

SUB AREA 7

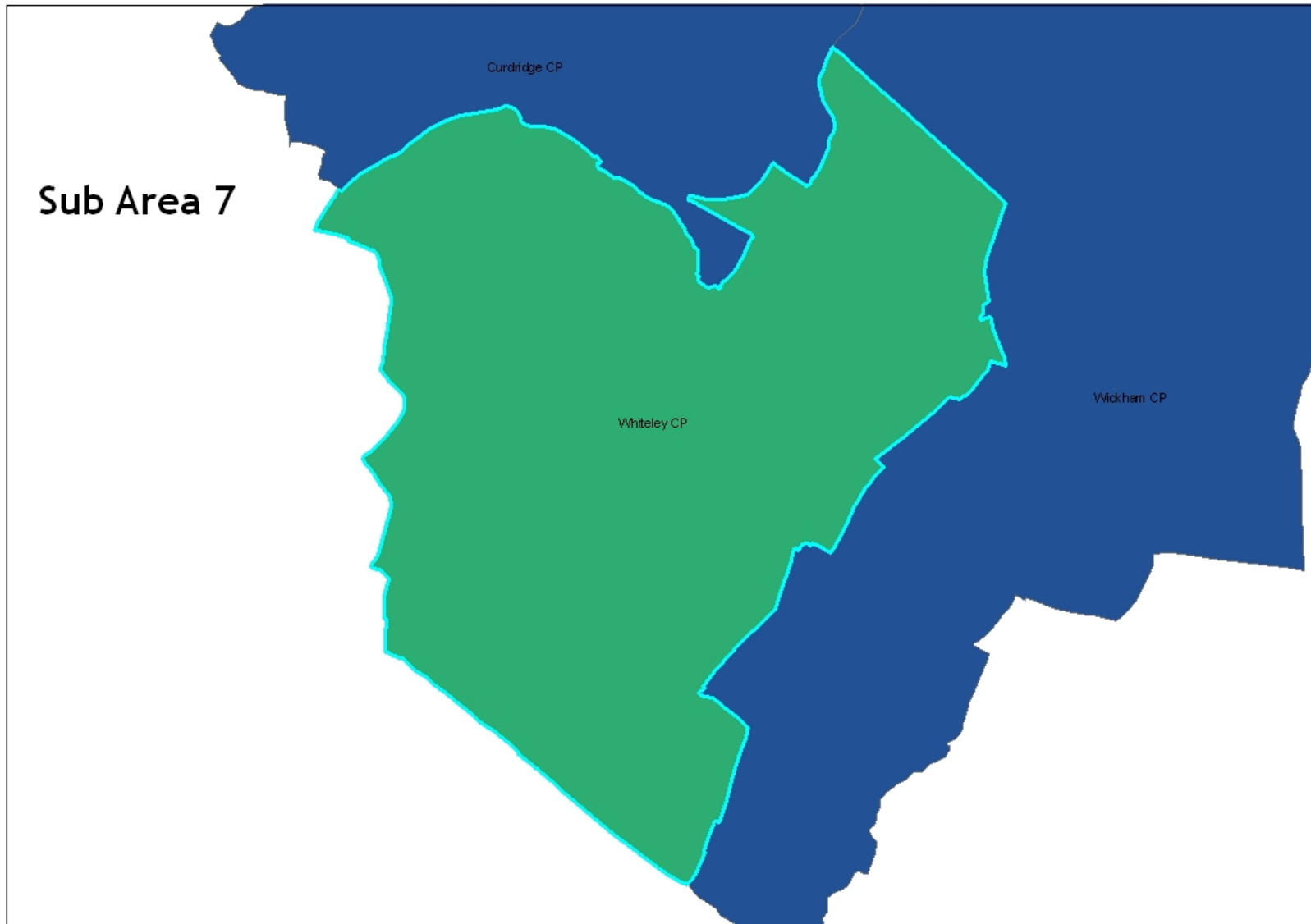


Whiteley

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1.0 Sub Area map



2.0 Description of Sub Area

2.1 Population 3,066

2.2 Location & Demographics

Whiteley is a new development between the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth in Hampshire. The village has an attractive mix of housing and landscaped business parks together with a primary school, shops and plenty of recreation space, all surrounded by protected woodland.

