

CP7 – Sports and Recreation



Supporting Documents:

PPG13 Transport - 2001
 Draft South East Plan - 2006
 LDF Interim Transport - 2008
 Sustainable Community Strategy - 2006
 Reducing Inequality Review -2008
 Local Transport Plan - 2006
 Sustainable Transport Strategy - 2000
 Air Quality Action Plan - 2007

Introduction

3.47 With facilities such as the Brighton Race Course and the Sussex County Cricket Ground, the city contains sporting facilities of regional and sub-regional importance. Indeed, the Nivea Yellow Wave Beach Volleyball centre has been identified as a potential pre-games training venue for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The city also provides a range of indoor sports facilities both public and private. The redevelopment of King Alfred, (see SA1), the proposed community stadium at Falmer (see DA3) and the Brighton International Arena at Black Rock (see DA2) will bring about significant enhancements to the public sports facilities provided in the city. As well as providing fun, exercise and a sense of achievement, participation in sport and active recreation helps to create sustainable communities, health and well being, social inclusion and educational attainment. Strategies to improve physical activity are a key public health priority. Benefits of increased participation and more active lifestyles include reduced mortality from cardiovascular disease and cancer and improvements in mental health.

3.48 The 2008 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study has provided a robust evidence base for the need for additional sport facilities and sets a standard for outdoor sport provision. Whilst formal outdoor sport primarily takes place on pitches, wickets, courts etc, casual and informal recreational activities can take place in virtually all types of open space and therefore the multi-functional use of such space is and should continue to be recognised.

Preferred Option CP7 – Sports and Recreation

To facilitate the council's aspiration to become a Sporting City and to increase participation in sports and physical activity and to meet forecast demand for indoor and outdoor sports facilities, the council will safeguard, enhance, promote access, and where possible add to Brighton & Hove's sport facilities through the following:

1. Support the delivery of the proposed community stadium at Falmer (see DA3), the Brighton International Arena at Black Rock (see DA2) and the replacement and enhancement of sports provision at the King Alfred (see SA1).
2. Retain existing indoor and outdoor sport facilities where need is sufficient in accordance with the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and subsequent revisions, audits and strategies. Where it can be demonstrated there is a surplus of provision, retain the outdoor space for alternative open space uses and the indoor space for alternative community uses.
3. Develop an outdoor sports facilities strategy to guide future provision of outdoor sports facilities and to inform the Development Policies and Site Allocations DPD and investigate potential for an additional indoor multi sports wet and dry leisure centre.
4. By helping to secure investment in poor quality, under-used outdoor sport facilities particularly in residential renewal areas (see SN2) to bring about enhancements in quality and public use.
5. New development will be required to make provision for and improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of sport facilities to meet the needs it generates in accordance with the local standards set out below or, any subsequent revisions of the 2008 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study or resulting from detailed council strategy assessments. (See also CP9 Developer Contributions).
6. New sport facilities including extensions should meet quality standards, maximise their accessibility and affordability to all users, including the local community and visitors. Proposals should seek to improve the variety of provision in the city and increase participation in sport and physical activity, especially from sectors of the community currently under represented, in accordance with the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, Sports Strategy and Action Plan, Sport England toolkits, and subsequent revisions.
7. Proposals seeking to improve regional or tourist sport provision will be encouraged where they also address local needs, are of high quality, have an agreed funded maintenance plan and add to Brighton & Hove's vibrancy.
8. The opening up for community use of private and school sports facilities will be sought when considering proposals affecting these sites.
9. The council will work with Sport England and where appropriate neighbouring authorities to develop sports hubs and clusters or centres of excellence that benefit the local community and wider public.
10. Where it is not practicable or appropriate for a new development to provide all or part of the sports requirement on-site, contributions to their provision on a suitable alternative site may be acceptable. A sinking fund should be set up for all new sports facilities for ongoing maintenance and replacement,

contributions should be calculated accordingly. (See also CP9 Developer Contributions).

