

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd.



Brentwood Borough Council

Sport, Leisure and Open Space Assessment
Final Report

August 2016

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1 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

1.1 Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. Appointed in April 2015

In April 2015 Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) appointed Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) and Nortoft Partnerships Ltd. to undertake an assessment of open spaces and sport & recreation facilities in the Borough.

1.2 Aim of the Studies

The Council's set out its objectives for the scope and methodology for this study in its twin briefs which were issued in December 2014. These are set out in full in Appendix One. The overall aim for both studies was stated to be: -

"To update the Council's evidence base to inform its emerging Local Development Plan (LDP)."

1.2.1 Open Space Assessment

The brief for the open spaces assessment stated that :-

"The purpose of the study is to produce a qualitative and quantitative audit and analysis of the supply of, and demand for, open space provision in the Borough."

1.2.2 Sport and Leisure Study

The brief for the sports and leisure study was set out as:

"The study will assess the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing provision for sport and physical activity in Brentwood Borough, building on and updating existing studies to identify specific facility needs and providing specific details on what these needs are. The Leisure element of the study will comprise a detailed leisure appraisal of the Borough, and the development of a Leisure Strategy for the future Health and Wellbeing in Brentwood".

1.2.3 A Single Project

In our subsequent proposal to the Council PLC stated that it would be advantageous to complete the study as a single project. The Council accepted this approach and PLC have carried out the assessments on this basis.

1.3 The Study Methodology

The methodology for the studies follows the current best practice guidance as follows:



1.3.1 Open spaces

Although Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) *Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation* (2002) has been superseded, its *‘Companion Guide’* remains the template for undertaking open space studies. It advocates a five stage approach which we applied as follows:

- **Identifying local needs** - We collected and analysed data on local demand and need for open spaces.
- **Auditing existing provision** - We compiled information on the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces in the district, which included visits to audit each site.
- **Setting provision standards** - We developed evidence-based local standards of provision for each type of open space, with quantitative, qualitative and accessibility elements.
- **Applying provision standards** - We applied the standards of provision to assess the adequacy of existing provision and to project needs based on future population growth.
- **Drafting policies** - We drafted policies and an action plan for the provision, improvement and retention of open space in Brentwood.

1.3.2 Outdoor sports facilities

The methodology for the study follows the *‘Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance’* (2014)¹, developed by Sport England.

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach** - We established the local strategic context for outdoor sports facility provision.
- **Gathering facility supply information** - The quality, quantity and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities provision was compiled, including site visits to audit all provision.
- **Gathering facility demand information** - We compiled demand information by looking at the local population profile, sports participation trends and local demand priorities.
- **Consultation** - We initiated and circulated several local surveys on local facilities demand to the governing bodies and local sports clubs of all the sports that use facilities included in the audit and all parish councils in the Borough
- **Bringing the information together** - We applied the data on supply and demand to build a picture of the level of provision by layering information on the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities to build up the assessment. We also developed evidence-based standards of provision against which to assess current and future needs.

¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-guidance/>



1.3.3 Playing pitches

Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013²) approach to playing pitch assessments, has been applied as follows:

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach** - We convened a Project Steering Group (PSG) involving representatives of BBC, Sport England and Active Essex. Following Sport England advice we have also held detailed consultations on a one to one basis with the Football Association, the England and Wales Cricket Board, England Hockey and the Rugby Football Union.
- **Gathering supply data** - Qualitative and quantitative information on pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision was compiled from a range of sources and the data was checked and challenged by the PSG and other local users and providers.
- **Gathering demand data** - Pitch and outdoor sports facilities demand information was compiled from consultation with sports clubs, facility providers including town and parish councils, local league secretaries and the governing bodies of sport.
- **Understanding the situation at individual sites** - We developed a site overview at all pitch and outdoor sports facilities sites by comparing the current carrying capacity of each site with its current use, identifying the peak demand periods and establishing the key issues impacting upon the usage of each site.
- **Developing the picture of current and future provision** - We established an overview of current provision by developing a picture of the position regarding all sites, establishing the extent of displaced and latent demand, identifying the views and key issues and determining the situation at priority sites.
- **Identifying the key findings and issues** - We assessed the findings to establish whether there is enough accessible and secured provision to meet current demand, whether the quality is adequate and the basis on which future needs might be met.

The study considers all facilities and spaces which have public access. This is irrespective of ownership. For example, we look at tennis courts provided by schools, the Borough and parishes councils, private clubs and voluntary sports clubs all of which have public access to some extent. We do not include courts in private houses or estates.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The provision types covered by this assessment are: -

Open Spaces

- Parks and recreation grounds
- Outdoor sports facilities including pitches and courts
- Golf courses
- Artificial turf pitches
- Natural and semi-natural green space

² <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

- Informal open space
- Children and young people's provision such as playgrounds, MUGAs and skate/cycle parks
- Allotments
- Cemeteries & Churchyards

Sport & Leisure

- Sports halls
- Swimming pools
- Indoor tennis
- Indoor bowls
- Health and fitness facilities
- Ski slopes
- Athletics tracks

1.5 Definitions of Spaces and Facilities

For the purposes of the study, open spaces have been defined on the basis of their primary function, although many also serve valuable supplementary roles. Some sites have a range of different types of open space, in which case the primary roles of each part of the sites have been designated and measured in spatial terms, to facilitate the overall assessment of provision of each individual open space typology.

Sports facilities are defined mainly on the basis of the sport or game played. However, some multi-sport or multi-activity areas such as sports hall and swimming pools are more widely defined. In addition, playing fields also have a wider value for visual amenity and as informal open spaces.

1.5.1 Definitions of Open Spaces

The typologies adopted in this study reflect those currently used by the Borough Council which in turn reflects the nature of the green spaces in Brentwood. For example, there is no area in the Borough laid out purely as a formal park. Although King George's Playing Fields has some areas of high quality horticulture these are provided alongside extensive playing fields and the largest and best play area in Brentwood. The two Essex County Council country parks are actively managed but sit most appropriately in the category of natural open spaces.

- **Formal Open Spaces** - This category includes parks and managed open spaces which are publicly-accessible, multi-functional greenspaces providing opportunities for informal recreation and community events, typically in urban areas. They can incorporate formal and informal features, such as flower beds, trees, landscaped areas and ancillary provision such as toilets and seating areas.
- **Informal and Natural Open Spaces** - Natural greenspace sites are defined as those sites with public access where wildlife, conservation, biodiversity and

environmental education take precedence over recreational uses in determining management regimes. This includes areas with protective statutory designations and also comprises publicly accessible countryside parks areas. The size and utility of such spaces varies widely, with some having provision such as paths, benches, rubbish bins and planting schemes, whilst others comprise only grassed areas. Some provide linkages within the green infrastructure network to other open spaces.

- **Amenity Greenspaces** - This is green space providing recreation spaces in and around housing, providing opportunities for informal activities close to home and enhancing the appearance of residential areas.
- **Informal open space** - Informal open space is defined as publicly-accessible sites that provide opportunities for informal leisure and physical activity, close to home or work, or which enhance the appearance of residential or other areas.
- **Playground** - This is defined as publicly-accessible areas designed and equipped primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
- **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** - this is defined as a publicly accessible space designed primarily with young people in mind and equipped with hard surfaces, fences and equipment for a variety of informal games. These may be floodlit and have ancillary amenities such as shelters.
- **Skateboard or BMX park** - a publically accessible, purpose built facility with ramps and bowls designed to be used by skateboarders and/or cyclists.
- **Allotments** - Allotments and community gardens are defined as publicly-accessible green spaces that provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce, as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
- **Churchyards and cemeteries** - In open space terms, cemeteries and churchyards are defined as publicly-accessible green spaces providing opportunities for quiet contemplation. Many sites have historic and cultural value and some sustain wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

1.5.2 Definitions and Dimensions of Grass Pitches

The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions for club level play as specified in Sport England's 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011) and the FA's 'Guide to Pitch Dimensions' (2013), have community access and are used for competitive play.

Table 1.1
Grass Pitch Dimensions

Pitch Type	Pitch length	Pitch width	Size including run-offs
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football (9v9)	73m	46m	79m x 52m

Pitch Type	Pitch length	Pitch width	Size including run-offs
Mini-soccer (7v7)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer (5v5)	37m	27m	43m x 33m
Adult cricket	20.12m	3.05m	112m x 107m
Junior cricket	19.2m	3.05m	92m x 88m
Adult rugby	Max 144m	Max 70m	Max 164m x 80m
Junior rugby	Max 70m	Max 43m Min 30m	Max 80m x 53m
Artificial Grass Pitch for Hockey	91.4m	55m	101.4 m x 63m
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	100m	64m	106m x 70m

The number of pitches of each type in the Borough are listed in the following sections. The information was compiled from data supplied by BBC, the governing bodies of sport, Sport England's 'Active Places Power website and our surveys and consultations.

The quality assessments are based on our site visits, the comments of the clubs from our surveys and consultations and the views of the NGBs.

1.5.3 Definitions and Dimensions of Outdoor Sports Facilities

Outdoor sports facilities are defined as those meeting the requirements of the recognised governing body.

- **Athletics track** - a purpose built, permanent facility with an approved synthetic surface with 6 running lanes and a set of jumping pits and throwing circles. The typical overall dimensions for a 400m track are 170m long by 91m wide.
- **Baseball** - the central baseball diamond is 27.4 metres (90 feet) on a side with a central pitcher's mound some 18.45 metres (60 feet) from home plate. The outfield dimensions depend on local topography with a recommended minimum of 98 metres along the foul lines
- **Bowling green** - A flat grass playing area, ideally 40m x 40m, surrounded by a ditch between 200mm and 380mm wide and 50mm and 200mm deep. The width of each individual rink is between 4.3m and 5.8m.
- **Golf course** - A dedicated community accessible facility, permanently laid out with tees, fairways and greens, comprising nine or eighteen holes.
- **Netball court** - an almost identical sized facility to a tennis court with a tarmac or other high friction surface. In practice many tarmac courts serve as both tennis and netball facilities.
- **Outdoor Ski Slope** - a permanent mound or hill with an artificial surface designed to mimic the experience of skiing on snow for practice. These facilities will usually be equipped with a ski lift enable users to travel easily from the bottom to the top of the slope
- **Tennis court** - A rectangular flat surface, usually of tarmac, grass, clay, concrete or synthetic turf. The court is 23.78m x 10.97m with a net across the middle of the



court and regulation line markings. Recommended run-off areas at the sides of the playing area should be 4m, with 7m at each end of the court.

1.5.4 Definitions and Dimensions of Indoor Sports Facilities

Indoor sports facilities can take a number of forms and have a variety of dimensions. For the purposes of this assessment we have followed recommended good practice and used the following definitions.

- **Swimming Pools** - indoor swimming pools are defined as main pools with minimum length of 20 metres, although smaller teaching and diving pools are included in the assessment where they are integral to a facility with a main pool.
- **Sports halls** - are defined as community accessible indoor halls with multi-sport markings and minimum dimensions equivalent to three badminton courts.
- **Health and Fitness Facilities** - health and fitness facilities are defined as dedicated community accessible facilities with a range of exercise equipment and exercise spaces.
- **Squash Courts** - are defined as specialist courts for squash and racquetball, complying with regulation dimensions, with community access.
- **Indoor Bowls** - defined specialist indoor facilities with appropriate playing surface and rink dimensions for bowls.
- **Indoor Tennis** - defined specialist permanent indoor facilities with appropriate playing surface and court dimensions for tennis.

1.6 Definitions of Demand

The assessment is primarily concerned with "expressed demand" that is what people actually do in the facilities covered. It covers, for example, the number of clubs in a particular sport or make estimates of the number of people taking part in activities such as walking.

In doing so, the assessment draws on a wide range of data sources including Sport England's annual Active People Survey, the results our surveys and consultations and conversations with organisations such as Active Essex, the Essex Wildlife Trust and local schools hence the information is a combination of statistically robust and anecdotal information. Taken together they paint a portrait of demand in the Borough against which the supply of facilities can be measured.



2 THE BRENTWOOD CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which open space and sports provision is made in the Borough of Brentwood.

2.2 Geography & Transport

The Borough of Brentwood is situated in the south west of the county of Essex, immediately to the east of the Greater London Metropolitan area, and is located entirely within the Metropolitan Green Belt. The Borough is compact with an area of 153.1 square kilometres (15,300 hectares or 59.1 square miles) and is home to some 75,600 people (2014 update of 2011 Census).

The town of Brentwood is separated from Greater London by a narrow gap of open land through which passes the M25 Motorway. The other main route corridors tend to focus on London, with the A12 running through the centre of the Borough between Central London and East Anglia, and the A127 linking Central London to Southend and South Essex. Similarly rail connections link Central London to Ipswich and Norwich (with local stations at Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone) and Southend (with a local station at West Horndon).

The Borough's compact area and good road network provides good access to leisure facilities in Brentwood and the neighbouring areas.

2.3 Landscape & Environment

Brentwood's attractive location is enhanced by the quality of the local environment. Less than 20% of the Borough is built-up. Brentwood town itself has a well-landscaped character, which softens the impact of the built environment and enhances the visual quality of the town.

There are a number of important green wedges reaching into the built-up area, two of which extend right to the centre of the town - Hartswood/Shenfield Common, and the Brentwood School/former Anglia Polytechnic University Playing Fields. Thriftwood is also an extensive area of woodland set within the town. The remainder of the Borough is predominantly in agricultural use, but much of the rural area is characterised by an attractive rolling landscape incorporating small woodlands, hedgerows and trees.

2.4 Population

The town of Brentwood is the main settlement in the Borough and has a population of 49,500. The town's hinterland is a collection of smaller settlements including Herongate, Mountnessing, Ingatestone, Doddinghurst and West Horndon. There are nine parish

councils. However, the un-parished areas include Brentwood itself, Shenfield, Warley and South Weald.

The population as measured by the 2011 census was 73,600. This has increased to 75,600 according to the mid-2014 estimate. The age structure as measured by the 2011 census is set out below, with comparative figures for the East of England and England as a whole. The figures show that the district has an age structure which is relatively older than the national average and the average for the East of England.

Table 2.1
Population by Age

<i>Age</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>Brentwood %</i>	<i>East of England %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-14	12,568	17.0	17.7	17.7
15-24	8,143	11.1	12.1	13.1
25-44	18,434	25.1	26.4	27.5
45-64	20,407	27.8	26.2	25.4
65+	14,049	19.1	17.5	16.4
Total	73,601	100	100	100
Mean Age	-	41.6	40.2	39.3
Median Age	-	43	40	39

Source: 2011 Census: Resident Population Estimates by Broad Age Band (ONS, 2012)

2.4.1 Projected Population Growth

The Office for National Statistics has produced long-term, sub-national population projections to indicate likely future population changes. These are trend based projections which make assumptions on future levels of birth, death and migration. They are based on observations over the previous five years. They show what the population will be if recent trends continue.

Based on these figures the population of Brentwood will grow to some 85,300 by 2030 an increase of 11,700 or 15.9%. The projected changes in the age structure is set out in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2
Projected Population by Age to 2030

<i>Age</i>	<i>Brentwood 2011</i>	<i>Brentwood 2030</i>	<i>% Change</i>
0-14	12,568	14,800	+17.8%
15-24	8,143	8,100	-0.5%
25-44	18,434	20,300	+10.1%
45-64	20,407	21,600	+5.6%
65+	14,049	20,500	+45.9
Total	73,601	85,300	+15.9%

Source: Sub national Population Projections, 2012-based projections (ONS, 2012)

This shows a significant projected growth amongst older people and adults settling down and raising families. The rise in the 24-44 population also brings an associated growth in the numbers of children.

These figures are supported by the Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014 report from David Couttie Associates (DCA) into housing growth in the Borough. The SHMA estimate that there will be a need for 360 homes per year over the coming 15 years. This equates an increase of approximately 870 people per year based on a household size of 2.4 people. This resulting in an increase of approximately 13,050 people by 2030.

For the purposes of this report we have assumed that the population in 2030 will be 89,550, this being the current population estimate of 76,500 plus projected growth of 13,050.

2.4.2 Ethnicity

The proportion of the population from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in the district is well below the average for the Eastern region and for England as a whole. The largest non-white minority ethnic group is made up of people of Asian origin.

Table 2.3
Ethnicity in Brentwood

<i>Group</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>Brentwood %</i>	<i>East of England %</i>	<i>England %</i>
White British	65,688	89.2	85.3	79.8
White Other	3,180	4.4	5.5	5.7
Mixed	1,196	1.7	2.0	2.2
Asian	2,350	3.2	4.8	7.7
Black	896	1.2	2.0	3.4
Other ethnic	186	0.3	0.6	1.0

Source: 2011 Census (ONS, 2012)

2.5 Affluence & Deprivation

Brentwood is one of the most affluent areas in England.

As measured by the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Brentwood ranks ranking 297 out of 326 for overall deprivation with a score of 9.88. This compares with Blackpool the most deprived area in the country with a score of 42.0. The neighbouring authorities of Basildon and Chelmsford have scores of 23.62 (rank 98) and 12.41 (rank 256)

The latest available figures from the Office for National Statistics estimates unemployment at 3.8% of the 16+ population compared with 6.4% for the Eastern region and 7.2% for England as a whole.

2.6 Education

The population of Brentwood has higher than average levels of educational attainment as illustrated in table 2.4 below

Table 2.4
Education Attainment

Level of Attainment	Brentwood %	East of England %	England %
School Pupils Achieving 5 Good GCSEs	66.1	57.0	56.6
Proportion of population with education to Degree Level or Equivalent	30.7	25.7	27.4
Proportion of population with No qualifications	19.4	22.5	22.5

Source: Office of National Statistics³

2.7 Health

According to Public Health England, the health of people in Brentwood is generally better than the England average. Life expectancy for women is 1.4 years above the average for England, for men it is 2.2 years above average.

Levels of childhood and adult obesity, diabetes and drug misuses are below the national average whilst the number of smokers in the population is the lowest in the country. However, the prevalence of hip fractures is above average reflecting the comparatively older population. The worst health indicator when compared with England as a whole is the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.

Table 2.5
Brentwood Health Indicators

Indicator	Measure	Brentwood	England
Life Expectancy Male	Years	81.4	79.2
Life Expectancy Female	Years	84.4	83
Childhood Obesity	% of children in year 6	13.3	18.9
Adult Obesity	% of all adults	18.6	23

³

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadKeyFigures.do?a=7&b=6275033&c=C M15+8AY&d=13&e=5&g=6423178&i=1x1003x1004&m=0&r=0&s=1438019387833&enc=1>

Indicator	Measure	Brentwood	England
Diabetes	% of all people on GP registers	4.8	6
Smoking	% of adults over 18	8.4	19.5
Drug Misuse	Number per 1,000 population	3.2	8.6
Road Accidents	Number per 100,000 population	51	40.5
Hip Fractures in People over 65	Number per 100,000 population over 65	576	568

Source - Public Health England, July 2014

2.8 Implications for Open Spaces, Sport & Recreation

Brentwood Borough has extensive green spaces that are protected by their Metropolitan Green Belt designation, but which are subject to intense development pressures given their proximity to London.

Transport links are generally good, which creates good accessibility to open space, sport and recreation sites in the Borough.

Demand pressures will be exacerbated by an anticipated increase in population of some 17% by 2030. Growth in the older age groups will be disproportionately high, which will significantly alter the demand profile for open space, sport and recreation provision.

The demography of the population, with relatively high levels of affluence, educational attainment and health indices is strongly associated with high levels of participation in sport and physical activity. This will create greater than average demand for the open space, sport and recreation facilities needed to sustain such activities.

3 NATIONAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

3.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of national strategic policies and priorities on sport and recreation facilities provision in Brentwood. These are summarised in this section and set out in more detail in Appendix Five.

3.2 Central Government

3.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework

In March 2012, the Government published the '*National Planning Policy Framework*' (2012), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England⁴. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to sports facilities provision and retention are: -

- Sustainable development
- Health and well-being
- Protection of Open space, sports and recreational facilities

In March 2014, the Government produced further *National Planning Practice Guidance* (NPPG) to guide local authorities in the plan making and decision-taking process. The guidance provides further advice on health and wellbeing matters and open space provision.

It notes that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. The guidance refers to Sport England advice on how to carry out assessments and also sets out the circumstances when Sport England should be consulted on development proposals.

3.2.2 "Sporting Strategy for An Active Nation"

In December 2015, the Government published its new sporting strategy "Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation"⁵. This new strategy refocuses the involvement of government towards increasing levels of physical activity rather than formal sport. The document says: -

"We are redefining what success looks like in sport by concentrating on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development."

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sporting-future-a-new-strategy-for-an-active-nation>



We will distribute funding to focus on those people who tend not to take part in sport, including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people."

The new strategy sets out a number of key performance indicators to measure future performance. The most important for this assessment are: -

- KPI 1 – Increase in percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice in the last month
- KPI 2 – Decrease in percentage of people physically inactive
- KPI 3 – Increase in the percentage of adults utilising outdoor space for exercise/health reasons
- KPI 4 – Increase in the percentage of children achieving physical literacy standards
- KPI 5 – Increase in the percentage of children achieving swimming proficiency and Bikeability Levels 1-3
- KPI 6 – Increase in the percentage of young people (11-18) with a positive attitude towards sport and being active (KPI 4, 5 and 6 from 'Taking Part')

3.3 Sport England

Currently (early 2016), Sport England's activities are centred around delivery of their 'Sport England Strategy 2012 - 2017' (2012) sets out national sports policy objectives. These are:-

- **Overall aims** - In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, sport in England will be transformed, so that sport becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will: -
 - See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life.
 - Create more opportunities for young people.
 - Nurture and develop talent.
 - Provide the right facilities in the right places.
 - Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
 - Ensure real opportunities for communities.

However, the new Government strategy changes Sport England's remit. The strategy says:-

"Because we want everyone to get the best possible experience of sport from the earliest possible age, we are broadening Sport England's remit so that it becomes responsible for sport outside school from the age of five, rather than 14. A person's attitude towards sport is often shaped by their experience – or lack of experience – as a child, and many people drop out of sport before they even reach the age of 14. Getting Sport England involved earlier will help to combat this."

At the time of writing, Sport England has not yet published a strategic response to the changes in national priorities but is known to be doing so. In the meantime, the priorities described above remain in place.



3.4 English Federation of Disability Sport

The EFDS plays a similar if smaller role to that of Sport England across all areas of sport. They promote participation and co-ordinate the activities of other sporting organisations in their work with people with disabilities. In February 2015 the federation issued its "Charter for Change"⁶ which set out a number of guiding principles for the development of disability sport. These are: -

1. Everyone involved in providing sport or physical activity will support disabled people to participate.
2. Disabled people will have the same opportunity as non-disabled people to be active throughout their lives.
3. All communications about sport and physical activity will promote positive public attitudes towards disabled people's participation.

The Charter is intended to ensure that people with disabilities have widened access to sport and physical activity by improvements to existing facilities and ensuring that their needs are fully considered in the design of new amenities.

3.5 Natural England

Natural England is the Government's adviser for the natural environment in England. To quote from their corporate plan for 2014-2019: -

"Our job is to help protect England's nature and landscapes, for people to enjoy and for the services they provide, both now and in the future. Our work is a significant component in the delivery of the Government's aspirations for improving the natural environment in England as described in the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) of 2011, and we are the lead delivery body for the Government's Biodiversity 2020 programme."

3.6 Summary of the Implications for Brentwood

There is national emphasis on improving levels of physical activity and involvement in green activities. This is reflected in a wide range of strategies and plans. Nationally, participation in sport and outdoor activities shows a close correlation to levels of affluence. As Brentwood is one of the most affluent areas in the country interest in physical activity is higher than average, placing pressure on the Council and its partners to maintain and improve the levels of facilities and access to a wide range of activities.

⁶ http://www.efds.co.uk/assets/0001/1948/CharterForChange_Accessible_PDF.pdf

4 REGIONAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

The national policies summarised in section 3 are implemented through a wide range of regional and county organisations in Essex and the East of England

4.1 Essex County Council

Essex County Council provides strategic guidance on a range of open space and environment issues. Their general guidance on Green Infrastructure is set out on their website and summarised in Appendix Three⁷. In summary ECC supports local strategic plans to: -

"deliver a network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features."

In Brentwood, ECC's major contribution to open spaces is their provision of the large Thorndon and Weald Country Parks and their work supporting the Essex Wildlife Trust.

The County Council also hosts "Active Essex"⁸ the Sport England funded County Sports Partnership

4.1.1 Essex Biodiversity Plan

ECC have worked with the Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) to develop the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan for 2010 to 2020⁹. Responsibility for the plan lies primarily with the EWT.

4.2 Essex Wildlife Trust

One of the key stakeholders working to protect and enhance the natural environment in and around Brentwood is the Essex Wildlife Trust. The Trust is very active in Brentwood including having responsibility for managing the nature reserve at Warley Place and organising a range of activities in conjunction with the Essex CC Countryside Service at Thorndon Park and elsewhere.

The strategies of the charity, which are employed to achieve the charity's objectives, are set out in the EWT Strategic Plan, which runs until 31st December 2016:

- Safeguarding wildlife as part of a Living Landscape
- Improving the understanding of and action for Living Seas
- Inspiring people and communities to take action for wildlife
- Enabling staff and volunteer development in an effective organisation
- Sound financial management and well managed assets

⁷ <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/Strategic-Environment/Pages/Our-natural-environment.aspx>

⁸ <http://www.activeessex.org/>

⁹ <http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/biodiversity-action-plan>

- Effective marketing and increased external influence

4.3 Umbrella Bodies of Sport in Essex

4.3.1 Active Essex

Active Essex is the County Sports Partnership for Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Their Strategic Plan 2012 to 2017 is entitled "Building an Active Essex" and sets out the vision for the partnership as: -

"To create a more physically active and sporting environment for all people in Greater Essex to enable everyone to participate in the activity of their choice at their chosen level"

Active Essex's priority aims are: -

1. Deliver a London 2012 Games Legacy
2. Increase Participation in Sport and Physical Activity
3. Encourage Healthy and Active Lifestyles
4. Develop Sporting Pathways
5. Encourage Lifelong Learning and Skills Development
6. Building Networks and Partnerships for Sport

Active Essex has created a number of local consultative groups including Active Brentwood who are responsible for helping deliver these priorities in the Borough and for co-ordinating the work of local sporting bodies.

4.3.2 Governing Bodies of Sport

The governing bodies of sport funded by Sport England each produce a 'Whole Sport Plan' containing their sports development and related facilities priorities for the period 2013 to 2017. In the main they are concerned with increasing participation and the protection and development of facilities. These plans directly influence the NGBs funding for facilities at local level. The most important local strategies are: -

4.3.3 Essex County Cricket Board

Inspiring Essex to Choose Cricket

The Essex Board's guiding strategy¹⁰ is "Inspiring Essex To Choose Cricket - Community Strategy 2013 – 2017." This sets out the board's mission statement as: -

To create the opportunity for all to participate in and enjoy the game of cricket through club and community experiences.

Supporting this are a number of key aims which include: -

¹⁰ <http://www.essexcricket.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Community-Strategy-V5.pdf>

1. To plan and deliver programmes aligned to the needs of the local community
2. To work with clubs to support and deliver programme that enhance the experience of the participants both within clubs and community settings, as well as sustaining existing participation levels
3. To deliver quality, and innovative programmes to engage all members of the community into the game of cricket, specifically focusing on education sector, ethnic groups, women & girls and disability sections of the community

4.3.4 Essex County Football Association

The ECFA has five strategic priorities namely: -

1. Coaching and Better Players
2. Football Workforce
3. Effective and Sustainable Business
4. Sustaining and Increasing Participation and
5. Better Training and Playing Facilities

4.3.5 Essex Rugby Football Union

The Essex Rugby Football Union does not have a written strategy relying on local implementation of the national agenda. The emphasis at present is to maximise the expected increase in participation which will arise from the Rugby World Cup held in England in the autumn of 2015. This is expected to generate additional interest in schools rugby through the "All Schools Programme"¹¹ and to tempt "lapsed" players back into regular participation.

With regards to facilities the ERFU support the two senior Brentwood clubs in their bid to improve facilities. As an organisation, they are looking for a central coaching and development site of some 16.2 hectares (40 acres) along the M25 corridor. This would have a complex of at least 2 artificial turf pitches with a number of grass pitches or training areas.

4.4 Summary of the Implications for Brentwood

The national emphasis on improving levels of physical activity and involvement in informal or "green" activities is reflected in a wide range of regional strategies and plans all of which promote increased levels of activity and involvement. This means pressure on the Council to maintain and possibly increase levels of provision.

¹¹ <http://www.englandrugby.com/about-the-rfu/all-schools/about-all-schools>



5 LOCAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

5.1 Providers of Facilities and Services

There is a mixed economy of providers of open spaces, sports and leisure services in Brentwood. Some such as allotments and cemeteries are provided as a statutory duty by local government, some by the voluntary sector as simple recreational pursuits and some by the private sector in response to the market. It is worthwhile making a short commentary on these various providers and their guiding policies.

5.1.1 The Public Sector

The quality of life in Brentwood including the provision of open spaces, sports and leisure facilities is most closely affected by the policies and practices of the Borough Council and the neighbouring local authorities.

Governance in Brentwood is shared across all three tiers of English local government namely county, Borough and parish councils. Brentwood lies entirely within the county of Essex. Within the context of this study Essex County Council (ECC) has responsibility for such service areas as the large Thorndon and Weald country parks as well as providing the strategic planning context.

As a second tier authority Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) has responsibility for a wide range of services falling under the aegis of this project. These include statutory responsibility for open spaces and allotments and the discretionary powers to deliver services such as playing fields, sports centres and parks. The Brentwood Centre, King George V park and playing fields and Woodman Road Cemetery are examples of direct provision by the Borough Council.

At third tier level there are nine parish councils within the Borough although the urban area in and around Brentwood is not parished. The nine parishes are: -

- Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green
- Doddinghurst
- Herongate & Ingrave
- Ingatestone & Fryerning
- Kelvedon Hatch
- Mountnessing
- Navestock
- Stondon Massey
- West Horndon

Each parish council has the discretionary power to provide local amenities such as children's playgrounds, playing fields, village halls and allotments. In practice the parish councils in Brentwood provide a wide range of amenities including the tennis courts at



Mountnessing and Blackmore, West Horndon park and a significant number of playgrounds across the Borough.

Local authorities at all three levels are faced with the challenge of continuing to provide facilities and services in the face of great financial pressures and rising customer expectations.

5.1.2 Private and Voluntary Sectors

Because of the comparatively high levels of affluence in the Borough, Brentwood has thriving voluntary and private sectors. For example, most cricket, rugby and golf clubs in the Borough are members' clubs with access to their own clubhouses and grounds. This provides a high level of continuity to provision.

The private sector operates the indoor tennis and indoor bowls centres and 9 of the 10 health and fitness clubs in the Borough. Whilst the major investment in these facilities ensures a level of continuity, recent changes at two health and fitness clubs in Brentwood demonstrate the natural volatility of the market.

5.1.3 Education

The educational sector in Brentwood is a major player in the supply of sport and leisure. Seven of the eight sports halls in the Borough, four of the six swimming pools and all of the artificial turf pitches are on school sites. A high proportion of youth football is played on school sites.

Almost all secondary schools now have a business manager tasked with maximising revenue from external hirings including sports and leisure facilities. This means that some sports clubs are complaining of charging policies which threaten club bookings. It also means that schools are reluctant to grant long term secured access to facilities as this might jeopardise future, more lucrative lettings.

5.1.4 Leisure Trusts

Recent years have seen the growth of leisure trusts which operate leisure facilities on a not-for-profit basis often in partnership with the public and/or educational sectors. Brentwood has two such trusts. The Borough Council's largest leisure facility at the Brentwood Centre is managed by Brentwood Leisure Trust who also have responsibility for a number of community buildings such as Hutton Poplars Hall and Bishops Hall Community Centre.

The artificial turf pitch at Becket Keys School is owned and operated by the community Leisure Trust made up of representatives of the school, Great Danes Youth Football Club and Brentwood Hockey Club.



5.2 Vision for Brentwood 2016-2019

The "Vision for Brentwood 2016-2019¹²" is the Council's new Corporate Plan which sets out the vision and priorities for Brentwood for the three years to 2019. The plan states that the Council has a threefold purpose: -

- To represent the views of our communities
- To ensure the provision of efficient and effective services
- To provide clear and strong direction based on clarity and trust

The Vision has five elements which are: -

5.2.1 Environment and Housing Management

We will find new ways of working with partners and embrace the support of communities to enhance the cleanliness of our environment and maintain the attractiveness of our Borough. We will work to ensure our housing stock is managed so that it delivers comfortable and safe homes for our tenants that are efficient and sustainable.

5.2.2 Community and Health

Brentwood is fortunate to benefit from a range of vibrant groups and organisations that enhance and support the local community. The Council will work with local businesses, community groups and the voluntary sector to ensure the future wellbeing of our Borough.

5.2.3 Economic Development

Our superior locational advantage and entrepreneurial spirit means that Brentwood is fortunate to have a strong economic foundation. In partnership with key local and regional business organisations, we can harness that force to promote the Borough, encourage a mixed economy and support sustainable development.

5.2.4 Planning and Licensing

A new Local Development Plan will shape the way our Borough will change over the next fifteen years. We will work hard to get the best outcome and achieve a good balance for residents and businesses in a way that celebrates Brentwood's unique history and quality of life; both within the borough and influencing the outcome of regional developments that will affect Brentwood residents. Our licensing policies will regulate businesses to ensure public safety and minimize environmental nuisance caused by their activities.

¹² <http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/pdf/16122015093212u.pdf>

5.2.5 Transformation

Between 2016 and 2019 the way the Council looks and works will be transformed. We will continue the drive to make it easier for customers to access services and information, cut out bureaucracy that doesn't add value and make sure taxpayers' money is even more wisely spent. We will explore new income generating ideas and opportunities. We will have services delivered by those best placed to deliver excellence and value for money, whilst holding onto and enhancing our role, duties and powers as local council and community leader.

5.3 Health & Wellbeing policy [2014-2017]

The Council has adopted a Health & Wellbeing policy which identifies the following priorities:

1. Improving older people's health (Fuel Poverty/Independent Living/Falls Prevention/Physical Activity)
2. Increasing uptake of vaccination (Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR))
3. Reducing cardiovascular disease through reduction in obesity (Exercise/Improved Diet)

An additional priority area of mental health has also been identified in the strategy document. Priority 3 and the focus on mental health are of particular relevance to this study, where BLT is an important local stakeholder. A 2015 workplan has been agreed and it is understood that BLT is part of the Brentwood Health & Wellbeing Board that has responsibility for delivering that plan.

5.4 Brentwood Replacement Local Plan 2005

"The Brentwood Replacement Local Plan was formally adopted by the Council on 25 August 2005. The plan currently guides planning and development policy. The Plan is divided into a number of chapters of which the most relevant to this study are

- **Chapter 7** - Green Belt and the Countryside
- **Chapter 8** - Sport & Leisure, Tourism & Community Services

Details of these policies are set out in Appendix Four.

5.5 Brentwood's Emerging Local Plan

The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough which, once adopted, will supersede saved policies in the current Brentwood Replacement Local Plan 2005.



The new Plan will set out policies, proposals and site allocations to guide future development in the Borough. It will enable the Council to manage growth while protecting key areas. Among other things, the Plan will include policies to deliver:

- Protection and Enhancement of Open Space, Community, Sport and Recreational Facilities
- Provision of Open Space and Green Infrastructure

This Sport, Leisure and Open Space Assessment informs policies and guidance contained within the Council's emerging Local Plan.

5.5.1 Dunton Hills Garden Village

The Council's Draft Local Plan published in January 2016 sets out a range of proposals that indicates where the new homes required by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment will be located and, therefore, how the population increases set out in Table 2.2 will come about.

The most significant of these proposed development sites is in the south east corner of the borough. Draft Policy 7.1 Dunton Hills Garden Village states that: -

"The Council will work in partnership with the local community and other stakeholders to bring forward a new borough village for the 21st century within the A127 corridor at Dunton Hills. Applying garden village principles, a new self-sustaining community of 2,500 new homes, at least 5 hectares of employment land, local shops, community facilities, open green spaces, schools and healthcare services."

The proposed site for this new development occupies a large proportion of the Dunton Hills Golf Course, the pay and play course on Tilbury Road. This would by definition reduce the availability of golf in Brentwood, albeit from the current relatively high level of three times the Essex average.

In addition, the Draft Local Plan proposed developing 500 homes in nearby West Horndon at the site of the industrial estates at Childerditch Lane and Station Road.

Based on an average figure of 2.4 people per home, these developments together equates to a new village with a population of 7,200 which is roughly the size of Ingatestone.

In addition, Basildon Council is also proposing housing development of a similar scale in the west of their area. just to the east of the land suggested for Dunton Hills garden Village. The combined population could total some 12,000 people.

Clearly a settlement of this size will require a range of local open space and leisure facilities such as mini-soccer, playgrounds and amenity spaces and will create additional demand at larger facilities such as swimming pools. The implications of this are considered later in this document.

5.6 Policies of Neighbouring Authorities

Brentwood does not exist in isolation. The Council's provision of open spaces, sports and leisure facilities influences and is influenced by similar provision in neighbouring local authority areas. We look, therefore, in this section at the policies and objectives of Brentwood's neighbours. Brief summaries of the neighbouring policies are given here with a more detailed exposition in Appendix Five.

5.6.1 Basildon Council

Basildon Council does not have any explicit corporate objectives or priorities relating to open spaces, indoor or outdoor sports and leisure provision. However, the Basildon Local Plan sets out a range of standards across a range of facilities.

It was been Basildon Council's policy in recent years to invest heavily in sports and leisure facilities. For instance, Basildon Sporting Village is now a regionally significant indoor and outdoor sports centre, boasting a 50 metre swimming pool, climbing wall and athletics track as well as a sports hall and fitness suite.

