

Green Space Strategy 2013-2023 Appendices

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1. Appendix 1 - The Strategy in Context

1.1. National Policy Context

This strategy has been influenced by the objectives set out in national policy documents including:

- ❖ Healthy weight, healthy lives – a cross-government strategy for England (Department of Health 2008) highlights the importance of open space in encouraging people to adopt healthier and more active lifestyles
- ❖ National Play Strategy for England (Department for Children, Schools and Families 2008) puts forward a vision for play which includes making parks and open spaces attractive and welcoming to children and young people.
- ❖ The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures (Department for Children, Schools and Families 2007) aims to make England a better place for children and young people and includes recommendations to create more child-friendly public spaces.
- ❖ Communities in Control, Real People, Real Power (Communities and Local Government July 2008) promotes stronger community participation and involvement, in particular giving a stronger voice to young and older people.
- ❖ Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that local authorities will be empowered, but not required, to levy on most types of new development. The definition of infrastructure for CIL purposes could include flood defences, play areas, parks and other green spaces.
- ❖ Sustainable Communities Act 2007 which promotes the sustainability of local communities through a broad agenda for partnership working at a local level, including the development of sustainable community strategies (SCSs) and the negotiation of local area agreements (LAA).
- ❖ 1908 Small Holdings and Allotments Act S23 – this outlines the Council's duty to provide allotments.
- ❖ In June 1998 a Government Select Committee published a report on its investigations into the future of allotments. This report advocated the role for allotments in contributing positively both to the environment and to a fulfilling lifestyle.
- ❖ Homes for the future, more affordable, more sustainable (Communities and Local Government 2007) sets out the Government's plan for three million new homes by 2020 which includes the ongoing programme of housing growth and housing renewal. The importance of good-quality parks and open spaces is emphasised.
- ❖ Manual for Streets (Department for Transport, 2007) provides guidance on the design of residential streets, promoting increased consideration of the 'place' function of streets for pedestrians and cyclists.
- ❖ Lifetime Homes – Lifetime Neighbourhoods (Communities and Local Government 2008) is a national strategy on housing, services, facilities and environments for an ageing society.

Local authorities need to give consideration to relevant legislation, European directives and conventions, specifically:

- ❖ The UK is a signatory of the European Landscape Convention. This encourages public authorities to adopt policies and measures for protecting, managing and planning all landscapes throughout Europe. The framework for implementation in England, produced by Natural England with Defra and English Heritage, can be seen at www.landscapecharacter.org.uk
- ❖ There is growing evidence that noise and soundscape quality influence use and enjoyment of open spaces. The Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC requires the identification and protection of 'quiet' areas. The Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (as amended) require protection of quiet areas in agglomerations, and open space strategies will play a key role.
- ❖ Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a statutory duty on all public authorities to conserve biodiversity.
- ❖ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1994
- ❖ UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Wet Woodlands & Reedbeds
- ❖ 1992 Habitats Directive
- ❖ Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations 1994
- ❖ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- ❖ EEC Birds Directive, 1979.

1.2. Link to other local strategies

The Green Space Strategy will link in to the Horsham District Green Infrastructure Strategy which is currently under preparation.

Elements of the Green Space Strategy will feed into the local development framework (LDF) and can be material for consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Other strategies used in the preparation of the Green Space Strategy include:

Corporate level	Mid level	Departmental level
District Plan Sustainable Community Strategy Core Strategy ASPIRE Medium term financial strategy District wide economic strategy	*Green Space Strategy* Green Infrastructure Strategy Horsham District Play Strategy (2012) Children & Young People's Plan 2011-2016 Health & Wellbeing Town Centre Plan Draft Horsham Town Plan 2012 Culture Crime and disorder Equalities and access Regeneration Local transport PPG17 Biodiversity	Strategies Tree Strategy Allotment Strategy Draft Management Plans Chesworth Farm Management Plan (2012) Horsham Park Management Plan (2007-2017) Sandgate Park Management Plan (2012) Warnham Local Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan (2012) Small Sites Management Plan (SSMP) Arun Crescent, Billingshurst SSMP Bens Acre, Horsham SSMP Brick Kiln Pond, Lower

