



**BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PPG17 OPEN SPACE STUDY**

**FINAL REPORT**

**MARCH 2010**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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## **PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY**

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### **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

This is the Open Space Assessment & Strategy prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) as part of the PPG17 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study. It focuses on reporting the findings of the extensive research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpins the study.

This factual report provides an audit based assessment of both quantitative and qualitative open space, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and the Companion Guide entitled 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' published in September 2002. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to provide:

- ✦ A comprehensive audit of existing provision of different types of open space detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
- ✦ An accurate assessment of supply and demand for open space provision.
- ✦ A robust evidence base to enable Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) to develop planning policies as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other local development documents.

#### **Report structure**

##### ***Open spaces***

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space facilities in Bassetlaw. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology on open spaces can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all the typologies defined in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17' and is structured as follows:

- Part 3: General open space issues.
- Part 4: Parks and gardens.
- Part 5: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- Part 6: Amenity greenspace.
- Part 7: Provision for children and young people.
- Part 8: Allotments, community gardens and city farms.
- Part 9: Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds.
- Part 10: Civic spaces.

##### ***Sports facilities***

The study also incorporates an assessment of outdoor sports facilities in accordance with the methodology provided in the Sport England 'Towards a Level Playing Field – A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities. This can be found separately in a report called 'Outdoor Sports Assessment'.

### **Context**

PPG17 describes the role of the planning system in assessing opportunities and needs for sport and recreation provision and safeguarding open space that has recreational value. The guidance observes that it is part of the function of the planning system to ensure that, through the preparation of development plans, adequate land and water resources are allocated for organised sport and informal recreation.

It states that local planning authorities should take account of the community's need for recreational space, having regard to current levels of provision and deficiencies and resisting pressures for development of open space where such development would conflict with the wider public interest.

'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17' reflects the Government policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. The long term outcomes of PPG17 aim to deliver:

- ◆ Networks of accessible, high quality open spaces and sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors, are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◆ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ◆ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space and sport and recreation provision.

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This assessment covers the following open space typologies as set out in 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17'

*Table 1.1: PPG17 definitions*

	PPG17 typology	Primary purpose
<b>Greenspaces</b>	Parks and gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
	Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland & beaches	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
	Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
	Provision for children and young people	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
	Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.
<b>Civic spaces</b>	Civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians including the promenade	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

### PART 2: METHODOLOGY

#### Background information

An extensive range of background information has been reviewed and incorporated into the assessment of key issues for each typology. Background documentation reviewed for the study is listed below:

- ◆ *'Building on Success'* A Culture Strategy for Nottinghamshire 2001, Nottingham Cultural Strategy Consortium.
- ◆ *Bassetlaw Local Plan 2001*, Bassetlaw District Council.
- ◆ *Bassetlaw News*, Bassetlaw District Council.
- ◆ *East Midlands Regional Plan 2009*, Government Office for the East Midlands.
- ◆ *'Moving Forward'*, Bassetlaw Sustainable Community Strategy 2007 – 2009.
- ◆ *'Moving up a Gear'*, Bassetlaw District Council Corporate Plan 2007 – 2010.
- ◆ *Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan* Explanatory Memorandum, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council.
- ◆ *Planning Contributions Strategy* 2008, Nottinghamshire County Council.
- ◆ *Play Area Inspection Report 2008*, Bassetlaw District Council.
- ◆ *'Somewhere Safe for the Kids to Play'* A Play Strategy for Bassetlaw 2007 – 2010.
- ◆ *'Fair Play'* The National Play Strategy, Play England.
- ◆ *Annual Report 2007/08*, Bassetlaw District Council.
- ◆ *Open Space 2008 Consultation Draft*, Bassetlaw District Council.
- ◆ *Bassetlaw Environmental Sites Assessment*, Bassetlaw District Council.
- ◆ *Langold Country Park Management Plan*, Bassetlaw District Council.
- ◆ *Kings Park Management Plan*, Bassetlaw District Council.

#### Auditing local provision

##### *Database development*

All information relating to open spaces across Bassetlaw is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an electronic file). Sites were identified and provided by BDC. Each site has been classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. All sites included within the audit, as identified and assessed by BDC, are included within the project database.

The database details for each site are as follows:

##### **Data held on open spaces database (summary)**

- ◆ KKP reference number (used for mapping).
- ◆ Site name.
- ◆ Local authority reference number.
- ◆ Typology.
- ◆ Size (hectares).
- ◆ Site visit data.

Sites were identified by BDC during the audit using mainly official site names and/or road names and locations.



### **Site assessments**

The site audit for this study was undertaken by BDC. In total, 351 open spaces were identified and audited to evaluate site quality.

In addition to quality, KKP assessed the value of each site, primarily through a desk based exercise, but also taking into account the quality assessment made by BDC.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be completely unrelated. For example, a high quality space may be located where it is inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; while, if a run down (poor quality) space is the only one in an area, it may be immensely valuable. Therefore, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring. Each type of open space receives separate quality and value scores.

### **Analysis of quality**

Data collated from the BDC site visits has been utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as total score figures on a 1 to 3 score basis (1 being poor and 3 being good).

The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out by the BDC are summarised below.

#### *1. Overall condition of the site*

In order to assess the overall condition of the open spaces they were judged 'good', 'reasonable' or 'poor' against the following criteria:

- ◆ Well maintained.
- ◆ Litter free.
- ◆ No dog fouling.
- ◆ Attractive place.
- ◆ No vandalism.

Criteria for the overall condition of a site:

- ◆ **Good:** site meets three or more of the requirements above.
- ◆ **Reasonable:** site meets two of the requirements listed above.
- ◆ **Poor:** site meets no more than one of the requirements above.

### **Analysis of value**

The value of sites has been assessed by analysis of two sets of criteria: (i) site visit assessment data; and (ii) other data and information as detailed in the table below. As stated earlier, scores in the database are presented as total and percentage figures.

PPG17 describes site value in relation to the following three issues:

- ◆ Context of the site, i.e., its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◆ Level and type of use.
- ◆ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

*The value criteria used for the open space assessments carried out by BDC are summarised below.*

### 1. Site Accessibility

Areas were assessed and judged 'good', 'reasonable' or 'poor', according to the following barriers:

- ✦ Busy roads.
- ✦ Restrictive entrances.
- ✦ Isolated locations.
- ✦ Insufficient paths into and across the space.
- ✦ Other barriers identified.

Criteria for a site's accessibility:

- ✦ **Good:** site meets no more than one of the requirements above.
- ✦ **Reasonable:** site meets two of the requirements listed above.
- ✦ **Poor:** site meets three or more of the requirements above.

### 2. Safety and Security

In order to assess this, open spaces were judged 'good', 'reasonable' or 'poor', according to the following:

- ✦ Secure boundaries (including internal separation between different areas).
- ✦ Safety surfaces.
- ✦ CCTV.
- ✦ Located within residential area or adjacent to its border.
- ✦ Overlooked throughout.

Criteria for the safety and security of a site:

- ✦ **Good:** site meets three or more of the requirements above.
- ✦ **Reasonable:** site meets two of the requirements listed above.
- ✦ **Poor:** site meets no more than one of the requirements above.

In addition to the use of scoring taken from the BDC site assessments, the following criteria was also considered as part of a desk based exercise to further assess value:

#### Value - criteria (summary)

- ✦ Site quality.
- ✦ Context of site in relation to other open spaces.
- ✦ Structural and landscape benefits.
- ✦ Ecological benefits e.g. site designation such as LNR or SSSI.
- ✦ Educational benefits.
- ✦ Social inclusion and health benefits.
- ✦ Cultural and heritage benefits e.g. historic site or monument.
- ✦ Amenity benefits and a sense of place e.g. registered 'friends of group' to the site..
- ✦ Economic benefits.

### **Identifying local need**

#### ***Consultation***

Local need has been assessed via:

- ◀ Community consultation (face-to-face or telephone interviews and focus groups) with key officers, agencies and stakeholders.
- ◀ Street survey.

The core of this phase focused around extensive consultation with over 100 stakeholders, including key individuals, interest and community groups, sports clubs, BDC officers, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) parish councils and agencies working in and around Bassetlaw. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted either face-to-face or by telephone with a list of consultees provided by the client along with those uncovered by KKP during consultation.

In addition, the Focus On Young People in Bassetlaw (FoYPiB) PLUGGED 09 event (held on Wednesday 25th March 2009) was also attended by KKP, in order to capture the opinions of residents aged 16 and under. Young people from Valley, Portland, Serlby Park and Retford Oaks high schools were transported to the event during the day and others attended the event after school.

A full list of consultees is included in Appendix 1.

The key findings of the stakeholder consultation are presented under key issues within the individual typology sections. Issues covered include the following:

- ◀ Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of quality of provision.
- ◀ Opinions towards open spaces in terms of the amount of provision.
- ◀ Time taken/distance travelled to open spaces.
- ◀ Attitudes towards open spaces in terms of how accessible provision is.
- ◀ Future provision and what it should look like.

The presentation of key issues emerging from the consultation is driven by a broad understanding of open space. KKP brings a pragmatic approach to consultation in order to manage the expectations of stakeholders and present a realistic picture of issues, together with the aspirations of residents and users.

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### Residents survey

KKP commissioned a street survey to identify the attitudes and needs of the broader local community.

People interviewed were approached, and after a series of selection questions, to establish eligibility, were invited to take part in a short interview. Interviews normally lasted no more than 10 minutes (to minimise the risk of respondent interview termination).

The survey provides a robust sample of both users and non-users of open spaces across the area. KKP gained 510 street survey responses from across Bassetlaw, broken down as follows:

Bassetlaw Street survey					Total
Worksop	Retford	Tuxford	Harworth	Other (rural)	
208	150	50	50	52	510

To reflect the local demographics, responses were broken down by gender, age and ethnicity to enable sound sub-analysis and provide a representation of respondents. The age and gender splits for each area are as follows:

Analysis area	Total	Age groups				Gender	
		16-24	25-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female
Worksop	208	25	72	50	61	97	111
Retford	150	26	46	35	43	75	75
Tuxford	50	6	13	18	13	23	27
Harworth	50	10	14	10	16	20	30
Other (rural areas)	52	8	17	9	18	23	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>272</b>

The minimum age for survey participants is 16. Consultation with children and young people for the study was carried out in addition to the street survey as part of the Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw (FoYPiB) PLUGGED 09 event.

Key issues covered include the following:

- ❖ Current usage of open spaces.
- ❖ Reasons for usage/non-usage of open spaces.
- ❖ Time taken/distance travelled to open spaces.
- ❖ Attitudes to open spaces (e.g., adequacy, quality, accessibility).

The results of the survey have been analysed and are presented in graph format with commentary below. Please note that there appears to be a number of results with high percentage of “no comment”. This does not always mean that the respondent does not know how often they have visited provision, for example. It may mean that the respondent could not answer because they do not have an interest in using the facility, rather than a lack of awareness.

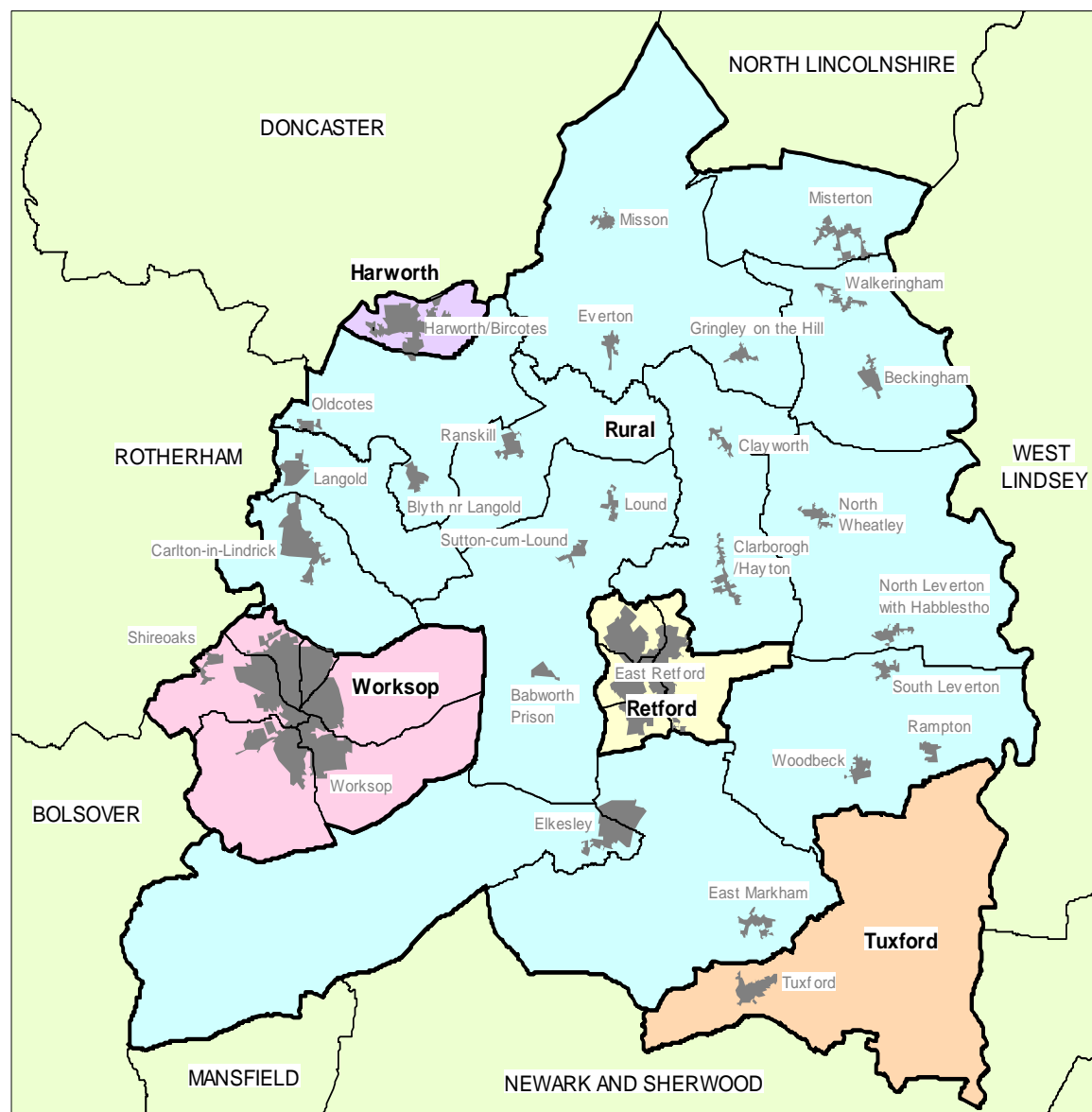
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### Analysis areas

Bassetlaw has been divided into five analysis areas (shown below). These allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of open space deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

Figure 2.1: Analysis areas in Bassetlaw



The following settlements/areas are covered by the “rural” analysis area.

- |               |                        |                  |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| ▣ Babworth    | ▣ Gringley on The Hill | ▣ North Wheatley |
| ▣ Barnby Moor | ▣ Harworth             | ▣ Rampton        |
| ▣ Beckingham  | ▣ Haughton             | ▣ Ramsden        |
| ▣ Bevercotes  | ▣ Hayton               | ▣ Ranby          |
| ▣ Blyth       | ▣ Holbeck              | ▣ Ranskill       |
| ▣ Carlton     | ▣ Langold              | ▣ Scrooby        |

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◀ Clumber/Hardwick	◀ Lound	◀ Sturton Le Steeple
◀ Cottam	◀ Mattersey	◀ Styrrup
◀ Cuckney	◀ Mattersey Thorpe	◀ Sutton-cum-Lound
◀ East Markham	◀ Milton	◀ Walkeringham
◀ Eaton	◀ Misson	◀ Wiseton
◀ Elkersley	◀ Misterton	◀ Woodbeck
◀ Everton	◀ Nehter Langwith	
◀ Gamston	◀ North Leverton	

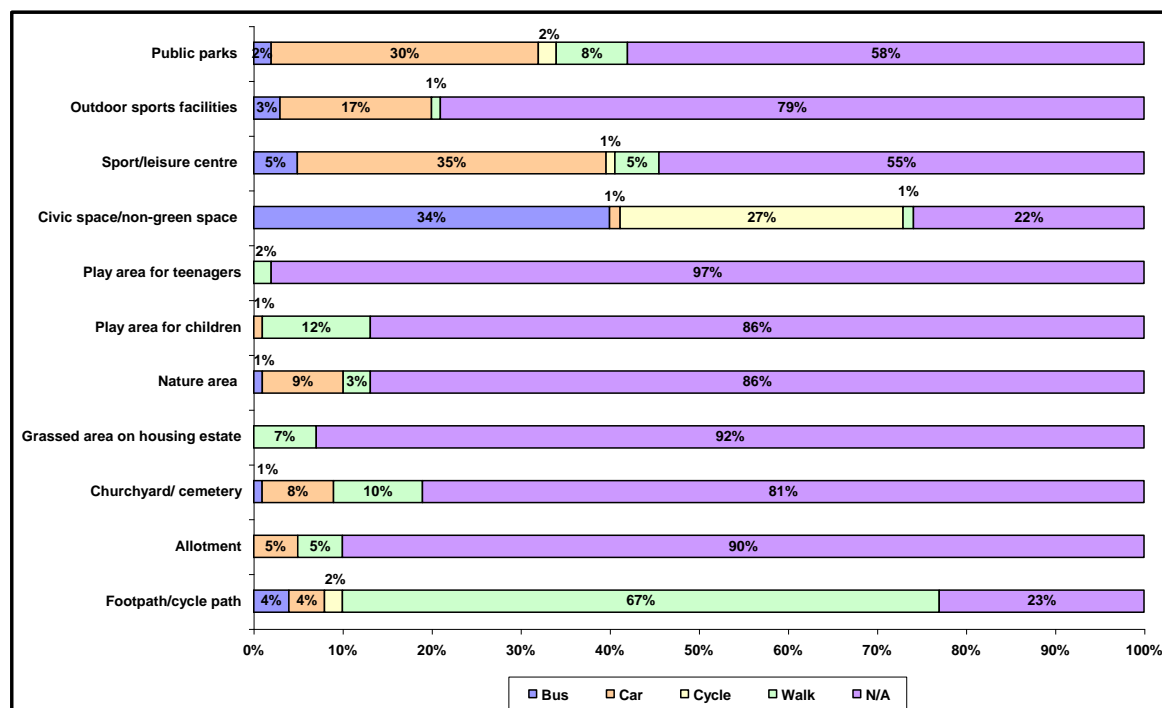
#### Catchment areas

Catchment areas for different types of provision are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that the factors that underpin catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. This problem has been overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchments', defined as the distance that would be travelled by the majority of users.

#### Open space catchment areas

Guidance is offered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (2002): 'Guide to preparing open space strategies' with regard to appropriate catchment areas for authorities to adopt. However, in order to make accessibility standards more locally specific to Bassetlaw, we have used data from the street survey to set appropriate catchments. The following responses were recorded in the survey in relation to how far residents would be willing to travel to access different types of open space provision:

#### Resident willingness to travel to open space provision



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The following table summarises the survey responses and recommends accessibility standards to apply in Bassetlaw:

#### *Summary of survey responses and proposed accessibility standards*

Typology	Street survey responses	Recommended distance threshold for Bassetlaw
Allotments	The majority of users would accept a 5-10 minute walk to access provision.	All residents to be 10 minute walk time of high quality provision.
Amenity greenspace	The majority of users would accept up to a 5 minute walk to access provision. However, a reasonable proportion would also accept up to 10 minute walk.	All residents to be 10 minute walk time of high quality provision.
Cemetery/churchyard	The majority of users would walk up to 15 minutes to access provision.	Not recommended, the need for cemetery provision should be driven by the need for burial space.
Civic space	The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes.	All residents to be 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
Natural/semi natural greenspace	The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes.	All residents to be 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
Parks and gardens	The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes.	All residents to be 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
Provision for children and young people	The majority of users would walk to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel 5-10 minutes.	All residents to be 10 minute walk time of high quality provision.

## **PART 3: GENERAL OPEN SPACE ISSUES**

### **Introduction**

Consultation with users and non-users of open spaces across Bassetlaw covered many issues. Typology and site specific issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section describes the generic issues that cut across more than one typology, including a summary of the resident survey.

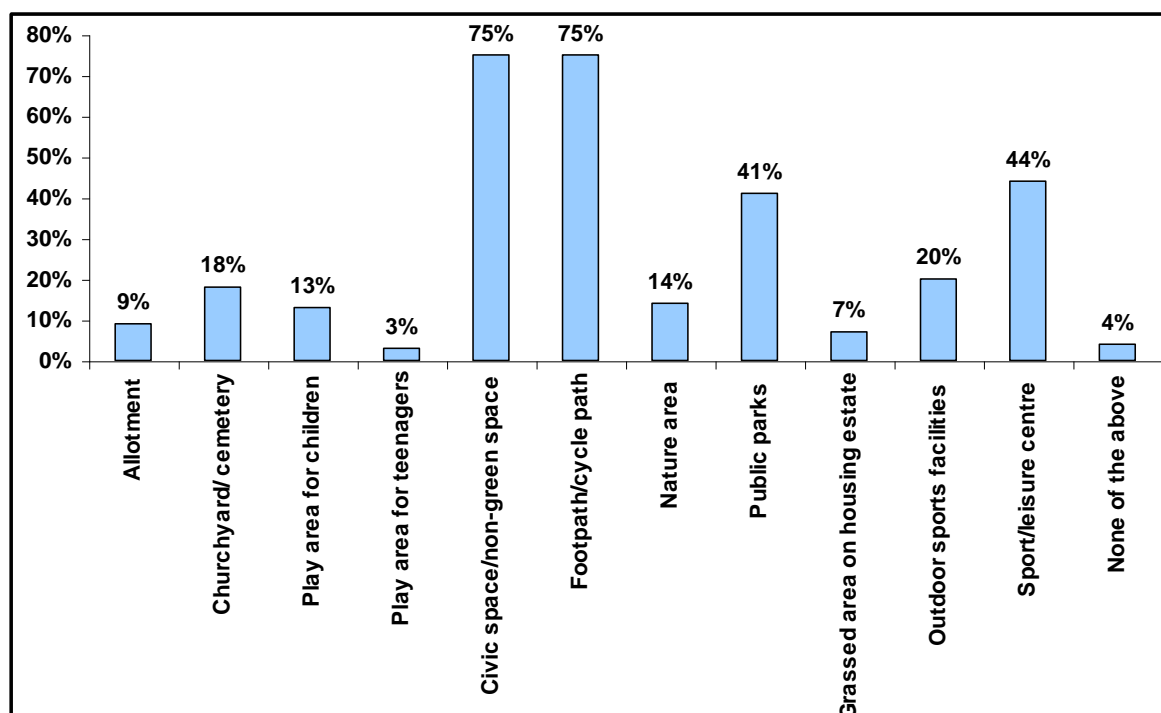
### **Key issues**

#### **Usage**

The most popular typologies visited in the last twelve months by residents of Bassetlaw are civic space/non-green space (75%) and footpaths/cycle paths (75%). Only very small proportions have, in the last year, visited an allotment (9%) or a grassed area on a housing estate (7%). This is consistent with the findings from other local authority areas and reflects the user profile of these types of open spaces. However, it is unusual to record such low usage of visitors to grassed areas (7%); this could reflect a lack of provision or a lack of awareness of provision.

Only a small proportion (4%) of residents across Bassetlaw has not visited any open space in the previous 12 months.

*Figure 3.1: Types of open spaces visited in the previous 12 months*



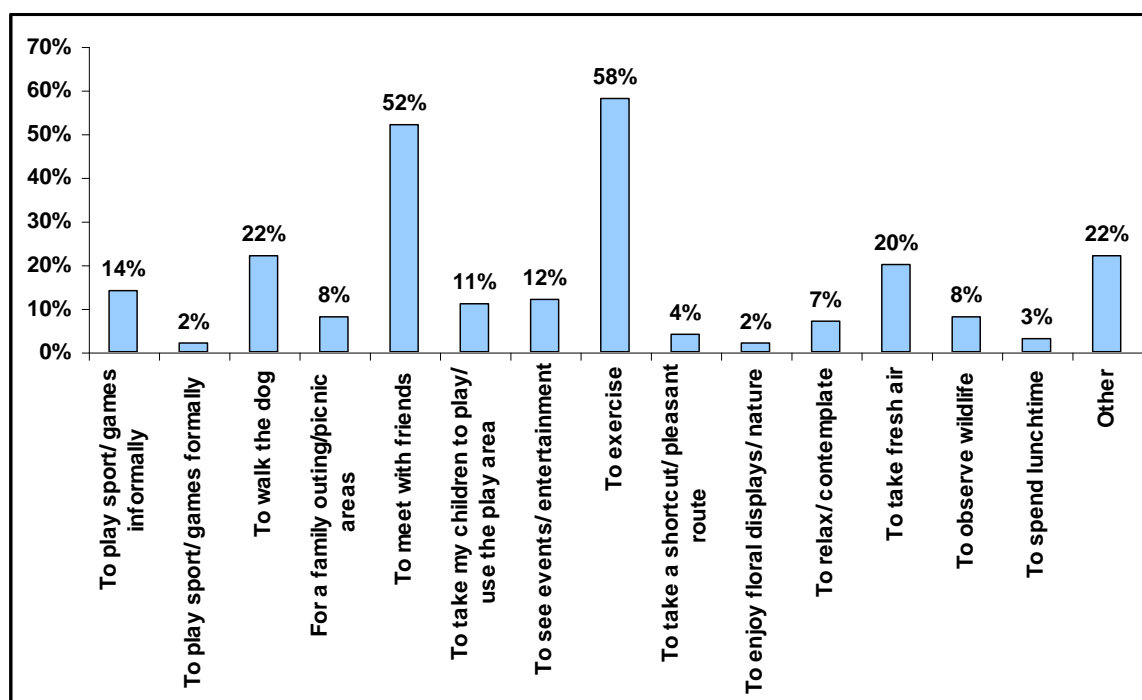


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The most popular reason for visiting open spaces in Bassetlaw is to exercise; well over half (58%) of users cite this. This also reflects that footpaths/cycle paths are one of the most popular types of open space. The role of open spaces in providing social interaction is also reflected in the results, with just over half (52%) using open spaces to meet with friends. Other popular reasons for having visited open spaces are to walk the dog (22%), to take fresh air (20%) and for other reasons (22%). All these indicate the value of open spaces as focal areas for local communities.

Figure 3.2 Reasons for usage of open space in the previous 12 months



Reasons given by the 22% of users who stated “other” as their reason for visiting open spaces included:

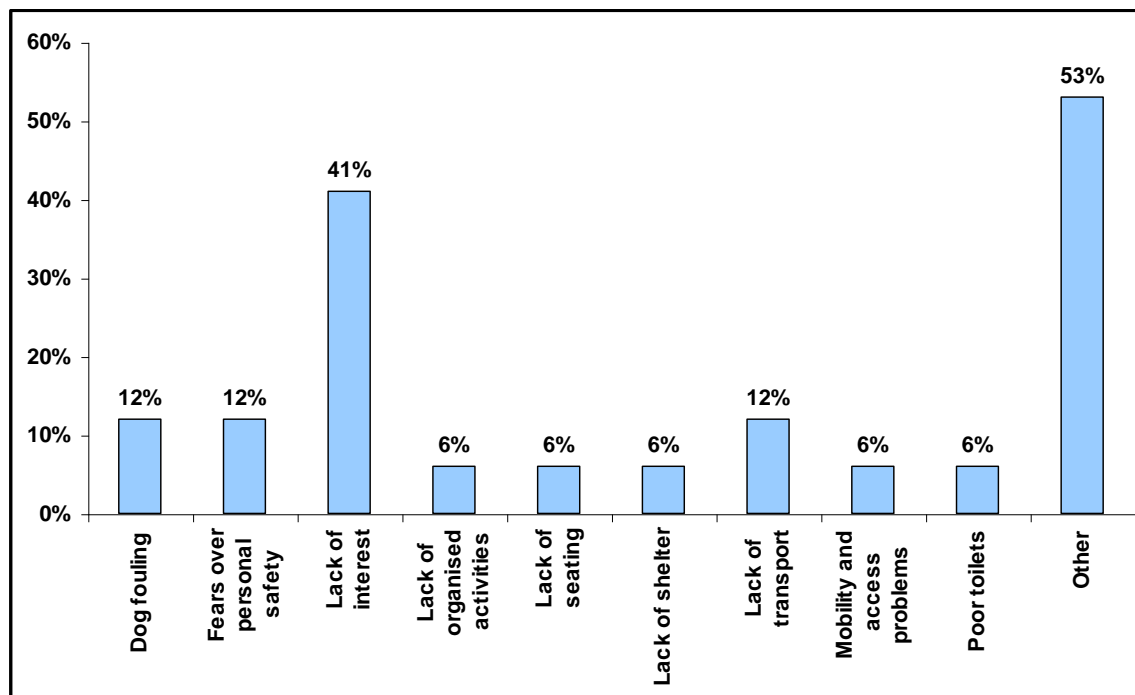
- ▶ Paying respects/tending to a graveyard.
- ▶ Shopping.
- ▶ Gardening.

Residents from across Bassetlaw who had not visited any type of provision in the previous twelve months were asked why. The main reason given is lack of interest (41%). Other factors highlighted include lack of transport (12%), dog fouling (12%) and personal safety (12%). Just over half of respondents (53%) stated “other” as their reason for not visiting open space. Some reasons given by the 53% of users who stated “other” included:

- ▶ Being too busy.
- ▶ No reason given.

Responses indicate that the main action required to encourage greater usage of open spaces by current non-users is providing greater attractions and activities e.g. events, to enthuse residents to utilise the resources.

*Figure 3.3 Reasons for non-usage of open spaces*



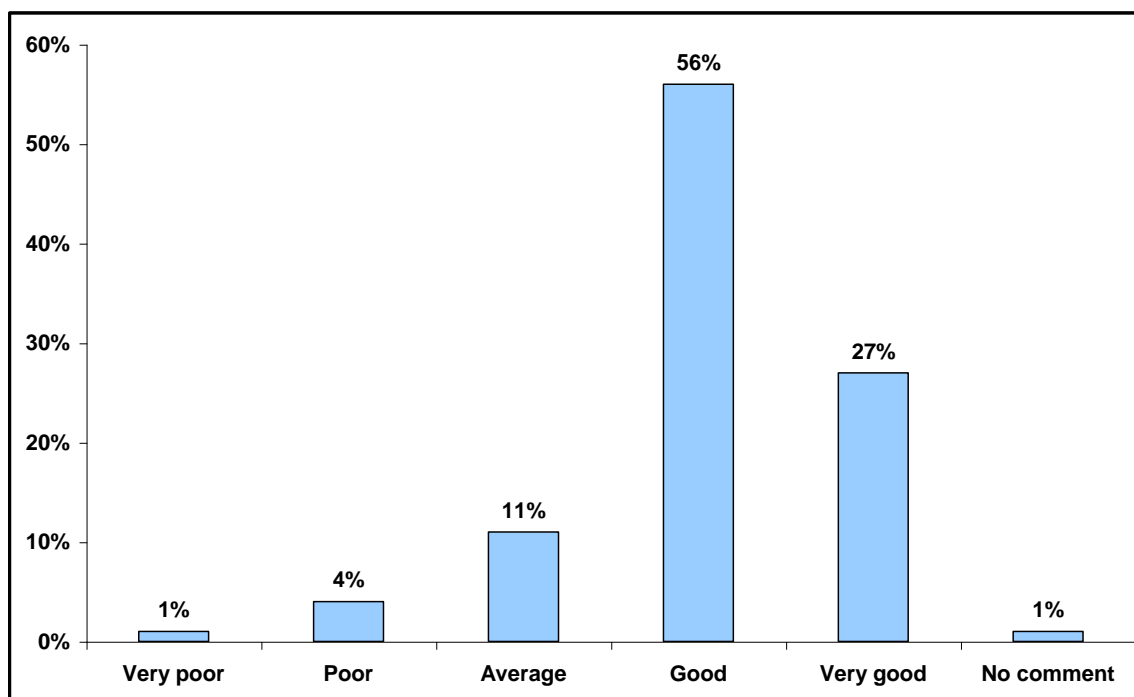
More than 70% of young people consulted at the FoYPiB event feel unsafe using parks and open spaces in Bassetlaw. They attribute this to a number of reasons, including:

- ▶ Presence of older children is intimidating.
- ▶ Drug users.
- ▶ Perception of dangerous/"dodgy" area.
- ▶ Poor lighting, particularly at night.
- ▶ Vandalism.

### **Accessibility**

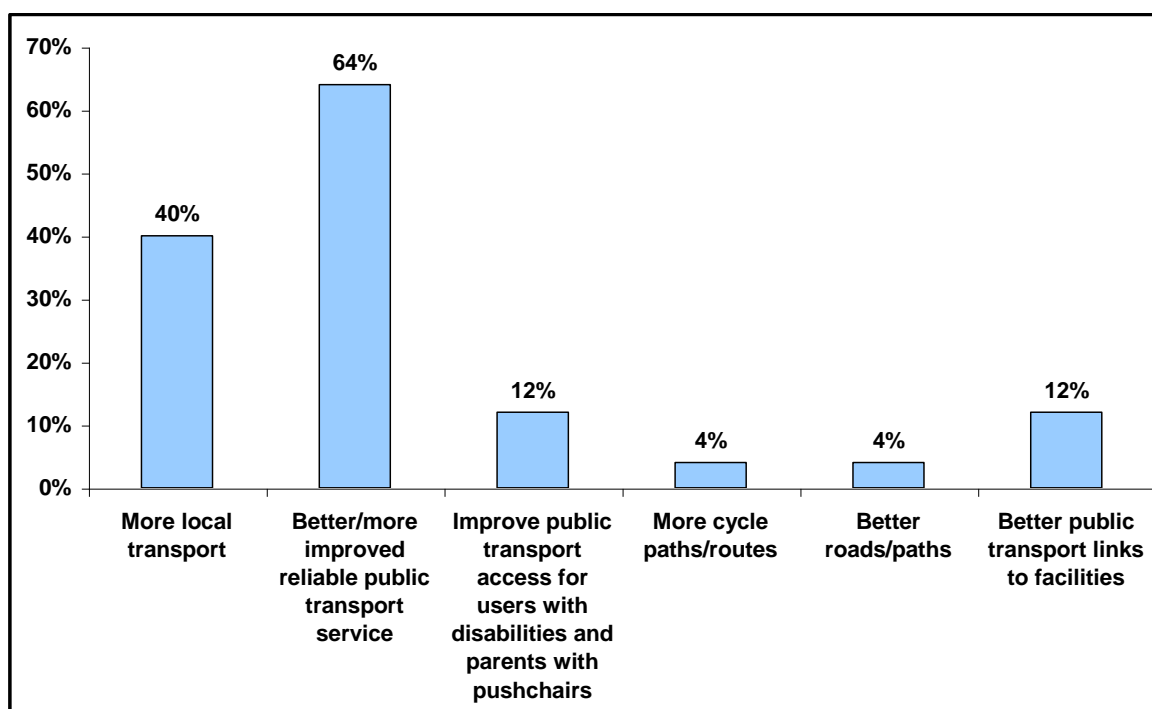
The street survey shows that the majority of respondents (83%) rate the ease of travelling travel to open spaces in Bassetlaw as good/very good. Only a small proportion (1%) of respondents rate the ease of travelling to open spaces as very poor.

*Figure 3.4 Ease of travel to open spaces*



Although over half of respondents rate accessibility to be good (56%), a significant proportion (64%) consider that travel to open spaces could be improved by providing “better/more” public transport; two out of five (40%) would like to see more local transport. The majority citing these improvements live in Worksop (81% and 60% respectively).

*Figure 3.5 Transport improvements*



Consultation identifies a need to improve public transport services for rural communities to enable people to gain access to provision in the major service areas e.g. Worksop and Retford, as well as the major towns outside the district e.g. Doncaster and Sheffield. For example, residents stated that the rural bus services runs only three times a day and times are limited. For residents who wish to access sport and recreation provision, in particular children and young people, the early departure of the last bus inhibits access. There is demand for more affordable, regular transport to allow residents to access provision easily. This is particularly pertinent where there is a perceived lack of certain open space typologies in these areas.

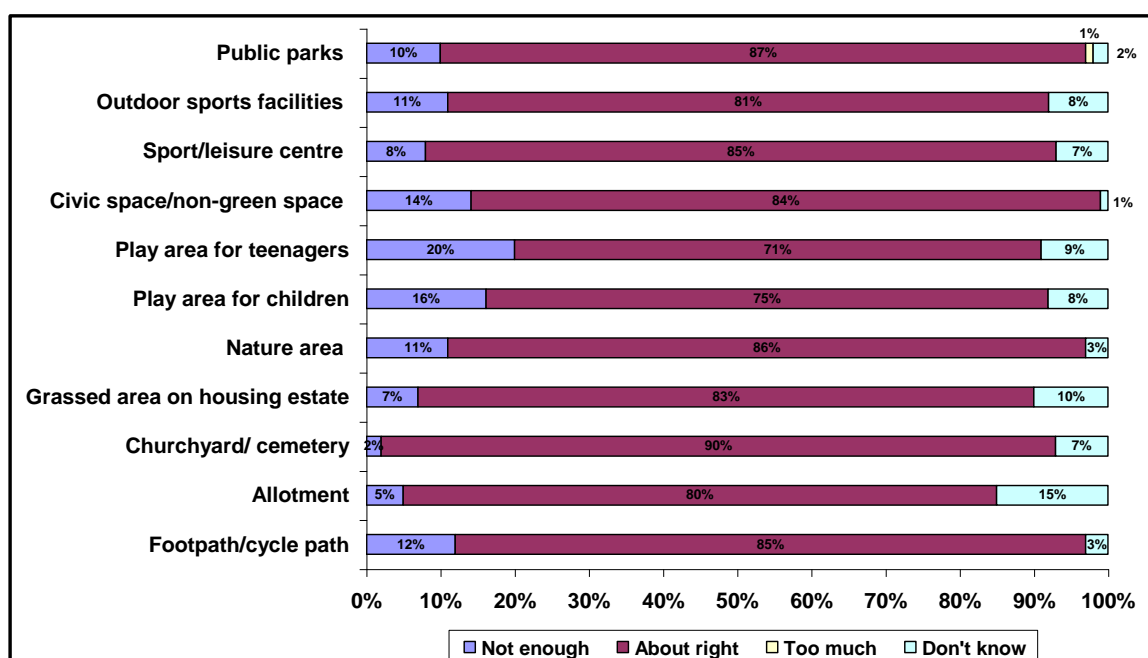
Poor public transport services, particularly between rural areas can impact on the usage of open spaces and sports facilities e.g. ticket cost, poor routes, timetables. There is a perception that young people, particularly in more rural areas, are disadvantaged by a lack of safe links and/or public transport. This has resulted in a recognised demand for a young person's card for bus transport to tackle this.

### Availability

Consultation identifies a perception amongst residents that Bassetlaw is well provided for in terms of open space. Particular reference was made to its rural nature offering access to the countryside. The countryside is a vital recreational resource as well as providing an identity and visual amenity to the built up areas of Bassetlaw. When rating availability of provision, nearly all (90%) of respondents consider availability of churchyards/cemeteries to be "about right", the highest of all the typologies. However, the vast majority of respondents consider the availability of provision of each typology to be "about right".

The street survey also found provision for teenage play perceived to be lacking in Bassetlaw with one in five (20%) of respondents stating there is "not enough" at present. Slightly fewer respondents (16%) feel that play areas for children are also underprovided.

