

Executive – 4 October 2007

ADOPTION OF SOUTH HAMS PUBLIC SPACE STRATEGY - 'SPECIAL PLACES AND ACTIVE SPACES'

Report of Head of Landscape & Leisure

Statutory Powers: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976)

Financial Implications: The Strategy and Action Plan present a programme of initiatives that offer efficiencies and opportunities for revenue and capital development with external funding. These proposals will be based upon existing budgets or subject to normal bid process. Any capital expenditure proposals which emerge will first be considered by the Asset Management Group and fall in line with the Asset Management Strategy.

Purpose

To agree adoption of the revised South Hams Public Space Strategy and Action Plan following consideration by the Public Space Working Group and Community Policy Development Group.

The adopted strategy will guide public space management by the Council in work on Council land and in work with partners. It sets clear objectives and work priorities both on and off Council owned land. It will contribute directly to CP3 Distinctive Environment and Access, and in guiding the management of Council land, contribute to the themes of healthy lifestyle, young people and climate change.

Recommendations

- 1. That members consider the final Public Space Strategy document and Action Plan along with any comments forwarded from the Community Policy Development Group**
- 2. That members RECOMMEND its adoption by Council**

Background

1. The Executive and Community PDG have agreed a public consultation on the Draft South Hams Public Space Strategy developed through the Open Spaces Working Group. This included a lengthy period of public and stakeholder consultation, analysis and feedback. The consultation has led to the production of a revised Public Space Strategy for members to consider along with an action plan to guide its implementation (Appendix 6 of the Strategy).
2. The South Hams Public Space Strategy presents a clear framework for work undertaken by the District Council in relation to Public Space. The Strategy and accompanying Action Plan define the tasks that the Council will undertake on its own land and identifies areas for combined partnership working on all public space with local communities, landowners and other organisations.

Consultation Recording and Response

3. The results of the public consultation were reported to the Public Space Working Group in April 2007 – at which time a draft Action Plan for delivering the Strategy was considered by members. Following this initial consideration a detailed summary document has been finalised which sets out the comments received and presents a council response which, where appropriate, has led to suggested alterations to the strategy or mapping of public space. This comprehensive document is available to members and can be publicly accessed via the Council's website (Appendix 5). The range of public comment has been helpful and has led to amendments which have been considered by the Public Space Working Group at its meeting of September 20th (and further reported to the Community Policy Development Group – minutes of which are reported at this meeting).
4. In addition to amendments to the Strategy suggested by Members and generated from public consultation the strategy has been updated to reflect any national policy or guidance, or other related issues that have emerged during the production period. Those changes which have been made to the Strategy since draft stage are detailed below:

Content and Material Changes

5. The Foreword has been strengthened to emphasise the fundamental importance of partnership working, in particular with the Town and Parish councils. The *Purpose* and *Vision* of the Strategy have been supported by the majority of public and stakeholders – with the *Vision* remaining as
 - *Spaces for all to enjoy – locally and district wide*
6. The *Objectives* (at Chapter 3 of the strategy) remain substantially the same except for the introduction of "*Sustainable Design and Management*" which replaces the original "*Design and Managing for Landscape and Wildlife*" and reflects the wider scope of work, in particular in relation to climate change.
7. Chapter 4 of the Strategy presents an *Analysis of Public Space*. This retains the original ten public space categories and incorporates responses from the consultation. Amendments have refined the text and associated mapping but are not considered to be substantive changes - with *key challenges* remaining the same for each type of public space and some sports deficiencies updated. Information supplied by respondents has been used to update the on line mapping and database of South Hams public space.
8. Chapter 5 covering *Views about Public Space* includes a minor update to reflect the consultation over this Strategy.
9. Chapter 6 details the *Setting Local Standards* and has been modified by incorporating the following:
 - The **Quantity** calculations have had minor updates (to reflect changes to mapping emerging from the consultation) but these are not considered to be substantive.
 - Some amendment to the play and natural spaces commentary in the quantity section.
 - Clarifying the role of Dartmoor National Park as Planning Authority.

- Sports facility quantity figures updated, but the principles remain the same.
- Allotments quantity standard retained.
- **Quality** standards have minor changes only with parks now including “access to toilet facilities” - although not necessarily in the park itself.
- **Accessibility** standard table now includes straight line distance, for mapping walking zones based upon national standards of provision. Also uses walking times (as used for Sherford proposals).
- Parks accessibility standard has been simplified into one category with distance maintained and minimum size inserted.
- Natural Spaces has the same accessibility standard but with minimum size threshold.
- Accessibility standard maintained for outdoor sport, play and allotments.
- Amenity green space suggests greater distance to reflect local availability and standards elsewhere.
- A travel standard has been inserted following comments of the Highways Authority relating to access to sports facilities by car and public transport.

10. Chapter 6 also presents the policy of *Settlement Hierarchy* which sets out the approach to be applied in assessing provision and maximising public benefit. While some concern was expressed by a small number of parishes it remains unaltered with addition of Natural Space to the range of public spaces identified.

11. Chapter 7 sets out the *Suggested Principles for Delivering the Strategy and Local Standards*. Changes are limited with text amendments that emphasise positively how actions will be applied (and reflect that this will become an adopted, rather than consultation, document). The chapter also highlights the partnership approach essential to achieve substantial parts of the strategy.

12. The *Action Plan* (set out at Appendix 6 of the Strategy) presents the proposed means of delivering the Strategy – and is an amended version of the Action Plan first considered by the Working group in April 2007. The Plan has been refined to take account of the views of members and changes to presentation. The document now sets out proposed actions under the following six headings

1. Increasing Accessibility and Use of Public Space
2. Improving Quality, Public Benefit and Value for Money
3. Partnership Working and Community Involvement
4. Places for Activity and Exercise
5. Space for Children and Young People
6. Sustainable Design and Management

These headings are also themed to identify those actions which are primarily for delivery by the District Council alone – and those which are reliant on partnership working.

13. Members are asked to consider the views of the Community Policy Development Group and recommend to Council that the final version of the Strategy and Action Plan, at Annexe A, be adopted.

Risk Assessment

14.

Risk	Action to mitigate
Failure to adopt a strategy based on detailed analysis of issues leaves the Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Undertaking work in an ad-hoc manner ii. In a weak position to bid for funding iii. In a weakened position to objectively allocate revenue & capital funding iv. Open to criticism over re-allocation of resources 	Issue and adopt Public Space Strategy and Action Plan.
Strategy and action plan does not reflect public's high expectations or aspirations.	Take care to explain Council's position in the context of competing priorities and need of partnership approaches To note public feedback and priorities in developing strategy and action plan.
Failure to obtain external funding because of lack of public support.	Draw Strategy and Action Plan up in line with public aspirations.
The Public Space Strategy doesn't cater for the whole community.	Strategy needs to cater for all ages and abilities in promoting safe and attractive public spaces.
That there are not adequate resources in place to meet community aspirations.	Action Plan needs to be developed with a full understanding of Council's financial limitations.

Conclusion

15. Following a widespread consultation the South Hams Public Space strategy has been reviewed and refined. In light of the responses received and member consideration the Strategy has been updated and is now supplemented with an Action Plan which sets out principal tasks for the Council and its partners in delivering public space management over the next five years. Members are asked to consider the Strategy and Action Plan and recommend its adoption and publication.

Ross Kennerley
Landscape & Recreation Manager

Executive
 4th October 2007

Ken Carter
Head of Landscape & Leisure

A South Hams Public Space Strategy

Special Places & Active Spaces

2007 - 2012

Foreword

The wide range of public space available to South Hams residents is a major asset for us all. Parks, woodlands, countryside walks, sports pitches and play areas all make a significant contribution to our day to day enjoyment of the South Hams.

It's easy to take these areas for granted and to give little thought to how they are provided and maintained. A wide range of organisations and many private landowners contribute to the district's publicly accessible areas. South Hams District Council has a key role to play in the provision of public space, both as a landowner and as the Planning Authority, but is just one of many organisations who have an interest in the future of public space.

We know that South Hams residents greatly appreciate public space and this strategy sets out a vision for what residents expect from public space along with an action plan for delivering improvements.

It clarifies what is important about public space and where the Council, along with others, should concentrate effort.

The delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan will require close partnerships between South Hams District Council and many other landowners and organisations – and the Council sees the Town and Parish Councils as having a fundamental role in identifying local priorities – and working alongside the district council and others in bringing these to fruition.

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins
Chairman Community Policy Development Group
South Hams District Council

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1 Introduction: The Value of Public Space

The residents of South Hams benefit from a wide opportunity to enjoy public space, sport and recreation. Whether walking the stunning coastal footpath, visiting riverside embankments or enjoying the local park, the pleasure of public space, sport and recreation is important to every one of us.

Despite this, there are challenges to be faced in maintaining and improving the quality, quantity and accessibility, of some Public Spaces. This strategy aims to address these issues, establish priorities and enable partnerships to be established to deliver Public Space management through an agreed action plan.

Nationally, there is an increased interest in the provision and management of public space as a contribution to people's wellbeing and as a way of strengthening local communities. Nevertheless, over the past 20 years the quantity and quality of public space has reduced significantly and it is estimated that grounds maintenance budgets have been cut by £1.3 billion over this time. The government has responded to this by encouraging Councils to produce Public Space Strategies – as a way of improving quality in response to community needs; to improve efficiency in the management of public spaces and as a means of increasing external funding to support public space development.

This strategy has been drawn up by South Hams District Council in conjunction with many partners and aims to encompass all Public Space issues in the district. It needs the active involvement of the South Hams community if it is to be successful.

This strategy sets out the background to Public Space in South Hams, key objectives, future public space standards and, in Chapter 7, principles for delivering the strategy. It is accompanied by the South Hams Public Space Action Plan 2007 -2012 (at Appendix 6) which sets out detailed actions to enable the strategy to be put into effect.

This strategy was issued for public consultation in draft in November 2006. The comments that were received were wide ranging and very helpful in drawing up this completed strategy and action plan. A summary of the comments – and the Councils response to the comments - is set out in Appendix 5 at www.southhams.gov.uk

Why is Public Space Important?

In bringing forward a strategy it is useful to reflect on the many benefits that Public Spaces provide and the contribution they make to the social, economic and environmental fabric of the South Hams.

Benefits include:-

- The provision of an attractive environment in which to live, work and play.
- The promotion of health and well being through active and passive recreation in the form of organised sport, casual sport, walking and social interaction.
- Space to relax and enjoy the outdoors or just to escape briefly to enjoy the tranquillity of open space.
- Destinations for visitors and tourists.

- The reduction of anti-social behaviour through the provision of good and relevant play, and informal sports areas.
- High quality public space attracts business and investment
- The contribution to landscape character and visual amenity.
- Habitats for both rare and common wildlife.
- Opportunities for informal and formal education.
- Focal points for events and activities.
- Opportunities for community management and involvement, strengthening civic pride and community development.
- Many Public spaces provide varied and multiple benefits on one site, providing vibrant multi functional spaces

2 The purpose of a South Hams Public Space Strategy

The purpose of the Strategy is to:

1. Set a clear vision and objectives for the provision and management of public space in the South Hams.
2. Establish a set of standards for the quantity, quality and accessibility of public spaces that provides greatest benefit and best use of available resources.
3. Set out principles for the design and management of public space.
4. Bring forward a detailed Action Plan of measures set in the context of competing priorities that the Council would wish to achieve through a range of partnerships.

This Strategy is important because it:-

- Has enabled the Council to carry out a mapping exercise of all public space throughout the South Hams, whether in Council ownership, the ownership of other public bodies, or in private ownership but available for public use. This has led to the production of the web based South Hams Public Space Map which accompanies this Strategy.
- Will allow the Council to identify areas and facilities which may be lacking, where there might be an over provision of poor quality public space or poorly located public space - and where there are opportunities for improvement to meet local need.
- Led to the production of a detailed Action Plan to prioritise a programme of work for Public Spaces which looks to attract external funding and help the Council in targeting its own limited resources.

- Helped identify partnerships with groups and organisations that will be crucial to realising the wide range of benefits that can be achieved through improved public space management.
- Helps to engage local communities with their immediate environment and enables empowerment and development of skills through the management of Public Space.
- Strengthens the ability to seek a significant contribution to Public Space through new development.

3 Vision and Objectives for Public Space

South Hams District Council carried out a workshop at the start of the Public Space strategy process in 2005 when a group of key players from within the Council and supporting organisations established an initial vision and objectives for the Strategy.

The key vision is to provide:-

Spaces for all to enjoy: locally and district wide

This vision is supported and strengthened through the consultation exercise and is adopted the vision for this strategy

In order to achieve this vision, a number of objectives were identified on which resources and effort should be concentrated. These objectives have been adapted through the consultation process and the following form the basis for the Strategy.

- 1. Increasing accessibility and use of public space.**
- 2. Improving quality and public benefit.**
- 3. Accessing funding and delivering value for money.**
- 4. Working in partnership.**
- 5. Community involvement.**
- 6. Places for healthy activity and exercise.**
- 7. Space for children and young people.**
- 8. Sustainable design and management**

These objectives are addressed in detail in Chapter 7

4 An Analysis of Public Space

Public Space is taken to be any area over which the public can gain access. Within the South Hams there is a wide range of public space, - some in the ownership of the District Council but many are in the ownership of Devon County Council, Town and Parish Councils

and private land owners. The District also includes 16,800ha of the Dartmoor National Park (making up 17.6% of the Park). Much of this land has enhanced access rights.