5.6.2 Chelmsford Borough Council

CBC has an explicitly strategic objective with regards to open space and leisure services which commits the council to: -

Provide high quality social, educational, leisure and sports facilities, excellent parks and green spaces, and a full range of cultural opportunities for meeting, worship, entertainment and celebration.

This strategic objective is, in turn, reflected in the policies as set out in the Chelmsford Local Plan. These have been reflected in practice by for instance the council's investment in the indoor athletics centre at Melbourne Park, the refurbishment of Hylands House and Park and an annual series of events including the annual V Festival.

5.6.3 Epping Forest District Council

Epping Forest DC's Corporate Plan for 2015-2020 makes direct reference to leisure and culture. As part of their vision for the area they state that: -

- We want to keep the individual character, identity and separateness of our towns and villages by protecting the Green Belt.
- We want to maintain and protect access to our open and natural spaces including Epping Forest, The Lea Valley Regional Park and the countryside.
- We want more and better cultural, community and recreational facilities.

Epping Forest DC then makes a specific commitment to update its Leisure and Cultural Strategy and to link this directly to the development of its Local Plan.

Towards production of the Epping Forest Local Plan, EFDC commissioned a comprehensive assessment of open space, sport and leisure facilities in 2011. This assessment used the PPG17 methodology. Based on the findings of this report the council has adopted a detailed set of provision standards which are set out in full in Appendix Five.

5.6.4 Harlow Council

Harlow Council's Corporate Plan for 2015-18 sets out five priorities for the district. These are: -

- More and better housing
- Regeneration and a thriving economy
- Wellbeing and social inclusion
- A clean and green environment - an attractive, clean, green and sustainable environment to be enjoyed by all.
- Successful children and young people

Open Spaces

In July 2013 the council developed more specific standards of provision based on a PPG17 study carried out by Land Use Consultants. They recommended a range of standards which are set out in the Appendix Five.

5.6.5 London Borough of Havering

In March 2015 Havering Council commissioned a comprehensive review of open space, indoor and outdoor leisure provision along the lines of this study. Interim findings are due in autumn 2015.

5.6.6 Thurrock Council

Thurrock Council have recently commissioned a comprehensive review of open space, indoor and outdoor leisure provision along the lines of this study. Interim findings are due in early 2016.

5.6.7 Thames Chase Community Forest

The Thames Chase Community Forest covers the southern portion of Brentwood, which is part of Thames Chase Community Forest. Community Forests were set up in the 1990s and continue to enjoy recognition as a material consideration within the National Planning Policy Framework (Para 92). The Plan sets out a strategic framework for delivery through planning and partnership working, with improving access being a core ambition.



The Thames Chase Plan¹³ is the guiding strategic document for the organisation.

5.7 Summary of the Implications for Brentwood

There is national emphasis on improving levels of physical activity and involvement in green activities which is reflected in a wide range of local strategies and plans and has driven the development of facilities and programmes in Brentwood and neighbouring areas.

As Brentwood is one of the most affluent areas in the country, interest in physical activity is higher than average, placing pressure on the Council and its partners to maintain and improve the levels of facilities and access to a wide range of activities.

The Brentwood area is one of the most attractive places in the country in which to live and work. As a result there are a wide range of plans and strategies in place to preserve and enhance the natural environment. However, this very attractiveness means that there is pressure from more people wishing to live in the area. There is also a push from organisations wishing to develop new and/or improved facilities and services to meet the needs of the existing and future populations as set out in national and local plans. This creates, at best, a creative tension at worst clash and conflict.

The neighbouring local authorities face very similar issues to Brentwood with regards to balancing the need for development with protecting the local environment. Several of these authorities have invested heavily in leisure facilities in recent years particularly in indoor sport. The attractiveness of facilities such as Basildon Sporting Village and their easy access from Brentwood increases the opportunities available to Brentwood residents. However these factors also increases the competitive nature of the local leisure market.

¹³ (<http://www.thameschase.org.uk/about-thames-chase/thames-chase-plan>).

6 OPEN SPACES

6.1 Introduction

This section looks at the supply of formal and informal open spaces in the Borough of Brentwood and the demand for those spaces as measured by the activities currently taking place in them. We also look at the quality of the spaces and their geographical distribution.

6.2 Demand for Open Spaces

The range of open spaces covered by this study vary from those providing only visual amenity to those that offer the opportunity for a wide range of activities. It is, therefore, difficult to define and measure demand in the same way as for sport and organised physical activity. This section draws on a range of data and anecdotal evidence to describe the demand for open spaces, relevant trends and rates of participation and use.

6.3 Participation Trends

6.3.1 Sporting Participation

Compared with sport there is a limited amount of data on informal countryside activities. Sport England's Active People survey which measures participation amongst those over 16 years of age, does include sports such as cycling and horse riding which can take place in the countryside and data on walking. Tables 6.1 and 6.2 below give an indication of participation levels in a number of activities. The right hand column gives an estimate of the number of active, adults participants in Brentwood based on this national figure as applied to Brentwood's over 16 population of 62,000.

Table 6.1
Participation in Sports Played in Part in the Countryside

<i>Activity</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>Statistically Significant Variation</i>	<i>Approx Brentwood Participation (over 16 yrs)</i>
Athletics including cross county	3.33%	5.09%	Increase	3,156
Cycling	4.02%	4.93%	Increase	3,057
Horse Riding	0.97%	0.87%	Decrease	539
Orienteering	0.03%	0.03%	No change	19

Source Active People Survey

Table 6.2
Informal Activities

<i>Activity</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Approx Brentwood Participation (over 16 yrs)</i>
Walking for recreation	42.7%	42.2%	No change	26,164
All walking	86%	86%	No change	53,320
Cycling for recreation	5.6%	5.7%	No change	3,534
All cycling	15%	15%	No change	9,300

Source - Active People Survey and Department of Transport¹⁴

Other data showing an increase in awareness and involvement in outdoor and green activities includes information from the Essex Wildlife Trust.

6.3.2 Essex Wildlife Trust

The Trust's annual report¹⁵ states that in 2014 EWT ran 9 Visitor Centres which were open nearly every day throughout the year, received over 500,000 visitors and ran over 800 events which were attended by over 56,000 people. The Trust encouraged and supported over 2,000 volunteers who spent some 30,500 hours of volunteer work in 2014. The Trust's turnover in the year ended 31st December 2014 was £6.48 million

Figures for membership and turnover have increased in recent years as shown in table 5.x below. This demonstrates a continued and growing interest and involvement in outdoor activities and conservation

Table 6.3
Essex Wildlife Trust Data

	2014	2013	2012
Turnover	£6.48 million	£5.98 million	£6.06 million
Membership	33,351	33,191	31,903

6.3.3 Essex County Council Country Parks

Essex County Council track use of their country parks by use of an automatic traffic counting system. Using this method they estimate that attendances at Thorndon North were 328,000 in the year 2014/15. Attendances peak at around 1,700 on a weekend with weekdays averaging some 550. They report that attendances at Thorndon have increased by some 25% since 2012/13 when the Gruffalo trail was introduced. The service is hoping for a similar increase in attendances at Weald Park following the opening in autumn 2015 of the new Stick Man play trail..

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-area-walking-and-cycling-in-england-2012-to-2013>

¹⁵ http://www.essexwt.org.uk/sites/default/files/ewt_2014_financial_statements.pdf



6.3.4 Horse Riding

The British Equestrian Federation estimates that there are some 780 active horse riders in the Borough. This is above the national average as a proportion of the population when compared with Table 6.1. Participation is said to be constant.

6.3.5 Rambling

The Ramblers has approximately 108,000 members throughout the UK and 4,800 members in Essex.

6.3.6 Walking and Cycling

The annual Active People survey measures participation in walking and cycling across the country. However, the sample size for Brentwood is too small to be accurate. Nationally, the number of adults who walk for recreation at least once a month is estimated to be 56% with 15% of adults cycling for recreation once a month. Both figures have been constant for the last two Active People surveys.

Applied to Brentwood's adult population, this suggests there are some 51,700 active walkers and 9,017 active cyclists in the Borough. The two BMX and skateparks in Brentwood, particularly that at Kings George's Playing Fields, are well used but on an informal basis. The Brentwood Skatepark Association has 640 interested participants who are involved through its Facebook page but it is not clear how many of these are active participants.

6.3.7 Allotments

The National Allotment Society reports that there has been an increase in interest in holding and working an allotment. They point to a national shortage and estimate that there is a national ¹⁶demand for an additional 90,000 plots above the current 330,000.

This national under-provision is echoed by comments in Brentwood where allotment providers report that they have a waiting list for plots equating in total to between 8% and 10% of the total plots currently available.

6.4 Overview of Demand

Brentwood is a an affluent Borough with above average and increasing levels of participation in outdoor activities and interest in green issues and environmental matters. This interest is translated into expressed demand for use of the variety of natural and built open spaces in the Borough. The following paragraphs describe these spaces.

¹⁶ <http://www.nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/brief-history-of-allotments/>

6.5 Formal Open Spaces

There is no formal park in Brentwood insofar as there is no site solely devoted to horticulture and quiet enjoyment. What the Borough does have is 14 multi-purpose open and formally managed open spaces. These are listed in table 6.4. The majority of these are open grassed spaces available for informal recreation. The highest quality of these sites, King George's Playing Fields, has high quality planting, features a children's paddling pool and a sensory garden. It is adjacent to the larger football, rugby, golf and bowls facilities which give the site its name.

6.5.1 Current Standard of Provision

The total area of these spaces is 49.62 hectares. Based on the Borough's estimated population of 76,500 this equates to some 0.65 hectares per 1,000 people or 6.5 square metres per person.

6.5.2 Quality Assessment

PLC assessed the quality of the parks and formal open spaces by undertaking a visual, non-technical inspection. This looked at factors such as the quality of the entrance, boundaries, the quality of planting and grassed areas, safety, security, parking and access. Each factor has been assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the top rating. The details of the assessment are given in full in Appendix Six.. Table 6.4 gives the overall scores for each site. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, red a poor quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

Table 6.4
Formal Open Spaces

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Size Has.	Quality Score 1-5
King Georges Playing Fields	Ingrave Road, Brentwood	CM14 5AE	0.89	4.7
Merrymeade House & Gardens	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9FE	1.42	3.9
Copperfield Gardens Open Space	Copperfield Gardens, Brentwood	CM14 4UE	0.84	3.8
Brentwood Centre	Doddinghurst Road	CM15 9NN	15.98	3.6
Kelvedon Hatch Play Area	School Road. Kelvedon Hatch	CM15 0DH	0.16	3.4
Doddinghurst Park	Doddinghurst Road	CM15 0NJ	1.67	3.4
Hutton Poplars Open Spaces	Bannister Road	CM13 1YT	11.27	3.4
Bishops Hall Park	Elizabeth Road, Brentwood	CM15 9NN	4.40	3.3
Seymour Field	New Road, Ingatestone	CM4 0HH	4.17	3.1
Larkins Playing Field	Ongar Road, Brentwood	CM15 9JB	4.20	2.9
Blackmore Millennium Park	Nine Ashes Road, Blackmore	CM4 0QW	1.17	2.6
Alexander Lane	Alexander Lane, Shenfield	CM15 8QE	1.68	2.5
Tower Hill Open Space	Sir Francis Way, Brentwood	CM14 4TH	1.55	2.0
Mill Lane Open Space	Hay Green Lane/Hook End Lane	CM15 0NT	0.22	1.9
TOTAL			49.62	Ave 3.16



King George's Playing Fields has the highest ranking with the widest range of amenities and highest standards of planting and maintenance. It is the only "destination" park in the Borough regularly attracting visitors from outside the borough boundaries. Other sites have a local reach.

Most sites were clean and litter free at the time of the inspections but almost all lack amenities such as toilets, shelters and catering. Access is highly variable with particular difficulties at Alexander Lane. Facilities for people with impaired mobility and/or other abilities need improvement at all sites. Only King George's has purpose built facilities for people with disabilities.

6.5.3 Distribution and Accessibility

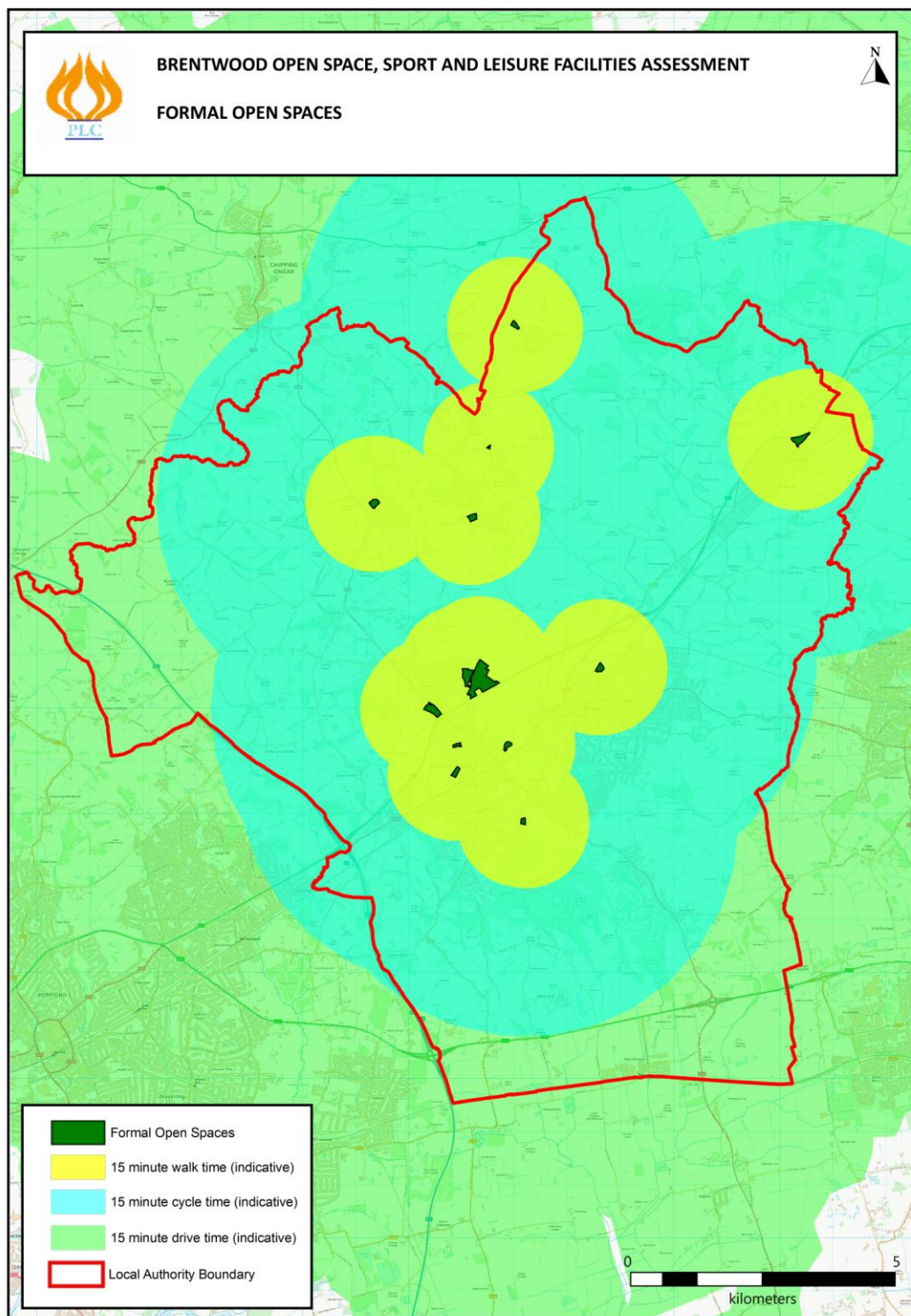
Formal open spaces are reasonably well spread across the Borough with the majority of the population living within 15 minutes drive of a formal open space. This is the travel time used by most agencies to measure ease of access.

6.5.4 Comment on Supply & Demand

The formal open spaces across Brentwood i.e. those which are pro-actively managed, are all multi-purpose areas which provide space for informal recreation. King George's has high standards of horticulture and amenities and is one of the nine sites rated as "good" with the other sites being mainly grassed areas. Two sites are rated as poor and three are of intermediate quality. The current level of provision is 0.65 hectares per 1,000 people or 6.5 metres per person.

Future developments should look to replicate this level of provision on a local basis through pocket parks or similar areas.

Map 6.1
Formal Open Spaces



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6.6 King George's Playing Fields

The Council's brief asks that we make particular reference in this assessment to King George's Park and Playing Fields. This section on Formal Open Spaces is the most appropriate place to do so although it anticipates some of the analysis in later sections.

King George's provides the only formal park in the Borough having high quality horticulture, a sensory garden, a paddling pool and cafe. Its role as a destination park is enhanced by it allowing immediate access to the Hartswood woodlands and then to Thorndon Country Park. The park has the largest and best quality children's play area and most important BMX and skate park.

King George's is also a strategically important site for sport in the Borough as discussed in detail in Section 9 of this report. This was recognised as far back as the 1950s when the Council agreed a covenant with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) that King George's be retained as a playing field in perpetuity. It is a multi-sport hub offering rugby, bowls, football and golf facilities. The golf course management company has recently invested considerable sums in the new crazy golf course.

However, the park has suffered from a history of under-investment in recent times. This is evident as: -

- The football pitches and some of the rugby pitches are poorly drained. This leads to a high number of postponements which means that the carrying capacity of the pitches is inadequate to meet the demand from football and rugby users.
- At least one additional pitch is required to meet the current needs of Brentwood Rugby Club as described in detail in Section 12.
- The changing rooms do not meet modern standards of space, privacy and hygiene.
- The changing rooms offer no segregation between the sexes or between young players and adults.
- There is no access for golfers with disabilities to the golf clubhouse.
- Car parking is inadequate at busy times.
- The paddling pool and its associated plant is coming to the end of its life.

Significant investment will be needed to bring about improvements. Drainage improvements to a football pitch can cost between £10,000 and £30,000 depending on quality and a new clubhouse and changing complex can cost in excess of £1 million.

What is needed is a strategic management plan for the park. The Green Flag¹⁷ award could provide a template for this plan and set a quality target for the Council and its partners. It would also recognise the quality of the park and its importance to Brentwood residents. Part of this strategic plan should look at increasing the involvement of the clubs using the site in day to day operations and maintenance. For example, it is now common practice for bowls clubs to operate under leases from the local authorities who own their rinks and to be responsible for the maintenance of their greens.

¹⁷ <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/the-awards/>



6.6.1 Thames Chase Community Forest

Thames Chase Community Forest have been in initial discussions with the Borough Council in relation to a developing £1.8million HLF Landscape Partnership scheme. These conversations have been about including improvements to Warley Playing Fields and King George's Park, and linking the two sites to Thorndon Country Park via Harts Wood, as part of the HLF scheme. These could help improve facilities on the ground.

6.7 Informal & Natural Open Spaces

Brentwood's residents enjoy a good level of access to a range of informal and natural open spaces. These 46 sites range from the common lands at Childerditch and Warley, through local urban sites such as Shenfield Common, the heathland at Navestock and the large country parks at Thorndon and Weald. A detailed list with size address and postcode is given in Appendix Seven.

6.7.1 Current Standard of Provision

The area of these sites totals some 710.96 hectares. Based on the Borough's estimated population of 76,500 this equates to some 9.29 hectares per 1,000 people or 92.9 square metres per person. A full list is set out in Appendix Seven.

6.7.2 Quality Assessment

PLC completed an assessment of the quality of all sites of size 0.2 hectares and above. This used factors such as the quality of the entrance, boundaries, the quality of the grassed and wooded areas, safety, security, parking and access. Each factor has been assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the top rating. The full assessment is set out in Appendix Seven with Table 6.5 below providing a summary ranking. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, red a poor quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

Table 6.5
Informal and Natural Open Spaces

Site Name	Address	Size	Quality
Thorndon Country Park	Eagle Way	222.48	4.29
Weald Country Park	Weald Road	187.55	4.29
Shenfield Common	Seven Arches Road	12.83	3.29
Hartwood	Hartwood Road	29.60	3.17
Curtis Mill Green	Navestock	19.75	3.14
Abbots Close Wooded Area	Abbots Close, Shenfield	1.31	3.00
Childerditch Common	Childerditch Street, Warley	35.90	3.00
Little Warley Common (Woodland)	Magpie Lane, Little Warley	28.80	3.00
Warley Country Park	Vaughan Williams Way, Warley	24.12	3.00
Donkey Lane Plantation	Hartwood Road	21.40	3.00

Site Name	Address	Size	Quality
Merrymeade Park	Merrymeades Chase	14.33	3.00
Warley Gap	Warley Gap, Little Warley	11.80	3.00
Little Warley Common (Grassland)	Magpie Lane, Little Warley	7.00	3.00
Navestock Heath	Shonks Mill Road	6.87	3.00
Hampden Wood	Woodman Road	1.85	3.00
Headley Common	Warley Road, Brentwood	1.57	3.00
Boars Head Pond	Brentwood Road, Herongate	0.24	3.00
Peartree Pond	Brentwood Road, Brentwood	0.21	3.00
Swan Lane & Pond	Swan Lane, Kelvedon Hatch	0.24	3.00
Glovers Field	Glovers Field/Blackmore Road, Kelvedon Hatch	0.34	2.83
St. Charles Nature Reserve	Park Road, Brentwood	1.40	2.67
Wash Road Wooded Area	Rear of Wash Road Industrial Estate	1.69	2.57
Clements Wood	Vaughan Williams Way, Warley	5.70	2.57
Hutton Poplar Woodland	Bannister Road	2.40	2.50
Crescent Drive	Crescent Drive	0.62	2.29
Beredens Common	Beredens Lane, Warley	2.75	2.17
The Wabbings	The Wabbings, Great Warley Street	1.66	2.00
Snakeshill Common Land	Navestock	0.27	2.20
Hutton Country Park	Wash Road, Hutton	38.69	2.00
Hatch Road Country Park	Hatch Road, Pilgrims Hatch	4.80	2.00
Cherry Ave	Cherry Ave	0.57	2.00
Holly Wood	Pastoral Way, Brentwood	0.41	2.00
Horse Pond	Shenfield Common	0.41	2.00
Long Ridings B	Woodland Avenue	0.24	2.00
La Plata Woodland	Hubert Road, Brentwood	1.41	1.60
Brickhouse Wood	Doddinghurst Road, Doddinghurst	2.20	1.25
St Faiths	Weald Road	16.24	1.14
Arnolds Wood	Laurel Close, Shenfield	0.50	1.00
	TOTAL - SITES OVER 0.2 ha	710.13	
	TOTAL FOR ALL SITES	710.96	

The two large and well equipped Essex County Council country parks have the highest ranking. Each has good car parking and access, sites that are safe and well maintained. There is wide variation in the quality and accessibility of the sites as might be expected from informal and natural venues. Sites such as Hartswood are heavily used by families, dog-walkers, joggers, cyclists and horse riders. Others such as La Plata are almost inaccessible due to their location and topography.

Of the 707.8 hectares of informal and natural open spaces, 627.9 hectares are assessed as being of high quality, 16.79 as being intermediate quality and 65.73 hectares are of poor quality. Small sites totalling 0.83 hectares were not assessed.

6.7.3 Distribution and Accessibility

Informal and natural open spaces are very well spread across the Borough with the whole of the population living within 15 minutes of a venue as shown in Map 6.2. Most people live within a 15 minute walk of a site.

6.7.4 Comments on Supply & Demand

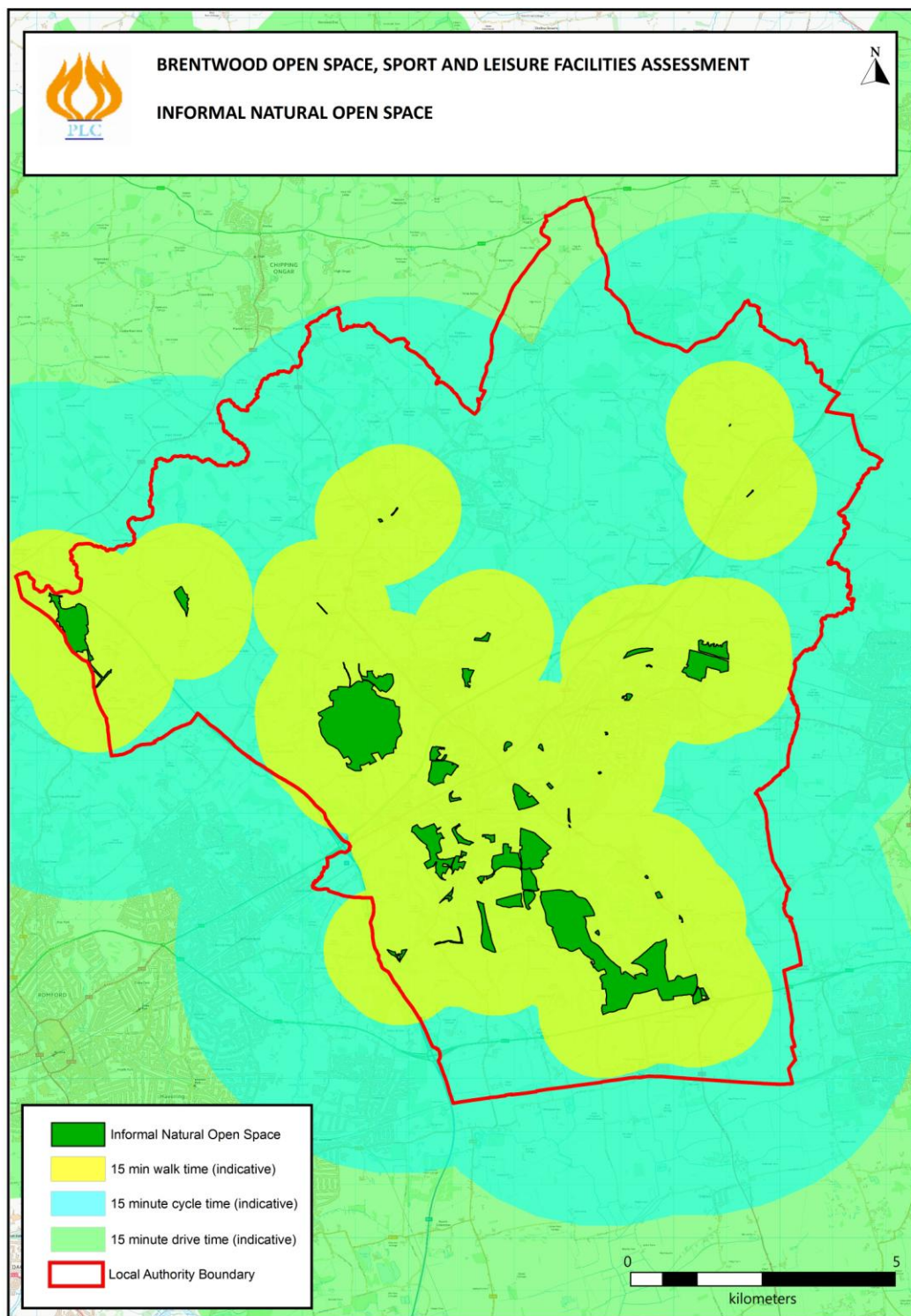
The informal and natural open spaces across Brentwood provide valuable amenities for a range of activities including walking, cycling, horse riding and enjoyment of wildlife and the natural environment. There is a wide variation in the quality of these sites and access to them.

Essex Bridleway Association (EBA) comment that: -

"bridleways provision is reasonable in some areas but sorely lacking in others, and this, together with the constraints of major road crossings and railway crossings, results in a fragmented network lacking in any connectivity which restricts their safe use. It is important to note that Brentwood District does have a reasonable provision for bridleways - but in isolated pockets - and any strategy should aim to increase the connectivity of these isolated networks and access to them, particularly for people with disabilities."

The Council should work with stakeholders such as the EBA to explore options for improving the quality of, and addressing accessibility issues for, low rated informal and natural open spaces. Consideration should be given to the part disposal of sites to provide funds for improvements on the outstanding site. Improvements to access for people with disabilities are a priority requirement. Where no solution is possible, consideration should be given to the disposal of the site for an alternative use.

Map 6.2 Informal Open Spaces



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6.8 Amenity Greenspaces

Amenity greenspaces are defined as simple areas of grass with occasional planting which provide opportunities for informal activities close to home and/or enhance the appearance of residential areas. There is a total of 32.07 hectares of amenity greenspaces on 135 sites across the Borough ranging from simple grassed areas between houses to large village greens. Table 6.6 lists those 31 sites of 0.2 hectares or larger. a full list is given in Appendix Eight.

6.8.1 Current Standard of Provision

Based on the Borough's estimated population of 76,500 this equates to some 0.42 hectares per 1,000 people or 4.2 square metres per person.

6.8.2 Quality Assessment

We assessed the 46 sites over 0.2 hectares simply on the quality of their grassed and planted areas and general cleanliness and attractiveness. The scores are set out in Table 6.6. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, yellow and intermediate quality site and red a poor quality site.

By far the most attractive of amenity spaces is the village green at Blackmore. Other sites were generally clean and well maintained but with a minimum, if any, of amenities such as litter bins and benches.

Table 6.6
Amenity Greenspaces

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Size Ha	Quality Score 1-5
The Green AGS	Blackmore	CM4 0RL	0.42	5.00
Swan Walk Open Space	Swan Walk, Kelvedon Hatch	CM15 0AN	0.37	4.50
The Green, Navestock	Navestock Side	CM14 5SU	1.70	4.00
Eagle Field	Blackmore Road, Kelvedon Hatch	CM15 0AA	1.47	4.00
Potiphar Place AGS	Potiphar Place	CM14 5GQ	0.36	4.00
The Broadwalk AGS	The Broadwalk (south), Brentwood	CM13 2BP	0.42	3.50
Fielding Way, Open Space	Fielding Way, Hutton	CM13 1JN	0.29	3.50
Thrift Green	Thrift Green, Brentwood	CM13 2EX	1.47	3.00
Crosby Close AGS	Crosby Close Mountnessing	CM15 0TP	1.35	3.00
Vaughan Williams Way AGS A	Vaughan Williams Way	CM14 5WA	1.26	3.00
Tallis Way AGS	Tallis Way, Brentwood	CM14 5WJ	1.11	3.00
Knights Way AGS	Knights Way	CM13 2EN	0.96	3.00
Highwood Hospital AGS	Kensington Way, Brentwood	CM15 9DY	0.65	3.00
Coram Green AGS	Coram Green	CM13 1LN	0.49	3.00
Wilkes Road AGS	Wilkes Road	CM13 1LH	0.47	3.00
Mayflower Path AGS	Warley	CM13 3BG	0.46	3.00
Carpenter Path	Hutton	CM13 1LJ	0.40	3.00
Pondfield Lane AGS	Pondfield Lane, Brentwood	CM13 2BY	0.40	3.00
Park Lane Common	Park Lane, Herongate	CM13 3PJ	0.37	3.00
Eastham Crescent Open Space	Eastham Crescent, Brentwood	CM13 2BG	0.33	3.00
Seven Arches Rd AGS	Seven Arches Road	CM14 4JG	0.31	3.00
Knights Way AGS	Knights Way	CM13 2EN	0.30	3.00
Birkbeck Road, Open Space	Birkbeck Road	CM13 1JP	0.28	3.00
Wilmot Green AGS	Wilmot Green	CM13 3DD	0.26	3.00
Cloughton Way AGS	Cloughton Way, Hutton	CM13 1JS	0.26	3.00
Roman Road AGS	Roman Road	CM4 9AF	0.26	3.00
Boundary Drive AGS A	Boundary Drive, Hutton	CM13 1RH	0.25	3.00
Hawksmoor Green	Colet Road	CM13 1LB	0.25	3.00
The Meadows AGS A	The Meadows, Ingrave, Brentwood	CM13 3RL	0.23	3.00
Hawthorn Avenue Open Space	Hawthorn Avenue	CM13 2EH	0.2	3.00
Coptfold Road Open Space	Coptfold Road	CM14 4BL	0.2	3.00
Station Road Open Space	Petersfield Way, West Horndon	CM13 3TG	1.01	2.50
Heybridge Road	Heybridge Road, Ingatestone	CM4 9AG	0.72	2.50
Cotswold Gardens, Open Space	Cotswold Gardens, Hutton	CM13 1RF	0.28	2.50
Hampden Crescent Open Space	Hampden Crescent, Warley	CM14 5BD	0.26	2.50
Whadden Chase AGS	Whadden Chase, Ingatestone	CM4 9HF	0.61	2.00
Hubert Road AGS	Hubert Road	CM14 4JE	0.49	2.00

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Size	Quality Score
Walter Boyce Centre	Warley Hill, Brentwood	CM13 3AP	0.48	2.00
Aspen Court AGS	Hornbeam Close	CM13 2LD	0.41	2.00
Mountney Close AGS	Mountney Close, Ingatestone	CM4 9AP	0.40	2.00
Roman Road AGS A	Roman Road	CM4 9AL	0.31	2.00
Ongar Road AGS	Ongar Road, Brentwood	-	0.30	2.00
Sawyers Hall Lane AGS	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9BY	0.27	2.00
Whittington Road C	Whittingdon Road	CM13 1JX	0.24	2.00
Knights Way AGS (b)	Knights Way	CM13 2EN	0.21	2.00
Running Waters AGS	Running Waters, Brentwood	CM13 2AP	0.20	2.00
	TOTAL - SITES OVER 0.2 ha		23.75	
	TOTAL FOR ALL AMENITY SITES		32.07	Ave 2.89

6.8.3 Distribution and Accessibility

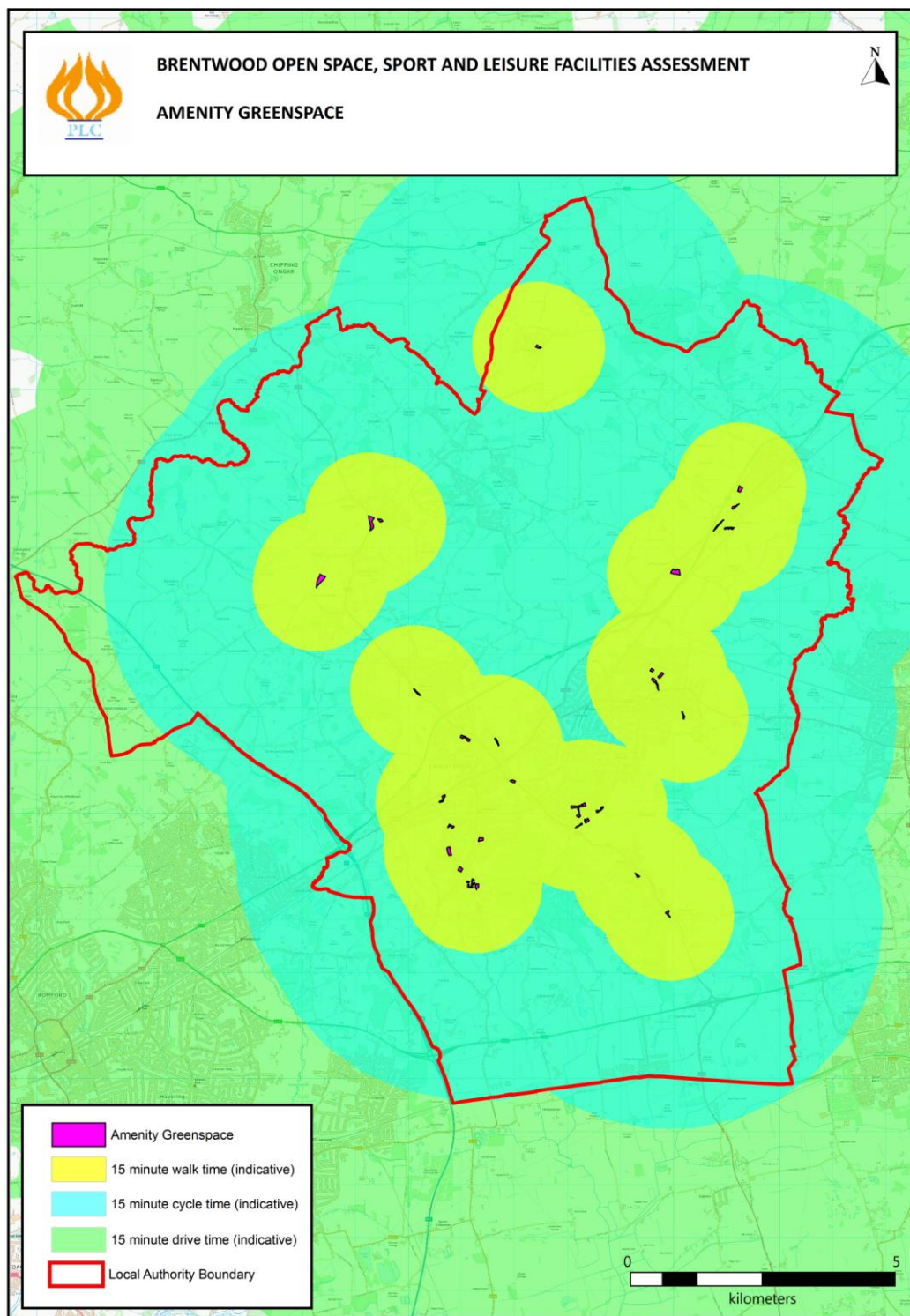
Amenity spaces are very well spread across the Borough with the whole of the population living within 15 minutes of an amenity greenspace as shown in Map 6.3. People living in the urban areas have access within 15 minutes walking

6.8.4 Comment on Supply & Demand

The amenity spaces across Brentwood provide valuable buffers and visual amenity spaces in residential areas. They are also provide space for children's games and some informal activities such as picnics.

The current standard of provision should be replicated in future developments.