Figure 3.6 Availability of open spaces



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Parish councils suggest that residents of Bassetlaw believe in the need to preserve the development boundaries of settlements. Local residents appear to value the opportunities offered by open spaces and are keen to ensure that these spaces are protected. Some residents are aware of pressure for housing development and fear losing open spaces as a result. This is attributed, in the main, to the continued threats and loss of industrial sports and social clubs which often provide informal open space/recreation opportunities for local communities; for example, Dormer and Vesuvius sites have recently closed.

#### **Quality**

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of all the quality assessment for open spaces across Bassetlaw.

*Table 3.1: Quality scores for all open space typologies*

Analysis area	Quality scores		
	Poor	Average	Good
Allotments	7	5	31
Amenity greenspace	7	13	115
Cemeteries	2	1	86
Children's play areas	0	28	27
Civic spaces	3	3	2
Parks and Gardens	1	1	3
Semi / Natural greenspaces	7	7	11

In terms of quality, there are few concerns amongst residents, with the general consensus being that quality of open space provision across Bassetlaw is adequate or better. Most (15) parish councils rate the quality of open spaces as good, only four rates them as poor. The audit undertaken by BDC rates a significant proportion (80%) as good quality. The only typologies where there are more poor or average quality sites, is children's play areas and civic spaces.

Consultation with residents associations and community groups identifies that, due to lack of appropriate provision for young people, open spaces, particularly parks and gardens (e.g. Langold Country Park and the Canch) are popular sites for youth congregation. Some community members regard this as low-level anti-social behaviour as it can create an intimidating atmosphere and deter other users. However, generally this activity is undistruptive and the main impact is resultant problems with litter/glass in the areas where young people 'hang out' and socialise.

The street survey results show that parks and gardens (70%) and nature areas (65%) have the highest proportions of above average (good/very good) ratings of quality. However, civic space/non-green spaces are among the lowest rated type of open space; 17% of respondents consider the quality of this provision to be poor/very poor.

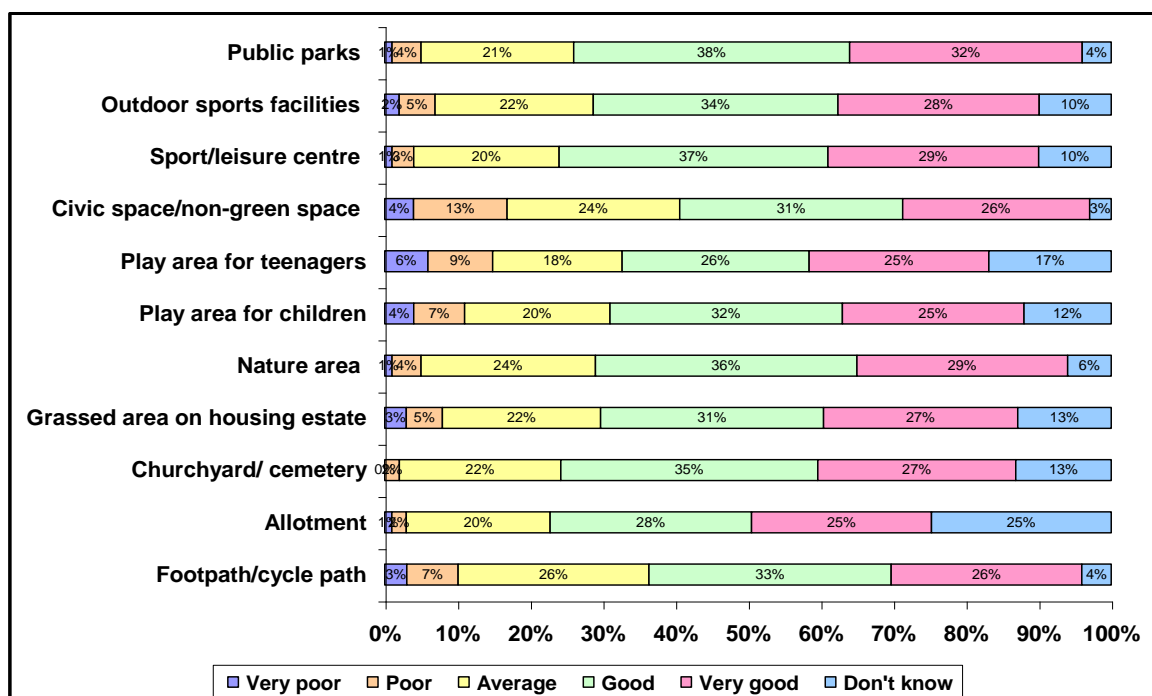
However, across the board, the majority of respondents consider the quality of provision of each typology to be good.

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Both users and non-users of open spaces were asked to rate the quality of each type of open space. However, this resulted in a higher level of “don’t know” responses, particularly for allotments (25%) and play areas for teenagers (17%). Therefore, where possible users of these types of open space were consulted directly regarding the quality of provision and is presented on a typology by typology basis.

Figure 3.7: Quality of provision of open space



### Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces across Bassetlaw.

Table 3.2: Value scores for all open space typologies

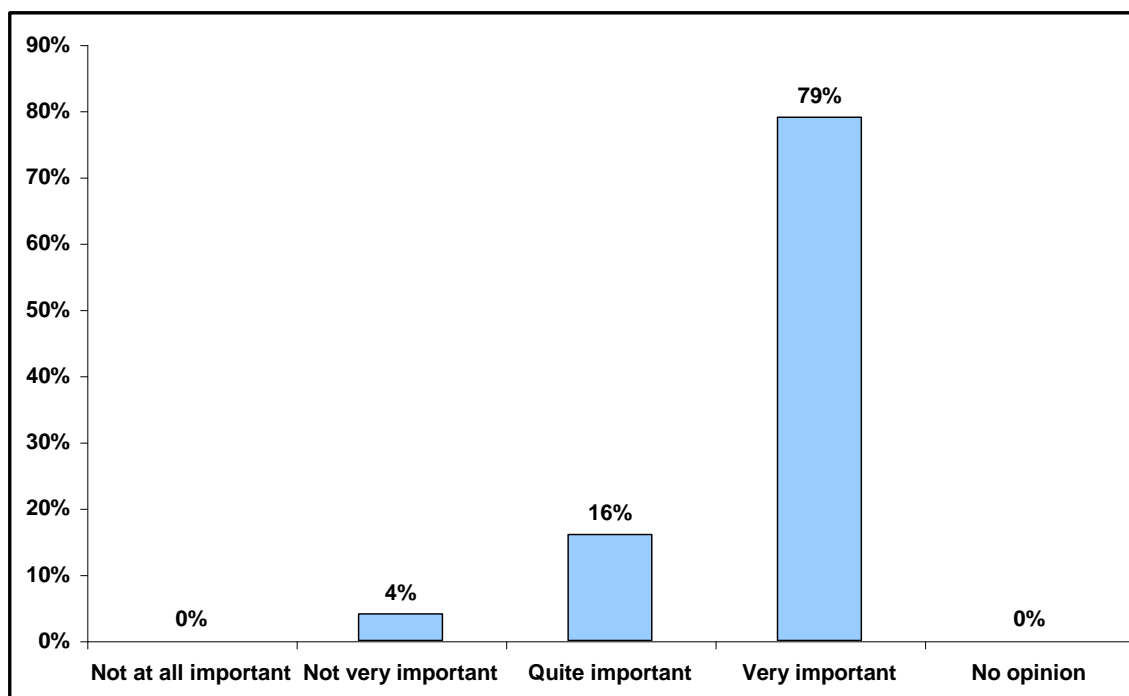
Analysis area	Value scores	
	Low	High
Allotments	12	31
Amenity greenspace	10	125
Cemeteries	6	83
Children's play areas	0	55
Civic spaces	0	8
Parks and Gardens	0	5
Semi / Natural greenspaces	12	13

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest for example play equipment, landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and are multi-functional are considered higher value than those that are bland, unattractive and offer limited functions.

Consultation highlights that open spaces are a valuable resource for residents and visitors across Bassetlaw. The majority (91%) of sites are rated as high value. Only allotments, amenity greenspace and cemeteries have low value sites, reflecting the importance placed upon open spaces in general by residents.

Most street survey respondents (95%) view open spaces to be very or quite important. This highlights the high value placed on such provision by respondents, and the reasons for investment in open spaces by the Council and other providers. Only a small proportion of respondents (4%) viewed open space and sports recreation facilities to be not very important.

*Figure 3.8: Importance of open spaces*



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#### ***Parish councils***

All parish councils (including parish meetings) in Bassetlaw were contacted in order to gain some understanding of the quality, quantity and accessibility issues relating to open spaces in each parish.

Of the 63% of Parish councils responded directly to the questionnaire and the key issues that emerged are summarised below:

- ✦ The majority (24) of parish councils feel there are enough open space sites
- ✦ A few (6) feel there are not enough, highlighting lack of provision in play areas and pitches as a problem (e.g. Babworth, Nether Langwith, Laneham and Shireoaks).
- ✦ Approximately half (16) of parish councils rate the quality of open spaces as good, only four parish councils rate them as poor.
- ✦ The majority of parish councils (24 out of 36) own open space sites.
- ✦ Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council raised the specific issue of pathways being poorly serviced.
- ✦ Several parish councils are looking to develop additional open spaces. Examples noted include; Lound (basketball), Rampton (play area/bowling green), Torworth (allotments), Claborough and Welham (play area), Elkesley (play area), North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe (revamp play equipment) and Sturton-le-Steeple (youth shelter for teenagers).

The table below provides a short summary of the comments made by responding parishes in relation to quality, quantity and accessibility as relevant.

#### ***Parish council comments***

<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Holbeck and Welbeck	Although it does not own any land, it suggests there are enough open spaces but that a lack of facilities and infrastructure is an issue (including pathways being poorly serviced).
Lound	As a significant landowner, it rates the quality of open spaces as good and is looking to develop a play facility (possibly basketball) for older children (teenagers) at Daneshill Road Playing Field. It is also looking to develop infrastructure to benefit residents at the woodland area off Daneshill Lane (possibly seats, beehives, bird tables).
Mattersey	Although it does not own any land, it rates the quantity and quality of open space as adequate.
Markham Clinton	Although it does not own any land, it rates the quantity and quality of open space as adequate.
Shireoaks	Although it does not own any land, it identifies that York Place Play Area (owned by BDC) is in need of refurbishment. It makes comment that there is sufficient open space but not enough formal play areas.
Misson	There is a current debate as to the ownership of the local village green.
Rampton	It plans to further develop Retford Road Playing Fields with the addition of a children's play area, bowling green and a football 'kick about' area. This development would see the parish council rescind its lease of a smaller open space on Retford Road (from Coles Charity). It believes there will be enough open space provision to meet the need of residents once this development is finished.



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Parish Council	Comment
Torworth	It rates the quality of open spaces as good and is currently developing 0.6ha of land at North Road to be leased as allotments.
Styrrup with Oldcotes	As a local landowner, it commented there is enough open space and of a good enough quality. However, it also suggested that the play equipment at Elmsmere Drive was in need of refurbishment.
Clayworth	Although it suggests there is enough open space provision and that it is to a good standard, it is also aware of plans to develop a children's play facility on the playing fields owned by the Memorial Hall Trustees.
Clarborough and Welham	It is planning to develop the children's play area off Main Street through fundraising. There is a consensus within the parish that there are not enough facilities in the area. It also suggests that the land at Broad Gores (owned by BDC) should be made available/accessible to residents.
Carlton-in-Lindrick	As a significant landowner, it believes there is a fair amount of open space and it is of a good quality.
Bothamsall	Although it does not own any land, it rates the quantity and quality of open space as good.
Beckingham-cum-Saudby	As a local landowner it rates the quantity and quality of open space as adequate.
Dunham on Trent with Ragnall, Fledborough and Darlton	Although it does not own any land, it leases a play area and rates the quantity and quality of open space as adequate.
Cuckney	Although it does not own any land, it leases a playing field and rates the quantity and quality of open space as good.
Blyth	As a significant landowner, it rates the quality of open spaces as average, and suggests that there is enough to meet the needs of the parish.
Laneham	It suggests that there is not enough open space, particularly sports areas such as tennis courts/bowling greens but also rates the quality of open spaces as being limited.
Harworth and Bircotes	As a local landowner, it suggests there is enough open space and that provision is to a good quality.
Misterton	As a local landowner, it suggests there is enough open space and that provision is to a good quality.
Elkesley	It is currently looking for funding support to build a play area on its playing field. It also suggests that there is enough open space to meet the needs of residents and that the quality of open spaces is adequate.
Hodsock	It suggests that there are enough open spaces and that they are of an adequate quality. It also comments that Langold Country Park is good but not used to its full potential.
Sutton-cum-Lound	As a local landowner, it suggests there is enough open space and that provision is to a good quality.
Everton	As a local landowner, it suggests there is enough open space and that provision is to a good quality.
Gamston, Eaton and West Drayton	It suggests that there is not enough open space and the quality of existing provision is poor.
Treswell with Cottam	Although it does not own any land, it feels there is enough open space and that it is of a good quality.

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Parish Council	Comment
Babworth	It does not own any open spaces and suggests that there is not enough open space particularly play areas.
Ranskill	Although it suggests there is not enough open space, particularly with regard to football/cricket pitches, it does rate the quality of open spaces as good.
Nether Langwith	It suggests that there is not enough open space provision and that although there is no children's play equipment, it would be difficult to find a suitable location.
Wiseton	It suggests there is not enough local population to sustain the provision of any additional formal open spaces.
East Drayton	It feels there is enough open space and that it is of adequate quality.
North and South Wheatley	Since provision of a new pay park, it feels there is enough open spaces and rates the quality of provision as good.
North Leverton with Hablesthorpe	It plans to revamp its play equipment and improve play facilities for children and teenagers. It suggests that there is enough open space, but it is of poor to average quality.
Sturton-le-Steeple	Although it suggests there are enough open spaces, it is hoping to expand the teenagers play area with a youth shelter.
South Leverton	It does not own any open spaces and suggests that the parish is lacking a play area.
Tuxford	Significant land owner but suggests there is not enough open space, sport and recreation provision to service its population. In addition, it rates the general quality of provision in the area as poor.

## **PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS**

### **Introduction**

The typology of parks and gardens, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, covers urban parks, country parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide 'accessible high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.'

### **Key issues**

#### ***Current provision***

Five sites are classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens totalling almost 71 hectares. They are classified in the following ways to reflect their different characteristics:

#### ***Classification***

- ◆ Local park - sites of 2 ha or less; smaller areas that attract almost all users from a particular area, normally located on the edge of housing estates and serving the immediate population.
- ◆ District park - sites between 2 and 20 ha; areas that attract a significant proportion of users from particular parts of the local area, designed principally for passive recreation, serving the recreational needs of the local population.
- ◆ Borough park - sites of principal significance to the local and wider community and urban landscape, with specialised areas. Attracting a diverse and large number of visitors from a wide area.

*Table 4.1: Distribution of parks and gardens sites by analysis area*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Local park</b>		<b>District park</b>		<b>Borough park</b>		<b>TOTAL provision</b>	
	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)	Number	Size (ha)
Harworth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retford	-	-	1	11.95	-	-	1	11.95
Rural	1	0.07	-	-	1	54.27	2	54.35
Tuxford	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worksop	1	0.19	1	4.43	-	-	2	4.62
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16.39</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54.27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>70.93</b>

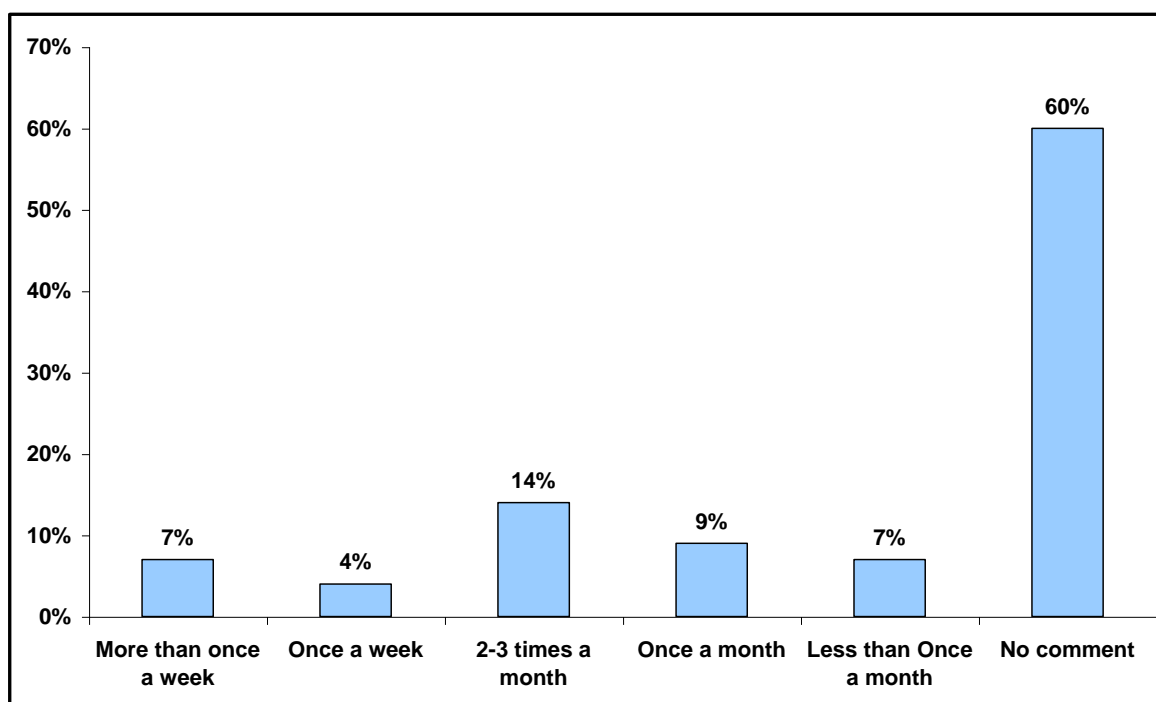
In addition to the above, there are a number of registered parks within Bassetlaw e.g. Clumber Park, Welbeck Abbey, Babworth Hall and Shireoaks Hall, which are not included within the audit due to the fact that access to them is restricted. However, it is important to recognise that many residents consider these to be an important recreational resource which impact upon their perceptions with regard to other publicly accessible sites. For example, residents, due to the provision of such sites as Clumber Park, do not necessarily perceive the same gaps in provision that are identified through mapping.

### Usage

Just over two out of five (41%) respondents have visited a public park in the last year. Usage is spread across Bassetlaw with respondents from the Worksop area (39%) and Retford (30%) visiting parks more than those from other areas. Of all users surveyed, the majority visit parks and gardens within Bassetlaw (34%), whilst only a small proportion (6%) visits parks and gardens both inside and outside of the area.

A large proportion of respondents (60%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage or very occasional use. Of those who do visit parks and gardens, a majority (14%) do so 2-3 times a month.

Figure 4.1: Frequency of usage of parks in the past 12 months

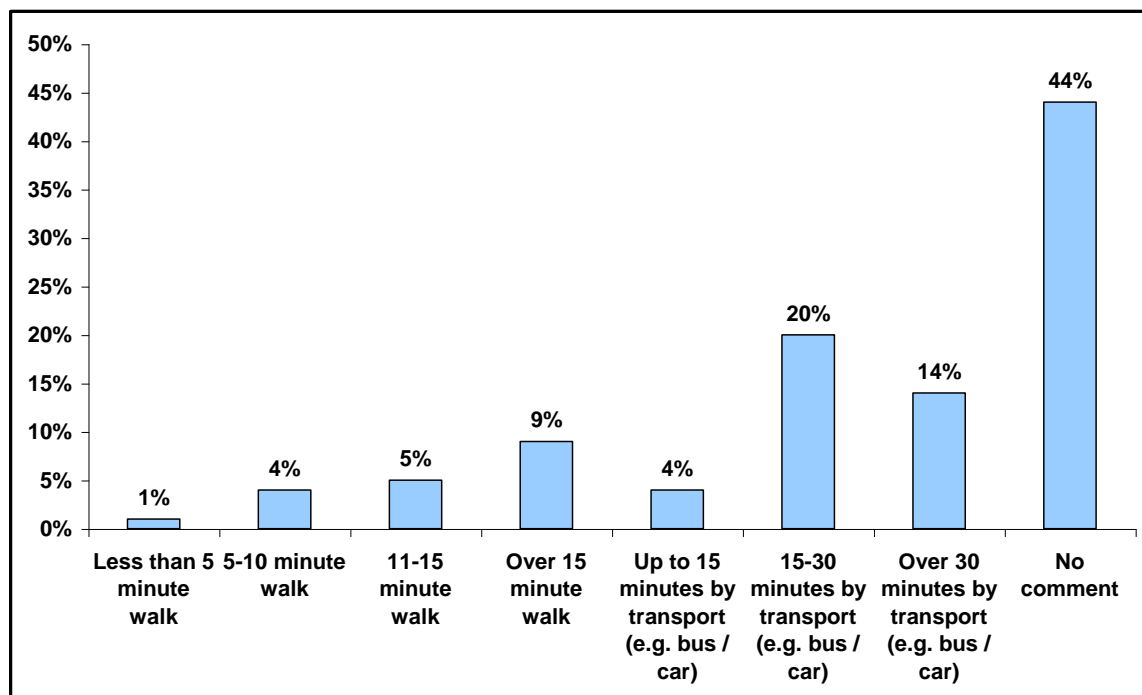


### Accessibility

In terms of travel time, nearly a half of all respondents (44%) do not comment on how far they would be willing to travel to a public park. One in five (20%) stated they would be willing to travel 15-30 minutes by transport, such as a car or bus. Only a small proportion (1%) would be willing to travel less than 5-minute walk.

Almost half of respondents (44%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage and/or a lack of interest in accessing provision.

Figure 4.2: Time prepared to travel to access a park

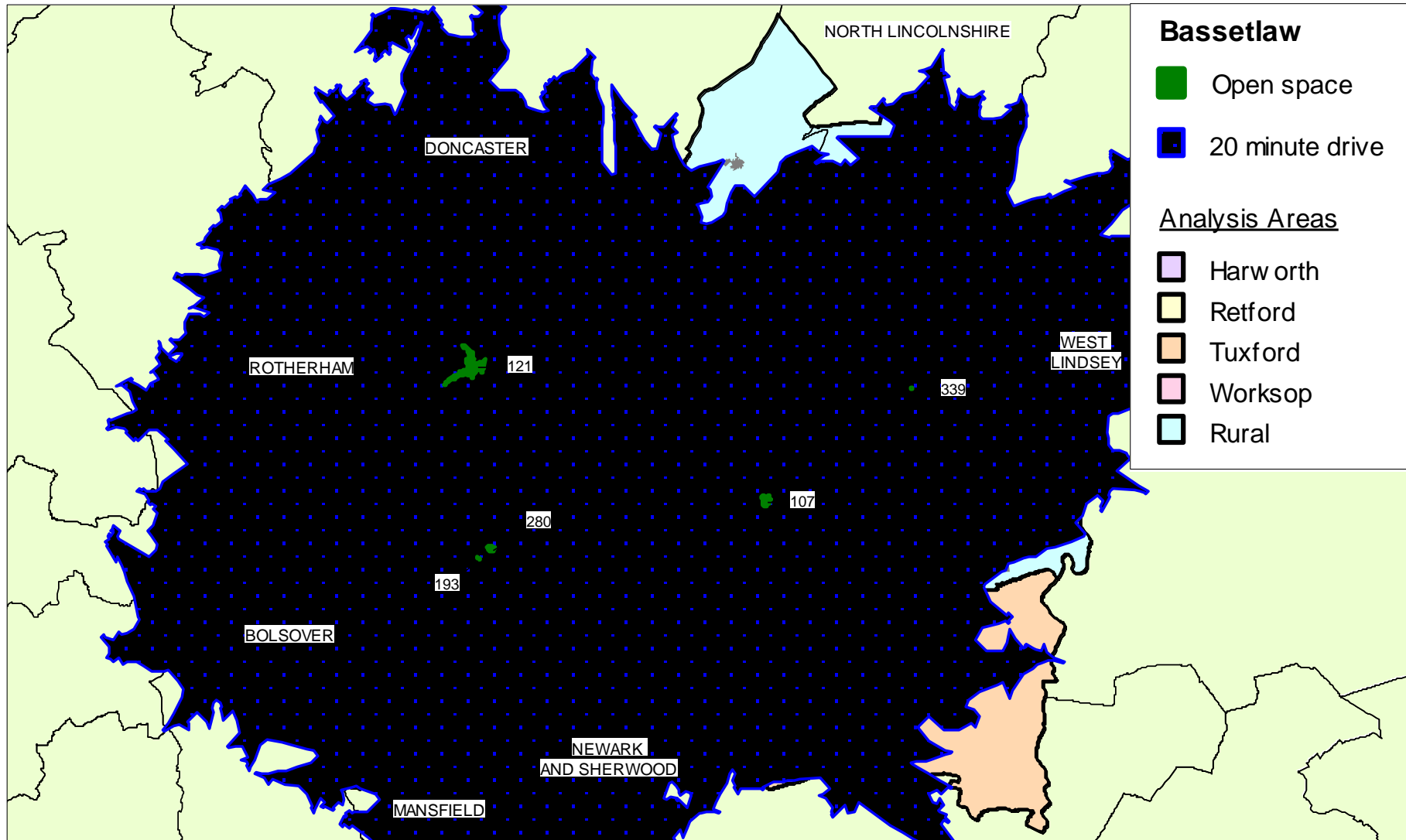


Consultation with local residents suggests that Kings Park is locked up too early in the summer, inhibiting genuine local use.

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Figure 4.3: Parks and gardens mapped against settlement areas with 20 minute drive time catchments



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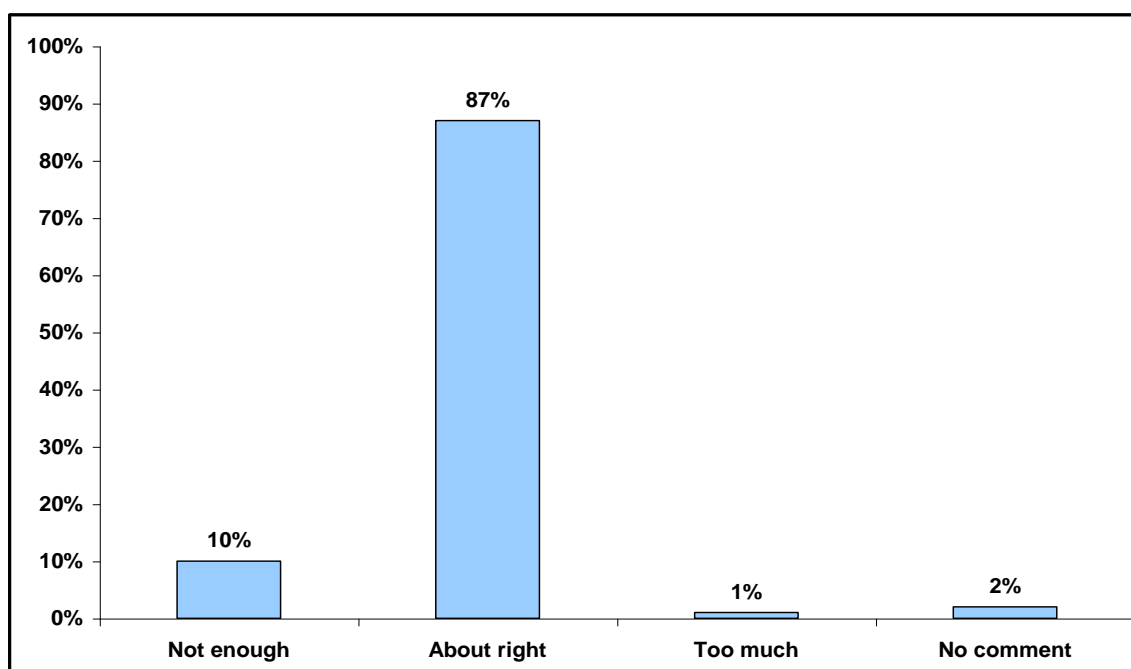
*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Sub-typology	Analysis area	Quality	Value
107	Kings Park	District Park	Retford		
121	Langold Country Park	Borough Park	Langold		
339	Shipside Memorial/Haslehurst Gardens	Local Park	Langold		
193	The Canch	Local Park	Worksop		
280	Sturton Road	District Park	Worksop		

There is provision of at least one park and garden in each major settlement across the District (Worksop and Retford). Although provision is limited within the rural analysis areas this is to be expected as, with the exception of Harworth there are no settlements with significant populations to generate need for such provision. Consultation suggests that residents in Harworth generally migrate to Doncaster to access open space provision. The only settlement not to be covered by the 20 minute drive time is Mission, however, again it is thought that residents in this area of the district are likely to travel into Doncaster to access this type of provision.

The majority (87%) of respondents rate the availability of parks/gardens in Bassetlaw in terms of quantity as “about right”. A much smaller proportion (10%) consider there to be ‘not enough’. Nearly two thirds (67%) of respondents who stated the quantity of provision as ‘not enough’ were from Worksop. This is significantly higher than the proportion of respondents from Tuxford (19%) and Retford (13%). This indicates that there may be a lack of awareness of provision in Worksop or that access barriers prevent residents making use of available provision. Interestingly, over half (56%) of respondents from Worksop have not visited a park/garden in the last 12 months.

*Figure 4.5: Availability of parks*



#### ***Management***

The Parks and Open Spaces Unit within the Environment and Housing Services at BDC is responsible for the management and development of over 860 acres (or 348 Ha) of amenity land throughout Bassetlaw. BDC grounds maintenance is all undertaken in-house and included within this are the three key parks:

- ◀ The Canch in Worksop.
- ◀ Kings Park in Retford.
- ◀ Langold Country Park.

Guiding the strategic management and development of provision, a small number of sites have written management plans, including Kings Park (as part of its Green Flag application) and Langold Country Park. BDC aspires to expand this to all its key parks, as and when resources allow and intends to produce a management plan for the Canch in the near future. Preparing written management plans ensures that relevant policies and regimes (needed to be successful in achieving the Green Flag Award) are in place.

The BDC budget for ongoing maintenance has remained static over the last few years and it is becoming increasingly difficult to deliver the maintenance contract on the current budgets. This is exacerbated by a decreasing full time workforce which has resulted in the need to use agency staff. An apprentice scheme is in place, which is hoped will, in time, help to increase standards again.

In addition to BDC owned provision, there are a number of privately owned historic parks and gardens in Bassetlaw:

- ◀ Holbeck/Welbeck.
- ◀ Clumber Park.
- ◀ Babworth.
- ◀ Shireoaks.

Although these contribute to the overall hectareage of parks provision available to residents and visitors in the area, they all have restricted access. The National Trust site Clumber Park is the most available of the four sites, as it is only necessary to pay to park and therefore, local residents can access the park on foot without paying.

#### ***Green Flag***

The Green Flag Award scheme is managed by a consortium consisting of Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV and GreenSpace. The scheme provides national standards for parks and greenspaces across England and Wales. Public service agreements, identified by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) highlight the importance placed on Green Flag status as an indicator of high quality parks. This in turn impacts upon the way parks and gardens are managed and maintained.

Bassetlaw (as of 2008/2009) has one Green Flag site; Kings Park in Retford. This has a good written management plan and high levels of community involvement. Although it already has a 'friends of' group, BDC is looking to make this more pro-active. Other sites that could be considered in the future include the Canch and Langold Country Park, both considered to be flagship sites by residents. Greater community involvement is required at the Canch before entry to the award could be considered. However, Langold Country Park is in a good position as it has a management plan and an active 'friends of' group.



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#### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks and gardens in Bassetlaw.

*Table 4.2: Quality ratings for parks and garden sites by analysis area*

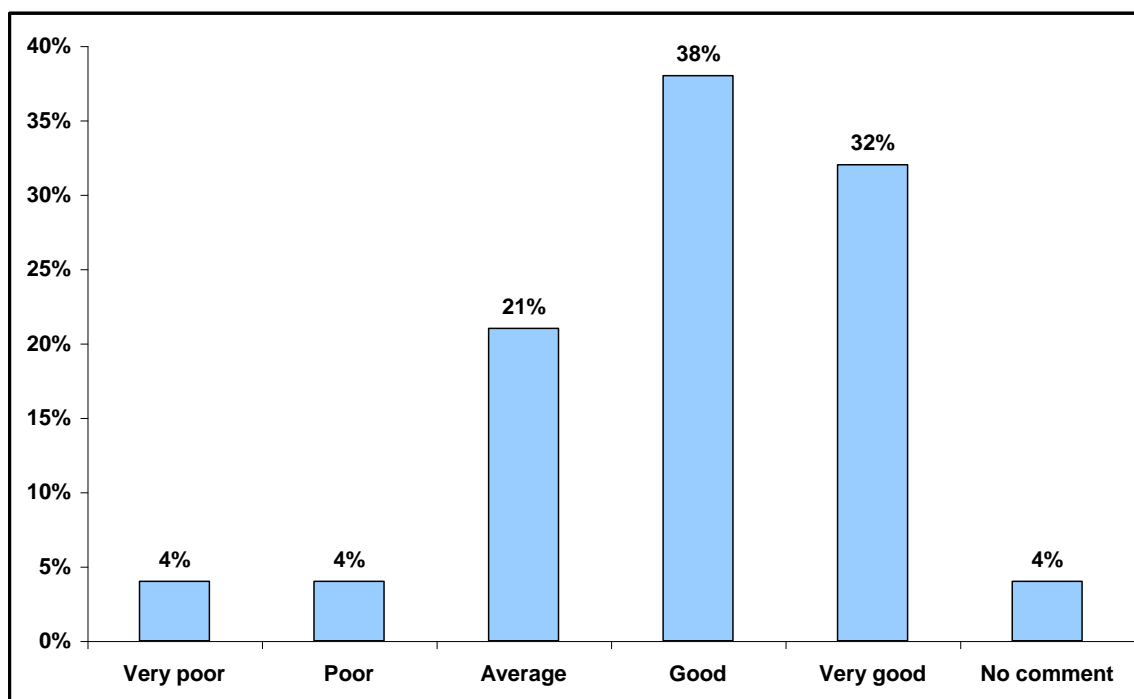
Analysis area	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Harworth	-	-	-
Retford	-	-	1
Rural	1	-	1
Tuxford	-	-	-
Worsop	-	1	1
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

Although the majority of sites were assessed as being good quality, the overall condition of Langold County Park is considered to be poor and was noted as being in need of investment. The Canch is considered to be in average overall condition.

Illegal use of motorbikes and quad bikes on natural areas in Bassetlaw is a continuing issue even though there is a dedicated site in Harworth. The police have recently had a 'clamp down' on this issue, through the establishment of off-road motorcycle units to provide a rapid response to problems. Langold Country Park is a current hotspot.

Over two thirds (70%) of all respondents rate the quality of parks/gardens across Bassetlaw as good/very good. However, a small number (8%) believe that provision is below average (poor/very poor) quality. Demonstrating a similar pattern to availability, over three quarters (77%) of respondents who stated that provision was poor were from Worsop, in comparison to 14% of respondents from Retford and only 9% of respondents from Tuxford.

*Figure 4.6: Quality of provision of parks*



### **Value**

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks and gardens in Bassetlaw.

*Table 4.3: Value scores for parks and garden sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Value rating	
	Low	High
Harworth	-	-
Retford	-	1
Rural	-	2
Tuxford	-	-
Worksop	-	2
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	-	<b>5</b>

All parks and gardens are assessed as being of high value to users and the local community, recognising the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and amenity and sense of place. In particular, Langold Country Park scored the highest in terms of value.

### *Community involvement*

There is currently high community involvement within two parks in Bassetlaw (Kings Park and Langold Country Park). BDC recognises the value of community engagement and ownership and aspires to encourage and support the formation of 'friends of' groups for the key sites; currently this is limited by available resources.

### **Summary**

#### **Parks and gardens summary**

- ◀ There are five sites classified as publicly accessible parks and gardens totalling almost 71 hectares. In addition, there a number of registered parks within Bassetlaw e.g. Clumber Park, Welbeck Abbey, Babworth Hall and Shireoaks Hall, which residents consider to be important recreational resources even though access is restricted.
- ◀ The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access parks and gardens. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents in Bassetlaw are to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
- ◀ There is provision of at least one park and garden in each major settlement across the District (Worksop and Retford). Although provision is limited within the rural analysis areas this is to be expected as, with the exception of Harworth there are no settlements with significant populations to generate need for such provision. The majority (87%) of street survey respondents rate the availability of parks/gardens in Bassetlaw in terms of quantity as “about right”. A much smaller proportion (10%) consider there to be ‘not enough’, suggesting that new provision is not a priority.
- ◀ Bassetlaw currently (2008/2009) has one Green Flag status site, Kings Park in Retford. Other sites that could be considered in the future include the Canch and Langold Country Park.
- ◀ Although the majority of sites were assessed as being good quality, the overall condition of Langold Country Park is considered to be poor and was noted as being in need of investment. The Canch is considered to be in average overall condition.
- ◀ All parks and gardens are assessed as being of high value to users and the local community, recognising the high social inclusion and health benefits, ecological value and amenity and sense of place. This is further enhanced by good community involvement in parks across Bassetlaw, particularly Kings Park and Langold Country Park.

## **PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES**

### **Introduction**

The typology of natural and semi natural greenspaces, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. downland, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), open running water, wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. cliffs, quarries, pits). These provide 'wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.'

### **Key issues**

#### ***Current provision***

25 open spaces in Bassetlaw, totalling just over 137 hectares, are classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces.

*Table 5.1: Distribution of natural and semi-natural greenspaces sites by analysis area*

Analysis area	Natural/semi- natural greenspaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Harworth	5	15.81
Retford	7	64.58
Rural	2	6.03
Tuxford	2	0.13
Worksop	9	50.78
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>137.36</b>

Within the above, are a number of nature reserves and sites of special scientific interest (SSSI), including Eton Wood in Retford, Lady Lee Quarry in Rhodesia and Chainbridge Nature Reserve. Daneshill Lakes is currently designated as a local nature reserve (LNR). The promotion of access to sensitive sites such as the LNRs and SSSIs has to be managed in accordance with protecting the wildlife habitats.

Many natural/semi natural sites in Bassetlaw are developed from disused gravel workings and quarry sites. For example, Lady Lee Quarry is a disused flooded quarry, purchased from the British Coal Corporation in 1995, and Daneshill Lakes is an area of disused and flooded gravel pits covering 16 hectares. It is leased from Nottinghamshire County Council and is part of a Local Nature Reserve, which was established in 1985.

In partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, BDC has recently designated three new local nature reserves at:

- ◆ Woodsetts Pond (9 hectares).
- ◆ Dyscarr Wood within Langold County Park (49 hectares).
- ◆ Retford Cemetery (10 hectares).

The Wildlife Trust will eventually manage Dyscarr Wood on behalf of BDC.

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In 1996, English Nature (now Natural England) recommended that there should be one hectare of designated LNR per 1,000 population. To put this into local context, with a population of 111,651 (mid 2007 estimate), across the District there should be provision of least 111 hectares of LNR. The designated sites now cover 84 hectares, leaving a shortfall of 27 hectares.