Standard for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities			
Indoor			
No local standard set but modelling undertaken in line with Sport England parameters.	Initial findings indicate a potential need for an additional multisports wet/dry leisure centre and a commercially operated ice rink (this is being verified with consultants).		
Outdoor Sports Facilities			
Quantity (Outdoor sport)			
Current Provision	Current Provision (Ha/1,000 pop)	Proposed Standard (Ha/1,000 pop)	Additional Space required by 2026
Approx 118.5 hectares	0.47	0.81	Approx 121 hectares
Accessibility (outdoor sport)			
20 minute walk time (960 metres)			
Quality (outdoor sport)			
Clean, litter-free sports facilities should be provided with appropriate, well-drained, wellmaintained surfaces.			
Ancillary accommodation should include toilets, changing facilities, dog and litter bins and appropriate amenity and sports lighting.			
All sites should meet the minimum specifications of the appropriate National Governing Body of sport and meet Disability Discrimination Act guidance.			

Supporting text

3.49 The city is a major tourist destination and is of regional sporting importance and helps to support the surrounding villages and towns, offering a wider range of facilities than those that can reasonably be provided within smaller urban areas. The city therefore needs to ensure it provides appropriate sports and recreational facilities to reflect its regional status and aspirations to become a major sporting city by 2020. Existing sub-regional/regionally significant facilities such as the Sussex County Cricket Ground, Brighton Race Course and Withdean Stadium should be retained and where possible improved with greater public access and use provided to promote physical activity and sport. The proposed community stadium at Falmer (see DA3), the Brighton International Arena at Black Rock (see DA2) and the replacement sports provision at the King Alfred (see SA1) will all help to ensure Brighton & Hove provides the type and quality of facilities expected from a regional centre. The London 2012 Games is likely to generate an increased interest in sport especially with the identification of the city's beach volleyball centre as a pre-games training venue. It is therefore recognised that this generates opportunities for the city of not just sporting benefit but also cultural, health, educational, tourist, business and economic benefit.

3.50 The interim findings of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2008) suggests that the council should aim to provide an additional multi-sports wet/dry leisure centre to address the undersupply of swimming, sports hall and fitness facilities and undertake a

needs assessment to address potential sports hall space shortfall. However the increased offer from the King Alfred redevelopment may not have been taken into account in the interim findings so confirmation on the need for a multi-sports centre is awaited. The council has set out in the Sports Strategy Action Plan for Brighton & Hove 2006-2012 the priority to work in partnership with sports clubs on the development of new facilities or on the refurbishment of existing venues where clubs are looking to increase participation and make links with the wider community. The concept of sport hubs or centres of excellence are also being considered by the council.

3.51 With the demand for additional housing and commercial development and the move towards increased residential densities it is important that all new development is accompanied by appropriate amounts of sport facilities (both outdoor and indoor). The maintenance and consequent funding of sport facilities is key to providing good quality provision and will be sought as part of the provision of sports facilities in new development. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2008) has assessed the quantity, quality and accessibility of sport facilities and their perceived value to local people and evaluated indoor sports provision. The study investigated current and future demand, shortfalls, and quality of provision and has recommended that the local standard for outdoor sports should be slightly higher than the current provision. Further increases in capacity can be made by qualitative improvements of existing sites. Further provision will be required over the LDF time period in order to keep up with the expected future increase in population. The study also suggested that the council should encourage the provision of additional adrenaline or less conventional sports facilities, building on the success of outdoor basketball and volleyball on the seafront.

3.52 An outdoor sports facilities strategy will be undertaken to provide a more detailed assessment on specific facility types across the city which will inform the Development Policies and Site Allocations DPD. It is recognised that the provision of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and other flexible sports facilities, including Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs) can help to increase capacity especially where space is limited, however care needs to be taken that they are appropriately located. The council will also explore partnership arrangements with schools, through secured community access and the Building Schools for the Future programme, to meet the future demand for outdoor sports. The sporting offer from the sea will also be explored further.

Implementation

3.53 This preferred option will be implemented through the normal planning process and in the following ways:

- Through detailed policies and the identification of sites in the Development Policies and Site Allocation DPD,
- Through the Developer Contributions SPD new developments will be required to provide and/ or contribute if appropriate, to sports facilities.
- Other partners will also implement this preferred option through existing and future Strategies such as: Sports Strategies, Playing Pitch Strategies, Playground Strategies and Skate Park Strategies.