

London Borough of Sutton
Local Development Framework

DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Planning, Transport and Highways Service

Environment and Leisure

June 2006

CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Comments should be made on the standard response form enclosed at the back of the document and should be sent, Freepost SEA 0135, to:

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Carshalton, SM5 2JG*

3. You can also email comments to: ldf@sutton.gov.uk
4. If you want to discuss any issues raised in this document please contact Sally Blomfield on 020 8770 6253.
5. In dealing with the outcome of the consultations the Council will:
 - I. Acknowledge all responses made;
 - II. Contact you if we need to clarify any points you have raised;
 - III. Summarise all responses;
 - IV. Prepare a report to Councillors on all responses, and, set out the Council's views on these, including recommendations on the way forward. This report will be made publicly available on the Council's website (<http://www.sutton.gov.uk>) and in local libraries; and
 - V. Send you a letter telling you when and where the report on the outcome of this consultation is available.
6. If you want independent help and advice on this consultation document or any other planning matter you can contact Planning Aid for London on Tel: 020 7247 4900 or by emailing info@planningaidforlondon.org.uk.
7. Useful general information on the planning system can be found on the Planning Portal (<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk>), which is managed by the Government's Planning Inspectorate.

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ONE

Context

Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1** The London Borough of Sutton is characterized by a diverse range of open spaces of different sizes, from the swathes of agricultural land and parkland in the south of the Borough, designated as Green Belt, to the smaller civic spaces, such as Millennium Gardens in Sutton High Street. The spaces vary in quality and range of facilities provided with parks such as Beddington and the Grange providing high quality parkland landscapes and children's play facilities to Poulter Park, which has very few facilities (although since the Open Space Study there has been significant investment in the children's play area).
- 1.2** Much of the open space in the Borough is owned privately by utility companies and private sports clubs and as a consequence public access to these spaces is limited.
- 1.3** The provision of high quality accessible public open space contributes to a range of crosscutting issues including health and well being; social inclusion, regeneration, environmental sustainability, livability and the general image of the area which can effect investment levels in the Borough.
- 1.4** The purpose of this draft Open Space Strategy (the draft Strategy) is to provide clear objectives and a framework by which the Council can effectively manage, maintain and

enhance the open space network of the Borough. The draft Strategy proposes a Vision for open space which makes clear the Council is committed to work with its partners (including other public agencies, developers and the community) to improve access to and the quality of open space in the Borough.

- 1.5** In order to achieve the Vision the Draft Strategy establishes:
- The objectives for the future use and development of open space; and
 - Short, medium and long term priorities for Action.
- 1.6** The implementation of the Strategy will have consequences for other service areas of the Council. It will:
- Inform the development of planning policy through the Local Development Framework;
 - Contribute to the review of the management regime of parks by Leisure Services;
 - Have implications for biodiversity management through the Local Biodiversity Action plan;
 - Will contribute towards the work on the Health Agenda;
 - Will feed into the review of the Council's Community Strategy and the Cultural Strategy; and
 - Will contribute towards the Council's Sustainability Strategy.
- 1.7** It will also have implications for the services of other public agencies particularly the Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust.

Background

- 1.8** The Council commissioned consultants Scott Wilson to undertake a study into the current supply and quality of the demands for and use of open space in the Borough. Scott Wilson produced the "London Borough of Sutton Open Space Study" (2005) (the Study), which was approved by Members as the basis for preparing an Open Space Strategy in March 2005. This Strategy has been prepared in the context of this

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- Study.
- 1.9** In accordance with Government guidance this document has been approved for purposes of public consultation. Public consultation will be carried out for a period of six weeks. Public consultation is important to ensure that the Vision and Action Plan proposed incorporates the aspirations of all stakeholders.

The Definition of Open Space

- 1.10** Government Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17) defines open space as all open space of “public value, including not just land, but also areas of water... which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”
- 1.11** It is important to have a consistent definition of what comprises open space in order that long term monitoring can be effective. Furthermore adopting a nationally recognized definition means that working with our adjoining Boroughs can be facilitated. Accordingly each open space within the Borough has been assigned a typology (based on its primary purpose); an access category (based on the general public's ability to access the site); and accessible open spaces above 0.3ha have been further defined using the Open Space Hierarchy set out in the Mayor's London Plan.
- 1.12** The typologies, access categories and the Open Space Hierarchy, which has been used to categorise open space, are set out in Appendix 1.