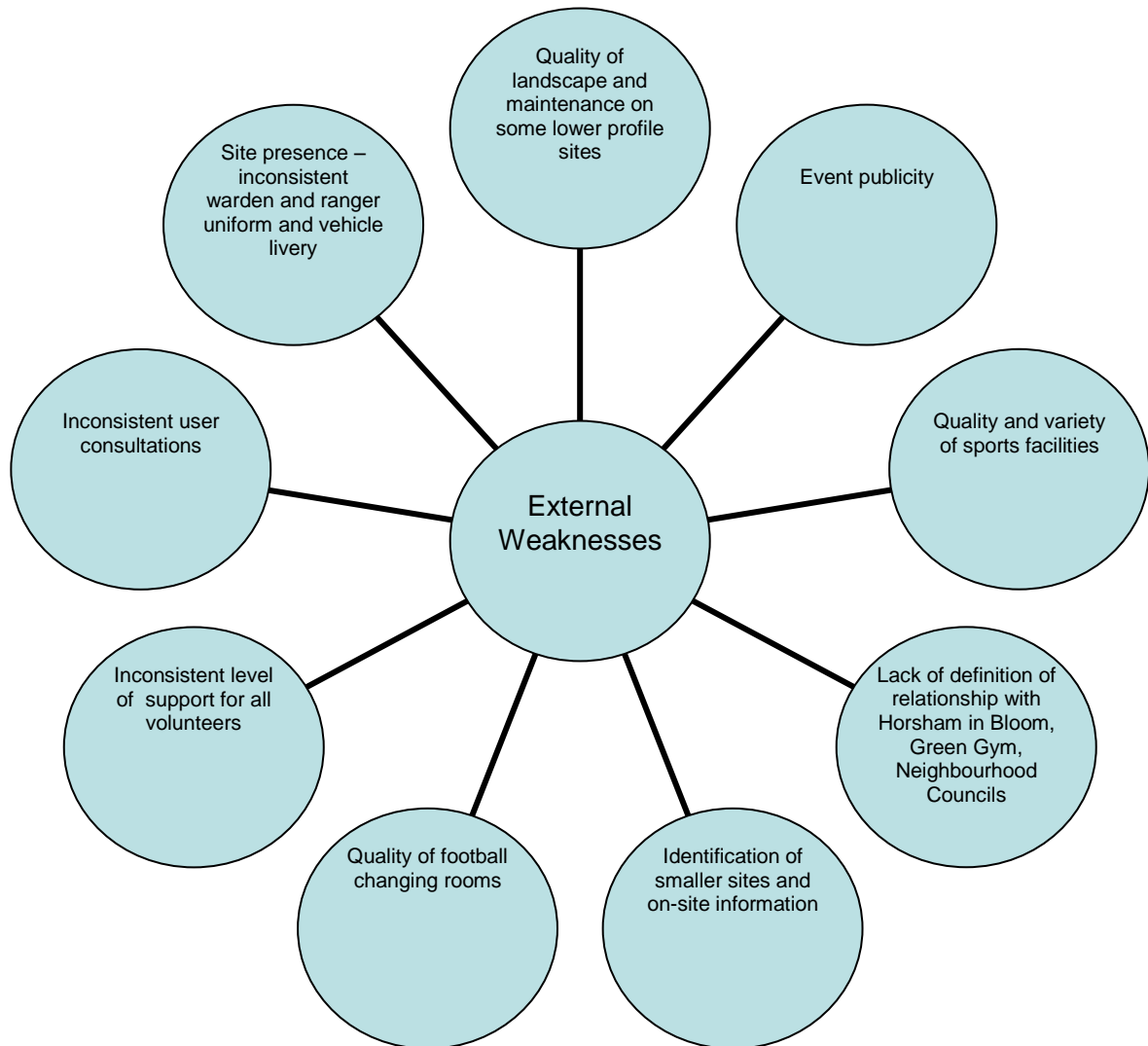
	<p>Climate change Volunteer Policy Draft Preparing for an ageing population 2011-2016</p>	<p>Beeding SSMP Chennells Brook Motte & Bailey (2011) SSMP Danny's Pond, Henfield SSMP Lower Barn Copse, Horsham SSMP Newlane Wood, Southwater SSMP North Heath Copse, Horsham SSMP Pondfarm Gill, Southwater (2012) Specifications Grounds Maintenance Specifications Specification for maintenance of North Street beds Specification for maintenance of Human Nature Garden</p>
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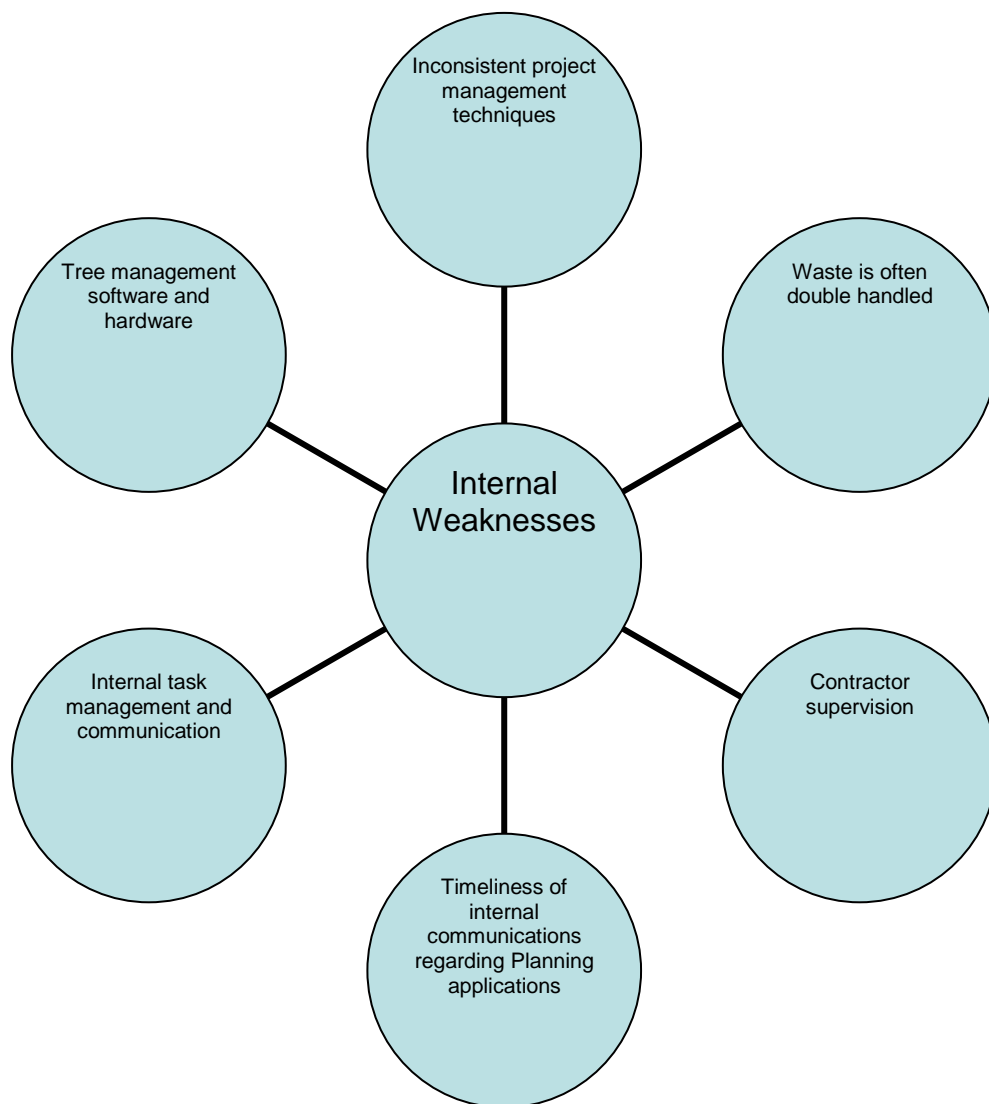
1.3. Internal workshop - Issues, opportunities and priorities