Map 6.3
Amenity Greenspaces



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6.9 Allotments

There are 15 allotment sites in the Borough providing approximately 770 plots of various sizes in a total of 12.57 hectares. A standard allotment plot has an area of 250 square metres (originally ten square poles or 302.5 square yards) which equates to 40 plots to the hectare. There are, therefore, the equivalent of 503 standard plots in total. The figure of 770 arises from a number of factors including popular sites where standard plots have been sub-divided to help reduce waiting lists or where site boundaries and shape make exact division impractical.

A full list of sites with their locations, sizes and number of plots is set out in Appendix Nine.

6.9.1 Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision for allotments is 0.16 hectares per 1,000 population. Table 6.7 lists the sites and gives a quality rating

6.9.2 Quality Assessment

All allotment sites in the Borough were assessed on a visual, non-technical inspection basis. The criteria used were: -

- Standards of maintenance
- Fencing
- Provision of water
- Access and parking
- Access for people with disabilities

Based on these criteria each site was given an overall rating of 1-5 with 5 being the highest. These are recorded in table 6.7

Table 6.7
Allotments

Site Name	Has	Nos of Plots	Nos of Standard Plots	Rating
Bishops Hall Road Allotments	0.19	15	8	4
Crescent Road Allotments	1.38	50	55	4
Hartswood Allotments	3.28	210	131	4
Middle Road allotments	0.69	30	28	4
Ongar Road Allotments	0.87	56	35	4
Park Road Allotments	2.15	200	86	4
Stock Lane Allotments	1.83	93	73	4
Wash Road Allotments	0.2	15	8	4
Birkbeck Road allotments	0.08	6	3	3
Fielding Way Allotments	0.18	15	7	3
Honeypot Lane Allotments	0.47	25	19	3
Rectory Lane Allotments	0.22	10	9	3
River Road Allotments	0.50	20	20	3
Roman Road allotments	0.34	15	14	2
Salmonds Grove Allotments	0.18	10	8	2
	12.57	770	503	Ave 3.4

6.9.3 Distribution and Accessibility

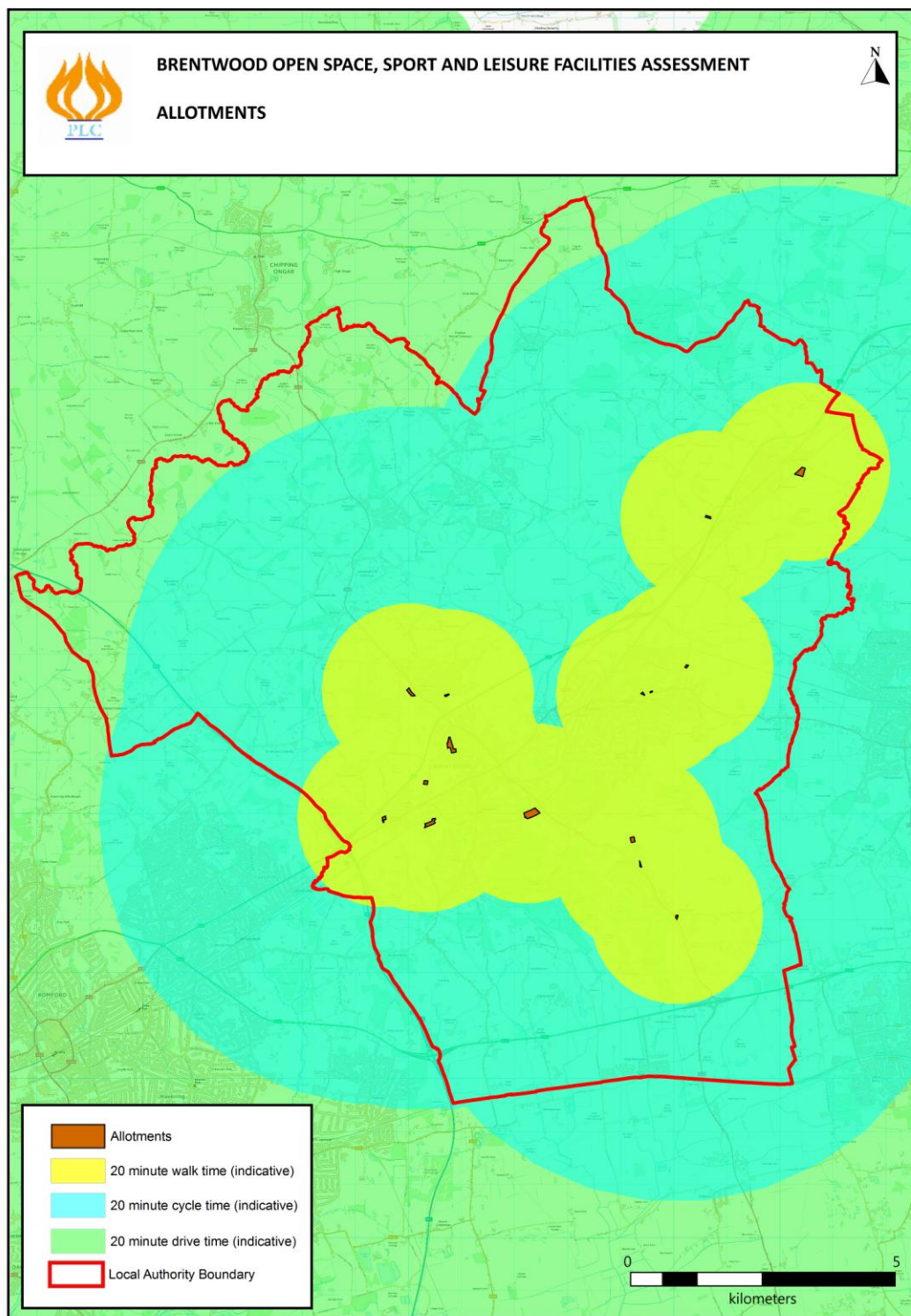
Map 6.4 shows that the distribution of allotments is variable across the Borough with the majority of sites being provided in the Brentwood urban area. Ten of the sites are located in the Brentwood urban area, three in the south east at Ingrave and two in Ingatestone. There is no provision in the north and west parishes nor in the south of the Borough. All residents are within a 20 drive of an allotment.

6.10 Comments on Supply and Demand

All allotment providers report that they have a waiting list for plots. In total this equates to between 8% and 10% of the total plots available. The Council should explore ways of making additional plots available either by seeking new sites or when existing plots become available, by sub-dividing into smaller areas. The Council and its parish council partners should also explore making provision in those parishes currently without allotments.

The current standard of provision should be included in future developments.

Map 6.4
Allotments



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6.11 Cemeteries & Churchyards

There are 39 cemeteries and churchyards in the Borough with a total area of 32.35 hectares. These vary in size from the large, traditional cemetery at Woodman Road, through the newly opened green burial site in Herongate to the very small churchyards at St John's Ingatestone. A full list is with sizes address and post codes given in Appendix Ten.

6.11.1 Current Standard of Provision

Based on the Borough's estimated population of 76,500 the current standard of provision is 0.42 hectares per 1,000 population or 4.2 square metres per person.

6.11.2 Assessment of Quality

All cemeteries and churchyards of 0.2 hectares or over were assessed for quality on a visual, non-technical basis. This examined factors including roads, paths and access: cleanliness, the quality of planting and maintenance and the provision of amenities such as benches and litter bins. All factors were assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest. The overall scores are set out in Table 6.8 below. The detailed scores are set out in Appendix Ten. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, red a poor quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

Table 6.8
Cemeteries & Churchyards

Site Name	Address	Has	Quality Score
Essex Regiment Chapel	Clive Road, Brentwood	0.29	5.0
Woodman Road Cemetery	Woodman road	3.35	4.8
St Mary's Churchyard	Hall Lane, Shenfield	1.07	4.6
Herongate Wood - Green Burial Site	Billericay Road, Brentwood	6.38	4.4
St Mary the Virgin, Fryerning	Mill Green Road, Fryerning	1.99	4.4
Priory Church of St Laurence	Church Street, Blackmore	0.49	4.4
London Road Cemetery	London Road, Brentwood	2.88	4.2
St Peters Church	Weald Road, Brentwood	0.35	4.0
Pilgrims Hall, Christian Centre	Pilgrims Hall	0.55	3.8
St. Edmund & Mary, Ingatestone Parish Church	High Street	0.43	3.8
St Mary the Virgin Parish Church	Hall Lane, Shenfield	0.48	3.8
All Saints Church of England	Church Lane, Doddinghurst		3.6
St Thomas of Canterbury Church	St Thomas Road	0.55	3.4
All Saints Church	Hutton Village		3.4
St Nicholas' Church	Church Road, Kelvedon Hatch	0.57	3.2
St. Johns Mountnessing, Hall & Church	Old Church Lane, Padhams Green	0.82	3.0
St Nicholas Church	Brentwood Road, Ingrave Brentwood		3.0
St Mary the Virgin	Great Warley Street, Brentwood	0.33	3.0

Site Name	Address	Has	Quality Score
Lorne Road Cemetery	Lorne Road, Warley	1.35	2.8
St Helens RC Cathedral	Ingrave Road	0.63	2.8
Hutton & Shenfield Union Church	Roundwood Avenue, Hutton	0.19	2.8
The Parish Church of Christ Church, Warley	Warley Hill, Brentwood	0.25	2.7
St Stephens Church	St Stephens Close, Ingrave	0.25	2.7
All Saints & St. Faith's Church	Church Lane, Childerditch	0.52	2.4
St George's Church	Ongar Road, Brentwood	0.34	2.0
Trinity Church	49 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch	2.16	1.8
St. Peter's Little Warley Church	Little Warley Hall Lane, Brentwood	0.35	1.8
The Gospel Hall	Mill Green Road, Fryerning	0.32	1.4
		32.35	Ave 3.2

The Essex Regiment Chapel at Warley scored highest of all sites. Cemeteries and churchyards across the Borough are generally clean and well maintained. However, many have difficult access, particularly for people with disabilities and lack amenities such as benches and litter bins.

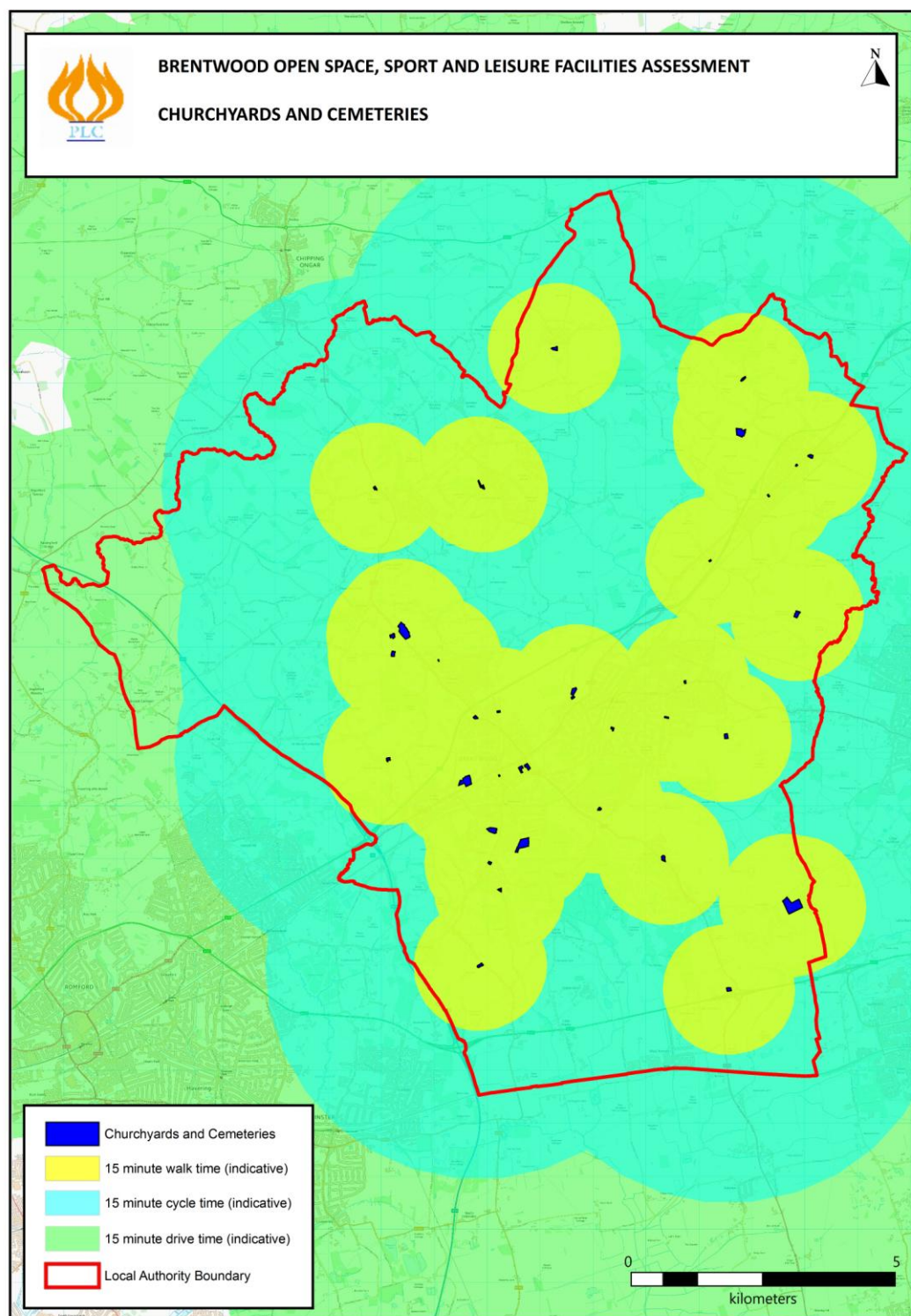
6.11.3 Distribution and Accessibility

Cemeteries and churchyards are very well spread across the Borough the whole of the population living within 15 minutes of a venue as shown in Map 6.5.

6.11.4 Comments on Supply and Demand

Our consultations indicate that there is sufficient burial space in Brentwood to last for some considerable time, in excess of 20 years. We conclude that there is no need for additional burial space in the Borough and that the current supply is sufficient to meet the additional need arising from new developments. The Council should encourage improvements at those sites rated poor and improvements to access for people with disabilities.

Map 6.5 Cemeteries & Churchyards



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6.12 Playgrounds

There are 34 equipped playgrounds across the Borough. These have a total area of 3.70 hectares. Table 6.9 lists the playgrounds alongside their quality assessment. A full list of playgrounds with their addresses, postcodes and sizes is given in Appendix 11.

6.12.1 Current Standard of Provision

The current standard of provision is 0.05 hectares per 1,000 population or one play area per 2,250 of the population.

6.12.2 Quality Assessment

All playgrounds in the Borough were assessed on a visual, non-technical inspection basis. The criteria used were: -

- Quantity of equipment
- Quality of equipment
- Variety of equipment
- Fencing
- Cleanliness
- Availability of benches & bins
- Access for children with disabilities

Scores were given between 1 and 5 with 5 being the highest rating. Table 6.9 records the overall scores. Full details of the assessments are given in Appendix 11. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, red a poor quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

It can be seen that the quality of the playgrounds varies considerably. They vary from the high quality destination playground at King George's Playing Fields to the poor quality local play areas at The Limes and Tower House. Only King George's has equipment specially designed to meet the needs of children with disabilities

6.12.3 Distribution and Accessibility

Map 6.6 shows that playgrounds are unevenly spread across the Borough. The majority of sites are located in the Brentwood urban area often as part of social housing provision. These housing sites tend to be of lower quality with poor access to the general public.

Several, but not all, of the parish councils have invested in high standard play area such as those at Coronation Field, Mountnessing and Doddinghurst Village Hall. The play areas at West Horndon and Doddinghurst also have outdoor gyms.

Table 6.9
Playgrounds

Site Name	Address	Has	Quality 1-5
King George's Play Area	Ingrave Road, Brentwood	0.41	4.6
Coronation Playing Fields Play Area	Thoby Lane, Ingatestone	0.06	4.0
Doddinghurst Play Area,	Church Lane, Doddinghurst	0.19	4.0
Bishops Hall Playgrounds	Elizabeth Road, Brentwood	0.35	3.9
Mill Lane Play area	Mill Lane, Kelvedon Hatch	0.07	3.9
West Horndon Park Play Area	Cadogan Avenue, West Horndon	0.08	3.9
Courage Playing Fields Play Area	Chelmsford Road, Brentwood	0.05	3.8
Fairfield Rec. Ground Play Area	High Street, Ingatestone	0.09	3.8
Kelvedon Hatch Playground	School Road. Kelvedon Hatch	0.16	3.8
Hutton Recreation Ground Play Area	Rayleigh Road/Wash Road	0.10	3.5
River Road Play Area	River Road, Brentwood	0.38	3.5
Blackmore Village	Nine Ashes Road, Blackmore	0.10	3.3
Warley Playing Fields Play Area	The Drive, Brentwood	0.29	3.3
Little Highwood Hospital	Greenwich Avenue, Brentwood	0.01	3.1
Stondon Massey Play Area	Nine Ashes Road, Stondon Massey	0.06	3.1
Ted Marriage Play Area	Wyatts Green Lane, Wyatts Green	0.10	3.1
Crescent Road play area	St. Peter's Road, Warley	0.16	3.0
Ingrave Johnstone Play Area	Brentwood Road, Brentwood	0.04	2.9
Capon Close Play Area	Capon Close, Brentwood	0.08	2.8
Gibraltar House	The Drive, Brentwood	0.01	2.4
Colet Road Playground	Colet Road, Brentwood	0.04	2.1
Cromwell Road play area	Cromwell Road, Brentwood	0.10	2.1
Elizabeth House	Albany Road, Pilgrims Hatch	0.01	2.1
Railway Square	Railway Square, Brentwood	0.01	2.0
Tendring Court	Woodland Avenue, Hutton	0.05	2.0
Thaxted Bold	Woodland Avenue, Hutton	0.05	2.0
Tollesbury Court	Woodland Avenue, Hutton	0.05	2.0
Maple Close Play Area	Maple Close	0.06	2.0
Navestock Village Hall Play Area	The Green, Navestock	0.40	1.9
Theydon Bold	Woodland Avenue, Hutton	0.05	1.9
Masefield Court Play Area	Victoria Road, Brentwood	0.03	1.8
Mountney Close Play Area	Mountney Close	0.03	1.6
The Limes	The Limes, Brentwood	0.01	1.0
Tower House	Hutton Drive, Hutton	0.01	1.0
Average Score		3.7	2.8



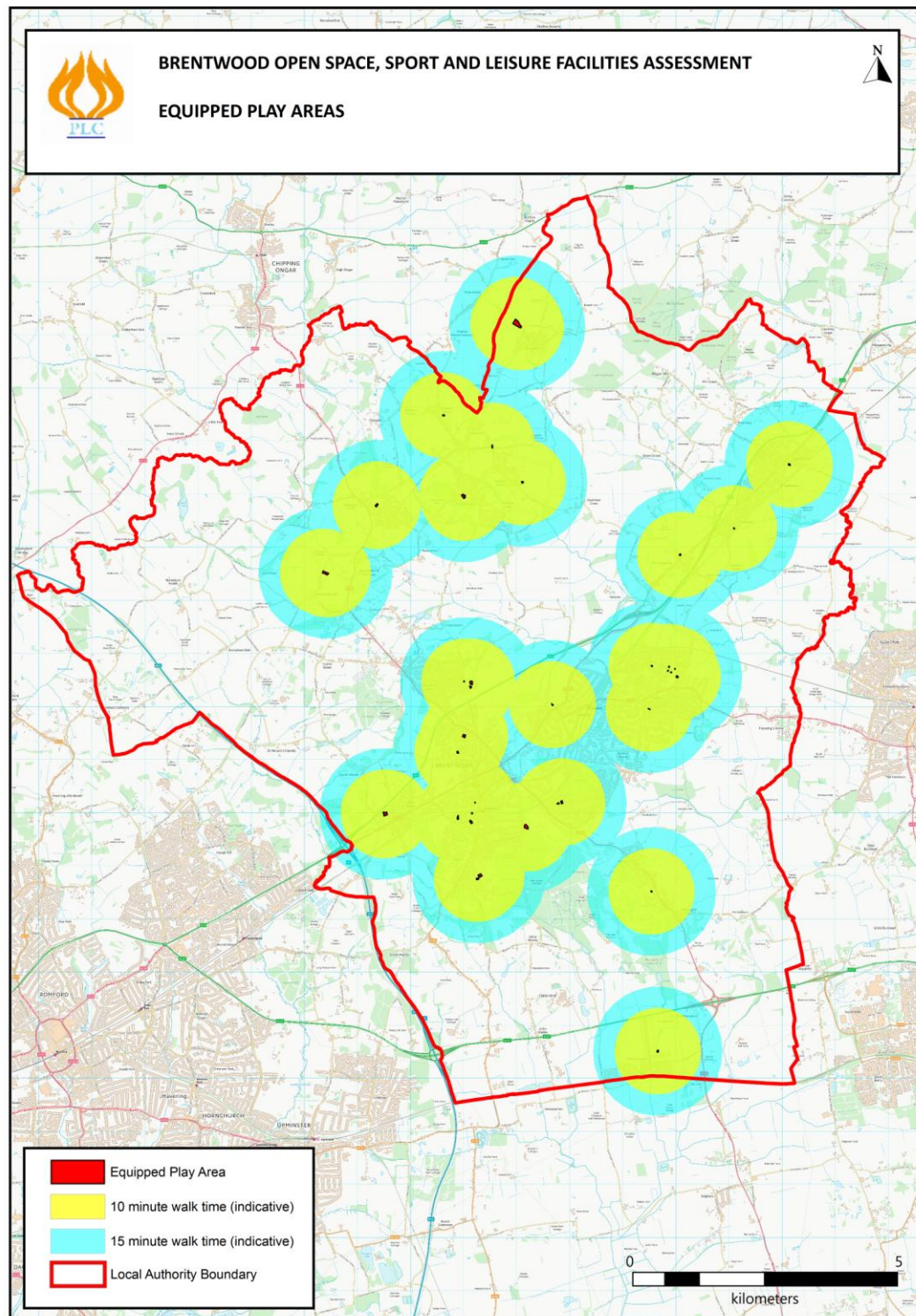
6.12.4 Comments on Current and Future Provision

Only half of the current stock of playgrounds are rated as good. Almost a third of the stock is poor. Only one playground has equipment for children with impaired mobility. There is a need to improve play provision across the Borough.

Given the high cost of play equipment, fencing and surfacing we believe that a "Fewer but Better" approach is the best approach. The Council should identify where improvements can best be made and work with its development and parish council partners to achieve this.

We are strongly of the opinion that future provision of playgrounds should include a minimum size and a minimum quantity and quality of equipment. The minimum standards for future development, should be the equivalent of the River Road play area which has some 10 pieces of equipment to allow for a wide range of play experiences (swinging climbing, balancing etc), safer surfaces, dog proof fencing and ancillary amenities such as benches, tables and litter bins. In addition future playgrounds should include equipment which is accessible to young people with disabilities. The siting of playgrounds should also ensure that children should have a facility within a 10 minute walk.

Map 6.6
Playgrounds





6.13 Protected Urban Open Spaces

6.13.1 Description of Sites

Within the current Replacement Local Plan, there is a list of sites within the Borough with the designation Protected Open Spaces. These are sites which have special protection from development. The Plan text reads: -

"Within the built-up areas of the Brentwood Borough, permission will not be granted for development of land allocated on the proposals map as Protected Urban Open Space or other previously undeveloped land."

This designation covers venues across the range of typologies used in this assessment. Some are formal open spaces, others playing fields and courts; some are allotments, some are amenity spaces. Some such as the Thrift Wood Scout Camp and the Ursuline School Playing Fields have no public access. Those sites which are not included in the list of other typologies are listed in Table 6.10 with a full list set out and quality rating set out in Appendix 12.

6.13.2 Standard of Provision

The total of 52.2 hectares means that the current standard of provision is 0.68 hectares per 1,000 population in addition to the other categories of open spaces.

6.13.3 Quality Assessment

Appendix 12 lists the quality rating for each site. This is based on accessibility to the public, the quality of the site for its recreational value and its amenity value. This acknowledges that, for example, a playing field has a wider purpose as a general amenity site as well as for the short time each week it is used for a particular sport.

Table 6.10
Protected Urban Open Spaces in Brentwood
(Not included in other categories)

Site Name	Address	Size Has
Thriftwood Scout Camp	Orchard Ave, Brentwood	34.09
Playing Fields at Brentwood County High School	Seven Arches Road, Brentwood	1.57
Open Space at Anglo European School	Willow Green, Ingatestone	2.69
Playing Fields at Brentwood Ursuline (a)	Queen's Rd, Brentwood	4.15
Playing Fields at Brentwood Ursuline (b)	Queen's Rd, Brentwood	0.25
Open Space at Ingatestone and Fryerning School	The Furlongs, Ingatestone	1.35
Open Space at Willowbrook Primary School	Rosen Crescent, Hutton	1.11
School Grounds at Larchwood Primary School	Larchwood Gardens, Brentwood	0.99
Former playing Fields at Bishops Walk	Bishops Walk, Shenfield	5.92
		52.12

6.14 Overall Supply of Open Spaces

Across the six categories of open spaces this assessment identified some 288 sites across the Borough covering a total of 893.33 hectares or 11.68 hectares per 1,000 population.

Table 6.11
Open Spaces in Brentwood

Site Categories	Nos. of Sites	Area in Has	Has Per 1,000
Formal Open Spaces	14	49.62	0.65
Informal & Natural Open Space	45	711.96	9.31
Amenity Greenspace	135	32.07	0.42
Cemeteries & Churchyards	39	32.35	0.42
Allotments	15	12.57	0.16
Playgrounds	34	3.42	0.04
Protected Open Spaces	9	52.12	0.68
TOTALS	288	893.33	11.68

6.15 Comments from Consultees

Only one of the parish councils, Stondon Massey identified a demand for additional open spaces other than for allotments. SMPC is looking for an area of land to provide informal recreation and, if required, a more formal pitch space. They are developing a Village Plan which will incorporate this requirement. Otherwise, Brentwood is generally regarded as having a good level of provision of all types of spaces and green amenities.

The comments which were received concerned the quality of some spaces and the need to improve access for people with disabilities.

6.16 Future Provision

Our assessment has identified that there are relatively good levels of access to green spaces and sports provision in Brentwood, although there are some areas of concern about quality. Our consultations show that green spaces and sports facilities are valued highly by Brentwood residents and that they add significantly to the quality of life in the Borough. Levels of provision of green spaces in Brentwood currently equate to 11.65 hectares per 1,000 population as shown in table 6.11.

Given this high level of overall provision in the Borough it is important to protect and where necessary improve existing provision of open space unless it can be demonstrated that the land is surplus to requirement. Balancing these two factors, we recommend that the Council adopt the minimum quantitative and qualitative standards for future provision as set out in Table 6.12 below

Table 6.12
Recommended Future Minimum Standards of Provision

Site Categories	ha/1,000 population	Quality Factors
Formal Open Spaces	0.5	Sites rated as high or medium quality
Informal and Natural Open Spaces	8.39	Sites rated as high or medium quality
Amenity Greenspace	0.30	Provision of litter bins and benches
Allotments	0.16	Provision of mains water, car park and secure fencing
Playgrounds	0.04	Minimum of 10 pieces of equipment to allow for a wide range of play experiences (swinging climbing, balancing etc)including provision for children with disabilities, hard surfacing and secure fencing. Playgrounds to be sited to ensure that children are within a 10 minute walk of an equipped playground.
Cemeteries & Churchyards	None	-
TOTAL	9.39	

No standards are recommended for churchyards and cemeteries

7 SPORTS PARTICIPATION IN BRENTWOOD

7.1 Introduction

The latter sections of this report discuss participation in indoor and outdoor sport with detailed discussion of the major pitch sports of cricket, football, hockey and the two codes of rugby. To avoid duplication this short section provides background information on general sporting participation in the Borough. It covers indoor and outdoor activity in formal games and informal activities such as health and fitness.

7.2 Sporting Participation - The 'Active People' survey

The most reliable data for participation on sport and physical activity in Brentwood comes from Sport England's Active People Survey¹⁸ 9 This was first commissioned by Sport England in 2005 and has been carried out annually ever since. The survey is the largest study of patterns of adult (people aged over 16) involvement in sport and physical activity ever undertaken and involved telephone interviews with a representative sample of between 500 and 1,000 residents of each local authority Borough in the country. Eight surveys have been undertaken to date, which has enabled trends to be tracked over a nine year period. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are measured and the results for each are tabulated below:

- **Overall participation** - 'Taking part on at least one day a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least four days in the last four weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session'.
- **Volunteering** - 'Volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'.
- **Club membership** - 'Being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks'.
- **Satisfaction with local sports provision:** 'The percentage of adults who are satisfied with local sports provision'.
- **Participation in individual sports:** 'The percentage of adults who have participated at least once in a sport in the preceding four weeks'.

7.2.1 Overall Participation

The Active People surveys show that sporting participation rates in Brentwood are significantly above those for Essex, the East of England and England as a whole and have been so since the survey was first conducted on 2005/06. Table 7.1 below shows

¹⁸ <http://www.sportengland.org/research/>

the comparative figures. The data refer to those adults (over 16) population who take part in at least one 30 minute period of "moderate intensity" activity per week.

Table 7.1
Participation in Physical Activity

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>2014/15</i>
Brentwood	40.8%	42.9%	42.6%	40.1%	41.7%
Essex	35.6%	38.0%	36.2%	35.7%	34.5%
Eastern Region	34.8%	36.0%	35.1%	35.3%	34.6%
England	34.2%	36.0%	35.7%	35.5%	35.7%

Source - Sport England, Active People Survey 9

7.2.2 Volunteering, Club Membership and Satisfaction

Up until Active People 7 the survey also measured the number of people who volunteered to support sport, were members of sports clubs and who played competitively. The survey also recorded overall satisfaction with sporting facilities in the area. The most recent data under these headings is from the 2012/13 Active People Survey 7.

Table 7.2 shows that in all but one indicator, volunteering, Brentwood is above the average for Essex, the eastern region and is above the national average for all indicators. The lower volunteering figure may well be due to the fact that the high participation rate means those people who would otherwise volunteer as managers or coaches are still actively involved.

Table 7.2
Performance Indicators

<i>Performance Indicator</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Eastern Region</i>	<i>England</i>
Volunteering at least one hour per week	7.5%	7.9%	6.8%	6%
Club membership	28.6%	25.1%	22.2%	21.0%
Received coaching in the last 12 months	24.2%	18.2%	n/a	15.8%
Took part in organised competition in last 12 months	18.4%	15.4%	16.7%	11.2%
Satisfaction with local provision	67.7%	62.9%	62.5%	60.3%

Source - Sport England, Local Sports Profiles

7.2.3 Evolving Patterns of demand

Sport England's 'Active People' Survey has tracked participation in sport and physical activity in the period since 2005. Whilst there has been an upward trend in overall adult

(people aged 16 years and above) national participation rates, local patterns vary significantly and the rates of involvement in individual sports are quite volatile. Table 7.3 summarises the position at national level for those sports using facility types included in this assessment. These figures now available from AP9 (below)

Table 7.3
National Evolving Patterns of Demand
Including Data from Active People Survey 9

<i>Sport</i>	<i>2005/06</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>2014/15</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Athletics	3.33%	4.72%	4.65%	4.96%	5.11%	+1.78%
Badminton	1.29%	1.26%	1.16%	1.13%	1.04%	-0.25%
Basketball	0.39%	0.35%	0.36%	0.31%	0.36%	-0.03%
Bowls*	2.21%	1.57%	1.73%	1.53%	1.40%	-0.81%
Cricket	0.48%	0.43%	0.34%	0.37%	0.32%	-0.16%
Cycling	4.14%	4.45%	4.62%	4.75%	4.72%	+0.58%
Football	4.97%	4.94%	4.25%	4.39%	4.34%	-0.63%
Golf	2.18%	1.97%	1.73%	1.67%	1.67%	-0.51%
Gymnastics	0.14%	0.12%	0.11%	0.09%	0.10%	-0.04%
Hockey	0.23%	0.25%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	-0.03%
Judo	0.04%	0.06%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	No change
Rugby	0.46%	0.42%	0.37%	0.43%	0.40%	-0.06%
Squash	0.74%	0.61%	0.55%	0.45%	0.45%	-0.29%
Swimming	8.04%	6.81%	6.77%	6.16%	5.83%	-2.21%
Table Tennis	0.17%	0.23%	0.25%	0.22%	0.23%	+0.06%
Tennis	1.12%	1.03%	0.94%	0.97%	0.97%	-0.15%

* Figures relate to the proportion of the population aged 55 or over which plays bowls.

Table 7.3 shows that there has been a downward trend in most sports with swimming being particularly badly affected. The four major pitch sports have also suffered although all have healthy levels of participation at junior and mini level.

7.2.4 Brentwood's Participation in Individual Sports

Sport England uses the Active People Survey data to produce a Sports Profile for every local authority area in England. The most up to date profiles are based on the Active People Survey 7 for 2012/13. According to this profile, the most popular sports in which Brentwood residents participate are listed below, along with the respective county and national figures.

Table 7.4
Most Popular Sports in Brentwood

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Eastern Region</i>	<i>England</i>
Going to the gym	14.6%	10.5%	10.1%	10.9%
Swimming	13.4%	11.3%	11.1%	11.5%
Fitness & conditioning	8.6%	7.2%	6.6%	6.7%
Football	4.0%	- No figure reported	5.8%	6.3%

Source - Sport England. Local Sports Profiles

It is interesting to see that the three highest participant activities are those that can be undertaken on an individual basis and at a time that suits the particular person. Conversely, over 16 participation in the most popular team sport, football, is significantly below the regional and national level.

8 INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

8.1 Introduction

This section examines the supply and demand for indoor sports facilities in Brentwood. It begins with swimming and then looks at dry sports.

8.2 Swimming

Notwithstanding the recent decline in participation, swimming remains the most popular indoor sport across the country as shown in Table 7.3 in the previous section. Table 7.4 shows that swimming participation in the Borough is significantly above that for Essex, the Eastern Region and England as a whole.

8.2.1 Swimming Pools in Brentwood

There are six venues in Brentwood with swimming pools of at least 20 metres in length. These have a total of seven main pools and two learner pools. Table 8.1 lists the pools.

Table 8.1
Swimming Pools in Brentwood

Site Name	Address	Length m	Width m	Area m ²	Comments
Brentwood Centre	Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood	25	12.5	312.5	Pay and play available
Brentwood Centre - learner pool	Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood	16	7.5	120	
Brentwood County High School	Seven Arches Road, Brentwood	27	8	216	Public access limited to lessons
Brentwood School Sports Centre	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	25	12	300	Members only
Brentwood School Sports Centre -learner pool	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	13	7.5	97.5	
Clearview Health & Racquets Club (Indoor)	Little Warley Hall Lane, Brentwood,	25	12	300	Members only
Clearview Health & Racquets Club (Outdoor)	Little Warley Hall Lane, Brentwood,	25	12	300	
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	20	8	160	Public access limited to lessons
St Helens School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	20	10	200	Public access limited to lessons
			Total	2,006	



8.2.2 Swimming Pools - Standards of Provision

This level of provision equates to one main pool per 10,929 people or 26.2 square metres of water space per 1,000 population. Provision in terms of pools per head of population is higher in Brentwood than in all neighbouring authorities and than all but one of CIPFA "nearest neighbour" comparator councils.

8.2.3 Sport England Assessment of Provision

Sport England have developed a numerical analysis system for assessing the supply and demand for facilities including swimming pools. This is known as the Facilities Planning Model assessment system or FPM. Sport England looked at provision in 2014 using the FPM and concluded: -

- *Brentwood appears to have a generous supply of swimming pools, which are well distributed across the Borough.*
- *The generous supply of pools and relative high mobility of residents (due to high car ownership) means Brentwood has a high level of satisfied demand at 96.5% of all demand being met, 75% of which is through usage of its own pools (the remaining satisfied demand being residents travelling outside the Borough to use other nearby pools).*
- *Unmet demand is largely due to residents who do not own a car but live too far away from a pool to be able to walk. This is fairly thinly spread across the Borough but most notable in Shenfield.*

Sport England also pointed out that only the Brentwood Centre offers pay and play access to the general public and is the only venue offering a range of swimming disciplines. They stressed the need to ensure continuation of this services either by upgrading the swimming facilities at the Brentwood Centre which were constructed in 1981 or by a newly built replacement centre.

8.2.4 The Role of the Brentwood Centre

Of these pools only the Brentwood Centre offers pay and play access to the general public. The other pools are available either on a members only basis, e.g. such as Brentwood School and Clearview or through a lessons programme as at Shenfield School and Brentwood County High School. The importance of the Brentwood Centre can be gauged from the fact that it attracts over 150,000 casual swimmers annually.

Notably, the Brentwood Centre has maintained the level of use generated by its swimming pools over the past three years. This is in marked contrast to the picture nationally which has seen in the period to end 2014 a reduction in participation.

The centre hosts a number of swimming clubs: -

- **Brentwood Swimming Club** who have over 100 members. They have nine training sessions per week at the centre.
- **Brentwood Selo Sub-Aqua Club** is also based at the centre and has some 50 members.

- **Brentwood Aquaccess** - a disabled swimming club with over 40 members
- **Fitness in Mind** - a sports club supporting people with mental health difficulties
- **Membership Trends** - Brentwood Swimming Club reports that membership has decreased in recent years in line with the national . Other clubs are experiencing increased demand.