The Need for an Open Space Strategy

National Policy Context

- 1.13** The production of the draft Strategy meets the requirements for assessments and audits for open spaces contained in PPG17. The

Companion Guide to PPG17 sets out the following desirable outcomes:

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

- 1.14** The draft Strategy has also been prepared in the context of the Mayor's London Plan (February 2004). The London Plan states that London Boroughs should prepare Open Space Strategies to understand the supply and demand of open spaces and identify ways of protecting, creating, and enhancing them and improving their quality through better management. The Greater London Authority Guide to Preparing Open Space Strategies (the GLA Guide), sets out the following five principle objectives of an Open Space Strategy:

- Protect and improve open space provision in terms of quality/ quantity/ accessibility and safety;
- Improve linkages within and between the open space network;
- Ensure open spaces meet the needs of all local people and promote greater social inclusion;
- Ensure open spaces enhance the quality of the local environment; and
- Provide a clear framework for investment priorities and action.

- 1.15** The Urban Green Space Task Force Report “Green Spaces, Better Places” (2002) clearly sets out the multiple functions and the cross-cutting

benefits of open space, including for recreation; health; culture, education and tourism; economic development and regeneration; visual amenity; community identity; and biodiversity.

Local Policy Context

1.16 The Council's Vision for the Borough is established in the Community Strategy (2005-2008). Priorities are set out under a number of themes including improving health and well being and developing a cleaner and greener environment. Under the Community Strategy the Council has developed five Core Values which are set out below and all of which have implications for the development of the Open Space Strategy:

- Working in PARTNERSHIP with the people who live and work in the borough;
- Making our services open and accessible so that everyone is listened to and treated with RESPECT;
- Seeking INNOVATIVE approaches in order to provide better services;
- Promoting DIVERSITY and ensuring that we recognise and celebrate difference with the context of fairness and equality; and
- EMPOWERING everyone so that we can all 'take part and take pride' as active citizens and staff.

1.17 The Council's Corporate Action Plan also has a number of Goals which have implications for the development of this draft Strategy including promoting environmental sustainability; promoting community and economic well being and promoting a prudent and well managed Council.

1.18 As well as being prepared in the context of the Community Strategy and Core Values the draft Strategy has had regard to the following key documents:

- Sutton's Unitary Development Plan (2003);

- Sutton's Crime & Disorder Strategy 2002 – 2005;
- All Together Now! Sutton Cultural Strategy 2002 – 2006;
- Disability Sport & Recreation Strategy 2003 – 2004;
- Sport & Recreation Strategy 2001-2003; and
- Street-Focus, Parks Research for Sutton Borough Council, March 2004.



TWO

The Open Space Study - Key Findings

2.1 The Sutton Open Space Study investigated the supply, quality and value of open space and looked at the demand for and the use of accessible open space in the Borough. It identifies the following key local contextual issues.

Level of Open Space Provision

2.2 678 open spaces were identified and audited. Of these 450 had unrestricted public access (i.e. available to everyone at all times). The largest concentration of sites with restricted access (i.e. out of bounds to the general public) is in Beddington North (particularly the Beddington Farmlands) and Carshalton South and Clockhouse (the agricultural smallholdings in the Little Woodcote Green Belt area).

2.3 The current Borough wide level of unrestricted open space is 2.88ha per 1,000 population which exceeds the National Playing Field Association (NPFA) standard of 2.43 ha per 1,000 population (the old '6 Acre' standard).

2.4 The amount of open space varies widely between Wards. The lowest quantity is found in Wallington South and Sutton South with 0.14 and 0.15

Ha of open space per 1000 population respectively. At the upper end of the scale, Beddington North, Beddington South and Carshalton South & Clockhouse have over 6 Ha per 1000. Two thirds of Sutton's wards fall below the Borough Average of 2.88 Ha per 1000 population. At Committee Area level, Areas A (Cheam & Worcester Park) and B ((Sutton) fall below the Borough Average, whereas Areas C (Carshalton & Clockhouse) and D (Beddington & Wallington) exceed the Borough average. The amount by Ward and committee area is shown in the Table below.