BDC also manages four open water sites at

- ✦ Langold Country Park
- ✦ Sandhill Lake, Worksop
- ✦ Woodsetts Quarry Pond
- ✦ Woodend Quarry Pond

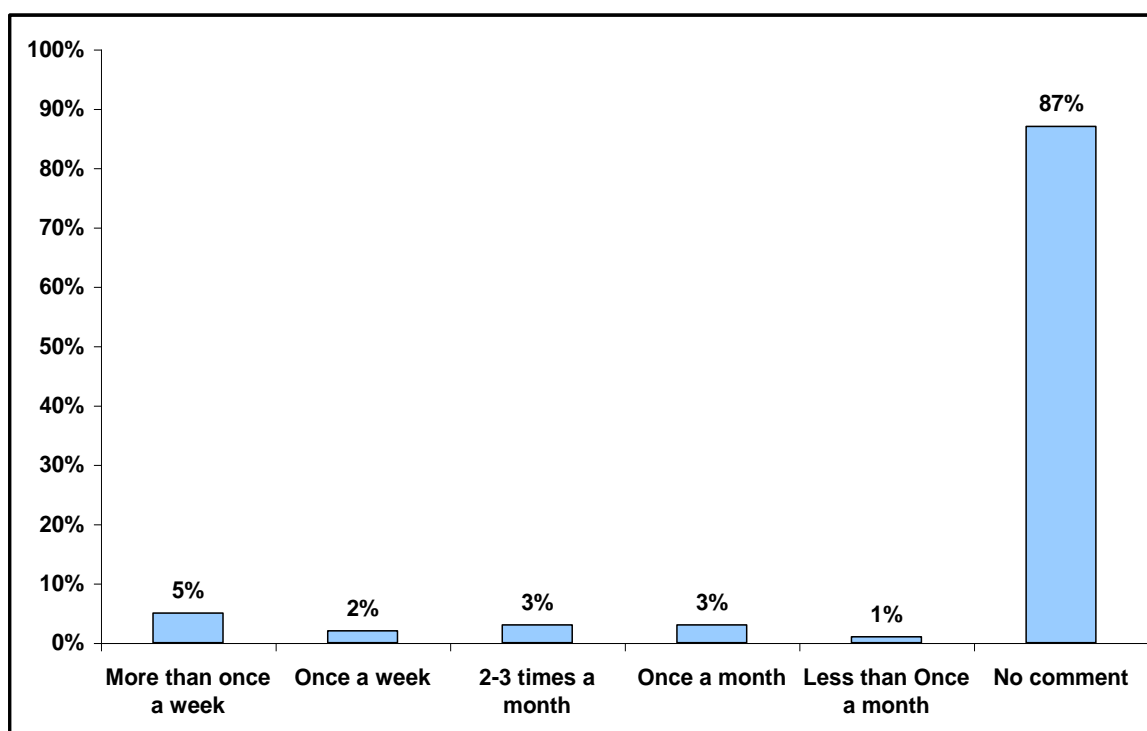
Angling is permitted at the open water sites apart from Woodend Quarry. Fly tipping and anti-social behaviour are reported issues at Sandhill Lake due to its close proximity to housing.

#### **Usage**

Only a small proportion (14%) of respondents have visited a nature area in the previous twelve months. Usage is higher among respondents living in Worksop (39%) compared to those from Retford (30%), Tuxford and Harworth (10%) and other areas (11%).

The majority of respondents (87%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage or very occasional use. Only 5% access provision on a regular basis; once a week or more. It is likely that awareness of natural provision is low within Bassetlaw and could reflect the poor access to some sites which is identified later.

*Figure 5.1: Frequency of usage of natural areas in the previous 12 months*

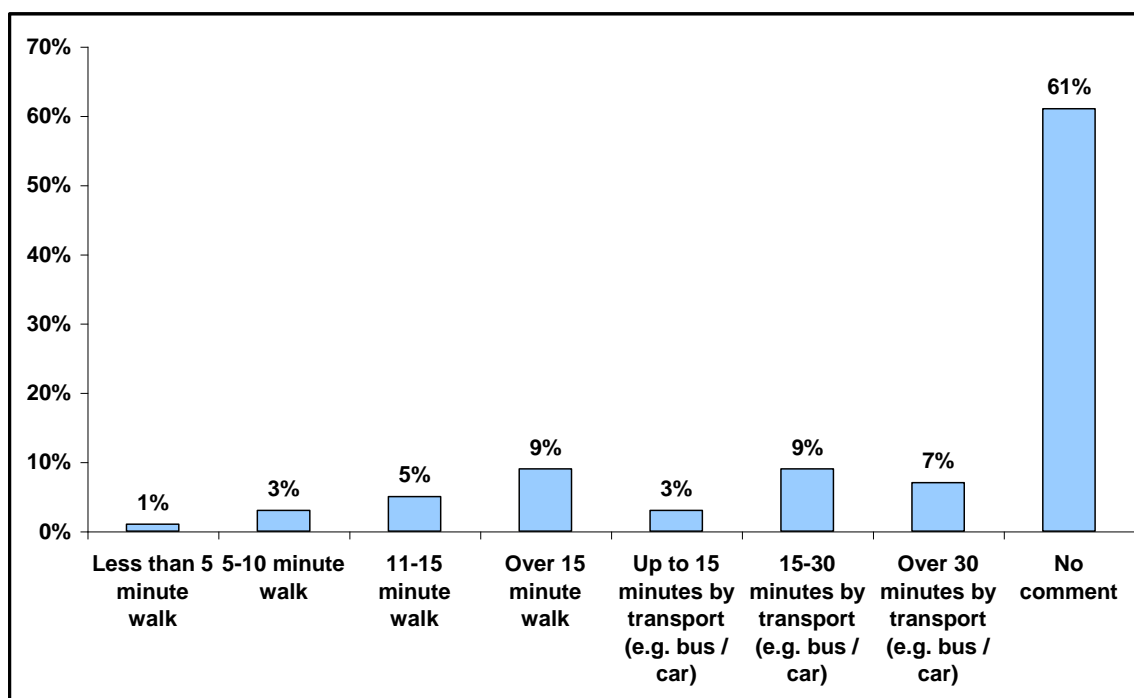


### Accessibility

Just over three fifths (61%) are unable to state how far they are willing to travel to access nature areas. There is no significant difference between how respondents will travel with 18% of all respondents willing to walk, whilst 19% will travel by other forms of transport to access provision.

Almost three quarters of respondents (61%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage.

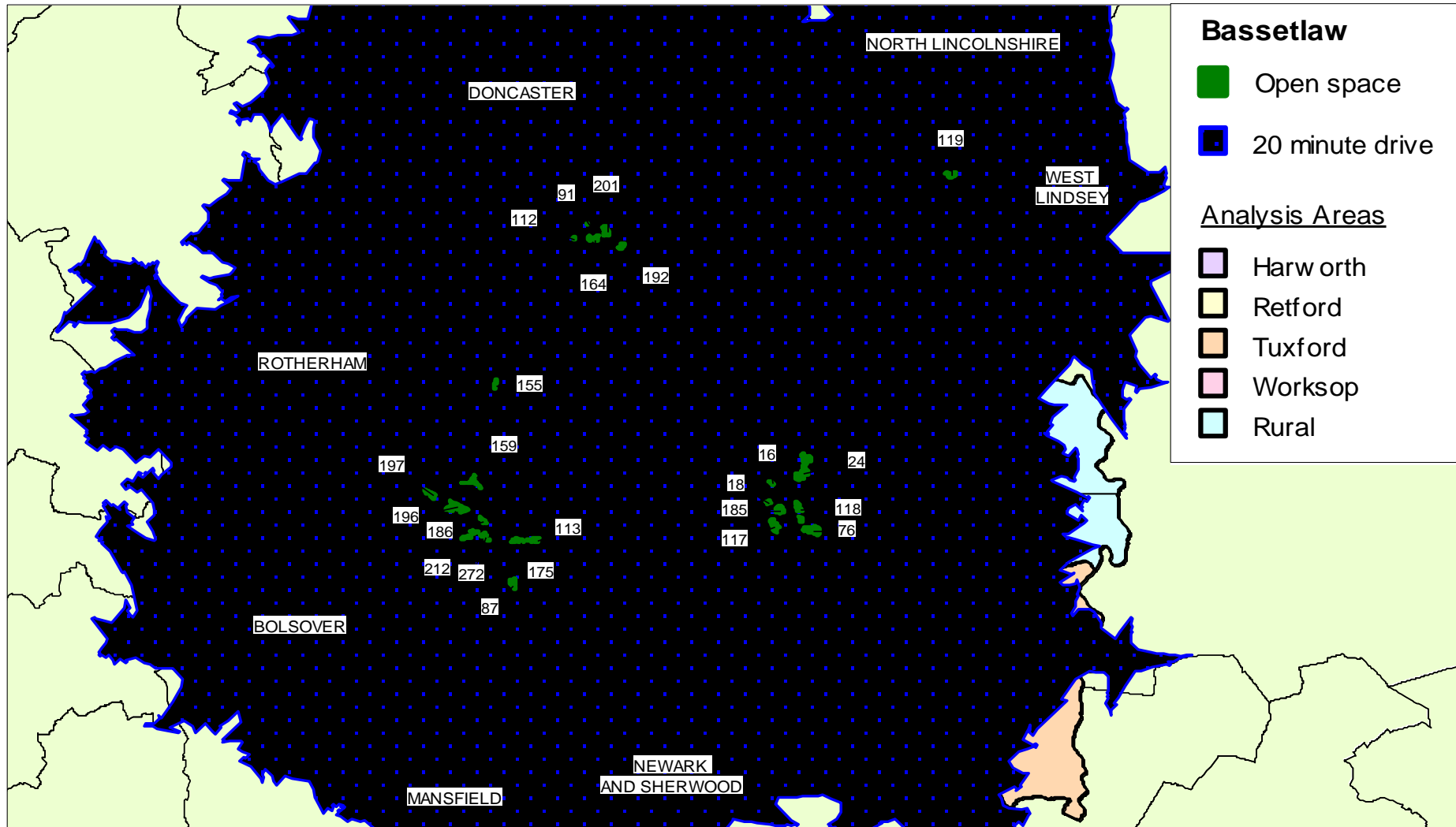
Figure 5.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a nature area



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Figure 5.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspaces mapped against settlement areas with 20 minute drive time catchments



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*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality	Value
91	Hawkins Close	Harworth		
112	Land Behind Gregory Crescent	Harworth		
164	Piggeries	Harworth		
192	Scrooby Road	Harworth		
201	Snipe Park Wood	Harworth		
16	Babworth Road	Retford		
18	Babworth Road/Ordsall Road	Retford		
24	Land off Bolham Lane	Retford		
76	Land Off Goosemoor Lane	Retford		
117	The Land Off the Oval	Retford		
118	Land off Victoria Road	Retford		
185	Sandhills, Jubilee Road	Retford		
119	Ashdown Way	Rural Misterton		
155	Land parallel to Northumberland Ave	Rural Carlton		
87	Hannah Park	Worksop		
113	Land at and behind pumping station	Worksop		
159	Old Gateford Road	Worksop		
175	Land behind Shelley Street	Worksop		
186	Land Behind the Football Ground, Sandy Lane	Worksop		
196	Shireoaks Road	Worksop		
197	Shireoaks Road	Worksop		
212	St Annes Drive	Worksop		
272	Stubbing Lane	Worksop		
350	Junction of Lincoln Rd & Ash Vale Rd (East)	Tuxford		
287	The Old Lock Up and land, Newcastle Street	Tuxford		

It is widely accepted that residents throughout Bassetlaw will travel a considerable distance to access natural greenspace sites. This is thought to reflect the relative proximity of regionally significant sites located just outside of Bassetlaw and associated to this typology such as Sherwood Forest.

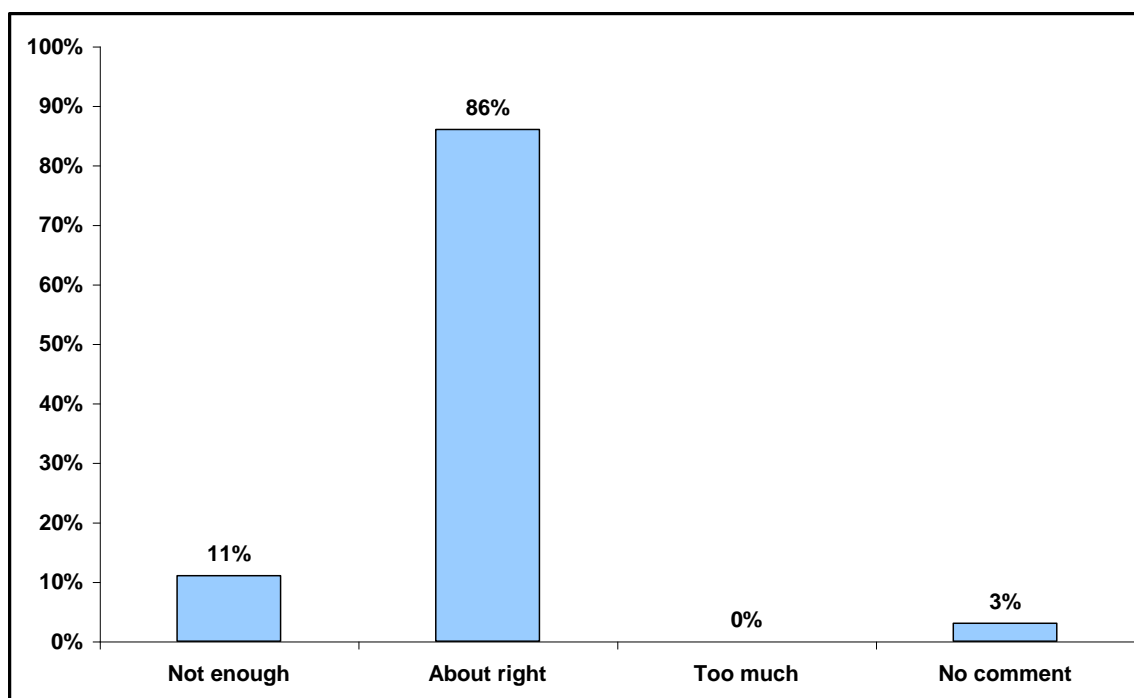
The mapping shows a good distribution of natural/semi-natural greenspace provision in the major settlements of the District (Worksop, Retford and Harworth) with all areas of high population having access to provision of some kind. The rural nature of this area, with easy access to the countryside, impacts upon resident expectations in terms of natural greenspace availability. Although there is minimal provision in Tuxford, residents generally appear to accept that they can access additional provision by either travelling to Retford or outside of the District in Newark and Sherwood.



Once again, the street survey reveals that opinion with regard to the level of provision considers it to be 'about right' (86%). Only a small number (11%) consider availability to be inadequate. One fifth (20%) of respondents living in Worksop think there is not enough provision of nature areas, in comparison to 18% in Tuxford and only 2% in Retford and other locations.

Only a small proportion (3%) is unable to rate the availability of nature areas. This suggests a good level of awareness among respondents with regard to provision.

*Figure 5.5: Availability of natural and semi-natural greenspaces*



Supporting the findings of the street survey and reflecting the mainly rural nature of much of the District, consultation highlights that residents are generally of the opinion that there is sufficient access to natural/semi-natural open space. The 'countryside is on the doorstep' and therefore perceived access to "naturalness" is considered to be excellent, particularly in the more rural settlements. However, it is important to ensure that residents within more urban settlements, e.g. Worksop and Retford, have sufficient opportunity to experience nature.

To increase opportunities for residents to experience nature, BDC recognises the value of introducing natural features to formal open space provision. As an example, the Council has recently developed natural features at Retford Cemetery and Langold Country Park to help meet deficiencies in local nature reserve provision.

Consultation highlights that the high level of access to natural/semi-natural sites is highly regarded by residents in terms of the recreational and natural play opportunities offered. In the more rural settlements there is less demand for equipped formal play provision and evidence that children utilise the countryside as a play resource e.g. den building. Although this does not eliminate the need to provide play areas for children in populated areas it is important to recognise the benefits offered by sites with natural elements.

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

#### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in Bassetlaw.

*Table 5.2: Quality rating for natural and semi-natural greenspaces by analysis area*

Analysis area	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Harworth	5	-	0
Retford	-	5	2
Rural	-	1	1
Tuxford	-	-	2
Worksop	2	1	6
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

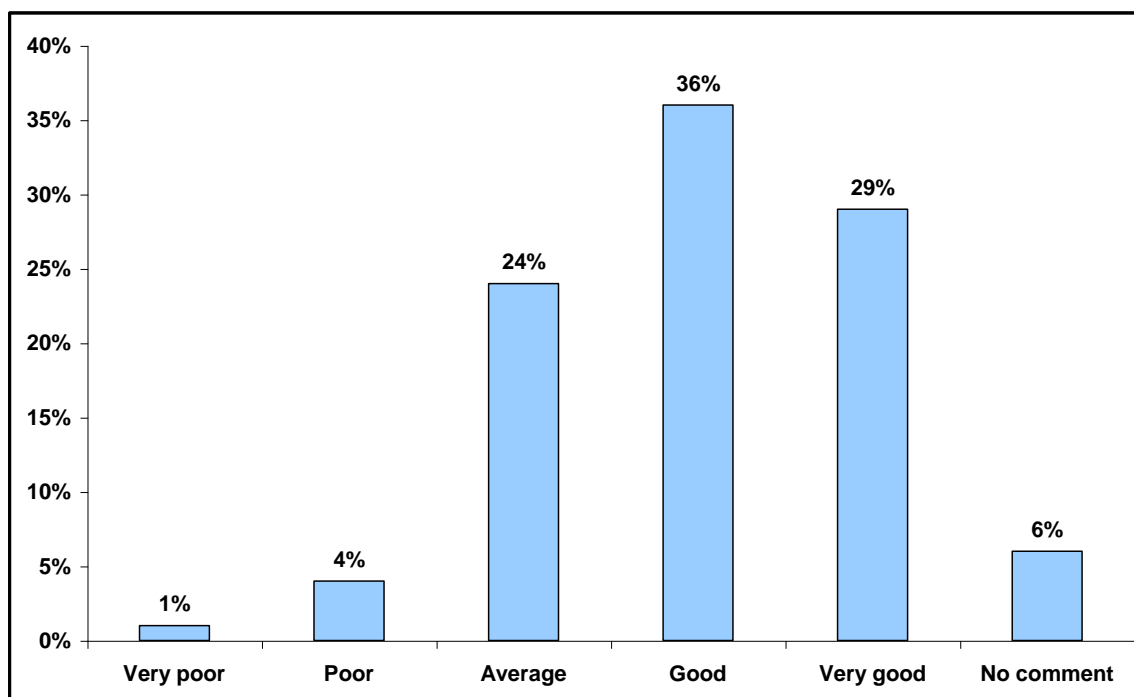
Seven sites are assessed by BDC as being in overall poor condition; the majority of these are in Harworth. These are generally classified as such due to poor overall quality and the presence of fly tipping. Although the accessibility of natural greenspaces in Bassetlaw tends to be poor (due to the isolated nature of sites and the dependence upon transport to reach them), the general quality of sites is good. For example, Hannah Park is particularly isolated but is noted as good quality, in terms of its biodiversity.

As noted within the site audits, fly tipping is an issue at open spaces across the District. Dyscarr Wood has previously suffered from this, probably due to the close proximity to housing on one side of its boundary, but this has now been cleared. Enforcement is difficult and BDC hopes that improving the quality of sites will help to reduce the likelihood of regular fly tipping.

The illegal use of motorbikes and quad bikes on natural areas is also a continuing issue even though there is a dedicated site in Harworth. As noted earlier, the police have recently sought to respond to this issue through the use of off-road motorcycle units to provide a fast response to reported problems.

Just over two thirds (65%) of all respondents rate the quality of nature areas as above average (good/very good). However, just under one quarter (24%) consider provision to be average. Only a small proportion (5%) consider nature areas in Bassetlaw to be of below average (poor/very poor) quality. A small number (6%) of respondents do not know how they rate the quality of nature areas.

Figure 5.6: Quality of nature areas



### Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 5.3: Value rating for natural and semi-natural greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Value rating	
	Low	High
Harworth	3	2
Retford	5	2
Rural	-	2
Tuxford	-	2
Worksop	4	5
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

Due to the often, poor level of access, a significant proportion of natural/semi-natural open spaces scored as low value. However, all sites were recognised for their landscape and ecological benefits.

As well as providing important nature conservation and biodiversity value, many sites, classified as natural/semi-natural open spaces are well used for recreational purposes and are a valuable open space resource for communities across Bassetlaw.

### **Summary**

#### **Natural and semi-natural greenspace summary**

- ◀ In total, 25 open spaces in Bassetlaw, totalling just over 137 hectares, are classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces.
- ◀ The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes. This is further reflected in the consultation with user groups which shows it is widely accepted that residents throughout Bassetlaw will travel a considerable distance to access natural greenspace sites. The rural nature of the area, with easy access to the countryside, impacts upon resident expectations in terms of natural greenspace availability. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
- ◀ On this basis there are no gaps in the provision of natural greenspace in Bassetlaw. Although there is limited provision in Tuxford, residents generally appear to accept that they have to access provision by either travelling to Retford or outside of the District into Newark and Sherwood.
- ◀ Seven sites are assessed by BDC as being in overall poor condition, with the majority of these being in Harworth. These are generally classified as such due to poor overall quality and the presence of fly tipping. The illegal use of motorbikes and quad bikes on natural areas is also noted as an issue during consultation with users.
- ◀ Due to the often, poor level of access, just over half of natural/semi-natural open spaces scored as low value. However, all sites were recognised for their landscape and ecological benefits.

## **PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE**

### **Introduction**

The typology of amenity greenspace, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide, defines sites as offering 'opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas'. These include informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, village greens and other incidental space.'

### **Key issues**

#### ***Current provision***

There are 135 amenity greenspace sites, totalling almost 112 hectares across Bassetlaw. They are most often found in housing estates and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity.

*Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites by analysis area*

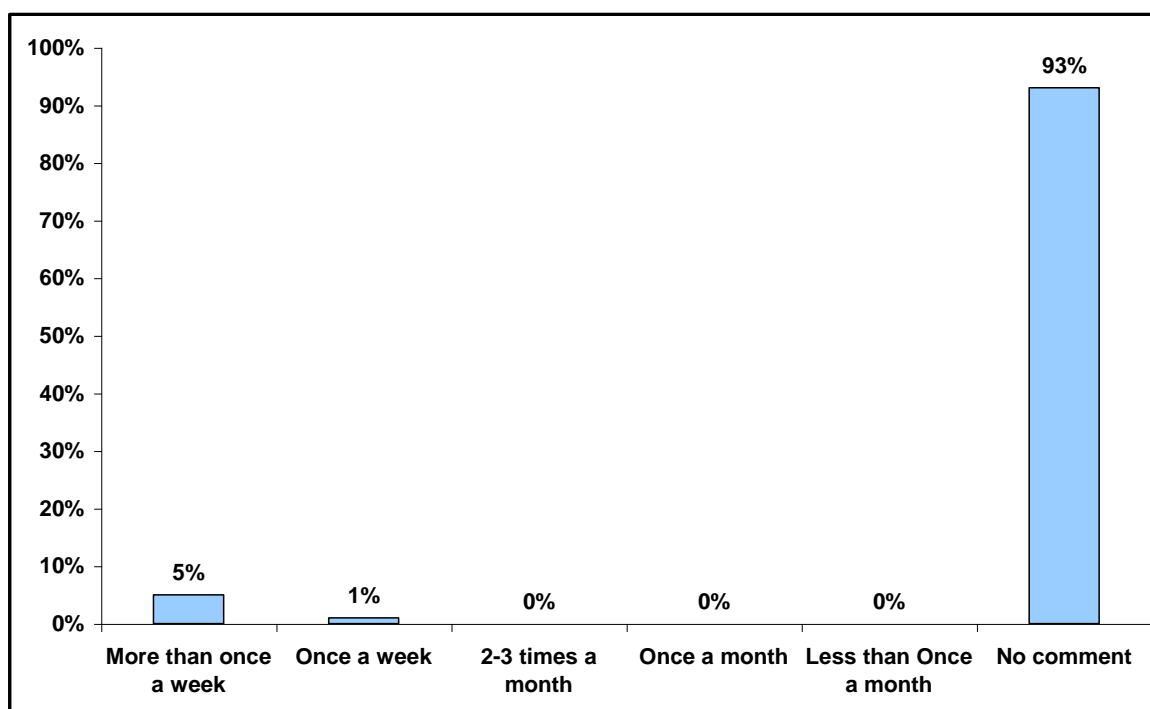
<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Amenity greenspace</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Size (ha)</b>
Harworth	8	4.23
Retford	20	9.61
Rural	40	20.42
Tuxford	10	6.50
Worksop	57	71.17
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>111.95</b>

#### Usage

The vast majority of respondents (93%) provided no comment to this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage or very occasional use. Reflecting the type of use we would expect for this type of provision i.e. dog walking, exercising or as a cut through, it is not uncommon, that of those that do use provision they do so frequently. It is worthy of note that the most responses to this question were generated from respondents living in Tuxford, suggesting that provision is better defined in these areas.

A small proportion (7%) of survey respondents have used a grassed area on a housing estate in the previous twelve months. The majority of those users are split between respondents from Worksop (39%) and Retford (30%).

*Figure 6.1: Frequency of usage of grassed areas on housing estates*



### Accessibility

The majority of respondents (74%) provided no comment on how far they would be willing to travel to access grassed areas on housing estates and it is likely that this reflects non usage. However, 10% were willing to walk less than five minutes, whilst a further 5% would walk for just 5-10 minutes. This is not uncommon with provision of this nature, which is generally provided and accessed on a local basis.

Figure 6.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a grassed area on housing estates

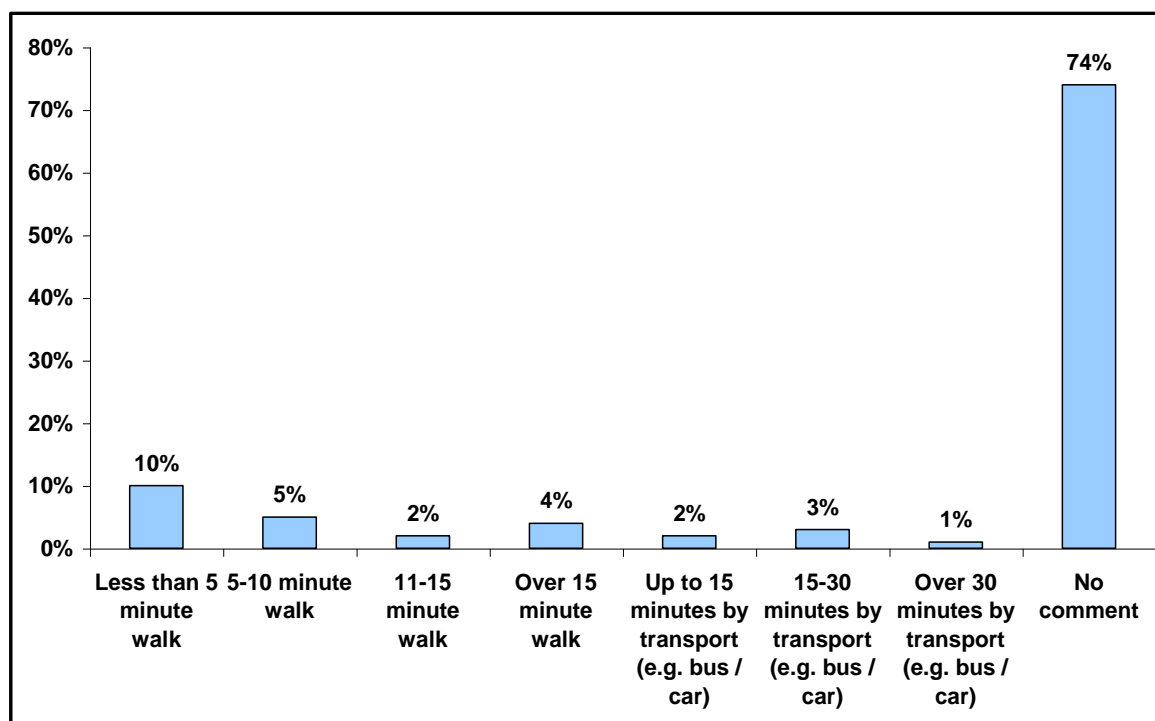
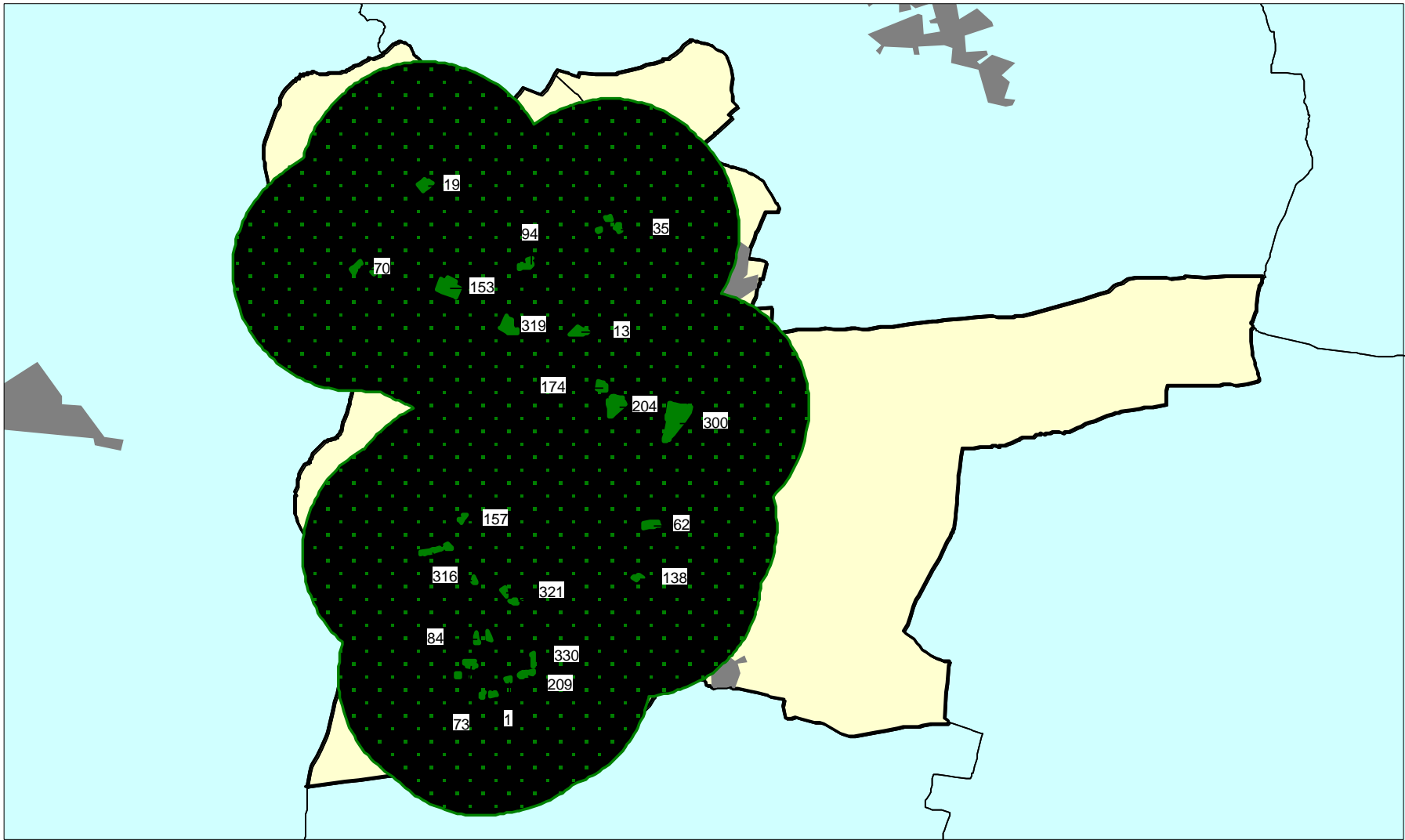


Figure 6.3: Amenity greenspace with 10 minute (half-mile) walk catchments





*Figure 6.4: Amenity greenspace in Retford with 10 minute (half-mile) walk catchments*



*Figure 6.5: Amenity greenspace in Worksop with 10 minute (half-mile) walk catchments*

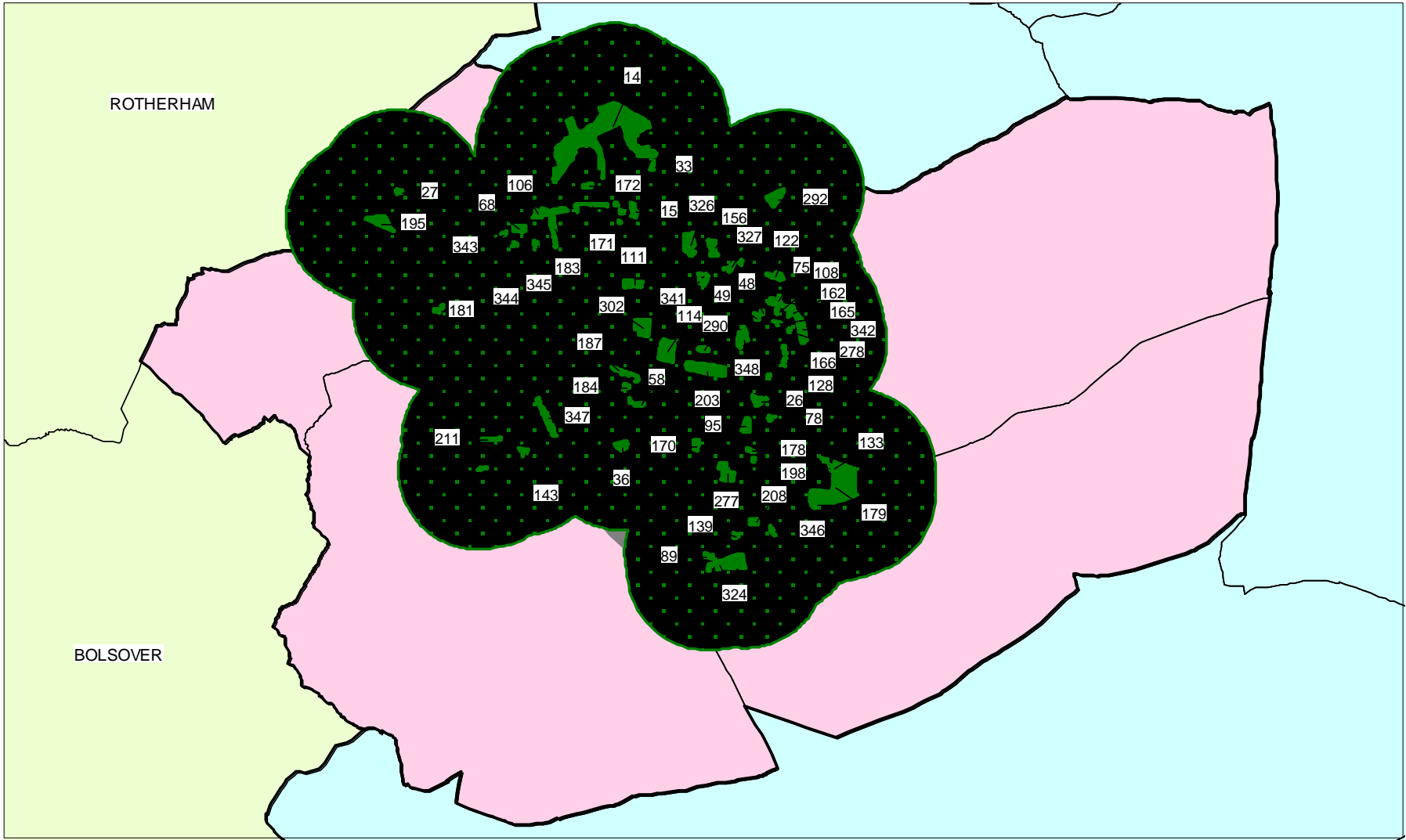
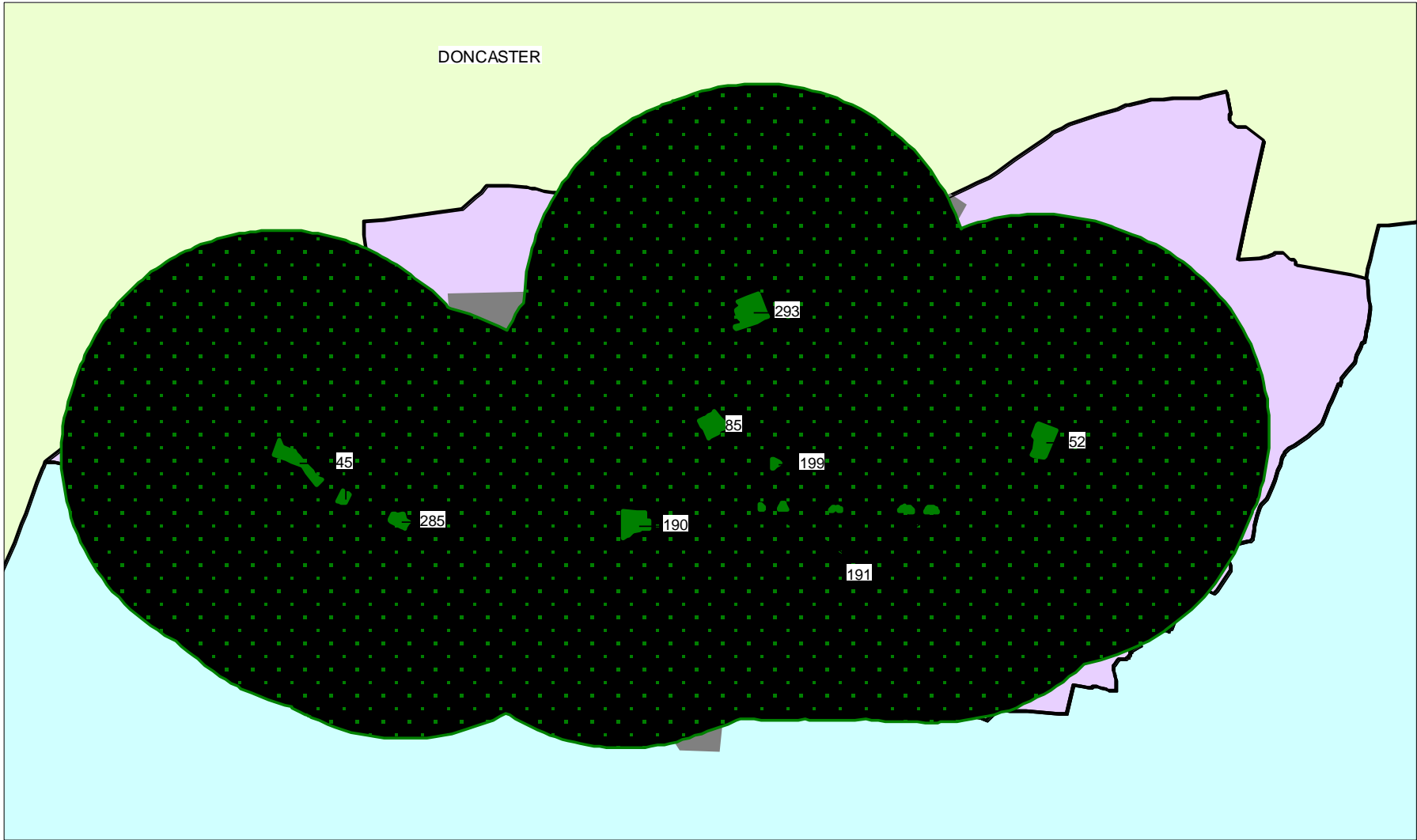


Figure 6.6: Amenity greenspace in Harworth with 10 minute (half-mile) walk catchments



