Borough Council of King's Lynn & West
Norfolk

Urban Renaissance Strategy for King's Lynn –
Sports, Recreation and Open Space Assessment

Mapping Appendix
33914/4
April 2006
Llewelyn Davies Yeang
Contents

1 Introduction ............................................................................................................. 1
1.1 The Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk - Sports, Recreation and Open Space Assessment .................................................................................... 1
1.2 This Appendix ........................................................................................................ 1

2 The Maps .............................................................................................................. 3
1 Introduction

1.1 The Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk - Sports, Recreation and Open Space Assessment

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, in co-operation with the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), English Partnerships and Norfolk County Council, appointed Lewelyn Davies Yeang to carry out a Sports, Recreation and Open Space Assessment for the Borough.

The assessment, to which this document comprises a separate appendix, is one of four project strands, which will form the basis of an Urban Renaissance Strategy (URS) for King's Lynn. The other strands comprise an Urban Plan and a Transport Plan (for the town of King's Lynn only) and a Borough wide Urban Capacity Study (UCS). The URS will provide a long term strategy for both the town and the Borough's development and regeneration and will help shape the Local Development Framework and Local Transport Plan as well as determine investment priorities for the Borough Council, EEDA and the County Council.

1.2 This Appendix

This appendix, which accompanies the final assessment report itself, contains maps of the various settlements in the Borough, showing their identified sports, recreation and open space provision. We have, as far as possible, tried to match the map areas in this appendix, with those illustrated in the Local Plan Proposals Inset Maps (1998).

1.2.1 Identification of Sites

As the main report explains, our audit of sites was initially based on a desktop analysis, utilising a number of sources, including:

- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Adopted Local Plan (1998) Proposals Map
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Sports Directory
- Sport England's Active Places website
- List of Children's Play Spaces provided by the Local Authority
- Nature Conservation details provided by the Local Authority, English Nature and Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Community hall lists from the Norfolk Association of Village Halls and the Rural Communities Council.

Once this process had been completed and the sports, recreation and open space provision manually mapped, the details were entered onto checklists and segregated into the relevant parish council areas.

Actual site surveys were then undertaken in:

- King's Lynn (covering the wards of Lynn North, Lynn Central, Lynn South West, St Margaret's, Chase, Gaywood North, Gaywood Central and Gaywood South).
- Downham Market (covering the wards of North Downham, East Downham, South Downham and Downham Old Town).

These site surveys checked that the sites identified through the manual desktop mapping process a) still existed b) assessed what facilities they had, c) assessed the quality of the sites/facilities and d) assessed accessibility. These site surveys were undertaken on the 10th, 11th and 18th February 2005.

A different approach (agreed with by Sports Development and Open Space officers at the Borough Council) was undertaken for the rest of the Borough, where the consultant team utilised the detailed local area knowledge and expertise of the parish councils. After identifying the sports, recreation and open space provision through the manual mapping process, the maps and checklists were then sent out to all parish councils in the Borough requiring them to confirm the following:

- That the information mapped and set out on the checklist was correct;
- If any sites should not be included e.g. private land not accessible to the general public, land now developed for other uses, land allocated for other uses etc.
- If there were any new sites that we had previously missed.
- And
- Identify any sites, which, are of poor quality e.g. unsafe, poorly maintained etc.
- Identify any sites that suffered from accessibility problems e.g. sites hard to access by certain groups of people.

The parish councils were given 7 weeks (1st February – 18th March 2005) to respond. Over 80% of the parishes fed back comments and revisions to our initial audit.

However, the consultant team received no feedback from around 20% of the parishes. In order to check provision in these parishes, the consultant team met with officers at the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk - James Allatt (Planning Policy), David Farkin (Principal Planner, North Team) and Julie Jacques (Area Planner, South Team) on the 6th April 2005 to discuss the remaining sites.

Once all the feedback had been collated, the sites were mapped on a GIS map base. It is important to emphasise that, whilst every effort has been made to map these sites accurately, our information, outside the towns of King's Lynn and Downham Market, is based solely on the feedback from the parish councils and the planning officers, as well as the data sources listed earlier.

1.2.2 Issues

It is important to understand the following points when studying the mapping in this appendix document:

- The following maps show the levels of provision that we have been informed exist in the Borough and are illustrative only. Some of the following maps may show areas of open space that appear, at first hand, not to have been mapped (e.g. areas of green open space identified in the Local Plan Proposals Inset Maps). In such cases, the area has not been mapped as we have been informed by the parish councils that such land is say, in private ownership or not accessible to the public or an allocated development site etc.

- The work has largely been a desk-top based assessment, utilizing feedback from the parish councils. In some instances site boundaries are clear. However, in other cases the site boundaries are more ambiguous. In such cases, whilst the consultant team have made every effort to accurately map the boundaries using all the possible information, a best judgement may have been applied with regard to the site's extent/parameters.

- A further issue, and one that has been raised in many other recent studies of this nature across the country, is that it is not always possible to compartmentalise provision into defined categories. For example, it is difficult to distinguish between say, a park used in the week by local people walking their dogs or for other informal recreation purposes e.g. kite flying, and its use for formal sports at weekends. Similarly, many formal parks and gardens also have monuments and landscaped gardens alongside areas marked out for sports pitches. Furthermore, a site can vary depending on the season e.g. a park may be used informally for picnics in the summer, but for rugby in the winter. Even locations, which are clearly defined for formal sports uses, can vary e.g. football in the...
winter and cricket in the summer. Therefore, it must be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide accurate details, seasonal variations or multi-purpose uses may have been misinterpreted. However, in all cases, we have identified what we consider the primary use to be. There has, therefore, not been any double counting of sites.

- Finally, it may be noted that maps may only show the provision in a particular village or settlement, whilst outside of this area, a country park may exist that is either too far away from the village/settlement or too large to map. Therefore, the following maps should be treated as illustrative only.
2 The Maps

The following maps show provision in the Borough’s settlements. They show:

- Parks, Gardens and Amenity Green Space
- Outdoor Sports - Bowls/ Tennis
- Outdoor Sports – Playing Field
- Sports Centres
- Children’s Play Space
- Schools with Public Indoor Facilities
- Halls used for Sports/ Recreation
- Allotments
- Churchyards/ Cemeteries
- Environmental Protection Areas (Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR))
- Golf Courses

They also show the parish boundaries, when required.