Table 1: Types of Public Space in South Hams

Type of Public Space	Purpose
Parks and Gardens	Accessible, formal, high quality sites designed for recreation and community events
Natural Spaces	Areas for wildlife, quiet enjoyment and environmental awareness, including woodland, meadows, heath, moor land and coastal areas
Greenways	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or commuting. Taken to include Public Rights of Way. Can also provide corridors for wildlife migration
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Formal facilities for participation in outdoor sports, such as pitch sports, tennis and bowls.
Amenity Greenspace	Open grassland providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work and enhancement of residential or other areas
Play	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	Opportunities to grow produce
Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial.
Civic Spaces	Providing a setting for civic buildings, public activities and community events
Beaches	Areas for active enjoyment and quiet contemplation or relaxation

These divisions of public space are based on national guidance and are consistent with the types of public space set out in the government's planning policy.

In order to inform this Public Space Strategy a detailed exercise to identify the quantity, location and quality of these types of public space within South Hams has been undertaken. The location of all Public Space identified so far is shown as 10 different coloured layers on the South Hams Public Space Map. This can be accessed at www.southhams.gov.uk

This mapping has been informed by the helpful and detailed responses received during the consultation.

Nevertheless it must be acknowledged that sites may have been omitted or mis-mapped. As time goes by new sites become available and others may close. Any further information on the location of Public Space is welcome and can be sent in to landscapeandleisure@southhams.gov.uk

The aim is to develop the level of detail on this web page and to give further information about issues such as ownership, accessibility, and whether charges apply to make use of the public space. This mapping has been drawn up in order to complement a national mapping exercise of formal and indoor sport, which has been undertaken by Sport England and can be viewed at www.activeplaces.com. Details of Public Rights of Way, cycleways and bridleways are shown on the Devon County Council Rights of way map at www.devon.gov.uk/index/transport/public_rights_of_way.htm

To set a background to this strategy the following section details the 10 types of public space with an accompanying commentary on the quantity, quality and accessibility of the public spaces.

These summarise the key issues.

Parks and Gardens

South Hams has a number of parks and gardens ranging from those within the towns through to formal gardens within the rural areas.

The towns have the following main parks:

- Royal Avenue Gardens and Coronation Park, Dartmouth
- Borough Park and Vire Island, Totnes
- The Recreation Ground and Duncombe Park, Kingsbridge
- Woodlands Park and Victoria Park, Ivybridge
- Courtney Park and the Berry, Salcombe

The majority of these are in South Hams District Council ownership but some are in the ownership or management of Town Councils.

In overall terms the towns are considered to be well served with parks but there are opportunities to improve some of the facilities within these parks and rejuvenate layout and design. In many cases there is considered to be opportunity to improve the signs and information provided in the parks.

General accessibility in and around the parks is good although in some of the towns the parks are situated where sections of the population will find it more difficult to visit on a regular basis. There are also some specific improvements in and around the parks that will improve accessibility for all.

Outside the main towns there are a few formal parks and gardens within the smaller towns and villages - where more informal sport and amenity greenspace is more common.

South Hams is fortunate to have some formal gardens of national importance within the rural areas. These include Dartington Hall Gardens, Greenway Gardens (Kingswear), Coleton Fishacre (Kingswear), Lukesland (Harford) and Sharpitor (Salcombe). Access to these gardens is primarily by car and in many cases an access charge is made (either mandatory or voluntary). These gardens tend to cater more for tourist visits and trust members, than they do for regular resident visits.

Parks and Gardens: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the extent of existing key parks and gardens. • Deliver a significant town park within the Sherford new community.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving layout, design, and facilities. • Establish partnerships and funding opportunities for parks and gardens enhancement work. • Introduce management plans for key parks and review appropriate maintenance. • Monitor to assess improvements in quality.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake reasonable access improvements to make parks and gardens available to all. • Improve linkages to and from parks • Improve signage and information.
Key Challenges: Improve quality and accessibility	

Natural Spaces

This type of public space provides the largest quantity of accessible land within the South Hams. A division can be drawn between the sites within the towns and villages and those within open countryside.

There are some significant natural spaces and woodlands in and around the towns and villages of the South Hams including:

- Castle Woods, Dyers Wood, Jawbones and The Orchard, Dartmouth
- Tor Woods, Salcombe
- Long Timber Woods and Filham Park, Ivybridge
- Woolwell Woodland Belts

- The Island and Railway Wood and Ugborough Beacon, South Brent
- Longmarsh and Colwell Community Woodland, Totnes
- Chillington/Stokenham Community Woodland
- De Smithies Wood, Strete

These town and village sites provide a wide range of opportunity for walking, contemplation, picnicking and play. The appearance is far more informal than the parks and their management regimes very different.

In the countryside the most significant natural spaces and woodlands are in the ownership of the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and the Devon Wildlife Trust and the moor land sites around the south of Dartmoor. When taken as a whole these offer significant areas of public space concentrated in the coastal area, along the major river valleys and on the moor. Although on public rights of way, and occasionally accessible by public transport, visits to these sites would be primarily undertaken by car.

Natural spaces also support many informal sport activities including cycling, orienteering, recreational walking, mountain biking and, on watercourses sailing and canoeing. The District benefits from the South West Coast Path running the full length of the coast, significant stretches of the Sustrans National Cycle Route and the intimate network of Greenways and National Trails linking up many Natural spaces.

Within Dartmoor National Park extensive areas of land are accessible under Access Agreements, as Common Land or under the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. This land contributes significantly to the total within the district as a whole. Issues relating to access to Natural Spaces within the National Park are addressed in the national Park Management Plan.

Natural Spaces: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no overall shortage of available countryside, wildlife sites and woodland but opportunities exist around some of the towns and villages to look for further natural open spaces and woodlands. • Deliver extensive countryside, wildlife sites and woodland at Sherford new community.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally sites are high quality, with management reliant on agriculture, forestry practice or informal maintenance. • Work with partners to seek opportunities to obtain agricultural, land management and forestry grants to further enhance management and to support the agricultural and forestry sectors. • Reconciling potential conflicts between public access and appropriate conservation management regimes in natural spaces in urban fringe locations is a specific management challenge on certain sites • Within the National Park the Park Authority has a specific role

	<i>to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities by the public</i>
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites in and around towns and villages need good public rights of way and Greenways. • Opportunities to increase circular walks and links to sites in the open countryside • To enable walking, cycling or use of public transport rather than car visits. • Accessibility and availability of countryside sites needs active promotion
Key Challenges: Improve accessibility and within the National Park achieve the statutory purpose of promoting understanding and enjoyment	

Greenways

Greenways provide opportunity for pedestrian and cycle movement within towns and villages and out into the surrounding countryside. In the South Hams there is an extensive network of Green Lanes, public rights of way, cycle ways and bridleways which spread out from the towns and villages.

Overall there is a considerable network of public access throughout the countryside but its use is variable with certain areas under intense public pressure (for example the coastal footpath) and other areas far less used.

Adopted pathways within towns and settlements and Public Rights of Way are the responsibility of the Highways Authority (Devon County Council) although landowners are required to keep them free of obstructions. . South Hams District Council has worked in partnership with the County, to support the development of recreational routes for pedestrians and cyclists. In the last three years over 50 green lane improvement projects have been carried out through the "On the Right Tracks" visitor payback campaign, supported by Heritage Lottery funding.

Responsibility for maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways within the Dartmoor National Park has been devolved to the DNPA.

Greenways: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Hams is well served with a strong network of Greenways – however many are poorly connected and little used. • Where opportunities exist to provide "missing links" to improve public safety or to provide attractive circular routes these should be pursued. • Deliver a comprehensive network of Greenways in and around Sherford new community.

Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways within towns and settlements are maintained by the Highways Authority and Public Rights of Ways are required to be kept accessible by relevant landowners. • Generally there are high public satisfaction rates for the current quality of greenways, paths, bridleways and cycle ways.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage residents of towns and villages to make more use of the network of Greenways that surround the settlements. • Many Greenways are isolated and opportunities should be sought to link these into existing networks. • Opportunity exists to improve the standard of some routes to encourage access for those with disabilities.
Key Challenges: Improve accessibility	

Outdoor Sports Facilities

There is a national aim to increase participation in sport and activity by 1% per year. This is a key government target and is supported from a wide cross-section of organisations from Primary Health Care Trusts through to Sport England.

The provision of informal opportunities for activity (parks, play areas and paths) play a part in encouraging active lifestyles however participation in formal sport is important for young and old alike.

The extent and location of formal sports provision is highlighted on the South Hams Public Space Map and shows a wide range of facilities across the district ranging from bowling greens and golf courses through to rugby, football and cricket pitches.

In order to assess the level of provision, and identify any deficiencies, a Playing Pitch Analysis was undertaken by the Council in 1997 and renewed in 2003. This was undertaken by consultants on behalf of the council and involved detailed analysis and consultation – in particular with the user clubs. The summary results of this analysis are given at Appendix 1. The playing pitch analysis from 2003 revealed *deficiencies* in playing pitch provision – which have been confirmed through the consultation as being

- Kingsbridge; requires 2 adult football, 1 junior football, 1 mini-soccer
- Ivybridge; requires 2 adult football, 2 junior football and a further cricket pitch
- Totnes; requires 1 adult football, 1 junior football, 3 mini-soccer, 1 adult rugby
- Woolwell; requires 1 adult football, 1 junior football, 2 mini-soccer
- Salcombe; requires 1 adult rugby

Deficiencies were identified in football pitch provision at Brixton, Marldon, Sparkwell and Ugborough, and cricket provision at Strete.

Provision in Dartmouth is considered to be acceptable – and the consultation didn't identify any noted deficiencies. However further detailed assessment is warranted as the pitches at Norton come into full use.

Whilst the District Council owns some outdoor sport facilities the vast majority are owned or managed by voluntary sports clubs, Town and Parish Councils or are located on Devon County Council owned education sites. If deficiencies are to be addressed these bodies need to work together to remedy the situation.

Opportunities to increase, or improve, sports facilities alongside new development needs to be actively pursued.

Outdoor Sports Facilities: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are specific identified deficiencies in outdoor sports provision. In order to achieve increased participation and activity levels these need to be addressed. • The opportunity to work more closely with the education authority on dual use of school's pitches is a key opportunity. • Opportunities to work with clubs, landowners and governing bodies to bring forward additional pitches. • Deliver a comprehensive range of outdoor sports facilities at Sherford.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The perceived quality of many pitches is poor and there is significant room for improvement in the pitches and associated facilities such as changing rooms. • Opportunities for clubs to share facilities and resources. • Opportunities for improved all weather facilities.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentration of provision within the towns leads to potential isolation from facilities for smaller settlements unless adequate public transport arrangements are in place, particularly for younger users. • Charging may deter potential users. • Club membership requirements may deter potential users.
Key Challenges: Improve quantity and joint use	

Amenity Greenspace

Amenity greenspace provides opportunities for informal activities close to home or work and enhances the appearance of the area. Typically these are relatively small shrub or grassed areas, scattered throughout the towns or villages, often used by children for informal play.

Amenity greenspace rarely has formal equipment, facilities or even seating. It tends to be concentrated within the newer housing estates at Dartmouth (Townstal), Totnes (Bridgetown), throughout Ivybridge and Woolwell and within many of the villages.

These areas often provide open space within residential areas but frequently lack a clear use and are often used for informal recreation activities e.g. kick around areas, when they are too small to accommodate this satisfactorily, leading to conflict between users and neighbours.

Amenity Greenspace: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for additional amenity greenspace, where it provides a positive contribution within residential areas, will be sought within any new development. • Where existing amenity greenspace is of low public benefit alternative uses could be sought. • Deliver a range of high quality amenity greenspace at Sherford.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity greenspaces should serve a positive function and contribute to the quality of public realm - not merely be left over spaces and a drain on maintenance. • Where new amenity greenspaces are proposed the priority should be for quality - providing specific community, wildlife and landscape benefit.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When new amenity greenspace is brought forward it should be easily accessed by pedestrian and cycle users.
Key Challenges: Improve quality and community engagement	

Play

The opportunity for free exploratory play is fundamental to a child's ability to develop their physical and social skills. The opportunity for children over the last thirty to forty years to enjoy free unhindered open play has been curtailed and play has tended to be seen as a formalised activity within "play areas".

The Council and partners have produced a detailed South Hams Play Strategy to guide the development of play activities and facilities and to target the use of Big Lottery funding recently made available. This Play Strategy includes an Action Plan based around the themes of:

- Increasing the recognition of the importance of children's play
- Focusing on children's needs and voices
- Ensuring high quality and wide range of play experiences
- Challenging and exciting play free from unacceptable risk
- Working together to deliver play

In 2001 the Council undertook an assessment of facilities for children and young people. An updated summary is given at Appendix 2 and the consultation has been helpful in finalising this appendix.

In identifying priorities for play, consideration must be given to the fact that historically South Hams District Council has provided and managed more formal play areas than comparable local authorities. The District Council currently manages 103 play areas or skateparks of which it owns 63. This is a significant commitment on the District Council's part but also a major financial and resource liability. The District Council is concerned that the current level of funding spent on play areas, within a limited overall budget, detracts from its ability to spend money on other play and youth activities – and Public Space management generally.