Strengths

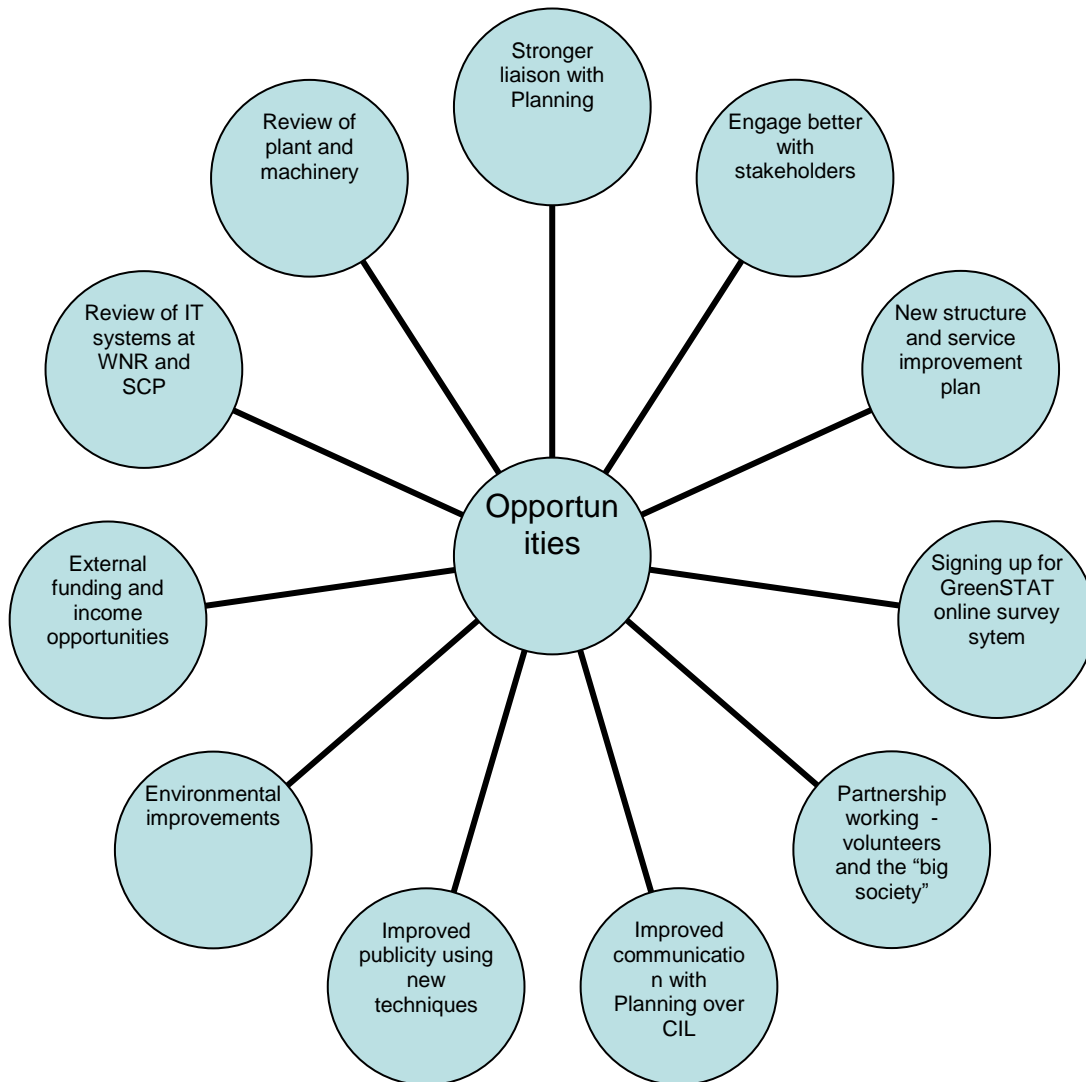


Weaknesses

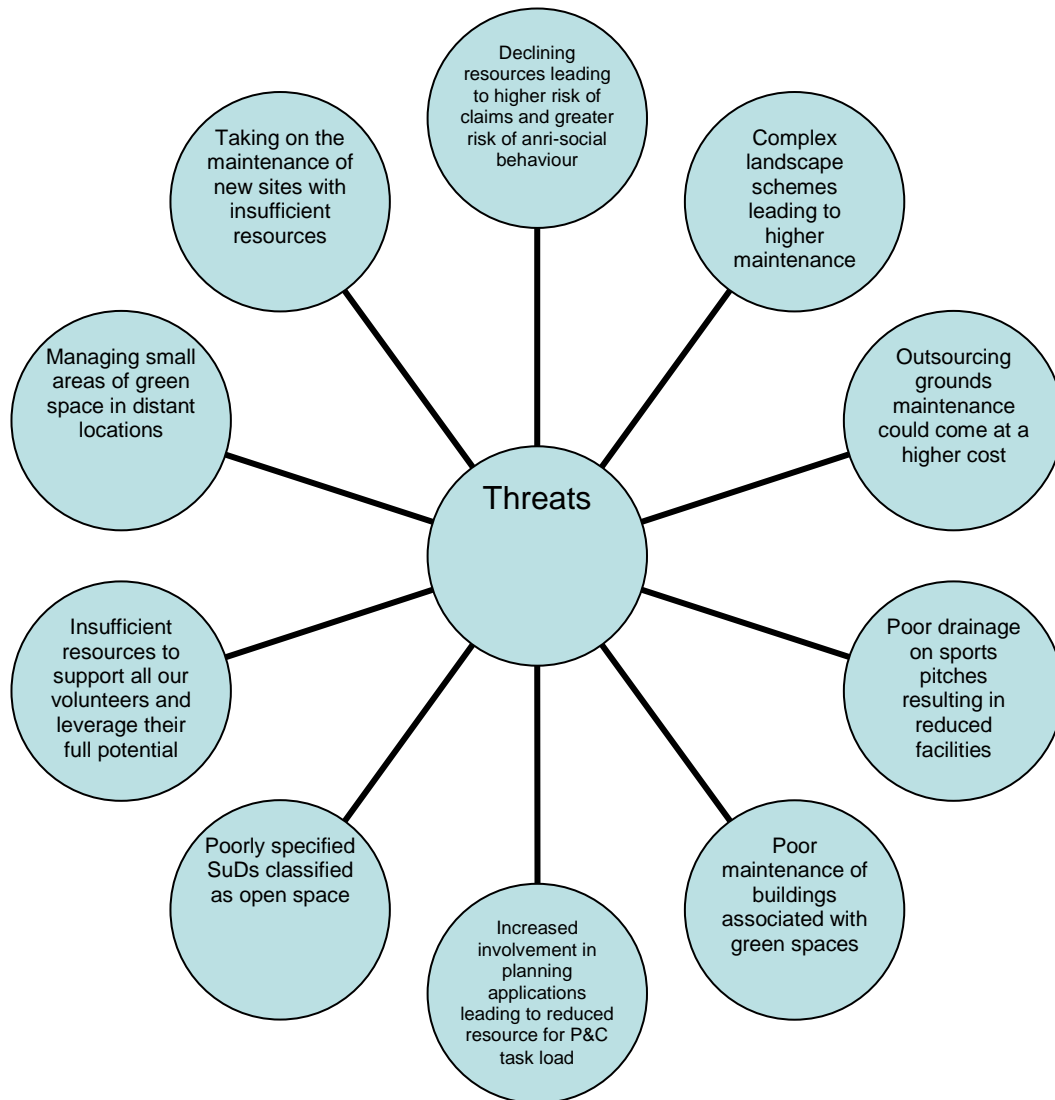




Opportunities



Threats



2. Appendix 2 - Current Provision

2.1. Typologies of green space owned by Horsham District Council

<p>Parks and Gardens Urban parks, country parks, formal gardens <i>Examples include Horsham Park, Southwater Country Park, Park House Garden, New Street Garden</i></p>
<p>Amenity Greenspace Recreation grounds, informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, outdoor sports facilities, village greens <i>Examples include Cedar Drive (Southwater), Beech Road Open Space, Bennetts Field, Pixies Hollow, Victory Recreation Ground</i></p>
<p>Natural and Semi-Natural Urban Green spaces Woodland, urban forestry and scrub, grasslands e.g. downland, commons and meadow, hedgerows, heathland, wetlands, open and running water, natural features for carbon storage or water purification, wastelands and disturbed ground, bare rock habitats e.g. cliffs and quarries, protected habitats such as SSSI and BAP areas <i>Examples include Warnham Local Nature Reserve, Leechpool and Owlbeech Woods, Motte & Bailey, North Horsham, Monkmead Wood, Chesworth Farm</i></p>
<p>Green and Blue Corridors Rivers and canals including their banks, cycle routes, pedestrian paths, bridleways, public rights of way <i>Examples include Horsham Riverside Walk, Storrington Riverside Walk</i></p>
<p>Other Allotments, community gardens, farmland, cemeteries & churchyards (5), accessible countryside to urban fringe areas, provision for children and teenagers such as play areas, skateboard parks, ponds, trees in urban areas and green walls <i>Examples include Hills Cemetery, Depot Road Allotment, Horsham Skate Park, Meadowside Play Area (Storrington), Batts Pond (Henfield)</i></p>

2.2. Distribution of green space across the District

The following is a site list showing all green spaces maintained by Horsham District Council Parks and Countryside department.