3.0 Quantity of provision

3.1 Existing quantity

The quantity of provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities is shown by Sub Area in Appendix 1 as follows:

- Open Space;
- Children & Young people's Provision (Play);
- Outdoor Sports Facilities;
- Built Facilities

3.2 Provision against the standard

The following table shows existing provision of open space and provision against the standards where applicable:

Typology	Existing (ha)	Required (ha)	Difference (ha)	Existing/ 1000	Required/ 1000	Difference/ 1000	Supply	Number
Informal Green Space	2.55	2.45	0.10	0.83	0.80	0.03	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY	8
Natural Greenspace	12.26	3.07	9.19	4.00	1.00	3.00	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY	2
Parks & Recreation Grounds	7.02	4.60	2.42	2.29	1.50	0.79	SUFFICIENT SUPPLY	1
Children's Play (inc kickabout)	T.B.C	1.53	-1.53	0.00	0.50	-0.50	T.B.C	8

Note: There are currently no statistics for the quantity of Play Areas in the Parish – is this available anywhere?

4.0 Access to facilities

Maps showing access to the following types of facility are shown in Appendix 2:

- Open Space;
- Children & Young people's Provision (Play);
- Outdoor Sports Facilities;
- Built facilities.

4.1 Access to open space

- Parks, Sport and Recreation grounds. There is one facility located in the north of the Parish, includes provision for football, cricket, tennis and children & young people's provision;
- Children & Young People's provision. Good access across the area, provision for young people is limited to the north of the Parish;
- Natural Greenspace. There is good access to natural greenspace within the Parish.

4.2 Access to built facilities

The Parish has access to a community hall, sports hall and a swimming pool (not openly accessible to the public).

5.0 Quality of open space

5.1 Quality of open space

Appendix 2 shows a summary of the quality data scores for each open space within the Sub Area. The summary outlines a brief description of the site, and an overall 'potential to improve' score for each of the scoring criteria (this is described in more detail in the Area Profiles Introduction). The introduction also explains how the database can be used as a tool for management planning and improving facilities, on a site by site basis. In this section of the report, general observations about quality are outlined, along with any sites which are a priority for improvement and investment.

The audit and consultation has identified the following issues and priorities for open space within the area:

- Meadow Whitely Recreation Ground (245), pitches here are in need of improved drainage, this may also increase their capacity to deal with additional demand in the area. There is also the potential to provide lighting to tennis courts;
- Children and Young People's provision. Generally good quality across the area, with improvements required at sites such as Cheshire Close (248), which requires better surfacing and drainage. There are a number of small play areas, mainly providing for toddlers (e.g. Thyme Avenue, Carraway, Angelica Way and Gilson Close), consideration needs to be given to the long term provision and sustainability of these sites. There are also some larger, higher quality sites, such as Mollison Rise and Saffron Way, which provide a wider range of play opportunity and play value;
- Natural Greenspace. Access to and quality of natural greenspace is valued locally, there is potential to improve footpaths in key locations.

5.2 Quality of built facilities

Venue Issues

- Meadowside Leisure Centre has limitations of use as a public sports and leisure centre owing to its original intended use as a local community centre.

- The external staining on the exterior of the building is being addressed. Weight restrictions on the first floor (and the slight slope!) limit usage to light activities such as Pilates and Yoga.

Issues identified

- There may be scope for the provision of a new swimming pool at North Whiteley, should the area come forward for development, possibly as part of any secondary school proposals. This could also provide an opportunity to provide improved alternative dry side facilities for the Whiteley area.
- Consideration could be given to investigating alternative commercial use for the Meadowside Leisure Centre.

6.0 Strategic priorities

- There is a need to rationalise provision for children's play, with the potential of providing fewer, larger, better quality facilities rather than several small play areas. Consideration needs to be given to this in any future development in the area;
- There is a perceived shortfall in football pitches in the area, this could be resolved through increasing the capacity of existing pitches (which are currently poorly drained), or providing new facilities (e.g. an ATP if further development occurs in the area);
- There is no provision for allotments in the area, land should be allocated for provision, particularly resulting from any proposed new development;
- A management plan is required for the main recreation ground (Meadow Whiteley), to co-ordinate future investment and management;
- There is potential to provide an additional facility for young people in the south of the Parish.