The following issues are highlighted:

- Increasing Annual Maintenance Costs as equipment ages.
- Increased expectations of challenging and exciting play equipment from users and disappointment with some current facilities.
- Confused local situations over who owns play equipment in many of the play areas and therefore who is responsible for its replacement.
- Lack of signage.
- Skate parks provided by user groups who no longer exist and are not available to replace equipment.
- Increased opportunity for play within residential gardens with more play equipment available at home.
- Increased opportunities for play on alternative facilities, adventure parks and school facilities (as part of extended school work).

The provision of play is an area where the District Council has excelled in quantity but is now open to some criticism about the quality and accessibility of many of the play areas and youth facilities it maintains or owns.

Play: What are the issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play areas are provided in many communities including small villages. This gives widest opportunity but means maintaining small isolated play areas at the expense of larger well used play areas in towns and larger settlements. • Lack of play facilities for older children. • Opportunities to increase play value in public spaces outside formal play areas. • Providing a full range of play and youth facilities at Sherford.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor 'play value' from old equipment. • Limited financial resources to improve quality of play areas. • Opportunities for external and lottery funding are available but likely to be concentrated on support to free play and play

	<p>programmes rather than play equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to look at more exciting and open 'play spaces' rather than traditional 'play areas'. • Need to ensure that play equipment meets reasonable requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act. • Ensuring play spaces are not un-neighbourly.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A need to ensure that access into play spaces is of a reasonable standard and that an appropriate level of disabled facilities is available.
Key Challenges: Improve quality and accessibility	

Allotments

These provide opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce – an increasingly popular activity.

Allotments exist in most of the larger towns and villages and have been mapped where identified. Work so far has identified 13 allotment sites in South Hams

At a time of increased interest in sustainability, healthy eating and the production of local food, the opportunity to increase the number of allotments is an important issue. Despite a nationwide survey in the late 1990s it is clear that further research is needed on current availability and the demand for additional sites within the South Hams.

Allotments fall into three separate categories:

- Statutory
- Temporary
- Private

Their status reflects the degree of protection from re-development for other purposes.

Statutory allotments fall under Section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925, being best protected in that a local authority must seek permission from the Secretary of State before selling or changing the use of such sites.

Temporary and private sites have protection against change of use provided by the normal planning procedures.

Allotments: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited district wide information on the overall quantity of existing allotments and whether there are marked deficiencies within certain communities. • Provide allotments at Sherford.

Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential contamination of sites with heavy metals. • Need for suitable facilities on site
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pressures on land in the middle of towns and villages tends to lead to allotments, where provided, being the edge of settlements. This presents some accessibility problems for certain residents.
Key Challenges: Improve quantity and accessibility	

Cemeteries and Churchyards

These provide important public spaces within many towns and villages as areas for quiet contemplation.

Churchyards are primarily the responsibility of the individual churches or the diocese and cemeteries are largely managed by Town and Parish Councils.

Green Cemeteries and woodland burial sites have been opened in certain areas offering alternative, less intensive forms of burial and management.

Cemeteries and Churchyards: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of communities are seeking extensions to, or have reserved land for, cemetery extensions. • Green cemeteries exist at Rattery and Yealmpton.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churchyards are often carefully managed as befits their character. Opportunity exists to increase wildlife value by lessening the intensity of management but this needs to be done in a careful and respectful fashion.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No identified issues.
Key Challenges: Improve quality	

Civic Spaces

These provide a setting for Civic Buildings, areas for public events, markets and busy thoroughfares.

All the main towns have such civic areas including:

- The Plains, Civic Hall Square and Rotherfold at Totnes.
- The Embankments, Bayards Cove and Market Square at Dartmouth.
- The Quay and Embankment at Kingsbridge.

- Whitestrand at Salcombe.
- The Riverside area at Ivybridge.

Civic spaces are important and the character and quality of them say a great deal about the town itself.

Improvement works are often costly and concentrate on hard landscaping and introduction of new features such as seating and lighting. Nevertheless, rejuvenation and improvement of civic spaces can have a significant positive impact on civic pride and the quality of a location as a destination for visitors.

Civic Spaces: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current range of civic spaces should be maintained. • New civic spaces to be created at Sherford.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for enhancement should be sought in consultation with local communities and where any development is proposed nearby. • Opportunities for public art
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic spaces should be available for all.
Key Challenges: Improve quality	

Beaches

Of all the public spaces beaches are unique in one respect – they can only exist in one location and cannot be created to suit (unless there is unlimited budget).

South Hams is fortunate to have a wide range of beaches ranging from small inaccessible coves to popular well used beaches enjoying a wide range of facilities. They are a significant resource for residents and underpin much of the tourist trade within the district. There is little that can be done about the quantity of the beaches but maintaining their quality and accessibility are key issues.

Beaches are mainly in private ownership, some in multiple ownership and some Council owned. There are often complex arrangements over access, dog use, safety, waste, signage and car parking which are undertaken by a wide range of organisations and authorities.

Beaches also need recognition for their wildlife value. They support many rare habitats and species and a significant number have statutory protection. Consideration for wildlife must form a part of all beach management

Beaches: What are the Issues?	
Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No identified issues.
Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to maintain standards of cleanliness both of the beach and waters and maintain current range of ENCAMS Blue Flag and Local Beach awards. Seek to maintain and improve the standard of associated facilities and safety. Look to co-ordinate management arrangements on both public and privately owned beaches.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where beaches are accessible with car parking nearby the provision of this access should be maintained and where possible enhanced for all ability use. Remote coastline locations and beaches be recognised and their tranquil character maintained as 'Quiet Beaches'. Appropriate promotion of beaches according to their capacity for use. Look to improve cycle and public transport links to beaches.
Key Challenges: Improve Quality	

5 Views about Public Space

What does the Government want?

Over the past five years significant increased interest has been generated in public space. This has culminated in a range of policies and guidelines brought forward at national, regional, county and local level. As a whole these provide a strong imperative for the Council to pursue better management of public space and to undertake this in a co-ordinated and a strategic fashion. Details of the range of strategies and guidance are given in Appendix 3.

The Views of Residents

The Council receives frequent feedback from local residents on the quality, quantity and accessibility of public space. Much of this is by way of individual comment, positive or negative, about an individual's experience of a certain park, play area, beach or other public space.

During 2005 a concerted effort was made to seek community views on public space as part of the South Hams Community Strategy Review. Three main forms of feedback were used as detailed below. Full details are given in the community strategy at www.southhams.gov.uk/shcs_first_draft.pdf In summary the feedback gave the following messages about public space.

South Hams Community Strategy Review – Theme Day

This was an event attended by a wide range of organisations and bodies interested in the economic, community and environmental aspects of the Community Strategy. The key messages in relation to public space were:

- That a priority should be to focus on high quality open space
- That improving children's play and healthy lifestyles were key opportunities
- That public spaces should be used to enhance sporting activities

Out of eleven key issues that were identified on the event "Quality Public Spaces" was ranked 6.

South Hams Community Strategy Review – Public Consultation

During July and August 2005 events took place in Malborough, Totnes, Ivybridge and Dartmouth and at a number of farmers markets, agricultural shows and other community events. We sought views from members of the public in face to face interviews. The key issues brought forward from the community, relevant to public space are:

- Providing quality community locations and open spaces including better maintenance of existing open spaces, tree planting schemes, community gardens and art and cultural activities in open spaces.
- Promote healthy living with improved access to sport facilities.
- Promote youth facilities.

The Sounding Board

During July and August 2005 questionnaires were sent out to a cross section of the South Hams community who voluntarily agreed to sit on the "Sounding Board Panel". This resulted in 590 replies from panel members with an additional 51 face to face interviews and 180 additional surveys completed. A wide range of information came back including:

- Wildlife, tranquillity and trees were identified as priorities in managing public space.
- There is generally considered to be a lack of play and youth facilities along with outdoor sport areas.
- Public parks, play areas, youth and sports facilities are generally considered to be lower in terms of quality and maintenance when compared to the countryside and beaches.
- When asked to target funding, members of the public favoured improved maintenance and quality of existing public spaces above the requirement to provide more public space.
- A large majority saw benefit in close involvement of local communities in public space management.

The Satisfaction Survey

An annual survey of resident satisfaction is undertaken in the District. In 2005/06 the satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces was 75.4% - up 1.2% on 2003/04

The views of those involved in Public Space Management

In order to seek a clear view from those involved in the strategic and day to day management of public space a detailed session was held during summer 2005. This involved a wide range of participants from the District Council including Councillors and Officers and a number of external partners ranging from the National Trust and Town Council representatives through to the South Hams Access Group. Participants looked for an overall vision for public space and also identified key issues. The four main issues were considered to be:

- Finding adequate Funding
- Involvement of the Community
- Getting Design and Maintenance correct
- Improving the public perception and the promotion of parks

Overall the following four key objectives for management were seen as:

- Increasing Usage
- Accessing Funding
- Improving Design Standards
- Contributing to Community Cohesion

These key objectives are incorporated, and expanded upon, within the principles set out in Chapter 7.

6 Setting Local Standards

It is a key government requirement of Councils that they set their own local standards for the provision of public space. Without local standards for the quantity, quality and accessibility of public space the Council is in a vulnerable position when seeking contributions from developers and when seeking external grant aid.

The setting of local standards for public space is however, a complex and imprecise exercise for which there is no nationally accepted approach. Nevertheless the setting of local standards is fundamental to the public space strategy.

The standards included in this chapter are the baseline aspiration that the District Council would wish to see achieved. They are based on national standards, local information and the results of the public consultation. The standards will ultimately form the basis for negotiation with developers and the benchmark when seeking grant aid for the provision and improvement of public space.

The standards set a high bar and could leave the Council open to criticism for failing to deliver what are, in some cases, aspirational targets for quantity, quality and accessibility. Delivery of the standards is not something which the District Council alone can be responsible for. Delivery is something which all organisations need to work together and to support one another in achieving.

It is also inherent in setting standards that a hierarchy of provision will come forward. In terms of giving the greatest benefit to the largest number of people, the standards incorporate the focusing of effort into the larger towns and settlements. The current approach of the council involves the spreading of funding and effort throughout many settlements. This is having a detrimental effect on the overall quality of parks, playing fields and play areas. This is a difficult position for the Council and a key issue to be discussed with providers of facilities.

The standards below cover Quantity, Quality and Accessibility in turn. There is also a hierarchy of provision proposed based on the existing settlement hierarchy in the South Hams Local Development Framework and Dartmoor National Park Local Plan/ Local Development Framework.

Within the National park the priorities are set the National Park Management Plan and this document has a key theme of delivering the National parks statutory purpose *to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities by the public.*

In relation to the provision of new Public space which comes forward as part of new development it should be noted that outside the National Park the Planning Authority is South Hams District Council (and development will be guided by the emerging South Hams Local development Framework) whereas in the National Park the National Park Authority is the Planning Authority and development will be guided by the emerging Dartmoor National Park Local development Framework. It will be for the two authorities to decide how, if at all, these standards are reflected in formal planning guidance

Quantity Standards for South Hams

Based on the mapping exercise that has taken place it is possible to identify the quantity of public space within the district. This can be represented in hectares and as a quantity per 1000 people (which is the manner in which it is quantified in national standards). Details are given in the table below.

Greenways are linear features and therefore no quantity figure is given in the table below:

Table 2: Quantity of Public Space in South Hams

Type of Public Space	Total Hectares	Hectares Per 1000 People*
Parks and Gardens	44.2	0.54
Natural Spaces	9963.0	121.8
Outdoor Sports Facilities *	75.6	0.92
Amenity Greenspace	64.3	0.79
Play +	57.5	0.7

Allotments	6.8	0.08
Cemeteries and Churchyards	33.0	0.4
Civic Spaces	2.5	0.03
Beaches ^x	182.4	2.23
Total	10390	127.01

* Based on 2003 population of 81,800

• Based on Appendix 1 details of facilities with secured community use.

+ For Play the calculation has included Play Areas, Youth facilities and greenspace available for open play.

x Not all beaches are mapped - this is an ongoing project.

As already noted in Chapter 4 it is only in relation to outdoor sports facilities and allotments that the District Council considers there to be an existing overall deficiency of available facilities. Based on this assumption the Council would suggest that for the following eight public space categories that there is no target to increase the quantity of provision and the South Hams standard for quantity will be the hectares per 1000 people figure in Table 2. For these eight types the priority will be to improve quality and/or accessibility.

- Parks and Gardens
- Natural Spaces
- Greenways
- Amenity Greenspace
- Play
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Civic Spaces
- Beaches

Nevertheless if opportunities are brought forward to increase the quantity of any of these eight types of public space then this should be taken where there is demonstrable public benefit in terms of high quality and good accessibility and arrangements are in place to fund ongoing maintenance.

Within the general proposal to maintain quantities at existing levels for these eight types of public space there will be site specific cases where a local deficiency exists – for example a missing link within a Greenway network or a settlement with a specific deficiency in relation to a specific type of facility. In such cases the Strategy should support site specific solutions to localised deficiencies.

The quantity figure for **Play and Young People** – 0.7 hectares per 1000; is based on dedicated play and youth facilities and amenity greenspace. For comparative purposes the National Playing Field Association “6 acre standard” sets a figure of 0.8 hectares per 1000 population based on roughly comparable criteria.