Ward / Committee Area	Area of Unrestricted Open Space (Ha)	Population 2001 Census	Amount of Open Space per 1000 Population	Amount of Open Space Above or Below Borough Average
Worcester Park	16.49	9874	1.67	-1.21
Stonecot	28.93	10327	2.77	-0.11
Nonsuch	16.43	10160	1.62	-1.26
Cheam	27.59	9695	2.85	-0.03
Committee Area A	89.44	40056	2.23	-0.65
Sutton North	31.54	9675	3.26	0.38
Sutton Central	9.01	10016	0.84	-2.04
Sutton West	18.49	9980	1.85	-1.03
Sutton South	1.55	8827	0.15	-2.73
Belmont	14.11	9790	1.38	-1.50
Committee Area B	74.70	48288	1.50	-1.38
St. Helier	22.37	10798	2.05	-0.83
Wandle Valley	42.81	10722	3.97	1.09
Wrythe	19.83	10384	1.91	-0.97
Carshalton Central	28.96	9833	2.79	-0.09
Carshalton South & Clockhouse	80.11	9747	8.22	5.34
Committee Area C	194.08	51484	3.79	0.91
Beddington North	80.53	9941	6.35	3.47
Beddington South	74.89	10423	7.14	4.26
Wallington North	3.07	9974	2.21	-0.67
Wallington South	1.33	9602	0.14	-2.74
Committee Area D	159.82	39940	3.96	1.08
Total for Borough	518.02	179768	2.88	

2.5 Scott Wilson has correlated the Amount of Open Space per ward with

the Index of Multiple Deprivation. In general the areas that broadly show the highest levels of Deprivation together with the lowest levels of Quantity Provision are:

- Sutton Central;
- Sutton South; and
- Wallington South.

- 2.6** The highest levels of deprivation occur in Wards in the northeast and south-east of the Borough where the Amount of Unrestricted Open Space is above average. However, the quality of these open spaces is generally poor.

Accessibility

- 2.7** Access to sites of Metropolitan, District and Local and Small Local level are shown in the Maps in Appendix 2. A full definition of the Open Space Hierarchy is set out in Appendix 1.

Metropolitan and District Sites

- 2.8** A high proportion of the Borough has access to at least one open space of Metropolitan importance. Although there are deficiencies in access to Metropolitan Open Spaces in parts of the north, central and southern areas of the Borough, it is unlikely that there are any opportunities to create additional Metropolitan sites.

- 2.9** Therefore, when looking at how to address deficiencies at Metropolitan level the Study has also looked at District level provision to ensure that residents have access to at least a District site where there is deficiency in access to a Metropolitan site.

- 2.10** The Study concludes that the following areas are deficient in both Metropolitan and District level provision:

- St. Helier (north west portion);
- Stonecot (north east portion);
- Sutton North (majority of ward);
- Sutton Central (central portion running north south);

- Carshalton South & Clockhouse Ward (southernmost area).

Local Sites

- 2.11** The Study has identified that the following key areas are deficient in Access to Local or Small Local Open Spaces however they have differing issues and therefore require different specific recommendations:

- Beddington North — The area of deficiency results from the location of two lines of severance (road and rail) adjacent to the area, restricting access to Beddington Park.
- Cheam — Much of this ward has deficiency in access to open space due largely to the location of Cheam Park/Nonsuch Park in the north of the ward and the effect of two severance lines (road and rail). However the total amount of open space provision is close to the Borough average. The ward has low deprivation and therefore the demand for open space in this area may be less.
- Sutton Town Centre — This area covers several wards that are deficient in both access and quantity due to a low number of sites and multiple lines of severance. Much of the area also has high deprivation and is densely populated. Opportunities for open space creation are therefore limited.
- Wallington South — Within the west of the ward there is poor provision of open space and poor access to local open space, however there is a low level of deprivation and the landline data indicates large gardens in this area, which may compensate, to an extent, for lack of public open space.

Play

- 2.12** The Study identifies Access to Play Facilities (shown in Appendix 3) and shows a significant deficiency of play in the south of the Borough for all age groups. The map also shows the

deficiency of play in relation to the percentage numbers of children (2-11) and young people (12-18) in each ward, highlighting that there is likely to be a demand for play in those wards which are currently lacking in facilities.

2.13 However, since the Study has been carried out the Council has been forced to rationalize the playgrounds in the Borough due to financial constraints and heavy vandalism.