Appendix 1 Summary of consultation

These are not necessarily the only issues which the Strategy will be addressing in this Sub Area, but are the key ones to arise from consultation

Most popular local areas of open space/recreation facilities:

- Overwhelmingly, the most used areas of open space were:
- Whiteley Recreation Ground/Meadowside Recreation Ground
- Whiteley Woods/Business Park lakes
- And Gull Coppice and other coppices in the area

Other places often mentioned were Whiteley Community Centre and Fareham Leisure Centre; most comments related to fact that people in Whiteley look outside the Winchester District area to meet their indoor sporting needs.

Quantity

- Insufficient pitches for all sports
- Need bowling green
- Hall used is in Meadowside Leisure Centre, but would like own community centre
- “When new development is planned for Whiteley, the existing shortfall in recreation space should be addressed and provided in addition to that for new residents”
- Request for allotments
- Desire for an accessible swimming pool: issue over Fareham being nearest but not able to use Fareham Leisure Pass.

Quality

- Poor drainage on football pitches
- Tennis courts are not floodlit

Accessibility

- No school within parish – Whiteley Primary School lies outside.

- Need better cycle paths
- Bus links from Whiteley to Winchester

Other Issues

- Meadowside Leisure Centre works closely with Whiteley Primary School to ensure needs are met
- Leisure Centre required refurbishment

Quotes

- A swimming pool is needed (we have to go to Romsey, Southsea or Fareham). Would be a great attraction for all ages to assist in community relations - a must! (mentioned by many people)
- Whiteley has in general a satisfactory amount of facilities, green space etc. If anything is a problem related - sometimes too much traffic/cars in the area.
- Round Coppice is very good. Whiteley pastures nearby, very lucky to have these.
- Bus pass cannot be used as we have no bus stop within a reasonable distance.
- Meadowside is walking distance from my home. However, there is no public swimming pool in the immediate local area. That is the facility that is missing for me! Considering there are lots of houses, I think the footpaths and existing recreational areas are well maintained.
- Whiteley urgently requires an answer to local schooling. The lack of places at the current school is poor. It would, and should be acceptable to reduce a small area of recreation ground to build a new school.
- Meadowside needs to remain open at all times. It is the only open space in the area and widely used at all times. Would be a shame to put part of it behind a fence.
- Sports pitches at Whiteley (i.e. football) drain very poorly - always flooded!
- In Whiteley there is no ground for allotments, there are many people who would like one. I myself have to travel 1/2 hour by car. I would like the Parish Council to provide land for this activity.
- Generally, Whiteley is a well-kept and pleasant area. However, there are limited facilities for teenagers which encourages them, through boredom, to become obstructive and a nuisance.
- The park for young children off Coriander Way, Whiteley, is in urgent need of updating or replacement
- A green gym (signposted walk with exercise points along the way using natural materials like logs to step etc) would be fun, cheap and free to use. They have them in France.
- Walking in lanes hampered by bad verge maintenance and general refuse/litter deposits.
- The open space we have is excellent and don't want to lose it. It would be nice if the field had better drainage in the winter.
- I find the cycle paths in our area wonderful but not extensive enough. Sadly if you want to go anywhere you still have to cross major roads and often end up competing with motorists at roundabouts etc. I would cycle to work in Southampton if the cycle paths were safe and connected but it's not currently possible.
- Community centres are key - maintaining these helps us provide activity/venue for teenagers also our church meet in community centre - until one is built with a school - which is really needed - this is a requirement for recreation not accounted for here!
- I believe there are sufficient play areas in our local area, however lighting could be improved as well as safety ie no bushes blocking view from road so feel you can play safely there. Often access gates to parks are muddy and hard to pass. Better floor covering or drainage would help especially at Cheshire Close playground!
- I would like the roads to be safer i.e. parking along roads as this obscures vision, some form of barrier to be put alongside the road along Rookery Avenue to encourage me to feel my children are safe when they travel along pavements to school and the recreation grounds and walks with the family dog.
- More facilities for teenagers needed.
- It is sad to see so many of our natural green areas lost to the massive development of the business park with 100s of trees and shrubs destroyed which at least helped screen the buildings and helped the wildlife survive. The loss of habitat and rare birds here has been devastating. There has been no consideration of the environment.
- I think overall Whiteley is well served by green spaces and parks, cycle paths etc. In general I feel safe here. However there is often broken glass in the local play parks. Also, Fareham Leisure Centre is my closest swimming pool (I go every week) but because I pay my council tax to Winchester, I'm unable to be a member and use the facilities at a reduced cost, I feel this is unfair.
- Public transport from Whiteley to Winchester would encourage greater use of facilities and lesson traffic congestion, especially for those over 70 who may not wish to drive.
- Many of the small play areas in Whiteley are a waste of space, never used. But others are heavily used. Saffron Way Park, playing field park areas etc. Meadowside is tatty and run-down. Also fitness facilities there are far too small