Although the South Hams Play figure is slightly below the NPFA figure it must be noted that a wide range of other Public Space is available for children to play in – parks, gardens, countryside, sports areas and beaches. The Council does not, therefore, intend to adopt an increased Quantity standard for Play and Youth facilities – but to concentrate effort on improving quality and accessibility of play opportunity, for all age groups, across all Public Space.

The quantity figure for **Natural Space** clearly sets a very high bar – and reflects the extent of accessible countryside in the District. However, and as noted elsewhere, much of this land is along the coast or on the moor and therefore not accessible to all. To have greatest benefit to most people the natural space needs to be locally accessible – preferably on foot. Therefore, although the Council will retain the baseline figure as an aspiration, the overriding priority for this type of space will be accessibility – and the primary consideration will be achieving a natural space of 2ha within 1000m of all homes as set out in the section on accessibility standards.

Increased Quantity Standards are suggested for:

- Outdoor Sports Facilities

The current quantity, of secured outdoor sports facilities within the South Hams is 75.6 hectares or 0.92 hectares per 1000 people. This compares to the national target figure of 1.2 hectares for outdoor sport set by the National Playing Fields Association.

The 2003 assessment of outdoor sports facilities identifies a district wide deficiency of:

Table 3: Deficiencies in Outdoor Sports Facilities

Town or Parish	Pitch	Identified Deficiency (pitches)	Identified Deficiency (hectares)
Kingsbridge	Adult Football	2	1.8
	Junior football	1	0.4
	Mini - Soccer	1	0.4
Salcombe	Adult Rugby	1	1.3
Totnes	Adult Football	1	0.9
	Junior Football	1	0.4
	Mini - Soccer	3	1.0
	Adult Rugby	1	1.3
Marldon	Adult Football	1	0.9

Ivybridge	Adult Football	2	1.8
	Junior Football	2	0.8
	Cricket Pitch	1	1.5
Sparkwell	Adult Football	1	0.9
Ugborough	Adult Football	1	0.9
Woolwell	Adult Football	1	0.9
	Junior Football	1	0.4
	Mini - Soccer	2	0.6
Brixton	Adult Football	1	0.9
Strete	Cricket Pitch	1	1.5
	TOTAL	25	18.6

In total this gives an estimated deficiency of outdoor sports facilities of 18.6ha which equates to 0.23ha per 1000 population.

The proposed standard for the quantity of outdoor sports facilities in South Hams is therefore proposed to be:

$$\begin{array}{rclcl}
 \text{Existing provision} & + & \text{identified deficiency} & = & \text{South Hams standard} \\
 0.92\text{ha}/1000 & + & 0.23\text{ha}/1000 & = & 1.15 \text{ ha}/1000
 \end{array}$$

- Allotments

Whilst work to date has identified a number of allotment sites the council is aware that the mapping so far, and therefore the hectare figure in Table 2, needs to be treated with some caution. Information from a number of communities however, supported by the consultation, indicates that there is a demand for additional allotment space.

The 1997 English Allotments Survey identifies a target allotment plot figure for Devon as a whole as 12 plots per 1000 households. A plot is taken to be 30m x 10m.

There are 34,810 households in South Hams and this would give an anticipated total of 418 plots for South Hams based on the Devon figure (or 12.54 ha).

The figure identified so far for South Hams is 6.8 hectares (equating to 227 plots based on the 30m x 10m standard) which falls significantly short of the nominal Devon figure

It is therefore suggested that there be a target increase in allotments to reach the Devon target figure of 12 plots per 1000 households.

Quantity Standards: General Summary

Clearly the use of district wide averaged figures can mask discrepancies at a local level. In further work it would be helpful to undertake more detailed public space analysis based around the four market towns, and Woolwell, in order to tease out more locally based issues over deficiencies and requirements. This suggestion is brought forward as a principle in Chapter 7 of this strategy and suggests that the District Council might work with Town and Parish Councils over these localised assessments and strategies.

Quality Standards for South Hams

Whilst “quantity” can be measured in hectares, “quality” is subjective and often in the eye of the beholder. Long grass in a public park may be offensive to some and of beauty to others. Setting quality standards is not a precise science.

There is, however, opportunity to consider broad approaches to quality that the Council would wish to seek, both on its own land, and in its partnership work with others.

Parks and Gardens

Parks and gardens are often the most popular and well managed sites within the towns and some of the other South Hams settlements. The consultation on the South Hams Community Strategy identified that “enhance and protect public spaces and local environment” was the most popular request. The improvement of quality for parks and gardens is therefore considered to be an important issue for local people.

There are a number of national standards for assessing the quality for parks and gardens – many of these aimed at driving up quality in order that parks and gardens can meet the national benchmark for quality excellence – the “Green Flag” award.

In order to improve the quality of South Hams parks and gardens it is suggested that parks and gardens should

- Be welcoming and well signed
- Be healthy, safe and secure
- Be clean and well maintained
- Be managed in a sustainable manner
- Promote the conservation of wildlife and landscape
- Reflect community needs and promote community involvement
- Be well managed in accordance with a clear management plan
- Be accessible to all users where reasonable

- Include appropriate Public Art
- Main town parks include access to public conveniences

The District Council is currently undertaking quality assessment work, using one of the national assessments schemes, to look at where there are particular opportunities to improve quality. Initial findings highlight that layout, design and signing are important issues.

On going work will help inform the management of parks and gardens, and in particular, how partnership work can improve public space for local people.

For the purposes of defining a Park the District Council reflects national guidance and considers that a Park or similar should have a minimum size 0.2 ha and usually include some ancillary facilities such as play area, toilets or refreshment kiosk on site or nearby.

Natural Spaces

Such sites are extremely varied in their size, nature and appearance. It is not suggested that there are any detailed quality standard for such sites but it is suggested that the a selection of the basic quality standards that apply to parks and gardens are appropriate. Thus, Natural Spaces should:

- Be welcoming
- Be healthy, safe and secure
- Be managed in a sustainable manner
- Promote the conservation of wildlife and the landscape
- Reflect community needs and promote community involvement
- Be sustainably managed
- Be accessible to all users where reasonable

Greenways

Greenways are the fabric which links together all other public space. Greenways should:

- Surfaced in a material suitable to the anticipated use
- Not obstructed
- Accessible and welcoming to all users where reasonable
- Provide clear linkages between Natural Spaces and other public space

Key routes should be clearly signed showing destinations and distances or walking times

Amenity Greenspace

Amenity Greenspace serves an important local function but will usually be smaller – and contain fewer facilities – than a park or garden. Nevertheless basic standards of quality should apply. The following are suggested:

- Be welcoming
- Be healthy, safe and secure
- Be clean and well maintained
- Be managed in a sustainable manner
- Promote the conservation of wildlife and the landscape
- Accessible to all users where reasonable

Outdoor Sports Facilities

There are a wide range of types of outdoor sport provision. Football, rugby, cricket and bowls are the most popular in South Hams but there are a wide range of other activities taking place.

In almost all cases the governing body for a particular sport will set down baseline quality and maintenance standards for the provision of an outdoor sports facility and its ancillary facilities, such as changing rooms and car parking.

It is suggested that the quality standard for the provision and maintenance of sports facilities should aim to be as laid down by the relevant sports governing bodies. A list of these governing bodies, and the websites which contain their outdoor sports facility standards, is at the Sport England website at www.sportengland.org

Play

Of all the types of public space provision children's play space has had the most rigorous, long established and detailed set of quality standards. These standards are set out by the National Playing Field Association and cover three types of play provision as detailed in Appendix 4. These cover:

- Local areas for play (LAPs)
- Locally equipped areas for play (LEAPs)
- Neighbourhood equipped areas for play (NEAPs)

Historically South Hams District Council has pursued these standards and, as previously described, therefore supports and manages a significant number of play areas. There is however, increasing questioning of whether small play areas containing limited pieces of equipment within a fenced square are what best stimulate children's imagination and free play.

Given the historic strength of the standards the Council therefore proposes to adopt these quality standards for LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs with the proviso that where alternative forms of play, using other materials or types of space, can be demonstrated to provide equivalent or greater quality of play that the Council will look at these alternatives wherever possible and practicable.

In terms of youth provision the Council, and partner organisations, currently provide a range of:

- Skate Parks
- BMX Tracks
- Multi-use games areas (MUGAs)

There are a range of size, safety and noise standards which apply to the provision of youth facilities but no strong and long-term standards such as those for play.

It is suggested that play and youth facilities should:

- Be welcoming and well signed
- Be healthy, safe and secure
- Be clean and well maintained
- Be designed in conjunction with users
- Provide challenging and exciting play experience
- Be sited so as to minimise impact on neighbours
- Be accessible and welcoming to all users where reasonable

Allotments

Although simple in layout allotments benefit from a range of basic features and it is suggested that allotments should:

- Be of suitable soil quality
- Be secured and gated
- Have a water supply to the site
- Reflect community needs and promote community involvement
- Be accessible and welcoming to all users where reasonable

Cemeteries & Churchyards

Management of cemeteries and churchyards lies with a variety of organisations and the actual nature of a cemetery or churchyard is very much a reflection of the organisation involved, the age of the site and the frequency with which it's still used for burials or memorials. Given this variability and the sensitive nature of the sites a quality standard is not suggested.

Civic Spaces

Each civic space is unique in its setting, size and character. Most of these civic spaces are long standing, with long established features and street furniture. Where opportunities arise to enhance these civic spaces, or indeed to create new, it is suggested that the following quality criteria be considered and that civic space should:

- Be welcoming
- Be healthy, safe and secure
- Be clean and well maintained
- Promote conservation of the built heritage
- Promote community needs and promote community involvement
- Incorporate locally appropriate materials, finishes, hard and soft landscaping, street furniture and lighting
- Minimise unnecessary signage and inappropriate structures
- Include appropriate Public Art

Beaches

There are rigorous and long established quality standards for beaches including:

- Encams – Blue Flag and Rural Beach Awards
- Good Beach Guide (MCS)
- EC Bathing Water Directive (minimum standards)

These standards apply only to a limited number of the main amenity beaches in the South Hams.

However, the South Hams has over 80 beaches which fall outside the formal quality testing system and the District Council in conjunction with the South Devon AONB Service, land owners and other agencies will be seeking to devise and adapt a hierarchy of standards, applicable to each type of beach, ranging from the most popular heavily used amenity beaches down to remote coves.

This is work in progress which will be progressed by the Council's Beach Management Officer Group, in conjunction with other organisations and landowners alongside the production of this Public Space Strategy.

Accessibility Standard for South Hams

Accessibility relates to the distance which people will be prepared to travel to enjoy public space. For a range of public spaces people will hope to be able to walk to them (parks, play areas and amenity greenspaces). For other public spaces, such as sports pitches and

beaches, people might wish to be able to walk, but may expect to travel some distance (hopefully by public transport or bike but realistically often by **car**).

Pedestrian Access Standards

Table 4 sets out the accessibility standards the Council will seek to apply – both in providing facilities in existing communities and when considering new developments. It is accepted that these accessibility targets have far more relevance, and are more readily applicable, in larger settlements rather than rural villages. They are adopted as aspirational standards for the Main Centres and Local Centres in relation to those facilities noted as appropriate for that type of settlement (as shown at Table 6).

The application of these standards to Main Centres and Local Centres will help identify existing deficiencies in provision.

The table gives an overall pedestrian distance, an estimated straight line around a site (based on national standards) and an estimated walking time that people might expect.

Table 4: Pedestrian Access Standards for Public Spaces

Public Space Type	Pedestrian Route	Straight Line (60%)	Approximate walking time
Park or Gardens (minimum size 0.2 ha)	1000 m	600m	15 minutes
Amenity Greenspace	800 m	480m	10 minutes
Natural Spaces (minimum size 2.0 ha)	1000 m	600m	15 minutes
Outdoor Sports Facilities	1000 m	600m	15 minutes
Local Area for Play	100 m	60m	1 minute
Locally Equipped Area for Play	400 m	240m	5 minutes
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play/Youth Facilities	1000m	600m	15 minutes
Allotments	1000m	600m	15 minutes

The Council does not propose to promote accessibility thresholds for Greenways, cemeteries and churchyards, civic spaces and beaches because of the variability of their location and the difficulty in bringing forward new sites.

Getting to the site is one aspect of accessibility – getting onto the site and being able to make full use of the facilities is a key secondary element of accessibility. Wherever practicable the Council will undertake reasonable works to make sites and facilities accessible for all. The Council will identify key sites where it will promote the highest level of accessibility for all users.

The government has adopted a list of “Local Quality of Life Indicators” and these include the following:

“The percentage of the population within 20 minutes travel time (urban – walking, rural – by car) of different sports facility types”

The clear implication is that outdoor sports provision should be within a 20 minute walk or drive for all. As noted in Table 4 the aspiration for “higher level” facilities such as outdoor sport is to be within 1000m walking distance for all (with 1000m taken to be a 15 minute walk) and therefore aiming at above the national standard. This reflects other standards used locally – and an aspiration to provide sports facilities as close to centres of population as reasonably practicable. However the reality in a rural area is that such facilities are likely to be in the Main Centres or Local Centres (as identified in Table 6) and therefore accessible by car or public transport.

Travel Access Standards

Devon County Council also note the appropriateness of an accessibility standard for Public Transport. In a current South Hams context the availability of public transport routes will clearly limit the use of this standard – but where routes exist a travel time of 30 minutes to local sports facilities is proposed as a target standard by DCC.

