

## RECREATION

### ***NS/22 – Public open space and sports provision***

**A comprehensive policy itemising the open space and recreational infrastructure which the Council envisages for the settlement. The Council will require a strategy for formal sports to be prepared, which includes identifying the impact of provision at Northstowe on the range of facilities in the wider sub-region. It also establishes minimum standards for open and play space provision and the requirement for all dwellings to be within 1km of open sports provision, which might be provided in formal areas alongside the secondary school, in green corridors, and in a town park and other open spaces in the settlement.**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	+	+(+)	Beneficial in that facilities should be readily accessible on foot or cycle (or, failing that, public transport)
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	Overall impact assumed to be neutral.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	+	+	Reiterates role of green corridors as areas for general recreation as well as wildlife access.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Intersperses formal and informal play space as part of open space strategy with benefits for broader layout of the settlement.

3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+(+)	++	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	Lighting of outdoor facilities will need to be designed carefully to limit spill / intrusion.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+	++	+++	Clearly a primary objective of this policy.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	Issue of safe play space will need to be addressed in the Design Guide for the settlement
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	++	+++	The primary objective of this policy.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	+(+)	++	Addressed by other objectives, but the policy stipulates targets for proximity of dwellings to recreational facilities.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	+	+	+	Intrinsically supportive since facilities are designed to be readily accessible to all, and the supporting text proposes 'dual use' facilities shared by schools and the community wherever this is practicable.
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	(+)	+	+(+)	Supportive in that it facilitates group sporting activities (though this is not strictly one of the criteria specified for this objective).
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	

7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	+	+	+	Represents appropriate investment in recreational infrastructure and supports quality of certain educational facilities.
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
<b>Summary of assessment:</b> Clearly sustainable in providing extensive leisure and recreational facilities, thereby avoiding the problems of poor provision that appear to affect many of the District's smaller communities. The nature and scale of facilities envisaged suggests they are likely to attract users from surrounding settlements, not just Northstowe. In principle this suggests an increase in car trips, although this would be offset by the healthy activity which is the purpose of the trip.				
<b>Summary of mitigation proposals:</b> None.				
<b>Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects:</b> None identified.				

### NS/23 – Countryside recreation

Provides for two country parks, a strategy for linking recreational facilities in the settlement with features and rights of way beyond it, and for the relocation of the golf course. The policy envisages linking the country parks, water park and green separation to provide a walking route encircling the settlement.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	(-)	(-)	The northern country park will take additional undeveloped land within an area to be designated as Green Belt, however this land use is consistent with Green Belt policies in the Core Strategy and does not represent irreversible loss.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	

2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Supportive in principle, provided the country parks maximise use of existing natural vegetational features.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	+	++	Clearly a primary objective of this policy.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Generally supportive.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	As above.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+(+)	++	Small beneficial support since recreational facilities will be within walking/cycling distance of local residents. The policy suggests the country parks may attract people from a wider area and this may marginally increase car trips. Nevertheless the northern park lies adjacent to the guided busway and its park & ride facility so could be accessed by traffic which avoids the A14, or by people coming on the bus from Cambridge and St Ives/Huntingdon.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+	(+)	++	Supports promotion of healthy leisure activities.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	(+)	++	Clearly supportive.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of	+	+(+)	++	Supports provision of accessible leisure facilities.

services and facilities			
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
<b>Summary of assessment: A further sustainable policy supporting others on green space provision for human and wildlife benefits.</b>			
<b>Summary of mitigation proposals: As this policy provides for substantial areas of informal recreation beyond the settlement edge, we suggest the Council might consider designating areas such as parts of the network of green corridors and their extensions into the surrounding countryside (see policy NS/18).</b>			
<b>Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.</b>			