Town	Location	Town	Location	Town	Location
Amberley	School Lane/Turnpike Road	Horsham	Granary Way	Horsham	Victory Road
Ashington	Millmead	Horsham	Groombridge Way	Horsham	Warnham Nature Reserve
Broadbridge Heath	Broadbridge Heath Bowls Club	Horsham	Groombridge Way	Horsham	Wild Goose/Rookwood Park
Broadbridge Heath	Singleton Road	Horsham	Guildford Road Town Gardens	Horsham	Windrum Close
Broadbridge Heath	Wickhurst Lane	Horsham	Harwood Road Roundabout	Horsham	Winterbourne
Billingshurst	Arun Road woodland	Horsham	Harwood Road/Redwing Close	Horsham	Wordsworth Place
Billingshurst	Berrall Way	Horsham	Harwood Road/Woodside	Horsham	Worthing Road
Billingshurst	Billingshurst bypass (north)	Horsham	Hatchlands	Horsham	Wren Close
Billingshurst	Billingshurst bypass (south)	Horsham	Haybarn Drive	Kingsfold	Pumping Station
Billingshurst	Cranham Avenue	Horsham	Heather Close/Fern Way	Lower Beeding	Brick Kiln Pond/Church Close
Billingshurst	Forge Way/Saddlers Close	Horsham	Henderson Way open space	Mannings Heath	Gagglewood
Billingshurst	Holder Close	Horsham	Highdown Way	Mannings Heath	Woodlands Walk
Billingshurst	Jengers Mead, & Car Parks	Horsham	Hills Cemetery	Maplehurst	Abinger Cottages
Billingshurst	Ostlers View	Horsham	Hills Farm Lane	Partridge Green	Meyers Wood
Billingshurst	Ostlers View/Forge Way	Horsham	Hop Oast Depot	Partridge Green	PG High Street Car Park
Billingshurst	Parbrook adj Berrall Way	Horsham	Hop Oast Park and Ride	Pulborough	Carpenters Meadow
Billingshurst	Roman Way	Horsham	Horsham Park	Pulborough	Glebelands
Billingshurst	Weald Leisure Centre	Horsham	Jackdaw Lane	Pulborough	Masons Way
Bramber	High Street Car Park	Horsham	Keats Close	Pulborough	New Place Corner
Coldwaltham	Brookland Way	Horsham	Kings Road roundabout	Pulborough	Strawberry Field
Cowfold	Forge Car Park	Horsham	Kingslea, Bowles Close	Pulborough	The Moat
Cowfold	Holm Oak	Horsham	Lanyon Close/Bignor Close	Rudgwick	Foxholes
Henfield	Batts Pond/Broomfield Road	Horsham	Leechpool/Owlbeech Woods	Southwater	Bamborough Close
Henfield	Coopers Way Car Park	Horsham	Littlehaven Lane	Southwater	Camelot Close
Henfield	Deer Park	Horsham	London Road	Southwater	Castlewood Road
Henfield	Henfield Library Car Park	Horsham	London Road Car Park	Southwater	Cedar Drive
Henfield	Parsonage Road	Horsham	Lower Barn Copse	Southwater	College Road
Horsham	50-58 Park Street	Horsham	Manor Fields	Southwater	Crockhurst/Corfe Close
Horsham	Agates Roundabout	Horsham	Medwin Walk	Southwater	Foxes Close
Horsham	Albion Way	Horsham	Mill Bay & Cricket Fields	Southwater	Ghyll Court
Horsham	Alder Copse	Horsham	New Street	Southwater	Grange Way
Horsham	Barrackfield Recreation Ground	Horsham	New Street Gardens	Southwater	Leeds Close
Horsham	Beech Road	Horsham	New Street/Stanley Walk	Southwater	Mapledown
Horsham	Bennetts Field	Horsham	North Street	Southwater	Newlane Wood
Horsham	Bens Acre	Horsham	North Street & Telephone Exchange	Southwater	Oakhurst Business Park
Horsham	Birds Farm Allotments	Horsham	Northern By Pass	Southwater	Pevensley Road
Horsham	Blackbridge Lane stream	Horsham	Oaklands Close	Southwater	Pond Farm Ghyll
Horsham	Blackhorse Way	Horsham	Old Crawley Road	Southwater	Porchester Close
Horsham	Blatchford Close, Kingslea Pond	Horsham	Park Farm Close	Southwater	Rascals Close
Horsham	Blunts Way	Horsham	Park North	Southwater	Southwater Country Park
Horsham	Boldings Brook north	Horsham	Park Street	Southwater	Southwater Village Centre
Horsham	Boldings Brook south	Horsham	Park Way	Southwater	Woodhatch play area