In reflecting the government car travel time, and the Devon County Council public transport target the following standards will also be applied outside the Main Centres and Local Centres.

Table 5: Travel Time Standards for Outdoor Sports facilities

Mode of transport	Travel time
Car	20 minutes
Public Transport	30 minutes

Settlement Hierarchy for South Hams: Improving strategic location and management of public space

In rural areas, village populations are generally fairly low and there can be a significant distance between settlements. At the same time it is rarely possible for every settlement to have its own school, post office, general store, village hall and recreation ground. Instead some forms of provisions tend to be located only in larger villages or towns. This gives rise to the concept of a “settlement hierarchy” in which some forms of provision are concentrated in a limited number of Main Centres but intended to serve several settlements in a hinterland.

There is a concentration of services and facilities in these towns and Local Centres which inevitably serve a wider hinterland.

In order to set a strategic framework and to concentrate resources and effort into providing maximum public benefit in the locations where most people either reside or visit, the following hierarchy of provision within the South Hams is suggested. The hierarchy of settlements laid down here is that included within the South Hams District Local Development Framework.

Table 6: Settlement Hierarchy and Provision of Public Space

Type of Settlement	Suggested Range of Public Space
<p>Main Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dartmouth • Ivybridge • Kingsbridge • Sherford • Totnes 	<p>Town Park</p> <p>Other Parks and Gardens</p> <p>Natural Spaces</p> <p>Outdoor Sports Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football • Rugby • Cricket • Tennis • Bowls <p>Greenways</p> <p>Amenity Greenspace</p> <p>Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Areas for Play • Local Equipped Area for Play • Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play <p>Youth Facilities</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>Cemeteries and Churchyards</p> <p>Civic Space and Market Squares</p>
<p>Local Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modbury • Salcombe • South Brent • Stokenham/Chillington • Woolwell • Yealmpton 	<p>Other Park or Garden</p> <p>Natural Spaces</p> <p>Amenity Greenspace</p> <p>Outdoor Sports Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football • Rugby <p>Greenways</p> <p>Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Areas for Play • Local Equipped Area for Play <p>Youth Facilities</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>Cemeteries and Churchyards</p>
<p>Other Settlements</p>	<p>Green Ways</p> <p>Amenity Greenspace</p> <p>Local Area for Play</p>

The actual range of facilities available in Other Settlements will be very site dependent and influenced by local land ownership. Similarly the availability of greenways and links in and out from these other settlements will be dependent on local circumstances. It is accepted that many of these other settlements enjoy a much wider range of Public Spaces – however some do not and there is wide disparity of provision.

Where opportunities are brought forward to increase the quantity of public space in these other settlements then it is suggested that this should be taken where there is community support and demonstrable public benefit in terms of high quality and good accessibility and appropriate arrangements are in place to fund ongoing maintenance

Principles for Delivering the Strategy and Local Standards

This chapter includes a commentary on the eight objectives set out in Chapter 3. It also sets out the principles that the Council would wish to develop with partners in order to deliver these objectives.

Many of the objectives overlap and cannot be read in isolation.

It also needs to be understood that a strategy such as this may raise expectations and ambitions about what can be achieved in public space.

Whilst the Council is committed to the Public Space Strategy and the action plan that will emerge, it should be borne in mind that the District Council has identified both the provision of affordable housing and quality employment as its top priorities. Public space is important and will support these two aims but it is not the Council's key priority. In this context it is likely that in looking to improve public space there will be limited ability to access additional Council funding.

If some of the objectives are to be achieved then they will need to be achieved with partners and by drawing in external funding. There may also need to be some difficult decisions made over the quantity of public space owned and managed directly by the District Council and consideration given to whether, in driving up quality and accessibility, the Council will need to review the quantity of sites it directly supports. The Council intends to apply the principles in this strategy to focus upon areas of greatest public benefit while looking at alternative arrangements for some sites.

Increasing Accessibility and Use of Public Space

South Hams has a wide range of available public space. Despite this, many spaces are underused or only used by limited sections of the community. Well used spaces obviously provide more opportunity for exercise and enjoyment and indeed a well used space, by the sheer number of people within it, tends to be a safer space. In looking to increase accessibility and use of the wide range of public space the following principles will be applied

- i. Promote the use of public space through a range of events and activities targeting young people and health promotion.
- ii. Use the internet to promote the full range of public space to as wide an audience as possible and to target groups that currently do not use public space.
- iii. Improve signing and information to promote understanding and educational use of public spaces
- iv. Make reasonable physical improvements to access in and around public spaces and identify key sites where access for all is desirable and achievable
- v. Establish a comprehensive database of South Hams Public Space.
- vi. Maximise effectiveness and promotion of Greenways for appropriate use .
- vii. Work with providers of public transport to enable greater access to public space
- viii Concentrate promotion of access to isolated sites only where adequate existing parking or public transport links exist

Improving Quality and Public Benefit

In order to maintain the quality of any public space, be it a park, play area or Skate Park, there is a need to rejuvenate and renew facilities and the overall design of some spaces. Maintenance alone will go some way towards retaining quality but as years go by the overall design or the quality of the facilities, begin to look dated and their overall appearance and functionality can deteriorate.

There is inevitably limited funding available either within the Council, partner's budgets or from other funding streams to undertake this rejuvenation. In order to drive up quality the following principles will be applied:

- i. That the District Council and other owners or managers of public space work co-operatively to maximise resources which can be targeted on improving quality
- ii. That the District Council concentrate resources and effort on public spaces, which currently do, or can, provide high quality and public benefit. Where works are required to bring these up to high quality, partnership funding will be sought.
- iii. Where District Council owned public space cannot deliver high quality and public benefit that the Council consider disposal or alternative uses in order to improve quality elsewhere
- iv. Where the Council is managing public space on behalf of others it will continue to support this where the site can provide high quality and public benefit, (subject to equitable partnership arrangements being agreed with the landowner).

- v. Where the Council is managing public space on behalf of others and the site cannot provide high quality and public benefit the Council may:
 - Charge for the management undertaken or:
 - Transfer management of the facility back to the landowner (where this option is pursued any transfer of management will be negotiated over a reasonable period of time).
- vi. Introduce appropriate controls and bye-laws to ensure quality and enjoyment of public space.
- Vii Work with other landowners providing public space to attempt to secure management funding which may not be available to the Council

Accessing funding and delivering value for money

High quality public spaces require capital input in order to deliver quality design and facilities, and significant on-going revenue to deliver high quality maintenance.

As already noted in the strategy, there has been a decline nationally in funding available for parks and public spaces, and therefore public space managers, in particular public organisations, need to look at a range of different mechanisms for making the most of the limited funding available. In order to access funding and deliver value for money the following principles will be applied:

- i. Target available capital funding where works will achieve greatest public benefit in through high quality public spaces.
- ii. Review the delivery of grounds maintenance revenue funding to achieve greatest public benefit by reviewing the sites that are currently managed and the operations that take place on these sites.
- iii. When bringing forward new designs to improve quality and public benefit of public space, look to minimise long term maintenance costs.
- iv. Seek opportunities for external funding, in particular in pursuit of objectives relating to health, youth, quality design, accessibility, landscape and bio-diversity identified in the South Hams Community Strategy
- v. Utilise supplementary planning documents that ensure that new development makes an appropriate contribution either to the provision of new public spaces or the rejuvenation of existing public spaces.*
- vi. Look at other mechanisms for the delivery of management of public space, for example through commercial providers or Trusts.
- vii. Secure appropriate sponsorship and joint commercial ventures in public space .
- viii. Review the charging policy for Council facilities to seek more equitable arrangements with user groups and clubs for club use and the staging of events.

* To support work on Public Space South Hams District Council has recently adopted and issued a supplementary planning document about developer contributions for “Open Space, Sport and Recreation” with a range of formula and details on current requirements. this can be viewed at www.southhams.gov.uk

Working in Partnership

Numerous organisations are involved in the provision and management of public space. Within South Hams the following all play significant roles in providing and managing public space:

- South Hams District Council
- Town and Parish Councils
- Devon County Council
- National Trust
- Woodland Trust
- Forestry Commission
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Private Landowners
- Dartmoor National Park Authority

- Community Planning Groups

With its co-ordinating role in relation to the Community Strategy, and its statutory responsibility as planning authority, the District Council is in a position to take a pivotal role in the future provision and management of public space throughout much of the district – and this public space strategy is the vehicle for moving this forward. Within the National Park the Dartmoor National Park Authority is the Planning Authority and there is a continued need for close working between the District Council and National Park Authority where the District overlaps

On its own the District Council will have a limited ability to deliver quality public space. It needs to work in partnership with those within the District and from outside organisations. In delivering the strategy the following principles will be applied:

- i. Establish partnerships in order to promote and co-ordinate the management and provision of public space in order to achieve high quality and greatest public benefit.
- ii. Seek partnerships with funding agencies, both within and outside the district, in order to maximise grant aid for the provision and management of public space in South Hams.
- iii. Seek partnership with developers to ensure adequate provision, and management of, public space in relation to new development. In any new development the District Council will normally seek that the developer, or another third party, take on ownership and management of Public Open Space rather than the District Council.
- iv. Seek partnerships with Sports Clubs over provision and management of outdoor sports facilities.
- v. Seek partnerships with Devon County Council over dual use of education, youth, and sport and play facilities.
- Vii Seek partnerships with Dartmoor National Park Authority over access and public space within the part of South Hams within the National Park.
- vi. Seek partnership with neighbouring authorities over cross border opportunities.

- vii. Investigate partnerships with Town and Parish Councils and other landowners to reach equitable arrangements over management of land currently maintained on their behalf by the District Council.
- Viii Seek mechanisms to support private landowners in their existing management and provision of public space and look to develop additional appropriate access in conjunction with landowners

Community Involvement

Whilst local communities and individuals care passionately about public space, and their ability to use and enjoy it, it is often difficult for them to become directly involved. It is often local communities and individuals who know their public space best and understand the history of the site and the subtleties of its management.

Conversely, those organisations who own manage and maintain public space, are often more detached on a day to day basis from the site and the types of use, or abuse, which might take place there.

The extent to which public bodies have taken on the management of public space has engendered, over many decades, a feeling that these public spaces are “the Councils”, whereas, they are “the Communities”. They are merely managed on behalf of residents and tax payers by the Council or other public body.

There is a need to bridge this divide between those who enjoy the sites and those who manage and own the sites. There is enormous opportunity for the community and individuals to take a much stronger role in the management, and potentially the ownership, of public space.

In taking forward the Strategy the following principles will be applied:-

- i. Develop detailed public space action plans centred around the four Main Centres and Woolwell, involving Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, the Town and Parish Councils and all other relevant interested groups and individuals.
- ii. Develop management plans for key public spaces in conjunction with local communities and to agree standards of management.
- iii. Look to establish local liaison groups on significant public spaces in order to oversee the delivery of the management plans.
- iv. To work with local volunteers, and the existing parish Tree Wardens on closer liaison and management of public spaces.
- v. To work specifically with young people and youth service providers on appropriate facilities and activities in public space.
- vi. To work with health providers on a range of activities which bring communities together and provide healthy activities in public space.
- vii. Consider the establishment of Trusts and Community Interest Companies to own and manage public space

Places for Activity and Exercise

There is widespread recognition that as a population we are less fit than we used to be, and less fit than we should be.

For a proportion of the population, structured exercise and sport provides the exercise that they need – however, for the majority of the population, whatever exercise they get takes place during either the working day or their home life.

There is enormous opportunity to change and adapt our day to day activity to build in habitual exercise. One of the easiest places this can take place is in public spaces.

To encourage activity and exercise in public spaces the following principles will be applied:-

- i. Maximise the accessibility and availability of public space for day to day activity.
- ii. To promote the benefits of activity in public space for both physical and mental wellbeing.
- iii. Encourage hard to reach groups to make use of public space for activity.
- iv. Seek partnerships with health organisations in order to maximise the range of facilities and activities, which take place in public space and greenways.
- v. Promote healthy work places.

Space for Children and Young People

Children and young people need space in which to explore with their imaginations and develop their social skills. They deserve facilities every bit as good as a Sports facility for an adult age group and deserve the opportunity to be involved in the design and management.

The following principles will be applied:

- i. Look to provide challenging and exciting play opportunities free from unacceptable risk, which make full use of the site and the materials available locally – not just traditional fenced play areas.
- ii. Fully integrate provision for children and young people into Public Space, wherever practicable, and avoid isolated facilities.
- iii. Increase the recognition of the importance of both high quality and range of play experiences.
- iv. Invite young people to be involved in the design and management of play and youth facilities, to ensure a focus upon children's needs.
- v. Establish management partnerships over the long term provision and management of play and youth facilities.
- vi. Support structured activities for Children and Young People which encourage their appropriate enjoyment of Public Space.

Sustainable Design and Management

Public space can have significant impacts on sustainability. Issues such as wildlife, landscape, climate change, geology and water use can all be actively addressed through careful attention to the way in which Public Space is designed, constructed and managed.

Responses to the various consultations also highlighted the importance that people place on the conservation and planting of trees and the provision of habitats for wildlife.