Nature Conservation

2.14 Data from the GLA Open Space and Habitat Survey for Greater London (2002) has been mapped to show Access to Nature Conservation Areas as shown on the map in Appendix 4.

Quality/Value

2.15 The Companion Guide to PPG17 advises that the quality and value of open spaces should be assessed. Quality and Value are completely unrelated as whilst a site may have a high quality it may be inaccessible and therefore of little value. The Companion Guide to PPG17 indicates that combining the Quality and Value assessments is “fundamental to both effective planning and best value reviews”. The combined assessment is the best objective way of identifying those spaces which should be given the highest level of protection by the planning system, those which require enhancement in some way and those which may no longer be needed for their present purposes.

2.16 Scott Wilson carried out an audit of the quality of approximately 120 sites in the Borough. The assessment was based on the nationally agreed quality standards of the Green Flag Scheme. The percentage Quality scores for sites audited in 2004 range from 91% to 13%, the highest score representing the best quality site. The average score for all sites is 68%. In order to analyse the Quality data, the sites have been banded into three

overall quality categories: Good, Average and Poor. The cut off point between each category is assessed on site knowledge, rather than by a percentage calculation. The table below shows the number of sites within each category by Typology.

Typology	Good	Average	Poor
Allotments	6	15	16
Ecological	2	0	1
Green/ Common	3	4	2
Park	19	24	12
Play Area	1	0	0
Square/Garden	6	3	1

2.17 The Quality Map in Appendix 5 shows that there is a concentration of Poor Quality sites in the North of the Borough, and a pocket of Poor Quality sites in the south of the Borough. There is predominantly Poor Quality of provision within the following wards:

- Wandle Valley;
- St. Helier;
- Stonecot;
- The Wrythe; and
- Carshalton South & Clockhouse.

2.18 Although the quality assessment rates some sites as good or fair, there is an underlying problem with the infrastructure of many of the parks, particularly path surfaces, fences and buildings/toilets.

2.19 Scott Wilson carried out an audit of the value of the same sites which had a quality audit carried out. The assessment of the Value of sites was based on the following three criteria:

- Context: a space that is inaccessible is almost irrelevant to potential users and therefore is of little value irrespective of quality. Similarly if there is significantly more open space in an area than needed some of it may be of little value;
- Level and Type of Use: poorly used space are of little value and

- vice versa (well-used include by people and wildlife);
- Wider Benefits: of the site for people and biodiversity.

2.20 The Value calculation for sites ranges from 34% to 84%, with the highest score representing the most valued sites. Value scores were assigned to those sites that also have a Quality score from the 2004 audits. In a similar manner to the Quality Scores, the Value Scores have been banded into High, Average and Low. When considering actions for sites, the Value and Quality analysis can be used to provide evidence for the type of action required and will assist in deciding priorities for improvement.

2.21 There are a large proportion of sites that are considered to be of 'Average' value, which should be reviewed on a site-by-site basis to determine the options. These may include options to enhance Value or Quality.

Demand For and Use Of Open Space

2.22 As part of the production of the Open Spaces Study a company called Community First Partnership (CFP) was commissioned to undertake a review of previous consultation on open space issues. The resulting report summarized the consultation results of a number of Council Policy documents including the UDP, Sutton's Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002-2005 and the Sutton Cultural Strategy 2002-2006. The main focus of the CFP study was the research carried out by Leisure –net Solutions Ltd in 2004 who carried out interviews in Sutton High Street with over 600 people. The key findings are:

- The most popular reasons for visiting parks are to use the children's play areas (37%), walking (21%) or to exercise the dog (14%);
- 62% of visits took place during the weekend;

- The main travel method to parks and open spaces was walking (62%);
- 9 out of 10 people indicated that they felt safe in parks and those who weren't expressed concern over large groups of teenagers/young people. Suggestions to improve safety included demands for more parks wardens/improved lighting;
- The reasons non-users gave for not visiting parks was no time (38%) or no reason/need to visit the park (38%). When asked what would encourage them to visit the park the response was better security (13%) and improved facilities (12%).