8.2.5 Swimming Pool Assessment of Quality

All pools in the Borough were assessed by a visual, non-technical inspection. The factors taken in consideration were: -

- Water quality
- Changing
- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Disability access
- General Access

Each was rated on a score of 1-5 with 5 being the highest mark. These were then combined into an overall score. These overall marks are listed in Table 8.2. The full assessments are listed in Appendix 13. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

Table 8.2
Quality Assessment of Swimming Pools

Site Name	Quality Score 1-5
Clearview Health & Racquets Club (Indoor)	4.6
Clearview Health & Racquets Club (Outdoor)	4.6
Brentwood School Sports Centre	4.2
Brentwood School Sports Centre - learner pool	4.2
Brentwood Centre	4.0
Brentwood Centre - learner pool	4.0
Shenfield High School	3.4
St Helens School	2.8
Brentwood County High School (BCHS)	2.2

Generally the pools in Brentwood are of a high standard with only the two school pools with lightweight roofs at St. Helens and BCHS being rated as less than good. The two highest standard pools in the Borough at Clearview are also the newest with good standards of both pools and changing. Brentwood School Sports Centre has been recently refurbished. The Brentwood Leisure Trust has applied to Sport England for funding to improve the swimming changing at the Brentwood Centre. They regard this as a priority



8.2.6 Accessibility

There is a good distribution of pools across the Borough although access for pay and play is limited to the Brentwood Centre. Map 8.1 overleaf illustrates this. The green wash on the map shows that all residents are within a 20 min. drive time of a pool with over 90% of the Borough's population within a 20 minute cycle of a swimming pool. Walking access is clearly more restricted.

8.2.7 Comments from Consultees

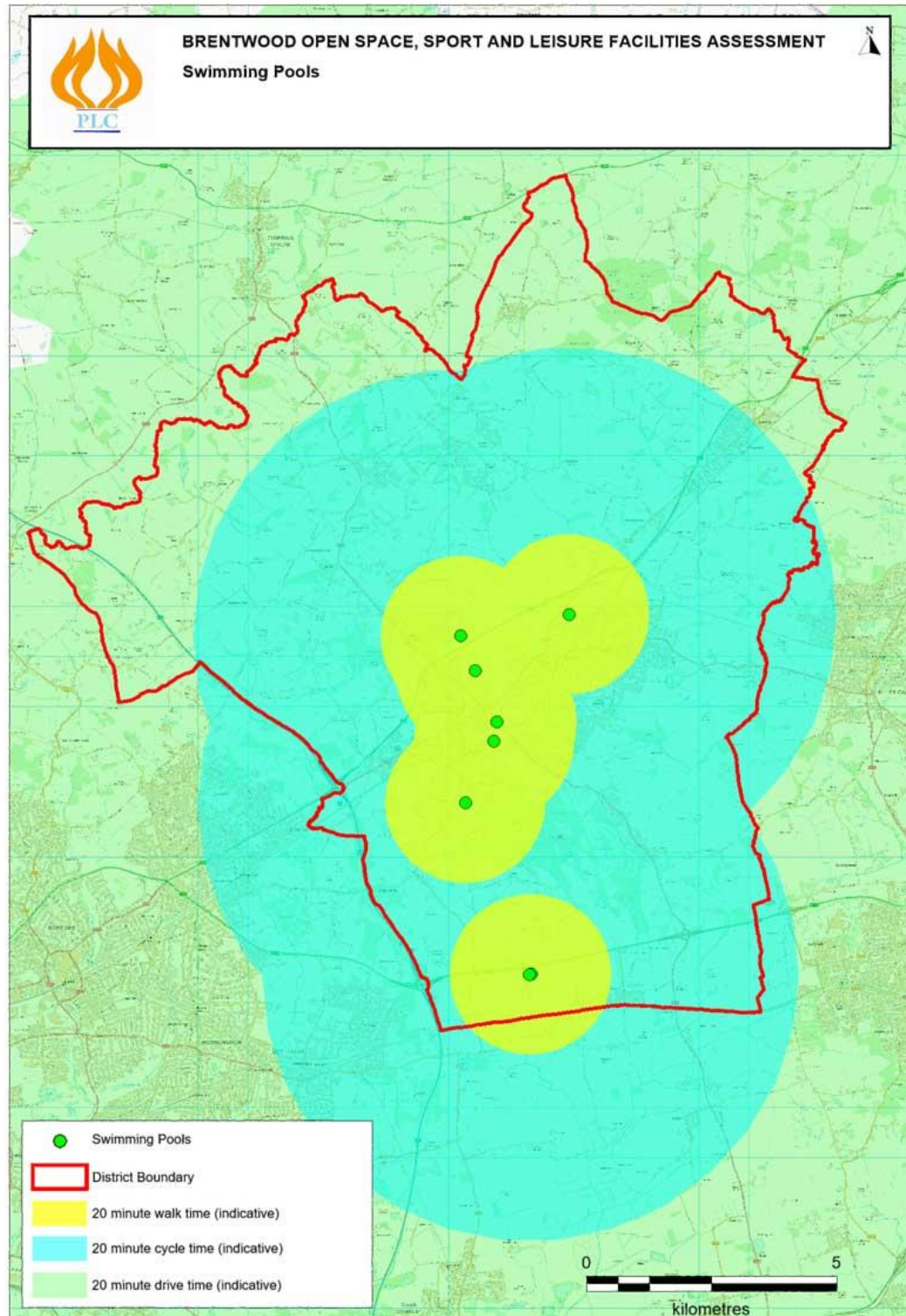
Comments from the operators of pools, the governing body of swimming and local clubs indicate that facilities are operating at or near capacity at peak times. The Brentwood Leisure Trust would like to make more time available for swimming lessons and other operators also report waiting lists.

Sport England stressed the important role of the Brentwood Centre in providing casual swimming access on a pay and play basis. They see continuation of this access as being central to delivery of the Council's health and wellbeing policies and their wider policy of increasing participation especially by young people.

Based on the projected increases in population, there will be an additional 10,000 in the Borough by 2026. This means that there will be a need for an additional 25m indoor swimming pool, required by this time if the present level of provision is to be maintained.

Representatives of local disability groups stressed the importance of the centre to both physical and mental health and praised the work of the centre in this field.

Map 8.1
Travel Time Map for Swimming Pools



8.3 Multi-Purpose Sports Halls

As previously stated, the majority of indoor sport across Britain takes place in multi-purpose sports halls. Typically, these host a range of sports including badminton, basketball, volleyball, cricket nets, five-a-side football, and indoor hockey. In any single sports hall the programming of these activities reflects local patterns of demand.

This assessment looks at "main halls" which are defined as having a minimum of 4 badminton courts. These are typically 33m x 17m. However, the new Sport England guidance is that new halls should be 35m x 20m to allow for increased space between courts and between courts and walls.

8.3.1 Supply of Sports Halls

There are 8 sports halls in Brentwood with a minimum size of 4 badminton courts. Table 8.3 lists the sites. Of these halls seven are on school sites with the Brentwood Centre being the only hall with seven day, year round, day time access.

8.3.2 Examples of Programming in Sports Halls

8.3.2.1 Five a Side Football

Five a side football has traditionally been a mainstay of sports hall programming particularly during the winter months. This has often been to the detriment of other sports competing for programme time. Our consultations show that this remains a key feature of sports hall programming on school sites.

The Brentwood Centre has invested in an outdoor artificial turf pitch to cater for the large demand for five-a-side football. This has allowed the hall to be used for wider range of sports and to accommodate the centre's events programme.

8.3.2.2 Badminton

There are two badminton clubs in the Borough namely the Brentwood Centre Badminton Club and the Hutton All Saints BC. The latter club is the only one affiliated to Badminton England.

8.3.2.3 Basketball

There are two basketball clubs in the Borough

- **Essex Levett Leopards** play in the England Basketball League (EBL) Division One, which is the second tier of British basketball. They have operated out of the Brentwood Centre and local schools for a number of years. They have a playing membership of 120 and social membership of 150



- **Brentwood Fire** is based at the Becket Keys School. Their teams range from National League D4 Senior Men to mixed school year 5 Under 10's.
- **Membership Trends** - clubs report an increased membership in recent years
- **Future Plans** - are to maintain and increase membership and improve playing standards

8.3.2.4 Gymnastics & Trampoline

There is a specialist trampoline centre at Keys Hall, Warley which is the home of the Recoil Trapolining Club. This centre has received support from Sport England's Lottery Fund. In addition there are three gymnastic and trampoline clubs operating out of multi-purpose sports halls in Brentwood. These are:-

- **Brentwood Trampoline Club** - based at Brentwood School Sports Centre
- **Ultima Trampoline Club** - based at the Brentwood Centre
- **GymRox Gymnastics Club** - which operates out of Brentwood County High School, The Brentwood Centre and the Anglo European School, Ingatestone. They have a membership of over 400 and a waiting list of over 100

Membership Trends - demand is high with some clubs unable to cope with demand due to a lack of space.

8.3.2.5 Volleyball

There is one club in the Borough, Brentwood Volleyball Club. It plays in the Essex League out of their base at Becket Keys School. They report that their membership has declined significantly in recent years since they moved to the school from the Brentwood Centre following an increase in charges.

8.3.3 Assessment of Quality for Sports Halls

All sports halls in the Borough were assessed by a visual, non-technical inspection. The factors taken in consideration were: -

- Playing surface
- Changing
- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Disability access
- General Access

Each was rated on a score of 1-5 with 5 being the highest mark. These were then combined into an overall score. These overall marks are listed in Table 8.3. The full assessments are listed in Appendix 13. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

Table 8.3
Sports Halls in Brentwood

Site Name	Address	Bad Crts	Quality Score 1-5
Brentwood School Sports Centre	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	7	4.2
Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School	Queen's Road, Brentwood	4	4.2
Brentwood Centre	Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood	12	3.8
Anglo European School	Willow Green, Ingatestone	4	3.6
St Martin's School	Hanging Hill Lane, Hutton	4	3.6
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	5	3.2
Becket Keys Church Of England Free School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	4	3.0
Brentwood County High School	Seven Arches Road, Brentwood	4	2.6
		44	Ave 3.53

Generally provision is of a high standard with seven of the eight sports halls being rated as good. Brentwood County High School is developing plans to refurbish or replace its sports hall.

8.3.4 Programming and Access

The provision of sports halls in the Borough is analogous to that of swimming pools concerning the importance of the Brentwood Centre. Of these sports halls only the Brentwood Centre makes courts available on a casual, pay and play basis. All other halls are accessible either on a members only or via pre-arranged, block bookings.

Comments made to PLC in the course of this study by providers and potential users indicate that booking access to school sports halls is difficult for a number of reasons: -

- The majority of school halls are operating at near maximum capacity at peak times. For example, Brentwood School, Brentwood County High School and Becket Keys all report utilisation of over 80% of peak times. Anglo European School does have some spare capacity estimating peak usage at 60%.
- The sports hall at Ursuline School has very limited public access due to VAT considerations affecting its construction and funding.
- None of the school sites operates on an open access, dual-use basis. Brentwood School allows casual bookings for members but other schools require block bookings.
- Only Brentwood School has a staffed reception. Other schools rely on telephone bookings and the person responsible is not available full time.
- There is no co-ordinating system by which bookings which cannot be accommodated in one venue can be referred to another.



8.3.5 Sport England Assessment and Comments

By using their Facilities Planning Model assessment system, Sport England commented in 2014 on sports hall provision in Brentwood. They concluded: -

- *The Brentwood Centre is the only public sector leisure centre and this appears to be the best utilised and is most accessible in terms of opening hours. It will be important therefore to retain this facility and ensure it is of a suitable quality. It was built in 1988 and is therefore over 25 years old and does not appear to have been refurbished since construction. This may be a focal issue to address for the local authority.*

During our consultations, Sport England placed further emphasis on ensuring continuation of the services provided at the Brentwood Centre either by refurbishing the Centre or by a newly built facility providing pay and play access to facilities for swimming, fitness and a range of indoor sports in a large sports hall. Sport England stressed the linkage between such a facility and the national strategies to increase physical activity and to the Council's own Health and Wellbeing strategy.

8.3.6 Sports Halls - Standards of Provision

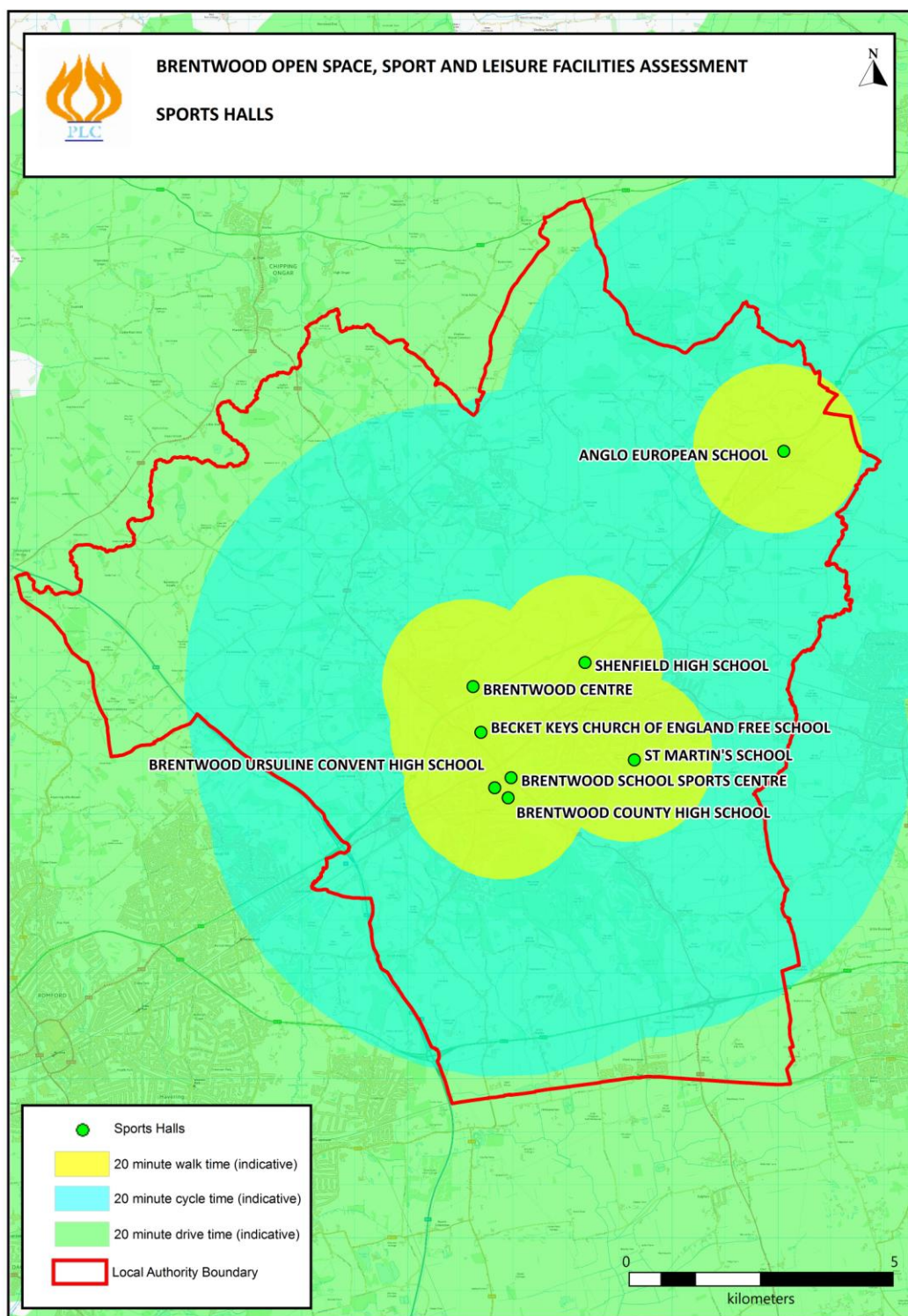
This level of provision equates to one sports hall per 9,563 people or one badminton court per 1,739 people or 82.3 square metres per 1,000 population.

The number of sports halls per 1,000 of population is higher than in all neighbouring authorities.

8.3.7 Accessibility

Seven of the eight sports halls are in the Brentwood urban area with the eighth at Anglo European School in Ingatestone in the north of the Borough. This distribution is shown on the map overleaf. The green wash shows that all Borough residents are within a 20 minute drive time of a sports hall and over 95% of the Borough's population is also within a 20 minute cycle ride of a sports hall. Access by foot is far more limited.

Map 8.2 Travel Time Maps - Sports Halls



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8.4 Specialist Indoor Facilities

8.4.1 Health and Fitness

Participation in health and fitness activities "going to the gym" is the most popular physical activity in Brentwood. (Table 7.4). Some 14.6% of people aged over 16 take part at least once a week which suggests attendances of around 11,100 per week. To meet this demand, there are ten health and fitness gyms of various sizes in the Borough.

During the course of this study an eleventh venue, Morton's Gym in Brentwood High Street, closed down and the LA Fitness Centre at Warley changed ownership with considerable adverse reaction from members. This reflects the volatile nature of the market with participants being highly mobile between sites. No membership data is available as proprietors regard this as commercially sensitive.

There are 10 health and fitness clubs of varying types in the Borough. Of these only the Brentwood Centre offers the ability to pay and play. All others are members only. Table 8.4 lists these facilities

8.4.1.1 Standards of Provision for Health & Fitness

These clubs provide a per capita standard of provision of one club per 7,650 people.

8.4.1.2 Quality of Health and Facilities Clubs

All health and fitness clubs in the Borough were assessed by a visual, non-technical inspection. The factors taken in consideration were: -

- Quality of the exercise spaces and equipment
- Changing
- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Disability access
- General Access

Each was rated on a score of 1-5 with 5 being the highest mark. These were then combined into an overall score. These overall marks are listed in Table 8.4. The full assessments are listed in Appendix 13. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, red a poor quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

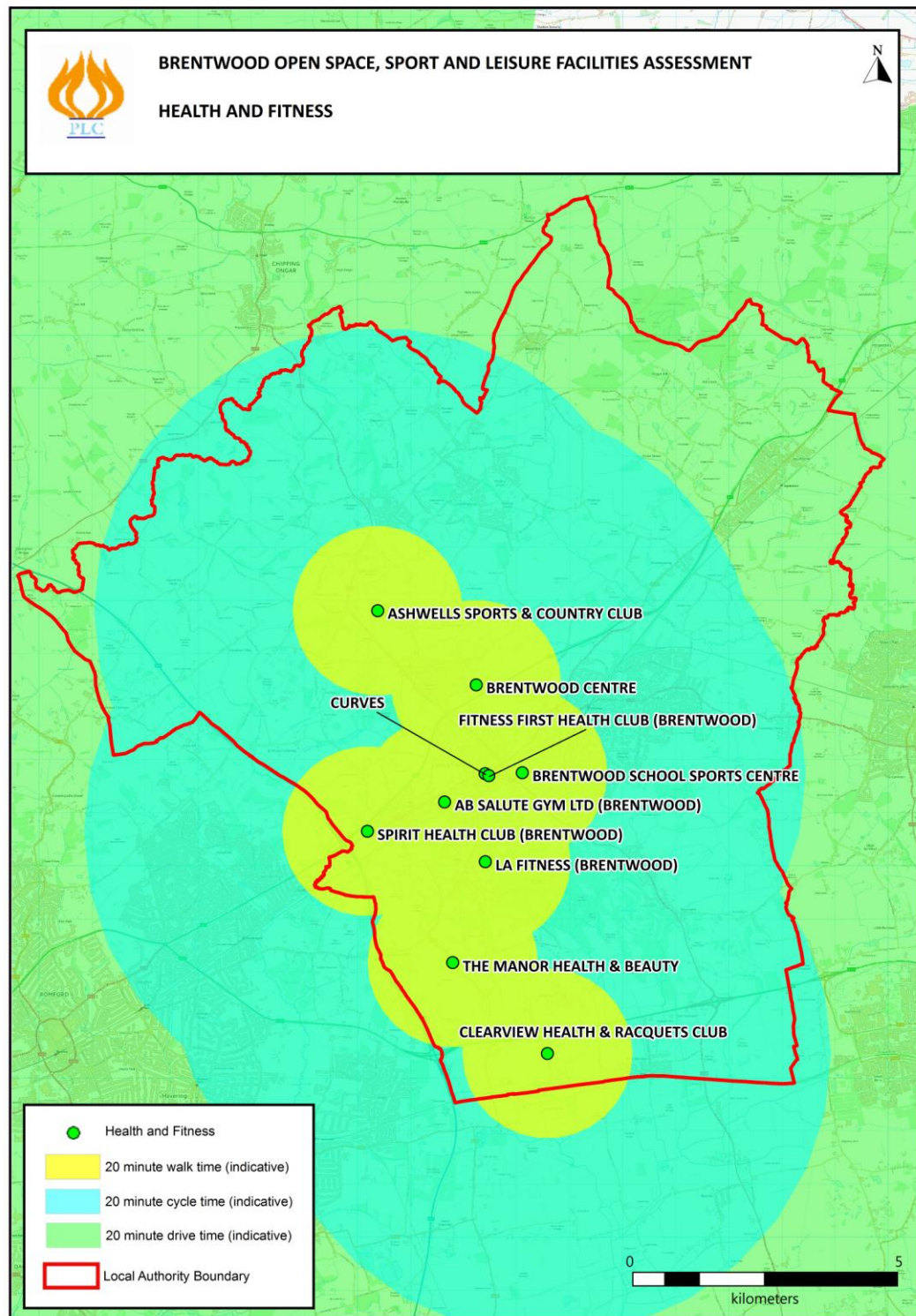
Table 8.4
Health and Fitness Clubs in Brentwood

Site Name	Address	Stations	Quality Score 1-5	Comments
Clearview Health & Racquets Club	Little Warley Hall Lane, Brentwood	110	4.3	High quality - members only
Brentwood Centre	Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood	80	4.0	Pay and play or membership
Brentwood School Sports Centre	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	40	4.0	Members only
LA Fitness (Brentwood)	Chindits Lane, Warley	44	4.0	Members only
Ashwells Sports & Country Club	Ashwells Road, Brentwood	36	3.8	Members only
Fitness First Health Club (Brentwood)	The Baytree Centre, Brentwood	55	3.5	Members only
Spirit Health Club (Brentwood)	Holiday Inn, Brook St, Brentwood	16	3.0	Members and hotel guests.
Ab Salute Gym Ltd (Brentwood)	Unit F3 Bluegate Park, Hubert Road, Brentwood	85	2.5	Emphasis on body building - members only
Curves	54 High Street, Brentwood	12	2.0	Women only
The Manor Health & Beauty	Great Warley Street, Warley	10	1.8	Members and hotel guests - very small

8.4.1.3 Accessibility

Health and Fitness clubs are well distributed across the Borough with all residents being within a 20 minute drive of a club as shown in Map 8.3

Map 8.3 Health & Fitness Clubs



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8.4.2 Gymnastics and Trampolining

There is a specialist trampoline centre at Keys Hall in Warley run by the Recoil Trampoline Club. This has been fitted out thanks to a Sport England grant. This is a good quality facility rated at 4 out of 5.

Table 8.5
Trampoline Centre in Brentwood

Site Name	Address	Quality Score 1-5
Recoil Trampoline Club	Keys Hall Eagle Way, Warley, Essex CM13 3BP	4

There is no specialist gymnastics centre in Brentwood. However, there is a very high standard facility at the Basildon Sports Village which is equipped with purpose build landing pits, tumbling harnesses and other training facilities. However, Brentwood gymnasts do have comparatively easy access to the centre at Basildon Sports Village. This is considered to meet the needs of all gymnasts in the area, therefore, England Gymnastics do not see a need for a specialist centre in Brentwood.

8.4.3 Indoor Bowls Centres

There is a single indoor centre at Herongate.

Table 8.6
Indoor Bowls Centre

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Rinks	Quality
Stonyhill Bowls Club	Brentwood Road, Herongate	CM13 3LW	7	4

This is a good quality facility with an overall rating of 4 out of 5.

The seven rinks at this site mean that the overall standard of provision is one rink per 10.928 people.

8.4.4 Indoor Tennis

There is a single indoor tennis centre, the Clearview Health and Racquets Club in Little Warley.

Table 8.7
Indoor Tennis Centre

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Courts	Quality
Clearview Health & Racquets Club	Little Warley Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM13 3EN	7	4.3

The centre has 6 indoor courts giving a provision standard of one court per 12,750 people.

All aspects of the club are rated as good. However, the location of the club means that those in the north and west of the Borough lie outside a 20 minute drive.

8.4.5 Martial Arts

There are eleven martial arts clubs in the Borough as follows: -

Table 8.8
Martial Arts Clubs in Brentwood

Club	Base
Kazen Kai Martial Arts Club	A purpose built dojo at Hutton Poplars
Academy of Shohei Ryu Karate	Brentwood School
Akitats Judo Club	St. Martins School
Essex Submission Wrestling	Bishops Hall
Fit West Essex	Brentwood Centre
Hutton & District Ju-Jitsu Club	St. Martins School
McAllister academy of martial arts	Brentwood Centre
Meridian Kung Fu Club	South Weald Parish Hall
Kernow Karate Club	Ingatestone Junior School
Spartan Taekwondo Do	Brentwood Centre
Team Wakarishin, Ju Jitsu	Brentwood Centre

Membership trends are variable across the clubs

The purpose build dojo the Kazen Kai Martial Arts Centre in Hutton Poplars is a good quality facility rated as 4 out of 5.

Table 8.8
Martial Arts Centre

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Quality 1-5
Kazen Kai Martial Arts Centre	Bannister Drive, Hutton Poplars.	CM13 1YX	4

8.4.6 Squash

There are three squash clubs listed in Brentwood namely

- **Brentwood Centre Squash Club** - based at the Brentwood Centre
- **LA Fitness Squash Club** - operating from the LA Fitness Club in Warley
- **Old Brentwoods Squash Club** - based at the Society of Old Brentwoods club in Ashwells



Memberships have declined from the peak days but are now said by the governing body to have bottomed out.

There are 11 squash courts in the borough as listed in Table 8.9

8.4.6.1 Standards of Provision for Squash

The current standard of provision is one court per 6,955 people. this is a higher standard of provision than in all neighbouring areas.

8.4.6.2 Quality of Squash Courts

All courts in the Borough were assessed by a visual, non-technical inspection. They were given an overall rating as follows. This was based on the quality of the court and associated changing: -

Table 8.9
Squash Courts in Brentwood

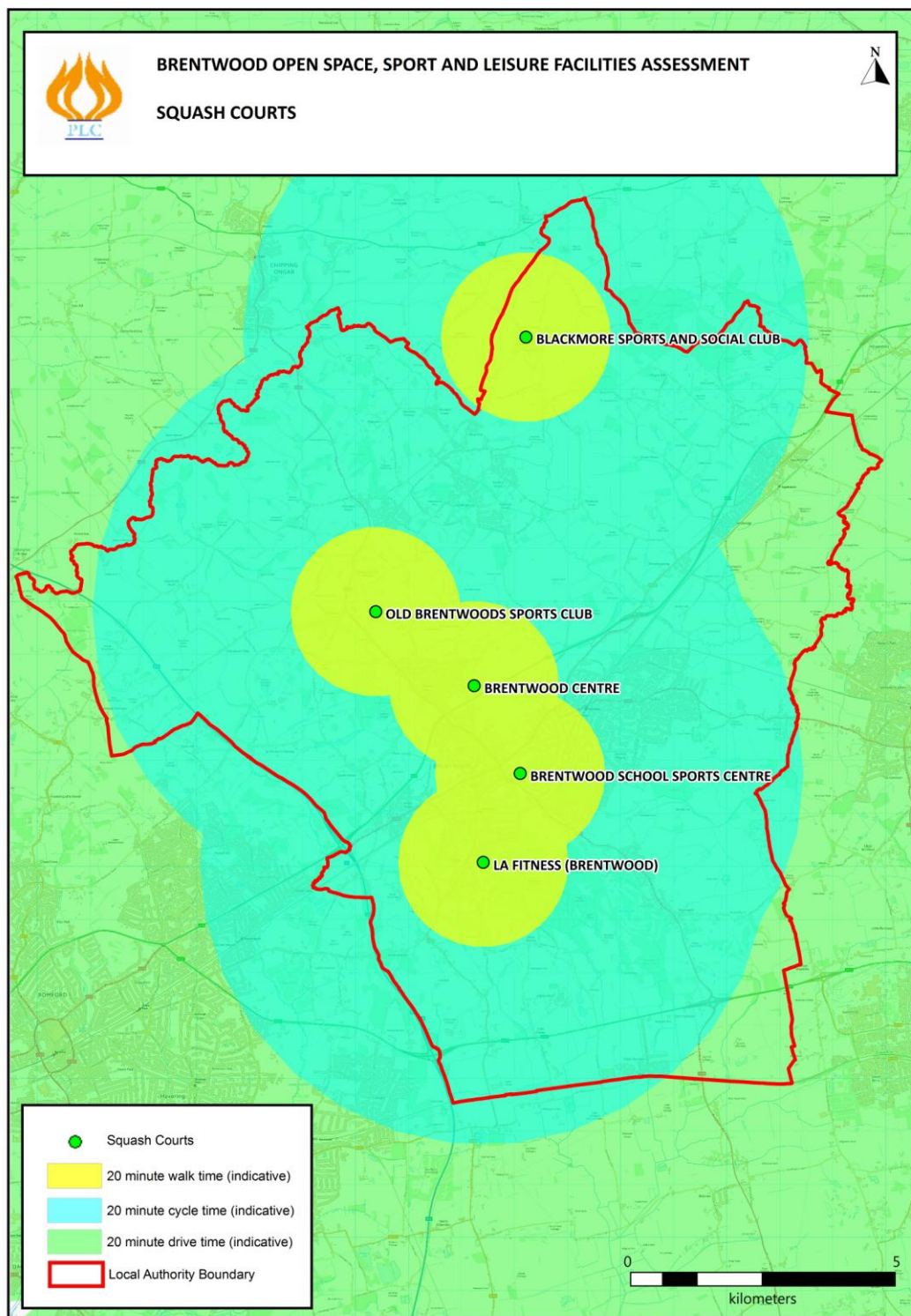
Site Name	Address	Postcode	Courts	Quality 1-5
Brentwood School Sports Centre	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	4	5
Blackmore Sports And Social Club	Nine Ashes Rd, Blackmore	CM4 0QW	1	4
Brentwood Centre	Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood	CM15 9NN	2	4
LA Fitness (Brentwood)	Chindits Lane, Warley	CM14 5LF	2	4
Old Brentwoods Sports Club	Ashwells Road, Brentwood	CM15 9SE	2	3
		Total	11	Ave 4

All courts are rated as good. The highest rating for the Brentwood School Sports Centre reflects their provision of glass backed courts.

8.4.7 Accessibility

Squash courts are reasonably distributed across the Borough with all residents being inside a 20 minute drive time for a court.

Map 8.4
Squash Courts



8.4.8 Table Tennis

There are four table tennis clubs in Brentwood as follows: -

Table 8.10
Table Tennis Clubs in Brentwood

Club Name	Teams	Venue
Brentwood	4	Tipps Cross Remembrance Centre
Brentwood Hard	1	Brentwood Hard Court Tennis Club
Mountnessing	4	St. Johns Church Hall
St. Joseph's	1	St. Joseph's Church Hall

Two clubs, Hutton and Herongate have folded in recent years. None of the table tennis clubs in Brentwood has access to purpose built or permanent facilities. However, the NGB has not identified a need for any new facilities.

8.5 Overview of Indoor Sports Facilities

Sports participation rates are significantly above average for Essex, the Eastern Region and England as a whole. This demand is reflected, and in part due to, the fact that Brentwood's residents enjoy good provision of indoor sports facilities in terms of quantity. Quality standards are also high although access for people with disabilities is a weakness at some venues. There is a mixed economy of provision by the public, private, not for profit and educational sectors with schools being particularly important for sports halls.

All residents live within an easy drive time of a swimming pool, sports hall or health and fitness club and these are complemented by a range of other indoor facilities for bowls, tennis, squash, trampoline and martial arts. None of our consultees from the governing bodies of sport or other umbrella organisations have identified needs for additional facilities. The level of provision is generally above those in neighbouring and comparable local authorities.

However, some local consultees have spoken of the difficulty of obtaining sports hall bookings at peak times and predominance of school sports halls means that there is only one sports hall available during weekdays. There is no co-ordination of programming between the venues.

There is evidence of waiting lists for swimming lessons and all swimming clubs are seeking additional time.

Pay and play access for swimming, sports hall bookings and health & fitness is available only at the Brentwood Centre. Securing the future of this aspect of service is the major issue facing indoor sport in Brentwood and is discussed in detail in Section 11 of this report.

8.6 Future Provision for Indoor Sport

There is no evidence of a need for additional indoor sports facilities in the short to medium (1 to 7 years) term. Some facilities such as the sports hall at Brentwood County High School are in need of refurbishment.

In the longer term (7 to 10 years) the projected population growth of 870 people per year, could bring demand for additional facilities if current numerical standards are to be maintained. These are summarised in the following table. Given the timescales involved, these figures will need to be confirmed.

Table 8.11
Minimum Future Standards of Provision for Indoor Sport

Facility	Number	Current Standard of Provision	Future Requirements
Sports Halls	8 Halls 44 Badminton Courts	1 per 9,563 people 1 per 1,739 people	An additional 4 badminton court sports hall will be required by 2026 in addition to the current level of provision
Swimming Pools	7 pools 2,006 sq. m	1 per 10,929 people 26.2 per 1,000 people	An additional 25m indoor swimming pool will be required by 2027 in addition to the current level of provision.
Health & Fitness	10 clubs	1 per 7,650 adults	An addition club will be expected by 2023.
Squash Courts	11 courts	1 per 6,955 people	The spare capacity at existing courts will meet the anticipated demand
Indoor Tennis	1 venue 6 courts	1 per 75,600 people 1 per 12,750 people	The new population will not bring sufficient new demand for a new facility.
Indoor Bowls	1 venue 7 rinks	1 per 75,600 people 1 per 10,929 people	The new population will not bring sufficient new demand for a new facility.

We recommend that the Council adopt these minimum standards.

8.6.1 Sport England Facilities Calculator

The figures in table 8.11 are consistent with those generated by the Sport England Facilities Calculator tool which is part of their on-line Active Places Power system. The Facilities Calculator uses the current demographics of an area to measure what additional facilities would be required by a given increase in population. The Calculator covers the large built facility types of swimming pools, sports halls, artificial grass pitches and indoor bowls centres.

Based on the projected increase of 13,020, the increase in indoor facilities required are calculated as: -

Table 8.12
Sport England Facilities Calculator
Estimates of Required Additional Facilities to Meet Additional Needs of
Population Growth of 13,020

Facility	Additional Area	Additional Facilities
Sports Halls	3.91 badminton courts	1 four court hall
Swimming Pool	135 m ² or 2.54 lanes	0.64 pools rounded to 1 pool
Indoor Bowls	1 rink	0.15 bowling centre rounded to no additional facilities needed

9 SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR CRICKET

9.1 Sports Pitch Assessments - An Overview

The following sections 9 to 12 look at the provision of pitches for the five main pitch sports cricket, football, hockey (via the provision of artificial turf pitches), rugby league and rugby union. These are covered by Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) methodology. The quality assessments are based on the standard criteria laid out in the PPS.

These sections look at the demand for these sports in the Borough. The demand is "real" demand insofar as it reflects what people actually do at the moment. Where appropriate, comments are made on hidden or latent demand which may be frustrated by such factors as the lack of facilities and difficulties of access.

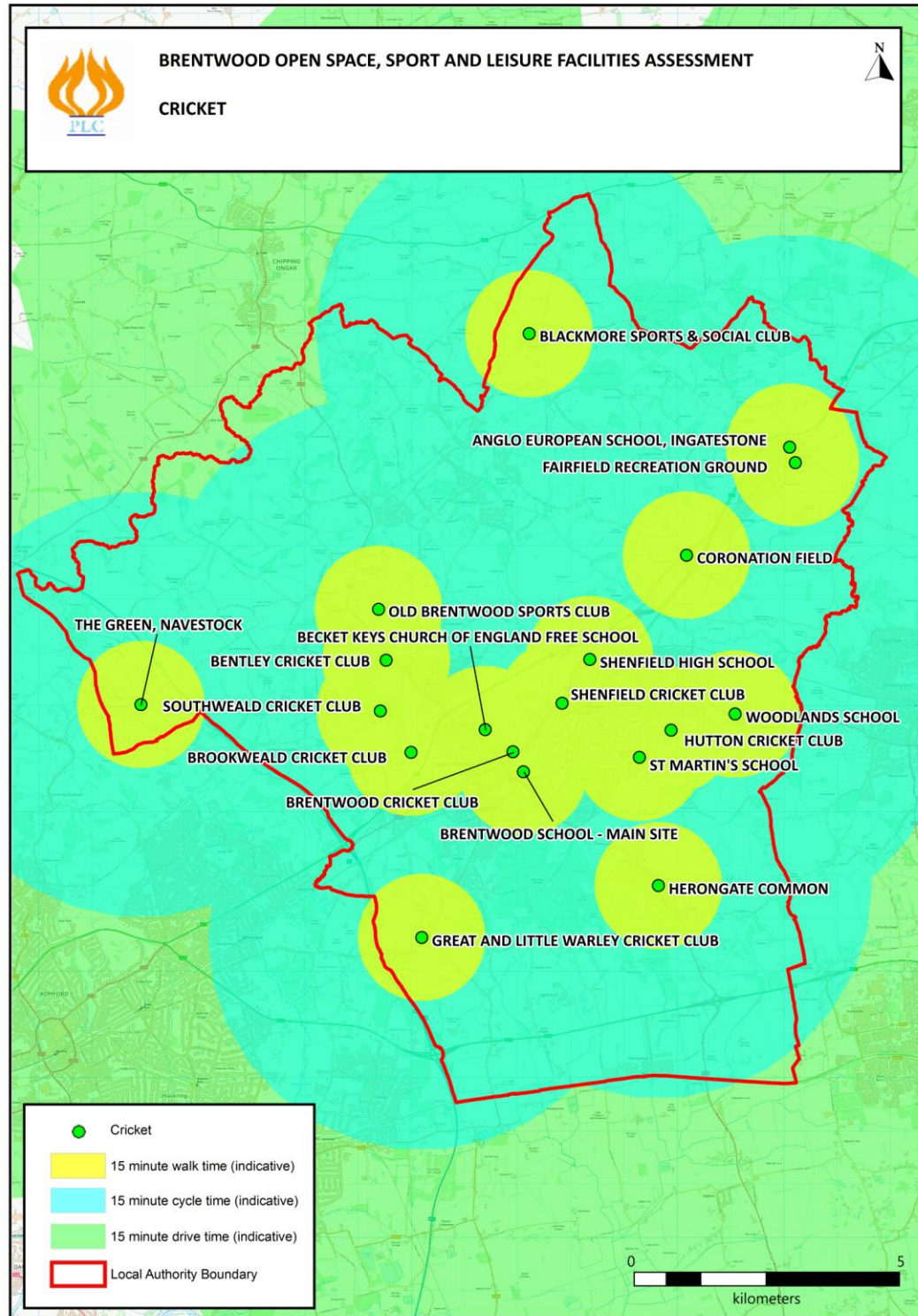
9.2 Supply of Cricket Pitches

There are 20 club and school cricket venues in Brentwood with a total of 24 pitches, 213 grass wickets and five synthetic wickets. Of these venues 15 are regularly used for competitive play, four school sites are available but not used and one school site is not available for community use. All pitches are on club or school sites. In the rural areas several of these club grounds are owned by parish councils but these are not available for public bookings. There are no cricket facilities in BBC public parks or recreation grounds.