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*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
38	Chestnut Road	Rural Hodsock		
42	Cleveland Close	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
46	Old Well Cottages, Corner of High Street	Rural East Markham		
53	Dadley Road / Northway	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
60	Dyscarr Close	Rural Hodsock		
64	Elmsmere Drive	Rural Styrrup with Oldcotes		
67	Fox Covert Lane	Rural Walkeringham		
79	Grange Avenue	Rural Misterton		
80	Grange Close/Doncaster Road	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
92	Hawthorne Close	Rural North Leverton		
98	Land North of Beckingham Primary School Playing Fields	Rural Beckingham		
100	Land off High Street Opp war Memorial	Rural Misterton		
109	Knott End	Rural Hodsock		
110	Littleborough road	Rural Sturton Le Steeple		
115	Land to the East of All Saint Church	Rural Beckingham		
116	Land off High Street	Rural Gringley on the Hill		
120	Land Off Great North Road	Rural Gamston		
132	Manor Farm Rise	Rural North Leverton		
148	Millenium Green	Rural Mattersey		
158	Oaks Close	Rural Ranskill		
160	Land off Old Hall Lane	Rural East Markham		
168	Town Street	Rural Sutton		

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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
202	South of Pembroke Road	Rural Blyth		
236	Blacksmiths Playing Fields	Rural North Leverton		
266	Station Avenue	Rural Ranskill		
281	The Church Green	Rural Blyth		
283	The Green	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
284	The Green	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
286	The Green, Hall Lane	Rural East Markham		
288	The Old Mill Farm	Rural North Wheatley		
291	High Street	Rural Blyth		
298	Top Street	Rural North Wheatley		
299	Town Street	Rural Sutton		
309	Village Green	Rural Misson		
317	Land West of Rectory Gardens	Rural Beckingham		
320	Northumberland Avenue	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
322	Willow Avenue	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
325	Windsor Road	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
329	Winston Green	Rural Mattersey		
331	Woodhouse Lane	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
30	Broading Lane	Tuxford		
61	Eldon Green	Tuxford		
144	Memorial Hall	Tuxford		
161	Old Vicarage - St Peter's Church	Tuxford		
282	The Green	Tuxford		
312	The Green, War Memorial	Tuxford		
349	Kennedy Court/Keats Crescent	Tuxford		
351	Burleigh Court	Tuxford		

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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
352	Linden Avenue, Pocket Park	Tuxford		
353	Newark Road various spaces in the estate	Tuxford		
45	Common Lane	Harworth		
52	Cumberland Close	Harworth		
85	Grosvenor Road	Harworth		
190	Scrooby Road	Harworth		
191	Scrooby Road	Harworth		
199	Shrewsbury Road	Harworth		
285	The Green	Harworth		
293	Thoresby Close	Harworth		
1	Adjacent Grange Farm, Ollerton Road	Retford		
13	Amcott Way	Retford		
19	Barnes Croust	Retford		
35	Carr Hill Road	Retford		
62	Grounds of Elms Hotel, London Road	Retford		
70	Galway Crescent	Retford		
73	Gleneagles Way	Retford		
84	Greenway	Retford		
94	Heathfield Gardens	Retford		
138	Marquis Gardens	Retford		
153	Old school site, North Road	Retford		
157	Northumbria Drive	Retford		
174	Land behind the Museum, Grove Street	Retford		
204	Spa Common	Retford		
209	Land off St Andrews Way	Retford		
300	Trent Street	Retford		
316	Off West Hill Road	Retford		
319	West Retford Hotel	Retford		
321	Wharnccliffe Road	Retford		
330	Wollaton Rise	Retford		
14	Gateford Common, Ashes Park Avenue	Worksop		
15	Raymoth Lane / Avon Way	Worksop		
26	Bracebridge Avenue	Worksop		
27	Briar Lea	Worksop		
33	Carlton Road/Rydal Drive	Worksop		
36	Castle Hill, Norfolk St	Worksop		
48	Cowper Close	Worksop		
49	Plantation Hill, Cowper Close	Worksop		

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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
58	Dock Road	Worksop		
68	Fulmar Way	Worksop		
75	Goldsmith Road	Worksop		
78	Gordon Close	Worksop		
89	Hannah Park View	Worksop		
95	Land off High Hoe Road	Worksop		
106	Blackbird Avenue	Worksop		
108	Kipling Close	Worksop		
111	Post 16 Centre, Valley Road	Worksop		
114	Clinton Maltkilns, Carlton Road	Worksop		
122	Larwood Avenue	Worksop		
128	Masefield Place	Worksop		
133	Manton Villas	Worksop		
139	Martlet Way	Worksop		
143	Meadow Lea	Worksop		
156	Northumbria Close	Worksop		
162	Osberton View	Worksop		
165	Plantation Hill	Worksop		
166	Sitwell Close/ Plantation Hill	Worksop		
170	Priory Church, Cheapside	Worksop		
171	Raymoth Lane / Buckingham Rise	Worksop		
172	Raymoth Lane / Roundhouse Crescent	Worksop		
178	Retford Road	Worksop		
179	Land off Retford Road	Worksop		
181	Royds Crescent	Worksop		
183	Sanderling Road	Worksop		
184	Sandhill Street	Worksop		
187	Sandy Lane	Worksop		
195	Shireoaks Common	Worksop		
198	Shrewsbury Road	Worksop		
203	South Parade	Worksop		
208	Spur Crescent	Worksop		
211	St Annes Drive	Worksop		
277	Talbot Road, Radford Street	Worksop		
278	Thackery Close	Worksop		
290	The Oval	Worksop		
292	Thievesdale Lane	Worksop		
302	Turner Road	Worksop		
324	Windmill Lane	Worksop		
326	Wingfield Avenue	Worksop		

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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
327	Wingfield Avenue/Blyth Road	Worksop		
341	Daneshill Road	Worksop		
342	Greenacre Training Centre	Worksop		
343	Thackeray Close	Worksop		
344	Lark Spinney	Worksop		
345	Avocet Grove	Worksop		
346	Bracebridge	Worksop		
347	Kingston Road	Worksop		
348	Beaumont Rise	Worksop		

Mapping shows that generally, main settlement areas, where there is greatest population density, contain amenity greenspace. A number of rural settlements do not have access to provision within walking distance; the most notable gap in provision is in Elkesley.

Across the District, consultation identifies that where amenity greenspaces are provided e.g. village greens, they play a valuable role in community life, providing social focal points for community events and opportunities for informal play and recreation. However, there is little demand for additional provision, particularly in the rural settlements of the District, as residents in these areas consider access to the surrounding countryside to provide adequate informal recreation opportunity.

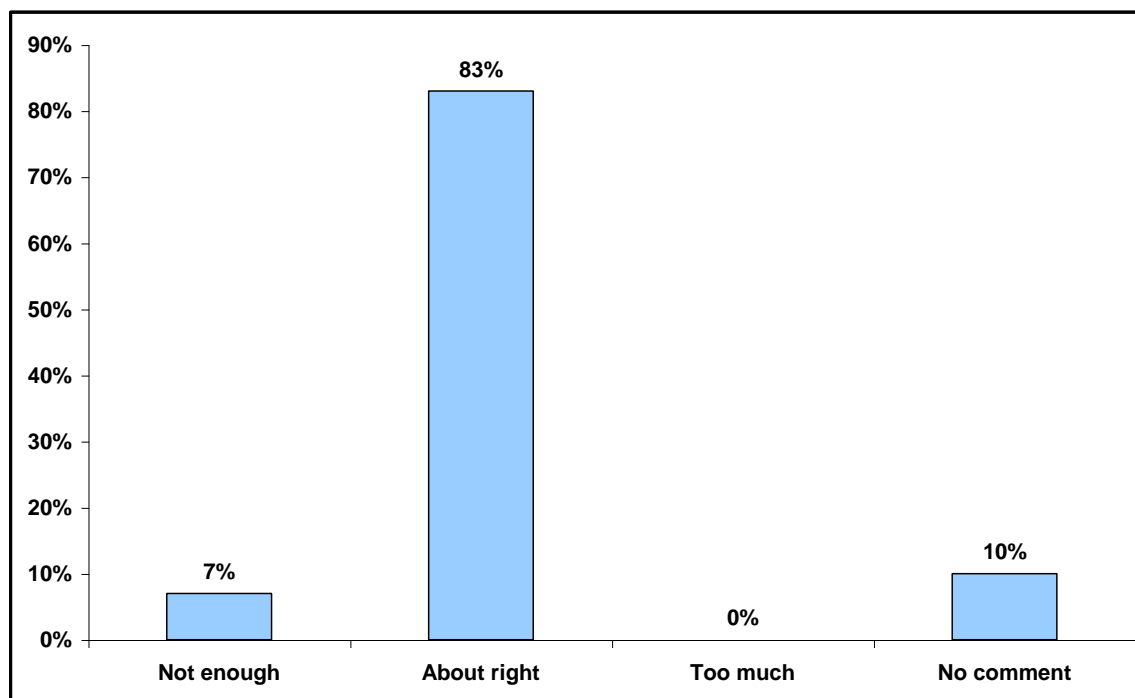
The majority of parishes in Bassetlaw have a village green or area of amenity greenspace. Consultation indicates that these are highly valued by local residents due to the lack of formal open space provision, particularly in more rural settlements. Village greens often act as a community focus hosting community activities such as fetes.

There is concern amongst residents with regard to access to Retford's Old Elizabethan School site, which has been vacant for six years but has not yet been cleared of rubble. The site has been unofficially used by residents as an amenity greenspace and consultation highlights that the site is considered to be a valuable open space resource which could potentially offer informal recreation opportunities. The site has now been fenced off and is available for public usage, pending full consultation on its future open space usage. BDC has intentions to install a NEAP on the site in the future.

On the whole it appears that respondents are happy with the provision of grassed areas with over four fifths (83%) rating availability as "about right". Only a small proportion (7%) do not consider there to be enough provision across Bassetlaw. Of those who believe that there is "not enough" green space in housing estates, 84% are from Worksop and only 8% from both Retford and Tuxford.



Figure 6.5: Availability of grassed area on housing estate



### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for amenity greenspace in Bassetlaw.

Table 6.2: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Harworth	0	6	2
Retford	1	0	19
Rural	0	3	37
Tuxford	2	1	7
Worksop	4	3	50
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>115</b>

In terms of quality the majority (85%) of amenity greenspaces in the BDC audit are rated good. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. However, dog fouling was noted as a major issue on sites in the Harworth area.

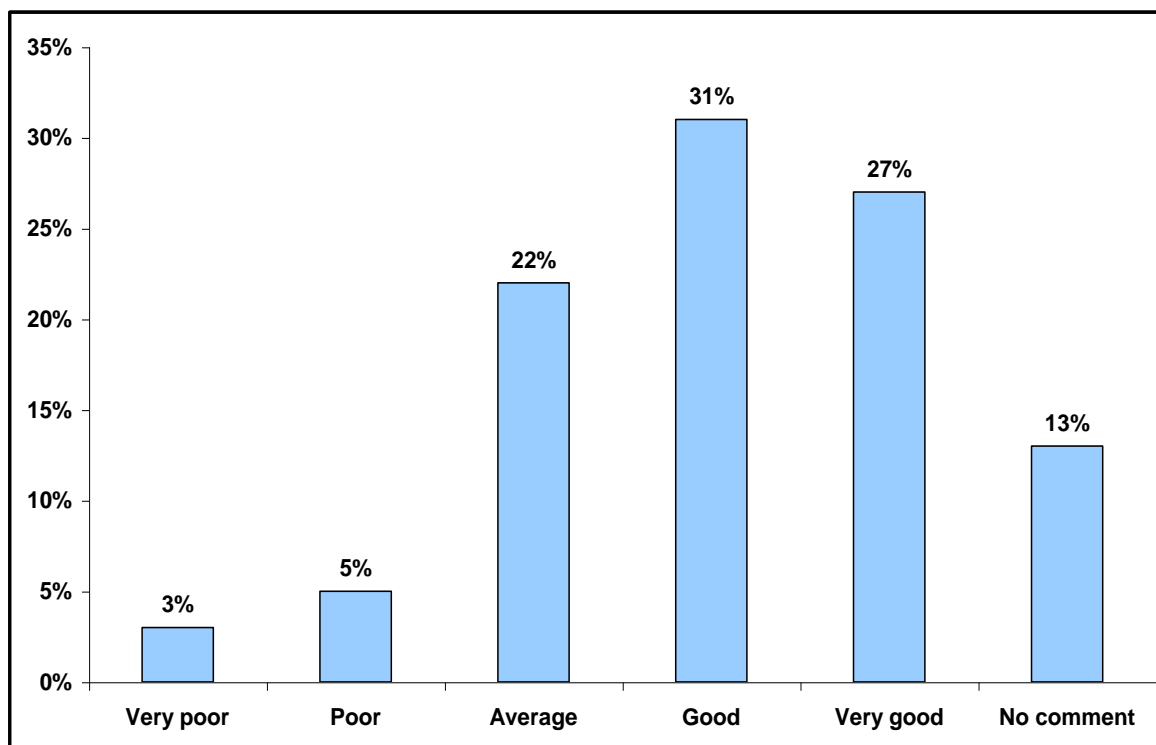
Amenity greenspaces are popular sites for recreational dog walking. The associated issue of dog foul is a common concern. Other users of such space highlight that the problem impacts negatively on site usage, particularly by children for informal play. There is demand for greater provision of dog foul bins and enforcement. However, the resource implications of providing bins are significant, as they need to be emptied on a regular basis, particularly in summer.

As dog waste is no longer considered hazardous it can now be disposed off in ordinary litterbins. Awareness of this could be raised to encourage responsible behaviour by dog owners. BDC recognises that the issue of dog foul has a significant impact on the quality and usage of sites in the area and is being proactive to address the problem.

A significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the District is composed of grassed areas and verges adjacent to housing or lining roads leading into settlements. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of the areas. Community groups highlight that good quality amenity greenspaces are well-used, valuable assets, providing social focal points for the community.

The street survey found that 58% of all respondents rate the quality of grassed areas on a housing estate as above average (good/very good) and just over one fifth (22%) rate them as average. Only 8% of respondents' believes them to be of below average quality (5% poor, 3% very poor). Notably, no respondents from Harworth rate the quality of grassed areas on housing estates to be poor or very poor. Over half (60%) of respondents from Harworth consider quality of provision to be good with the remainder rating it very good (36%) and average (4%). As is not uncommon within this survey, the vast majority (93%) of respondents who cited grassed areas as being very poor were from Workop.

*Figure 6.6: Quality of grassed area on housing estates*



# BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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### Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for amenity greenspaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 6.3: Value ratings for amenity greenspaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Value ratings	
	Poor	Good
Harworth	0	8
Retford	3	17
Rural	5	35
Tuxford	0	10
Worksop	2	55
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>125</b>

As stated earlier, a significant proportion of the amenity greenspace in the District is composed of grass verges adjacent to housing. Playing fields and recreation grounds also form an intrinsic aspect of the supply. Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of housing estates and residential areas. Site assessments also recognise this with the vast majority (92%) scoring highly. Supporting the views of residents that amenity greenspaces are a valuable community resource, a large proportion of sites assessed score for social inclusion and health benefits, particularly due to the play opportunities offered.

### Summary

#### Amenity greenspace summary

- There are 135 amenity greenspace sites, totalling just over 110 hectares across Bassetlaw. They are most often found in housing estates and function as informal recreation spaces or as open spaces along highways that provide a visual amenity.
- The majority of users would accept up to a 5 minute walk to access provision. However, a reasonable proportion would also accept up to 10 minute walk. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision.
- Mapping shows that generally, main settlement areas, where there is greatest population density, contain amenity greenspace. There are a number of rural settlements that do not have access to provision within walking distance and the most notable gap in provision is in Elkesley. However, on the whole it appears that respondents are happy with the provision of grassed areas with over four fifths (83%) rating availability as “about right”.
- In terms of quality the majority (93%) of amenity greenspaces within the BDC audit are rated as good. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. However, dog fouling was noted as a major issue on sites in the Harworth area.
- Consultation identifies that residents consider this type of open space provision to be particularly valuable for the visual environs of housing estates and residential areas. Site assessments also recognise this with the vast majority (92%) scoring highly.

## **PART 7: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **Introduction**

The typology of provision for children and young people, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes 'areas designated primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.'

### **Key issues**

#### ***Current provision***

55 sites in Bassetlaw are classified as provision for children and young people, totalling just under 28 hectares. The table below shows the distribution of play areas in Bassetlaw by analysis area. This, along with the mapping illustrates a higher level of provision in the rural analysis area.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of play areas by analysis area*

Analysis area	Children's play areas	
	Number	Size (ha)
Harworth	2	2.31
Retford	6	4.54
Rural	32	7.03
Tuxford	4	1.21
Worksop	11	12.85
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>27.95</b>

Play areas are classified in the following ways utilising Fields In Trust (FIT) guidance to identify their effective catchment (how far residents are willing, on average, to travel to access the different types).

- ✦ A local area for play (LAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.01 hectares and contain more than or equal to one piece of play equipment.
- ✦ A local equipped for play (LEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.04 hectares and contain more than or equal to five pieces of play equipment.
- ✦ A neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP). This area must be more than or equal to 0.1 hectares and contain more than or equal to eight pieces of play equipment. This area may contain MUGA, skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
- ✦ A settlement equipped play area (SEAP) caters for all ages and contains more than or equal to ten pieces of play equipment. This is likely to include multi-use games areas (MUGAs), skateparks, youth shelters, adventure play equipment and is often included within large park sites.
- ✦ Skateboard/basketball/teenage shelter. This includes areas providing only provision for young people.

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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BDC owned equipped play areas are subject to an annual inspection, which categorises these play areas into NEAPs and LEAPs. Of these, two meet the NEAP standard and seven meet the LEAP standard (including new and planned provision which is not detailed in table 7.4). The majority of BDC sites are unclassified, meaning they do not meet either the NEAP or LEAP standard for one reason or another. Parish council owned play areas generally have a wider range of functioning play equipment that is well maintained, but do not have an annual inspection and are not classified.

BDC is also obliged, as are all local authorities, by central Government, to collect and report on a number of best value performance Indicators (BVPIs) that explicitly reflect public perceptions of services provided. The table below shows the results for 2005/06 and 2006/07<sup>1</sup>, along with the targets for future years.

*Table 7.2: Actual and target BVPIs for BDC*

Definition	2005/06 actual	2006/07 actual	2007/08 target	2008/09 target	2009/10 target
Number of playgrounds provided per 1,000 children	1.30	1.35	1.50	1.64	1.78
% of playgrounds that conform to NPFA standards	4%	15%	18%	23%	25%
Public satisfaction with parks and open spaces (including play provision)	65% (2003/04)	59%	Not required	Not required	65%

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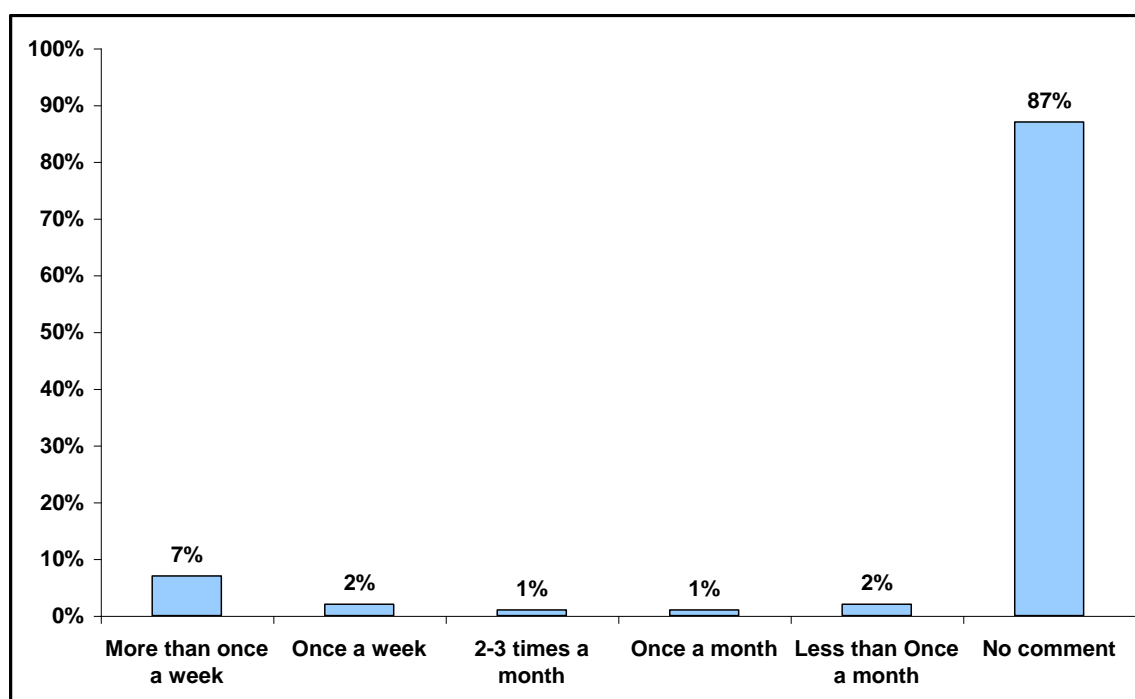
<sup>1</sup> Source: Bassetlaw Play Strategy 2007 - 2010

#### Usage

Just over one tenth of all respondents (13%) have visited a play area for children (PAC) in Bassetlaw in the previous 12 months. Of those that have visited PACs, 7% do so once a week or more.

The majority of respondents (87%) do not provide a comment. This is not uncommon, particularly when you consider that of these, 96% have no children aged 0-4, 92% have no children aged 5-9 and 92% have no children aged 10-15.

*Figure 7.1: Frequency of usage of play areas for children in the last 12 months*

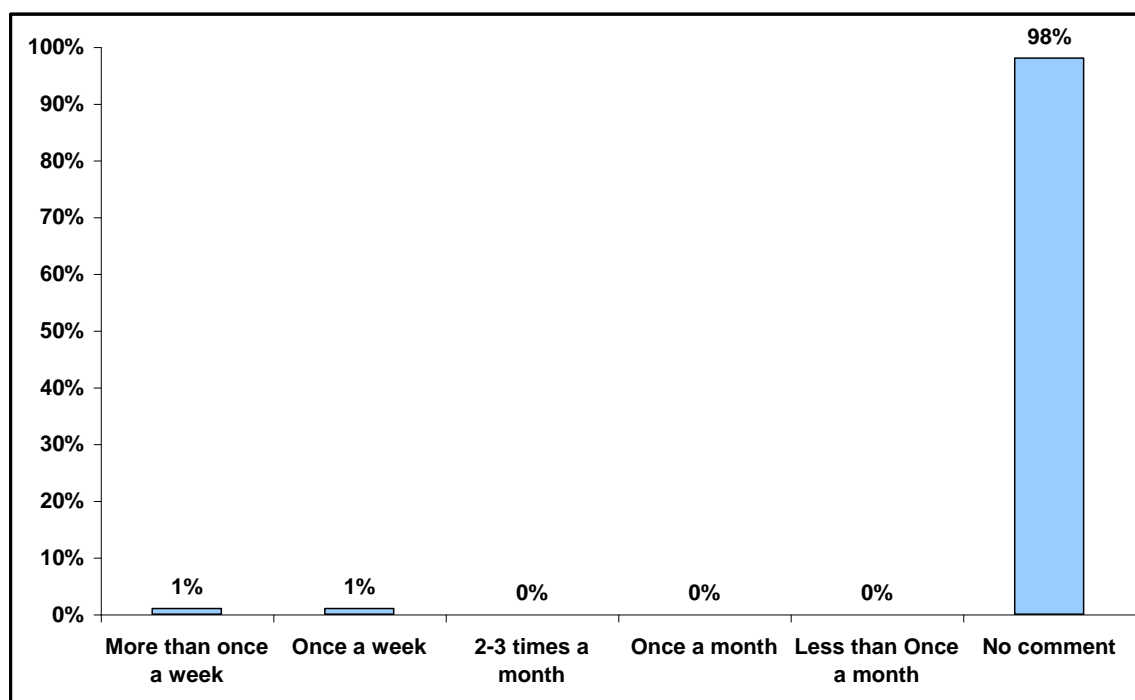


The usage figure is even lower when considering provision for teenagers (PFT) dropping to just 3%. However, it should be noted that the survey is conducted with people aged 16+ and it is, therefore, not surprising that the level of usage is comparably lower as teenagers tend to access such provision without adult supervision.

Only 11 respondents indicate that they visit PFTs; the results shown below (in percentage terms) showing usage and frequency should, thus, be treated with some caution.

Again, the vast majority of respondents (98%) do not provide a comment. This is not uncommon, particularly when you consider that of these, 93% have no children at home 16+ and 91% had no children aged 10-15

*Figure 7.2: Frequency of usage of teenage play areas in the previous 12 months*



Consultation highlights that misuse of children's play areas by teenagers and "undesirables" impedes 'genuine' usage by young children and their parents. Users identify a number of play areas that are perceived to be 'hot-spots' for anti-social behaviour and misuse e.g. Snipe Park, Harworth.

The children's play area and skatepark located at the Canch is, reportedly, a popular congregation point for large groups of young people and as a result it suffers from high levels of litter. Parents report that they are often deterred from taking their children to play here for fear of encountering foul language and intimidation. There have also been reports of threatening/daunting behaviour at Gateford Play Area where there has been misuse and vandalism in the past but it is thought the damage is now repaired.

### **Accessibility**

BDC provides play areas from toddler through to U14 age groups. There has traditionally been a gap in the provision of play areas for U14 – U18. However, this has recently been filled via provision of MUGAs across the District. BDC also provides three skateparks at The Canch, Kings Park and Langold County Park, which are seen to meet demand for youth provision. This is further reflected in the street survey results which show that 75% of respondents rate provision of teenage play to be about right. Consultation found skateparks to be popular with the younger community.

Bassetlaw Play Strategy investigates 'barriers to play' which in Bassetlaw often includes, fear for safety from traffic and bullying. Parents believe these often prevent children from accessing a park or meeting point unless accompanied by an adult. This dependence on adult availability and inclination, results in children not accessing provision as often as they would like.

Consultation also reveals the extent of negative attitudes many members of the public have towards children and young people. In some cases these attitudes prevent children from moving freely around their local community. Barriers faced by children are often linked with “territories”. Consultation highlights a perception that the Manton area of Worksop is “undesirable” and there are issues with territorialism. This is thought to restrict children and young people from neighbouring areas using the play areas in Manton.

It is essential that parents, carers and members of the public are made aware of the importance of play and of children’s rights to play in their local communities. Creative and innovative ways need to be found to involve all sectors of the community in better understanding play.

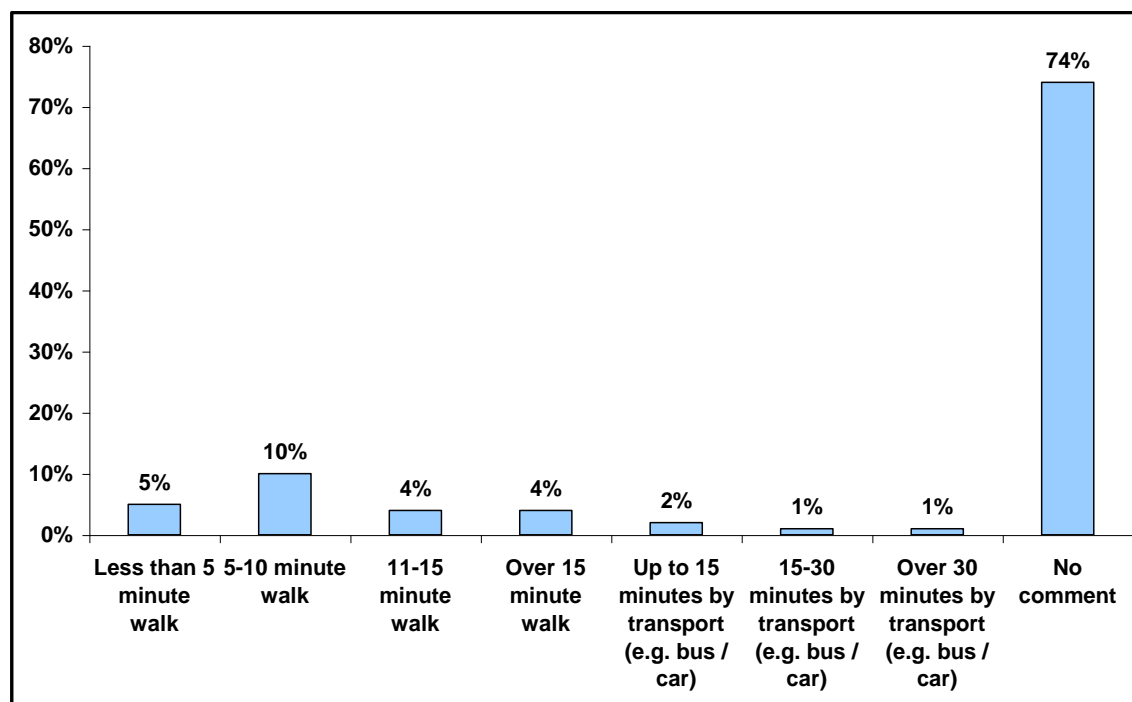
Due to the rural nature of the District the lack of accessible public transport provision means that some children miss out on play unless it is happening in their immediate local area. Residents report that the bus service is particularly infrequent after six o’clock in the evening.

Just under one quarter (23%) of respondents will walk to reach a PAC; the majority (10%) willing to walk 5-10 minutes. Only a small proportion (4%) of respondents are willing to travel by transport (car, bus etc) in order to reach PACs. Consultation with mother and toddler groups further supports this, highlighting that accessing provision by public transport is difficult with young children and, whilst the bus service is considered to be inexpensive and regular, the routes do not always stop near to parks and play areas and, often more than one bus journey is required.

Significantly large proportions (74%) of street survey respondents provide no comment in relation to how far they are willing to travel to visit a PAC; this reflects the low usage level recorded amongst respondents (not uncommon for play areas as the survey respondents must be over 16 to take part). Consultation with parents of young children identifies that the majority of parents expect to be able to access a children’s play area within a 5 to 15 minute walk.



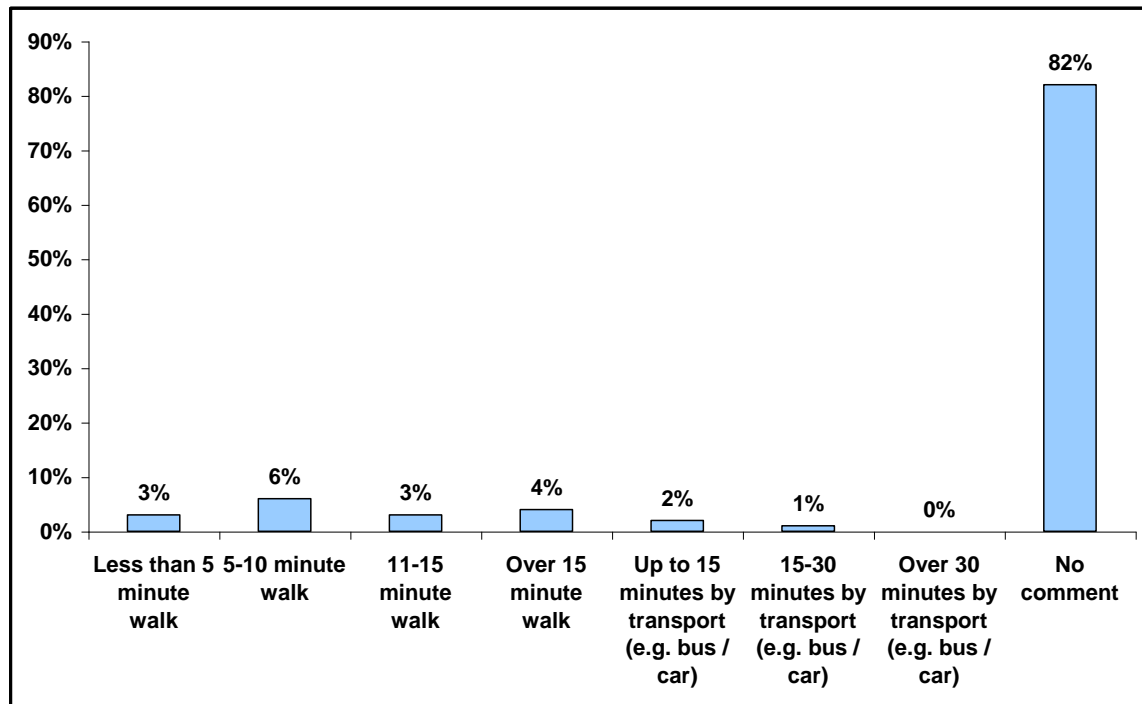
*Figure 7.3: Time prepared to travel to reach a children's play area*



16% of respondents expect to walk to reach a PFT. Of these, just under a third will walk 5-10 minutes to access provision. Reflecting the low usage levels amongst respondents, the majority (82%) do not comment on how far they are willing to travel to access PFT (again, this reflects the fact that the survey does not include people aged under 16).

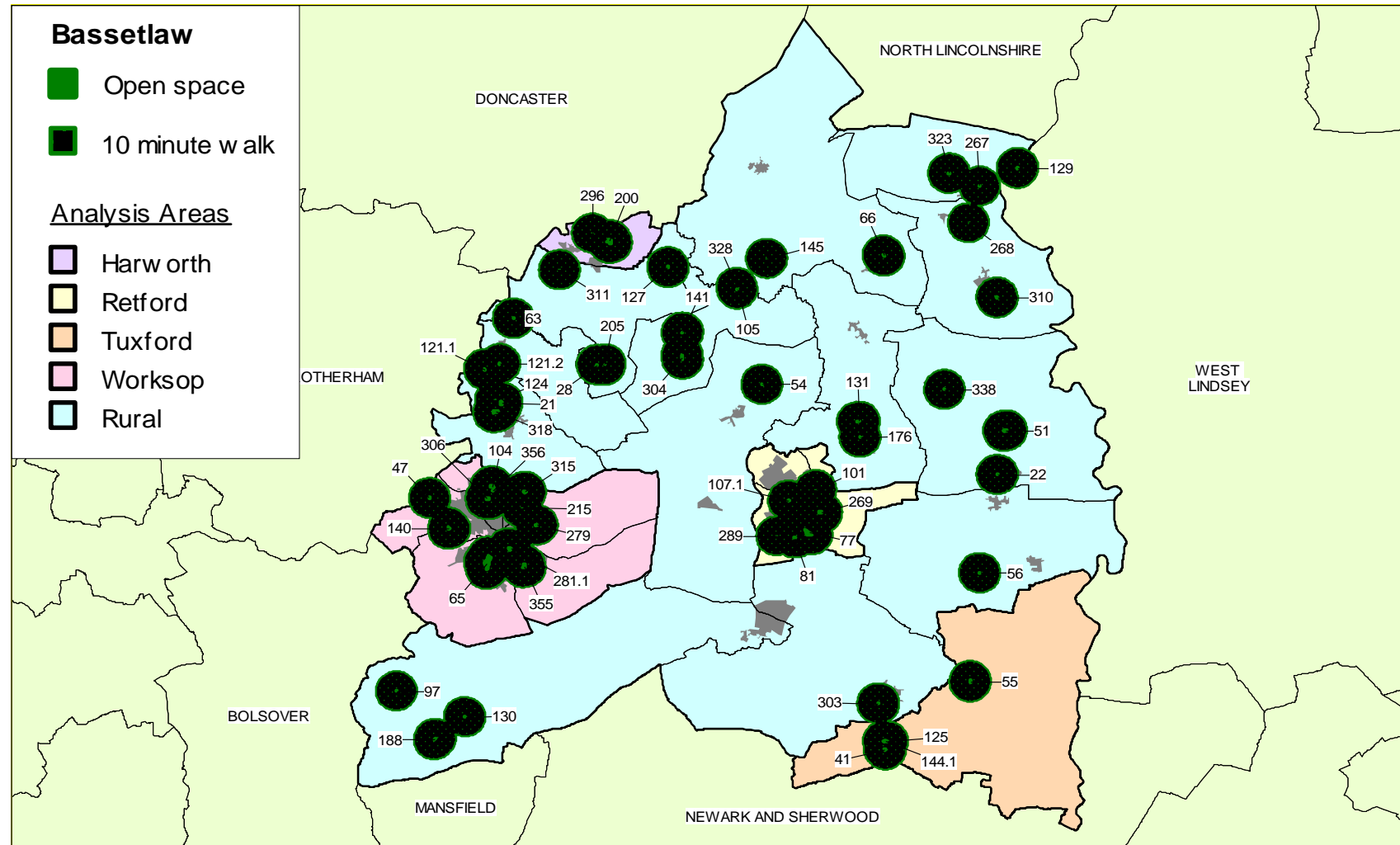
Consultation with young people in Bassetlaw found that they prefer to have the option to access provision, such as parks, play areas and MUGAs and skateparks on foot or by bicycle; they are prepared to walk for an average of 20 minutes and cycle for slightly longer. Public transport and car use was the least popular method of transport and probably further reflects a lack of public transport stops near to provision and/or a lack of car parking at such sites.

*Figure 7.4: Time prepared to travel to reach a teenage play area*



## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 7.5: Provision for children and young people mapped against settlement areas with 10 minute (half-mile) walk catchments



# BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
200	Snipe Park Play Area	Harworth		
296	Tommy Simpson Play ground, Land off Bawtry Road	Harworth		
77	Goosemoor Lane	Retford		
81	Grange Road	Retford		
101	Hillcrest Mews	Retford		
107.1	Kings Park	Retford		
269	Strawberry Road	Retford		
289	Rufford Ave	Retford		
21	Beckett Avenue/West Ramsden Crescent	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
22	Blacksmiths Playing Fields	Rural North Leverton		
28	Briber Road/ Sherwood Crescent	Rural Blyth		
51	Cross Street	Rural Sturton Le Steeple		
54	Daneshill Road	Rural Lound		
56	Denby Drive	Rural Rampton		
63	Elmsmere Drive	Rural Styrrup with Oldcotes		
66	Finkell Street	Rural Gringley on the Hill		
97	High Holbeck	Rural Holbeck		
105	Keyes Court	Rural Mattersey		
121.1	Country Park	Rural Hodsock		
121.2	Country Park	Rural Hodsock		
124	Limetree Avenue	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
127	Station Road	Rural Scrooby		
129	Off Main Street	Rural West Stockwith		
130	Main Street	Rural Norton		
131	Main Street	Rural Hayton		

# **BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY**

<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Quality score</b>	<b>Value score</b>
141	Mattersey Road	Rural Ranskill		
145	Metcalf Recreation Ground , High Street	Rural Everton		
176	Behind Village Hall, opposite Kings Head	Rural Clarborough and Welham		
188	School Lane	Rural Cuckney		
205	Spital Road	Rural Blyth		
267	Land off station street	Rural Misterton		
268	Land at the Junction of Stockwith Road and Mill Baulk Road	Rural Walkeringham		
303	Tuxford Road	Rural East Markham		
304	Underwood Avenue	Rural Torworth		
310	Village Hall, Playing Field	Rural Beckingham		
311	Village Hall, Styrrup Lane	Rural Styrrup with Oldcotes		
318	Land West of Village Hall	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
323	Windmill Gardens, Church Drive	Rural Misterton		
328	Winston Green	Rural Mattersey		
338	Low Pasture Lane	Rural South Wheatley		
41	Newark Road / Clark Lane	Tuxford		
55	Darlington road	Tuxford		
125	Linden Avenue	Tuxford		
144.1	Ashvale Road	Tuxford		
47	York Place	Worksop		
65	Farr Park, Westgate	Worksop		
104	Keswick Road	Worksop		
140	Mary Street	Worksop		
215	St Davids Close	Worksop		
279	Princess Margaret Playground / Thackery Close	Worksop		
281.1	Canch	Worksop		
306	Valley Road	Worksop		

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
315	Wensleydale Opp, Colsterdale	Worksop		
355	Shresbury Road	Worksop		
356	Raymoth Lane	Worksop		

The mapping above highlights that each significant settlement area across the District has access to at least one play area. The most plentiful provision is in the rural area, which covers a large geographic area. Gaps on the outskirts of the major settlements also reflect gaps identified during the consultation in Harworth and Bircotes and Worksop East and the Gateford area of Worksop.