Horsham	Canberra Place	Horsham	Piries Place	Southwater	York Close/Edinburgh Close
Horsham	Capitol	Horsham	Pixies Hollow	Steyning	Chancton House
Horsham	Carfax	Horsham	Pondtail Drive	Steyning	Fletchers Croft car park
Horsham	Causeway	Horsham	Pondtail Recreation Ground	Steyning	Penlands Vale
Horsham	Chennells Brook/Dutchells Copse	Horsham	Pondtail Road	Steyning	Shooting Field
Horsham	Chennells pitches	Horsham	Primrose Copse/Holbrook School Lane	Steyning	St Andrew's Church
Horsham	Chennells Way	Horsham	Rakers Ridge/Ramsey Close	Steyning	St Cuthmans Field
Horsham	Chennells Brook/Drake Close/Brook Road	Horsham	Redford Avenue	Steyning	ST High Street Car Park
Horsham	Chesworth Allotments	Horsham	Redkiln Way	Steyning	Tanyard Lane car park
Horsham	Chesworth Depot	Horsham	Ridgehurst Drive	Steyning	Toomey Road
Horsham	Chesworth Farm	Horsham	Roffey Cemetery	Storrington	Abbey Court
Horsham	Cissbury Close	Horsham	Roffey Corner	Storrington	Amberley Road
Horsham	Clarence Road Allotments	Horsham	Roffey Recreation Ground	Storrington	Field End
Horsham	Coleridge Close	Horsham	Ropelands Bunds, Horsham	Storrington	Library car park
Horsham	Coltsfoot Drive	Horsham	Ropelands Way	Storrington	Love Lane
Horsham	Cook Road	Horsham	Saxons Pond	Storrington	Meadowside
Horsham	Cook Road open space	Horsham	Shotermill Play Area	Storrington	Mill Pond
Horsham	Cook Road Play Area	Horsham	Skylark View	Storrington	Old Mill Drive
Horsham	Crawley Road	Horsham	Sloughbrook play area	Storrington	Riverside Walk
Horsham	Denne Road Car Park	Horsham	Somergate	Storrington	Riverside Walk extension
Horsham	Denne Road Cemetery	Horsham	South Holmes Recreation area	Storrington	School Hill Car Park
Horsham	Depot Road Allotments	Horsham	St Mary's Church Yard, The Causeway	Storrington	Snapes Road, Southdown Way
Horsham	Dog & Bacon	Horsham	Standen Place Play Area	Storrington	The Green
Horsham	Dukes Square	Horsham	Stans Way	Thakeham	Lindfield Copse
Horsham	Durfold Road	Horsham	Station Road	Upper Beeding	Priory Field
Horsham	Earlwood Close play area	Horsham	Stoneybrook	Upper Beeding	UB High Street Car Park
Horsham	Fenhurst Close	Horsham	Swan Yard	Warnham	Warnham Village Hall
Horsham	Ghyll Crescent/Dickens Way	Horsham	Tanbridge Park	Washington	Chanctonbury Close
Horsham	Glendale Close	Horsham	The Hornets	West Chilington	Monkmead Wood
Horsham	Godwin Way Car Park, Crawley Road	Horsham	The Needles		
Horsham	Goldfinch/Bullfinch Close	Horsham	The Pavilions		

2.3. Sites with a special designation

Sites designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI):

Warnham Nature Reserve
Southwater Country Park
Leechpool Woods
Owlbeech Woods
Denne Road Cemetery

Sites designated Local Nature Reserve:

Warnham Local Nature Reserve

Sites designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):

Owlbeech Woods

Sites designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):

Monkmead Wood (part of)

Sites designated Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW):

Pondfarm Ghyll
Rascals Close
New Lane Wood
West end of Cook Road
North Heath Copse
Owlbeech Woods
Leechpool Woods

Sites under the protection of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO):

Generally the Council does not place TPO's on its own trees, as they are deemed to be under good arboriculture management. However there are some occasions where trees need special protection or sites are adopted by the Council which include trees with TPO's. Currently, approximately 10% of HDC trees are afforded this designation.

