

Notes of Open Space and Recreation Needs Group 24 February 2015

Present:

CLLrs: E D Jeffs, Margot Power, Stuart McCullouch (SM), Barbara Jeffs, Roy Gentry, Mrs Janet Barker (JB) , Mrs Janet Field, Mrs Elizabeth Fry, Messrs Ralph Pointer, Robert Fowler (RF), Richard Chatwin (RC), Keith Barrett

SM (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Volunteer to take notes.

Cllr Mrs Jeffs kindly agreed to take notes.

2. Apologies for absence.

The Chairman said that there were several absentees but that it was to be expected because as the business of the NG was rather compressed, some people would find it difficult to attend and might not have had time to send in apologies.

3. Notes of the last meeting.

JB said there had been a misunderstanding with regard to what she had said at the previous meeting. She passed to the Chairman a note of what she had said. [After-meeting note: the contents of JB's note has been used to amend the notes of the meeting on 24 Feb and the Chairman has asked that these be posted on the appropriate page of the NATC website.]

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising which were not covered on the agenda.

5. Review of areas in Open Space Strategy Schedule

- a. There was a full discussion on what should be included in the schedule. It was agreed that the "shortfall" and the required element of recreational space as a result of the additional housing should be referred to separately.

- b. JB queried why WCC had changed the criteria such that there was now a presumption that school playing fields would be protected and included in the sports grounds category of provision. SM said this was because Denmead had ascertained that their secondary school allowed their students full access to their sports grounds at any time.

- c. SM said that he had met with the Business Manager at Perins and he had confirmed that Perins also let students use the grounds at any time. In addition, Perins had published a Facilities Handbook that included the times that their sports grounds were available for hire and the costs. While the times were understandably outside school times, it seemed illogical to argue that they should not be regarded as available for the purposes of the Schedule classification. That said, Town Councillors recounted that the junior section of Alresford Town Football Club had reported in the NATC Recreation Committee that they had not been able to find suitable facilities at Perins and that the Arlebury Park pitches were being over-used. SM said that the Business Manager at Perins had underlined that the School was not happy for the grounds to be used for recreation.

d. While The NG thought that the Perins Sports Ground *should* be protected it was recalled that WCC Officers had said at the last meeting that the governors/trustees of Perins had objected to the grounds being included in the Protected Category. The NG with some misgivings decided to support the inclusion of Perins Sports Ground in the Provided Category in the Schedule.

e. It was then suggested that having admitted Perins into the provided category, it would follow that the Junior School Sports Ground should also be included, despite their grounds being fenced off and the gates locked. However, no-one at the meeting was sure of the School's policy on letting out its grounds. The Chairman, as a former Governor of the Infant School offered to seek clarification on this.

f. RC felt that as the sports areas were available for hire the school fields should be included. BJ felt the historic evidence was that the school only rarely allows the sports fields to be used and the fees were high. RF did not see that there was a need for more playing fields. MP said the football club had been to the Recreation Committee stating they would need more pitches. BJ pointed out that our schools specialise in sports and therefore we would expect this to result in a greater need. She did not think they should be included because our historic experience was different to that of Denmead.

g. Although BJ disagreed, the majority of those present decided that the Junior School Sports Grounds should be included in the Provided Category thought it was noted that SM would investigate their availability further.

h. Measurement of land. RF said he had been to Sunhill Recreation Ground and taken measurements. These were similar to Stuart Dunbar-Dempsey's figures and he now had more confidence in WCC's figures.

i. Hassock' Copse. It was discussed whether or not this should be included, if it was covered by the Countryside policy or if it was in the National Park. RG noted that Natural Green Space has to be within 700 metres of houses. SM had asked Stuart Dunbar-Dempsey to clarify whether only a proportion of Hassock's Copse should be included in the provision.

j. The remainder of the areas suggested for inclusion in the Provision Category were then discussed. The results of these deliberations are shown at Annex A which the Chairman has sent to Stuart Dunbar-Dempsey to update him on the NG's preference for inclusion of areas.