2.23 CFP identified a number of gaps in the data from earlier consultation exercises and therefore users surveys were undertaken at 14 parks in the Borough. The results are set out in full in the User Survey Report however the key findings are summarised below:

- The catchment area for all 14 sites is <10 minutes for walking and <15 minutes for driving.
- Poulter Park, St Helier Open Space and Rosehill Park have the closest walking catchment (a higher proportion of people walk less than 10 minutes).
- Poulter Park and The Grove Park have large driving catchments.
- The main reason for use is that of walking and to use the children's play facilities.
- The main barriers for use are that of lack of time and feeling unsafe.
- Perceptions of lack of safety mainly relates to the activities of young people with particular issues at St Helier Open Space.
- The majority of users feel that there is about the right amount of parks and open spaces within the Borough.
- 43% of the parks scored above average for the Borough when questioned on quality.

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- The main improvements suggested were to increase children's play facilities, improve the overall quality of facilities and address the problems of litter and dog fouling.



The Vision & Objectives

THREE

3.1 The results from the Open Space Study make clear that there is an inequitable supply of accessible open space across the Borough and that the quality of open space varies greatly both between parks and between parts of the Borough. This draft Strategy therefore proposes an aspirational Vision for the Borough, which would seek to achieve, through partnership working, improvements to the Borough's open spaces.

The Vision
'To work with our partners to maintain accessible, high quality and sustainable Open Space networks which ensure that the social, environmental and economic benefits of open space are enhanced for current and future generations of our community.'

3.2 In order to realize the Vision the Council has established the following objectives:

- To encourage healthy lifestyles by ensuring there is a network of accessible open spaces which provide a range of sporting and recreational activities;
- To enhance the quality of the open character of the Borough in order to engender pride of place and contribute towards economic prosperity;

- To target existing resources and seek to secure additional funding to ensure sustainable open spaces which offer Sutton's residents and businesses best value; and
- To develop effective working relationships with our Partners to secure the above Objectives.

Encourage Health Lifestyles by Ensuring that there is a Network of Accessible open Spaces

- 3.3** Open spaces, sports and recreational facilities have an important role to play in promoting healthy living, preventing illness and promoting the development of children through play.
- 3.4** Sutton's Local Strategic Partnership has set objectives for improving the health of our community. This includes encouraging physical activity. Sutton and Merton PCT and the Public Health Working Group will be implementing action plans to promote the use and enjoyment of Sutton's open spaces.
- 3.5** The draft Study has identified that parts of the Borough are deficient in access to open spaces and the means of addressing these deficiencies should be reviewed. Furthermore, a network of open spaces that are easily accessible will help promote sustainable development by encouraging walking to local parks.

Enhance the Quality of the Open Character of the Borough

- 3.6** The Council considers that high quality and well-managed open spaces help achieve urban renaissance. This will be particularly important with the increased pressure for development (particularly residential development) in the Borough.
- 3.7** Furthermore the provision of high quality open spaces that meet the recreational and leisure needs of the

community, will improve people's sense of well being and pride of place and can help secure economic revival.

- 3.8** The Council considers that improving the quality of the open character of the Borough can have wider benefits for example, open spaces have a number of functions and can contribute to enhancing the biodiversity of the Borough and can contribute to a reduction in air pollution.

Target Resources and Secure Additional Funding to Ensure Best Value

- 3.9** The Council considers efficient targeting of resources is vital given that the level of funding allocated year on year to the management of open spaces is declining. The draft Strategy sets up a robust mechanism for prioritising spending on parks and open spaces.

- 3.10** To help achieve the Vision the Council must identify resources to implement the Action Plan. Whilst some of the improvements can be achieved through better targeting of resources and more effective working relationships with the Council's Partners there will still be the need for additional financial commitment from the Council. The Council needs to explore the ways of achieving this additional finance.

- 3.11** Need to ensure that planning policy, particularly Area Action Plans or Supplementary Planning Documents for particular parts of the Borough or sites, recognise the contribution of open spaces to economic development/regeneration of an area. The Council should explore how to integrate the Open Space Vision into other Strategies of both the Council and other agencies.

- 3.12** Government guidance (PPG17) indicates that planning obligations should be used as a means to remedy local deficiencies in the quantity or quality of open spaces. The Council will need to develop

policies in the Local Development Framework that secure additional funding for open space through S106 Agreements. Opportunities for other sources of funding (i.e. lottery funding and other grants) should also be explored.