In designing and managing public space the following principles will be applied:

- i. Look to conserve and enhance the local and distinctive landscape through careful selection of trees, plants, and hard landscape materials and through subsequent management.
- ii. Maximise the use of native trees, shrubs and other plants to provide habitats for wildlife.
- iii. Promote educational use of all public space and look to highlight areas of good land management practice as educational resource.
- iv. Work with partners and other landowners to enhance local landscape character and wildlife conservation.
- v. Undertake management in a way that incorporates long term sustainability of resources

8 Conclusion

South Hams residents have made clear their aspiration for quality public space in the district. South Hams District Council, acting on its own land and working with partners, wants to work with the local community in realising this vision.

High quality public space delivers many benefits and supports social, economic and community vibrancy within the district. The strategy presented here sets a positive framework for provision and management of public open space. It does not, in itself, provide for additional funding but sets in place a framework where the owners of public space, in conjunction with the local community, can maximise funding brought in from elsewhere.

The contents of this strategy have been through a full and wide consultation and this document now sets a framework for Public Space work through to 2012.

In order to clarify the work that will take place under this strategy there is an accompanying Action Plan at appendix 6 which sets out a range of actions for the Council itself – and for the Council in partnership with others.

Appendix 1

Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket Pitches in South Hams

Parish	Ground Name and Location	Ground Owner	Area		Pitch Study 2003							
			Acres	Hectares	Football - Adult	Football - Junior	Cricket Pitches	Rugby - Adult	Rugby - Junior	Hockey - Grass	All weather pitch	
Dartmouth	Dartmouth Britannia Royal Naval College*	BRNC	2 (8)	0.81 (3.24)	(2)		(2)	(2)				1
Dartmouth	Dartmouth Comm. College Milton Lane*	DCC	3 (3)	1.21 (1.21)		1	(1)	1				
Dartmouth	Dartmouth Longcross	Private	2.2	0.89	1							
Dartmouth	Dartmouth, Coronation Park*	SHDC	(2.2)	(0.89)	0							
Dartmouth	Dartmouth, Norton Site*	SHDC	10.9	4.41	1	2	1	1				
Dittisham	Dittisham, Shidders Meadows	Club	2.2	0.89	1							
Kingswear	Kingswear Mount Riley Road	Parish	1	0.40		1						
Stoke Fleming	Stoke Fleming Playing Field	Parish	2.2	0.89	1							
Stoke Fleming	Stoke Fleming School Road	Private	3	1.21			1					
Cornwood	Cornwood, Oak Park*	Private	7	2.83			2					
Ermington	Ermington, Fawns Close	SHDC	2	1.21	1		1					
Ivybridge	Ivybridge Comm. College Rutt Playing Field*	DCC	(4)	(1.62)					(2)			
Ivybridge	Ivybridge Community College (on site)*	DCC	2 (2)	0.81 (0.81)		(1)						1
Ivybridge	Ivybridge, Cross-In-Hand, Exeter Road*	Club	6	2.43				2				
Ivybridge	Ivybridge, Erme Playing Fields	SHDC	5	2.02	2	2	1					
Ivybridge	Ivybridge, Filham Park*	Town	7	2.83		2			2			
Shaugh Prior	Lee Moor Recreation Ground*	Lee Moor	6	2.43	1	1	1					
Bickleigh	Roborough Bickleigh Down Road*	Private	9	3.64	1	1		2				
Bickleigh	Roborough Recreation Ground	Roborough	4	1.62	1	1	1					
Sparkwell	Sparkwell Playing Field	Church	2.2	0.89	1							
Stokenham	Beesands The Cellars	Private	2.2	0.89	1							
Stokenham	Chillington Helmer's Playing Field	SHDC	1	0.40		1						

Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket Pitches in South Hams

Parish	Ground Name and Location	Ground Owner	Area		Pitch Study 2003						
			Acres	Hectares	Football - Adult	Football - Junior	Cricket Pitches	Rugby - Adult	Rugby - Junior	Hockey - Grass	Artificial
East Allington	East Allington Poole Lane	Private	2.2	0.89	1						
East Allington	East Allington Recreation Ground	Parish	1	0.40		1					
Chivelstone	East Prawle Cricket Field	Private	3	1.21			1				
Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge Comm.College, Belle Hill*	DCC	8	3.2	1	2					
Kingsbridge	Lower Slade Farm, Belle Hill*	Private	2.2	0.89	1						
Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge Comm.College, Rope Walk*	DCC	(1.5)	(0.61)							1
Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge, High House*	Club	6	2.43				2			
Loddiswell	Loddiswell Playing Fields	Loddiswell	2.2	0.89	1						
Malborough	Malborough Playing Fields	Malborough Village Hall	2.5	1.01	1		1				
Salcombe	Salcombe The Berry	Town	1	0.40		1					
Salcombe	Salcombe Twomeads RFC	Club:	3	1.21				1			
Salcombe	Salcombe Off St Dunstones Rd	SHDC	1.5	0.61						1	
Slapton	Slapton Middlegrounds Farm	Private	3	1.21			1				
West Alvington	West Alvington: The Butts	Club:	3	1.21			1				
Aveton Gifford	Aveton Gifford Playing Field	SHDC	1	0.40		1					
Aveton Gifford	Aveton Gifford Cricket Field*	Private	3	1.21			1				
Bigbury	Bigbury Recreation Ground	Parish	1	0.40		1					
Holbeton	Holbeton Flete Park	Private	2.5	1.01			1				
Holbeton	Holbeton, Battisborough Cross*	Private	1.5	0.61		1					
Kingston	Kingston Playing Fields: Church Park	SHDC	2	0.81	1						
Modbury	Modbury Recreation Ground	Parish	2.2	0.89	1						
Newton & Noss	Newton Ferrers, Butts Park	SHDC	5	2.02	1		1				
Wembury	Wembury House*	Private	3	1.21			1				
Wembury	Wembury Recreation Ground	SHDC	2.2	0.89	2						
Yealmpton	Yealmpton, The Athletic Field	Private	5	2.02	1		1				

Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket Pitches in South Hams

Parish	Ground Name and Location	Ground Owner	Area		Pitch Study 2003						
			Acres	Hectares	Football - Adult	Football - Junior	Cricket Pitches	Rugby - Adult	Rugby - Junior	Hockey - Grass	All weather pitch
Dartington	Dartington Dorothy Elmhurst Mem. Grnd	Private	3.7	1.50	1	1					
Dartington	Dartington Foxhole*	Private	5.7	2.31	1		1				
Diptford	Diptford Playing Fields	Parish	1	0.40		1					
Harbertonford	Harberton next village hall	Parish	1	0.40		1					
Harbertonford	Harbertonford The Hams	Club	2.2	0.89	1						
Marldon	Marldon Jubilee Meadow*	Parish	3	1.21		1	1				
South Brent	Palstone Park	Parish	5	2.02	2	1	1				
Staverton	Staverton Recreation Ground	Church	3.5	1.42	1		1				
Stoke Gabriel	Stoke Gabriel, Broadley Lane	Club	2.2	0.89	1						
Stoke Gabriel	Stoke Gabriel, J E Eastley Mem. Grnd	Club	3.5	1.42			1				
Totnes	KEVICS*	DCC	2 + (4.7)	0.81 (1.90)	(1)		(1)		(1)		1
Totnes	Totnes, Borough Park*	SHDC	7	2.83	1		1	1	2		
N.B An asterisk* denotes change in provision since 1997 - see Table 'Changes in Pitch Provision' for details.											
Figures in brackets represent facilities not defined as 'secured community use' having											
			178.7 (33.4)	72.7 (13.5)	30 (4)	25 (2)	22 (4)	10 (3)	4 (3)	1	4

Tennis & Bowls Facilities in South Hams

Parish	Ground Name and Location	Ground Owner	Area		Tennis Courts	Bowling Green
			Acres	Hectares		
Avonwick	Avonwick Tennis Club	Club	0.3	0.12	2	
Blackawton	Blackawton, Village Hall	Parish	0.17	0.06	1	
Dartmouth	Coronation Park	SHDC	0.95	0.38	4	1
Ivybridge	Erme Valley	Club	0.95	0.38	4	1
Kingsbridge	Recreation Ground	SHDC	0.65	0.26	2	1
Kingsbridge	Duncombe Park	Club	0.35	0.14		1
Kingsbridge	Rack Park Road	Club	0.44	0.18	3	
Malborough	Malborough Village Hall	Parish	0.3	0.12	2	
Marldon	The Bowling Club	Club	0.35	0.14		1
Modbury	Modbury Recreation Ground	Parish	0.3	0.12	2	
Noss Mayo	Butts Park	SHDC	0.3	0.12	2	
Salcombe	Onslow Road	Club	0.44	0.18	3	
South Brent	Palstone Park	Parish	0.3	0.12	2	
Totnes	Borough Park	SHDC	1.2	0.44	5	1
Wembury	Recreation Ground	SHDC	0.3	0.12	2	
			7.3	2.88	34	6

Tennis Court = 0.06 hectares

Bowling Green = 0.14 hectares

Changes in Pitch Provision - 1997 - 2003

Parish	Ground Name and Location	Ground Owner	Details
Aveton Gifford	Aveton Gifford Cricket Field	Private Farmer	New provision
Cornwood	Cornwood, Oak Park	Private	Addition of second cricket pitch
Dartington	Dartington Foxhole	Private: Dartington Hall	Previously recorded as 2 adult football
Dartmouth	Dartmouth Britannia Royal Naval College	BRNC	Established community use (by hockey club) of all weather pitch
Dartmouth	Dartmouth Comm. College Milton Lane	DCC	Community use of pitches now 1 senior rugby
Dartmouth	Dartmouth, Coronation Park	SHDC	Imminent loss
Dartmouth	Dartmouth, Norton Site (imminent)	SHDC	Imminent new provision
Holbeton	Holbeton, Battisborough Cross	Private	Previously recorded as 1 adult football
Ivybridge	Ivybridge Comm. College Rutt Playing Field	DCC	No longer sustaining community use
Ivybridge	Ivybridge Community College (on site)	DCC	No longer sustaining community use
Ivybridge	Ivybridge, Cross-In-Hand, Exeter Road	Club: Ivybridge RFC	Previously recorded as 3 adult rugby
Ivybridge	Ivybridge, Filham Moor	Town Council	New provision
Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge Comm. College, Belle Hill	DCC	Sustaining community use
Kingsbridge	Lower Slade Farm, Belle Hill	Private Farmer	New provision
Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge Comm. College, Rope Walk	DCC	No longer sustaining community use
Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge, High House	Club: Kingsbridge RFC	Addition of second adult rugby pitch
Shaugh Prior	Lee Moor Recreation Ground	Lee Moor Recreation Club	Previously recorded as 1 adult football and 1 cricket pitch
Marldon	Marldon Jubilee Meadow	Parish Council	Previously recorded as 1 cricket pitch
Bickleigh	Roborough Bickleigh Down Rd	Private	Previously recorded as 1 adult football and 3 adult rugby pitches
Totnes	Totnes KEVICS	DCC (Joint/SHDC-AWP)	Community use of pitches now all weather pitch
Totnes	Totnes, Borough Park	SHDC	Previously recorded as 1 adult football, 1 cricket, 1 adult + 1 junior rugby pitches
Wembury	Wembury House	Private	Previously recorded as 4.5 acres
In addition to the changes above, the following two sites no longer have football pitches:			
Cornwood	Cornwood Heathfield	Private (National Park)	Club disbanded, changing rooms burnt down, pitch reverted to heathland
Halwell & Moreleigh	Moreleigh Farleigh Cross	Private	No trace of club, pitch appears to have reverted to farmland

Appendix 2

Parish	Site	Ownership	Ownership Details	Equipment	Managed by SHDC
Ashprington	Recreation Ground	Non SHDC	Ashprington Parish Council	1 Multiplay	Yes
Aveton Gifford	Down Lane	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 climbing frame 1 see-saw 1 slide	Yes
Aveton Gifford	Icy Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
Berry Pomeroy	School	Non SHDC	DCC	2 multiplay Balance beams and stepping logs	Yes
Bickleigh	Cann Wood View	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 see-saw 1 spring mobile 1 basketball post	Yes
Bickleigh	Darklake Lane	SHDC	SHDC	Grass BMX track	Yes
Bickleigh	Ferndale Close	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 3 multiplay	Yes
Bickleigh	Hawthorn Close	Non SHDC	Plymouth City Council		No
Bigbury	St Annes Chapel	Non SHDC	Bigbury Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 see-saw 2 spring mobiles 1 basketball post	Yes
Blackawton	Playing Field	Non SHDC	Blackawton Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 2 multiplay 1 see-saw 1 basketball post	Yes
Brixton	Elliot's Hill	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 2 slides	Yes
Brixton	Yarda Walk	Non SHDC	Tor Homes	1 plain swing set	Yes
Chivelstone	East Prawle	Non SHDC	Chivelstone Parish Council	1 Multiplay	Yes
Cornwood	Churchdown Close	SHDC		1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 see-saw 1 multiplay	Yes
Cornwood	Lutton	Non SHDC	Cornwood Parish Council	1 multiplay 1 spring mobile	Yes
Dartington	Gidleys Meadow	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay	Yes
Dartington	Meadowbrook	Non SHDC	Meadowbrook Association	2 plain swing sets 1 slide 1 see-saw	Yes
Dartmouth	Britannia Avenue	Non SHDC			No