6. Remaining Work Programme

a. The Chairman suggested and it was agreed that this again be deferred as the focus at the moment should be getting a paper in to WCC to inform their preparation of the Pre-Submission version of the LPP2.

b. The Chairman's offer to draft such a paper and circulate it for comment by email was accepted. After-meeting note: it was decided during the commenting process that another meeting of the NG be held on Wednesday 11 March 2015 in the lower meeting room of the ARC to go through the paper in committee.

S McCullouch

Chairman.

Annex A to
Notes of Recreation and Open Spaces Needs Group

2 March 2015

New Alresford: Population 5365									
Ref. No.	site	area (m ²)	CP7 category	public access	reason for protection				Counted in provision?
					amenity	recreation	biodiversity	heritage	
1	Spring Gardens Allotment	6,889	Allotments	/	/	/			/
2	Arlebury Park play areas	4,622	Play	/	/	/			/
3	Stratton Bates play area	1,509	Play	/	/	/			/
4	Sun Hill play area	1,419	Play	/	/	/			/
5	Appledown Close	1602	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
6	Orchard Close	1695	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
7	Lindley Gardens	1,193	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
8	Benenden Green	4,510	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
9	The Avenue	10,854	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
10	Mitford Road roundabout	1,229	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
11	Oak Hill open space	310	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
12	Off Hasted Drive	226	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
13	Twixt Shepherds Down & Fairview	1,782	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
14	Churchyard - St John's		Amenity Green Space	/	/			/	
15	Carpenters		Amenity Green Space	/	/				
16	The Soke		Amenity Green Space	/	/				
17	Brill Close	327	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
18	Lovells Walk	277	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
19	Makins Court	1,465	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
20	Chestnut Walk	2,117	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
21	Ash Walk	444	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
22	Nursery Rd	352	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
	Watercross Line Picnic Area		Amenity Green Space?						/?
23	Sun Lane - Opp Langtons	1,265	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
24	Nicholson Place	453	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
25	Meryon Rd	1,111	Informal Green Space	/	/	/			/
26	Memorial Gdns	1,926	Park / Recreation Ground	/	/	/			/
27	Bakeland Gardens	1,055	Informal Green Space	?	/	/			/
28	Hassock's Copse	111,000	Natural Green Space						/
29	Stratton Bates Recreation Ground	23,794	Park / Recreation Ground	/	/	/			/
30	Arlebury Park	18,786	Park / Recreation Ground	/	/	/			/
31	Sun Hill Recreation Ground	10,660	Park / Recreation Ground	/	/	/			/
32	Arlebury Park Rugby pitches	30,569	Sports Grounds	/	/	/			/
33	Sun Hill Infant School playing fields	18,258	Sports Grounds	no?	/	/			/?
34	Sun Lane Bowling Club	1,283	Sports Grounds	no	no	no			
35	Perins School	50,565	Sports Grounds	/	/	/			/
36	Arlebury Park sports grounds	18,786	Sports Grounds	/	/	/			/
Adequacy (hectares)									
CP7 category		CP7 requirement	Existing provision	Adequacy					
Allotments		1.07	0.69	-0.38					
Equipped Children's Play		2.68	0.76	-1.92					
Informal Green Space		4.29	3.23	-1.06					
Natural Green Space		5.36	11.1	5.74					
Parks & Recreation Grounds		4.02	5.52	1.5					
Sports Grounds		4.02	??	??					
Total		21.44							
Needs & Opportunities									
There are shortfalls of open space in all categories apart from sports provision. However the proposed housing allocations will provide an opportunity for on site provision of substantial areas of public open space to meet both current and future needs, including : The Dean - Informal Green Space and Play Space; Sun Lane - about 15 hectares of open space including parks , recreation grounds , allotments , informal green space and play space.									