Analysis - Key messages from Focus Group on Sports and Open Space in Whiteley

- The Whiteley community feel disassociated with Winchester and do not necessarily connect the provision of sports and open space facilities with the City Council.
- Sports facilities are used over a wide area – the majority being outside of Winchester District. However this is governed by the location of particular forms of sports teams. Leisure facilities generally are just as likely to be accessed in towns and cities to the south of the Winchester District as within it. In this group, no facilities in Winchester were used.
- Information on local sports and open space facilities isn't good.
- Public transport is poor and young people will use facilities that can be accessed in this way – e.g. Portsmouth.
- Drainage is a major problem in the area (Whiteley). This results in the cancelling of matches and makes the need for all-weather pitches more pressing.
- There is a real shortage of outdoor sports pitches across the area.
- The shortage of pitches, and the extension of the football season is leading to a clash between cricket and football where they take place in the same venue.
- There is a need to access changing facilities where schools allow use of outdoor pitches.
- There is a need for a more local swimming pool.
- Many village halls and other community buildings may not be suitable for hosting indoor sports activities.
- There is some evidence of a need for facilities for hockey, volleyball and basketball.
- Football – floodlit areas needed.
- The community are willing to travel a considerable distance to access facilities but this preference is as likely to be based on practice as need.

Appendix 2 Summary of quality assessment data

Table 1 Sub-Area 7: Summary of percentage scores showing 'potential to improve'												
Site	Parish	Site Ref	Typology	Description	Access	Managment & Maintenance	Conservation & Heritage	Healthy, Safe & Secure	Community Involvement	Marketing	Value	Summary of improvements
Round Coppice	Whiteley	244	Natural Greenspace	Public woodland, the site has paths and walks.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Meadow Whiteley	Whiteley	245	Parks, Sport & Recreation Grounds	Park & recreation ground. The site has two tennis courts , a skateboard park, football pitches and a cricket wicket. The site is linked to the leisure centre, and is very well used.	15%	30%	50%	25%	31%	44%	25%	
Gull Coppice	Whiteley	246	Natural Greenspace	Public woodland, the site has paths and walks.	43%	29%	38%	40%	29%	50%	25%	
Leafy Lane	Whiteley	247	Informal Green Space	Informal housing amenity space, used for general recreation.	44%	35%	0%	0%	33%	0%	33%	
Cheshire Close	Whiteley	248	Informal Green Space	Toddlers play area, suitable for children under 8 years old.	31%	36%	0%	33%	33%	0%	24%	
Gibson Close	Whiteley	249	Informal Green Space	Very small play area, few pieces of kit appropriate for young children's.	31%	36%	0%	14%	33%	0%	33%	
Mollison Rise	Whiteley	250	Informal Green Space	Very good play area. Equipment suitable for all ages. The site is well defined and in good condition.	31%	36%	0%	14%	33%	0%	32%	
Angelica way	Whiteley	251	Informal Green Space	Toddlers play area, the site caters for the immediate community.	25%	36%	0%	44%	33%	0%	28%	

Thyme Avenue	Whiteley	252	Informal Green Space	Toddlers play area on an informal amenity space.	25%	37%	0%	25%	33%	0%	35%	
Carrway	Whiteley	253	Informal Green Space	Toddlers play area on an informal amenity space.	31%	36%	0%	14%	33%	0%	25%	
Saffron Way	Whiteley	254	Informal Green Space	Well equipped children's play area and recreational space. The site also has an informal kick about area.	31%	30%	0%	0%	33%	0%	37%	