- 3.13** Furthermore, the Council should undertake a comprehensive review of all the Council owned sites (both those which are publicly accessible and those where public access is restricted) to identify any, which if their value to the community cannot be enhanced, might be appropriate for alternative uses.

Develop Effective Working Relationships with our Partners

- 3.14** The pioneering approach of the Council and the community to manage the environment are well recognised. Sutton Council was singled out for praise in the Government's 2004 annual assessment of how local councils perform: it was the only London authority to achieve top marks by the Audit Commission for its environmental services. The Council should explore the further potential for the partnership approach over the management of its open spaces. For example the Extended Schools Programme, which will make open spaces associated with schools more available to the Public, should be tied into this Strategy and should seek to maximise this opportunity.

- 3.15** A way of increasing the use of parks and encouraging local "ownership" is to promote community involvement in park management both in terms of decision-making and actual works. Sutton Council should consider how to further involve Friends Groups, Residents Associations, wildlife groups and businesses.

- 3.16** The Council should also investigate how to link with partners and other policy agendas to ensure positive working relationships. For example the Council should work closely with

Sutton's Local Strategic Partnership (which involves representatives from the Environment Agency, police, business, health sector and other partners) in order to influence the policy of the Community Strategy and ensure that all the partners understand the objectives of the Open Space Strategy.

- 3.17** Developers play a key role in providing open spaces at all levels from small residential developments through to large-scale regeneration schemes. In addition to planning obligations, which require an input from developers, the private sector may be likely to provide one off grant funding for enhancement of open space. The potential for increasing private sector financial contributions to open space enhancements should be explored.



FOUR

Monitoring & Review

- 3.18** In accordance with Best Practice Guidance the Council proposes to carry out annual reviews of the Open Space Strategy Action Plan to enable effective measurement of targets and to reflect changes in strategic priorities. The Council will also monitor the overall performance of the Strategy in meeting our open space Vision. The Council's Playing Pitch Strategy will also be assessed to consider any implications for the implementation of this Strategy.
- 3.19** In order to ensure the delivery of the Open Space Strategy, the Action Plan identifies those who are responsible and sources of funding.
- 3.20** An annual monitoring and review item will be reported to Environmental Performance Committee and an item will be placed on the Council's website.
- 3.21** Every five years the Council will review the need to update the Open Space Strategy.



FIVE

Action Plan

Objective 1

Encourage healthy lifestyles by ensuring there is a network of accessible open spaces that provide a range of sporting and recreational activities.

Action	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
1.	Use the findings of the Open Space Study of the supply and demand of open space to set a local standard for the provision of open space.	Set a local open space standard in the LDF.	Planning	Revenue	Preparation of LDF Issues & Options Papers – June 2006
2.	Review sites of High Value and High Quality to ensure that they are protected by planning designations.	Identify sites for protection by planning designations through the LDF.	Planning	Revenue	Preparation of Preferred Options – Winter 2006.

Action	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
3.	Ensure all existing Metropolitan and District Parks are protected by planning policy designations.	Additional designations to be identified through the LDF.	Planning	Revenue	Preparation of Preferred Options – Winter 2006
4.	Review the need to supplement existing planning policies to protect open space in areas of deficiency.	Produce additional policy if required through the LDF.	Planning	Revenue	Preparation of Preferred Options – Winter 2006
5.	Address deficiency of access to Metropolitan and District Parks in the North of the Borough by investigating the possibility of creating a District Park by combining St. Helier and Rosehill Open Spaces.	Prepare a report on the possible creation of the District Park setting out the proposals required to bring the Park to an appropriate standard; the benefits; and the funding mechanisms required to cover the capital and revenue costs.	Parks	Revenue	Report to Strategy Committee March 2007.
6.	Address deficiency of access to Metropolitan and District Parks in the South of the Borough by investigating the possibility of creating a District Park by combining Corrigan Avenue Recreation Ground, Land at the Rear of Longlands Avenue and Ruffet and Bigwood.	Prepare a report on the possible creation of the District Park setting out the proposals required to bring the Park to an appropriate standard; the benefits; and the funding mechanisms required to cover the capital and revenue costs.	Parks	Revenue	Report to Strategy Committee March 2007.