BDC identifies gaps in provision of equipped children's play areas in the area around Sandy Drive and St Annes Drive in Worksop. Although it would like to see provision in this area, lack of suitable land has been an issue in the past.

Consultation reveals that lack of play provision is a significant issue in rural areas of the District. Although there is ample open space for natural play, there is very little by way of equipped play provision. Consultation and mapping highlights a lack of play equipment specifically in Babworth and South Leverton. Nether Langwith Parish Council also suggested a lack of children's play equipment but pointed out that it would be difficult to find a suitable location.

Schools in Bassetlaw have the potential to meet gaps in the availability of play areas, particularly where there is an identified lack of land available. A recent example of a new play area being provided by BDC is that located next to the new Gateford Children's Centre adjacent to a school site with a new play area (St. Johns Primary School on Raymoth Lane in Worksop).

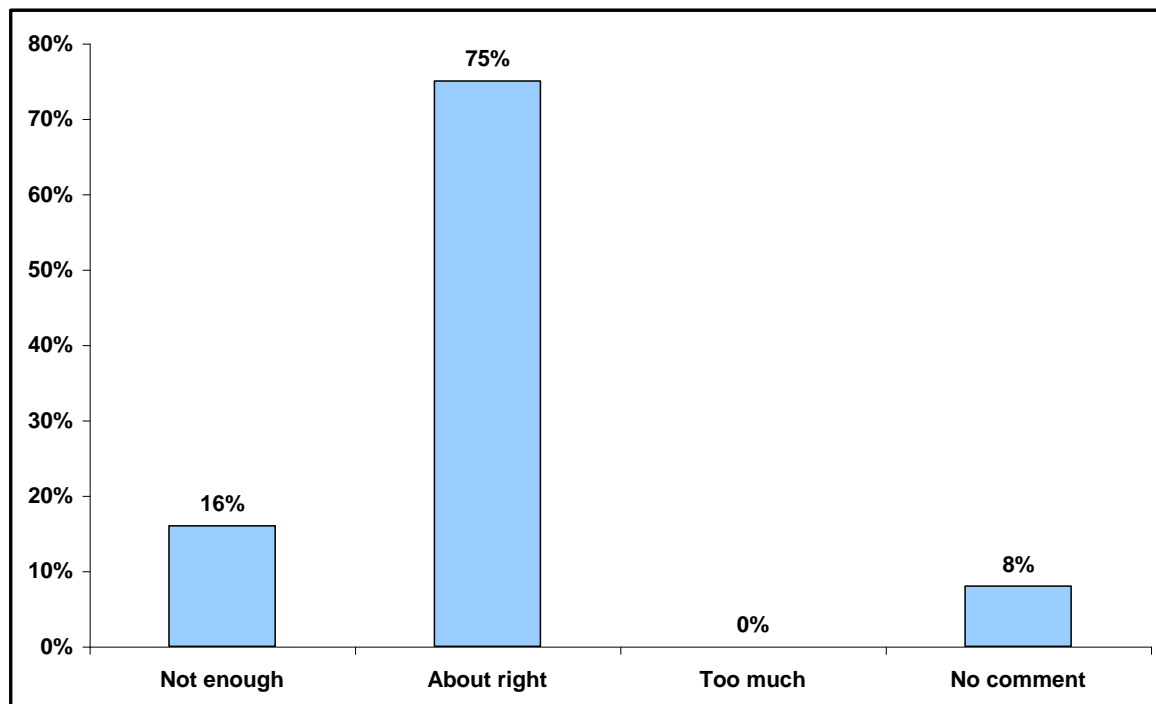
Health and safety fears, cost implications and vandalism fears all attribute to schools being notoriously difficult to persuade to open facilities to the community, particularly primary schools. This stalemate situation is further exacerbated by Nottinghamshire County Council, which recently sent all schools a letter highlighting issues around informal community use. Misson Primary School is a good example of a school that has opened up its facilities to meet local demand in the area.

Consultation highlights plans to develop an adventure playground at Clumber Park. Currently there are no formal play areas in the Park, which is managed by the National Trust and residents would welcome this new provision.

The street survey results found that the majority (78%) of respondents who rate the availability of PACs as insufficient are from Worksop, compared to Retford (12%), Tuxford (9%) and other (1%). Similar results to these can be seen for the availability of PFTs (Worksop 74%, Retford 13%, Tuxford 11%, Harworth 1%, Other 1%). None of the survey respondents believe that there is too much provision of PACs or PFTs.

Three quarters (75%) of respondents consider provision of PACs to be "about right" and just over two thirds (71%) rate provision of PFTs as being "about right".

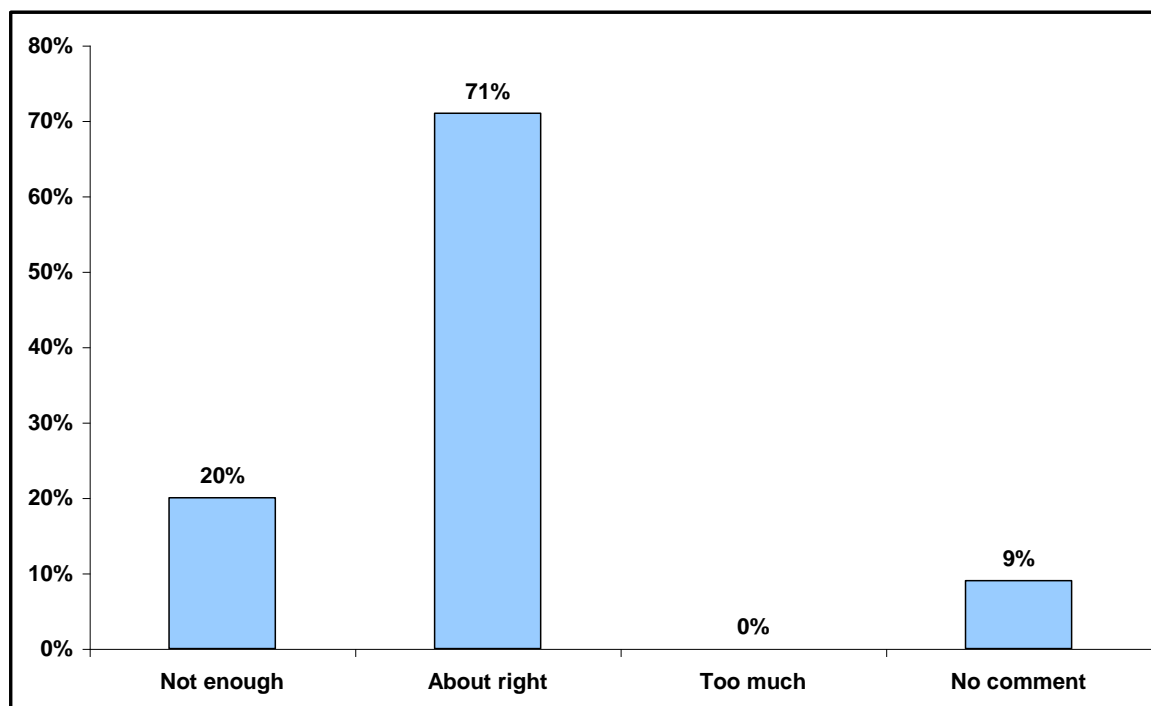
*Figure 7.8: Availability of children's play areas*



The teenagers and young people consulted at the FoYPiB event expressed a desire to have an increase in provision of:

- ◆ Tennis courts - primarily those from Valley School.
- ◆ Skate ramp with a steep gradient – particularly those from Portland School and Valley School.
- ◆ BMX track/specialist facilities.

Figure 7.9: Availability of teenage play areas



There are a number of opportunities for children and young people to meet in Bassetlaw. Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Services organise under 14 clubs in Bircotes, Misterton and at Valley School in Worksop, which carry a nominal charge. It also runs a number of other youth projects across the area for young people aged over 13. The Youth Service runs adventure activity days, including water sports at Sandhill Lake, use of a mobile climbing wall and canoeing on the River Idle. It also has links with Sporting Chance.

The Extended Schools Agenda (Blue Skies) looks at small village provision through schools, and linking communities together to provide clubs. A single village might not be able to support a club or groups, but three or four villages could. It also provides minibus transport to facilities. Mobile youth buses are also in operation across the District.

The Phoenix Project is for 10-13 year olds and is aimed at disadvantaged and disaffected young people, particularly in the Manton area. It provides activity support, counselling and links to other services.

Aspirations have been expressed during consultation, to convert the unused building adjacent to North Nottinghamshire Arena into a youth club/centre for young people and for the area to also provide physical play opportunities.

### **Management**

Management of play provision primarily involves BDC and parish councils. Considering all provision across Bassetlaw, regardless of provider, the BDC Play Strategy outlines aims and objectives for the development of play across the District.



In Bassetlaw the potential for monies from Section 106 agreements to be prioritised for play provision is not always fully exploited. A scrutiny review Select Panel on Play Provision also identifies this as a key issue.

Key targets exists within the County Council's Children and Young Peoples Plan on development of new supplementary planning guidance to better inform planners and developers of the needs of children and young people, when allocating space for play. This includes reducing the immediate assumption of the need for fixed play equipment, which does not necessarily cater for all children and young people in the community.

2008 saw the opening of new or refurbished play areas funded by the Lottery through the BIG Lottery Fund in Tuxford, Manton and Ranskill and the NCC bid for government funding through the Playbuilder programme, secured £1.1 million to be spent over three years. Although this will be spent throughout Nottinghamshire, Gateford Park in Worksop will benefit together with Leverton Road in 2009/2010 and another site (yet to be decided) in 2010/2011.

Several parish councils are looking to develop additional play provision. Some of the examples mentioned earlier include, Lound (basketball), Rampton (equipped play area), Clarbrough and Welham (equipped play area), Elkesley (equipped play area), and Sturton-le-Steeple (youth shelter for teenagers).

#### ***The Play Strategy for Bassetlaw 2007 –2010***

One of the driving forces in BDC producing a play strategy was the recognition that Bassetlaw needs safe places to play and meet friends. The Strategy aims to assess and validate the opportunities to improve this position and identify programmes, projects and delivery mechanisms which will deliver these improvements.

It presents a range of priorities and actions designed to be used by the essential deliverers of play, which include BDC, Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC), town and parish councils and voluntary/community groups. The Strategy also serves to develop best practice in play provision and secure added value by joining up services and provisions to improve play opportunities for young people.

The Council's approach to play is based on the outcomes listed in "Best Play – What play provision should do for children" (Children's Play Council 2000). These are as follows:

- ✦ Extend the choice and control children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.
- ✦ Recognise the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.
- ✦ Manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
- ✦ Maximise the range of play opportunities.
- ✦ Foster independence and healthy self-esteem.
- ✦ Foster the child's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction.
- ✦ Foster the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge, understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.

#### ***Play Partnership***

BDC has developed a Play Partnership (BPP), which will have an advocacy role with regard to play. It will seek to secure sustainable solutions to play provision by feeding into strategic arenas such as the Local Area Agreement and Local Strategic Partnership and ensuring that 'the voice for play' is heard as the future of the District is discussed.

Performance of play related projects is monitored through the BPP which reports through the Children and Young Persons Group to the Local Strategic Partnership using a standard framework. Each objective laid out in the action plan is linked to specific milestones. The monitoring of these milestones is part of the role of BPP.

BPP considers the evaluation methods detailed under each of the objectives in the 'Best Play – What Play Should Do For Children' document which forms the basis of the Councils approach to play. BPP also uses the 'Criteria for an enriched play environment' suggested within the 'Best Play' document to assess the value offered by projects, now and in the future. The following specific outcomes were also sought:

- ✦ Town and parish councils to undertake play value audits of all their play spaces.
- ✦ More successful bids for external funding for play opportunities.
- ✦ More dedicated teenage play equipment.
- ✦ More informal, adventurous outdoor play opportunities.
- ✦ More local voluntary/community groups offering play opportunities or positive activities for teenagers in their own neighbourhoods.
- ✦ More provision for children with special needs.
- ✦ All playgrounds to be brought up to agreed Local Standards of quality and accessibility (Parish and Town Councils to adopt proposed Local Standards).

The BPP seeks to monitor the various action plans using indicators developed by the Children's Play Council, which include:

- ✦ Increase in customer satisfaction levels for services for children and young people.
- ✦ That the Bassetlaw Play Working Group forms an official Play Partnership.
- ✦ Number of voluntary/community groups offering activities for teenagers.
- ✦ Number of parents having all their requests for integrated play provision met.
- ✦ Number of children and young people attending summer play schemes.
- ✦ Number of children and young people attending informal outdoor play opportunities.
- ✦ Number of opportunities for children/young people to attend play provision locally.
- ✦ Number of children with special needs attending BDC/NCC play-schemes.

### **Nottinghamshire Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006**

The Children and Young Peoples Plan Vision Statement is that “*We will work together to provide integrated services for all children and young people in Nottinghamshire aged 0-19 to improve their life chances and to help them maximise their potential.*”

In delivering this vision for Nottinghamshire, the Plan aims to provide services which will enable children and young people to:

- ✦ Be Healthy - enjoying good physical, sexual and emotional health, through living a healthy lifestyle.
- ✦ Stay Safe - protected from harm, neglect, bullying, serious accidental injury and crime.
- ✦ Enjoy and Achieve - academically and socially, through play, leisure and recreation, as well as within school.
- ✦ Make a Positive Contribution - to the community and society, developing self-confidence and being engaged in decision making.
- ✦ Achieve Economic Well-being - taking up employment, training or further education opportunities.

### **Quality**

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for play areas in Bassetlaw.

*Table 7.2: Quality ratings for play areas by analysis area*

Analysis area	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Harworth	1	0	1
Retford	2	1	3
Rural	3	8	21
Tuxford	0	3	1
Worksop	2	5	4
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>

In the main, play areas in Bassetlaw are of good quality. Those located in rural areas are generally of better quality. Reportedly, BDC play areas tend to comprise old, dated equipment (some up to 20 years old). Examples include Thackery Close and The Canch play areas. The majority of the play areas in Bassetlaw are kit, fence and carpet (KFC) which are negatively stereotyped, for example KFCs are considered unable to provide opportunities for children to play imaginatively.

Several parish councils identify a need to improve local provision. Although Shireoaks Parish Council does not own/lease any open spaces, it identifies that York Place Play Area (owned by BDC) needs refurbishment. Oldcotes Parish Council also stated that the play equipment at Elmsmere Drive was in need of refurbishment. North Leverton with Hablesthorpe Parish Council has plans in place to refurbish its play area equipment.

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

There has been no budget allocated to renovate BDC play areas in recent years, only funding secured through Section 106 and Big Lottery funding. This in turn has raised the issue of longer term funding requirements for the maintenance of the new play areas. RCAN offers some support and advice with regard to long term funding opportunity.

The most recent Play Area Inspection Report for BDC was produced in 2008 following play area site visits. Significant report findings are summarised in the table below.

*Table 7.4: Summary of findings of the play area inspection report.*

Site name	Comments	Category	Risk <sup>2</sup>	Total play value
Tommy Simpson Recreation Ground	Good condition. Some fire-damage to back board of two basketball stands. Tommy Simpson. New play facilities will be installed in August 2009.	Not classified	Medium	26
Snipe Park	Good condition, tidy. Waterlogging and slight fire damage to two pieces of play equipment.	LEAP	Medium	62
Mattersey Thorpe (High)	Good condition/tidy. Black wet pour cracked.	Not classified	Medium	16
Mattersey Thorpe (Low)	Tidy. Ground brickwork in poor condition.	Not classified	Medium	26
Goosemoor Lane	Good condition, tidy.	NEAP	Medium	50
Grange Road	Good condition, rubbish on site. Need for equipment to be repainted.	Not classified	Medium	17
Kings Park	Tidy. Potential trip hazards at gates and edgings at various locations.	NEAP	High	110
Strawberry Road	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	High	25
The Oval	Tidy. Need to cut hawthorn hedge at gate	Not classified	Medium	21
Sherwood Crescent	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Medium	23
Beckett Avenue	Tidy. Wear pad recommended at entrance	Not classified	Medium	26
Limetree Avenue	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Medium	26
Pembroke Road	Good condition, tidy.	LEAP	Medium	57
Holbeck	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Medium	20
Langold Lake	Tidy. Potential trip hazard at diagonal supports on fence	Not classified	Medium	42

<sup>2</sup> Green = meets LEAP/NEAP categories  
 Yellow = could meet LEAP/NEAP at minimal cost  
 Red = should consider removing the site  
 No highlighting = extensive work required to meet LEAP/NEAP

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Site name	Comments	Category	Risk <sup>2</sup>	Total play value
Old Sidings	Glass present. Steps down embankment to rear of skate park in very poor condition, need to remove.	Not classified	High	20
Norton	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Medium	31
Ellesmere Drive	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Medium	30
Mary Street	Potential trip hazards at gate. Need to repair tarmac at various locations.	Not classified	Medium	39
York Place	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Medium	33
Canch	Good condition, tidy.	LEAP	High	66
Farr Park	Tidy. Potential trip hazards at entrance gates – recommend reinstating ground	NEAP	Medium	50
Keswick Road	Tidy. Need to repair potholes in grass.	Not classified	Medium	13
St David's Close	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Medium	9
Thackeray Close	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Low	20
Valley Road	Tidy. Potential trip hazard at post on bark retaining logs at gate.	Not classified	Medium	24
Wensleydale	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	Low	22
Linden Avenue	Good condition, tidy.	Not classified	High	26

Kings Park, Strawberry Road, Old Sidings and the Canch are all rated high risk because they have skateparks on site. Linden Avenue is high risk due to having a junior multi unit.

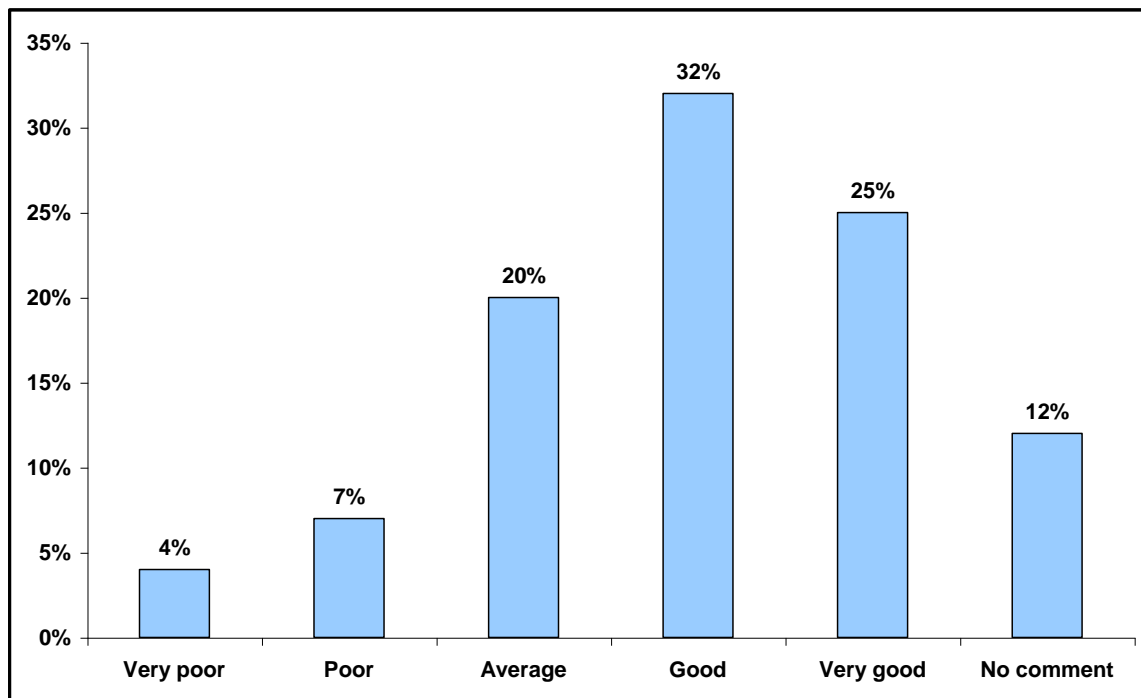
BDC assessed 28 sites and the average play value is generally highly rated. Two sites (Langold Lake and Mary Street) were identified as having potential to be improved in order to meet a LEAP/NEAP standard at a minimal cost. Provision at St David's Close was suggested for removal.

New play facilities will be installed at Leverton Road in March 2010.

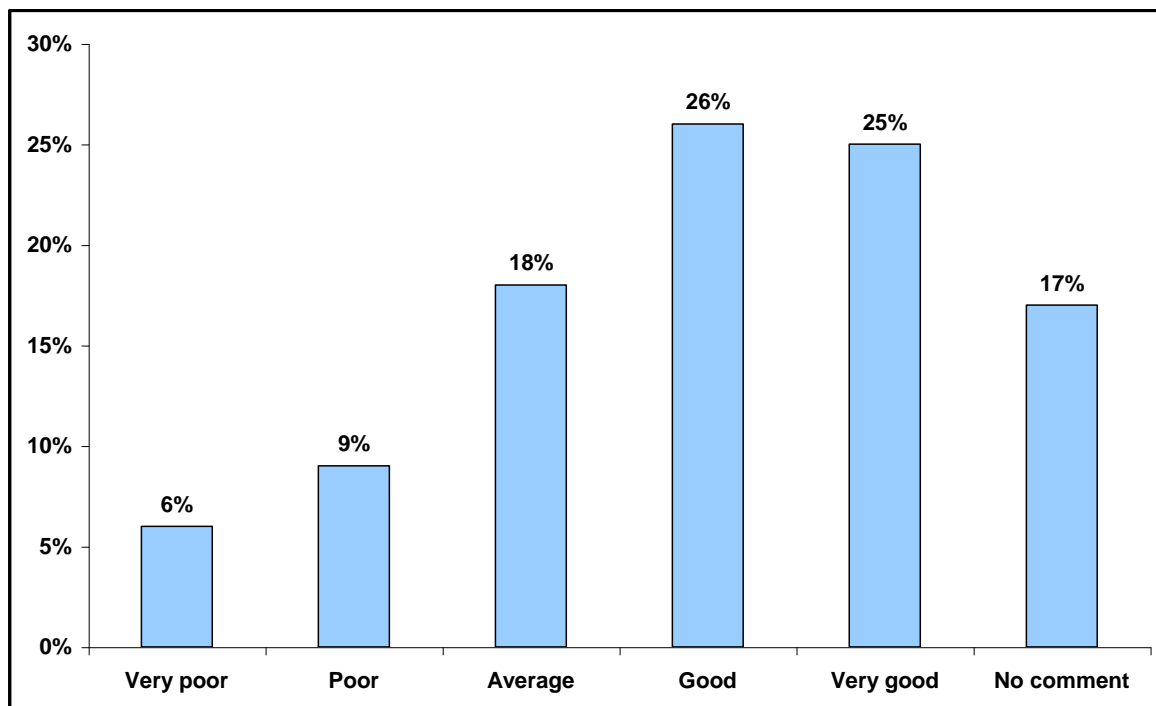
Over half (57%) of all respondents rate PAC quality as above average (good/very good), and one fifth (20%) rate them average. In contrast, only a small proportion (11%) rate quality of PAC provision as below average (poor/very poor). When looking at individual analysis areas, a higher proportion of respondents from Worksop (20%) consider PACs poor/very poor compared to 6% in Retford and 4% in Tuxford. 12% of respondents did not provide an opinion on the quality rating for PACs.

Of the 12% that did not provide an answer to the question, it is interesting to note that 62% were from Retford, where only two out of the six play areas score as high quality.

*Figure 7.10: Quality of provision of children's play areas*



*Figure 7.11: Quality of provision of teenage play areas*



## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Just over half (51%) of respondents rate the quality of provision of PFTs as above average (good/very good). A smaller proportion (18%) consider the quality of PFTs to be average, whilst 15% believe that sites across Bassetlaw are of below average (poor/very poor) quality. Once again, a larger number of respondents (29%) from Worksop consider quality of provision to be poor/very poor than those from Retford (7%), Tuxford (10%) and Harworth (2%). Ranskill Park reportedly suffers from vandalism, particularly to the basketball courts where hoops have been broken. There are also reports of high levels of litter/glass on the site. Despite this, the play area and sports facilities remain well used.

#### **Value**

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment play areas in Bassetlaw.

*Table 7.3: Value ratings for play areas by analysis area*

Analysis area	Value rating	
	Low	High
Harworth	-	2
Retford	-	6
Rural	-	32
Tuxford	-	4
Worksop	-	11
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	-	<b>55</b>

All play areas in Bassetlaw are assessed as high value, reflecting the consultation, which suggests that residents place high value upon play facilities. It is also important to recognise the benefits that play provides in terms of health, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus their developmental and educational value. Consultation identifies particular demand for the introduction of greater interactive, dynamic and natural play opportunities including elements of touch, sound and sight e.g. play panels, talk tubes, water based play, sand.

### Summary

#### Provision for children and young people summary

- ◀ In total, 55 sites in Bassetlaw are classified as provision for children and young people, totalling just under 28 hectares. The vast majority of BDC sites are unclassified and parish council owned play areas generally, do not have an annual inspection and are not classified.
- ◀ Consultation highlights that misuse of children's play areas by teenagers and "undesirables" can impede genuine usage by young children and their parents. It is noted as a particular issue at Snipe Park, Harworth and the Canch.
- ◀ The majority of users would walk to access play areas. Of these, the majority would travel 5-10 minutes. KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision. On this basis, significant gaps in provision are identified on the outskirts of the major settlements. These gaps also reflect the gaps identified during the consultation in Harworth and Bircotes and Worksop East and the Gateford area of Worksop.
- ◀ There has traditionally been a gap in the provision of play areas for U14 – U18. However, these gaps have been filled through provision of MUGAs and skateparks. This is further reflected in the street survey results which show that 75% of respondents rate the provision of teenage play to be about right. However, young people did express a desire to have increased provision of BMX track facilities and skate ramps.
- ◀ BDC has seen an increase in the provision of new play areas from various recent funding streams. Given that there is no dedicated budget allocated for play area renovations, it is of concern that the sustainability of new play areas still requires attention.
- ◀ In the main, play areas in Bassetlaw are of average quality and play areas in the rural areas are of better quality. BDC play areas tend to be made up of old dated equipment, which is around 20 years old; examples include Thackery Close and The Canch play areas.
- ◀ All play areas in Bassetlaw are assessed as high value, recognising the benefits that play areas can provide in terms of health, active lifestyles, social inclusion and interaction between children plus their developmental and educational value.
- ◀ The play area with the highest play value rating is Kings Park and the site which has the lowest play value score is Keswick Road. Consultation identifies demand for introducing greater interactive, dynamic and natural play opportunities including elements of touch, sound and sight e.g. play panels, talk tubes, water based play, sand.



## **PART 8: ALLOTMENTS, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND CITY FARMS**

### **Introduction**

The typology of allotments, community gardens and city farms set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes sites, which provide 'opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.'

### **Key issues**

#### ***Current provision***

42 sites are classified as allotments in Bassetlaw, equating to just under 40 hectares.

*Table 8.1: Distribution of allotment sites by analysis area*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Allotments</b>		
	Number	Size (ha)	Ha per 1,000 population
Harworth	1	0.21	0.03
Retford	18	14.42	0.67
Rural	10	7.55	0.22
Tuxford	1	0.59	0.14
Worksop	12	16.48	0.38
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39.28</b>	<b>0.35</b>

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggest a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,000 people based on 2 people per house) or 1 allotment per 200 people. This equates to 0.125ha per 1,000 population based on an average plot size of 250 metres squared.

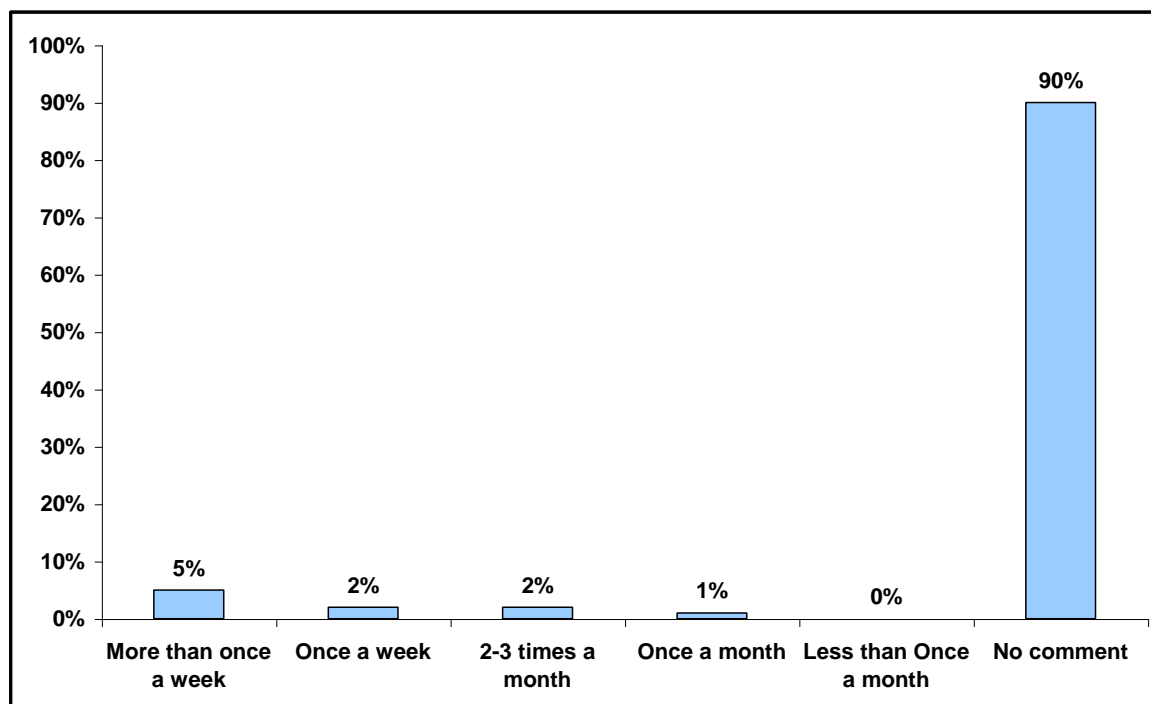
Based on the current population, Bassetlaw, as a whole, meets the NSALG standard set. However, Harworth does not have any provision and is therefore deemed to be deficient against this recommended level of provision.

### Usage

Reflecting the specialist interest/usage of allotment sites across Bassetlaw, only 48 respondents (10%) from the street survey stated that they visited allotments in the previous twelve months. Consistent with the expected usage patterns, most visits (5%) take place on a relatively frequent basis (more than once a week).

We also found that of the non responses, 58% are female (which is higher than usual) and could suggest that awareness of allotment provision is lower in females in Bassetlaw and could be a potential target market, particularly in Worksop where demand for provision is lower, as detailed later.

*Figure 8.1: Frequency of usage allotments in the previous 12 months*

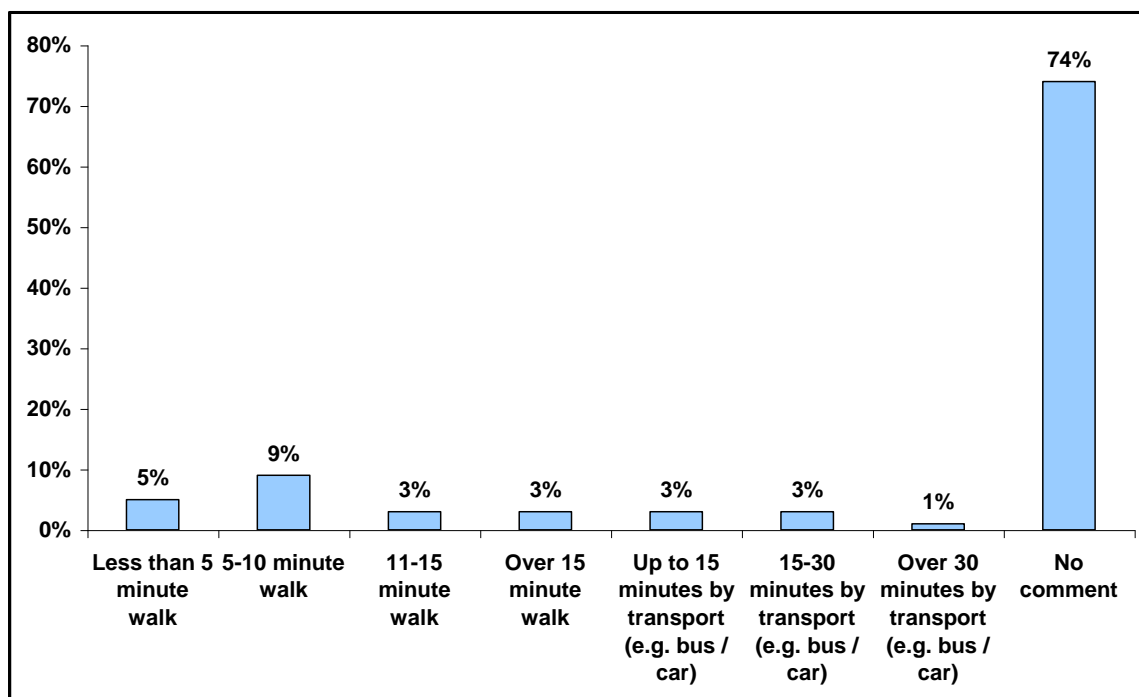


### Accessibility

All street survey respondents were asked how long they are willing to travel to access allotment provision. Reflecting the low usage level amongst respondents (not uncommon for this type of provision) almost three quarters (74%) did not comment; of those that did, the majority (9%) are willing to walk for between 5-10 minutes to access provision. This reflects the fact that residents expect allotments to be locally available.

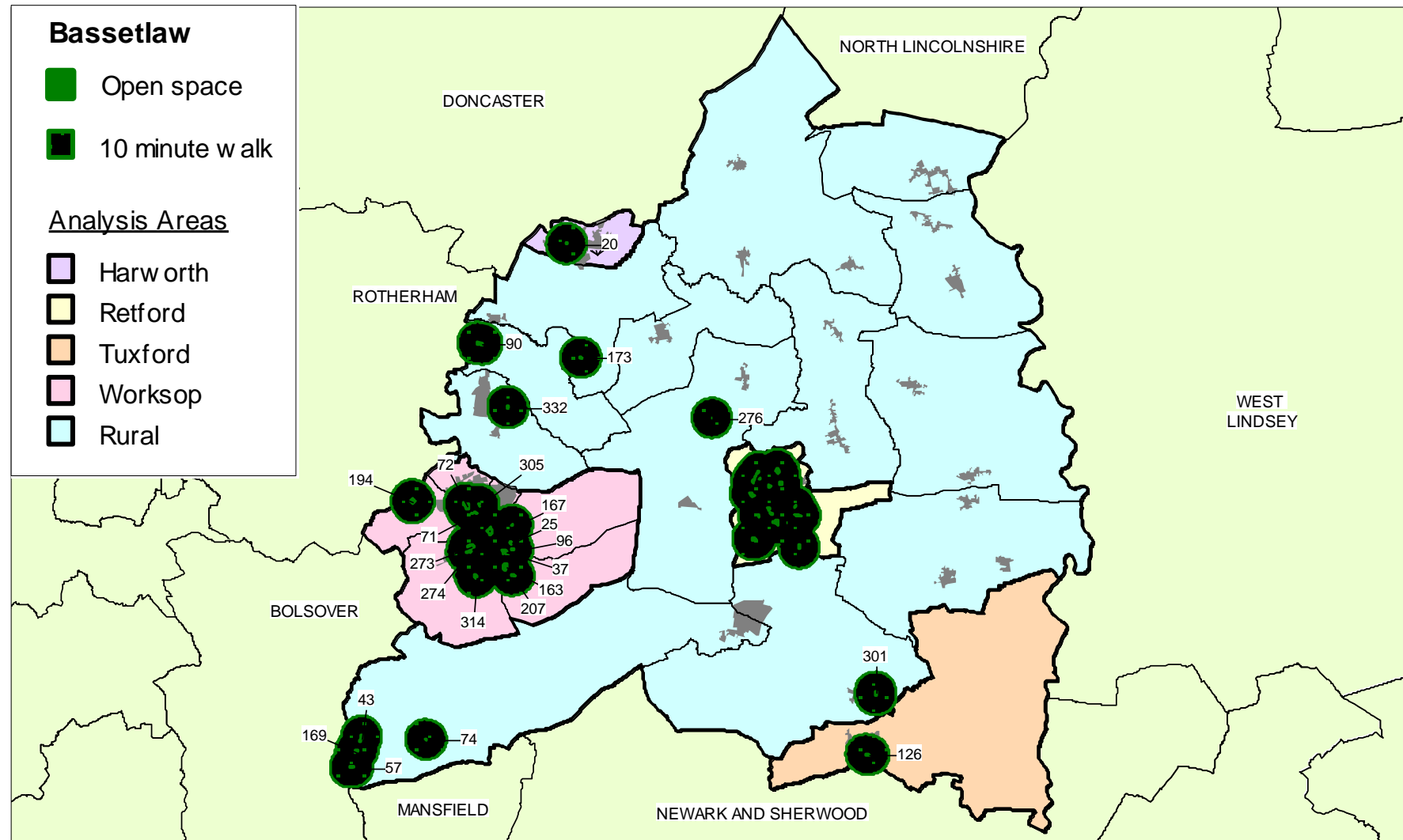
Of the non responses, 59% are female (reflection on the male trend of accessing allotments again) and 91% are from Retford, where the majority of sites are poor value.