9.3 Access to Cricket Clubs

As can be seen from Map 9.1 cricket clubs are well spread across the Borough with all residents living within a 15 minute drive of a cricket site.

Map 9.1 Cricket Clubs



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9.4 Cricket - Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision for available and used cricket pitches is one ground per 3,800 people. On average each cricket ground covers an area of 1.1 hectares giving a total area of 22 hectares or 0.28 hectares per 1,000 population.

9.5 Quality Assessment

The overall standard of cricket grounds in the Borough is high. Eight of 20 grounds have wickets rated as "good" with 11 rated as "standard". Only one is rated as poor. Outfield quality is slightly lower. Changing rooms at 19 of the 20 grounds are good (11) or standard (8) with only one ground having no changing.

Net facilities are the lowest rated factor.

Tables 9.1 to 9.3 lists the grounds and the results of the quality assessments. For ease of reading these are colour coded with green showing good facilities, amber indicating standard facilities and red the poor sites.

9.6 Calculation of Supply for Cricket

The ECB calculate that each "good" grass cricket wicket can be played on 5 times per season, a "standard" wicket four times per season and a "poor" wicket three times. They estimate that the carrying capacity of a synthetic wicket is 35 games per season.

Based on these figures we calculate that the annual capacity for those grounds currently in use is 818 games per season. The basis for this calculation is shown in Appendix 14. In addition to this figure there is an additional capacity of 140 games per season on the synthetic turf pitches at the schools which are available but not used by clubs.

Table 9.1 - Cricket Facilities Available and Used by the Community

Site Name	Site Address	Postcode	Wickets		Quality Assessments			
			Grass	Synth	Wickets	Outfield	Nets	Changing
Bentley Cricket Club - Pitch 1	Coxtie Green Rd, Brentwood	CM14 5PN	10		Good	Good	Good	Good
Bentley Cricket Club - Pitch 2	Coxtie Green Rd, Brentwood	CM14 5PN	6		Good	Good	Good	Good
Brentwood Cricket Club	County Ground, Shenfield Road	CM15 8AJ	13		Good	Good	Good	Good
Hutton Cricket Club - Pitch 1	Polo Field, Hall Green Lane, Hutton	CM13 2QT	14		Good	Good	Good	Good
Hutton Cricket Club - Pitch 2	Polo Field, Hall Green Lane, Hutton	CM13 2QT	12		Good	Good	Good	Good
Old Brentwood Sports Club - Pitch 1	Ashwells Rd, Brentwood	CM15 9SE	12		Good	Good	None	Good
Blackmore Sports & Social Club	Nine Ashes Road, Blackmore	CM4 0QW	10		Good	Standard	None	Good
Shenfield Cricket Club - Pitch 1	Courage PF, Chelmsford Road	CM15 8RQ	12		Good	Good	Poor	Good
Brentwood School - Shenfield Road	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	5		Standard	Standard	None	Good
Brookweald Cricket Club	Weald Rd, Brentwood	CM14 5QF	8		Standard	Standard	None	Standard
Coronation Field, Mountnessing	Roman Road, Mountnessing	CM15 0UG	10		Standard	Standard	None	Standard
Fairfield Recreation Ground, Ingatestone	High Street, Ingatestone	CM4 9ER	8		Standard	Standard	None	Standard
Herongate CC (Herongate Common)	Brentwood Road, Herongate	CM13 3NY	10		Standard	Standard	Poor	Standard
The Green, Navestock	The Green, Navestock	CM14 5SU	11		Standard	Standard	Poor	Standard
Old Brentwood Sports Club - Pitch 2	Ashwells Rd, Brentwood	CM15 9SE		1	Standard	Standard	None	Good
Shenfield Cricket Club - Pitch 2	Courage PF, Chelmsford Road	CM15 8RQ	5		Standard	Poor	Poor	Good
Southweald Cricket Club - Pitch 1	Sandpit Lane, Brentwood	CM14 5QE	8		Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Southweald Cricket Club - Pitch 2 (jun)	Sandpit Lane, Brentwood	CM14 5QE	4		Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Woodlands School	428 Rayleigh Rd, Brentwood	CM13 1SD	5		Standard	Poor	None	None
Great and Little Warley Cricket Club	Warley, Road, Great Warley	CM13 3HX	8		Poor	Poor	None	Standard
TOTALS			167	1				

Table 9.2
School Cricket Facilities Available But Not Used by the Community

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	Wickets		Quality Assessments			
			Grass	Synth	Wickets	Outfield	Nets	Changing
Anglo European School, Ingatestone	Willow Green, Ingatestone	CM4 0DJ		1	Standard	Poor	None	Standard
Becket Keys Church Of England Free School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9DA		1	Standard	Poor	None	Standard
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8RY		1	Standard	Poor	None	Standard
St Martin's School	Hanging Hill Lane, Hutton	CM13 2HG		1	Standard	Poor	None	Standard

Table 9.3
School Cricket Facilities Not to the Community

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	Wickets		Quality Assessments			
			Grass	Synth	Wickets	Outfield	Nets	Changing
Brentwood School	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	24		Good	Good	Good	Good

9.7 Demand for Cricket Pitches

The data on cricket below has been compiled in consultation with the Essex County Cricket Board (ECCB) and through the clubs survey. Table 9.4 below shows that there are 13 clubs playing in the Borough. They have a total of 97 teams; 47 adult and 50 junior teams.

Despite the national trend of falling participation, the ECCB regards Brentwood as an area of highly stable demand. In recent years only one club in Brentwood has declined in the number of adult teams.

Table 9.4
Cricket Clubs in Brentwood

Club	Home Ground(s)	Adult teams	Youth Teams	Totals
Bentley	Bentley CC	4	10	14
Brentwood	Brentwood CC, Brentwood School Back Pitch	5	14	19
Brookweald	Brookweald CC	2		2
Great & Little Warley	Great & Little Warley CC	1		1
Herongate	Herongate Common	1	3	4
Hutton	Hutton CC; Woodlands School	8	11	19
Ingatestone	Fairfield Recreation Ground	4	1	5
Mountnessing	Coronation Field	1		1
Navestock	The Green, Navestock	3	2	5
Old Brentwoods	Old Brentwoods CC	4	1	5
Shenfield	Shenfield CC	6	2	8
South Weald	South Weald CC	3	3	6
Willowherbs	Blackmore Sports & Social Club	5	3	8
TOTALS		47	50	97

9.8 Cricket Club Survey

With the assistance of the Essex County Cricket Board we carried out a survey of cricket clubs in Brentwood. Ten clubs responded representing over 80% of the teams in the Borough. The key findings as they relate to demand were: -

- **Membership Trends** - all but one club (90%) reported that membership had increased in the last five years. At the other club, membership was static.
- **Future Plans** - Eight of the clubs (80%) who responded plan to increase membership in coming years. The other two plan to remain static.

- **Availability of Facilities** - One club reported that its development is constrained by a lack of outdoor facilities. Four clubs (40%) pointed to a lack of indoor training facilities.
- **Quality of Facilities** - nine of the ten clubs (90%) rated the overall quality of facilities as "good" the other was rated as "acceptable".
- **Quality of Changing** - 60% rated their changing as good, 40% as acceptable.
- **Quality of Female Changing** - this rated as poor or unacceptable by five clubs (50%)
- **Future Plans** - two clubs, Hutton and Navestock are looking to develop indoor training facilities on their club sites. Hutton are seeking to increase capacity of their squares by adding additional wickets. Shenfield have recently been granted planning permission to improve their practice nets and are working with BBC to implement this scheme.

9.8.1 Match & Training Demand

This 97 teams listed in Table 9.4 equates to a weekly demand in season for pitches for 49 matches plus additional capacity for training.

9.8.2 Educational Demand

The approach to cricket and the number and quality of facilities at secondary schools varies greatly across the Borough. Two schools use local club facilities to provide good quality grass wickets for inter-school competitions.

9.8.3 Casual Demand

Our consultations with pitch providers indicates that there is very little, if any, demand for casual or one-off bookings for unaffiliated or occasional teams.

9.9 Numerical Calculation of Demand for Cricket

The ECB bases its calculation of demand for cricket wickets by assuming a 20 week season for both junior and senior cricket. It assumes that in each week a senior team will play 0.5 games on a wicket per week i.e. it will play the same number of home and away games. To allow for the fact that a junior side will inflict lighter wear and tear on a wicket this figure is reduced to 0.36 games per week.

Based on these assumptions and the number of teams set out in table 9.4, we calculate that there is a demand for 833 games per year. The basis for this calculation is shown in Appendix 14.

9.10 Comparison of Supply and Demand for Outdoor Cricket

In simple numerical terms there is a supply of 818 games per year and a demand for 833, a small overall deficit of 15 games per season. However, this summary calculation is

somewhat simplistic and hides the uneven spread of supply and demand shown in Table 9.5.

This shows that the larger clubs in the area and particularly those with large youth sections such as Bentley and Brentwood are having to use their wickets above the optimum level to ensure for long term sustainability. It is the smaller clubs such as Mountnessing which have a notional surplus. Whilst the overall picture shows a small surplus of 2%, the nature of club cricket means it is unrealistic to transfer demand from, say, Bentley to Mountnessing on a regular basis.

In our consultations with the clubs only one club, Hutton, spoke of plans to build additional wickets at their home ground. None of the clubs spoke of having particular difficulty in providing wickets to fulfil fixtures and all spoke of their ability to absorb future anticipated demand.

This may be the clubs being over-optimistic about the quality of their facilities or it may be that the quality of local groundsmanship is such that pitches can cope with the calculated demand better than the ECB model allows.

What is clear from the calculations is that the Essex Board and the clubs in the Central District Board which includes Brentwood must keep a watch on the quality of local cricket facilities and work with clubs to ensure sufficient capacity to meet future demand.

9.11 Scenario Testing - Access to Unsecured Pitches

Of the 15 cricket venues currently in use in Brentwood the majority are available to their home club on a secure basis. Of the remainder, the following clubs have unsecured access to facilities as listed

- Willowherbs CC at Blackmore Sports & Social Club
- Brentwood CC at Brentwood School, Shenfield Road
- Mountnessing CC at Coronation Field, Mountnessing
- Ingatestone CC at Fairfield Recreation Ground, Ingatestone
- Navestock CC at The Green, Navestock.
- Hutton CC at Woodlands School

This is not to say that there is imminent danger of these facilities being lost, but that the clubs concerned do not have long leases or own the freeholds of these grounds.

Should these grounds be lost to cricket, it would result in a loss of 224 match equivalents per season. The deficit would then rise to 239 match equivalents per season. This loss equates to some 27% of the overall supply. The ECCB, clubs and landlords should work to secure long term access to these cricket grounds.

Table 9.5
Supply and Demand for Cricket

SUPPLY					DEMAND				
Site Name	Grass Wkts	Synth Wkts	Grass Pitch Quality	Total Seasonal Site Capacity	Site Users	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Total Site Demand	Supply/ Demand
Bentley Cricket Club - Pitch 1	10		Good	80	Bentley CC	2	5	112	-32
Bentley Cricket Club - Pitch 2	6		Good		Bentley CC	2	5		
Blackmore Sports & Social Club	10		Good	50	Willowherbs	5	3	71.6	-21.6
Brentwood Cricket Club	13		Good	65	Brentwood CC	3	7	80.4	-15.4
Brentwood School - Shenfield Road	5		Standard	20	Brentwood CC	2	7	70.4	-50.4
Brookweald Cricket Club	8		Good	40	Brookweald CC	2		20	20
Coronation Field	10		Good	50	Mountnessing CC	1		10	40
Fairfield Recreation Ground	8		Good	40	Ingatestone CC	4		40	0
Great and Little Warley Cricket Club	8		Poor	24	Ardleigh Green	1		10	14
Herongate Common	10		Standard	40	Herongate CC	1	3	31.6	8.4
Hutton Cricket Club - Pitch 1	14		Good	130	Hutton CC	4	4	134.8	-4.8
Hutton Cricket Club - Pitch 2	12		Good		Hutton CC	3	5		
The Green, Navestock	11		Standard	44	Navestock	3	2	44.4	-0.4
Old Brentwood - Pitch 1	12		Good	95	Old Brentwoods	2		47.2	47.8
Old Brentwood - Pitch 2		1	Good		Old Brentwoods	2	1		
Shenfield Cricket Club - Pitch 1	12		Good	80	Shenfield CC	3	2	84.4	-4.4
Shenfield Cricket Club - Pitch 2	5		Standard		Shenfield CC	4			
Southweald Cricket Club	8		Good	40	Southweald CC	3	3	51.6	-11.6
Woodlands School	5		Standard	20	Hutton CC	1	2	24.4	-4.4
TOTALS	167	1		818		48	49	832.8	-14.8

9.12 Additional Grass Pitch Demand from Population Growth.

As previously mentioned in Table 2.2 Brentwood's population is set to grow from the current level of 76,500 to 89,550 over the next 15 years. This is an overall increase of 17%. However this increase will not be spread uniformly across the age ranges. The young population between 0 and 14 years will grow by 18%, the youth and early adult age range will decrease by 0.5% and the 25-44 age group will increase by 10%. The largest increase will be in the number of people over the age of 65 which will go up by 46%.

In terms of demand for cricket, this could mean an increase in the requirement for outdoor pitches. The usual method of calculation is to calculate a factor known as the "Team Generation Rate." This is the number of people in an age range currently required in Brentwood to support a team. That is, if the adult male population of an area is 10,000 and there are eight men's teams the TGR is 1,250. Applying this figure to any projected population growth gives the number of additional teams. We calculate that the team generation rate is currently one team per 309 adult males and one team per 4,500 adult females. This means that the increased demand from the projected population growth is for four male team or access to two additional wickets per week. The increased for female and youth cricket are vanishingly small.

We do not see a need for additional outdoor cricket pitches to be constructed as this demand can be absorbed within current clubs.

9.13 Provision of Practice Nets and Indoor Cricket Facilities

Additional cricket facilities are needed, as evidenced by our consultations and the Essex County Facilities Strategy, for indoor nets and indoor cricket and outside practice nets. Ten of the venues list in Table 9.1 have either no nets or poor facilities.

Several of the local school sports halls have indoor nets and offer both net practice and indoor cricket as part of their programmes. For example, the Anglo European School in Ingatestone has had a grant from the ECCB for the provision of new nets and Shenfield School has a winter programme of junior indoor leagues. However, none of the sports halls has a specialist cricket surface instead using heavy rubber matting which is cumbersome and time consuming to set out. In addition, cricket is in competition with other sports for programme time. The large number of clubs in the area and the likely loss of the indoor facilities at the County Ground in Chelmsford reinforces the ECCB view of the need for purpose built indoor cricket facilities. Two clubs, Hutton and Navestock, are seeking to build indoor practice facilities.

We recommend that the Council work in partnership with the Essex County Cricket Board to support those local clubs wishing to develop indoor facilities and outdoor nets.

10 SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR FOOTBALL

10.1 Overview

Football is the most widely played of pitch sports in the country and this is reflected in Brentwood. Pitches are provided by the Borough Council, parish councils and schools. There are a number of private grounds. In recent years, the Football Association has introduced a system whereby players at the various age groups play in teams with fewer than 11 players and on smaller pitches than in the traditional 11 a side game. These pitch sizes are: - .

Table 10.1
Grass Pitch Dimensions for Football

Pitch Type	Pitch length	Pitch width	Size including run-offs
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football (9v9)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer (7v7)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer (5v5)	37m	27m	43m x 33m

10.2 Supply of Adult Football Pitches

There are 37 adult football pitches at 21 venues in Brentwood which are available to the community and which are used by local clubs. These are listed in Table 10.2 below. In addition there are pitches at Brentwood School not available to the community.

10.3 Adult Football - Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision for available and used adult football pitches is one pitch per 2,125 people. Based on a standard pitch and run off size of 0.75 hectares this is the equivalent of a total of 26.96 hectares or 0.35 hectares per 1,000 people.

10.4 Adult Football - Quality Assessment

These pitches were assessed using the Football Association's standard criteria which looks at the quality of the playing surface, changing accommodation for players and officials and ancillary facilities such as floodlights and medical rooms. These assessments were arrived at via non-technical visual inspections and moderated through the club surveys and consultations. These latter research methods allowed us to take into account factors such as the level of postponements which are not available through the site visits only. These quality assessments are recorded in Table 10.2. For ease of reading these



have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, red a poor quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

10.5 Poor Drainage and Poor Changing at Many Sites

It can be seen from Table 10.2 that the majority of adult football pitches and associated changing facilities in Brentwood have been rated as poor. This means that adult footballers do not enjoy an acceptable standard of provision in Brentwood.

This statement is based on two key factors. Firstly, the local geology means that unless pitches have artificial drainage or have intensive maintenance regimes they have poor availability during the winter months. For example, in the last three seasons the Brentwood Sunday League have had 9, 9 and 10 full weekend fixture lists postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

Secondly, much of the changing accommodation is old and in need of replacement or major refurbishment. The key sites at King George's Playing Fields and Warley Playing Fields were built in the 1960s or 1970s and do not conform to modern spatial standards. It is not possible to segregate male and female players at these sites. The quality of showers, toilets and decoration is poor.

The more senior clubs Brentwood, Hutton, Herongate and Kelvedon Hatch have responsibility for their own sites and enjoy higher standards of pitches, changing and ancillary facilities.

Table 10.2 - Adult Football Pitches Available to the Community and Used

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of pitches	Pitch Quality	Changing Quality
Brentwood Town FC - Stadium Pitch	Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood	CM15 9NN	1	Good	Good
Brentwood School	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	1	Good	Good
Hutton Football Club	Polo Fields, Hall Green Lane, Brentwood	CM13 2QT	1	Good	Good
Blackmore Sports And Social Club	Nine Ashes Rd, Blackmore	CM4 0QW	2	Standard	Standard
Herongate Athletic	77 Billericay Road, Herongate	CM13 3PU	2	Standard	Good
Kelvedon Hatch FC	New Hall School Road, Kelvedon Hatch	CM15 0DH	1	Standard	Good
Anglo European School	Willow Green, Ingatestone	CM4 0DJ	2	Poor	None
Becket Keys Church Of England Free School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9DA	2	Poor	None
Coronation Field, Mountnessing	Roman Road, Mountnessing	CM15 0UG	1	Poor	Poor
Doddinghurst Village Playing Fields	Church Lane, Doddinghurst	CM15 0NJ	1	Poor	Standard
King George V Playing Field	Ingrave Rd, Brentwood	CM14 5AE	5	Poor	Poor
Larkins Playing Field	Ongar Road, Brentwood	CM15 9JB	1	Poor	None
Old Brentwood Sports Club	Ashwells Road, Pilgrims Hatch	CM15 9SE	4	Poor	Good
Seymour Field, Ingatestone	New Road, Ingatestone	CM4 0HN	1	Poor	Standard
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8RY	2	Poor	Good
St Martin's School	Hanging Hill Lane, Hutton	CM13 2HG	1	Poor	Standard
Brentwood Town FC	Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood	CM15 9NN	2	Poor	Good
Trinity School	Crown Road, Kelvedon Hatch, Essex	CM14 5TB	1	Poor	School
Warley Playing Fields	The Drive, Warley, Brentwood	CM13 3BH	4	Poor	Poor
Wash Road Playing Fields	Rayleigh Road/Wash Road	CM13 1BP	1	Poor	Poor
West Horndon Playing Fields	Cadogan Avenue West Horndon	CM13 3TU	1	Poor	Poor
		TOTAL	37		



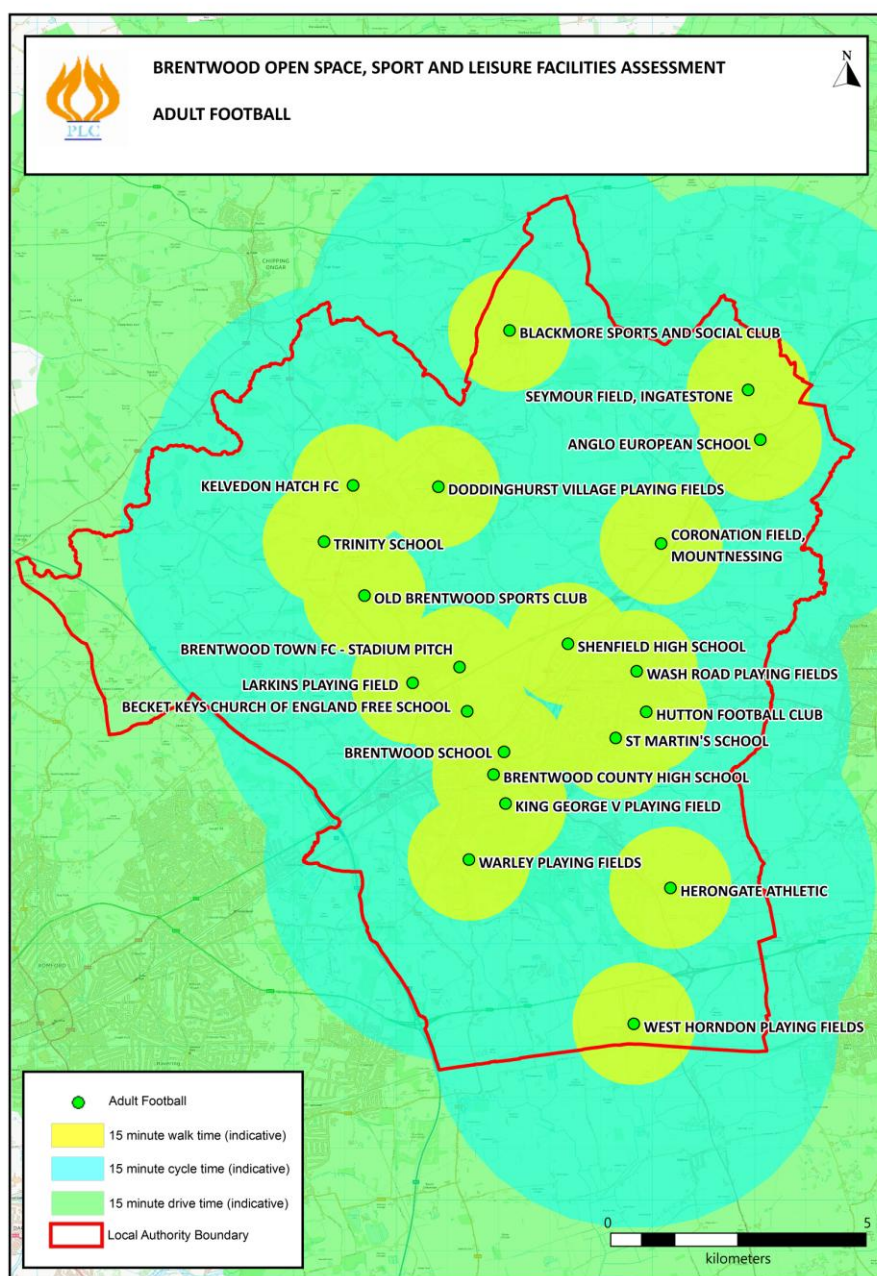
Table 10.3 - Adult Football Pitches Not Available to the Community

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of	Pitch	Changing
			Pitches	Quality	Quality
Brentwood School - Main Site	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	2	Good	Good

10.6 Distribution and Accessibility of Adult Football Pitches

There is good distribution of pitches across the Borough with all residents living within a 15 minutes drive of a pitch and the majority within a 15 minute cycle journey as shown in Map 10.1.

Map 10.1
Adult Football Pitches



10.7 Supply of Youth Football Pitches

Despite the changes in the FA's requirements for youth football that the age groups from Under 13 to Under 16 play 11 a side football on smaller than adult pitches, there are only two youth 11 a side pitched in the Borough. This means that the majority of youth football in these age groups takes place on adult pitches. For example, the adult pitch at Larkins Field is used exclusively for 11 a side youth football

There are 14 youth 9 a side pitches at 10 locations. These are listed in tables 10.4 and 10.5 overleaf

10.8 Youth Football - Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision for youth 11 a side football pitches is one pitch per 38,250 people. This equates to a total of 1.18 hectares or 0.02 hectares per 1,000 population.

The current standard for youth 9 a side football pitches is one pitch per 5,464 people. Based on a standard pitch and run off size of 0.41 hectares this is the equivalent of a total of 5.75 hectares or 0.07 hectares per 1,000 people.

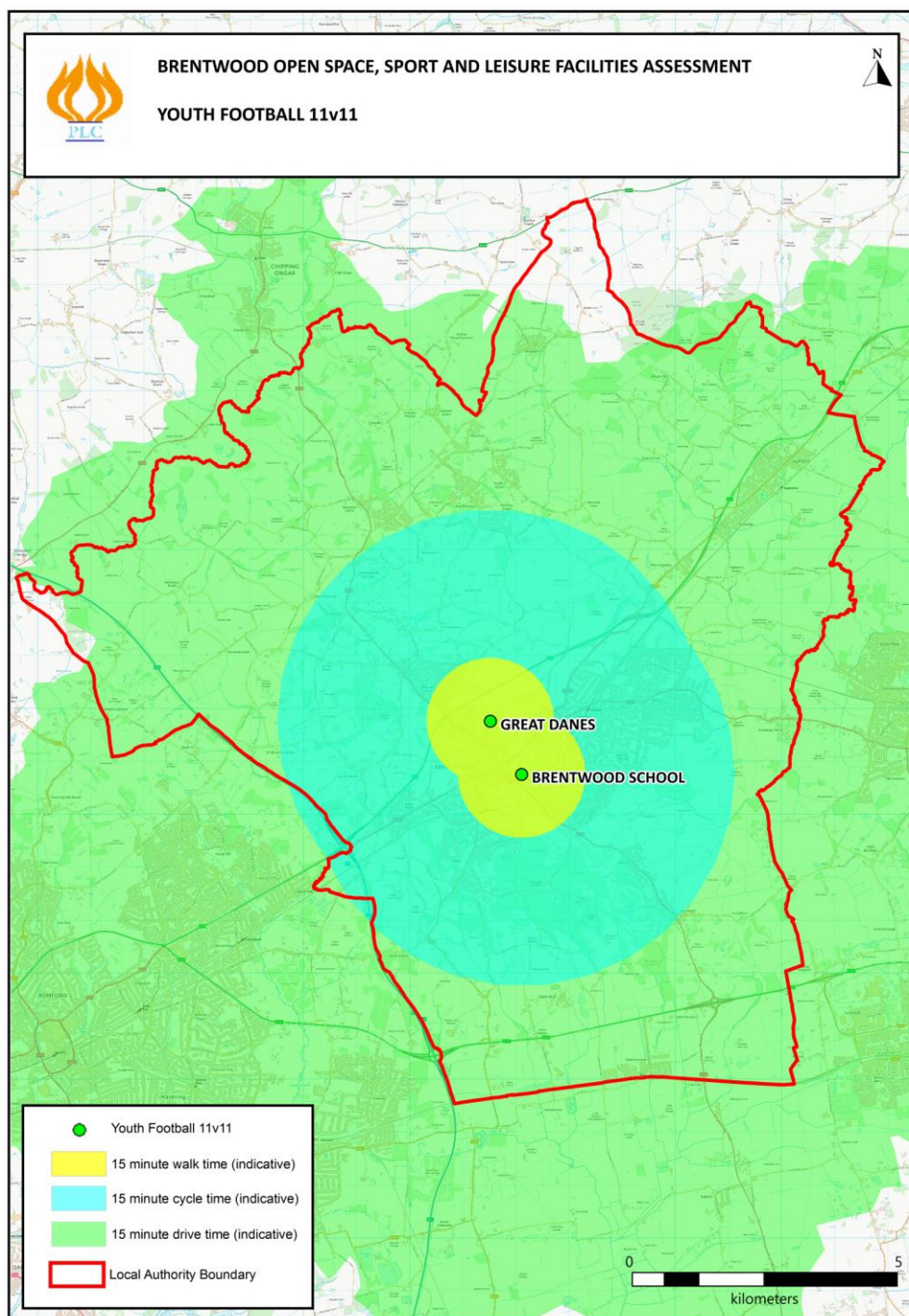
10.9 Youth Football - Quality Assessments

The quality assessments for youth football were conducted in the same manner as for adult football. The findings echo those for adult football. The majority of pitches are rated as poor and many sites have poor or non-existent changing rooms. This is particularly inhibiting to the growth in girls football.

10.10 Distribution and Accessibility of Youth Football Pitches

The distribution of pitches across the Borough shows all residents living within a 15 minutes drive of a pitch and the majority within a 15 minute cycle journey as shown in Maps 10.2 and 10.3. However, the comparatively small number of pitches means that access is less good than for adult pitches.

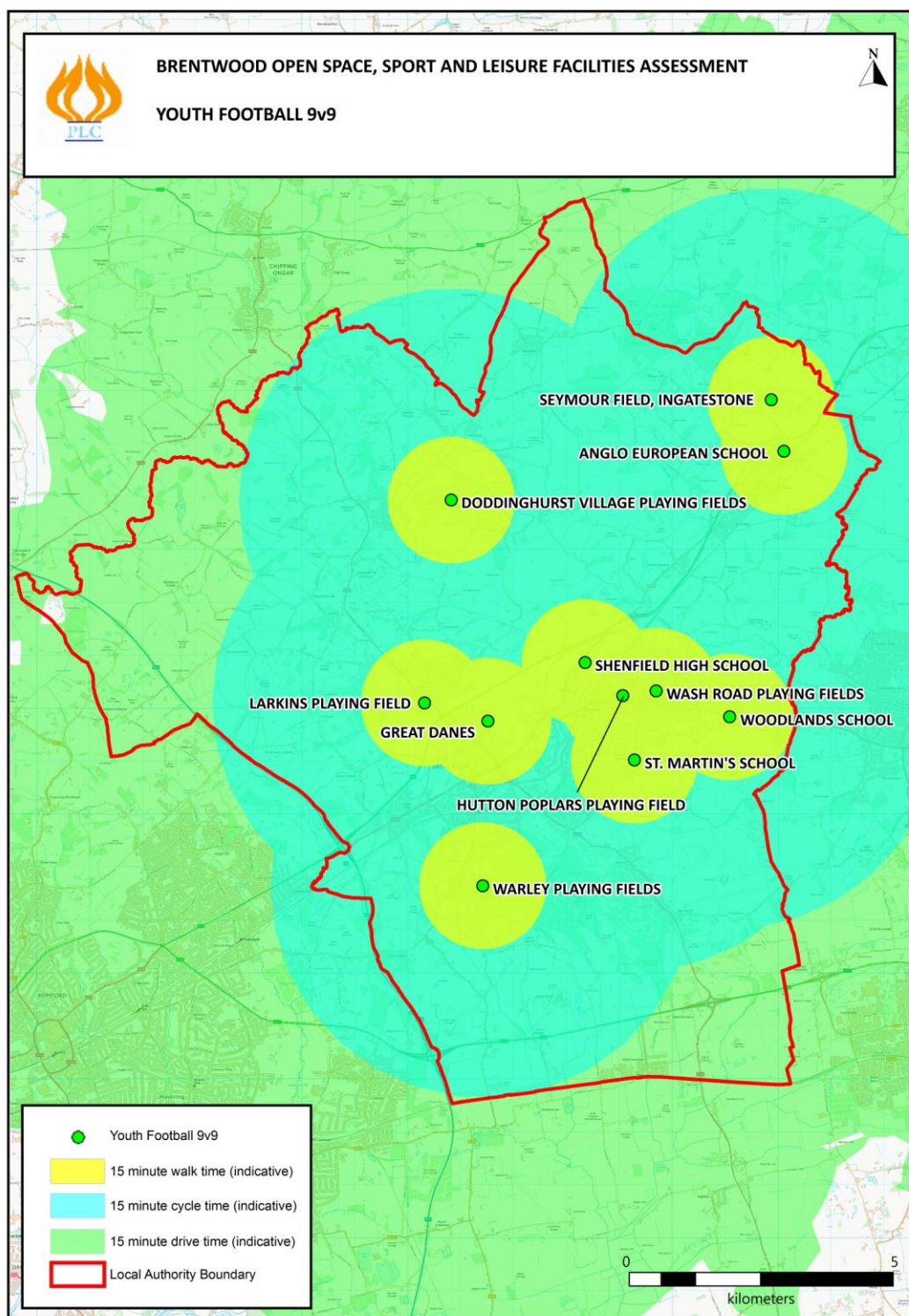
Map 10.2
Youth 11 a Side Football Pitches



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Map 10.3

Youth 9 a Side Football Pitches



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Table 10.4 - Youth 11 a Side Football Pitches Available to the Community and Used

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of	Pitch	Changing
			Pitches	Quality	Quality
Brentwood School	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	1	Good	None
Great Danes	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9BY	1	Poor	Poor
TOTAL 11 A SIDE YOUTH PITCHES			2		

Table 10.5 - Youth 9 a Side Football Pitches Available to the Community and Used

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of	Pitch	Changing
			Pitches	Quality	Quality
Doddinghurst Village Playing Fields	Church Lane, Doddinghurst	CM15 0NJ	1	Standard	Standard
St. Martin's School	Hanging Hill Lane, Hutton	CM13 2HG	1	Standard	Standard
Woodlands School	428 Rayleigh Road, Brentwood	CM13 1SD	2	Standard	None
Anglo European School	Willow Green, Ingatestone	CM4 0DJ	1	Poor	None
Hutton Poplars Playing Field	Poplar Drive, Hutton	CM13 1YT	1	Poor	None
Great Danes	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9BY	2	Poor	Poor
Larkins Playing Field	Ongar Road, Brentwood	CM15 9JB	1	Poor	None
Seymour Field, Ingatestone	New Road, Ingatestone	CM4 0HN	1	Poor	Standard
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8RY	1	Poor	Good
Warley Playing Fields	The Drive, Warley, Brentwood	CM13 3BH	2	Poor	Poor
Wash Road Playing Fields	Rayleigh Road/Wash Road	CM13 1BP	1	Poor	Standard
TOTAL PITCHES			14		

10.11 Supply of Mini-Soccer Pitches

Despite the changes in the FA's requirements for mini-soccer to be played on pitches which are smaller for 5 a side than for 7 a side, there are no permanent 5 a side pitches in the Borough. Instead local practice appear to be to use cones to mark out the smaller pitches within larger ones, the portable nature of mini-soccer goals makes this easier, or to use lad adjacent to permanent pitches in the same way.

There are 17 mini-soccer pitches on 12 sites which are available to the community and used. In addition, there are two pitches at St. Helens School not available to the community.