Parish	Site	Ownership	Ownership Details	Equipment	Managed by SHDC
Dartmouth	Collingwood Road	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
Dartmouth	Coronation Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
Dartmouth	Mayors Avenue	SHDC	SHDC	2 cradle swing sets 2 spring mobiles 1 multiplay	Yes
Dartmouth	Norton Road Skate Park	Non SHDC	Devon Youth Service	Skate Ramps	Yes
Dartmouth	Victoria Road	SHDC	SHDC	2 plain swing sets 1 slide 1 multiplay	Yes
Dartmouth	Victory Road	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay 1 see-saw	Yes
Dittisham	The Ham	Non SHDC	Dittisham Parish Council	2 plain swing sets 1 multiplay 1 log bridge 1 play fort	Yes
East Allington	Dartmouth Road	Non SHDC	East Allington Parish Council	1 multiplay 1 slide 1 plain swing set	Yes
Ermington	Fawns Close	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 slide 1 multiplay 1 spring mobile 1 half pipe 1 wigwam	Yes
Ermington	School	Non SHDC	Ermington Primary School	1 multiplay	Yes
Frogmore	Sherford	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 spring mobile	Yes
Harberton	Harberton	Non SHDC	Harberton Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 2 climbing frames 1 slide 2 rocking horses 1 roundabout 1 basketball post	Yes
Harberton	Harbertonford	Non SHDC	Harberton Parish Council	1 slide 1 multiplay 1 cradle swing set	Yes
Holbeton	Community Hall	Non SHDC	Holbeton Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
Holne	Hexworthy Road	Non SHDC	Holne Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 climbing frame 1 slide 1 multiplay	Yes
Ivybridge	Barn Close	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay 1 plain swing set	Yes
Ivybridge	Blackthorn Drive	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay 1 plain swing set	Yes
Ivybridge	Ermington Road	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 slide	Yes
Ivybridge	Exeter Road	Non SHDC			No
Ivybridge	Leonards Road Car Park	SHDC	SHDC	4 skate ramps	Yes
Ivybridge	Lower Brook Park	SHDC	SHDC		Yes
Ivybridge	Mill Meadow	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
Ivybridge	SDLC	SHDC	SHDC	2 multiplay	Yes

Parish	Site	Ownership	Ownership Details	Equipment	Managed by SHDC
Ivybridge	St Johns Close	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 2 multiplay 1 concrete locomotive	Yes
Ivybridge	Stowford School	Non SHDC	DCC		No
Ivybridge	The Coppice	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay	Yes
Ivybridge	Victoria Park	Non SHDC	Ivybridge Town Council	1 multiplay 1 plain swing set	No
Ivybridge	Weatherdon Drive	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 see-saw	Yes
Ivybridge	Woodburn Close	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 2 multiplay 2 spring mobiles	Yes
Ivybridge	Woodlands Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 2 multiplay	Yes
Ivybridge	Woodlands Park MUGA	SHDC		1 basketball post 1 teenage shelter Skateboard ramp MUGA	Yes
Ivybridge	Worthele Road	SHDC	SHDC	2 plain swing sets 2 multiplay	Yes
Kingsbridge	Duncombe Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 slide 1 climbing frame 1 multiplay	Yes
Kingsbridge	Homelands	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
Kingsbridge	Montagu Road	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay 1 see-saw	Yes
Kingsbridge	Primary School	Non SHDC	DCC		No
Kingsbridge	Rack Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay 1 roundabout	Yes
Kingsbridge	Recreation Ground	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 roundabout 1 slide 1 multiplay 1 see-saw 1 climbing frame	Yes
Kingsbridge	Treblepark	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay 1 basketball post	Yes
Kingsbridge	Wallingford Road	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set	Yes
Kingston	Recreation Ground	Non SHDC	Kingston Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 2 spring mobiles 1 see-saw 1 slide skateboard ramps and tarmaced area	Yes
Kingswear	Playing Field	Non SHDC	Kingswear Sports Committee	1 slide	Yes
Loddiswell	Butts Playing Field	Non SHDC	Loddiswell Playing Fields & Village Hall trust	1 slide	Yes
Malborough	Malborough Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 climbing frame	Yes
Malborough	Village Hall	Non SHDC	Malborough Village Hall & Playing Field	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay 1 fort with slide 2 spring mobiles	Yes

Parish	Site	Ownership	Ownership Details	Equipment	Managed by SHDC
			Association		
Marldon	Ipplepen Road	Non SHDC	Marldon Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 see-saw 1 spring mobile	Yes
Modbury	Champerdowne	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 tractor 1 donkey	Yes
Modbury	Village Hall	Non SHDC	Modbury Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay 1 slide	Yes
Moreleigh	Halwell	Non SHDC	Halwell & Moreleigh Parish Hall & Rec Trust	1 slide 1 multiplay 1 cradle swing set 1 basketball post	Yes
Newton & Noss	Butts Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay 1 basketball post	Yes
Newton & Noss	Gypsy Meadow	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 slide 1 log climber 1 see-saw 1 spring mobile	Yes
Rattery	Recreation Ground	Non SHDC	Rattery Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 multiplay 1 see-saw	Yes
Salcombe	Courtenay Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 slide 1 climbing frame 1 see-saw	Yes
Salcombe	The Berry	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
Shaugh Prior	Lee Moor	Non SHDC	Shaugh Prior Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 spring mobile	Yes
Shaugh Prior	Wotter	Non SHDC	Shaugh Prior Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay 1 slide	Yes
Slapton	Greenbanks	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay 1 see-saw	Yes
South Brent	Avondale	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay	Yes
South Brent	Crowder Meadow	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 multiplay	Yes
South Brent	Primary School	Non SHDC	DCC	1 multiplay 1 adventure playground	No
South Brent	Sanderspool	Non SHDC	South Brent Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 see-saw 1 climbing frame 1 slide 2 multiplay	Yes
South Brent	Recreation Field	Non SHDC	South Brent Parish Council	4 pieces of skate equipment	No
South Brent	St Michaels Close	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide	Yes
Sparkwell	Lee Mill	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay	Yes

Parish	Site	Ownership	Ownership Details	Equipment	Managed by SHDC
Sparkwell	Village Hall	Non SHDC	Sparkwell Parish Hall Committee	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 climbing frame 1 see-saw 1 multiplay 1 tyre bridge 1 log bridge	Yes
Staverton	Cricket Ground	Non SHDC	Staverton Parish Council	1 multiplay 1 cradle swing set	Yes
Staverton	Landscape	Non SHDC	Staverton Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 multiplay 1 sping mobile	Yes
Stoke Fleming	Venn Lane	Non SHDC	Stoke Fleming Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 multiplay 1 cradle swing set 1 roundabout 1 basketball post	Yes
Stoke Gabriel	The Orchard	Non SHDC	Stoke Gabriel Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay 1 see-saw 1 log bridge	Yes
Stokenham	Beesands	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide	Yes
Stokenham	Chillington	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 roundabout 1 multiplay 1 cradle swing set 1 spring mobile	Yes
Stokenham	Holbrook Terrace	Non SHDC	Private, rented by Stokenham Parish Council	1 plain swing set 1 slide 1 climbing frame 1 see-saw	Yes
Strete	Hyne Town	Non SHDC	Strete Parish Council	1 plain swing set 2 climbing frames 1 twist 1 cone climber 2 loud speakers 1 city spinner 1 log walk 1 skate ramp	Yes
Thurlestone	School	Non SHDC	All Saints Primary School	1 multiplay	Yes
Totnes	Borough Park	SHDC	SHDC	2 multiplay 1 cradle swing set 2 spring mobiles	Yes
Totnes	Borough Park Skate Park	SHDC	SHDC	9 skate ramps	Yes
Totnes	Colla Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay 1 climbing frame 1 basketball post	Yes
Totnes	Elm Walk	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 slide	Yes
Totnes	Follaton	Non SHDC	Follaton Recreation Association	2 climbing frames 1 roundabout 1 spring mobile	Yes
Totnes	Parkers Way	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 2 multiplay	Yes
Totnes	Parkfield Close	SHDC	SHDC	2 plain swing sets 1 cradle swing set 1 slide 1 see-saw	Yes
Totnes	Rush Way	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 see-saw	Yes

Parish	Site	Ownership	Ownership Details	Equipment	Managed by SHDC
Totnes	Smithfields	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay	Yes
Totnes	Steamer Quay	SHDC	SHDC	1 galleon	Yes
Totnes	Westonfields	SHDC	SHDC	1 slide 1 spring mobile 1 multiplay 1 plain swing set 1 basketball post	Yes
Ugborough	Bittaford	Non SHDC	Ugborough Parish Council	2 slides 2 multiplay 2 spring mobiles 1 see-saw 1 log cabin 1 plank balance beam 1 climbing frame	Yes
Ugborough	Donkey Lane	SHDC	SHDC	1 multiplay 1 plain swing set	Yes
Wembury	Barton Close	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 climbing frame 1 slide 1 multiplay wooden horses skateboard ramp & grind bar 1 basketball post	Yes
Wembury	Down Thomas	Non SHDC	Down Thomas Jubilee Hall Committee	1 slide 1 see-saw 1 plain swing set 1 basketball post	Yes
West Alvington	Townsend Lane	Non SHDC	West Alvington Parish Council	1 slide 1 plain swing set 1 multiplay	Yes
West Charleton	West Charleton School	Non SHDC	Charleton Parish Council	1 slide 1 multiplay	Yes
Yealmpton	Stray Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 cradle swing set 1 multiplay 1 see-saw 1 spring mobile 1 teenage shelter 1 basketball post	Yes
Yealmpton	Yeo Park	SHDC	SHDC	1 plain swing set 1 multiplay	Yes

Totals	SHDC	63
	Non SHDC	47
	SHDC Managed	103
	TOTAL	110

Appendix 3 - Strategic Context

In order to understand why a local public space strategy is relevant and important it is necessary to understand the national regional and local policy and initiative context. The following is a summary of the relevant background.

National

Green Spaces, Better Places

Landmark report from the urban green spaces taskforce to government identifying need for significant measures to address the decline and neglect of a national parks. Production of green space strategies seen as a key element of addressing this at a local level.

Planning policy guidance note 17; Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Requires councils to take a strategic approach to the management and provision of public space in order that be given proper consideration in relation to the new development. Promotes the use of a benchmark audit of quality and quantity as a way of identifying a hierarchy of local sites, standards at which these sites be provided as a framework for identifying local deficiencies in provision.

CABE Space

In response to the green spaces better places report the government established CABE space (under the commission for architecture in the built environment) as a lead body to promote good practice in public space management and the production of public space strategies.

Continuous performance assessment – cleaner, safer, greener communities

The government recognition that the quality of public spaces was fundamental to vibrant communities. Councils are assessed on cleaner safer and greener communities culminating in recent government guidance on the creation of quality parks and open spaces specifically to address this issue.

Choosing health 2005

The government white paper specifically addresses the need for people to be active throughout their lifetime and identifies the key role that public spaces play in providing for both formal and informal activity.

Every child matters

The national service framework for child health which includes a number of actions promoting activity for children and access to local facilities.

Local Context

Devon Structure Plan (2004)

Requires all planning should deliver sustainable development. This includes the provision of full range of community facilities (including public space) in locations most accessible for those who need to use them.

South Hams local development framework; Core strategy (2005)

Policy requires full infrastructure provision in relation to new development – both to address the need generated from new development and improved facilities where existing infrastructure is inadequate and there is a need to remedy deficiencies.

Corporate policies and strategies

The councils overall vision is to improve the wellbeing of the people of South Hams. The 6th corporate priorities are:

- **Affordable homes** – securing the supply of housing for local people at affordable levels.
- **Good jobs** – creating conditions for the growth and maintenance of economic activity.
- **Retaining the districts character** – maintaining the distinct environment whilst enabling access and sensitive development.
- **A clean district** – maintaining a clean environment.
- **An accessible council** – working with others to improve access to key services.
- **Value for money** – improving core service performance in a cost effective way.

The provision of quality public space, in a cost effective manner, contributes directly to policy cp3, 4, 5 and 6 in contributing to cleaner, safer and greener communities for the provision of quality public open space. Also supports vibrant local communities and underpinning themes in relation to Climate Change, Youth provision and Health.

Council Strategies

The council delivers its work in a strategic context through a number of strategy documents. The public space strategy sits amongst these and contributes to the delivery of other strategies in the following ways.

Community Strategy	The Provision of quality local and environment and public spaces is important to vibrant local communities.
The Prosperity Strategies	Good public space, as a contribution to the overall townscape and local communities, improves the attractiveness of South Hams settlements as places for people to locate and run their businesses.
Leisure and Recreation Strategy	It is within the public spaces that much of people's activity, walking, sport or play takes place. Leisure and recreation strategy core aim is to encourage active lifestyles and the provision of quality public space clearly contributes to this.
Tourism Strategy	Attractive public spaces within the towns and villages contribute to the intrinsic quality of the area as a tourist destination.