Action	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
7.	Address deficiency of access to Metropolitan and District Parks in Sutton Town Centre by investigating the possibility of managing Manor Park in a way to create a District Park.	Prepare a report on the possible creation of the District Park setting out the proposals required to bring the Park to an appropriate standard; the benefits; and the funding mechanisms required to cover the capital and revenue costs.	Parks	Revenue	Report to Strategy Committee March 2007.
8.	Address deficiency in access to open space in Wards with high deprivation and poor access to open space by investigating possible changes of access arrangements to restricted or limited access open spaces and identifying possible dual use of facilities such as in schools.	Prepare a report on the outcome of this research identifying possible improvements and the funding mechanisms required.	Parks	Revenue	2010
9.	Increase usage of open space to serve needs of community by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing number and variety of events in open spaces; • increasing educational information and use in open spaces; • ensuring facilities and events in open spaces are accessible to all; 		Parks	Additional Revenue Resources will be required to achieve this objective.	

Action	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing and enhance publicity associated with open spaces such as interpretation; and • improving provision of information, leaflets, trails, signage etc. 				
10.	Carry out an allotment survey into the demand, quality and use of allotments.	Produce an Allotment Strategy.	Parks	Revenue	March 2007.

Objective 2

Enhance the quality of the open character of the Borough in order to engender pride of place and contribute towards economic prosperity

	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
11.	Review the Scott Wilson quality assessment of sites to identify priority sites for quality improvements.	<p>Prepare a report on the identification of priority sites for quality improvements.</p> <p>Priority sites to be identified through the LDF.</p> <p>Parks Management Plans to be prepared for priority sites identifying sources of capital and revenue funding for improvements.</p>	<p>Planning and Parks</p> <p>Planning</p> <p>Parks</p>	Revenue	<p>Report to Strategy Committee June 2006</p> <p>Preparation of Preferred Options – Winter 2006</p> <p>Dec 2006</p>
12.	Implement an open space management programme, which reflects the outcome of the Open Space Strategy.	<p>Achieve Green Flag accreditation for 5 sites: Manor Park, Cheam Park and Rec, Oaks Park, the Grove Park and Elms Pond.</p> <p>Produce management plans for all key sites.</p>	<p>Parks</p> <p>Parks</p>	<p>Additional Revenue & Capital Resources will be needed to achieve this Action.</p> <p>Revenue</p>	<p>1 Green Flag by 2007</p> <p>5 by 2010</p> <p>2010</p>
13.	Consider improvement of open space linkages and public realm improvements including tree planting as means to enhance the open character of Borough especially in highly built up	Prepare an Open Space Linkages Plan, highlighting priority sites for improvement and identifying sources of capital and revenue funding.	Parks/Commons Conservators/Groundwork Merton	Revenue/S106	Ongoing

	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
	parts of Borough such as in Sutton Town Centre.				
14.	Recognise the contribution that trees in the public realm make towards the open character of the Borough.	Produce the Tree Strategy for the Borough.	Parks	Revenue	2006
15.	Implement the Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Launch BAP Implement all actions	Environmental Sustainability	Revenue	Oct 2005 April 2010

Objective 3

Target resources to ensure sustainable open spaces that offer Sutton's residents and businesses best value.

	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
16.	Secure additional sources of funding in order to ensure the implementation of the Open Space Vision.	Produce SPD that deals with open space S106 requirements. Investigate sources of Lottery and Grant Funding. Investigate partnerships with Sutton & Merton PCT and the Metropolitan Police to secure joint investment to achieve "healthy lifestyles" and "reduction of fear of crime objectives".	Planning Parks Parks	Revenue Revenue Revenue	May 2006
17.	Link provision and improvements of open spaces to other Council Strategies (particularly the Community Strategy) and initiatives in order to inform investment.	Promote the Open Space Strategy to all Departments of the Council. Set up a corporate working group to co-ordinate the implementation of the Strategy.	Parks/All Partner Organisations	Revenue	June 2006
18.	Review the need for a policy requirement for development to provide on site open space provision, or contribute to the creation of new public open space.	Prepare the Core Strategy Issues and Options for public consultation.	Planning	Revenue	May 2006

