.03 ha.

<b>Location</b>		<b>Site area</b>
1	Hermitage Heights	0.19 ha
2	Albany Road	0.45 ha
3	Priory Park	1.81 ha
4	Oak Road	0.52 ha
5	Jubilee Hall	0.31 ha
<b>Total</b>		<b>4.1 ha</b>

### Access and Distribution

Despite there being a shortfall in quantity, distribution is very good with no part of the town being further than 650m from a park or recreation ground.

### Quality

Parks and recreation grounds are maintained by the parish council and are of a good quality.

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## BISHOP'S WALTHAM: SUMMARY

Shortfalls in play spaces, informal green space and parks & recreation grounds

Type of open space	Standard (2011 pop.)	Existing provision	Surplus / Shortfall
1. Allotments	1.37 ha	2.01 ha	+ 0.64 ha
2. Equipped Children's & Young People's Play Space	3.42 ha	0.93 ha	- 2.49 ha
3. Informal Green space	5.47 ha	2.36 ha	- 3.11 ha
4. Natural Green Space	6.84 ha	25.92 ha	+ 19.08 ha
5. Parks, Sports & Recreation Grounds	5.13 ha (sports) 5.13 ha (parks) [Total 10.26 ha]	9.86 ha (sports) 4.10 ha (parks) [Total 13.96 ha]	+ 4.73 ha (sports) - 1.03 ha (parks) [Total + 3.7 ha]