Appendix 4

Play Provision Quality Standards

	Casual Play Space	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP Standard)	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP Standard)	Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA Standard)
Age Provided For	4 – 6 years	4 – 8 years	8 – 14 years	8-14 years
Maximum Distance from Dwellings and Walking Time	100 metres 1 minute	400 metres 5 minutes	1,000 metres 15 minutes	1,000 metres 15 minutes
Access	<p>Assumes that access can be safely navigated avoiding busy main roads or other hazards so that children may access the area safely from where they live.</p> <p>Access will also be required for those with disabilities and the specific guidance of the Council's access officer will be sought in each instance.</p>			
Equipment Required	Seating for Adults Safety Barriers	A minimum of 5 types of play equipment including safer surfacing to European Standards Seating for adults Safety Barriers Shade	A minimum of 8 types of play equipment including safer surfacing to European standards Seating for adults Safety Barriers Shade	Multi-sport rebound walls, goals, basketball and similar. Floodlights in key locations. Seating
Site Conditions	A flat well drained grassed area	A flat well drained grassed area complying to European Standards	A flat well drained grassed / hard surfaced area complying to European Standards	A flat well drained hard surface with adequate surrounding fencing
Minimum Size for Activity Zone	100 sq.m	400 sq.m	1,000 sq.m	720 sq. m (18x 40m)

	Casual Play Space	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP Standard)	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP Standard)	Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA Standard)
Minimum Distance from Boundary to Nearest Dwelling	5 metres from the boundary of the nearest dwelling. 1 metre strip of dense planting between exposed dwelling walls and the activity zone	20 metres from the boundary of the nearest dwelling	30 metres from the boundary of the nearest dwelling	30 metres from boundary of nearest dwelling

Notes:

- i. Play Areas and MUGAs should be sited where they are subject to view and a degree of overlooking.
- ii. The Council will place strong emphasis on providing quality play and youth facilities which are well designed around the intended user group. The Council will actively consider setting aside the prescriptive details in the table above where a proposal is brought forward which provides equivalent of greater play value through a different approach.

South Hams Public Space Strategy 2007 - 2012

Action Plan

This Action Plan will be the main tool for securing the standards and principles detailed in the strategy. It is set out under the objectives which are identified in Chapter 3 of the Strategy – and are further analysed in chapter 7 of the Strategy.

In relation to “working in partnership” and “community involvement” it became increasingly obvious during the consultation that these objectives were intimately linked and in many cases, overlapped. For the purposes of this Action Plan they have been presented together.

Additionally the issues of “improving quality and public benefit” and “accessing funding and delivering value for money” were also fundamentally linked. These have also been presented together for the purposes of this Action Plan.

The Action Plan incorporates a range of internal SHDC actions (directly within the control of the Council) and partnership actions (where the district council will need to work alongside others). For internal actions a lead section and anticipated date is given. For partnership actions the other potential partners are identified, but these are not exclusive and could be added too. Timescales for such partnership actions need to be agreed with these partners and a number of actions are linked. Monitoring of delivery of the initial SHDC actions will be through regular service plan review. Monitoring of partnership projects will be by the South Hams Local Strategic Partnership.

There are also two overarching themes which run through the entire Action Plan – and are therefore taken to be inherent in all actions. These are:-

- Delivering the Local Standards (Chapter 6 of the Strategy)
- Implementing the hierarchy of provision (Table 6 in the Strategy)

1. Increasing Accessibility and Use of Public Space

District Council Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Lead section and anticipated date
1.1	Establish a programme of signage and information provision for key SHDC parks, play areas and public space.	Increased awareness of opportunities to use facilities, increased levels of use and income generated.	Landscape and Recreation Commence Oct 07 Complete Oct 10
1.2	Complete access and condition survey. Programme necessary works to enable access to appropriate level for SHDC public space. Ensure sites are DDA compliant to a reasonable standard.	Equality issues addressed in relation to access to sites. Informed decisions about resource use.	Landscape and Recreation Commence Oct 07 Complete Oct 10
1.3	Improve and update web based information on the public space map and public space database.	Greater public awareness of public space. Increase number of hits on website and level of use.	Landscape and Recreation Commence Dec 07 On-going

Partnership Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Partnership
1.4	Identify key sites to be managed and promoted as Accessible for All	Provides a range of key sites with maximum accessibility	DCC National Trust Woodland Trust Town and Parish Councils Landowners
1.5	Deliver a programme of public events targeted at young people and with healthy activities theme.	Increased levels of activity and use of public space.	DCC Tone Leisure PCT

2. Improving Quality, Public Benefit and Value for Money

District Council Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Lead section and anticipated date
2.1	Introduce the Greenspace Performance Management System for quality assessment and to identify areas for improvement at key SHDC parks, gardens and civic spaces.	Improvements identified to incorporate into capital programme and/or grounds maintenance contract.	Landscape and Recreation Commence Oct 07 Annual Review and monitoring.
2.2	Review the delivery of SHDC grounds maintenance operations to achieve greatest public benefit. Review to cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites managed • Operations undertaken 	Greater efficiency in use of staff and machinery and achieve appropriate quality where it's needed.	Landscape and Recreation Operations Commence Nov 07 Complete Mar 09
2.3	Seek opportunities for external funding for revenue and targeted capital schemes that offer greatest public benefit on or off council land	Improved quality public space and its use through design schemes that involve community.	Landscape and Recreation On-going
2.4	Secure greater income and efficiency through sponsorship and adoption of public space along with joint commercial ventures where appropriate.	Greater efficiency in maintaining public space.	Landscape and Recreation Commence Nov 07 On-going Review
2.5	Review current public realm controls and byelaws. Introduce appropriate changes to ensure quality and enjoyment.	Reduce anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and littering in key public spaces.	Landscape and Recreation Street Scene and Legal Commence April 08
2.6	Ensure use of the Open Space, Sports and Recreation SPD secures funds for new development providing for new public space or rejuvenation of existing.	Quality improved and quantity increased in relation to new development as appropriate in accordance with adopted standards.	Landscape and Recreation Planning and Legal On-going
2.7	Bring forward a capital investment programme for SHDC public space to address access, management, signage and improvement. Initiate rolling review	Clarified and prioritised programme of public space capital investment. Seek external funding wherever possible.	Landscape and Recreation Property Services Asset Management Group April 08 Ongoing

2.8	Review the Councils procedures for the adoption, disposal, leasing and licensing of public open space	Maximise public benefit and income. Identify scope for disposal or alternative uses	Landscape and Recreation Oct 2008
2.9	Review the provision of litter bins in Public Spaces	Ensure cost effective waste management in public spaces	Landscape and Recreation Waste Management Oct 2009
2.10	Review process for Memorials on Council land	Ensure an appropriate and cost effective service	Landscape and Recreation Dec 2007
Partnership Actions			
Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Partnership
2.11	Develop the process of assessing quality and public benefit, through a Town and Parish Councils Working Group, in order to guide resource use. Review location and provision of Public Space	A method that is open, accountable and accepted as a way of considering the future management and funding priorities for Public Space owned or managed by SHDC and others.	Town and Parish Councils DCC Landowners
2.12	Ensure new designs of public space incorporate sustainable management principles	Decreased grounds maintenance costs and reduced environmental impact. Increased quality and viability of schemes	Developers Landowners Town and Parish Council's

3. Partnership Working and Community Involvement

Partnership Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Partnership
3.1	Pilot Town and Parish partnerships with remit to improve management and maintenance arrangements of public space (include County Highways and Dartmoor National Park).	Efficiencies in maintenance with improved co-ordination and provision.	Town and Parish Councils DCC Landowners
3.2	Work with Four Market Town Councils, and Bickleigh Parish Council (for Woolwell) to produce locally based Public Space Strategies. These to incorporate all elements of public space and to be phased to incorporate the settlement first and then (in conjunction with other Parish Councils) the hinterland parishes.	Town based Public Space Action Plans set local priorities to inform funding allocations, funding bids, developer contributions and LDF work	Town and Parish Councils Landowners
3.3	Develop partnership with DCC Children's Services, TONE leisure, independent providers and Sports Clubs to produce outdoor (and indoor) sports facilities development plans (including community dual use of school sites where appropriate)	Co-ordinated approach with Local Authorities, clubs, leisure providers and governing bodies targeting gaps in facilities.	DCC Tone Leisure Providers Sports Clubs
3.4	Develop public space community support network incorporating existing tree warden scheme and other volunteers.	Community input to public space design and management plan process.	CVS Volunteers Town and Parish Councils
3.5	Encourage local management arrangements on selected SHDC public spaces. Pilot three community park spaces.	Greater community engagement and stewardship for public space.	CVS Volunteer Groups Town and Parish Councils
3.6	Establish partnerships with developers to ensure adequate provision and management arrangements, ensure good quality and high public benefit to adopted standards.	High standards with clear management liabilities established in advance of new development.	Developers Landowners
3.7	Work with neighbouring authorities to develop comprehensive approaches to public space availability and management.	Co-ordinated management approaches, in particular around the Plymouth Fringe.	Plymouth City Council Torrey Borough Council Teignbridge District Council West Devon Borough Council Devon County Council Dartmoor National Park

3.8	Working with promoters of Sherford and Langage to develop high quality public space design and achieving exemplary standards.	Exemplary public space for major residential and commercial development sites.	Developers Landowners
3.9	Assist local communities in developing and delivering identified public space and access projects on land outside SHDC ownership. Support parish groups.	Assisted delivery of projects identified through Parish plans and MCTI plans.	Town and Parish Councils Local Groups Landowners
3.10	Working with tourism businesses to promote Green Tourism, leading to support for environmental projects and access to public space.	Public space access improvements alongside business involvement.	Tourism Businesses
3.11	Work with Beach Management Group to establish framework of Beach management standards and co-ordination of management	Improved management arrangements	Landowners RNLI Tourism Businesses

4. Places for Activity and Exercise

District Council Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Lead section and anticipated date
4.1	Ensure Local Development Framework policies and sites (including Sherford) make proper provision for outdoor sports facilities and allotments. Provide advice to DC on planning applications	All new developments to meet quality, quantity and accessibility standards for outdoor sports facilities and allotments.	Landscape and Recreation LDF Timescales On-going

Partnership Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Partnership
4.2	Promotion campaign demonstrating use of public space for range of physical activities.	Increase level of activity by public (target 1% pa/yr).	PCT Tone Leisure
4.3	Produce outdoor sports facilities and allotments development plans for towns with partner organisations as part of town based Public Space Action Plans. Ensure delivery links to the LDF.	Increased quantity of provision of sports and allotment sites leading to increase in participation and activity.	Town and Parish Council's Local Groups Sports Clubs Sport Governing Bodies
4.4	Develop programmes of "Green Exercise" health and fitness activities that make use of open spaces, greenways, parks and recreation routes.	Hard to reach groups encouraged to take up activities and exercise.	PCT Health Centres
4.5	Develop sports facilities and activities liaison groups based around the four market towns and Woolwell in partnership with TONE leisure. To work within, or alongside, overall Town based Public Space Strategies	Greater co-operation between sports clubs, community and schools promoting dual use of facilities in market towns. Co-ordinated planning of facility use and new facility development.	Town and Parish Councils Sports Clubs Tone Leisure Sport Governing Bodies DCC
4.6	Develop dual use of school playing pitches/facilities.	Increase availability of range of sporting facilities and levels of appropriate activity.	DCC Town and Parish Councils

5. Space for Children and Young People

District Council Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Lead section and anticipated date
5.1	Ensure Local Development Framework policies and sites (including Sherford) make proper provision for Children and Young People. Provide advice to Development Control	All new developments to meet quality, quantity and accessibility standards for facilities for Children and Young People.	Landscape and Recreation LDF Timescales

Partnership Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Partnership
5.2	Target activities and facilities improvements at groups of identified need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disability • Multiple deprivation wards • Teenagers Produce programme of targeted site improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site specific access improvements • Enhanced facilities • Additional Activities 	DCC Barnardos Local Groups
5.3	New schemes, or rejuvenation of existing, should prioritise “play spaces” not just “play areas” making full use of natural environment, open spaces and other public realm alongside formal play equipment. Link with Play Strategy and delivery of play support programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced facilities • Increased choice for young people • Wider play value and opportunity for children’s development 	Town and Parish Councils Play Area Owners
5.4	Review location and quality of existing play facilities as part of Town based Public Space Strategies and Action Plans	Play facilities audit and plan leading to enhanced facilities.	Town and Parish Councils
5.5	Promotion campaign demonstrating the benefits of challenging and environmental play.	Greater range of play opportunities.	SPARC Play Providers

Key Objective

6. Sustainable Design and Management

District Council Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Lead section and anticipated date
6.1	Public space design to incorporate local landscape characteristics, appropriate tree and natural planting. Hard landscaping and civic space should incorporate appropriate arts and cultural heritage features and materials.	High quality design that attracts acknowledged acclaim, increased range of use of public space, public satisfaction and of wildlife value.	Landscape and Recreation Ongoing
6.2	Incorporate a full range of Sustainable management principles into the Grounds Maintenance work	Appropriate management of public space	Landscape and Recreation Ongoing
6.3	Develop a promotion campaign for public space.	Greater involvement and community ownership.	Landscape and Recreation 2009
6.4	Ensure all management plans and activities enhance biodiversity and meet statutory requirements for biodiversity protection – to include control of invasive species	Biodiversity conservation and enhancement. Meet council performance indicators and statutory responsibility	Landscape and Recreation 2007 onwards
6.5	Ensure all management plans and activities enhance the Historic Environment and meet statutory requirements for biodiversity protection of historic sites and features	Historic Environment conservation and enhancement. Meet statutory responsibility	Landscape and Recreation 2007 onwards

Partnership Actions

Action	Description	Expected Outcome	Partnership
6.6	Identify key public spaces with stakeholders and partners and establish a programme of management plans for these key public spaces. Such plans need to look at how the site relates to neighbouring land to ensure quality access and management around, as well as within, the site.	Co-ordinated management and ongoing maintenance with community involvement where appropriate. Meet Council Performance indicators	Landowners Town and Parish Councils Community Groups