Sites with significant protected species:

Chesworth Farm
Warnham Local Nature Reserve
Leechpool & Owlbeech Woods
Southwater Country Park
Monkmead Wood
Sandgate Park
Horsham Riverside Walk
Horsham Park
Brick Kiln pond
The Cedars

Details of protected species at these sites and others in the Horsham District can be obtained from the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre at <http://sxbrc.org.uk>

Sites with Scheduled Ancient Monuments:

Motte & Bailey, North Horsham
The Moat, Pulborough

Sites within the South Downs National Park

Monkmead Wood

2.4. Lease arrangements

The following sites are leased to other organisations as detailed.

- ❖ Human Nature Garden, Horsham Park - Horsham in Bloom
- ❖ Victory Road Cricket Ground – Trinity Sports & Social Club
- ❖ Dutchells Pitches & Clubhouse (Ben Vodden Field) – Horsham Olympic Football Club
- ❖ Chennells Pitches & Clubhouse – Roffey Football Club
- ❖ Horsham Park Bowls Green and Clubhouse - Horsham Park Bowls Club
- ❖ Horsham Park Boxing Club – Horsham Amateur Boxing Club
- ❖ Horsham Cricket Club – Trustees of Horsham Cricket Club
- ❖ Henfield Common Memorial Field, Cricket Pitch and adjoining common – Henfield Parish Council
- ❖ Castlewood Lake, Southwater – Southwater Angling Club
- ❖ Saltings Field, Upper Beeding – Upper Beeding Parish Council
- ❖ Allotments
 - Redford Avenue - Shelley Allotment Society
 - Hills Cemetery allotment site - Hills Farm Allotment Association
 - Chesworth Farm - Chesworth Allotment Society
 - Bennetts Road - Bennetts Road Allotment Society
 - Lower Barn Close - Lower Barn Allotment Society
 - Beech Road - Roffey Allotment Society
 - *Depot Road - in process of forming Depot Road Allotment Society from March 2013*
 - Warnham Allotments Association

The following sites are owned by Horsham District Council and managed by others:

- ❖ Henfield Commons – Henfield Commons Joint Management Committee
- ❖ Tanyard Field, Henfield - Henfield Commons Joint Management Committee
- ❖ Rookwood Golf Club – Firemoss Ltd

The following sites are maintained by Horsham District Council although owned by others:

- ❖ Horsham Town Centre Landscaping- WSCC Highways
- ❖ Children’s Play Area and adjacent area, Blackhorse Way
- ❖ St. Mary’s Churchyard, Horsham – Church of England
- ❖ Denne Road Cemetery Extension, Horsham – Church of England
- ❖ St Andrews Churchyard, Steyning – Church of England

- ❖ St Mary's Closed Churchyard, Storrington – Church of England
- ❖ Storrington Riverside Walk Extension

3. Appendix 3 - Green space standards

The Local Development Framework process requires local authorities to develop local standards to meet the needs of local communities. Local authorities are also being encouraged to use other types of standards in particular quality and access standards. This is in recognition of the fact that having a standard for quantity is insufficient, without consideration of other important factors including:

- ❖ quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed);
- ❖ a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities); and
- ❖ accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

3.1. Quantitative Standards

The following elements should be used to assess the quantity of new green spaces provided.

HDC Open Spaces Sport and Recreation Study / PPG17

Horsham District Council's PPG17 Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Facilities Assessment 2005 provided a detailed assessment of open spaces in the Horsham District. It was used to inform negotiations for new development to ensure that appropriate green spaces and facilities such as sports pitches and play areas are included where they are needed. It was also used as evidence to secure Section 106 contributions to improve existing green space and facilities.

The PPG17 is being updated and when complete will be called HDC Open Spaces Sport and Recreation Study. It is important that the new study includes details on quality of green spaces, including minimum size requirements and distance from nearest dwellings, particularly in relation to sport and play facilities. It is important to note that the size of a play space is particularly important – a large play space serving a wider community can be of higher value than lots of little play spaces.

Local Nature Reserves, Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard, The Woodland Access Standards (Woodland Trust)

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) play a key role in engaging and involving communities, especially children, in securing healthy places where they want to live. They can also help local authorities meet their biodiversity duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, and Local Area Agreement targets across a wide range of national indicators. LNRs are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological

features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

The Accessible Natural Greenspace standard and Woodland access standard detailed in section 3.3 are both used to determine levels of natural green space in the District.

3.2. Qualitative Standards

The following are all tools which are used to measure the quality of local green spaces against national standards:

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award has become the nationally accepted quality standard for all types of green space. Quality criteria are applied to green spaces to ensure that they deliver to their potential. This not only provides visitors with an assurance of quality, but can also help to assess whether the right intensity of management is matched to site requirements. For example, areas of high population density could expect larger numbers of people to visit the site, and require higher levels of maintenance.