10.12 Access to Mini-Soccer Pitches

Map 10.4 shows the distribution of mini-soccer pitches across the Borough. All residents live within a 15 minute drive of a pitch

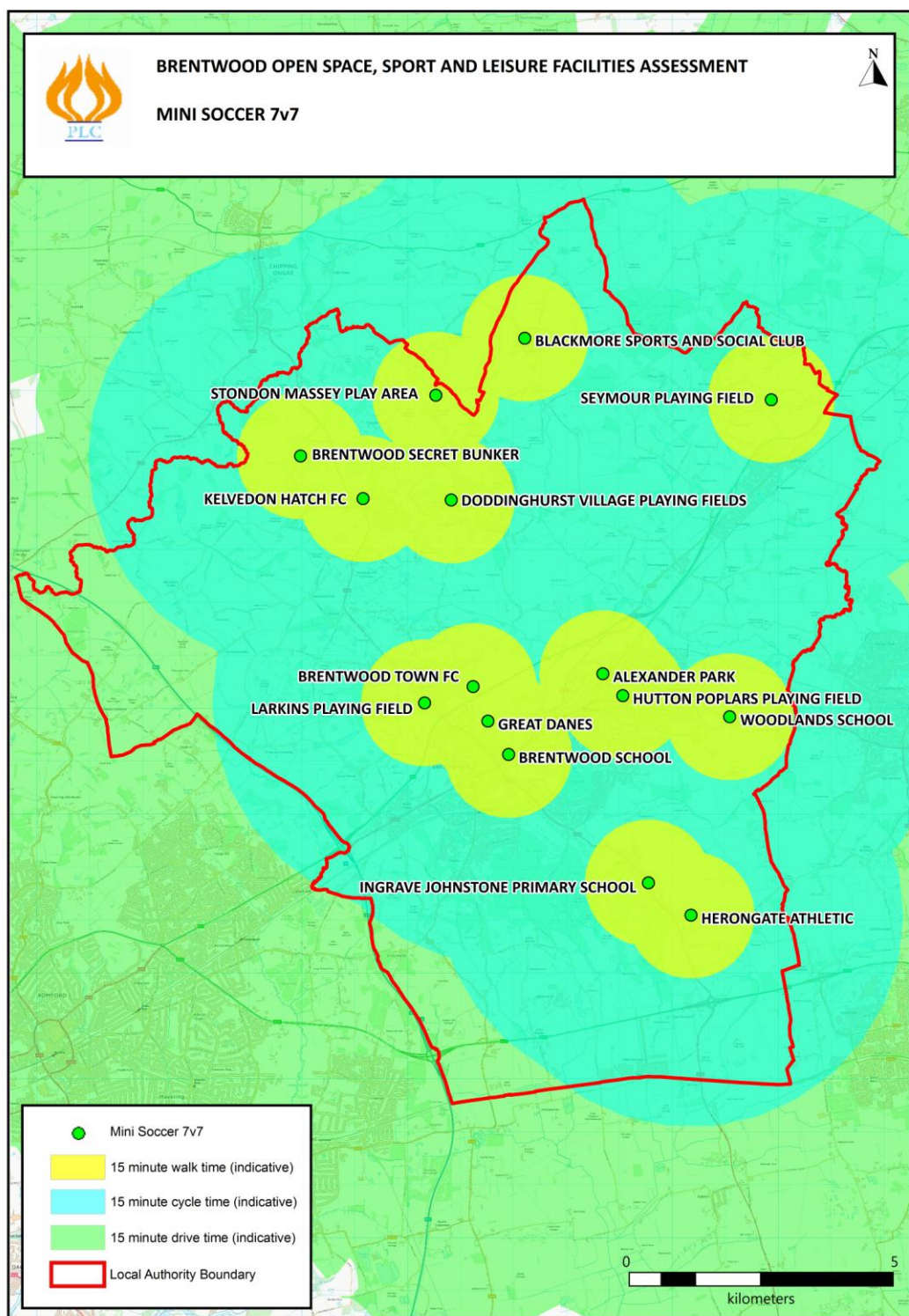
10.13 Mini-Soccer - Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision for available and used mini-soccer pitches is one pitch per 5,100 people. This equates to a total of 3.93 hectares or 0.02 hectares per 1,000 population.

10.14 Quality Assessment for Mini-Soccer

The quality assessments for youth football echo the findings of those for adult and youth football with the majority of sites being rated as poor. Six of the sites lack any amenities such as toilets and changing rooms.

Map 10.4 Mini-Soccer Pitches



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Table 10.6 - Mini-Soccer Pitches Available to the Community and Used

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of	Pitch	Changing
			Pitches	Quality	Quality
Brentwood School	Shenfield Road	CM15 8AJ	2	Good	None
Blackmore Sports And Social Club	Nine Ashes Rd, Blackmore	CM4 0QW	1	Standard	Standard
Herongate Athletic	77 Billericay Road, Herongate	CM13 3PU	1	Standard	Standard
Kelvedon Hatch FC	New Hall School Road, Kelvedon Hatch	CM15 0DH	1	Standard	Standard
Woodlands School	428 Rayleigh Road	CM13 1SD	2	Standard	None
Alexander Park	Alexander Lane, Shenfield	CM15 8QE	2	Poor	None
Brentwood Secret Bunker	Kelvedon Hall Lane, Kelvedon Hatch	CM15 5TL	1	Poor	None
Brentwood Town	Doddington Road, Brentwood	CM15 9NN	1	Poor	None
Doddington Village Playing Fields	Church Lane, Doddington	CM15 0NJ	3	Poor	Standard
Great Danes	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9BY	2	Poor	Poor
Hutton Poplars Playing Field	Poplar Drive, Hutton	CM13 1YT	1	Poor	None
Ingrave Johnson Primary School	Brentwood Rd, Ingrave	CM13 3NU	1	Poor	None
Larkins Playing Field	Ongar Road, Brentwood	CM15 9JB	1	Poor	None
Seymour Playing Field	New Road, Ingatestone	CM4 0HN	1	Poor	Standard
Stondon Massey Play Area	Nine Ashes Road, Stondon Massey	CM15 0ER	1	Poor	None
		TOTAL	21		

Table 10.7 - Mini-Soccer Pitches Not Available to the Community

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of	Pitch	Changing
			Pitches	Quality	Quality
St. Helens Junior School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9BY	2	Poor	None

10.15 Numerical Calculation of Pitch Supply

The Football Association calculate that each "good" 11 a side pitch can be played on three times per week, a "standard" pitch twice per week and a "poor" pitch just once. For youth 9v9 pitches the "good" figure change to four times per week. Mini-soccer pitches are rated as six games per week for "good", four games per week for "standard" and two games per week for "poor." These figures are known as the "carrying capacity" for a pitch which leads directly to a calculation of overall supply.

Clearly, the poor ratings for the majority of the pitches in Brentwood has a major impact on the overall carrying capacity.

Based on these figures we calculate that the annual capacity for those grounds currently in use is: -

- Adult Football - 49 games per week
- Youth 11 a side - 3 games per week
- Youth 9 a side - 21 games per week
- Mini-Soccer 7 a side - 58 games per week
- Min-Soccer 5 a side - 0 games per week

The basis for this calculation is shown in Appendix 15.

10.16 Demand for Football In Brentwood

The Essex County Football Association provided detailed data on participation in football in Brentwood through its *Football Participation Report* for Brentwood for 2013/2014. This data was cross referenced to the club survey returns.

10.16.1 Teams in Brentwood

In season 2013/14 Brentwood had a total of 50 affiliated clubs with a total of 204 teams made up of: -

- 60 Adult team (29.4%)
- 85 Youth Teams (41.7%)
- 59 Mini Soccer teams (28.9%)

At the time of writing the number of teams in Brentwood has increased from the 2013/14 number although the number of affiliated clubs has declined. There are now a total of 225 teams playing in 41 affiliated clubs comprising

- 63 adult teams (28%)
- 81 youth teams (36%)
- 81 mini teams (36%)

A full list of clubs and their home venues is set out in Appendix 15.

10.16.2 Large Clubs in Brentwood

The data in Appendix 15 shows that football in Brentwood is characterised by a number of significant clubs each having a large number of teams across the age ranges. these include: -

Table 10.8
Large Clubs in Brentwood

Club	Adult Teams	Youth teams	Mini Teams	Total
Brentwood Athletic	-	15	5	20
Brentwood Town*	7	10	8	25
Great Danes & Great Danes Girls	-	16	16	32
Hutton FC & Hutton Girls FC	7	16	27	50
Kelvedon Hatch & Kelvedon Hatch Juniors	2	8	13	23

* Recently merged with Doddinghurst Olympic Juniors

The implications for pitch demand of these large clubs is that they are all seeking to secure long term access to pitches to ensure their future. Great Danes is the only one of these large clubs with secure access to pitches for all its teams, albeit with problems of over-use.

- Brentwood Athletic is highly dependent on access to school pitches which are, at present, only granted on a year by year basis.
- Hutton FC has a secure home base but this has only a single pitch and they play at seven different sites. They are seeking to develop a multi-pitch home at Wynbarns Farm, Shenfield.
- Brentwood Town has only a short lease at their arena and uses the adjacent pitches on an annual hire basis. They would like a long lease on this site.
- Kelvedon Hatch has secure access to its main adult home ground but uses three other venues on an annual basis. They would like a long lease at Larkins Field and the opportunity to develop the facilities at this ground.

This lack of security of tenure at these venues means that clubs have no access to external funding and very limited ability to improve their facilities.

We recommend that the Council and Essex County FA work with local clubs to secure long term access to sites and appropriated development of facilities.

10.16.3 Participation Rates

The FA calculates "Football Conversion Rates" which compares the number of people playing football with the local population in each age group, to produce a percentage of each age group that plays football. This can then be compared to regional and national rates to judge the comparative popularity of the game in Brentwood.

Table 10.9
Football Conversion Rates

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>Eastern Region</i>	<i>England</i>
Adult male (ages 17 - 44)	7.7%	6.4%	4.7%
Adult female (ages 17 - 44)	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Youth male (ages 10 - 16)	30.3%	22.8%	18.7%
Youth female (ages 10 - 16)	4.3%	2.0%	1.8%
Mini-soccer (ages 5 - 9)	17.9%	12.8%	10.1%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>6.0%</i>	<i>4.9%</i>

Source - Essex County Football Association

This table shows that the percentage of the population who play football is considerably higher in Brentwood than for the population of England as a whole. This echoes the findings of the Active People survey which has overall participation in the Borough above the national average.

10.16.4 Football Clubs Survey

With the assistance of the Essex County Football Association we carried out a survey of football clubs in Brentwood. Thirteen clubs responded to the survey representing over 80% of the teams in the Borough. The key findings on demand were: -

- **Membership Trends** - 46% of clubs reported a recent increase in membership, 15% reported a decline and 38% have remained static
- **Future Plans** - 77% of clubs plan to increase membership in coming years and 23% plan to remain static
- **Availability of Facilities** - 62% of clubs say their plans to increase membership are constrained by a lack of local facilities
- **Quality of Facilities** - 56% of sites were rated as "acceptable", 28% were rated as "good" and 17% rated as "poor." Poor drainage leading to postponements is cited as a major concern
- **Quality of Changing** - the quality of changing rooms was a source of concern with 17% being rated as "good" and this rating applying only to private grounds. 50% were rated as "acceptable", 17% rated as "poor" and 17% being rated as "unacceptable".
- **Drainage** - comments from a number of clubs in response to the survey and follow up discussions pointed to ground conditions in Brentwood forcing a high level of postponements in winter months. For example the Brentwood Sunday League stated that in the last three seasons they had lost 9, 9 and 10 full weekend fixture lists.

- **Future Plans** - two clubs Hutton and Old Brentwoods are actively pursuing the development of new facilities. Hutton wish to develop a new, purpose built facility near Shenfield School with up to 5 pitches and associated changing and ancillary facilities. Old Brentwoods are seeking to refurbish their club house and to install an artificial turf pitch. Great Danes are working with the community trust which owns the Becket Keys ATP to explore the possibility of a 3G pitch on their site. Brentwood Town FC need to improve their current facilities in order to meet the requirements of the Isthmian League in which they play. They are seeking to extend their lease of Brentwood Arena to be able to apply for funding. Hutton FC are seeking to develop a community football hub at a site adjacent to the A12 at Wynbarns Farm near to Shenfield School.

10.16.5 Education Demand

A significant number of football pitches in the Borough are provided on secondary school sites. These contribute significantly to both curriculum use and the needs of local clubs, particularly the larger clubs.

In response to our schools survey and subsequent consultations two of the six secondary schools in the Borough said that they have insufficient access to football pitches to meet their curriculum and extra-curriculum needs. Brentwood County High School in particular has a significant shortage of pitches on its site.

10.16.6 Casual Demand

Our consultations with pitch providers including Brentwood Borough Council and local schools indicates that there is very little, if any, demand for casual or one-off bookings for unaffiliated or occasional teams.

10.17 Comparison of Current Supply & Demand for Football Pitches

A simplistic approach would be say that there are 63 adult teams in Brentwood and assuming that each team plays once per week during the season, the weekly demand for pitches is 32 matches. This can then be compared with the supply calculation of 36 to arrive at a surplus of 4 games per week. Similar calculations could be carried out for youth football and mini-soccer.

However, this simple comparison does not take into account the patterns of supply and demand. For example, the Chelmsford Youth League plays all its games on Sunday. Hence the availability of pitches to a team in this league must take this into account. Similarly, Brentwood School only makes its pitches available on a limited basis to preserve quality, hence the actual availability is below the notional carrying capacity.

We have, therefore, developed a supply and demand matrix which looks at the patterns of play on any given pitch and takes into account patterns of play and makes an allowance for additional use for training when possible. Table 10.10 summarises the position with venues where there is under supply identified in red.

Table 10.10
Site by Site Supply and Demand Analysis for Football

SITE NAME	SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE				
	Overall				
	Weekly match equivalents "red" indicates shortage				
Site Name	Adult	Youth	Youth	Mini	Mini
	11 v 11	11 v 11	9 v 9	7 v 7	5 v 5
Alexander Park				-1	
Anglo European School	-0.5		-1		
Becket Keys Church Of England Free School	0.5				
Blackmore Sports And Social Club	3			4	
Brentwood County High School	0				
Brentwood Secret Bunker				1	
Brentwood Town FC - Stadium Pitch	1.5				
Brentwood Town FC	-1			1	
Brentwood School	0	0.5		3.5	
Brentwood School - Main Site	0				
Coronation Field, Mountnessing	1				
Doddinghurst Village Playing Fields	0		0	3	
Great Danes		-1	-2	-4	
Herongate Athletic	0			1.5	
Hutton Football Club	0.5				
Hutton Poplars Playing Field			0	-3.5	
Ingrave Johnstone Primary School				2	
Kelvedon Hatch FC	-1			1.5	
King George V Playing Field	2				
Larkins Playing Field	-1		1	0.5	
Old Brentwood Sports Club	-3.5				
St. Helens Junior School				0	
St Martin's School	1		2		
Seymour Field, Ingatestone	-0.5		-0.5	0.5	
Shenfield High School	0		1		
Stondon Massey Play Area				2	
Trinity School	1				
Warley Playing Fields	-5		-2		
Wash Road Playing Fields	0		1		
West Horndon Playing Fields	0.5				
Woodlands School			1	1.5	
TOTALS	-1.5	-0.5	0.5	13.5	0

The details of these calculations are set out in Appendix 15.

In overall terms this table shows shortages for 11 a side football at both adult and youth levels. Supply and demand for Youth 9 a side is in balance and there is surplus capacity for mini-soccer.

Table 10.10 indicates the sites where demand exceeds supply as being the Council owned pitches at Warley Playing Fields, Hutton Poplars, Seymour Field and Larkins Field. The private sites at Great Danes and Old Brentwoods are also suffering from overuse. These calculations echo the comments made during our consultations.

10.18 Improving Access Through Improved Drainage

The poor carrying capacity of the present stock of pitches means that there are insufficient adult pitches to meet demand. The most pressing strategic need, therefore, is to ensure that the current stock of pitches in the Borough have increased availability in wet weather through improved drainage.

As the two most important sites in Brentwood are the Council owned pitches at King George's Playing Fields and Warley, this will require direct Council investment in improved drainage supported by external funding via the Football Foundation.

This will also allow some adult pitches to be reconfigured to meet the under-supply of junior 11 a side pitches.

Information supplied by the Council's grounds maintenance team suggests that drainage improvements to a football pitch can cost between £10,000 and £30,000 depending on quality - an agronomist survey can guide this. These improvements can be achieved by a combination of direct investment and external funding from the Football Foundation.

Recommendation Ten

The Council work in partnership with the Essex County Football Association and the Football Association's regional investment team to seek opportunities to secure a programme of drainage improvements at Warley and King George's Playing Fields.

10.19 Scenario Testing - Securing Access To School Facilities

Football in Brentwood, particularly at youth and mini level is dependent on access to school playing fields. However, none of this is secured access with bookings only being made on, at best, an annual basis. The situation is the same albeit to a much lesser extent for cricket, hockey and rugby on school facilities. This means that long term planning is most difficult for clubs, particularly the larger clubs which play on multiple sites. This is one of the reasons for Hutton FC pursuing their hub site at Wynbarns Farm.

Table 10.11
Scenario Testing on Loss of School Facilities

Pitch Type	Current Numbers	Current Supply/Demand Balance	Numbers Without School Pitches	Supply/Demand Balance Without School Pitches
Adult	37	-1.5	29	-8
Youth 11 a side	2	-0.5	1	-2.5
Youth 9 a side	14	+0.5	9	-8.5
Mini-Soccer	23	+13.5	16	+1.5

Table 10.11 tests the possible scenario if access to school pitches was lost. The effect would be most severely felt in the supply of 9 a side and mini-soccer pitches.

There is a need for the Council, Essex County Football Association, Active Essex, Active Brentwood and local clubs to work together with schools to enable long term planning to take place. This involves encouraging closer relations between clubs and schools and promoting mutually beneficial funding bids based on secured tenure and club development plans.

We recommend that the Council should work with schools and other stakeholders to secure long term, guaranteed access to pitches and other facilities for community and club use through community use agreements. This will enable long term development and promote external investment.

10.20 Sub-Area Analysis

It is common in assessment of sports facilities to divide the area of a local authority such as Brentwood into a number of sub-areas. However, Brentwood is a compact borough as can be seen from the various drive time maps in this report. In the main, therefore, we have looked at the provision of facilities on a whole borough basis.

Having said that, as football pitches are provided across the borough and taking into account that football is by far the most popular outdoor game in terms of participation, we have agreed with the Essex County Football Association to analyse the supply and demand for football pitches by looking at three sub-areas. These are: -

- The northern area of the borough,
- The central area which includes the major population centres of Brentwood town, Shenfield and Hutton
- The southern area of the borough

Table 10.12 shows the grouping of the various pitches into these three areas. Table 10.12 also shows the supply and demand deficits and surpluses in the three areas.

- **Central Sub-Area** - this contains the largest number of facilities and supports the large teams of , Great Danes, Brentwood Town, Hutton and Brentwood Athletic. The

analysis shows that adult football has a balanced picture of supply and demand, there is surplus for youth football but a shortage of mini-soccer and youth 11 a side pitches.

- **Northern Sub-Area** - The large club Kelvedon Hatch is based in this area. There is a small surplus capacity for adult football but a shortage of youth 9v9 facilities. There is surplus capacity for mini-soccer primarily due to the comparative under-use of the sites at Doddinghurst and Blackmore.
- **Southern Sub-Area** - In this area there is a significant shortage of adult football capacity and for youth 9v9 football. This is centred around the low carrying capacity of Warley Playing Fields. Improving pitch quality from "poor" to "standard" here would bring the supply/demand equation almost into balance.

10.20.1 Future Demand in the Southern Sub-Area

The picture in the southern sub-area is made more complex when future developments are taken into account as it is in this area that the majority of the planned population growth will occur. As mentioned in section 5.5.1, the Council expects some 3,000 homes to be built in this area at Dunton Hills Garden Village bringing an additional 7,200 people into this sub-area.

Based on current levels of participation and the associated team generation rates, the calculations set out in Table 10.13 reveal a demand for at least two additional adult pitches, one pitch for youth 11 a side, three youth 9 a side pitches and five mini-soccer pitches. These reflect the proportions of the overall projected growth.

As this level of growth will bring a requirement for additional school facilities it is appropriate to look to site these pitches on school sites to maximise community benefit. It is also likely that a secondary school site would be an excellent location for an additional 3G artificial turf pitch.

Table 10.12
Supply and Demand Analysis for Football by Sub-Area

		SUPPLY				SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE				
		Numbers of Pitches				Weekly match equivalents "-" indicates shortage				
Site Name	Sub-Area	Adult	Youth	Youth	Mini	Adult	Youth	Youth	Mini	Mini
Central Sub-Area		11 v 11	11 v 11	9 v 9	7 v 7	11 v 11	11 v 11	9 v 9	7 v 7	5 v 5
Alexander Park	C				2				-1	
Becket Keys Church Of England Free School	C	2				0.5				
Brentwood County High School	C	0				0				
Brentwood Town FC - Stadium Pitch	C	1				1.5				
Brentwood Town FC	C	2			1	-1			1	
Brentwood School	C	1	1		2	0	0.5		3.5	
Brentwood School - Main Site	C	0				0				
Great Danes	C		1	2	2		-1	-2	-4	
Hutton Football Club	C	1				0.5				
Hutton Poplars Playing Field	C			1	1			0	-3.5	
King George V Playing Field	C	5				2				
Larkins Playing Field	C	1		1	1	-1		1	0.5	
St Martin's School	C	1		1		1		2		
Shenfield High School	C	2		1		0		1		
Wash Road Playing Fields	C	1		1		0		1		
Woodlands School	C			2	2			1	1.5	
Old Brentwood Sports Club	C	4				-3.5				
	TOTALS	21	2	9	11	0	-0.5	4	-2	0



Northern Sub-Area											
Anglo European School	N	2		1		-0.5		-1			
Blackmore Sports And Social Club	N	2			1	3			4		
Brentwood Secret Bunker	N				1				1		
Coronation Field, Mountnessing	N	1				1					
Doddinghurst Village Playing Fields	N	1		1	3	0		0	3		
Kelvedon Hatch FC	N	1			1	-1			1.5		
Seymour Field, Ingatestone	N	1		1	1	-0.5		-0.5	0.5		
Stondon Massey Play Area	N				1				2		
Trinity School	N	1				1					
	TOTALS	9	0	3	8	3	0	-1.5	12	0	
Southern Sub-Area											
Ingrave Johnstone Primary School	S				1				2		
Warley Playing Fields	S	4		2		-5		-2			
West Horndon Playing Fields	S	1				0.5					
Herongate Athletic	S	2			1	0			1.5		
	TOTALS	7	0	2	2	-4.5	0	-2	3.5	0	
OVERALL TOTALS		37	2	14	21	-1.5	-0.5	0.5	13.5	0	

10.21 Additional Grass Pitch Demand from Population Growth.

As previously mentioned in Table 2.2 Brentwood's population is set to grow from the current level of 76,500 to 89,550 over the next 15 years. This is an overall increase of 17%. However this increase will not be spread uniformly across the age ranges. The young population between 0 and 14 years will grow by 18%, the youth and early adult age range will decrease by 0.5% and the 25-44 age group will increase by 10%. The largest increase will be in the number of people over the age of 65 which will go up by 46%.

In terms of demand for football pitches, this will mean an increase in the requirement for mini-pitches, a small increase in demand for 9v9 youth pitches and an increase in the demand for adult pitches. Table 10.13 sets out the basis for these calculations.

In this table the phrase "Team Generation Rate" is used. This is the number of people in an age range currently required in Brentwood to support a team. That is, if the female adult population of an area is 10,000 and there are 5 women's football teams the TGR is 2,000. Applying this figure to any projected population growth gives the number of additional teams.

Table 10.13 indicates that by the end of the projected growth period there will be a requirement for three additional adult pitches, four additional 9 a side pitches and seven more mini-soccer pitches.

Given the current surplus of mini-soccer pitches shown in Table 10.9, this additional demand can be accommodated from within the current stock of pitches. The requirement for additional adult pitches could be accommodated from within the current stock of pitches if the carrying capacity was increased by improved drainage.

Having said that, the proposed new 7,200 population garden village at Dunton Hills is of such a size as to require construction of at least one primary and, possibly, a secondary school. These schools will require a range of sports facilities and pitches. It makes sense, therefore, that these are planned from the outset to meet both curriculum and community needs. This will reduce travelling times to pitches in other parts of the borough.

Table 10.13
Future Additional Football Pitch Requirement Based on Current Team Generation Rates

	Age Range	Current Population in Age Group	Teams	TGR	Projected Additional % Population In Age Group	Additional Population Numbers	Additional Teams	Additional Pitches
Adult Football - male	18-45	12,000	60	200	10.10%	1,212	6	3
Adult Football - female	18-45	12,000	3	4,000	10.10%	1,212	0	0
Boys Youth Football 11 a side	13-17	4,500	30	150	0%	0	0	0
Girls Youth Football 11 a side	13-17	4,500	5	900	0%	0	0	0
Boys Youth Football 9 a side	10-12	1,200	40	30	17.80%	214	7	4
Girls Youth Football 11 a side	10-12	1,200	6	200	17.80%	214	1	1
Mini-Soccer mixed	6-9	3,200	81	40	17.80%	570	14	7

10.22 Provision of 3G Artificial Turf Football Pitches

10.22.1 Football Association Targets for Access to 3G Pitches

To increase overall skill levels and to help alleviate the problems of postponements caused by bad weather the Football Association is promoting the use of a rubber crumb artificial turf pitches. These are more commonly known as 3Gs.

The FA's "National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2015-2019" has the target of 50% of all youth and mini-soccer being played on 3G by 2019. In Brentwood this would mean the capacity to offer 20 youth and 20 mini-soccer games per week, the equivalent of approximately 35 hours, predominately over a weekend. This would require at least 3 pitches for competitive play alone.

In addition, the FA has set a target for all teams in a given area to have access to one hour's training per week on a 3G. The FA model is that this is the equivalent to 42 teams per full size 3G pitch. Based on the current level of 225 teams this equates to a need for 5.3 full size 3Gs in Brentwood to meet this requirement.

10.22.2 Current Provision of 3G Pitches in Brentwood

There is currently inadequate access to 3G pitches in Brentwood.

There are only two 3G pitches in the Borough at Shenfield School and St. Martin's School both in the central urban area, as shown in Map 11.1. In addition there are smaller facilities at the Brentwood Centre and Blackmoor Sports & Social Club. The pitch at Shenfield School is smaller than the size required for adult football and can, therefore, only be used for youth matches and adult training. The pitch at St. Martin's is regarded by local clubs and the Essex FA as being prohibitively expensive.

Therefore, increased access to at least an additional three (3.3 rounded down to take into account the small size facilities) full size 3G pitches is required to meet the FA's targets. During the course of our consultations three clubs have expressed a desire to develop a 3G pitch:-

- Brentwood Town FC would like to build a 3G pitch at their home ground at the Brentwood Arena next to the Brentwood Centre.
- Old Brentwoods are exploring the feasibility of a football/rugby 3G at their headquarters at Ashwells
- Great Danes Youth FC would like to install a 3G in partnership work with the Sawyers Hall Community Sports Trust which manages the artificial turf pitch at Sawyers Hall Lane

None of these schemes has planning permission in place and will depend on external funding being raised. Part of the action plan going forward will be working with the Essex Football Association, clubs and other stakeholders to identify what can be delivered.

10.22.3 Football Hubs and the "Parklife" Concept

The FA has long recognised the inefficiency of grass-roots football being played on a multiplicity of small sites most of which have only a single pitch. They increasingly advocate the use and development of multi-pitch, hub sites.

This hub approach and the move towards increasing use of 3G and other high quality artificial turf pitches has led to the development of the Parklife¹⁹ concept. This looks to develop a football hub of at least one and, preferably, two 3G pitches and pitch space of the equivalent area of two adult pitches. The 3G pitch is larger than the current full size pitch being big enough to be divided into four quarters, each of mini-soccer 5v5 size. This hub to be used solely for football at all times during a week. The model project is due to open in Sheffield in spring 2016 and the concept is then to be rolled out across the country.

The provision of additional 3G pitches in Brentwood would be a significant improvement in local football facilities. Not only would they improve the opportunities for training, they would greatly reduce the number of matches lost to waterlogged pitches. The Essex County FA would like to see such development as part of a football hub and would like to see this developed at a central Brentwood location providing easy access to the large clubs based in Brentwood, Hutton and Shenfield.

We recommend therefore, that the Council work in partnership with the Essex County Football Association, the Football Association's regional investment team and local clubs to seek opportunities to secure a programme of siting, investment and funding for additional 3G pitches in the Borough including consideration of a football hub in a central location. The parties may also wish to consider a 3G pitch as part of the Dunton Hills Garden Village development, perhaps linked to a new school site.

10.23 Football Club Developments

Two of the Borough's strongest football clubs are seeking to develop their facilities and are looking for Council support.

- Brentwood Town FC, the highest standard club in the Borough, needs to invest in improvements to spectator accommodation at their HQ at Brentwood Arena to meet the facilities requirements of their league. They require longer tenure on the Arena to achieve funding for the required improvements.
- Hutton FC, the largest club in Brentwood with 50 male and female teams across the age range, are seeking to ensure planning permission to develop a hub site at Wynbarns Farm near Shenfield School on land adjacent to the A12. This will provide pitches, changing and associated car parking.

From a sporting perspective, both sets of proposals are consistent with the strategic plans of Sport England and the national and county Football Associations. Both schemes are

¹⁹ <http://www.thefa.com/news/2015/oct/countdown-to-parklife-begins-011015>



supported by the Essex County FA. The Council's support for both clubs is vital if these developments are to go ahead and the clubs' futures to be secured. From this perspective we support the proposals.

However, both schemes will need to take into account local planning policy. From a planning perspective Brentwood Borough is 89% Green Belt. This helps protect much of the Borough's high quality environment and open space but also constrains development opportunities, making it difficult to meet local needs. The need for local sports clubs development in the Green Belt will therefore need to be weighed against the importance of protecting Green Belt as set out in national guidance.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes it clear that while sports uses are suitable in Green Belt the provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport and recreation, which can include essential buildings such as small changing rooms, needs to be carefully considered in terms of preserving the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. This highlights the difficulty meeting needs and should be further considered if a balanced approach is to be achieved for new sports facilities while protecting and retaining the Borough's environment.

We recommend that the Council should work with local clubs to take positive steps to support appropriate development proposals for Brentwood Town FC and Hutton FC.

11 SUPPLY & DEMAND FOR HOCKEY & ATPS

11.1 Supply of Artificial Turf Pitches

Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) can be one of three types: -

- **Sand Dressed or Sand Filled** - these are older, harder surfaces with short, nylon piles and are the ones most commonly used for club hockey
- **Water Based** - a slightly longer nylon pile surface which has water sprayed on before play. Used only for elite hockey.
- **Rubber Crumb (3G)** - A longer pile surface with rubber crumbs inserted. These are the best mimic of natural grass and have been specially designed for football. A longer pile version is used for rugby. These pitches are not suitable for hockey

There are five full size, artificial turf pitches (ATPs) in Brentwood Borough. These are listed in Table 11.1. In addition, there are smaller pitches at the Brentwood Centre and Blackmore Sports & Social Club.

11.2 Quality Assessment of ATPs

The full size pitches were assessed using the England Hockey's standard criteria which looks at the quality of the playing surface, fencing, changing accommodation for players and officials and ancillary facilities such as floodlights. These assessments were arrived at via non-technical visual inspections. All pitches are rated as good.

Table 11.1
Full Size Artificial Turf Pitches

Site Name	Address	Surface	Floodlights	Quality Assessment
Becket Keys Church Of England Free School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	Sand Dressed	Yes	Good
Brentwood School Sports Centre	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	Sand Dressed	Yes	Good
Brentwood School Sports Centre	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	Sand Dressed	Yes	Good
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Yes	Good
St Martin's School	Hanging Hill Lane, Hutton	(3G)	Yes	Good

11.3 Standards of Provision

The current overall standard of provision is one pitch per 15,300. This can be broken down to one 3G pitch per 38,250 and one sand dressed site per 25,000.

In terms of area the pitches occupy some 3.014 hectares which equates to 0.04 hectares per 1,000 population.

11.4 Sport England Assessment

By using their Facilities Planning Model assessment system, Sport England commented in 2014 on sports hall provision in Brentwood. They concluded: -

- *Satisfied demand is only around 88%, with lack of capacity being the primary cause.*
- *All AGPs are operating at 100% in the peak periods (full) however half of the users are from outside of the Borough (imported demand).*
- *The conclusion appears to indicate that whilst Brentwood has enough AGPs to meet their own resident's needs, the level of imports means the AGPs are too busy.*

11.5 Accessibility

All the five full size ATPs are in the Brentwood & Shenfield urban area. All residents are within a 20 minute drive of a facility as shown in Map 11.1.

11.6 ATPs for Hockey

There are three sand dressed artificial turf pitches in central Brentwood of which two are available on a regular basis for hockey. One is sited at Brentwood School, Middleton Hall Lane the other at Becket Keys School on Sawyers Hall Lane. This latter pitch is owned and operated by the Sawyers Hall Community Sports Trust.

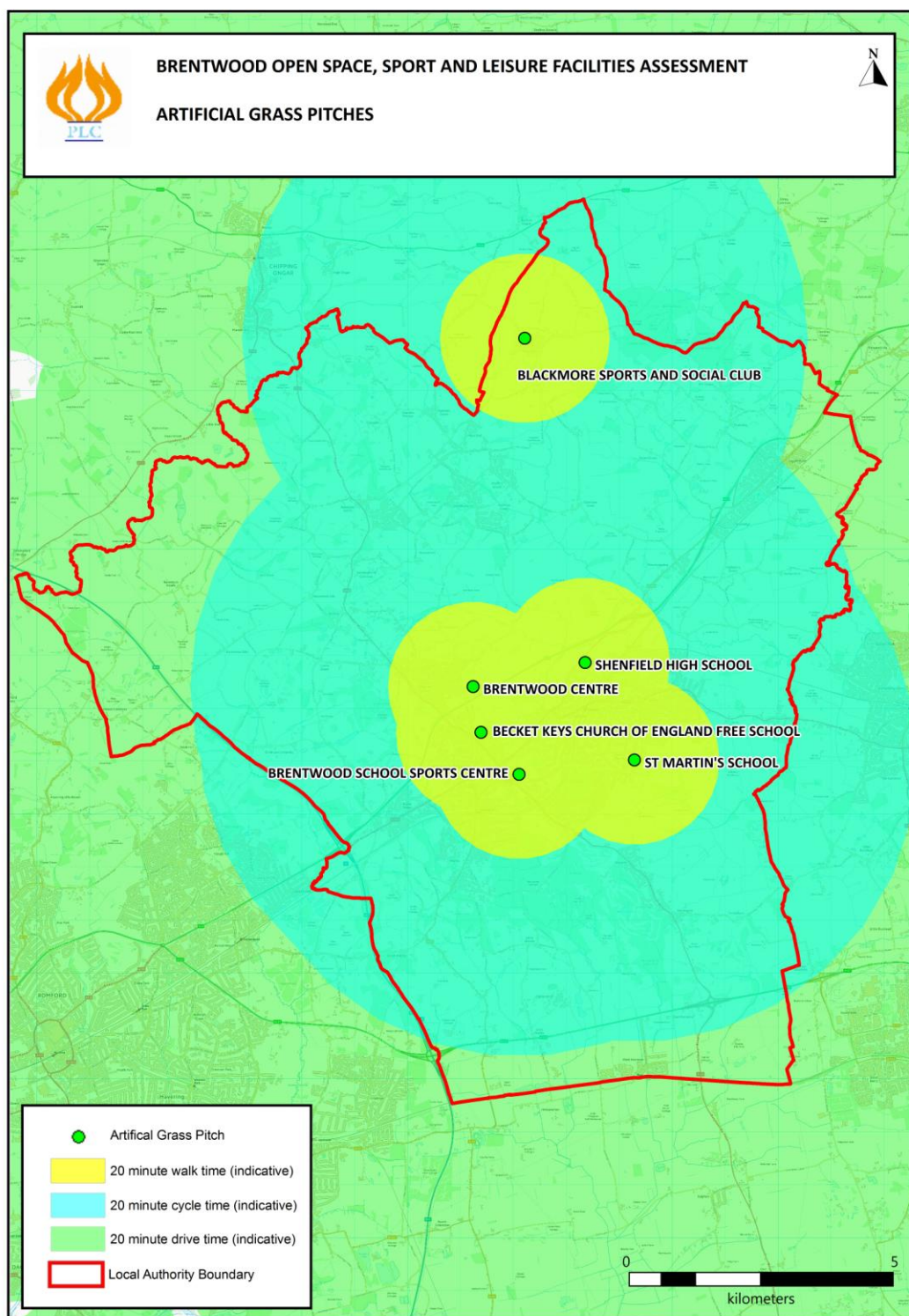
Table 11.2
Hockey Pitches in Brentwood

Site Name	Site Address	Postcode	Type	Quality
Becket Keys Church Of England Free School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9DA	Sand Dressed	Good
Brentwood School	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	Sand Dressed	Good

11.7 Numerical Estimate of Supply for Hockey

We calculate that the pitches provide a total of 18.5 hours per week playing time for hockey. The basis of this calculation is set out in Appendix 16. This is below the theoretical availability of the pitches which are available at evenings and weekends. However, hockey has to compete with other sports for booking time. ATPs are also heavily used for football either for five-a-side matches or club training.

Map 11.1
Artificial Turf Pitches



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2015

11.8 Demand for Hockey

There is a single hockey club in Brentwood namely Brentwood Hockey Club. They run a total of 19 teams across the age ranges as listed in Table 11.3. The club is part of a three way charitable sports trust which has responsibility for management and maintenance of the artificial turf pitch at Becket Keys School. The other partners in the trust are Great Danes FC and Becket Keys School.

Table 11.3
Hockey Clubs in Brentwood

Club	Home Ground(s)	Adult teams	Youth Teams	Mini Teams	Total
Brentwood HC	Brentwood School Sawyers Hall Community Sports Trust	11	2	6	19

11.9 Club Membership

The club's membership has been static in recent years but they are looking to expand their membership. At present the lack of access to facilities is seen as a barrier.

They view the quality of facilities for Hockey in Brentwood as good

11.10 Match & Training Demand

This number of teams equates to a weekly demand in season for pitches for six adult home matches plus additional capacity for youth development and training. We estimate the total requirement is some 19.25 hours per week. The basis for the calculation is shown in Appendix 16.

11.11 Educational Demand

No school reported a lack of access to facilities for hockey.

11.12 Casual Demand

Our consultations with pitch providers indicates that there is no demand for casual or one-off bookings for unaffiliated or occasional teams.

11.13 Comparison of Supply and Demand for Facilities

Brentwood Hockey Club uses two sites namely Becket Keys Church of England Free School and Brentwood School Sports Centre. Both sites are used for weekend matches, with Becket Keys being used for mid-week training.

The current total supply of pitch time is estimated at 18.5 hours (14 hours at weekends and 4.5 hours midweek) with a total demand of some 19.25 hours. There is, therefore, a notional deficit in capacity of 0.75 hours.

11.14 Scenario Testing - Access to Unsecured Pitches

As part of the Sawyers Hall Community Sports Trust, Brentwood Hockey Club has secured access to the pitch at Becket Keys School. Access to Brentwood School Sports Centre is unsecured.