*Figure 8.2: Time prepared to travel to access an allotment*

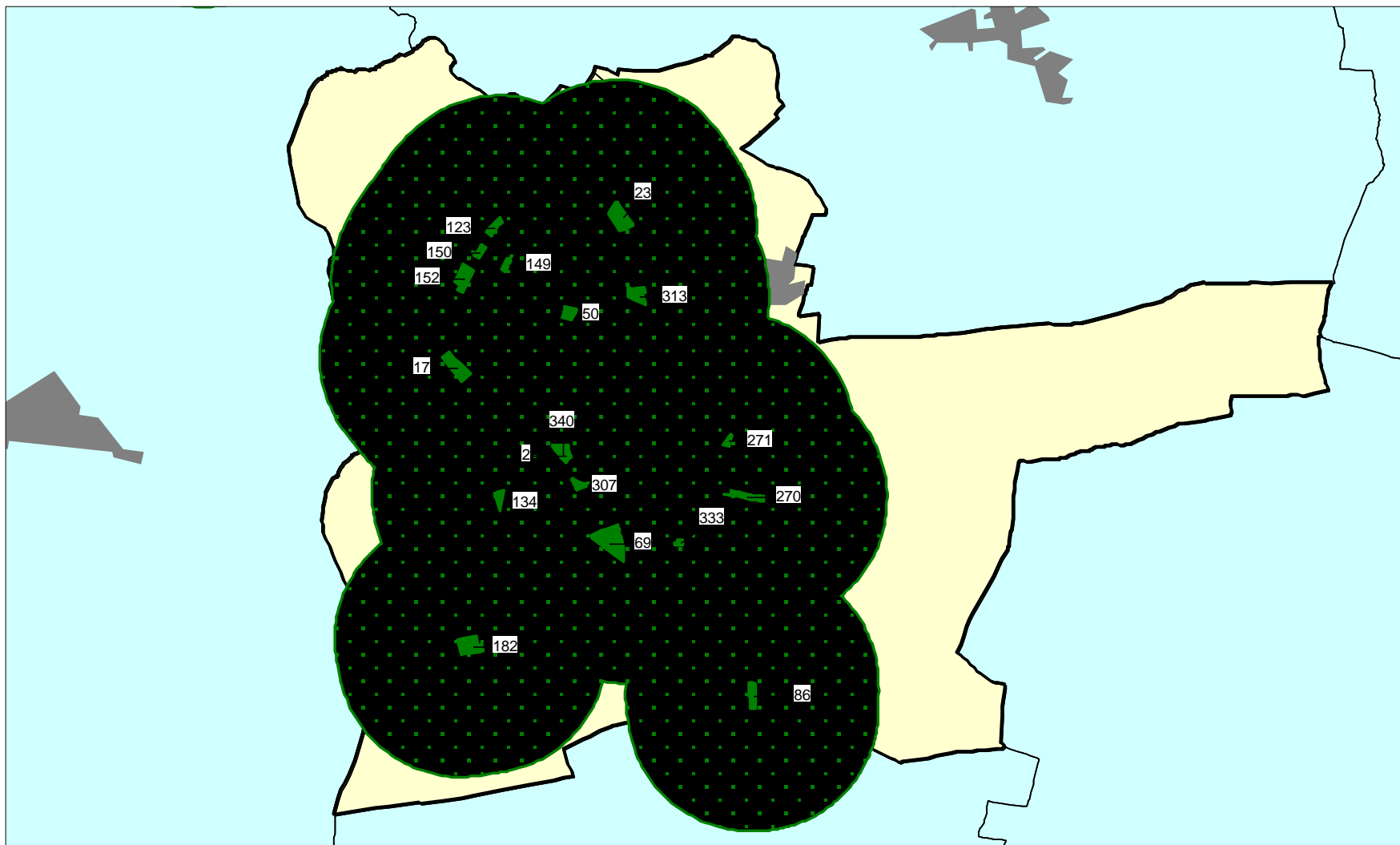


## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

Figure 8.3: Allotment sites mapped against settlement areas with 10 minute (half-mile) walk catchments



*Figure 8.4: Allotment sites in Retford mapped against settlement areas with 10 minute (half-mile) walk catchments*



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*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
20	Land off Bawtry Road	Harworth		
43	Cockshut Lane	Rural Nether Langwith		
57	Devonshire Drive	Rural Nether Langwith		
74	Glovers Close	Rural Cuckney		
90	Harrison Drive	Rural Hodsock		
169	Kitchen Terrace	Rural Nether Langwith		
173	Land Behind High Street	Rural Blyth		
276	Sutton Lane	Rural Sutton		
301	Land Off Trinity Lane	Rural East Markham		
354	Top Street Allotments	Rural North Wheatley		
332	Woodhouse Lane	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
126	Lodge Lane	Tuxford		
25	Bracebridge Avenue	Worksop		
37	Cheapside	Worksop		
71	Gateford Road	Worksop		
72	Claylands Ave	Worksop		
96	High Hoe Road	Worksop		
167	Keats Crescent	Worksop		
194	Shireoaks Common	Worksop		
207	Spur Crescent	Worksop		
273	Stubbing Lane 2+3	Worksop		
274	Stubbing Lane 1	Worksop		
305	Valley Road	Worksop		
314	Water Meadows	Worksop		
2	Albert Road	Retford		
17	Babworth Road Cemetery	Retford		
23	Bolham Lane	Retford		
50	Cricket Field Lane	Retford		
69	East of Century Road	Retford		
86	Grove Road	Retford		
123	Milnercroft (enclosed)	Retford		
134	Manvers Road	Retford		

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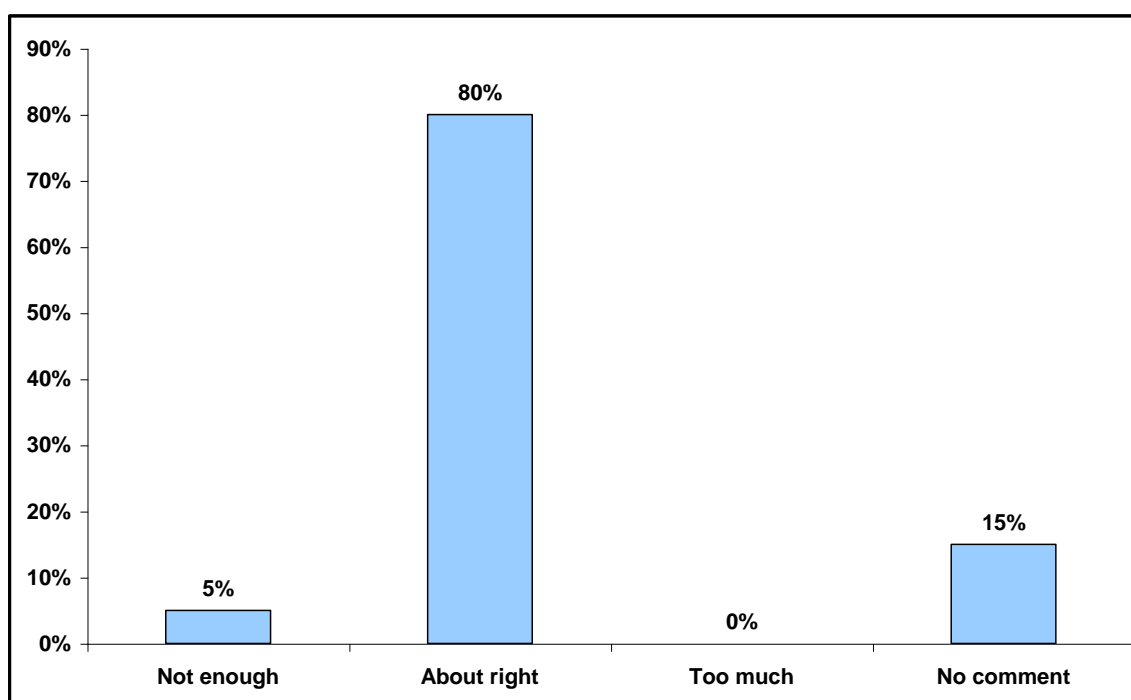
### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
149	Milner Croft	Retford		
150	Leafield (enclosed)	Retford		
152	Leafield/Denman	Retford		
182	Rufford Ave	Retford		
270	Strawberry Road	Retford		
271	Newtown	Retford		
307	Victoria Road	Retford		
313	Water Lane	Retford		
333	Whinney Moor Lane	Retford		
340	Westfield	Retford		

Although provision exists in all analysis areas, mapping shows that there is a lack of provision in the more rural settlements including, among others, Elkesley, Torworth, Beckingham and Misterton. Consultation did suggest that demand for provision is generally higher where an allotment is situated within a 10 minute drive of a settlement without provision.

Only a small proportion (15%) of street survey respondents were unable to comment on the availability of allotments. However, four fifths (80%) consider the level of provision to be about right. The remainder (5%) think there is not enough. Due to the low usage level recorded in the survey the majority of responses are based on respondents perception rather than experience.

Figure 8.4: Availability of allotments



There has been a rise in the calls for allotment provision locally that reflects a national growing trend. Of particular note are requests made by residents in Retford and rurally by parish councils such as Torworth Parish Council which is currently developing a piece of land (0.6ha) at North Road that will be leased for allotments.

The combined allotment waiting list across Bassetlaw, of 73, demonstrates that the high demand for allotments is not currently being met by provision. Even considering the issue of double counting, as potential plot holders often sign up to more than one waiting list, these figures demonstrate high demand. Demand for allotments differs between Worksop and Retford. The vast majority of provision in Retford is operating at 100% capacity, together with almost three quarters of the Bassetlaw waiting list total (51). The high demand for provision in Retford is fairly recent (predominantly within the last two years) and new plot holders are thought to represent middle class demand for healthy living and home grown produce. Restricting allotment allocation to local residents and vacation of plots if tenants move outside the town/settlement boundary could also help to reduce waiting lists (although the demand will still exist).

Although a waiting list still operates across Worksop sites, demand is much lower than in Retford (total of 22) and there are a number of vacant plots. Worksop has traditionally the bigger sites and plot sizes and therefore is generally able to cater for current demand. The largest sites in operation are all located in Worksop, probably reflecting the location of the majority of demand. These are Claylands Allotments with 76 plots, followed by Stubbing Meadows 2 Allotments with 70 plots and Cheapside Allotments with 55 plots. It is interesting to note that there are no waiting lists at these sites and Cheapside and Stubbing Meadows 2 has vacant plots.

Spur Crescent, Manton (30 plots) and Keats Crescent (12 plots) are currently both unused sites in Worksop. Due to the proximity and popularity of other larger sites with greater infrastructure, these sites have become disused. Although demand for allotments in Worksop appears to be low, with targeted promotion and community working, provision could be regenerated in Manton. Manton Community Alliance is currently considering the potential to redevelop the site into a community garden.

Throughout Bassetlaw there is a lack of promotion of allotments and their associated health and well being benefits. This could, particularly in Worksop, be achieved via increased information on the BDC website, production and distribution of a promotional leaflet and establishment of allotment starter packs to provide relevant information for new tenants with tips regarding how to cultivate plots and achieve maximum benefit. However, as current provision in Retford cannot meet the high demand that already exists, it may not be in the best interest of users, for the time being, to promote the benefits of taking up an allotment as further demand may be generated in this area.

During consultation little specific demand was expressed for raised plots. Community groups operating at Cheapside Allotments provide raised beds where required, particularly for elderly tenants. Demand maybe a function of supply and may also be due to the lack of plots for users with disabilities. This is an area that BDC and the allotment associations should consider investigating further to ensure that there is fully inclusive provision. This could take the form of a policy stating that if demand for raised beds arose, BDC would endeavour to provide for that demand if and where possible.



As is not an uncommon national trend, there has also been a sharp increase in the uptake of plots by women. This tends to lead to an increase in demand for toilet provision. However, provision of toilets at local authority sites in Bassetlaw is noted to be good.

#### ***Management***

Most allotment sites in Bassetlaw are owned and managed (in terms of management of plot allocations, rent collection and waiting list management) by BDC (20 in total). Site stewards are appointed by BDC to 'look after' sites on a day to day basis and two associations have been set up in Retford and Worksop which meet annually to lobby for improvements and share ideas.

In addition, a number of sites are also provided privately and/or via town and parish councils. For example, Bawtry Road allotments owned by Harworth and Bircotes Town Council and Top Street Allotments owned by North and South Wheatley Parish Council. Management of these varies; for the majority, parish clerks undertake administration tasks including waiting list management. They are generally reactive to internal site maintenance such as repairs of the water supply and boundary fencing.

There is a lack of strategic management in terms of maintenance and development. Recognising this, BDC has aspirations to write an allotment strategy and within this process, establish one allotment forum. User consultation highlights support for this, with associations suggesting that the sharing of management skills and advice on funding opportunities would be beneficial.

Consultation finds that users are, in the main, content with the management of allotment provision, although waiting list figures indicate that current provision is not meeting demand in Retford. An allotment strategy should ensure that they are being promoted to a wider audience e.g. women, families, BME, young people.

Current (2009) BDC charges are 7.7p per square yard; plots sizes differ considerably on and between sites. Discounts of 40% are available to the over 60's (next year it will be increased to 50%). There is no charge for registered charity groups (except for water charges). In comparison to neighbouring authority charges, BDC charges are about average, based upon an average full plot size of 300 square yards.

#### ***Vacant plot management***

In general, vacant plot management is efficient and vacant plots are allocated to meet waiting list demand as and when they become available. In some instances, tenants report that plots may fall out of use while still under lease and this can lead to them becoming neglected and overgrown. BDC continues to maintain overgrown plots twice a year by cutting them to increase their appeal to others. Tenants are encouraged to take on uncultivated plots through a year's free rental.

There are disused/vacant plots at Claylands and Cheapside. BDC has previously worked with the Youth Offending Team in Worksop to clear plots, which are now being cultivated. Reducing plot sizes on Worksop sites could help to reduce the number currently unused but tenanted. An allotment strategy could provide guidance on better plot management in order to increase take by those that have expressed demand. User consultation suggests that large plot sizes and tenants renting more than one plot are isolated issues. However,

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examples are identified where plots that are particularly large, could be split to create more manageable areas and cater for more users.

#### **Quality**

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for allotments in Bassetlaw.

*Table 8.2: Quality ratings for allotments by analysis area*

Analysis area	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Harworth	-	-	1
Retford	1	2	15
Rural	3	1	6
Tuxford	-	-	1
Worksop	2	2	8
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>

In terms of quality, just less than three quarters (72%) of allotments within the BDC audit are rated as good. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. Sites currently not in use or with a significant number of vacant plots are generally those rated as poor quality. Vandalism is a reported reoccurring issue in Worksop; however, the site audits did not necessarily reflect this.

Cheapside Allotments was originally designed as a flagship/model site in Bassetlaw and continues to be the basis for new site design. New sites should, thus, still regard this as good practice development.

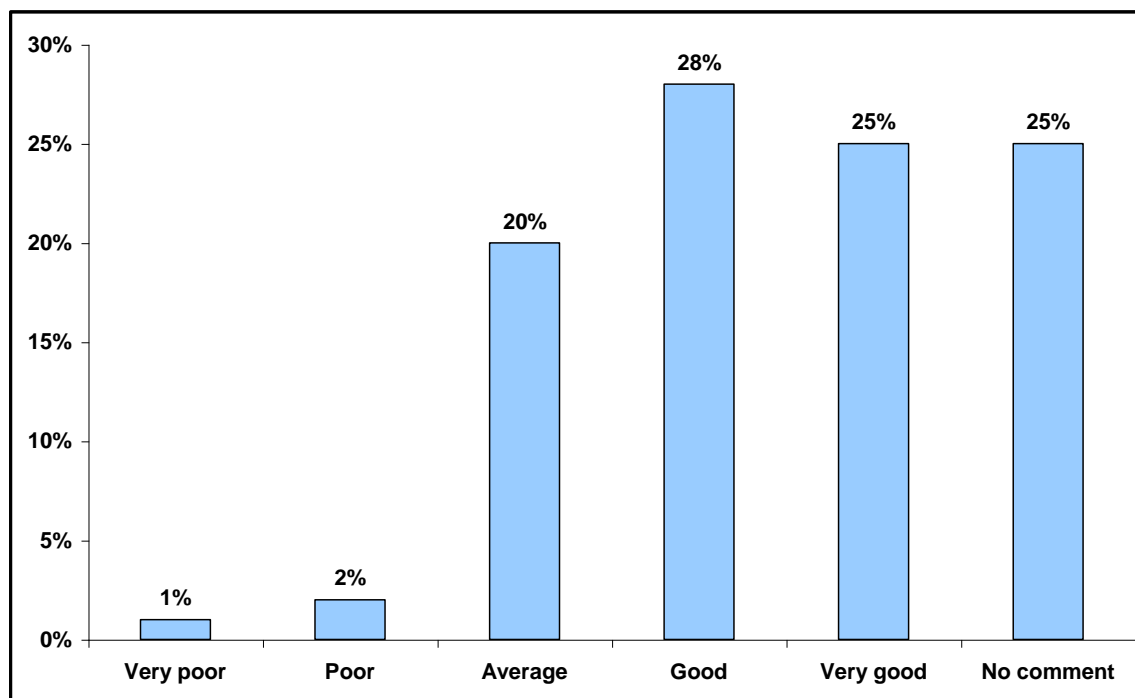
Milnercroft (enclosed) Allotments in Retford is landlocked by properties and can only be accessed via the houses. This large site (approx 0.5 ha) is significantly under-used due to its lack of access. BDC is presently unsure of its current status and the site has not been assessed for quality within the audit.

Rufford Avenue Spur Crescent in Manton is a large unused site in Worksop. Economic regeneration opportunities may exist in the area (Manton) to bring this site back into use. It has previously suffered from vandalism which is thought to have been the cause of the site being closed.

Four local authority sites provide toilet provision, Leaffield, Denman Close, Cheapside and Gateford Road allotments.

Only a small proportion (3%) of street survey respondents rate the quality of allotments as below average (poor/very poor). One fifth (20%) rate them as average. However, over half (53%) perceive allotment provision in Bassetlaw to be above average (good/very good) in terms quality. Of this number, one third (36%) are from Worksop.

Figure 8.5: Quality of provision of allotments



### Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for allotments in Bassetlaw.

Table 8.3: Value ratings for allotments by analysis area

Analysis area	Value rating	
	Low	High
Harworth	-	1
Retford	8	10
Rural	2	8
Tuxford	-	1
Worksop	2	10
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>

Just less than three quarters (72%) of allotments are assessed as high value. This is due to their associated social inclusion and health benefits and also the amenity benefits and sense of place offered by provision. The value of allotments in Bassetlaw is further enhanced by the reasonable rental cost, which although differs across sites (due to the variation in plot sizes), is comparable with neighbouring authority charges. Users also suggest that there is a good community environment at allotments in Bassetlaw, adding to the value placed on allotments.

#### *Community use*

Allotments in Bassetlaw are generally well utilised by community groups. In particular, Cheapside Allotments has a wide variety of groups using the site including Portland School and Rethink Mental Health group is a well established user. It is thought that good disabled access and infrastructure helps to attract community groups to use the site. Gateford Road Allotments, also with good site infrastructure, is used by Valley's School.

#### **Summary**

##### **Allotments summary**

- ◀ There are 42 sites are classified as allotments in Bassetlaw, equating to just under 39 hectares.
- ◀ The majority of users would accept a 5-10 minute walk to access provision. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 10 minute walk time of high quality provision.
- ◀ On this basis, although provision exists in all analysis areas, there is a lack of provision in the more rural settlements such as Elkesley, Torworth, Beckingham and Misterton. Consultation did suggest that demand for provision is generally higher where an allotment is situated within a 10 minute drive of a settlement without provision.
- ◀ The combined allotment waiting list across Bassetlaw, of 73, demonstrates that the high demand for allotments is not currently being met by existing provision. Demand for additional provision is high in Retford. In addition, Torworth Parish Council is currently developing a piece of land (0.6ha) at North Road that will be leased for allotments.
- ◀ Worksop has traditionally the bigger sites and plot sizes and therefore is generally able to cater for current demand. The issue in Worksop relates more to vacant plots and unused sites. However, there are some isolated pockets of demand in the area, including in Manton.
- ◀ There is a lack of strategic management in terms of maintenance and development of allotments in Bassetlaw. Recognising this, BDC has aspirations to write an allotment strategy and within this process, establish one allotment forum.
- ◀ In terms of quality, just less than three quarters (72%) of allotments within the BDC audit are rated as good. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. Vandalism is a reported reoccurring issue in Worksop; however, the site audits did not necessarily reflect this.
- ◀ The majority of allotments are assessed as high value, reflecting the associated social inclusion and health benefits and also the amenity benefits and sense of place offered by the provision. Users also suggest that there is a good community environment at allotments in Bassetlaw, adding to the value placed on allotments.

## **PART 9: CEMETERIES, CHURCHYARDS AND BURIAL GROUNDS**

### **Introduction**

The typology of cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes areas for 'quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.'

### **Key issues**

#### ***Current provision***

89 sites are classified as cemeteries, equating to almost 57 hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.

*Table 9.1: Distribution of cemeteries by analysis area*

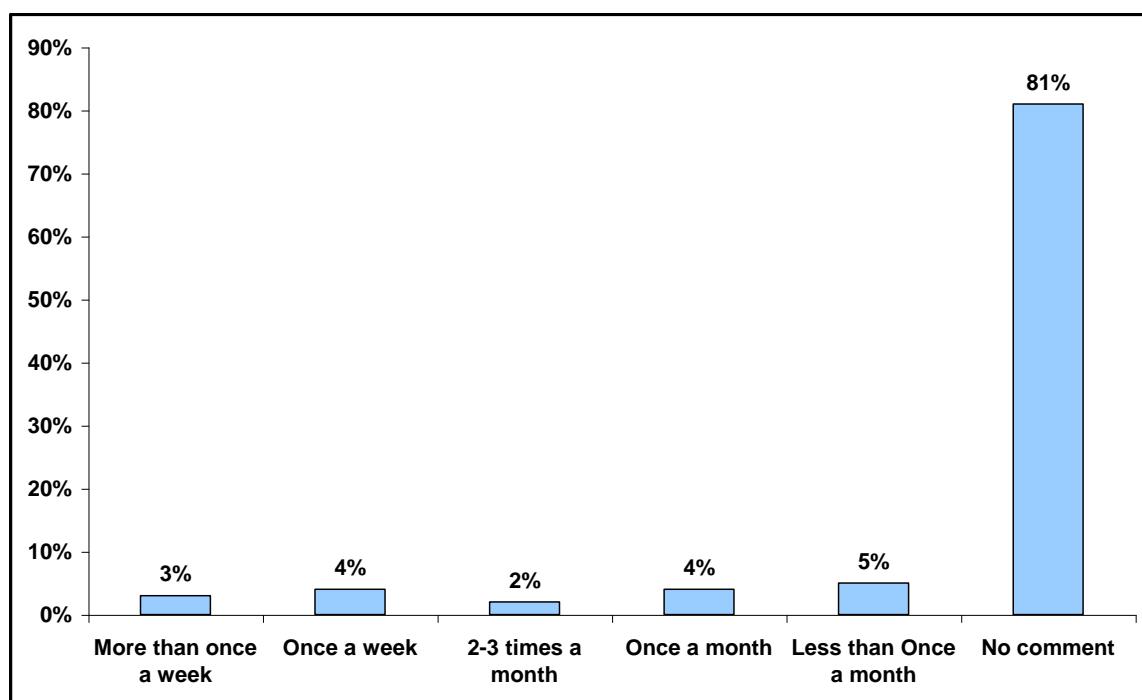
<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Cemeteries spaces</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Size (ha)</b>
Harworth	3	1.86
Retford	7	15.77
Rural	60	22.62
Tuxford	12	4.17
Worksop	7	12.36
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>56.78</b>

#### **Usage**

Of all survey respondents under one fifth (18%) have visited a churchyard/cemetery in the last twelve months, a low number for what is often a regularly used typology. The majority (81%) of those that do visit churchyards/cemeteries, do so in Bassetlaw. No respondents visit outside, or both inside and outside the study area.

The vast majority of respondents (81%) provided no comment on this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage and/or a lack of interest in accessing provision.

*Figure 9.1: Frequency of usage of cemeteries/churchyards in the previous 12 months*

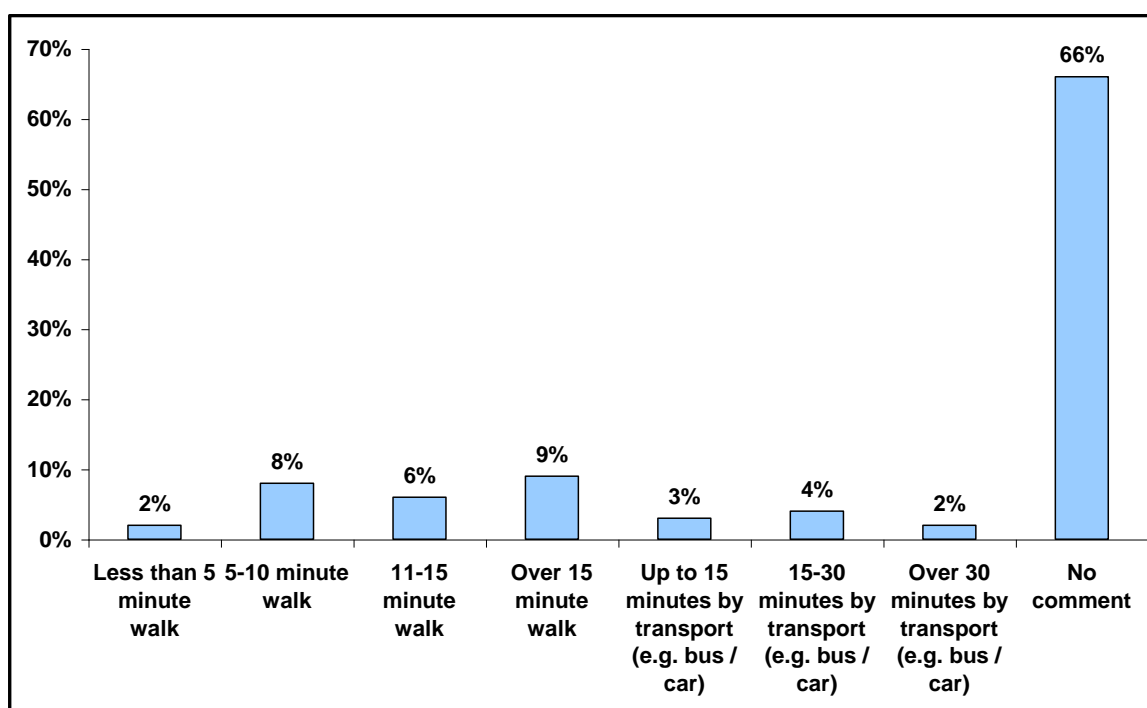


### ***Accessibility***

Although some (25%) respondents are willing to walk to reach churchyards/cemeteries, the majority (66%) gave no comment on how far they are willing to travel.

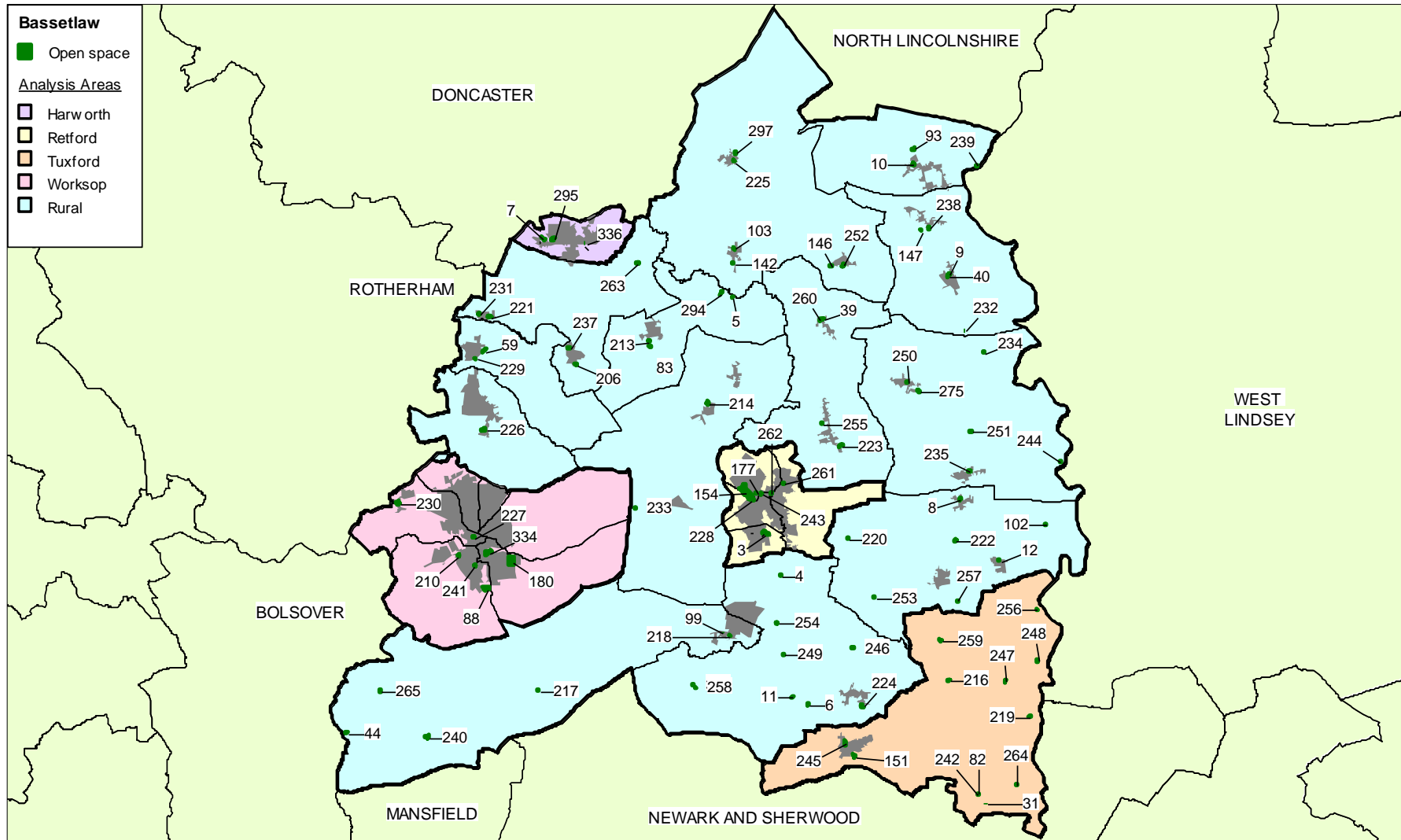
Again, the majority of respondents (66%) provided no comment on this question and it is likely that this reflects non usage and/or a lack of interest in accessing provision. It is interesting to note that the majority of these non responses (39%) came from respondents residing in Retford.

*Figure 9.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a cemetery/churchyard*



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Figure 9.3: Cemeteries sites mapped against settlement areas





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*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
7	All Saints Church, Church Lane	Harworth		
295	Tickhill Road	Harworth		
336	Harworth Methodist Church	Harworth		
3	All Hallows Church, Ordsall	Retford		
154	North Road Cemetery	Retford		
177	Retford Baptist Church	Retford		
228	St Joseph Roman Cathlic Church	Retford		
243	St Michael the Archangel Church	Retford		
261	St Saviours Church, Welham Road	Retford		
262	St Swithuns Church	Retford		
4	All Saints Church	Rural Eaton		
5	All Saints Church	Rural Mattersey		
6	All Saints Church	Rural West Markham		
8	All Saints Church, Church Street	Rural South Leverton		
9	All Saints Church, Church Street	Rural Beckingham		
10	All Saints Church, High Street	Rural Misterton		
11	All Saints Church, The Avenue	Rural West Markham		
12	All Saints Church, Torksey Street	Rural Rampton		
39	Church Lane Cemetery	Rural Clayworth		
40	Church Street Cemetery	Rural Beckingham		
44	Cockshut Lane Cemetery	Rural Nether Langwith		
59	Doncaster Road Cemetery	Rural Hodsock		
83	Great North Road Cemetery	Rural Ranskill		
93	Haxey Road Cemetery	Rural Misterton		
99	High Street Cemetery	Rural Elkesley		
102	Holy Trinity Church	Rural Cottam		

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<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Quality score</b>	<b>Value score</b>
103	Holy Trinity Church, Church Street	Rural Everton		
142	Mattersey Road Cemetery	Rural Everton		
146	Mill Hill Cemetery	Rural Gringley on the Hill		
147	Mill Lane Cemetery	Rural Walkeringham		
206	Spital Road Cemetery	Rural Blyth		
213	St Barnabas	Rural Ranskill		
214	St Bartholomew	Rural Sutton		
217	St Giles	Rural Carburton		
218	St Giles' Church, High Street	Rural Elkesley		
220	St Helen's Church	Rural Grove		
221	St Helen's R C Church	Rural Styrrup with Oldcotes		
222	St John the Baptist Church	Rural Treswell		
223	St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane	Rural Clarbrough and Welham		
224	St John the Baptist, Church Street	Rural East Markham		
225	St John's Church	Rural Misson		
226	St John's Church, Church Lane	Rural Carlton in Lindrick		
229	St Luke's Church, Church Street	Rural Hodsock		
231	St Mark's Church	Rural Styrrup with Oldcotes		
232	St Martin's Church	Rural Saundby		
233	St Martin's Church, Blyth Road	Rural Babworth		
234	St Martin's Church, East Street	Rural Bole		

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<b>KKP Ref</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Quality score</b>	<b>Value score</b>
235	St Martin's Church, Main Street	Rural North Leverton		
237	St Mary and St Martin Church	Rural Blyth		
238	St Mary Magdalene Church, Gringley Road	Rural Walkeringham		
239	St Mary's Church, Main Street	Rural West Stockwith		
240	St Mary's Church, Norton Lane	Rural Cuckney		
244	St Nicholas' Church	Rural Sturton Le Steeple		
246	St Nicholas' Church, Town Street	Rural Askham		
249	St Paul's Church, Church Lane	Rural West Drayton		
250	St Peter & St Paul's Church, Church Street	Rural North Wheatley		
251	St Peter & St Paul's Church, Church Street	Rural Sturton Le Steeple		
252	St Peter and St Paul's Church, Main Street	Rural Gringley on the Hill		
253	St Peter's Church	Rural Headon cum Upton		
254	St Peter's Church, Church Lane	Rural Gamston		
255	St Peters Church, Church Lane	Rural Hayton		
257	St Peter's Church, Main Street	Rural Stokeham		
258	Church of our Lady And St Peter	Rural Bothamsall		
260	St Peter's Church, Wiseton Road	Rural Clayworth		
263	St Wilfred's Church, Church Lane	Rural Scrooby		
265	St Winifred's Church	Rural Holbeck		
275	Sturton Road Cemetery	Rural South Wheatley		
294	Thorpe Road Cemetery	Rural Mattersey		

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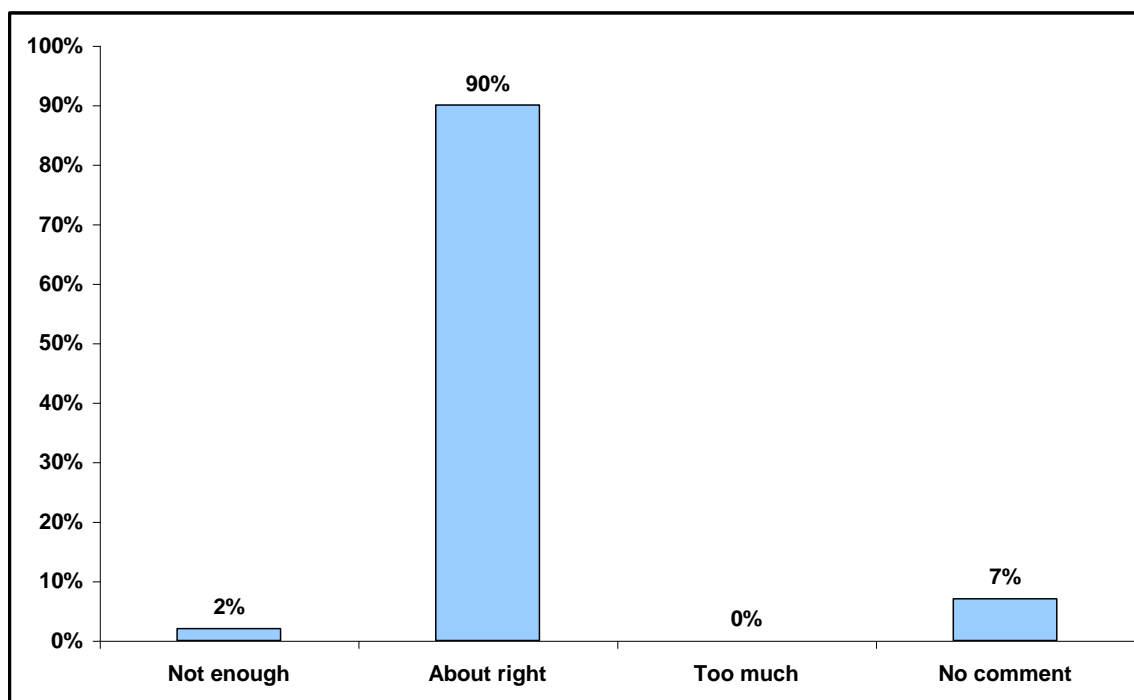
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KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
297	Top Road Cemetery	Rural Misson		
335	Bothamsall Cemetery	Rural Bothamsall		
31	Burial Ground, Brotts Road	Tuxford		
82	Graveyard, Eastgate	Tuxford		
151	Newark Road Cemetery	Tuxford		
216	St Giles	Tuxford		
219	Church of Gregory	Tuxford		
242	St Mathew's Church, Tuxford Road	Tuxford		
245	St Nicholas' Church, Lincoln Road	Tuxford		
247	St Oswald's Church	Tuxford		
248	St Oswald's Church, The Green	Tuxford		
256	St Peter's Church, Church Laneham	Tuxford		
259	St Peters Church, North Green	Tuxford		
264	St Wilfrid's Church	Tuxford		
88	Hannah Park Cemetery	Worksop		
180	Retford Road Cemetery	Worksop		
210	St Anne's Church	Worksop		
227	St John's Church, Gateford Road	Worksop		
230	St Luke's Church, Shireoaks Road	Worksop		
241	St Mary's Catholic Church	Worksop		
334	Worksop Priory, Priorswell Road	Worksop		

In terms of cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds mapping shows provision in the vast majority of settlements. The need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by burial capacity requirement. Retford Cemetery still has spare burial capacity and there is also future potential for additional burial space to be developed on an adjacent field.

The majority (90%) of all respondents consider the level of provision of churchyards/cemeteries to be "about right", whilst only a small proportion (2%) believes it to be inadequate. No respondents feel there are too many churchyards/cemeteries in Bassetlaw. Of note is that just over four fifths (82%) of respondents who consider there to be not enough churchyards/cemetery provision are from Worksop, which may reflect the distribution of current provision.

*Figure 9.4: Availability of cemeteries/churchyards*



### ***Management***

In addition to a number of closed churchyards, BDC Cemeteries Unit is responsible for administering all burials in its three main cemeteries at Retford Road and Hannah Park in Worksop and Retford Cemetery. In addition, it holds and maintains the records of all past and present burials that have taken place in each one.

The Unit does its best to make the cemetery environments as pleasant as possible. Retford Cemetery is a particularly good site and benefits from a woodland, which has recently been given local nature reserve status. Consideration should be given to this being a possible future Green Flag candidate. In addition, a woodland burial service is provided at both Hannah Park and Retford cemeteries, whereby BDC plants a tree on the plot and places a memorial plaque on an adjacent wall.

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#### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for cemeteries in Bassetlaw.