The standards we aim to meet are those laid out in the Green Flag Standard:

A welcoming place – The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park or green space should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting.

Healthy, safe, and secure – The park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately.

Clean and well maintained – For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed.

Sustainability – Methods used in maintaining the park or green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed.

Conservation and heritage – Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of natural features, flora and fauna, landscape features, and buildings and structural features.

Community involvement – Management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park or green space user groups as possible.

Marketing – There should be a marketing strategy in place that promotes the usage of greenspace and natural areas, demonstrating the benefits and explaining how to get to the most significant areas. This will need to be regularly reviewed.

Management – A Green Flag Award application must have a management plan or strategy in place that reflects the aspirations of Local Agenda 21, and clearly and adequately addresses all the above criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park or green space's management. The plan must be actively implemented

and regularly reviewed. Financially sound management of the park or green space must also be demonstrated.

A Green Space Quality Standards publication identifies quality standards which should increasingly be used in the specification of works.

Natural England Visitor Service Standards

Local Nature Reserves provide access to the natural environment close to where people live and are often managed in close cooperation with local residents. There is a wide range in the quality of management of LNRs, but some key factors that help to make them visitor destinations, secure local ownership of a site and promote active volunteering include:

- ❖ An active local community/friends group that supports the reserve.
- ❖ Junior management groups including WATCH groups.
- ❖ Ongoing support to volunteers from the local authority in training volunteers across a wide range of skills, eg. guided walks and play activities, practical conservation tasks, visitor information and interpretation, publicity, fundraising, species and habitat monitoring, arts and culture projects.
- ❖ A visitor travel plan to secure sustainable access to the LNR.
- ❖ An access plan that considers the overall physical accessibility of the site for all users.
- ❖ A visitor and education access plan that considers the diversity of its local community and potential visitor audience.

Natural England is currently revising the guidance on the declaration of LNRs, and will include recommended service standards for visitors which have been tested by LNR managers and users.

The Country Park Accreditation Scheme

The Country Park Accreditation Scheme aims to identify and recognise those sites that are delivering the core facilities and services expected of a Country Park. A Country Park is not required to apply for accreditation but this is a useful tool for measuring Country Park standards. Sites must demonstrate all 15 Essential criteria and 10 Desirable criteria.

Britain in Bloom

The Britain in Bloom initiative, organised by the Royal Horticultural Society, runs a number of competitions and events to promote quality green spaces and community volunteering and engagement. Competition entries are marked against defined criteria which are a valuable tool in assessing the quality of green spaces.

The following district-focused strategy contains standards to measure the quality of local play spaces:

Children's Play

The Horsham District Play Strategy defines a quality standard for play spaces which was adopted by cabinet in 2007. This standard ensures that new or

improved play spaces are exciting, inclusive, accessible, well maintained and as safe as necessary.

3.3. Accessibility Standards

The following standards should be used to assess accessibility:

HDC Open Spaces Sport and Recreation Study

The HDC Open Spaces Sport and Recreation Study should be used to make recommendations for straight line walking distances to green space provision.

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to natural green spaces near to where people live.

ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- ❖ of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- ❖ at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- ❖ one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- ❖ one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
- ❖ a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The Woodland Access Standards (Woodland Trust)

The Woodland Access Standards (Woodlands Trust) is based on a similar principle of accessibility to the Natural England ANGSt:

- ❖ No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2 hectares in size.
- ❖ There should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within 4 kilometres (8 kilometre round-trip) of people's homes.

It is recognised that it is not always possible to achieve this standard due to landscape constraints.

Inclusivity

When considering accessibility, the ease of access should also be considered. This should include considerations such as wide paths and gates, parking facilities, shallow slopes, free to use, free from traffic, free to come and go etc.

3.4. Operational Standards

The following legislation and standards are used to ensure the quality of operational duties:

Tree works

BS3988 Recommendations for Tree Pruning

BS5837 trees in relation to design, demolition and construction recommendations

Wildlife and Countryside

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1994

UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Wet Woodlands & Reedbeds

1992 Habitats Directive

Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations 1994

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

EEC Birds Directive, 1979

Health & Safety

Health and Safety at Work Act

Code of Practice for Using plant Protection Products

Chainsaws/Working at heights

HDC Grounds Maintenance Specifications

BS 4428:1989. Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations

BS 7370-3:1991. Recommendations for Maintenance of Functional and Amenity Turf

BS 7370-4:1993. Recommendations for Maintenance of Soft landscape

BS 3882: 2007. Specification for Topsoil

BS 3936 (various parts). Specifications for Nursery stock

National Plant specification

There are a new set of specifications developed by the Parks & Countryside team which will be used to specify the standard of maintenance at each site.

HDC Operational Procedures

The Council's in-house grounds maintenance team works to a developing set of operational procedures, which focus predominantly on Health and Safety related issues.