If this unsecured access was to become unavailable, there would be a loss of four hours per weekend from matches. This would increase the deficit in capacity to 4.75 hours per week.

11.15 Additional Hockey Demand Arising from Population Growth

As previously mentioned in Table 2.2 Brentwood's population is set to grow from the current level of 76,500 to 89,550 over the next 15 years. This is an overall increase of 17%. However this increase will not be spread uniformly across the age ranges. The young population between 0 and 14 years will grow by 18%, the youth and early adult age range will decrease by 0.5% and the 25-44 age group will increase by 10%. The largest increase will be in the number of people over the age of 65 which will go up by 46%.

In terms of demand for hockey, this could mean an increase in the requirement for outdoor pitches. The usual method of calculation is to calculate a factor known as the "Team Generation Rate." This is the number of people in an age range currently required in Brentwood to support a team. That is, if the female male population of an area is 10,000 and there are eight women's teams the TGR is 1,250. Applying this figure to any projected population growth gives the number of additional teams.

We calculate that the team generation rate is currently one team per 2,000 adult males and one team per 2,400 adult females. This means that the increased demand from the projected population growth is for 0.61 male and 0.51 female teams over the next 15 years. This is a total of one additional match per week. The increases for youth hockey are vanishingly small. We do not, therefore, see a need for additional hockey pitches to be constructed as this demand can be absorbed within current clubs.

11.15.1 Sport England Facilities Calculator

This assessment is confirmed by using the Sport England Facilities Calculator Tool which forms part of the Active Places Power on-line system. Based on the projected growth of 13,020 people the Calculator estimates that additional demand will require 0.36 additional artificial turf pitches. The majority of this additional demand will be for football. Provision of 3G pitches for football training and competition and rugby training will have the positive effect for hockey of freeing up some mid-week space for training which the Brentwood Club reports is currently problematic.

12 RUGBY UNION AND RUGBY LEAGUE

12.1 Supply of Rugby Union Pitches

There are seven venues with rugby union pitches in Brentwood. Of these, four are regularly used by clubs, one on a school site is available but not used and two school sites (3 pitches) are not available for public use. These are list below in Tables 12.1 to 12.2

12.2 Quality Assessment

These pitches were assessed using the Rugby Football Union's standard criteria which looks at the quality of the playing surface, changing accommodation and ancillary facilities such as floodlights and social facilities. These assessments were arrived at via non-technical visual inspections and moderated through the club surveys and consultations. These latter research methods allowed us to take into account factors such as the level of postponements which are not available through the site visits only. These quality assessments are recorded in Tables 12.1 to 12.3. For ease of reading these have been colour coded with green being a good quality site, red a poor quality site and amber indicating an intermediate quality.

Brentwood RFC has four pitches at the poorly drained King George's Playing Field. It has invested substantial sums in improving the drainage on its 1st XI and training pitches. These are now rated as good. The two remaining pitches are poor. The club's current changing rooms at King George's are poor. They have recently been granted planning permission for a major redevelopment of their clubhouse to include new changing rooms.

Old Brentwoods' pitches are rated as standard with good changing rooms.

Table 12.1
Rugby Union Pitches Available for Community Use and Used

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of Pitches	Quality	
				Pitches	Changing
Brentwood RFC	King George's Playing Fields, Ingrave Rd, Brentwood	CM13 2AQ	2	Good	Poor
Old Brentwoods RFC	Ashwells Rd, Brentwood	CM15 9SE	3	Standard	Good
Brentwood RFC	King George's Playing Fields, Ingrave Rd, Brentwood	CM13 2AQ	2	Poor	Poor
Shenfield High School Mavericks RFC	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8RY	1	Poor	Poor
TOTAL			8		

Table 12.2
Rugby Union Pitches Available but Not Used

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of Pitches	Quality	
				Pitches	Changing
Anglo European School	Willow Green, Ingatestone	CM4 0DJ	1	Poor	None
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8RY	2	Poor	Poor

Table 12.3
Rugby Union Pitches Not Available for Public Use

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of Pitches	Quality	
				Pitches	Changing
RUGBY					
Brentwood School	Middleton Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8EE	2	Good	Good
Brentwood School -Shenfield Rd	Shenfield Road	CM15 8AJ	1	Standard	None

12.3 Rugby Union - Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision for available and used rugby union pitches is one per 9,688 people. On average each pitch with run offs covers an area of 1.3 hectares giving a total area of 10.5 hectares or 0.14 hectares per 1,000 population.

12.4 Accessibility of Rugby Union Pitches

The location of the three site currently used for rugby union means that there is a good distribution of pitches with all residents being within a 20 minute drive of a pitch and club site.

12.5 Demand for Rugby Union

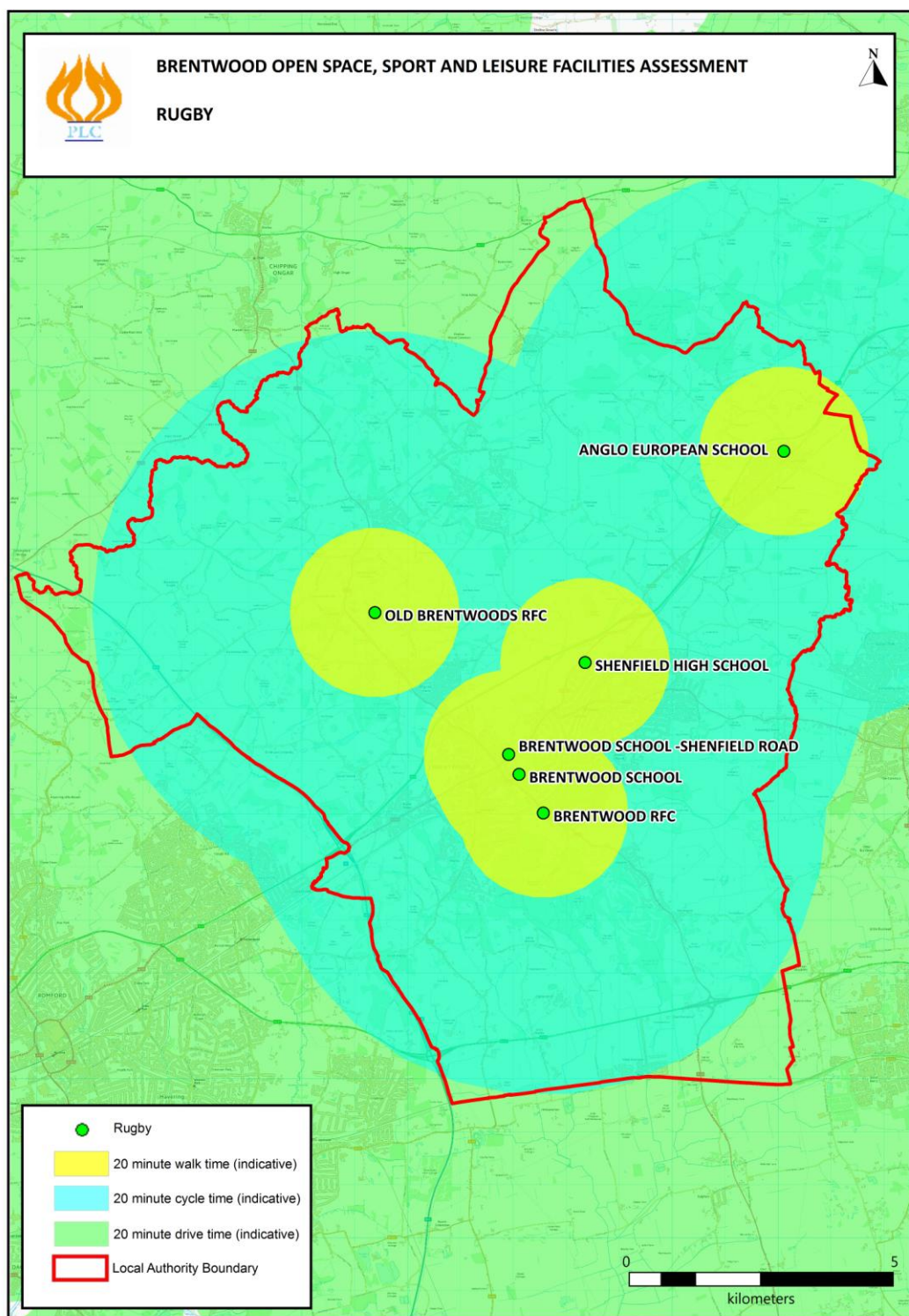
There are three Rugby Union teams in Brentwood. These are listed in Table 12.4

Table 12.4
Rugby Union Teams in Brentwood

Club	Pitches Used	Adult Teams	Youth Teams	Mini Teams
Brentwood	King George's	4	12	12
Old Brentwoods	Ashwells	3	3	6
Mavericks	Shenfield School	1	-	-
	TOTALS	8	15	18

All adult rugby teams are male. There are a number of girls playing in the mixed mini-teams but as yet no female teams.

Map 12.1 Rugby Pitches



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From 2016 Rugby League will be played at Old Brentwoods.

12.6 Comments From Surveys and Consultations

Key comments from our consultations and surveys of the clubs are: -

- **Membership Trends** - the two larger clubs report increased membership in recent years particularly at junior level
- **Quantity and Quality of Pitches** - both clubs have problems with overuse of their pitches due to their increased membership. Brentwood has invested heavily in improvements to its training pitch
- **Quality of Facilities & Future Plans** - both clubs regard their present facilities as inadequate for their needs and are actively pursuing plans for redevelopment. Brentwood RFC have secured planning permission to construct changing rooms adjacent to their club house. Old Brentwoods have long term plans to develop their clubhouse and construct an artificial turf pitch
- **Provision of Rugby Compliant 3G Pitches** - The RFU point out to an under-supply of pitches (see Table 12.5) especially for mid-week training. The RFU have also expressed some concern that the proposed move by Brentwood Rugby League Club to Old Brentwoods will increase the current overuse of that club's. They suggest that this lack of capacity can be met, at least in part, by a Rugby compliant 3G pitch. The RFU and the FA are in discussion over a surface which can be used for both games - rugby for training and both training and competitive football.

12.7 Educational Demand

No school reported having to use club facilities. Current facilities are sufficient to meet curriculum and extra-curricular needs

12.8 Casual Demand

Our consultations with the two club and schools indicates that there is no demand for casual or one-off bookings for unaffiliated or occasional teams.

12.9 Comparison of Supply and Demand for Rugby Union

The regional facility manager for the Rugby Football Union has calculated that there is a shortage of six rugby pitches at Brentwood RFC and one pitch at Old Brentwoods. The basis of these calculations is set out in Table 12.5.

However, these calculations seem somewhat over-onerous insofar as they mean that Brentwood would have to increase its pitch provision by some 150% to meet this standard. Brentwood RFC's view is that they could cope with demand with one additional pitch. Old Brentwood's view is that their existing stock is sufficient subject to improvements being made to drainage and provision of an artificial turf pitch for training. This does reflect an under-supply of floodlit pitches to provide mid-week training.



Mavericks RFC are content with the pitch they have available at Shenfield School, having recently moved there from Old Brentwoods. There is, however, no capacity for mid-week training.

We believe that the Council and Brentwood RFC should look to provide an additional rugby union pitch at King George's Playing Fields.

Table 12.5
RFU Calculations of Pitch Supply & Demand

Club	Mini Midi Teams	Youth Teams	Adults (inc Vets)	Midweek Match Equivalents (Demand)	Floodlit Pitches	Midweek Training Capacity	Full Size Pitches	Match Play Demand (Weekend)	Match Play Capacity (Weekend)	Overall Site Capacity	Pitch Deficit or Surplus
Brentwood	12	12	4	11	1	-9	4	11	-3	-12	-6
Old B'woods	6	3	3	4.5	0.5	-3.5	3	4.5	1.5	-2	-1
Mavericks	-	-	1	0.5	-	-0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	0
TOTALS	18	15	7	15.5	1.5	-13.0	8	16	-1	-14	-7

12.10 Scenario Testing - Access to Unsecured Pitches

Brentwood RFC and Old Brentwoods, the two larger rugby union clubs in Brentwood, both have secured access to their pitches. Brentwood have a lease and management agreement with Brentwood Borough Council in place whilst Old Brentwood own their pitches.

The only club with unsecured access is Mavericks who play at Shenfield School. Loss of this unsecured access would increase the present deficit from 7 to 8 matches per week.

12.11 Additional Demand Arising From Population Growth

As previously mentioned in Table 2.2 Brentwood's population is set to grow from the current level of 76,500 to 89,550 over the next 15 years. This is an overall increase of 17%. However this increase will not be spread uniformly across the age ranges. The young population between 0 and 14 years will grow by 18%, the youth and early adult age range will decrease by 0.5% and the 25-44 age group will increase by 10%. The largest increase will be in the number of people over the age of 65 which will go up by 46%.

In terms of demand for rugby, this could mean an increase in the requirement for outdoor pitches. The usual method of calculation is to calculate a factor known as the "Team Generation Rate." This is the number of people in an age range currently required in Brentwood to support a team. That is, if the male population of an area is 10,000 and there are eight male teams the TGR is 1,250. Applying this figure to any projected population growth gives the number of additional teams.

We calculate that the team generation rate is currently one team per 1,375 adult males. This means that the increased demand from the projected population growth is for 0.81 male teams. This is a total of one additional match per week. The increases for youth rugby are vanishingly small.

We do not, therefore, see a need for additional rugby union pitches to be constructed as this demand can be absorbed within current clubs.

12.12 Rugby Union Club Developments

Both the larger rugby union clubs are seeking to make major improvements to their facilities and pitches.

- Brentwood RFC has recently secured planning permission to redevelop its clubhouse including building new changing rooms. It is now raising funds to bring this to fruition. These changing rooms and an additional pitch will meet the club's needs for the foreseeable future. The club has been invited onto the RFU Lead Up and legacy programme for the changing room and clubhouse project.
- Old Brentwoods is looking to redevelop its clubhouse, improve drainage and construct an artificial turf pitch. It is at an initial stage of project planning.

Both projects have the support of the RFU.

We recommend that the Council should work with these local clubs to take positive steps to support appropriate development proposals for Brentwood RFC and Old Brentwoods RFC including an additional rugby pitch at King George's Playing Field.

12.13 Supply of Rugby League Pitches

There is a single Rugby League Pitch at the Brentwood Centre. Based on the inspection criteria set out by the Rugby Football League (RFL) this is a poor pitch with no changing.

Table 12.6
Rugby League Pitches Available for Community Use and Used

Site Name	Site Address	Site Postcode	No of Pitches	Quality	
				Pitches	Changing
Brentwood Centre	Doddinghurst Road	CM15 9NN	1	Poor	None

12.14 Rugby League - Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision for available and used rugby league pitches is one ground per 76,500 people. On average each pitch with run offs covers an area of 1.3 hectares giving a total area of 1.3 hectares or 0.017 hectares per 1,000 population.

12.15 Demand for Rugby League

There is a single rugby league club namely the Brentwood Rugby League Football Club. They play as Brentwood Eels at adult level and Brentwood Elvers as juniors..

Table 12.7
Rugby League Clubs in Brentwood

Club	Home Ground(s)	Adult teams	Youth Teams	Total
Brentwood RLFC	Brentwood Centre	1	4	5

Brentwood RLFC currently plays and trains at the Brentwood Centre. They have just entered into an arrangement for the coming season to play at Old Brentwoods Rugby Club from the summer of 2016.

12.16 Casual and Educational Demand

There is no evidence from our surveys and consultations of any school or casual demand for rugby league pitches.



12.17 Additional Demand Arising From Population Growth

The team generation rate for adult rugby league is one team per 11,000 adult males. The additional demand from projected increase in population is 0.1 team. The projections for juniors is vanishingly small.

There is, therefore, no need for additional rugby league pitches as this small demand increase can be easily absorbed within existing clubs.

13 SUMMARY OF PLAYING PITCH PROVISION

13.1 Current Provision

Based on the data in the preceding sections, the supply of playing pitches and the associated quality ratings for the five pitch typologies covered by the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy guidance can be summarised as follows. This table includes all pitches available to the community whether or not they were in use at the time of the assessment. It does not include pitches not available to the public.

Table 12.8
Summary of Pitch Provision
Pitches in Use October 2015

Pitch Type	Pitch Nos	Area Hectares	Hectares per 1,000	Good	Standard	Poor
Football						
Adult	37	27.71	0.36	3	5	29
Youth 11 a side	2	1.18	0.02	1		1
Youth 9 a side	14	5.75	0.07		4	10
Mini Soccer 7 a side	23	6.03	0.03	2	3	18
Mini Soccer 5 a side	0	0.00	0			
Sub-total	76	40.67	0.48			
Cricket	20	22.00	0.28	8	11	1
Rugby union	8	10.50	0.14	2	3	3
Rugby League	1	1.30	0.02			1
ATPs	5	3.01	0.04	5		
TOTAL	110	77.48	0.96	21	26	63

The table shows that the current level of provision is 0.96 hectares or 2.25 acres of playing pitch space per 1,000 people. Over half of the pitch sites are rated as poor, primarily because of poor, natural pitch drainage but also because of problems with the quality of changing rooms.

13.2 Future Provision

With the exception of a requirement for one additional rugby union pitch for Brentwood RFC, the current stock of grass playing pitches is sufficient to meet the needs as currently assessed and those likely to arise from the projected growth in Brentwood's population subject to improvements in the quality of football pitch drainage and changing accommodation. Changing room improvements are most needed at the Council's sites at Warley and King George's Playing Fields.

There is a need to provide additional youth football pitches. These can be found be reconfiguration at existing sites.



A need has been identified for a minimum of two rubber crumb (3G) artificial turf pitches. These to meet the requirements of the Football Association for increased access to 3G pitches especially for young players and to meet the need for additional rugby training facilities in the borough.

There are a number of development proposals in the pipeline from local clubs including Brentwood RFC, Brentwood Town FC, Hutton FC and Old Brentwoods RFC. These should be supported by the Council, the governing bodies and local stakeholders to ensure that they meet both sporting needs and those of local planning policies.

14 OUTDOOR SPORT

14.1 Athletics

According to England Athletics there is a single athletics club in Brentwood namely Thrift Green Trotters. They are a road running club who operate out of the Brentwood Centre and use Thorndon Park South as a cross country venue.

There is an informal running group "The Brentwood Buddhist Centre Running Group which runs from their base at Merrymead House.

There is no track based club in Brentwood.

There is one athletics track in the Borough, the 6 lane synthetic surface track at Brentwood School, in Middleton Hall Lane. However, there is no public access to the track.

The quality of the track is good based on an assessment of: -

- Track Surface
- Changing
- Disability Access
- Maintenance
- General Access.

Each factor was assessed on a range of 1-5 with 5 being the highest mark

Table 14.1
Quality Assessment of Brentwood School Athletics Track

Track Surface	Changing	Disability Access	Maintenance & Cleanliness	General Access	Mean Score
5	5	3	5	4	4.4

14.1.1 Access to Athletics Facilities

Road runners and cross country athletes enjoy good, informal training facilities and a series of annual events. Although, there is no public access to the Brentwood School track, track and field athletes do have access to outdoor training and competition facilities at Basildon, Hornchurch, Harlow and Chelmsford and to the indoor centre at Chelmsford. Some schools in Brentwood are able to use the Brentwood School facilities on occasion for school sports days and similar subject to Brentwood School's own requirements. England Athletics, therefore, see potential for promoting additional public access to the Brentwood School facilities but do not regard this as a priority.

We recommend that the Council work with England Athletics, local athletes, Active Essex and Brentwood School to explore options for increased community access.

14.2 Baseball

There is a single baseball club in the Borough namely Brentwood Baseball Club who compete as Brentwood Stags at adult level and Brentwood Bucks at junior level. The club has one adult and two junior teams. They are based at Clements Park, Warley. The adults play in the AA Division of the British Baseball League.

There is a single baseball diamond in the Borough at Clements Park. It is a basic facility which lacks changing, toilets or other amenities. The standard of provision is one facility per 76,500 people.

- **Membership Trends** - The club's membership has increased over the last five years
- **Quality of Facilities** - the club has invested in groundwork to convert a flat playing field into a reasonable standard diamond with bases and pitcher's mound. However, there is no clubhouse and only minimal storage in a nearby building.
- **Future Plans** - the club is seeking a lease from BBC to enable it to develop their ground. The first priority is a permanent backstop to allow more intensive practice

We recommend that the Council supports this club to meet future aspirations

14.3 Bowls

There are six bowling clubs in Brentwood each with their own home green. The clubs are listed in Table 14.2. This table also give a quality rating for each green. The greens and associated facilities were assessed by looking at the following range of factors:

- Quality of the green
- Quality of changing
- Disabled access
- General access

Each factor was assessed on a range of 1-5 with 5 being the highest mark. These were then combined to give an overall rating as listed in Table 14.2. The full assessment is set out in the Appendix 17.

Table 14.2
Bowling Clubs & Greens in Brentwood

Site Name	Address	Number of Greens	Quality Rating
Brentwood Bowls Club & Central Essex Bowls Club	King George's Playing Fields, Ingrave Rd.	2	3.8 for both greens
Hutton Poplars BC	Poplar Drive, Rayleigh Road, Hutton	1	3.0
Ingatestone BC	High Street, Ingatestone	1	3.0
Kings Chase BC	43-45 Kings Chase, Brentwood	1	2.5
Warley Hill BC	Kavanaghs Road, Brentwood	1	2.3
	TOTAL	6	

- **Membership Trends** - All the clubs contacted report declining membership levels in recent years in line with national trends.
- **Quality of Facilities** - Three clubs commented on declining standards maintenance at the public greens at King George's Playing Fields.
- **Access** - all clubs state that they are currently playing at their preferred locations.
- **Future Plans** - all clubs are seeking to stabilise membership and attract new members by initiatives such as open days, contacts with schools and general marketing. The Brentwood and Central Essex clubs are seeking to improve the quality of their greens through an enhanced maintenance programme.
- Bowlers at the two highest quality rinks in the Borough at King George's Playing Fields comment that the quality of their greens has deteriorated in recent seasons due to a change in the maintenance regime.

Casual Demand - the two greens at Kings George's Playing Fields have casual public access. However, in practice there is very little demand for this.

Education Demand - there is no curriculum offer of bowls by local schools

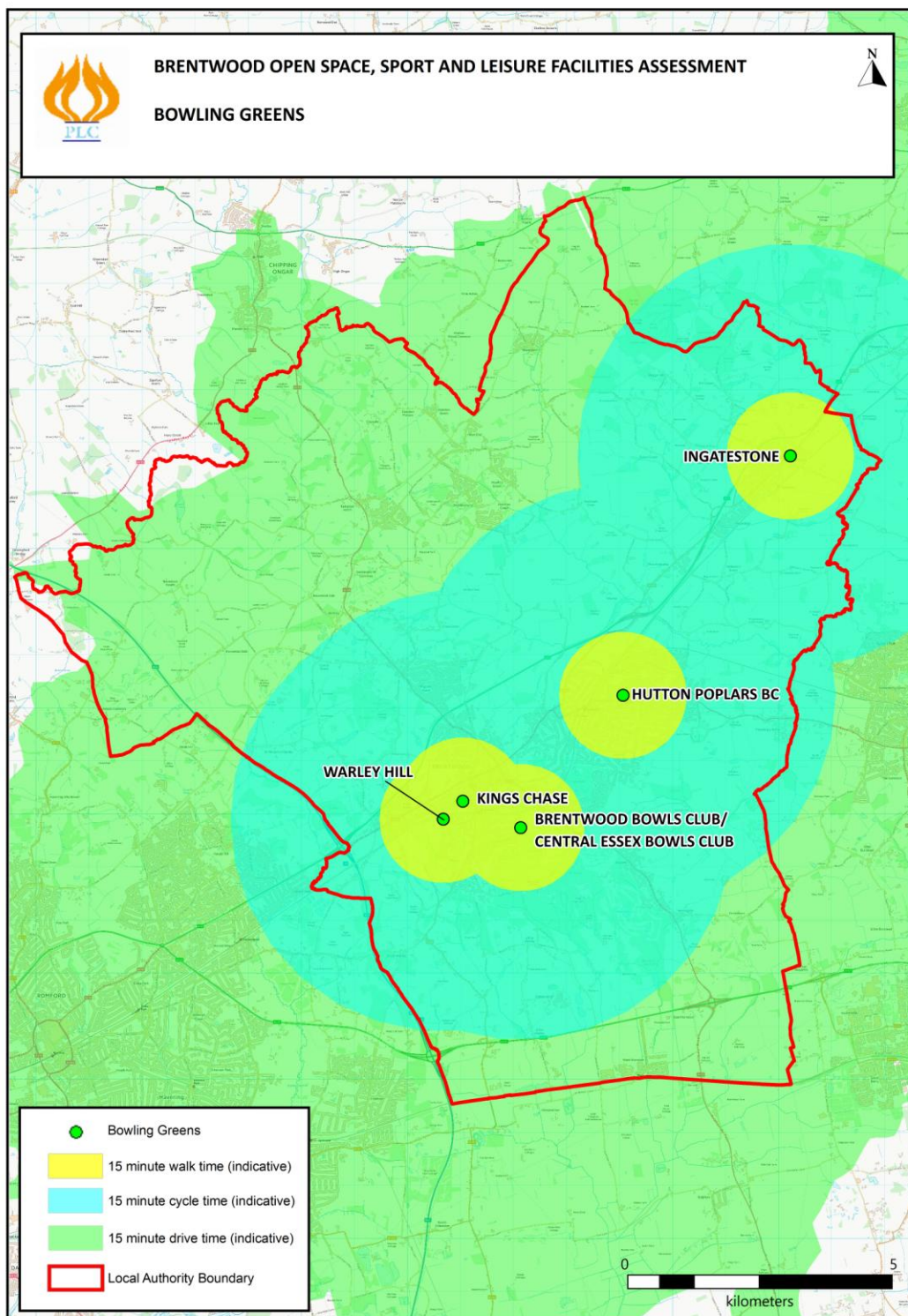
14.3.1 Standards of Provision

Current provision is one green per 12,750 people.

14.3.2 Accessibility

Five of the six greens are in the Brentwood urban area with the sixth towards the north in Ingatestone. There is no provision towards the south or west of the Borough. Having said that all residents are within a 15 minute drive of a green.

Map 14.1
Bowling Clubs and Greens



14.3.3 Future Provision

Given the falling patterns of participation in bowls there is no need for additional facilities in Brentwood. Any possible increase in demand from the projected growth in population can be absorbed within the current stock of facilities.

14.3.4 Comments from Consultees

The two bowling clubs at King George's Playing Fields are keen to work with the Council to explore options for maintaining and improving the standards of their greens including alternative management arrangements and transfer of responsibilities.

We recommend that the Council work with these clubs to explore options for future management arrangements.

14.4 Cycling, BMX and Skateboard

14.4.1 Cycling

There are three cycling clubs in the Borough namely: -

- Glendene Cycle Club which is based at The Leather Bottle Pub, Blackmore
- Essex Roads Cycling Club which incorporates the Brentwood Road Club. They are based in Billericay and
- Shaftesbury Cycling Club based in Mountnessing .

The three clubs are primarily road racing and time trial based clubs but offer a wide range of activities including off-road, social and novice rides in addition to competitive cycling. None of the clubs own or make use of purpose built cycling facilities in Brentwood. They do on occasion make use of the facilities constructed for the 2012 Olympic Games at Hadleigh Park near Southend and at the Olympic Park in Stratford.

In addition to the formal clubs, there is an informal cycling company, Trailnet CIC based at Thorndon Park, North. They operate informal rides in the park and nearby roads ranging from beginners to 40 mile fitness rides. They also cycle hire for visitors to the park.

- **Membership and Participation Trends** - there is an increased interest in cycling due to the recent success of British teams. This has led to an increase in an increase in club membership especially for informal cycling. Trailnet also report and increase in attendance numbers at their organised rides and informal cycling in the park.

14.4.2 BMX & Skateboard Parks

There are two facilities for BMX and skateboards in the Borough. These are listed in Table 14.3. The two facilities in Brentwood, particularly that at Kings George's Playing Fields, are well used but on an informal basis. The Brentwood Skatepark Association has 640 interested participants who are involved through its Facebook page but it is not clear how many of these are active participants.

14.4.3 Standard of Provision

The current standard of provision for BMX and skateboard is one facility per 38,300 people.

14.4.4 Quality Assessment

The two sites were assessed on a visual, non-technical inspection basis. The criteria used were: -

- Fencing
- Floodlights
- Surface quality
- Access and parking
- Access for people with disabilities

Scores were given between 1 and 5 with 5 being the highest rating. Table 6.9 records the overall score from each site. Full details of the assessments are given in Appendix 17.

**Table 14.3
BMX & Skateboard Parks &
Quality Assessment**

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Quality 1-5
King George's Park Skatepark	Hartwood Road, Brentwood	CM14 5AE	4.0
Fairfield Recreation Ground Skatepark, Ingatestone	High Street, Ingatestone	CM4 9ER	1.8

The relative ratings reflect the fact that the King George's PF facility is a purpose built facility in a destination venue aimed at attracting users from more than the immediate area. The Ingatestone Park on the other hand has only limited and local appeal.

Young people also make extensive use of wooded areas across the Borough. There are several informal BMX facilities in the Warley area.

14.4.5 Future Provision of Facilities

There is no evidence of the need for formal cycling facilities such as a velodrome or competitive BMX track in Brentwood particularly in view of the facilities constructed at Rayleigh and Stratford for the London Olympic Games.

None of the consultees for this study have directly proposed provision of additional or improved BMX facilities.

14.4.6 Promotion of Cycling

Whilst there is no identified demand for additional competitive cycling facilities, the Council is working with its partners to promote cycling more generally as part of its transport planning in partnership with Essex County Council and as part of its health and wellbeing strategy. To this end there are ten identified cycle routes in the borough.

14.5 Golf

There are eight golf venues in Brentwood offering a total of 207 holes on 15 courses. Six of these venues are members' club, one has a club attached to a public course and one is pay and play. These are listed in Table 14.4.

Dunton Hills is a pay and play facility. Hartswood is a public facility with the ability to become a member of the golf club based at the course. South Essex is a pay and play facility with a membership scheme. All others are members' clubs but all offer golf on a green fee basis.

14.5.1 Participation Trends

Clubs regard membership figures as commercially sensitive but anecdotally commented that the national downward trend was reflected in Brentwood. Sport England's Active People Survey shows that the number of regular golfers declined from 1.03 million in 2007/08 to 741,000 in 2015/16. Golf Club Management magazine speaks of a participation slump with the number of round played being down 7% according to market research company SMS INC.²⁰

Many clubs are looking to strengthen their trading performance by concentrating on their catering operations. Two clubs in the Brentwood area have diversified by introducing a "footgolf" course.

14.5.2 Quality Assessment

The standard of golf courses in the Borough is high. We made a site visit to all courses in the Borough and made a visual, non-technical inspection. This assessed factors such as the quality of the course, the quality of the changing rooms, disability access and general access. Each factor was assessed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest mark.

²⁰ <http://www.golfclubmanagement.net/2016/02/participation-slumps-again-as-more-golf-clubs-close/>

Table 14.4
Golf Courses in Brentwood

Site Name	Address	Holes	Quality
Thorndon Park Golf Club Ltd	Ingrave	18	4.75
Warley Park Golf Club	Magpie Lane, Little Warley	9	4.50
Warley Park Golf Club	Magpie Lane, Little Warley	9	4.50
Warley Park Golf Club	Magpie Lane, Little Warley	9	4.50
Bentley Golf Club	Ongar Road, Brentwood	18	4.25
Brentwood Golf Club	Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch	18	4.25
Dunton Hills Golf Course	Tilbury Road, West Horndon	18	4.00
Dunton Hills Golf Course (Par 3)	Tilbury Road, West Horndon	18	4.00
South Essex Golf Centre	Herongate	9	4.00
South Essex Golf Centre	Herongate	9	4.00
South Essex Golf Centre	Herongate	9	4.00
Stapleford Abbots Golf Club	Horsemanside, Tysea Hill, Stapleford Abbots	18	4.00
Stapleford Abbots Golf Club	Horsemanside, Stapleford Abbots (par 3)	9	4.00
Stapleford Abbots Golf Club	Horsemanside, Tysea Hill, Stapleford Abbots	18	3.25
Hartswood Golf Club	King George's Playing Fields, Brentwood	18	3.00
	TOTAL	207	

The Council's Hartswood Golf Club at King George's Playing Field is marked lower as there is no disabled access to the clubhouse.

14.5.3 Standard of Provision

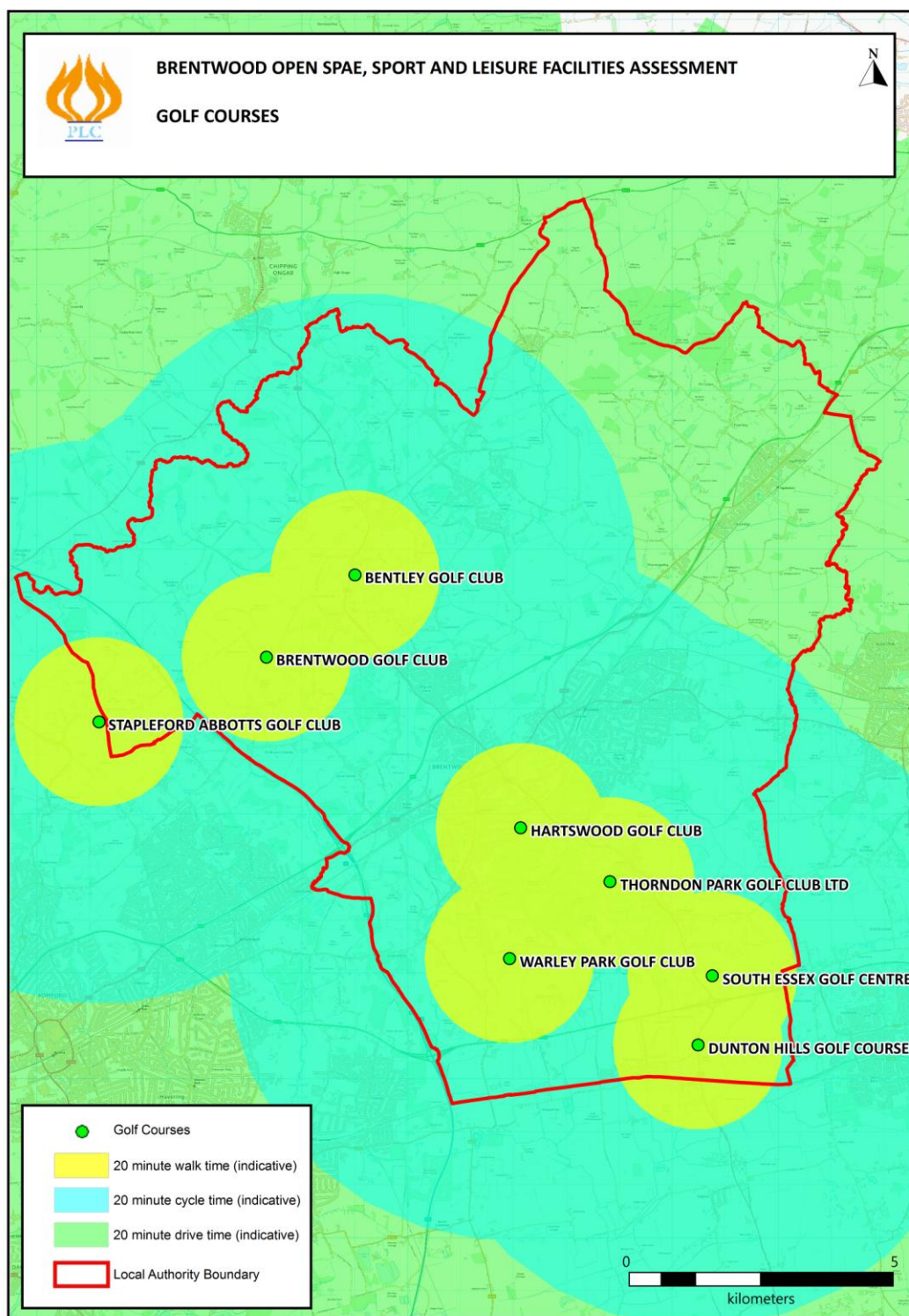
The per capita of provision for golf based on the Borough's population of 76,500 is one, nine hole golf course per 3,326 people. This is relatively high and in excess of provision in all neighbouring authorities and over three times more than the average for Essex of one nine hole course per 10,800 people.²¹

14.5.4 Accessibility

Golf courses are well spread across the Borough with all residents being within a 20 minute drive of a course.

²¹ Source, England Golf <http://www.englandgolf.org/golfcentral/golf-clubs/essex/Default.asp?page=1>

Map 14.2
Golf Courses



14.5.5 Future Provision for Golf

Given the high level of current provision in Brentwood there is no need for any additional facilities in the Borough. The Council should seek to improve facilities for golfers at its Hartswood course particularly for players with disabilities. This could be included in an overall management plan for King George's Playing Fields.

14.6 Multi Use Games Areas

There are five multi-use games areas across the Borough as listed in table 14.5

14.6.1 Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision is one facility per 15,300 people.

14.6.2 Quality Assessment

All MUGAs in the Borough were assessed on a visual, non-technical inspection basis. The criteria used were: -

- Fencing
- Floodlights
- Surface quality
- Access and parking
- Access for people with disabilities

Scores were given between 1 and 5 with 5 being the highest rating. Table 6.10 records the overall score from each site. Full details of the assessments are given in Appendix 17.