	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
19.	Undertake a comprehensive review of all Council owned sites (both publicly accessible and restricted access sites) to identify any which might be appropriate for future alternative uses.	Review the assessment by Scott Wilson of the value of sites. Identify why sites have been identified as having a low value and the measures required to improve the value of the sites. Identify sites for disposal where value cannot be enhanced.	Parks/Planning Parks/Planning	Revenue	Jan 2007
20.	Rationalise resources required for play facilities by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reviewing the distribution of play facilities for all age groups and provide good quality facilities related to need; and Rationalising play areas where over-provision, to provide less but better quality facilities. 	Produce a Strategy for Playgrounds	Parks	Revenue	Sept 2006
21.	Review the condition of the infrastructure of parks, identify items that can be removed and produce a programme of improvements.	Prepare a report on the Parks Condition Survey. Implement the programme of improvements.	Parks	Revenue S106/grants/Capital	
22.	Establish benchmarks to grade performance of sites and guide equable improvements across the Borough. Aim for Year on year improvements.	Establish benchmarks	Parks	S106/Capital and Revenue	March 2007

	Task	Target	Responsibility/Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
23.	Carry out quality audits on all open spaces, which have not been audited in the past 2 years to complete database and allow further analysis of quality and value.		Parks /Planning	S106	Ongoing to 2010

Objective 4

Develop effective working relationships with our Partners to secure the above Objectives

	Task	Target	Responsibility/ Other Partners	Resources	Timescale
24.	Encourage close working partnerships with Friends Groups, Resident's Associations, wildlife groups and businesses in the management of parks and open spaces.	<p>Prepare a report on how to support and improve communication within and between Friends/Local Groups</p> <p>Prepare a Report on how to encourage and facilitate volunteer involvement in open space management</p> <p>The Council must identify ways in which the Council can support and promote existing successful partnership schemes e.g. with the CEI and Allotment Societies regarding allotment regeneration</p>	Parks	Revenue	
25.	Investigate the potential for increasing private sector financial contributions to open space enhancements.		Parks/Planning	Revenue	
26.	Secure public access to parts of Operational site at Beddington Farmlands as part of the Wandle Valley Country Park and thus help maintain the Borough standard of Quantity of Accessible Open Space.	Determine Planning application Re operations on site which will facilitate increased public access over the next 7 years to the southern half of the site.	Planning/ TWU Ltd	Revenue/S106	Planning Application to be determined by March 2006

APPENDIX 1

Typologies

PPG 17 Typology	LB Sutton Local Typology	Access
Parks and Gardens	Park	Unrestricted
	Square / Garden	Unrestricted
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces, including urban woodland	Ecological	Unrestricted
Outdoor sports facilities	Sports Ground	Unrestricted / Limited
Amenity greenspace	Green / Common	Unrestricted
	Housing Amenity Land	Unrestricted
	Roadside	Unrestricted/ Restricted
	Institutional Open Space	Limited
Provision for children and young people	Playground	Unrestricted
Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms	Allotments	Limited
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Churchyard / Cemetery	Unrestricted
Civic and market squares	Civic Square	Unrestricted
Operational	Railway Embankment	No Access
	Agricultural Land	Limited
	Vacant	Limited
	Operational	Unrestricted/ Restricted

Access Categories

Unrestricted (Green)	Limited (Yellow)
Sites are available to everyone at all times. Some sites may have restrictions between dusk and dawn.	Sites may be publicly or privately owned but access may require an appointment or prior arrangement.
Restricted (Red)	No Access (Grey)
Sites are out of bounds to the general public although may be accessible to a small group of people.	Sites are out of bounds to the general public and access will never be allowed.

Open Space Hierarchy

Open Space Hierarchy	Size Guideline (ha)	Actual Walking Distance	Radial Catchment Buffers	Characteristics
Metropolitan	60 - 400 ha	3200m	2237m	Either a) natural heathland, downland, commons, woodland etc or b) formal parks providing for both active and passive recreation. May contain playing fields, but at least 40 ha for other pursuits. Adequate car parking.
District	20 - 60 ha	1200m	839m	Landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing for a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups, and informal recreation pursuits. Should provide some car parking.
Local Park	2 - 20 ha	400m	280m	Providing for court games, children's play, sitting-out areas, nature conservation areas.
Small Local Park	0.4 - 2 ha	400m	280m	Gardens, Sitting-out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.

Maps Showing Areas of Deficiency in
Terms of Access to Sites of
Metropolitan, District and Local
Importance

APPENDIX 3

Map Showing Access to Play Facilities

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Map Showing Access to Nature
Conservation Areas

Site Quality Map