*Table 9.2: Quality ratings for cemeteries by analysis area*

Analysis area	Quality ratings		
	Poor	Average	Good
Harworth	-	-	3
Retford	-	-	7
Rural	1	-	59
Tuxford	1	1	10
Worksop	-	-	7
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>86</b>

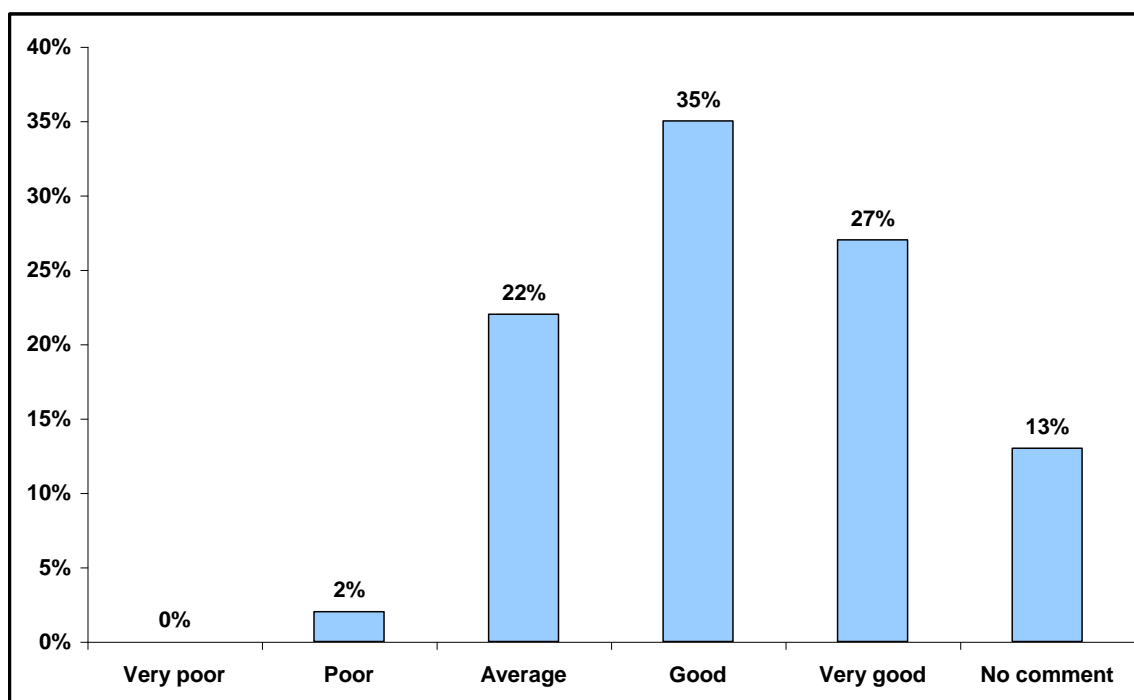
The vast majority of cemeteries within the BDC audit are rated as good quality. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. To further support this, consultation suggests that BDC appears to visit its main sites once a week to undertake maintenance, and users accept this as adequate frequency.

Pathways at Retford Cemetery are good, with the larger paths recently being tarmaced. Smaller pathways that branch off from the main ones can sometimes become overgrown, but this is not seen as a major issue. Consultation suggested that access to Hannah Park could be improved, particularly for wheelchair access.

Vandalism has been an issue at Retford Cemetery and could continue to be a problem due to its isolated location. For example, litterbins have been vandalised, resulting in the need for more provision and a bench has been removed recently due to it being vandalised. The Friends of Retford Cemetery were first established in response to an issue with motorbike users vandalising the site; this problem has now reduced.

Over three fifths (62%) of survey respondents rate the quality of churchyards/cemeteries as above average (good/very good). Only a small proportion (2%) perceives provision to below average (poor/very poor) in term of quality.

*Figure 9.5: Quality of churchyards/cemeteries*



### **Value**

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for cemeteries in Bassetlaw.

*Table 9.3: Value ratings for cemeteries by analysis area*

Analysis area	Value rating	
	Low	High
Harworth	-	3
Retford	1	6
Rural	4	56
Tuxford	-	12
Worksop	1	6
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>83</b>

Cemeteries are generally assessed as high value, reflecting that generally provision has cultural/heritage value and provides a sense of place to the local community.

There is a high level of wildlife activity at Retford Cemetery due to the railway corridor and canal that run close by. A local bat group undertook a survey in the last year or so and believes there to be seven species of bats in situ. Other species spotted include hedgehogs, squirrels and rabbits. The same group would like to do an exercise to identify the local bird species as well as undertaking a fungi survey.

## **Summary**

### **Cemeteries summary**

- ◆ There are 89 sites classified as cemeteries, equating to almost 57 hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.
- ◆ The majority of users would walk up to 15 minutes to access provision. However, an accessibility standard is not recommended and the need for cemetery provision should be driven by the need for burial space.
- ◆ In terms of cemeteries, churchyards and disused burial grounds mapping shows provision in the vast majority of settlements. Retford Cemetery still has spare burial capacity and there is also future potential for additional burial space to be developed on an adjacent field.
- ◆ Retford Cemetery is a particularly good site and benefits from a woodland which has recently been given local nature reserve status. Consideration should be given to this being a possible future Green Flag candidate.
- ◆ The vast majority of cemeteries within the BDC audit are rated as good quality. No significant problems or issues were raised with regard to the general quality of provision. However, consultation suggested that access to Hannah Park could be improved, particularly for wheelchair access. Vandalism and illegal use have previously been issues at Retford Cemetery but since the set up of the 'friends of' group this has been reduced.
- ◆ Cemeteries are generally assessed as being of high value in Bassetlaw, reflecting that generally provision has cultural/heritage value and provides a sense of place to the local community.



## **PART 10: CIVIC SPACES**

### **Introduction**

The typology of civic space, as set out in PPG17: A Companion Guide includes civic and market squares and other hard surfaced areas designed for pedestrians, providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

### **Key issues**

#### ***Current provision***

There are eight civic spaces sites; just over three hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.

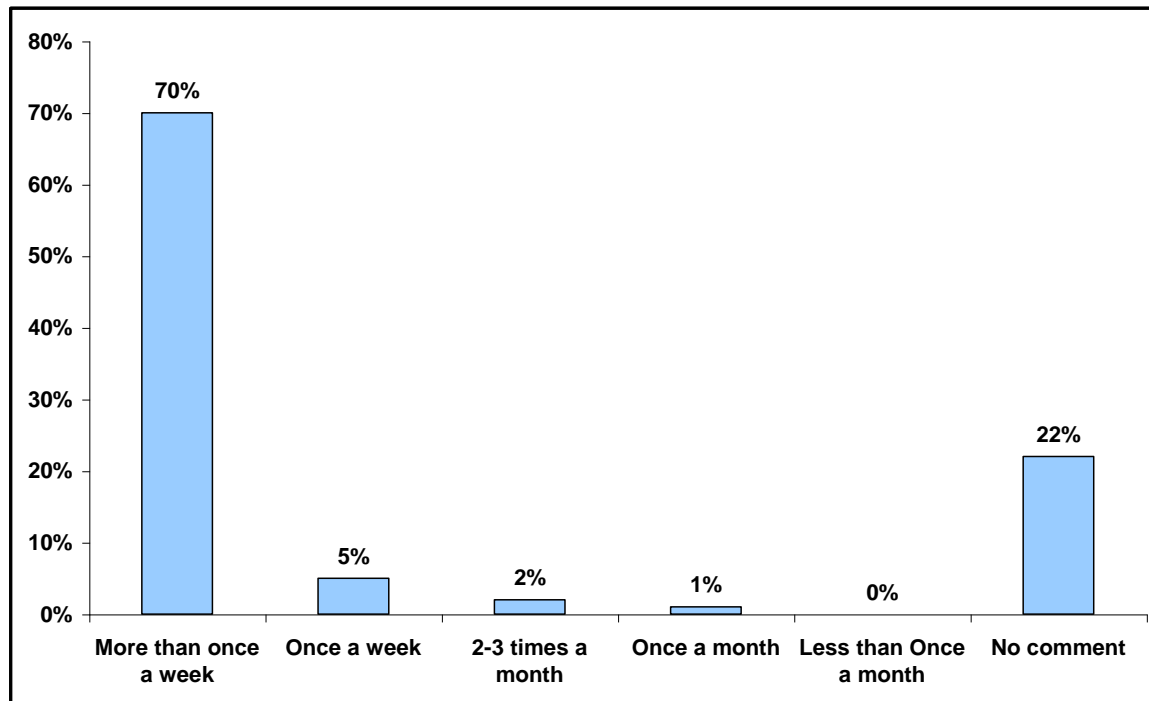
*Table 10.1: Distribution of civic spaces by analysis area*

Analysis area	Civic spaces	
	Number	Size (ha)
Harworth	1	0.88
Retford	3	1.04
Rural	-	-
Tuxford	1	0.05
Worksop	3	1.19
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3.17</b>

### Usage

Three quarters (75%) of all respondents have visited civic/non-green spaces in Bassetlaw in the previous twelve months. This reflects the level of provision. The majority (76%) visit civic/non green spaces inside Bassetlaw. A significant proportion visit civic space once a week or more (70%), while one quarter (22%) are unable to state how often they visit.

*Figure 10.1: Usage frequency of civic space/non-green spaces in the previous 12 months*



***Accessibility***

Just over one half (52%) of all respondents are willing to travel by transport to reach civic/non-green spaces, more specifically, of these under a third (30%) will travel between 15-30 minutes by transport. However, almost half (44%) of respondents are willing to walk to access civic space provision.

*Figure 10.2: Time prepared to travel to reach a civic space/non-green space*

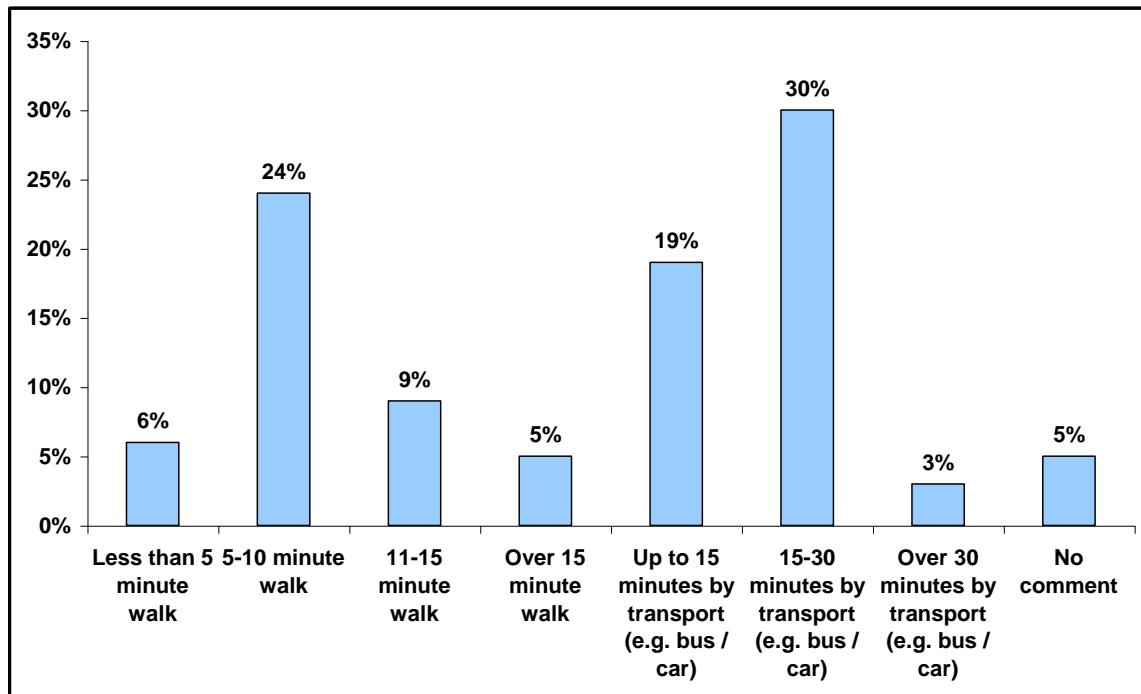
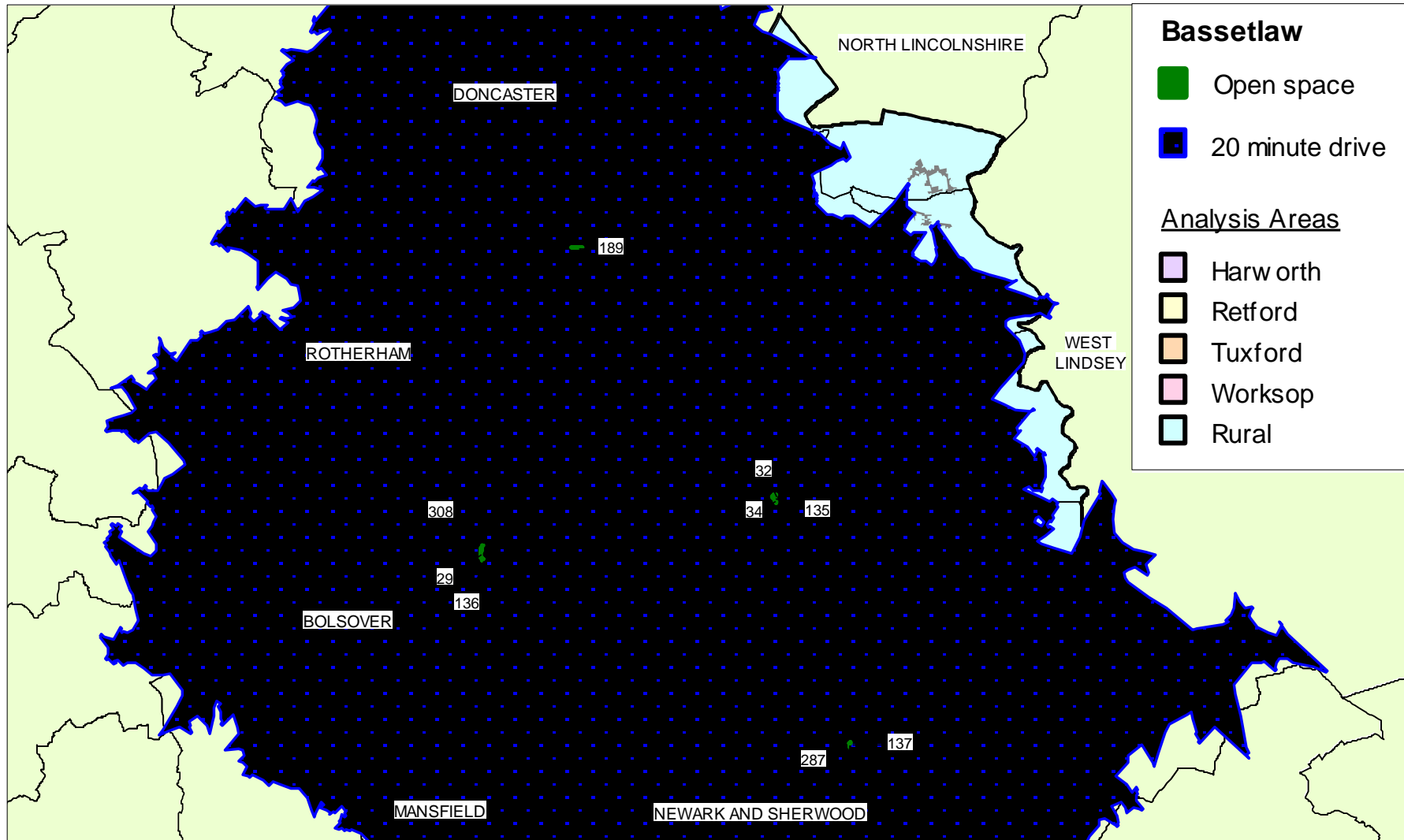


Figure 10.3: Civic spaces mapped against settlement areas with 20 minute drive time catchments



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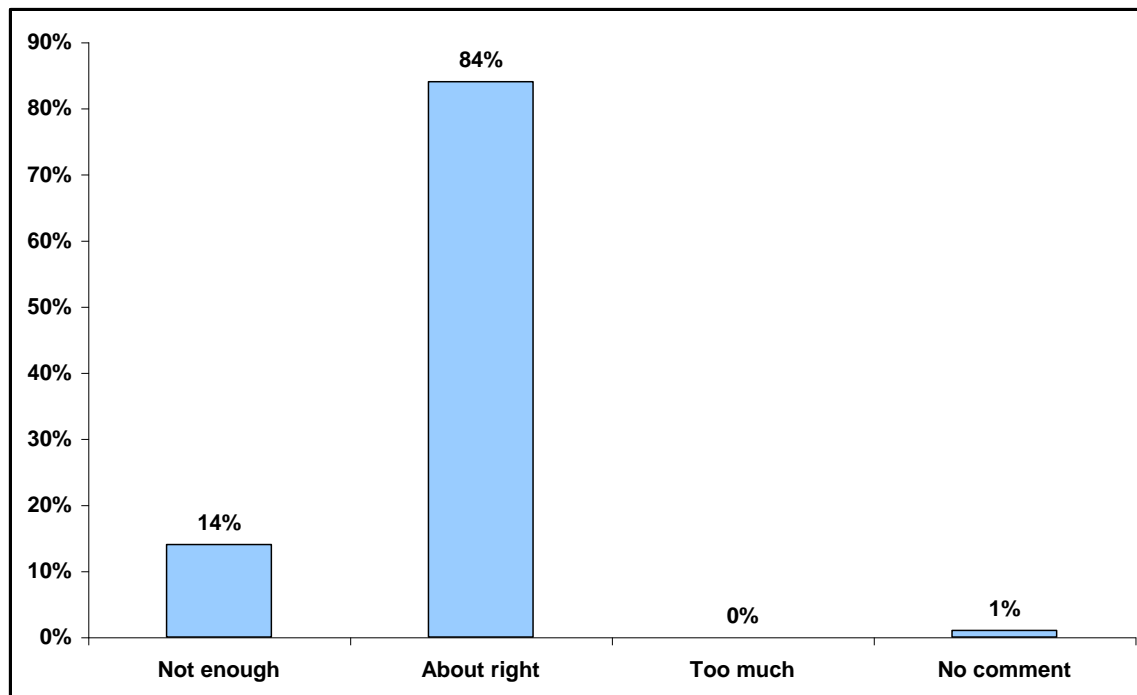
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*Key to sites mapped:*

KKP Ref	Site	Analysis area	Quality score	Value score
189	Civic Space Scrooby Road	Harworth		
32	Cannon Square	Retford		
34	Carolgate	Retford		
135	Retford Market Place	Retford		
137	Market Place	Tuxford		
287	The Old Lock Up and land, Newcastle Street	Tuxford		
29	Bridge Street	Worksop		
136	Market Place	Worksop		
308	Victoria Square	Worksop		

Mapping shows that civic spaces are provided in the mains settlements of Worksop, Retford, Tuxford and Harworth and although a number of settlements do not have provision, the majority (84%) of survey respondents consider the level of provision of civic spaces to be about right. Only a small proportion (14%) of all respondents believe there is not enough. The remaining 1% was unable to offer any comments. Further consultation did not highlight the need for additional provision to be provided.

*Figure 10.4: Availability of civic space/non-green space*



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#### Quality

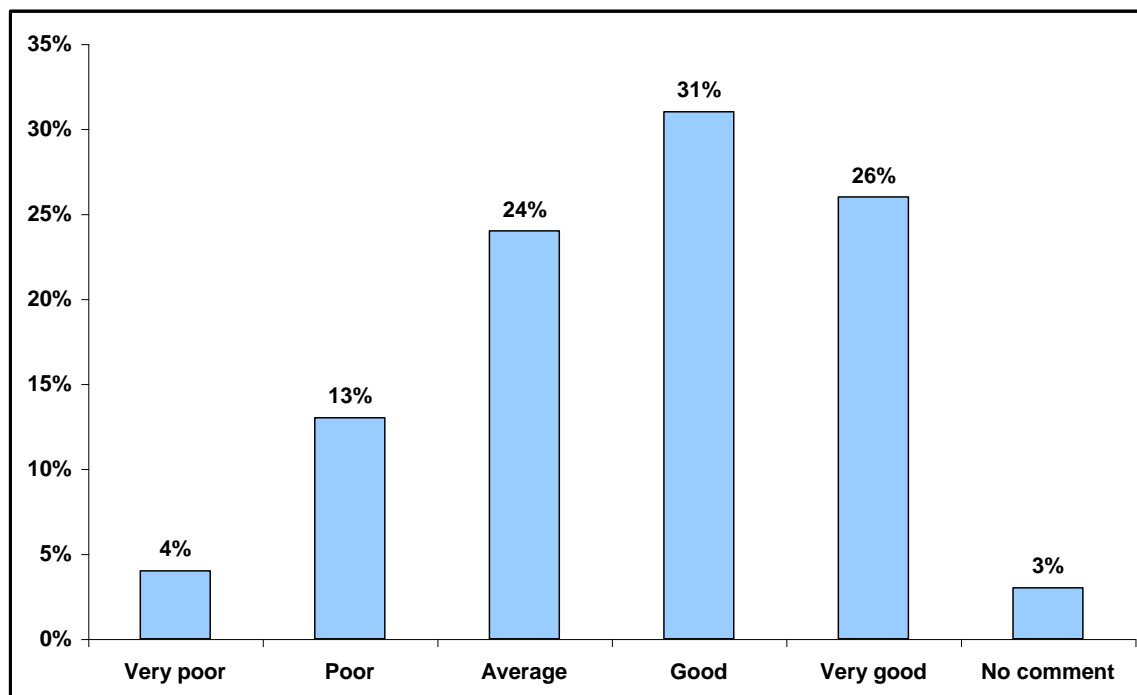
The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for civic spaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 10.2: Quality ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Quality rating		
	Poor	Average	Good
Harworth	-	-	1
Retford	-	3	-
Rural	-	-	-
Tuxford	-	-	1
Worksop	3	-	-
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

The quality of civic spaces is inconsistent across Bassetlaw; sites in Worksop are identified as poor quality, sites in Retford as average quality and sites in Harworth and Tuxford as good quality. This is relatively consistent with the street survey, which finds that almost one quarter (24%) of all respondents consider the quality of civic spaces to be average, and 57% consider them to be above average (good/very good). Nearly a fifth (17%) of respondents rate civic spaces in Bassetlaw as being below average (poor/very poor) in quality.

Figure 10.5: Quality of civic spaces



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#### Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for civic spaces in Bassetlaw.

Table 10.3: Value ratings for civic spaces by analysis area

Analysis area	Value ratings	
	Low	High
Harworth	-	1
Retford	-	3
Rural	-	-
Tuxford	-	1
Worksop	-	3
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	-	<b>8</b>

All civic spaces are assessed as high value, reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value and provides a sense of place to the local community.

#### Summary

##### Civic space summary

- There are eight sites classified as civic spaces equating to just over three hectares of provision in Bassetlaw.
- The majority of users would drive or use public transport to access provision. Of these, the majority would travel up to 30 minutes. Therefore, KKP recommends that all residents are to be within 20 minute drive time of high quality provision.
- Mapping shows that civic spaces are provided in the mains settlements of Worksop, Retford, Tuxford and Harworth and although a number of settlements do not have provision, the majority (84%) of street survey respondents feel that the level of provision of civic spaces is about right.
- The quality of civic spaces is quite inconsistent across Bassetlaw, with sites in Worksop identified as being poor quality, sites in Retford identified as average quality and sites in Harworth and Tuxford being good quality.
- All civic spaces are assessed as high value, reflecting that provision has cultural/heritage value and provides a sense of place to the local community.

## **PART 11: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVEMENTS**

This section sets out objectives for the development of open space provision in Bassetlaw. They seek to address the issues raised earlier in the Report.

The following targets have been developed through the combination of information gathered during consultation, audit and the catchment mapping. They reflect the key areas identified within the assessment of provision. Recognising the variety of ownership of open spaces across the District, implementation of this framework should be delivered in partnership with local stakeholders and parish/town councils. Recommendations must also be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to meet planning considerations.

- ◀ All open space, sport and recreation provision identified within the audit and assessment reports should be retained and protected within the planning system.
- ◀ All partners should work together to provide usable, accessible and safe open spaces, sport and recreational facilities.
- ◀ Within a phased programme, and in partnership with landowners and providers of provision, improve the quality of all open space, sport and recreational provision. Sites identified as currently being of low quality within the audit to be prioritised for improvement.
- ◀ Sites identified as having low value should be further investigated in terms of required improvements. Further investigation as to whether quality improvements can increase value should be undertaken as well as investigation into the further value of this land to meet other recreational needs.
- ◀ All partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the assessment reports through improvements to the current stock of provision.
- ◀ All partners should use development opportunities and consult with the community to identify facility need and increase and/or improve existing provision in line with the findings of the assessment reports.
- ◀ All partners should seek to ensure that this provision is of an appropriate distribution, quantity and quality (new facilities will only be provided or supported if they contribute to the appropriate distribution of facilities).
- ◀ All developments should provide an adequate quantity of high quality and diverse recreational space to cater for the needs of new and existing residents and employees. These should be accessible by foot and bicycle and linked into wider green infrastructure network.
- ◀ Capital receipts from disposals of open space, sport and recreation facilities should be ring-fenced specifically for investment into other comparable provision. It should be invested in accordance with the recommendations detailed in this report.



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- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to a Section 106 Agreement. Where development contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement must be completed specifying the amount and timing of sums to be paid.
- ◀ Existing and future provision should all comply with DDA legislation, where possible, ensuring that provision is fully accessible for all residents (including, where relevant, the elderly, the disabled, young people and girls/women, BME groups).
- ◀ Access to all forms of provision should be improved (e.g., by locating any new sites near public transport hubs; increasing public transport links to larger sites, especially at weekends and throughout the summer).
- ◀ BDC should continue to gather the views and opinions of local residents in a rolling five year programme of survey work in line with PPG17 guidance.
- ◀ All partners should conserve and enhance the wildlife which inhabits Bassetlaw's green spaces, and foster an appreciation of ecology and the natural world.
- ◀ All partners should maintain a safe, clean, accessible and attractive environment for children's play and for the leisure of older and disabled residents and families.
- ◀ All partners should pursue the policy objectives of the Local Strategic Partnership, Local Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development by contributing to improving the economic, social and environmental quality of Bassetlaw.

### **Addressing quality and value issues**

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used below to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. We present below a high/low classification giving the following possible combinations of quality and value for open spaces:

#### **High quality/high value**

Ideally all open spaces should have an aspiration to come into this category and the planning system should then seek to protect them.

#### **High quality/low value**

Wherever possible, the preferred policy approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary purpose. If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose. Only if this is also impossible will it be acceptable to consider a change of use.

#### **Average quality/high value**

The policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality, if and when possible, and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

#### **Average quality/low value**

Wherever possible, the preferred policy approach to a space in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary purpose. If this is not possible, the next best policy approach is to consider whether it might be of high value if converted to some other primary purpose. Sites in this category may become 'surplus to requirements' in terms of their present primary purpose if value is not increased.

#### **Low quality/high value**

The policy approach to these spaces should be to enhance their quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

#### **Low quality/low value**

Wherever possible, the policy approach to these spaces or facilities should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose.

If there is a choice of spaces or facilities of equal quality to declare surplus, and no need to use one or part of one to remedy a deficiency in some other form of open space or sport and recreation provision, it will normally be sensible to consider disposing of the one with the lowest value. Similarly, if two are of equal value, it will normally be sensible to dispose of the one of lower quality.

### **Open space objectives**

This section sets out objectives for the development of open space provision in Bassetlaw. They are designed to address the issues summarised above from the assessment of open spaces.

The following targets were developed through the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and catchment mapping. Recommendations must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to meet planning considerations.

### **Parks**

- ◀ The aspiration for parks provision is to improve quality as a priority. Therefore, all parks assessed as poor or average quality should be increased to high quality in the short term (within five years):
  - ◀ Langold Country Park.
  - ◀ The Canch.
- ◀ Investigate potential to improve public transport links between rural settlements and key parks located in the main settlements. As a priority, consider improving access to provision for residents in Harworth.
- ◀ BDC should continue to develop and keep up to date management plans for all key parks, focused on maintaining site quality and encouraging use.
- ◀ BDC should work to maintain Green Flag status at Kings Park. Undertake necessary improvements and work to successfully submit a further site by 2010. Initially, this should focus on Langold County Park; but consideration should also be given to The Canch.
- ◀ BDC should continue to encourage and support community involvement in the management of the District's parks.
- ◀ BDC should continue to improve access to provision, e.g. raising awareness through promotion, car parking, upgrading paths.
- ◀ As and when resources allow BDC should work to encourage and support the formation of a 'friends of' group at The Canch to increase community engagement in its management and development.
- ◀ Continue to develop the apprentice scheme in order to help increase and sustain future high quality.

### ***Natural and semi-natural greenspace***

- ◀ The aspiration for natural and semi natural provision is to improve access and quality across the District.
- ◀ Publicly accessible, natural and semi natural sites assessed as poor quality should be increased to high quality.
- ◀ BDC should maintain, and continue to build, partnerships with external agencies and voluntary sector organisations involved in the management of sites.
- ◀ Work to raise awareness of accessible natural and semi-natural open space provision and the value of the sites in terms of habitat value and education benefits should be undertaken. This may be achieved through increased information accessible on the BDC website and greater engagement of local schools.
- ◀ The countryside should be promoted as a valuable open space resource for a variety of users. As well as habitat value it also offers informal play opportunities and provides walking and horse riding routes linking a number of settlements.
- ◀ The potential of semi-natural sites should be utilised to develop and promote 'creative' and 'wild' play opportunities.
- ◀ In the long term, work to further increase the availability of accessible local nature reserve (LNR) provision and work to designate at least two additional sites, to meet the current 27 hectare shortfall against the Natural England recommended standard.
- ◀ BDC should increase opportunities for the experience of nature review maintenance regimes for formal open space provision and where feasible modify to introduce natural features e.g. wildflower meadows.
- ◀ Options to decrease unofficial motorbike use across open spaces should be considered. These may include, for example, through greater publicity with regard to penalties, increasing deterrent signs, perimeter fencing and gates.

### ***Amenity greenspace***

- ◀ All sites to be retained. The aspiration for amenity greenspace is to improve quality and provide new provision in Elkesley as a priority.
- ◀ All sites assessed as poor quality should be increased to at least average quality. As a priority, invest in sites above two hectares in size:
  - ◀ Memorial Hall.
  - ◀ South Parade.
- ◀ Work to create more functional and visually attractive amenity greenspaces through, for example, provision of seating and/or landscaping.
- ◀ Ensure that new housing developments provide sufficient allowances for amenity greenspaces, where appropriate.
- ◀ Develop, promote and encourage the play opportunities offered by sites, where appropriate.
- ◀ BDC should proactively raise awareness, and tackle the problem, of dog foul on open spaces through education campaigns across the District. Raise awareness that dog waste can now be disposed of in general waste/dual waste litterbins, which are being provided within key sites.

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- ◀ Encourage and support community involvement and ownership of amenity greenspace. Support local communities to facilitate events and activities on sites.

#### ***Provision for children and young people***

- ◀ The aspiration for equipped children's play provision is to increase quality/value and provide new provision, as a short term priority in:
  - ◀ Harworth/ Bircotes (new facilities to be installed at Tommy Simpson Recreation Ground in August 2009).
  - ◀ Worksop East.
  - ◀ Gateford area of Worksop.

Provide new provision, as a medium term priority in:

- ◀ Babworth
  - ◀ South Leverton
  - ◀ Nether Langwith
- ◀ Support parish councils to develop additional play provision in deficient areas, in particular, Lound (basketball), Rampton (equipped play area), Clarbrough and Welham (equipped play area), Elkesley (equipped play area), and Sturton-le-Steeple (youth shelter for teenagers).
- ◀ All new provision should meet minimum size standards, be of at least LEAP size. Where appropriate and feasible, it should offer more adventurous and challenging play opportunities with a variety of equipment catering for a wide age range. BDC and partners should encourage greater provision of interactive play equipment such as talk tubes and interactive grids.
- ◀ BDC (and partners) should support and encourage providers of provision to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of play provision. All new and refurbished play areas to provide inclusive provision.
- ◀ BDC should fully utilise developer contributions to address the quality of current stock and achieve better contributions to increase the scale of provision and underpin the continued maintenance of any new provision.
- ◀ The aspiration for provision for young people is to increase provision of BMX track facilities and skate ramps. BDC and partners should work with local communities and young people and ensure that users are involved in the design and location of future provision to create greater ownership of sites and ensure that users needs are being met.
- ◀ Perimeter fencing, where appropriate, and safety surfacing should be evident at all new and existing play areas. Where feasible seating should be provided in and around play provision.
- ◀ BDC and partners should continue to encourage and support the community in providing and improving play opportunities for children and young people.

***Allotments***

- ◀ The aspiration for allotments is to provide new provision to meet current and future demand.
- ◀ As a priority, new provision should be made in Retford. In partnership with allotment associations, BDC should consider plot splitting and sharing to better utilise current provision to meet waiting list demand. It should also consider introducing a policy which ensures that where a waiting list for provision exists, a single tenant cannot be allocated more than one plot.
- ◀ Consideration should be given to the value of retaining Keats Crescent (unused site) in Worksop.
- ◀ If unused provision in Worksop is disposed of for allotment use, funds generated should be reinvested into demand areas (Manton) and greater promotion of sites with available capacity. For example, bringing back into use Spur Crescent, Manton (30 plots).
- ◀ Investigate the potential to bring Rufford Avenue Allotments back into use to help meet deficiencies in Retford. Ensure sufficient security measures are put in place, including full fencing of the site and investigate the potential to set up self management.
- ◀ Consider leasing Leaffield Allotments in Retford (landlocked site) to a local community group for self management. Further investigate access opportunities onto the site to assess quality.
- ◀ A District-wide allotment strategy should be produced to guide the strategic management of provision across all managing bodies. As part of this, undertake a review of the effectiveness of self-management of provision by associations and encourage and support the formation of an allotment user forum to facilitate the sharing of management skills and best practice.
- ◀ Initiate a policy stating that if demand for raised beds arose, BDC would endeavour to provide for that demand if and where possible to ensure that provision is fully inclusive.
- ◀ BDC should work in partnership with all providers to raise awareness of provision in Worksop and its value (in terms of wider social and health benefits) to the local community.

***Cemeteries***

- ◀ The aspiration for cemeteries is to ensure that provision remains accessible and is promoted as a recreation resource. However, new provision should be driven by the need for burial space rather than the need for open space.
- ◀ BDC should investigate the potential to submit Retford Cemetery for the Green Flag Award in 2010.
- ◀ As and when required, BDC should investigate the potential for additional burial space to be developed on an adjacent field.
- ◀ In the medium term, improve access to Hannah Park.
- ◀ Greater use of cemeteries for informal recreation e.g. walking and continue to enhance areas for wildlife should be encouraged.
- ◀ Greater use of cemeteries as an educational resource, both in terms of heritage and environmental value should be encouraged.

***Civic space***

- ◀ The aspiration for civic space is to improve both the quality and functionality of provision. As a priority, work to increase the quality of provision in Worksop:
  - ◀ Worksop Market Place
  - ◀ Bridge Street
  - ◀ Victoria Square
- ◀ Better utilise town centre open spaces for community activities/events. Encourage these of these spaces e.g. through the provision of seating and features of interest.

## **PART12: ACTION PLANNING**

The aim of the action plan is to identify site improvements, which BDC should work towards in partnership with agencies and other landowners across the District. It should also be used by BDC to inform the negotiation in securing developer contributions to ensure adequate Section 106 Agreements are sought for the improvement of open space, sport and recreation facilities across Bassetlaw.

### **Vision**

**Achieve excellence and utilise the opportunities to raise standards across Bassetlaw through the dovetailing of the Action Plan with major influences on management and planning of open space, sport and recreation facilities.**

### **Aims**

Well-managed and appropriately placed open spaces serve as a delivery mechanism for themes within the Bassetlaw Community Strategy Addendum 2007-2020. Most obviously open spaces contribute to improving people's quality of life, health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. Open spaces can also influence perceptions of community safety, deprivation and poverty levels and the local economy.

The variety of formal and informal provision provided across Bassetlaw provides opportunity for all people to play, exercise, meet one another, and hold public events. As a focal point of a community, parks and open spaces can contribute to building community spirit and community cohesion. This role, however, must be carefully balanced with the function of open spaces as a home to wildlife.

The delivery of strategic aims (see table 1.1 below) will support work to deliver themes highlighted in the Bassetlaw Community Strategy (2009-2020), which are aligned to the action plan, which follows.

*Table 1.1: Bassetlaw Community Strategy and Action Plan strategic aims*

<b>Aim 1 Enterprising Communities</b>	<b>Aim 2 Learning Communities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and engagement with local businesses.</li> <li>• Create an enterprising and knowledge based economy.</li> <li>• Create a climate for investment and competitiveness.</li> <li>• Stimulate and enhance town centres.</li> <li>• Increase tourism within the District.</li> <li>• Increase employment and economic activity rates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning communities.</li> <li>• Rural and community/ outreach educational provision.</li> <li>• Raising aspirations.</li> <li>• Increase employment and economic activity rates by supporting workforce development.</li> <li>• Act as a networking/ liaison body for local providers.</li> </ul>



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<b>Aim 3 Sustainable Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce, re-use, and recycle.</li> <li>• Promotion/ awareness of raising environmental issues.</li> <li>• Conserve and expand areas of open green space.</li> <li>• Achieve cleaner and greener public spaces.</li> </ul>	<b>Aim 4 Healthier Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the health of children and young people.</li> <li>• To ensure that the complex interrelationship between health and worklessness supports the economic and social well-being priorities of the District.</li> <li>• Address the adverse effects of alcohol on the population of Bassetlaw.</li> <li>• To promote health and active life in older age for the population of Bassetlaw.</li> <li>• Maximise the opportunities provided by the smoke free legislation, to support people who want to stop smoking and reduce the impact of second hand smoke.</li> </ul>
<b>Aim 5 Stronger Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve community engagement/ consultation.</li> <li>• Equal access to services.</li> <li>• Community leadership and local community planning.</li> <li>• Active citizenship.</li> <li>• Promote/ create sustainable communities.</li> </ul>	<b>Aim 6 Safer Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce serious and acquisitive crime.</li> <li>• Improve people's perceptions about the area in which they live and work and reduce criminal damage across the area.</li> <li>• Using evidence based problem solving to reduce harm caused by drugs and alcohol.</li> <li>• Improve the life chances for those most vulnerable to becoming an offender or victim of crime.</li> <li>• Restrict the chances of children and young people becoming offenders or victims of crime.</li> </ul>
<b>Aim 7 Every Child Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional health and well-being.</li> <li>• Parenting.</li> <li>• Attainment/ aspirations.</li> <li>• Safety.</li> <li>• Obesity.</li> <li>• Teenage pregnancy.</li> </ul>	<b>Aim 8 Transport and Accessibility Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote transport alternatives to the car.</li> <li>• Improve accessibility to jobs and services within Bassetlaw.</li> <li>• Promotion of effective school travel plans.</li> <li>• Consultation on LTP developments.</li> <li>• Promotion of concessionary fare schemes.</li> <li>• Look to improve relationships with local operators to ensure value for money provision.</li> <li>• Provide development support and monitoring to the transport to health scheme.</li> </ul>

### Partnership working

Open space is owned and managed by a wide variety of agencies across Bassetlaw, including BDC, Nottinghamshire County Council, town and parish councils, civic associations and local agencies such as Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. In order to be successful, key partner agencies must be fully engaged in delivery of the Action Plan.

### **Inclusion of sites within the action plan**

The action plan does not include all sites and associated quality and value improvements to be made; details on how this is best achieved can be found in the accompanying study database. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the action plan. Just one of the following may apply:

- ◀ The site suffers from access problems in terms of safety, poor signage and/or poor disability provision.
- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community empowerment.
- ◀ The importance of the site is referenced in other strategies.

### **Management and development**

The following issues should be considered when undertaking site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Gaining revenue funding from planning contributions in order to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Gaining planning contributions to assist with the creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease site to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups/parish councils to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.

### **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a six year timescale. This will allow the audit information to be revisited in five years. The information within the Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The Action Plan is presented by analysis area and uses the following timescales for delivery:

(S) - Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

The prioritisation of actions is based on a number of factors but typically takes into account the type of works required, the current quality and value of the site, its location and the readiness of partners to undertake or oversee the work. Wherever possible we have also tried to ensure a balanced distribution of actions for one given area, as it is recognised that all actions cannot be achieved at once.

# BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

### PART 13: THE ACTION PLAN

#### Harworth

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
<b>Natural/semi natural greenspace</b>							
Hawkins Close	91			S	Although site is of high value (due mainly to usage i.e. informal play and BMX), the overall site condition is assessed as being poor. Site allocated for housing in Local Plan due to its poor quality.	Ensure adequate mitigation for any future loss of provision in relation to this site. This could include investment in nearby sites to improve quality and accessibility.	3
Land behind Gregory Crescent	112			L	Private land assessed as poor quality and value as it is over grown with no public access. This site is not required to serve a public access need and its removal from the calculations does not affect accessibility.	Investigate the potential to enhance quality and/or accessibility provided this will enhance value. If this is not possible, for whatever reason, the space or facility may be 'surplus to requirements' in terms of its present primary purpose.	-
Piggeries	164			S	Issues of fly-tipping due to isolated nature of the site. Protected in Local Plan.	Work with landowner to increase quality and access in order to increase its value.	3
Snipe Park Wood	201			M	Issues of fly-tipping due to isolated nature of the site. Used for informal play.	Increase quality and value of this site to further increase its capacity to meet deficiency recorded in Harworth of parks provision. Ensure developer contributions are sought to achieve this. Review fencing/security around the boundary. Establish habitat management programme to encourage greater wildlife on site and biodiversity value.	3 and 6

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Scrooby Road	192			S	High value site used as a BMX track and for dog walking but overall quality is very poor. Issues of fly-tipping and dog fouling.	Review and increase site maintenance. Consider development of natural play opportunities.	2, 3 and 6
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>							
Common Lane	45			S	Issue of dog fouling identified during site audit.	Work towards greater dog fouling enforcement and promotion of use of general waste bins for disposing of dog foul.	2 and 3
Cumberland Close	52						
Scrooby Road	190						
Scrooby Road	191						
Shrewsbury Road	199						
Thoresby Close	293						
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>							
Tommy Simpson Play Ground	296			M	Poor overall condition of site and equipment.	Ensure new and updated play equipment is installed as planned and incorporate inclusive equipment. Consider future expansion of the play area to include teen provision such as skate ramps.	3, 4, 6 and 7

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### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

#### Retford

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
<b>Allotments</b>							
Albert Road	2			S	Fully occupied site with waiting list. Although overall good quality, accessibility and safety is poor.	Look to improve value, particularly safety and accessibility features such as toilets and car parking.	3, 5 and 6
Babworth Road Cemetery	17			S/M	Low value site which is half unused/vacant. High demand for provision in Retford area.	Further promote use of site through BDC website. Work with landowner to improve quality and increase availability of plots to help meet demand in the area and increase value.	2, 3, 5 and 6
Bolham Lane	23			S/M	Low value site with parts unused/vacant. High demand for provision in Retford area.	Further promote use of site through BDC website. Work with landowner to improve quality and increase availability of plots to help meet demand in the area and increase value.	2, 3, 5 and 6
East of Century Road	69			S/M	Low value and quality site. Majority of site is identified as being vacant. High demand for provision in Retford area.	Further promote use of site through BDC website. Work with landowner to improve quality and increase availability of plots to help meet demand in the area and increase value.	2, 3, 5 and 6
Grove Road	86			S	Low value score. However, site is fully occupied with waiting list.	Investigate and discuss with allotment forum plot splitting and sharing to better utilise current provision to meet waiting list demand and increase value.	5

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Leaffield Road (enclosed)	150			S/M	Significantly underused due to its lack of access. Site is land locked with access only via surrounding houses.	Further investigate access opportunities onto the site to assess quality. Investigate the potential to lease site to a local community group for self-management.	2, 3 and 5
Rufford Avenue	182			S/M	Unused site and closed due to previously having suffered from vandalism.	Investigate the potential to bring site back into use to help meet deficiencies in Retford. Ensure sufficient security measures are put in place, including full fencing. Investigate the potential to set up self-management.	2, 3 and 6
Newtown	271			S	Low value score. However, site is fully occupied with waiting list.	Consider plot splitting and sharing to better utilise current provision to meet waiting list demand and increase value.	5 and 6
Water Lane	313			L	Low value score. However, site is fully occupied.	Work with landowner to improve value of site, particularly safety and accessibility features.	2, 5 and 6
Westfield	340			L	Low value score. However, site is well used site.	Work with landowner to improve value of site, particularly safety and accessibility features.	2, 5 and 6
<b>Natural/semi natural greenspace</b>							
Babworth Road	16			S/M	Low value site. Overall adequate quality, although accessibility and safety is poor.	Establish habitat management programme to increase biodiversity. Carry out a review of safety and accessibility features.	3 and 6
Land of Goosemoor Lane	76			S	Site also acts as a green corridor. Overall adequate quality, although accessibility and safety is poor.	Improve value, particularly safety and accessibility features.	3

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Sandhills, Jubilee Road	185			M	Low value site. However, site is used for informal play, BMX biking and walking.	Further provide formal provision to cater for recreational activities.	-
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>							
Amcott Way	13			M	Low value site. Overall good quality, although accessibility and safety is poor.	In order to increase value, look to increase function. For example, provision of seating and/or landscaping.	3
Old School Site, North Road	153			S	Area fenced off for school demolition - debris still present resulting in the site being assessed as low quality and value. However, site is unofficially used by local residents.	Work towards reopening the site with full public access, supporting plans to install play area (minimum NEAP size).	2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>							
Hillcrest Mews	101			S	Poor and potentially dangerous site.	In the short term, the play area is to be removed and made safe through removal of boulders. However, complete removal would create an accessibility gap and should therefore be reinstated in the long term.	3, 6 and 7

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Strawberry Park	269			S	Two broken springy pieces of equipment recorded during audit.	Replace broken equipment in order to increase to high quality.	3 and 7
Rufford Avenue	289			S	Poor overall condition of site and equipment.	Work to improve site quality, including updating and replacing play equipment.	3, 6 and 7
<b>Civic space</b>							
Cannon Square	32			M	Average quality score.	Maintain to a high standard and ensure regular maintenance.	1, 3 and 6
Carolgate	34			M	Average quality score.	Maintain to a high standard and ensure regular maintenance.	1, 3 and 6
Retford Market Place	135			S	New paving required.	Ensure identified work schedule for site is undertaken.	1, 3 and 6
<b>Cemeteries</b>							
Retford Cemetery	154			M/L	Good quality site but lacking in value. Recently given LNR status. High level of wildlife species identified.	Work to increase value by promoting informal recreation opportunities linked to wildlife activity. Work with 'Friends of Retford Cemetery' to investigate requirements for future Green Flag Award submission. Investigate the potential for additional burial space to be developed on an adjacent field.	2, 3 and 5



## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

#### Rural

Site	Parish area	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
<b>Allotments</b>								
Cockshut Lane	Nether Langwith	43			S	Although allotments are in use, the site scored as low quality and value.	Work with landowner to improve overall condition of site in consultation with users. Promote the site through BDC website.	2, 3, 5 and 6
Glovers Close	Cuckney	74			M	Site not currently in use. Low quality but high value.	Work with Groundwork to further establish local need for allotments and consider alternative use as play area.	2, 3, 5 and 7
Kitchen Terrace	Nether Langwith	169			L	Average quality score.	As and when required, work with landowner to improve overall condition of site in consultation with users.	2 and 3
<b>Parks and gardens</b>								
Langold Country Park	Hodsock	121			S/M	Considered poor quality and in need of investment. Hotspot for off-road motorcycle use. Has a management plan and active 'friends group'.	Work with the police and Manton Motorbike Project in resolving issue of off-road bike use, including greater publicity with regard to penalties and increasing deterrent signs. Support 'Friends of Langold Country Park' in improving general quality in relation to working towards future Green Flag Award application.	1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7

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Site	Parish area	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>								
Town Street	Sutton	168			M	Reasonable site but lacks functionality reflecting its low value.	Work to create a more functional and visually attractive site. Consider installing play equipment.	2, 5, 6 and 7
Blacksmiths Playing Field	North Leverton	236			M	Good quality site but lacks functionality reflecting its low value.	Work to create a more functional and visually attractive site, including improvements to the play area.	2, 3, 6 and 7
Woodhouse Street	Carlton in Lindrick	331			S	Good quality but low value. Contains bins, benches and a pond.	Work with the local community to increase interest/ownership in the site. Further introduce natural features such as a wildflower meadow.	3 and 5
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>								
Blacksmiths Playing Field	North Leverton	22			S/M	North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe Parish Council plan to revamp play equipment and basketball court.	Support Parish Council in its plans to improve play equipment and facilities. Consider expansion of the play area to include teen provision such as skate ramps.	2, 5, 6 and 7
Cross Street	Sturton Le Steeple	51			S/M	Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council is planning to expand provision for teenagers with possibly a youth shelter.	Support Parish Council in its plans to expand youth provision and work with young people to create ownership.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6

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Site	Parish area	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Daneshill Road	Lound	54			S/M	Parish Council looking to develop facility for older children (e.g. basketball court).	Support Parish Council in its aspirations to expand youth provision and work with young people to create ownership.	4, 6 and 7
Elmsmere Drive	Styrrup with Oldcotes	63			L	Play equipment currently in reasonable condition.	Maintain to current standard and look to replace equipment as required.	3 and 7
Keyes Court	Mattersey	105			M	Contains one swing and a slide and is of low quality.	Work to improve site quality by increasing the number of pieces of equipment. Ensure inclusive provision is provided.	2, 5, 6 and 7
Langold Country Park	Hodsock	121.1			S	Play Area Inspection Report 2008 finds site to have potential to meet standard at a minimal cost.	Increase play area to meet NEAP standard as a minimum and replace damaged seats.	2, 3, 4 and 7
Langold Country Park	Hodsock	121.2			S	Play Area Inspection Report 2008 finds site to have potential to meet standard at a minimal cost.	Increase play area to meet LEAP standard as a minimum.	2, 3, 4, 5
Main Street	Norton	130			M	Reasonable overall condition but poor accessibility and safety.	Look to improve quality in relation to safety and accessibility features.	3 and 6
Land Behind Village Hall	Clarborough and Welham	176			L	Parish Council plan to expand site.	Support Parish Council in its plans to increase the amount of equipment on site.	2, 6 and 7
Tuxford Road	East Markham	303			M	Pleasant site but lacks actual play equipment.	Increase to LEAP or NEAP size in order to fully meet the needs of local users.	2, 6 and 7

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Site	Parish area	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Underwood Avenue	Torworth	304			M	Adequate site but scores poor for safety and accessibility features.	Look to improve quality in relation to safety and accessibility features.	3 and 6
Village Hall, Styrrup Lane	Styrrup with Oldcotes	311			M	Generally a good quality site but has poor quality play equipment.	Look to improve general quality of site.	3
Winston Green	Mattersey	328			S	Poor quality site with a lack of play equipment variety.	Install additional interactive play equipment such as talk tubes and interactive grids.	3 and 7
<b>Cemeteries</b>								
St Peters Church	Hayton	255			S	High quality site with low value.	Look to improve safety and accessibility features. For example, encourage informal recreation opportunities i.e. walking and enhance areas for wildlife.	3 and 6
Bothamsall Cemetery	Bothamsall	335			S	High quality site with low value.	Look to improve safety and accessibility features. For example, encourage informal recreation opportunities i.e. walking and enhance areas for wildlife.	3 and 6

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

#### Tuxford

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
<b>Natural/semi natural greenspace</b>							
Junction off Lincoln Road and Ash Vale Road (east)	350			L	Identified as being unsuitable for play due to location next to busy road.	Ensure site provides good habitats for wildlife and continues to act as a valuable visual amenity.	2, 3 and 5
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>							
Memorial Hall	144			S	Poor quality site above two hectares in size which is seeing ongoing improvements.	Continue to work to improve site quality as a priority.	3
Kennedy Court/Keats Crescent	349			M	Privately owned land. High levels of glass and rubbish. Planning permission granted for housing development.	Ensure appropriate developer contributions are sought for the sites replacement in terms of its high value. Consider investment for Memorial Hall to improve its quality and capacity.	3 and 6
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>							
Linden Avenue	125			S	Overall the site is worn and damaged.	If new facilities are providing on neighbouring site, reduce and phase out major facility repairs and eventually remove provision.	3, 4 and 7
<b>Cemeteries</b>							
St Oswalds Church	247			M	Overall condition of the site is deemed to be poor.	In partnership with the landowner, work to improve site quality. Accessibility could also be improved.	3 and 5

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PPG17 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY

#### Workshop

Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
<b>Allotments</b>							
Bracebridge Avenue	25			L	Currently not used as allotments.	Retain site as future strategic reserve for allotments, bringing back into use in the long term if participation/demand increases in the area.	2, 3 and 5
Cheapside	37			S/M	Good quality site with vacant plots available.	Promote availability of plots through BDC website, leaflets and future allotment strategy. Continuation to promote and use site as good practice design.	2, 3 and 5
High Hoe Road	96			L	Poor quality score. Site not in use as allotments.	Retain site as future strategic reserve for allotments, bringing back into use in the long term if participation/demand increases in the area. Due to its poor quality, significant investment would be required for this to be achieved.	2, 3 and 5
Lincoln Street	163			M	Could help to meet high demand recorded in Manton area.	Retain site as future strategic reserve for allotments, bringing back into use in the long term if participation/demand increases in the area. Due to its poor quality, significant investment would be required for this to be achieved.	2, 3 and 5
Keats Crescent	167			S	Unused site with 12 plots.	Further investigate the merit of retaining this site for allotment use. Any funds generated by the loss of this site as allotments should be reinvested into demand areas. For example, bringing back into use Radford Street.	2, 3 and 5

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Radford Street (Spur Crescent)	207			M	Unused site with 30 plots. Could help to meet high demand recorded in Manton area.	Utilise investment from decommission of other sites as allotments to bring back into use. Ensure small plot sizes to maximise use. Ensure targeted promotion and community working to further generate demand.	2, 3 and 5
Stubbing Lane 2+3	273			S	64 vacant plots recorded. Poor value score.	Look to improve the value of the site, particularly safety. Ensure targeted promotion and community working to further generate demand.	2, 3 and 5
Water Meadows	314			L	Poor value score.	Work with landowner to improve the value of the site, particularly safety and accessibility features.	2, 3 and 6
<b>Parks and gardens</b>							
The Canch	280			M	Adequate quality site with the potential to be a high quality Green Flag site.	Establish an interest/friends group for the site and work to improve its general quality. Increase maintenance and manage as a Green Flag site. Consider for future Green Flag Award application.	2, 3, 4 and 5
<b>Natural/semi natural greenspace</b>							
Land at and behind pumping station	113			S/M	Fly tipping is an issue.	Look to improve access and security of site. Further increase habitat management in order to help promote the site as an area of interest.	3, 5 and 6

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Land behind the football ground, Sandy Lane	186			M	Poor quality and value score. Removal of this site does not affect accessibility.	If improving quality will not increase its value, consider alternative use for the site. Ensure adequate mitigation for any future loss of provision in relation to this site. This could include investment in nearby sites to improve quality and accessibility.	3 and 5
Shireoaks Road	197			S	Good quality site with low value.	Promote habitat value. Establish habitat management programme to encourage greater wildlife on site and biodiversity value.	2 and 3
St Anne's Drive	212			S	Play area planned for site with Section 106 monies set aside.	Ensure play area is installed. Use this opportunity to develop and promote 'creative' and 'wild' play opportunities.	3, 4, 5 and 7
<b>Amenity greenspace</b>							
Hannah Park View	89			S	Poor quality score but highly valued.	Further evaluate reason for poor quality score and work to increase quality as a priority.	3 and 5
Retford Road	178			M	Rampton Parish Council plan for a children's play area to be developed.	Support Parish Council in its plans to develop a play area and increase the function of the site.	2, 3, 4 and 7
Land off Retford Road	179			L	Reasonable, well-used site but with poor safety and accessibility scores.	Work to improve safety and accessibility features.	3 and 7
Sandy Lane	187			M	Poor quality score due to issue of dog fouling evidence of fly tipping.	Review and increase site maintenance procedures. Work towards greater dog fouling enforcement and promotion of use of general waste bins for disposing of dog foul.	2, 3 and 6



## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
South Parade	203			S	Poor quality site above two hectares in size. Evidence of fly tipping.	Enhance general quality of site. Promote site's informal play and BMX opportunities and consider installation of formal play provision.	3, 5, 6 and 7
<b>Provision for children and young people</b>							
York Place	47			M	BDC and Shireoaks Parish Council identify need for seating and fencing to be repaired.	Support the Parish Council in seeking funding opportunities to fully refurbish play area and increase in size to meet BDC standards.	3, 4, 6 and 7
Keswick Road	104			S	Poor overall condition.	Increase the general quality of the site and its play equipment.	3, 4 and 7
Mary Street	140			M	Play Area Inspection Report 2008 finds site to have potential to meet standard at a minimal cost.	Increase play area to meet LEAP standard as a minimum and refurbish existing equipment.	3, 4, 5 and 7
St Davids Close	215			S	Play Area Inspection Report 2008 suggests removal of site.	Further investigate removal of this site. Removal would create an accessibility gap. Therefore, ensure provision exists as a priority in the area, for example on Wingfield Avenue/Blyth Road.	3, 4 and 7
Thackery Close	279			L	Dated play equipment identified.	Update play equipment to ensure the quality of the site is further increased.	3, 4 and 7
The Canch	281.1			S	High levels of litter reported due to popularity of the site. Dated play equipment.	Increase to high quality and work towards greater maintenance and in particular litter enforcement. Ensure strategic placement of bins around the play area. Play equipment will require updating in the medium term.	2, 3 and 7

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Site	KKP Ref	Quality score	Value score	Timescale	Issues	Recommended action	Community Strategy themes met
Valley Road	306			M	Poor quality score for play equipment.	Refurbish and update play equipment. Include inclusive play equipment.	3, 4 and 7
Wensleydale Opp, Colsterdale	315			M	Good site but play equipment is in poor condition.	Refurbish and update play equipment. Include inclusive play equipment.	3, 4 and 7
<b>Civic space</b>							
Bridge Street	29			S	Poor quality score.	Look to increase quality of site, where possible through provision such as floral displays.	1, 3 and 6
Market Place	136			S	Poor quality score.	Look to increase quality of site, where possible through provision such as floral displays.	1, 3 and 6
Victoria Square	308			S/M	Poor overall condition and accessibility.	Look to increase quality of site, where possible through provision such as floral displays. Increase general access to the site.	1, 3 and 6
<b>Cemeteries</b>							
Hannah Park Cemetery	88			M/L	Easily accessed by car but difficult by walking. Good quality site, offering woodland burial service.	Investigate greater means of non-car access into the site e.g. creation of more pathways. Consideration for future Green Flag Award submission.	2, 3, 5 and 8

#### **Funding opportunities**

In order to deliver much of the above action plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions will go some way towards meeting deficiencies, other potential sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving parks, open spaces and nature conservation.

#### ***Lottery***

- ◀ Awards for All
- ◀ Heritage Lottery Fund

#### ***Landfill and Aggregate Taxes***

- ◀ Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund
- ◀ SITA Trust - an ethical funding organisation dedicated to making lasting improvements to the natural environment and community life.

#### ***Local and Central Government and EU***

- ◀ DEFRA Countryside Stewardship Scheme
- ◀ DEFRA Environmental Action Fund
- ◀ DEFRA Farm Woodland Premium Scheme
- ◀ EU Life Fund
- ◀ Forestry Commission - Woodland Grant Scheme
- ◀ Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - various funding opportunities relating to the countryside, environment, farm and woodland areas.
- ◀ Living Spaces website
- ◀ Groundwork – Community Spaces

#### ***Charitable trusts, foundations and companies***

- ◀ Ethnic Minorities Award Scheme for Environmental Projects (Black Environment Network website) - this small scheme is aimed at schools, community groups and individuals undertaking projects related to the environment and involve people from ethnic communities.
- ◀ Europa Nostra.
- ◀ Garfield Weston Foundation.
- ◀ Lloyds TSB Foundation.
- ◀ Nationwide Foundation - the aim of this foundation is to improve the range of opportunities for those in need and promote social inclusion.

#### **Funder's requirements**

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the PPG17 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study:

- ◀ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ◀ Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- ◀ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ◀ Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- ◀ Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ◀ Financial need and project cost.
- ◀ Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

## **PART 14: SETTING OPEN SPACE PROVISION STANDARDS**

### **Introduction**

Target quantity standards are a guideline as to how much open space, sport and recreation provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve Bassetlaw over the next ten years. Standards for each type of provision have been created in relation to demand, access and future population growth and are provided on an analysis area basis.

Development of standards is undertaken on an individual typology basis as opposed to grouping similar types of open spaces together such as formal (parks, cemeteries and allotments) and informal (amenity greenspace, natural and semi natural greenspace). This is done in order to recognise the different values placed on each typology as identified during site visits and as placed on them by residents during the consultation. However, on a local level, some similar typologies such as amenity greenspace and natural and semi natural greenspace have been compared within the process and are recognised as providing a similar function.

A composite approach to the setting of open space provision standards has been applied in Bassetlaw. It has taken account of the other possible options including the application of national standards and believes that this is the most appropriate way to produce locally derived standards for Bassetlaw. This conforms to the guidance set out by PPG17 and the Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities'.

The recommendations contained within this report should be reviewed on a regular basis as outlined in PPG17 and the Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities' and to take account of adopted housing allocations and windfall developments as and when required.

It is advised that the target local standards are adopted as part of the LDF and used within supplementary planning guidance in the context of planning applications such as the following:

- ◀ Where applicants propose the removal/relocation of open space, which will affect the amount of provision in a given area.
- ◀ Where developer contributions can be gained to improve the quality of existing provision and if required provide new provision.

## BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL

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#### Methodology

The assessment report divides Bassetlaw into analysis areas. These have been adopted to allow more localised assessment of provision, examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies and local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The following example calculation is applied to each typology to calculate how much open space provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve Bassetlaw in the future.

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2009-2026 (ha)
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
			$A/B \times 1,000$		$A+D$	$E/B \times 1,000$		$(E \times G / 1,000) - A$

For green corridors, due to their (generally) linear nature, it is not appropriate to set provision standards in terms of quantity and accessibility.

#### *The current level of provision (column A, B, C)*

The current level of provision is calculated using the information collected and is presented earlier within the assessment report and analysed using the open spaces project database. Residents often base their judgement of future need on or around the amount of current provision. Therefore, the starting point for calculating recommended quantitative standards is total current provision.

#### *Current deficiencies (column D)*

Accessibility standards have been applied in the form of catchment mapping to demonstrate which areas are deficient in provision. If a settlement does not have access to the required level of open space provision (as stated above) it is deemed deficient. KKP has estimated how many sites, of a minimum size (as provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA) guidance), are needed to provide comprehensive access to this type of provision (in hectares).

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The following table provides a summary of deficiencies in Bassetlaw:

Typology	Deficiency	Recommendation
Parks and gardens	With the exception of Harworth there are no settlements with significant populations to generate need for such provision.	Snipe Park (classified as natural greenspace) provides a similar function to that of a park and as such new provision is not recommended as a priority.
Natural and semi natural	Although there is no provision in Tuxford, residents generally appear to accept that they have to access provision by either travelling to Retford or outside of the District into Newark and Sherwood.	New provision is not a priority.
Cemeteries	An accessibility standard has not been set and the need for cemetery provision should be driven by the need for burial space.	Retford Cemetery still has spare burial capacity and there is also future potential for additional burial space to be developed on an adjacent field.
Amenity greenspace	A number of rural settlements do not have access to provision within walking distance and the most notable gap in provision is in Elkesley. However, On the whole it appears that respondents are happy with the provision of grassed areas with over four fifths (83%) rating availability as "about right".	New provision recommended in Elkesley equating to 0.4 hectares minimum.
Provision for children and young people	An accessibility standard that all residents are to be 10 minute walk time of high quality provision. On this basis, significant gaps in provision are identified on the outskirts of the major settlements. These gaps also reflect the gaps identified during the consultation.	New provision recommended in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harworth and Bircotes</li> <li>• Worksop East</li> <li>• Gateford area of Worksop</li> <li>• Babworth</li> <li>• South Leverton</li> <li>• Nether Langwith</li> </ul> Equating to 0.04 hectares minimum each.

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Typology	Deficiency	Recommendation
Allotments	<p>There is a lack of provision in the more rural settlements such as Elkesley, Torworth, Beckingham and Misterton.</p> <p>The combined allotment waiting list across Bassetlaw, of 73, demonstrates that the high demand for allotments is not currently being met by provision. Demand for additional provision is high in Retford. In addition, Torworth Parish Council is currently developing a piece of land (0.6ha) at North Road that will be leased for allotments.</p>	<p>Given the significant amount of plots the demand assessment is showing as being required to meet future demand, priority should be given to providing new plots in Retford as identified within the needs assessment. Mapping also identifies gaps in provision in the more rural settlements including, Elkesley, Torworth, Beckingham and Misterton, which should also be a priority for new provision.</p>
Civic space	<p>An accessibility standard that all residents are to be 20 drive time of high quality provision. Mapping shows that civic spaces are provided in the mains settlements of Worksop, Retford, Tuxford and Harworth and although a number of settlements do not have provision, the majority (84%) of street survey respondents feel that the level of provision of civic spaces is about right.</p>	<p>New provision is not a priority.</p>

*Target standards (column F)*

Once a new total provision is gained by adding in any deficiencies to the current provision (column E), this provides the basis to set aspirational standards.



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#### *Future population growth (columns G)*

We have utilised ONS 2004-based population estimates (published 20 December 2005). They project forward the mid year estimates of population for 2004 and give an indication of future trends by age and gender for next 25 years and suggest that current (2009) ONS mid 2007 estimates of 111,651 will increase by 16.7% to reach 130,296 by 2026 (to fit with the Bassetlaw Core Strategy). The projections are trend based projections and do not take in to account future local, regional or national policy and strategies. An increase of 16.7% is applied to each analysis area to reflect the population projections at a local level:

Analysis area	(ONS mid 2007 estimates) Current population	% Increase	(2026) Future population
Harworth	7,701	16.7%	8,987
Retford	21,626	16.7%	25,238
Rural	34,218	16.7%	39,932
Tuxford	4,231	16.7%	4,937
Worksop	43,875	16.7%	51,202
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	<b>111,651</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>130,296</b>

#### *Future deficiencies (column H)*

Future population growth is applied to the standard to calculate how much additional open space provision is needed to strategically serve population growth in Bassetlaw until 2026.

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#### *Quantitative provision standards*

##### *Parks and gardens*

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2009-2026 (ha)
Harworth	-	7,701	-	-	-	-	8,987	-
Retford	11.95	21,626	0.55	-	11.95	0.55	25,238	2.00
Rural	54.35	34,218	1.59	-	54.35	1.59	39,932	9.08
Tuxford	-	4,231	-	-	-	-	4,937	-
Worksop	4.63	43,875	0.11	-	4.63	0.11	51,202	0.77

##### *Natural and semi natural*

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2009-2026 (ha)
Harworth	15.82	7,701	2.05	-	15.82	2.05	8,987	2.64
Retford	64.59	21,626	2.99	-	64.59	2.99	25,238	10.79
Rural	6.03	34,218	0.18	-	6.03	0.18	39,932	1.01
Tuxford	0.07	4,231	0.02	-	0.07	0.02	4,937	0.02
Worksop	50.79	43,875	1.16	-	50.79	1.16	51,202	8.48

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#### *Amenity greenspace*

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2009-2026 (ha)
Harworth	4.23	7,701	0.55	-	4.23	0.55	8,987	0.71
Retford	9.61	21,626	0.44	-	9.61	0.44	25,238	1.61
Rural	20.43	34,218	0.60	0.4 <sup>1</sup>	20.83	0.61	39,932	3.88
Tuxford	6.51	4,231	1.54	-	6.51	1.54	4,937	1.09
Worksop	71.17	43,875	1.62	-	71.17	1.62	51,202	11.89

#### *Play areas*

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet catchment gaps (ha)	Total future provision required (ha)	Target standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2026)	Deficiency in provision 2009-2026 (ha)
Harworth	2.32	7,701	0.30	0.04 <sup>1</sup>	2.36	0.31	8,987	0.43
Retford	4.54	21,626	0.21	-	4.54	0.21	25,238	0.76
Rural	7.03	34,218	0.21	0.12 <sup>2</sup>	7.15	0.21	39,932	1.31
Tuxford	1.22	4,231	0.29	-	1.22	0.29	4,937	0.20
Worksop	12.85	43,875	0.29	0.08 <sup>3</sup>	12.93	0.29	51,202	2.24

<sup>1</sup> Deficiency identified from catchment mapping and consultation in Elkesley (minimum size 0.4 ha). Other gaps identified not deemed a priority to meet.

<sup>1</sup> Deficiencies identified from catchment mapping and consultation in Harworth and Bircotes (minimum site size 0.04 ha or LEAP).

<sup>2</sup> Deficiencies identified from catchment mapping and consultation in Babworth, South Leverton and Nether Langwith (minimum site size 0.04 ha or LEAP each). Other gaps identified not deemed a priority to meet.

<sup>3</sup> Deficiencies identified from catchment mapping and consultation in East Worksop and Gateford (minimum site size 0.04 ha or LEAP each).

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#### Allotments

Similarly to playing pitches, we are able to quantify demand for allotments taking into account waiting lists and vacant plots. Therefore, a slightly difference approach to calculating standards is presented below. The calculation identifies the number of plots required to meet demand in the future, together with the hectares that this equates to using the England average plot size of 0.025 hectares. This then feeds into a detailed demand based calculation taking into account the following:

- ✦ Latent suppressed demand – as expressed by the number of residents on waiting lists.
- ✦ Latent potential demand – to calculate this, the size of population not covered by an existing allotment site and its catchment is calculated; the current participation rate (total number of occupied plots/total current population) is applied to this population figure to calculate how many plots are required.
- ✦ Marketing/participation increase – allotments are growing in popularity nationally; to cater for this an allowance is made for participation/take-up to increase by 10% by 2026.

			Harworth	Retford	Rural	Tuxford	Worksop
A	Number of plots	-	10	197	100	24	350
B	Area (ha)	-	0.22	6.28	7.56	0.60	13.05
C	Occupied plots	A-D	10	180	100	24	226
D	Vacant plots	-	0	17	0	0	124
E	Number of residents on waiting list	-	0	48	0	0	22
F	Population not served by current provision	-	4,423	3,549	31,876	2,991	16,640
G	Current participation rate (plots per 1,000 pop)	C/F*1000	1.30	8.32	2.92	5.67	5.15
H	Plots required to meet population not served by provision	F*G/1000	6	30	93	17	86
I	Current population (ONS 2006 mid year population estimates)	-	7,701	21,626	34,218	4,231	43,875
J	Future population (2026)	-	8,987	25,238	39,932	4,937	51,202
K	Change in population	J-I	1,286	3,612	5,714	707	7,327
L	Plots required for population change	G*K/1000	2	30	17	4	38
M	Marketing plots	M*10%	2	30	21	4	50
N	Plots required Total	A+E+H+L+M+D	20	352	231	49	669
O	Average plot size (ha)	-	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
P	Total area (ha)	-	0.48	8.80	5.77	1.24	16.73
Q	Standard	P/J*1,000	0.05	0.35	0.14	0.25	0.33

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Please note all figures are rounded up to the nearest full plot.

Given the significant amount of plots the demand assessment is showing as being required to meet future demand, priority should be given to providing new plots in Retford as identified within the needs assessment. Mapping also identifies gaps in provision in the more rural settlements including, Elkesley, Torworth, Beckingham and Misterton, which should also be a priority for new provision.

#### Seeking developer contributions

All new development should incorporate commitment to provision of open space to meet the needs of their residents or users in line with the above standards. This provision should be tailored to the character of the surrounding landscape. Irrespective of use, informal open space should be sustainably managed in partnership with the relevant environmental stakeholders.

#### *How much open space is required?*

The requirement for open spaces should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme, using the average household occupancy rate of 2.32 persons per dwelling as derived from the Census 2001. On this basis 1,000 persons at 2.32 persons per household represents 431 dwellings.

The next stage is to calculate the open space requirement by typology per dwelling. This is calculated by multiplying 431 (dwellings) by the appropriate provision per dwelling by typology. Using Natural/semi natural greenspace in Tuxford as an example, the recommended standard is 0.02 ha (200 sq. metres) per 1,000 population or 431 dwellings. Therefore by dividing 200 sq. metres by 431 dwellings a requirement for 0.5 sq. metres per dwelling is obtained.

Table 2 below shows the open space requirement per dwelling by typology.

Figures in *italics* are the recommended standards from per 1,000 population, whilst the figures in **bold** are the open space requirements per dwelling in square metres.

*Table 2: Open Space Requirements Per Dwelling*

	Harworth	Retford	Rural	Tuxford	Worksop
<b>Open space</b>					
Parks and gardens	-	<i>0.55</i>	<i>1.59</i>	-	<i>0.11</i>
	-	<b>10.9</b>	<b>36.9</b>	-	<b>2.6</b>
Semi/natural greenspace	<i>2.05</i>	<i>2.99</i>	<i>0.18</i>	<i>0.02</i>	<i>1.16</i>
	<b>47.6</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>26.9</b>
Amenity greenspace	<i>0.55</i>	<i>0.44</i>	<i>0.61</i>	<i>1.54</i>	<i>1.62</i>
	<b>12.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>
Allotments	<i>0.05</i>	<i>0.35</i>	<i>0.14</i>	<i>0.25</i>	<i>0.33</i>
	<b>1.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.7</b>

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	Harworth	Retford	Rural	Tuxford	Worksop
<b>Children's play</b>					
Equipped children's play	0.31 7.2	0.21 4.9	0.21 4.9	0.29 6.7	0.29 6.7

#### ***How is the provision to be made?***

The requirements for on-site or off-site provision will vary according to the type of open space to be provided.

#### ***Open space typologies recommendation:***

The rural areas of Bassetlaw are set in natural surroundings with ready access to the countryside. For this reason it is not considered appropriate to require developer contributions for natural/semi natural greenspace. However, it is proposed that appropriate on-site provision may be negotiated with a developer on an application by application basis in accordance with the recommended standards, having regard to the location and characteristics of the site.

A financial contribution, where appropriate, will be required for the following subject to the relevant town or parish council providing and managing this form of open space provision:

- ✦ Parks and gardens.
- ✦ Amenity greenspace
- ✦ Allotments.

#### ***Equipped children's play areas recommendation:***

Residential developments will normally be required to meet the need for children's play generated by the development on site, either as an integral part of the design, or through payment of a development contribution which will be used to install or upgrade play facilities in the vicinity of a proposed development.

Whilst the norm has been to expect provision to be made on site, consideration needs to be given to the feasibility of provision based elsewhere in the locality or the wider District.

The NPFA recommended minimum area of a formal LAP (Local Area for Play) is approx. 0.01ha, or 100 sq. metres (0.01ha). Similarly, the NPFA recommended area of a formal LEAP (Local Equipped Area for Play) is approx. 0.04 hectares, or 400 sq. metres. Therefore, a significant amount of new housing development would be required on a site to warrant on-site provision of formal children's play space of an NPFA standard.

This means that for a significant number of development sites formal children's play space provision should take the form of developer contributions to install or up-grade local equipped children's play facilities in the vicinity of the development. However, some informal provision may still need to be made on site.

The extent to which the amount of the required provision should be made on site by way of informal provision would be determined on a case by case basis subject to site size, shape, topography, the risk of conflict with existing neighbouring residential properties and feasibility. Any informal provision can include useable informal grassed areas but should not include landscaping areas.

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### APPENDICES

#### Appendix 1: Consultee list

The core of this phase of the project revolved around extensive consultation with key individuals, interest groups, parish councils, Nottinghamshire County Council officers, BDC officers and agencies working in Bassetlaw. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted either face-to-face, telephone or by questionnaire using contacts provided by BDC and those uncovered by to KKP during consultation.

Successful consultation		
Name	Designation	Organisation
John Foster	Parks and Leisure Officer	BDC
Richard Merrill	Parks and Leisure Consultant	BDC
Tony Wright	Sports Development Service	BDC
Mr D. Marsh	Clerk	Babworth Parish Council
Mrs A. Fraser	Clerk	Barnby Moor Parish Council
Mr C. J. Gibson	Clerk	Beckingham-cum-Saundby Parish Council
Mr A. Jillott	Clerk	Blyth Parish Council
Mrs R. M. Waterhouse	Clerk	Bothamsall Parish Council
MR P. C. Goulding	Clerk	Carlton-in-Lindrick
Mr J. E. Salmon	Clerk	Clarborough and Welham Parish Council
Mr C. Hollands	Clerk	Clayworth Parish Council
Mrs Waterhouse	Clerk	Cuckney Parish Council
Mrs M. Annable	Clerk	Dunham-on-Trent with Ragnall, Fledborough and Darlton Parish Council
Mrs S. Pickard	Clerk	East Drayton Parish Council
Mr G. Morrall	Clerk	East Markham Parish Council
Mrs W. Davies	Clerk	Elkesley Parish Council
Mr D. Wright	Clerk	Everton Parish Council
Mr D. Landon	Clerk	Gamston, Eaton and West Drayton Parish Council
Mrs E. Leggat	Clerk	Harworth and Bircotes Parish Council
Ms A. Kilroe	Clerk	Hodsock Parish Council
Mrs W. M. Woodcock	Clerk	Holbeck and Welbeck Parish Council
Mrs A. Leather	Clerk	Laneham Parish Council
Mrs J. Kershaw	Clerk	Lound Parish Council
Mrs R. M. Waterhouse	Clerk	Markham Clinton Parish Council
Mrs A. Haddon	Clerk	Mattersey Parish Council
Mr J. Hutchinson	Clerk	Misson Parish Council
Mr D. Wright	Clerk	Misterton Parish Council
Mr B. Woodcock	Clerk	Nether Langwith Parish Council
Mr D. R. Langmead	Clerk	North Leverton with Habblesthorpe Parish Council
Mr D. R. Langmead	Clerk	North and South Wheatley Parish



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<b>Successful consultation</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
		Council
Mrs H. Skelton	Clerk	Ranskill Parish Council
Mr D. Landon	Clerk	Rampton Parish Council
Mrs A. Haddon	Clerk	Shireoaks Parish Council
Mr D. Langmead	Clerk	South Leverton Parish Council
Mr D. R. Langmead	Clerk	Sturton-le-Steeple Parish Council
Mr G. Holland	Clerk	Styrrup-with-Oldcotes Parish Council
Mr P. Roberts	Clerk	Sutton Parish Council
Mr D. Gill	Clerk	Torworth Parish Council
Miss C. H. Davies	Clerk	Treswell with Cottam Parish Council
Mr P. Hills	Clerk	Tuxford Parish Council
Miss M. Manning	Clerk	Wiseton Parish Council
Steve Simms		Andrew Martin Associates
Tanice Ellis	Chair	Central Retford Tenants and Residents' Association
Councillor Michael Pugsley	Chairman	Friends of Kings Park
Paul Wrobel	Chairman	Friends of Langold Country Park
Steve Marks	Manton Mountain Bike Project Officer	Forestry Commission
Sarah Bowskill	Project Officer	Manton Community Alliance
Stuart Chapel	Clumber Park Warden	National Trust
David Hopkinson	Sports Coordinator	North Nottinghamshire College
Linda Cobb	Play Development Worker	Nottinghamshire County Council
B. Hopkins	Chair	Prospect Tenants and Residents Association
Geoff Coe	Resident	Resident
Francis Costello	Chairman	Retford Cemetery
Steve Hartley	Member	Retford Avenue Allotment Association
Karen Tarburton		Rural Community Council
A. Thompson	Chair	Tuxford and District Tenants and Residents Association
Sally Beardsley	Secretary	Worksop and District Allotment Association
Karen Tarburton	Bassetlaw Officer	Rural Community Council
David Hopkins	Sports coordinator	North Notts College
Alan Viggers	Sports Department	North Notts College
Steve Simms	Senior Planner	Andrew Martin Associates