Table 14.5
Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Overall Score 1-5
Bishops Hall Park MUGA	Elizabeth Road, Pilgrims Hatch	CM15 9NN	2.5
West Horndon Doorstep Green MUGA	Cadogan Avenue, West Horndon	CM13 3TU	2.5
Hutton Recreation Ground MUGA	Wash Road, Brentwood	CM13 1BP	2.4
Warley Playing Field MUGA	The Drive, Warley	CM13 3BH	2.4
Ingrave Johnstone Playing Fields MUGA	Ingrave Road, Ingrave	CM13 3NU	1.8
Average Score			2.4

The generally low scores reflect the lack of floodlights on any of the sites and the fact that only the Hutton Recreation Ground MUGA is fully fenced.



14.6.3 Distribution and Accessibility

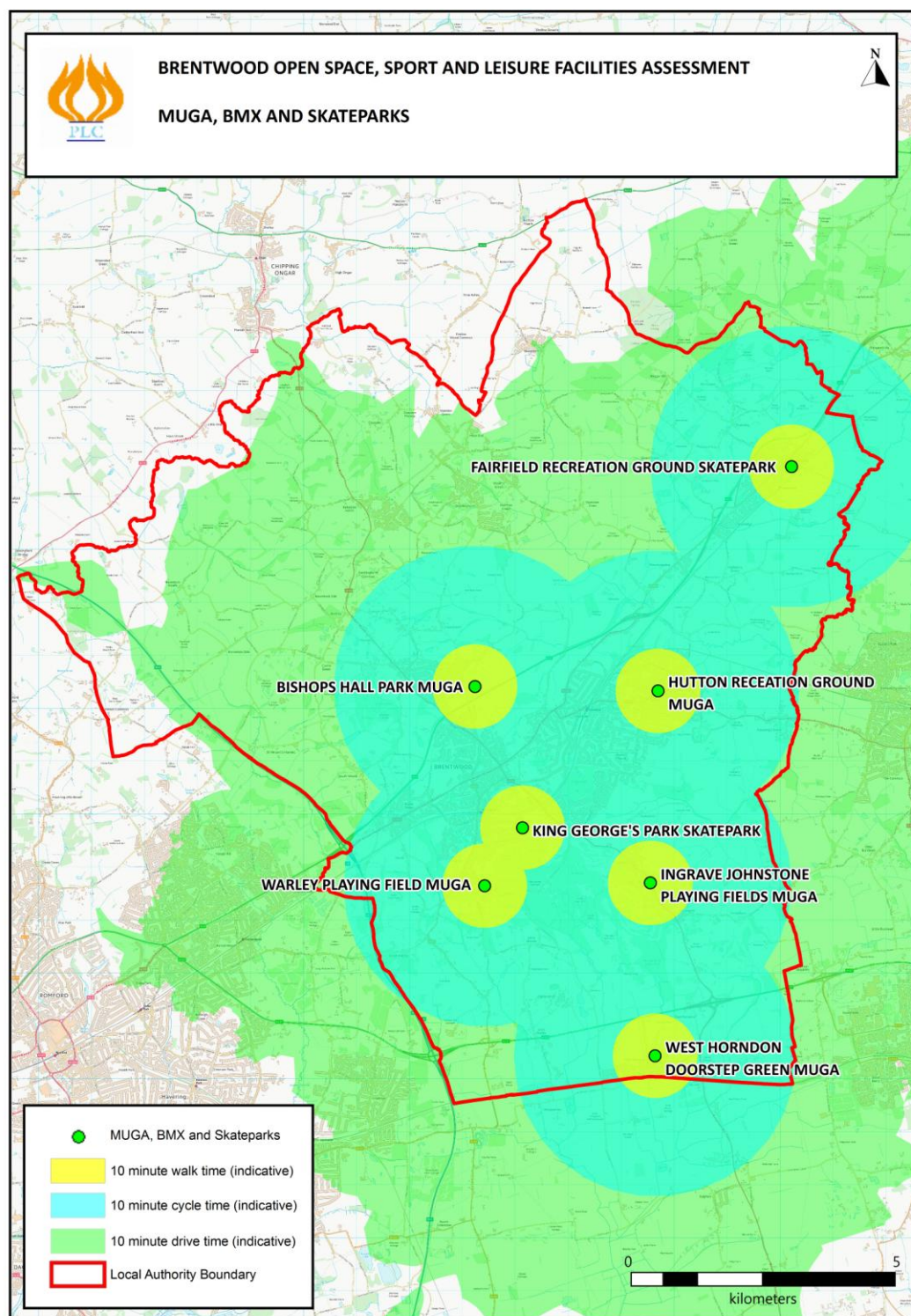
Because of the low numbers access to a MUGA is variable across the Borough. Three of the sites are located in the Brentwood urban area, one in the south east at Ingrave and one in the south at West Horndon. There is no provision in the north and west of the Borough.

14.6.4 Future Provision

MUGAs provide valuable, free of charge facilities for young people. They provide exercise space for informal activities or for small sided formal games. The current network of sites needs improvement in both quality and extent. The Council and its partners in the parish council should look to improve access in the north and west of the Borough. The parish councils should be encouraged to identify suitable sites and to provide additional MUGAs where finances allow. The Council should explore the feasibility of adding floodlights to the existing stock of MUGAs.

Future provision should be at a minimum of the current population standard.

Map 14.3
Multi Use Games Areas



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14.7 Tennis

14.7.1 Outdoor Tennis

There are 65 tennis courts in the Borough. Of these some 36 are on the 11 club sites and 21 on school sites with limited or no public access. There are no public courts in the Borough although several clubs offer casual bookings. Tennis courts on school sites double as netball courts.

Table 14.6 lists the local clubs, gives the number of courts on each site and provides a quality rating.

14.7.2 Standards of Provision

The current standard of provision is one court per 1,177 people. Provision is higher than in all neighbouring authorities and all comparator councils.

14.7.3 Quality Assessment

The courts were assessed by a visual, non-technical inspection looking at the following factors: -

- Playing surface
- Fencing
- Disability access
- General access
- Lighting

Each factor was marked on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest score. The overall ratings are given in Table 14.6. Details of the assessment are set out in Appendix 17. All club courts are rated highly.

14.7.4 Supply & Demand

The high level of provision of tennis courts and the good club network mean that there is no need for any additional courts in the Borough. In addition the current supply is capable of absorbing the increase in demand likely to arise from the projected population growth.

The Council, local clubs, the LTA and umbrella organisations such as Active Essex should look to make more courts available on a casual basis as part of the general promotion of physical activity.

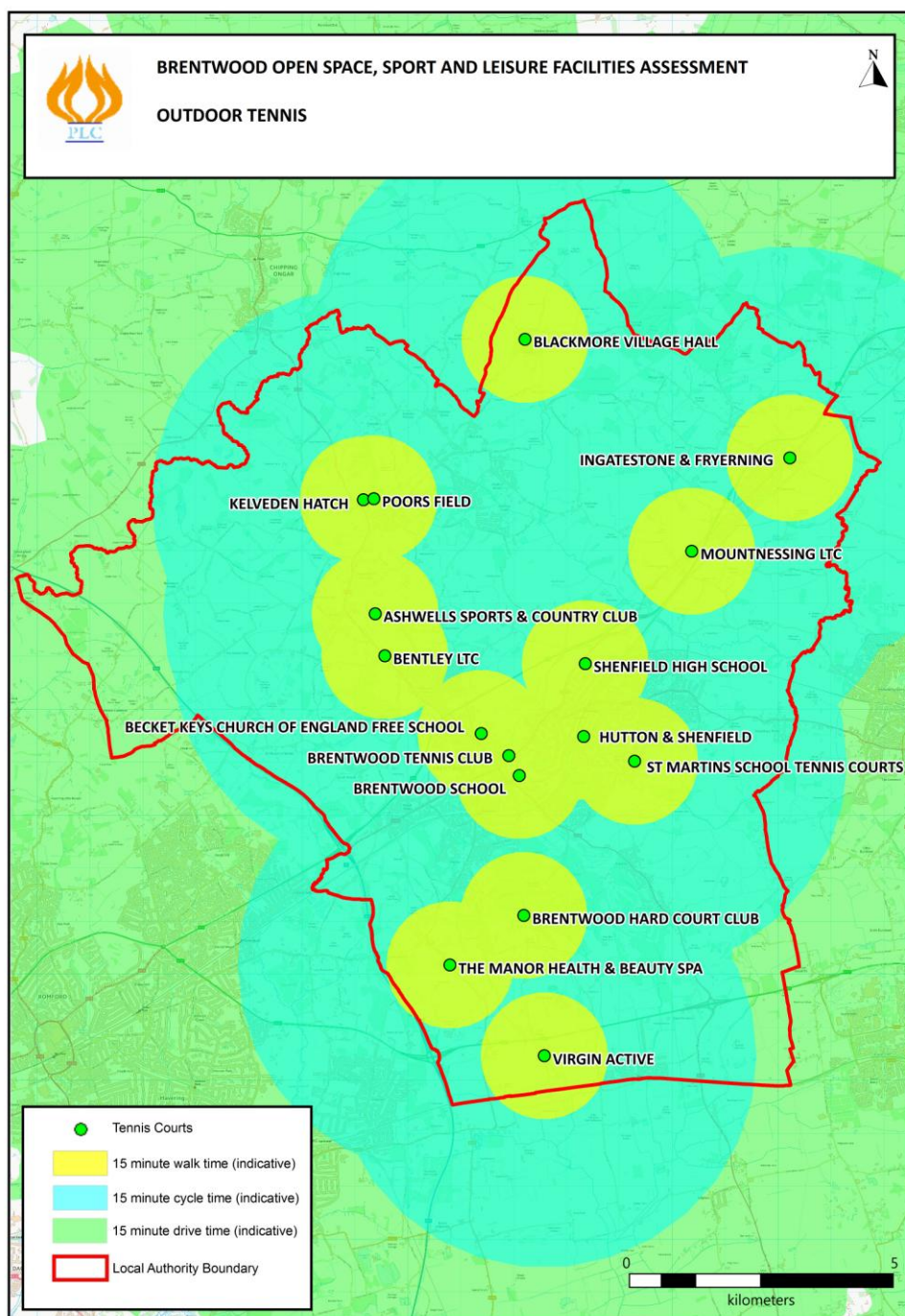
Table 14.6
Tennis Courts in Brentwood

Site Name	Address	Postcode	Home Club	No of Courts	Quality Rating
Mountnessing Coronation Fields	Roman Road, Mountnessing	CM15 0UA	Mountnessing LTC	4	4.6
Brentwood School	Middleton Hall Lane	CM15 8EE	-	7	4.6
Brentwood Tennis Club	Shenfield Road	CM15 8AJ	Brentwood TC	8	4.6
Virgin Active	Little Warley Hall Lane, Little Warley	CM13 3EN	Virgin Active	3	4.4
Brentwood Hard Court Club	Childerditch Lane, Little Warley	CM13 3FD	Brentwood Hard Court Club	6	4.0
Kelvedon Hatch Village Hall	School Road, Kelvedon Hatch	CM15 0DH	Kelvedon Hatch LTC	2	4.0
Old Brentwoods	Ashwells Road, Pilgrims Hatch	CM15 9SE	Old Brentwoods	3	4.0
Hutton & Shenfield	Brockley Grove, Hutton	CM13 2NA	Hutton & Shenfield	5	3.8
Bentley LTC	Ongar Road, Pilgrims Hatch	CM15 9RZ	Bentley LTC	2	3.6
Blackmore Village Hall	Nine Ashes Road, Blackmore	CM4 0QW	Blackmore LTC	2	3.5
Ingatestone	Rear 9, High Street, Ingatestone	CM4 9ED	Ingatestone & Fryerning	3	3.5
West Horndon	Chafford Gardens, West Horndon	CM13 3NJ	West Horndon LTC	2	3.4
Ashwells Sports & Country Club	Ashwells Road, Bentley	CM15 9SE	-	2	3.5
Becket Keys Church of England Free School	Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood	CM15 9DA	-	3	3.0
Shenfield High School	Alexander Lane, Brentwood	CM15 8RY	-	5	3.0
St Martin's School Tennis Courts	Hanging Hill lane	CM13 2HG	-	6	2.4
The Manor Health & Beauty Spa	De Rougemont Hotel, Great Warley	CM13 3JP	-	2	2.3
		Total		65	

14.7.5 Accessibility of Tennis Courts

The courts are well distributed across the Borough with all residents living within a 15 minute drive and a 15 minute cycle of a court.

Map 14.4
Tennis & Netball Courts



14.8 Netball

Brentwood Netball Club operates out of Brentwood School and St. Martin's school and has two adult and 10 junior teams playing in local leagues. The club has increased its membership in recent years.

Brentwood County High School operates a "Back to Netball" programme in partnership with England Netball. It and is hoping to develop a home club on the back of this initiative. It has plans to apply to Sport England for "Inspired Facilities" funding to build a bespoke netball facility on currently disused tennis courts

We recommend that the Council support these development proposals.

14.9 Future Provision for Outdoor Sport

Based on the findings as described in the preceding paragraphs the position with regards to the future provision of outdoor sport is summarised in table 14.7 as follows: -

Table 14.7
Future Provision of Outdoor Sport

Sport	Action Required	Rationale
Athletics	Desirable to explore extension of community access to Brentwood School track.	Governing body see no need for additional facilities as there is an existing track in Brentwood and also provision in neighbouring authorities.
Baseball	Support facilities development for Brentwood Baseball Club. No other facilities required.	Minority sport with comparatively few participants. Priority to support existing club.
Bowls	No need for additional facilities. Priority to support existing clubs consolidate and grow membership.	Falling participation locally and nationally. Any possible increase in demand from the projected growth in population can be absorbed within the current stock of facilities.
Cycling	Work with partners to promote cycling development schemes.	No identified need for specialist cycling facilities but support required for cycling as a pastime in line with national strategies.
BMX & Skateboard	Respond to local demand for new facilities if it arises.	No consultees spoke of the need for new facilities. Both sports tend to operate on informal basis using woodland and urban spaces.
Golf	No additional facilities required	National downward trend in participation and provision in Brentwood at more than 3 times

		Essex average.
MUGAs	<p>The Council and its partners in the parish council should look to improve access in the north and west of the Borough. The parish councils should be encouraged to identify suitable sites and to provide additional MUGAs. The Council should explore the feasibility of adding floodlights to the existing stock of MUGAs.</p>	<p>National strategies place emphasis in encouraging activity amongst young people.</p> <p>MUGAs provide valuable, free of charge facilities. The current network of sites needs improvement in both quality and extent.</p>
Netball	<p>Support the development of a netball centre at Brentwood County High School.</p> <p>Any additional facilities built as part of a new school to be made available to the community.</p>	<p>To support club development on the back of a successful "Back to Netball" programme.</p>
Tennis	<p>No additional facilities required.</p> <p>The Council, local clubs and the LTA should look to make more courts available on a casual basis as part of the general promotion of physical activity.</p> <p>Any additional facilities built as part of a new school to be made available to the community.</p>	<p>The high level of provision of tennis courts and the good club network mean that there is no need for any additional courts in the Borough.</p>

15 ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Future of Swimming at the Brentwood Centre

The key issue facing swimming in Brentwood is the future of the Brentwood Centre. The centre is the most accessible swimming venue in the Borough and the only one available to the public on a casual basis. It is also the only venue offering pool time to a wide range of swimming disciplines including competitive, sub-aqua and disability swimming. It, therefore, plays a key role in the sporting life of the Borough. Comments from all stakeholders are that this open access service should continue.

However, the pools are now coming towards the end of their design life and no longer meet modern customer expectations particularly with regards to changing accommodation. There is a need either for replacement pools which could be built to modern, energy-efficient standards or for a major refurbishment to improve changing and plant.

Either option will require significant expenditure by the Council and its operating partners. There are examples from elsewhere in the UK of new facility development being achieved through a combination of direct investment by councils, investment by operators and enabling commercial or housing development. The Council should draw on this experience in looking to the future of the Brentwood Centre.

15.2 Key Issue - The Future of the Brentwood Centre Sports Hall

In paragraphs 8.2.4 we stressed the importance of the Brentwood Centre to swimming in the Borough and raised the need to refurbish or replace the centre's pools which are coming to the end of their design life. There is a similar, if less urgent, situation with regards to the sports hall at the centre. Their 12 badminton court space plays an important role in sporting life in Brentwood particularly for pay and play.

If the centre is replaced rather than refurbished, a major consideration will be whether to replace the sports hall at the current size (which was originally specified to accommodate spectator events) or to opt for a smaller hall. Given the current level of use we believe it is essential that at least six courts be provided.

Replacement of the larger hall will depend on whether the Council wishes the venue to continue to stage large events such as concerts and exhibitions and the Essex County Hockey Association's indoor tournament. A case can be made that this benefits the Brentwood economy as a whole but no economic benefit analysis has yet been carried out. It would be beneficial to do so to aid the decision making process.

15.3 Summary of Recommendations

In the course of this report we have made a number of recommendations for future action by the Council and the various organisations with whom it works. These are summarised below. Subject to these recommendations being accepted, the various parties concerned will then need to agree an action plan for delivery.

15.4 Overall Vision

Our assessment has identified that there are relatively good levels of access to green spaces and sports provision in Brentwood, although there are some areas of concern about quality. Local community surveys show that green spaces and sports facilities are valued highly by Brentwood residents and that they add significantly to the quality of life in the Borough.

We would, therefore wish to see the Council and its partners adopt a Vision Statement that based upon the local needs assessment looks to:

- **Protect** provision that demonstrably meets current and future identified needs.
- **Enhance** strategically important sites to improve their capacity to accommodate current and future demand.
- **Provide** additional sites and facilities where deficiencies have been identified, both now and in the future.

Recommendation One

We therefore recommend adoption of the following Vision Statement.

"The Council and its partners will seek to protect, enhance and provide sufficient accessible, high quality network of open spaces, outdoor and indoor sports facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents for physical activity and recreation and the enjoyment of the natural environment."

15.5 Green Spaces

15.5.1 Future Standards of Provision

Levels of provision of green spaces and playing pitches in Brentwood currently equate to 12.65 hectares per 1,000 population. This is made up of 11.69 hectares of open spaces and 0.96 hectares of playing pitches.

Given this high level of overall provision in the Borough it is important to protect and where necessary improve existing provision of open space and playing pitches unless it can be demonstrated that the land is surplus to requirement.

The recommendations of this study identify minimum standards of new provision for open space and playing pitches. The minimum standards, identify projected deficiencies or surplus in quantity and quality of site categories across Brentwood and are set out in Table 15.1.

Table 15.1
Recommended Minimum Standards of Provision

Site Categories	ha/1,000 population	Quality Factors
Formal Open Spaces	0.5	Sites rated as high or medium quality
Informal and Natural Open Spaces	8.39	Sites rated as high or medium quality
Amenity Greenspace	0.30	Provision of litter bins and benches
Allotments	0.16	Provision of mains water, car park and secure fencing
Playgrounds	0.04	Minimum of 10 pieces of equipment to allow for a wide range of play experiences (swinging climbing, balancing etc) including provision for children with disabilities, hard surfacing and secure fencing.
TOTAL	9.39	

Recommendation Two

The Council adopts as a minimum the provision standards for open spaces amenity spaces, allotments and play areas as set out in Table 15.1. This is in addition to the provision of playing pitches.

15.5.2 Poor Quality Informal, Natural & Protected Open Spaces

The site assessments have rated a number of informal and natural open spaces as being of poor quality. These include St. Faiths and Hutton Country Parks. They offer poor value to the local community both in terms of the cost of maintenance and their value as local amenities.

Recommendation Three

The Council should explore options for improving the quality of, and addressing accessibility issues for, low rated informal, natural and protected open spaces. Consideration should be given to the part disposal of sites to provide funds for improvements on the outstanding site. Improvements to access for people with disabilities are a priority requirement.

Where no solution is possible, consideration should be given to the disposal of the site for an alternative use.

15.5.3 King George's Park and Playing Fields

The Council's brief asks that we make particular reference in this assessment to King George's Park and Playing Fields. It is a multi-sport hub and provides the only formal park in the Borough. However, the park has suffered from a history of under-investment in recent times. This is evident as: -

- The football pitches and some of the rugby pitches are poorly drained. This leads to a high number of postponements which means that the carrying capacity of the pitches is inadequate to meet the demand from football and rugby users.
- At least one additional pitch is required to meet the current needs of Brentwood Rugby Club and there is no spare capacity to accommodate this demand at other sites in the Borough.
- The changing rooms do not meet modern standards of space, privacy and hygiene.
- The changing rooms offer no segregation between the sexes or between young players and adults.
- There is no access for golfers with disabilities to the golf clubhouse.
- Car parking is inadequate at busy times.
- The paddling pool and its associated plant is coming to the end of its life.

Significant investment will be needed to bring about improvements. Drainage improvements to a football pitch can cost between £10,000 and £30,000 depending on quality and a new clubhouse and changing complex can cost in excess of £1 million. Brentwood Rugby Club have in recent years taken over management of the rugby pitches at King George's under a management agreement with the Council. This security of tenure has enabled them to invest significant amounts to improve the drainage of their training pitch.

What is needed is a strategic management plan for the park. This could be linked to an application for Green Flag²² status which would recognise the quality of the park and its importance to Brentwood residents. Part of this strategic plan should look at increasing the involvement of the clubs using the site in day to day operations and maintenance with arrangement with Brentwood RFC providing a good model. For example, it is now common practice for bowls clubs to operate under leases from the local authorities who own their rinks and to be responsible for the maintenance of their greens.

Recommendation Four

The Council work with partners to draft a strategic management plan for King George's Park and Playing Fields potentially linked to an application for the Green Flag award.

²² <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/the-awards/>

15.5.4 Additional Allotment Space

Allotment providers report a strong demand for allotment sites with waiting lists of between 5% and 10% on the most popular sites. This indicates a need for additional provision in the Borough of between 25 and 50 standard size plots in the urban area.

Recommendation Five

In addition to adopting the standard for provision of allotments in new developments set out in Table 15.2 the Council and its partners should identify additional allotment space to meet the current identified shortfall in provision.

15.6 Outdoor Sport

The following sub-sections briefly discuss and make recommendations on improving sporting opportunities in the Borough.

15.6.1 Athletics

The only athletics track in the Borough is at Brentwood School and is not accessible to the public on a regular basis.

Recommendation Six

The Council work with England Athletics, local athletes, Active Essex and Brentwood School to explore options for improving community access.

15.6.2 Baseball

There is an aspiration from Brentwood Baseball Club to develop basic facilities including backstop netting and a permanent diamond. The Club has some funds to contribute to these facilities however are unable to access external funding as they have no security of tenure.

Recommendation Seven

Where appropriate the Council develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their sites thus facilitating club development.

15.6.3 Bowls

The two bowling clubs at King George's Playing Fields are keen to work with the Council to explore options for maintaining and improving the standards of their greens including alternative management arrangements and transfer of responsibilities.

Recommendation Eight

We recommend that the Council work with the bowling clubs at King George's Playing Fields to explore options for future management arrangements.

15.6.4 Cricket

There is a sufficient supply of cricket wickets at the clubs in Brentwood to meet current needs and those anticipated for the future. The strategic requirement is for additional indoor practice space and for improved outdoor nets.

Recommendation Nine

The Council work in partnership with the Essex County Cricket Board to support those local clubs wishing to develop indoor facilities and outdoor nets.

15.6.5 Football

15.6.5.1 Improving Pitch Availability

Local geology in and around Brentwood means that most pitches have poor natural drainage. Consequently, there are high levels of postponements during a wet winter.

The poor carrying capacity of the present stock of pitches means that there are insufficient adult pitches to meet demand. The most pressing strategic need, therefore, is to ensure that the current stock of pitches in the Borough have increased availability in wet weather through improved drainage.

As the two most important sites in Brentwood are the Council owned pitches at King George's Playing Fields and Warley, this will require direct Council investment in improved drainage supported by external funding via the Football Foundation.

This will also allow some adult pitches to be reconfigured to meet the under-supply of junior 11 a side pitches.

Recommendation Ten

The Council work in partnership with the Essex County Football Association and the Football Association's regional investment team to seek opportunities to secure a programme of drainage improvements at Warley and King George's Playing Fields.

15.6.5.2 Improving Changing

Whilst looking at the key sites of Warley and King George's the Council should recognise that the changing rooms at both venues do not need present day standards in terms of space, hygiene, provision for female players and officials and the need to be able to segregate adults from younger players. Both sets of changing rooms are in need of

replacement or major refurbishment. Of the two the changing rooms at King George's have the greater priority as they have higher demand from football, adult rugby and mini-rugby players and appear to be in the worse condition.

Recommendation Eleven

The Council work in partnership with the Essex County Football Association and the Football Association's regional investment team to seek opportunities to secure a programme of changing improvements at Warley and King George's Playing Fields.

15.6.5.3 Provision of 3G Pitches

Alongside improvements in drainage to grass pitches, there is a need to increase the number of 3G pitches in the Borough for both football and rugby.

Recommendation Twelve

The Council work in partnership with the Essex County Football Association, the Football Association's regional investment team and local clubs to seek opportunities to secure a programme of siting, investment and funding for additional 3G pitches in the Borough.

15.6.5.4 Securing Long Term Access to Pitches

Football in Brentwood is characterised by a number of large clubs. They work on many sites usually with no security of tenure at these venues. This means they have no access to external funding and very limited ability to improve their facilities.

We recommend that the Council, Essex County FA and the RFU work with local clubs to secure long term access to sites and appropriated development of facilities.

15.6.5.5 Supporting Club Development

Two of the Borough's strongest football clubs and the two largest rugby clubs are seeking to develop their facilities and are looking for Council support.

- Brentwood Town FC, the highest standard club in the Borough, needs to invest in improvements to spectator accommodation at their HQ at Brentwood Arena to meet the facilities requirements of their league. They require longer tenure on the Arena to achieve funding for the required improvements.
- Hutton FC, the largest club in Brentwood with 50 male and female teams across the age range, are seeking to ensure planning permission to develop a hub site at Wynbarns Farm near Shenfield School on land adjacent to the A12. This will provide pitches, changing and associated car parking.
- Brentwood RFC has recently secured planning permission to redevelop its clubhouse including building new changing rooms. It is now raising funds to bring this to fruition.

- Old Brentwoods is looking to redevelop its clubhouse, improve drainage and construct an artificial turf pitch. It is at an initial stage of project planning.

Recommendation Thirteen

The Council should work with local clubs and NGBs to take positive steps to support appropriate development proposals, such as Brentwood Town FC, Hutton FC, Brentwood RFC and Old Brentwoods RFC including an additional rugby pitch at King George's Playing Field and to secure long term security of access.

15.6.6 Securing Access to School Pitches and Outdoor Facilities

Football in Brentwood, particularly at youth and mini level is dependent on access to school playing fields. However, none of this is secured access with bookings only being made on, at best, an annual basis. The situation is the same albeit to a lesser extent for cricket, hockey and rugby on school facilities.

There is a need for the Council, the governing bodies, Active Essex, Active Brentwood and local clubs to work together with schools to enable long term planning to take place. This involves encouraging closer relations between clubs and schools and promoting mutually beneficial funding bids based on secured tenure and club development plans.

Recommendation Fourteen

The Council should work with schools and other stakeholders to secure long term, guaranteed access to pitches and other facilities for community and club use through community use agreements. This will enable long term development and promote external investment. This to include support for Brentwood County High School's proposals for a netball centre.

15.6.7 Outdoor Gyms, Trim Trails, Cycle Routes and Running Circuits

Outdoor spaces provide unique and cost-effective ways of improving levels of physical activity and mental wellbeing. Action to make more of the connection between improved access to the outdoors and health is an important opportunity that is being promoted nationally. This can be achieved by installation of informal, outdoor facilities such as outdoor gyms, jogging routes and cycle trails.

Recommendation Fifteen

Where possible the Council should encourage the installation of informal fitness facilities such as Run 3-2-1 routes, outdoor gyms and trim trails at suitable venues across the Borough. This to support the Council's health and wellbeing agenda and intensify the use of greenspaces. This to include promotion of casual access to tennis courts.

15.7 Indoor Sport

15.7.1 Sports Halls

Comments from customers and the operators of sports halls, governing bodies and local clubs indicate that most facilities are operating at or near capacity at peak times. This study concludes there is need for an additional four badminton court sports hall, required by 2026.

15.7.2 Swimming Pools

Similarly, comments from the operators of pools governing bodies and local clubs indicate that most facilities are operating at or near capacity at peak times. This study concludes there is need for an additional 25m indoor swimming pool, required by 2026.

15.7.3 Health and Fitness

Brentwood enjoys a high level of per capita provision of health and fitness clubs with ten facilities in the Borough. This is better than in all but one of the neighbouring local authorities.

This study concludes an additional health and fitness club will be expected by 2023.

15.7.4 Squash Courts

The study concludes spare capacity at existing courts will meet anticipated demand.

15.7.5 Indoor Bowls

The only indoor bowls venue in Brentwood is the Stonyhill Club at Herongate. The study concludes anticipated population increase will not bring sufficient new demand for a new facility.

15.7.6 Indoor Tennis

The only indoor tennis venue in Brentwood is at the members only Clearview Health and Racquets club in West Horndon. The study concludes that the anticipated population increase will not bring sufficient new demand for a new facility.

15.7.7 Standards of Provision

The recommendations of this study identify minimum standards of new provision for indoor sport. This provision and the associated standards of provision are set out in Table 15.2. The column on the right of the table indicates when additional facilities will be required to provide the same level of provision for the anticipated population growth. This is based on an estimated growth of 870 people per year.

Table 15.2
Minimum Standards of Provision for Indoor Sport

Facility	Number	Current Standard of Provision	Future Requirements
Sports Halls	8 Halls 44 Badminton Courts	1 per 9,563 people 1 per 1,739 people	An additional 4 badminton court sports hall will be required by 2026.
Swimming Pools	7 pools 2,006 sq. m	1 per 10,929 people 26.2 per 1,000 people	An additional 25m indoor swimming pool will be required by 2027.
Health & Fitness	10 clubs	1 per 7,650 adults	An addition club will be expected by 2023.
Squash Courts	11 courts	1 per 6,955 people	The spare capacity at existing courts will meet the anticipated demand
Indoor Tennis	1 venue 6 courts	1 per 75,600 people 1 per 12,750 people	The new population will not bring sufficient new demand for a new facility.
Indoor Bowls	1 venue 7 rinks	1 per 75,600 people 1 per 10,929 people	The new population will not bring sufficient new demand for a new facility.

Recommendation Sixteen

The Council adopts as a minimum the provision standards for indoor sport as set out in Table 15.2.

16 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

16.1 Using Developer Contributions for Recommendations

A key output of this strategy is a set of proposals for the justification of developers' contributions for housing in Brentwood. This is required to guide developers' contributions prior to the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), to support CIL justification and to guide appropriate planning obligations that will run alongside CIL.

Prior to the implementation of the CIL for Brentwood, when developer contributions are being sought for individual applications, the Council will need to take into account the NPPF policy that planning obligations (including developer contributions) should only be sought where they meet all three tests of NPPF paragraph 204 which links to CIL Regulation 122. The three CIL tests are:

Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms

If the leisure infrastructure is not provided, the impact of the proposal will be unacceptable as it will not meet the needs of the relevant policies and will lead to increased pressure on the existing facilities, for example by taking them beyond their capacity.

Directly related to the development

The amount of demand which will be generated by the development will be identified through estimating the number of residents living in the proposed dwellings and applying the local demographic profile. The impact on the local infrastructure will then be determined based on how the development relates to the catchment area for each particular facility and the existing and future expected balance in the supply of that facility with the new demand. The contributions sought for sport, leisure and recreation will therefore be directly related to the development.

Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development

With a known demand for sport, leisure and recreation facilities directly related to the development as described above and an assessment of the impact of the development on the supply and demand balance caused by the development, the contributions sought can be both fairly and reasonably assessed to be in scale and kind to the development.

It is noted that once CIL has been implemented, then the facility investment priorities are not tied to the CIL tests above, and funding can be directed to the infrastructure priorities identified in the CIL Reg 123 list, wherever located across the authority.

Specific on-site investment needs for larger housing sites can be secured through planning obligations, both before and after CIL, noting that there cannot be any duplication of funding across CIL and planning obligations.

In the longer term, and if new housing sites are identified in the Borough which have not been identified in the Local Plan, then this strategy may need to be reviewed, or in some cases (and where CIL compliant) the use of standards in this strategy can be applied to such sites to identify contributions.

16.2 Pre-implementation of CIL

The following will be used to guide the request for developer's contributions up until the implementation of CIL and where no S106 agreement is yet in place and noting that all contributions sought need to meet the three CIL tests:

- Funding for the prioritised and costed list of necessary infrastructure
- Where appropriate (see below) the use of standards of provision
- Where the new housing is located in the main urban areas of Brentwood and Shenfield and the contribution is off site, then the contributions will be towards the list of justified and costed facility improvements on the pro rata basis of the population expected in the housing development and the urban area.
- Where a housing development is located in a rural area, the contributions will be to the nearest site providing for the sport or leisure activity. This to be calculated on a pro rata basis using the population expected in the new development as a % of the population of the parish in which the development is located to calculate the % of the cost of the facility to be funded.

16.3 Ensuring Quality Provision

There is now an extensive set of sports and leisure facility design advice available from Sport England and the major national governing bodies of sport. The planning policies for Brentwood Borough Council in relation to the quality standards for sports facilities should therefore refer back to this guidance, both for design and layout.

16.4 Strengthening Advice Prior to CIL

Given that the activation of an agreed CIL for Brentwood may not be until sometime in 2017, the Council may wish to consider strengthening the planning policy weight behind developer contributions for Open Space through the preparation and adoption of an SPD that incorporates the findings from this updated Sport, Leisure and Open Space assessment.

It is worth noting that ahead of CIL the use of ongoing 'standards based' generic obligations should generally be replaced by infrastructure project specific obligations that are CIL compliant and ensure that no more than 5 obligations are used to fund any piece or specific type of infrastructure (taking into account any previous confirmed obligations from April 2010) and; that there is no duplication between CIL infrastructure requests and s106 requests.

16.5 Post CIL Implementation

Once CIL is implemented, there will be a (Reg 123) list of CIL infrastructure projects. There is no restriction on the location of the projects to be funded in relation to the location of development, so the CIL tests above are no longer relevant.

There will also be planning obligations that can be sought outside of the CIL list (NB duplication of funding requests for projects that are included in the CIL is not allowed). These may include some on-site provision and some off-site s106 contributions. In these cases the CIL tests will still apply. Having an up to date SPD may be helpful here.

16.6 Agreeing Priorities for Investment

The list of sport, leisure and open space projects to be considered for CIL funding will be in competition for finance with a range of wider projects. It is highly likely that there will be insufficient funding for all schemes. It will be necessary, therefore, to prioritise sport, leisure and open space proposals amongst themselves and against other schemes.

Such prioritisation will need to take into account such factors as: -

- **Value for money** - The overall cost of the project in relation to its potential benefits. Investment in, for example, an open space and playground will have a wider benefit to investment in a squash court
- **Section 106 or CIL value for money** - The amount/proportion of developer contribution monies in relation to the potential benefits of the project.
- **Partnership funding secured** - The amount of any funding already secured in relation to the overall project costs.
- **Potential for attracting additional partnership funding** - The realistic prospect of attracting further partnership funding from other sources.
- **Statutory planning issues** - The extent to which the proposed development is compliant with planning policies.
- **Project management capability** - The track record of the project promoter with managing and/or procuring capital projects.
- **Facility management arrangements** - Whether the proposed facility management arrangements have been identified and the extent to which these would maximise accessibility and use.
- **Facility running costs** - Whether the running costs have been identified and the extent to which they can be operated on a financially sustainable basis, including provision for 'sinking funds' where appropriate.



- **External support for the proposals** - The extent of any external support for the project, for example from Sport England, Active Essex and the governing bodies of sport.
- **Risk factors** - The extent of any risk factors associated with the project, such as the need for land purchase.
- **Readiness to proceed** - The extent to which the project is ready to proceed within a prescribed and credible timescale.
- **Environmental sustainability** - The extent to which the project includes features that mitigate its environmental impact and improve its sustainability.
- **Inclusiveness** - The extent to which the physical design of the project and the proposed programme of use of the facilities will cater for the needs of those groups in the community that traditionally have low rates of participation in sport and physical activity.

Information about some or all of these factors will come from the consultation exercises taking place with regards to this assessment and from the Council's wider consultations on the new Local Plan. These can then be used to inform the emerging Action Plan.



17 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Throughout the course of this study we have been greatly aided by the involvement and encouragement of a number of people. We at PLC would like to place on record our thanks to all members of the steering group and those who have given their time to complete surveys, attend meetings and provide information. Their willingness to share their knowledge, experience and expertise has greatly aided the course of this project.

Glossary

3G	A rubber crumb or "third generation" artificial turf pitch
AGP/ATP	Artificial Grass/Turf Pitch
AGS	Amenity Green Space
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities - Sport England Guidance
BBC	Brentwood Borough Council
BC	Badminton Club or Basketball Club or Baseball Club or Bowling Club
BCHS	Brentwood County High School
BLT	Brentwood Leisure Trust
BMX	Bicycle Moto-Cross
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Administration
EBA	Essex Bridleway Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
ECCB	Essex County Cricket Board
ECC	Essex County Council
ECFA	Essex County Football Association
EFDS	English Federation of Disability Sport
ERFU	Essex Rugby Football Union
EWT	Essex Wildlife Trust
FA	The Football Association
FC	Football Club
FPM	Facility Planning Model (A Sport England planning tool)
HC	Hockey Club
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
JFC	Junior Football Club
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LDP	Local Development Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
NGBs	National Governing Bodies of Sport
NPFA	National Playing Fields Association (now using the brand name "Fields in Trust")
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PC	Parish Council
PLC	Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd.
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy - Sport England Guidance
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RFC or RUFC	Rugby Football Club or Rugby Union Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990)
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
TGR	Team Generation Rate
YFC	Youth Football Club