

4. Green Infrastructure Policies

To support the future development and enhancement of GI in King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough a number of policies have been created to support the delivery of capital projects and encourage the creation of appropriate, well maintained, multifunctional, quality GI provision. Listed below are a number of policies relating to national GI development guidance and the issues raised during consultation events.

4.1 Multifunctionality

GI has a variety of roles and functions, ranging from providing play spaces, to mitigating against the impact of climate change. A site may have so many functions that it is difficult to identify its primary purpose/typology. The multifunctionality of greenspace is something which occurs naturally, or is planned due to pressure on land resources. In most cases multifunctionality is a positive trait, which increases the value of greenspaces. However, conflict can occur between user groups when the possible functions of greenspace are incompatible and new GI sites should be designed with this in mind. This may include providing separate, designated areas for wildlife, with limited public access and recreation. It is also important to consider how open space and GI can address the multiple needs of different users.

Policy: Where opportunities arise for GI development, provision should be designed and enhanced to accommodate a variety of complementary functions.

4.2 Planning and Development

4.2.1 Protection of GI through the Planning System

Concerns were raised throughout the consultation exercises that GI in the Borough were gradually being eroded through the development of new housing and commercial sites. PPS9 states that Local Authorities should aim to maintain networks of natural habitats. Such networks should be protected from development, and, where possible, strengthened by or integrated within it. This may be done as part of a wider strategy for the protection and extension of open space and access routes. Such opportunities should be maximised in and around developments in the Borough, using planning obligations where appropriate.

Policy: The planning system will be used to protect identified GI sites. This will be achieved through a requirement for all new development to incorporate and enhance existing GI where appropriate. Developer contributions may be necessary to increase the quality of protected and existing sites.



4.2.2 Inclusion of GI in New Developments

Standards for outdoor recreation provision are included within the Infrastructure, Service and Amenity Requirements for New Developments (2009), published by Norfolk County Council. It specifies that 13.2ha of parks/gardens and amenity greenspace and 1.7ha of outdoor sports fields are required per 1,000 residents. Demand for play provision is to be assessed by the County Council on an area by area basis rather than using the NPFA 6 acre standard. The document also states that funds will be used to increase provision in areas of deficiency before improving the quality of existing sites. On and off site contributions are required for developments greater than 15 dwellings, whilst off site contributions are required in relation to development between five and 15 dwellings. Quality standards are also referred to within the Urban Renaissance Study.

Norfolk County Council indicates its position on various planning obligations through the Requirements for New Developments document. The current requirements were last updated in April 2009 responding to the economic slow-down and demonstrate that requirements for GI are to be negotiated in relation to specific development.

The Document also states that where proposed development is likely to have an impact on PROW, the County Council will seek to negotiate a contribution consistent with the tests set out in Circular 5/05. The County Council may request contributions towards the creation of new habitats in order to support local biodiversity interests, where they relate to new housing development. It is expected that any contributions supporting adaptation to climate change will be requested following the preparation of a Community Infrastructure Levy document.

Where possible, contributions from developments in proximity to capital projects identified in the Action Plan (section 5) will be ring fenced in order to support their delivery.

Policy: Planning contributions (or CIL in the future) will be requested as appropriate in relation to the enhancement, protection and development of GI provision.

4.2.3 Community Engagement within the Planning of New GI



It is important that the community are involved in the development and enhancement of GI sites as the majority of provision will be created for their use. Community representatives and local residents should therefore be consulted with regards to GI development. Existing groups with an interest in a specific site, such as friends groups, should also be asked to participate. Young people are primary users of many GI sites and in support of BCKLWN's objectives should also be included in this process, particularly if sites are being designed primarily for their use. Community engagement is required to take



place early in the design process to gain appropriate levels of resident buy in and input, which has been demonstrated to decrease anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Efforts by groups, such as East of England Apples and Orchards project, to work with community groups to identify, develop, enhance and create new and existing GI sites will be supported.

Policy: Community representatives, local residents, friends/interest groups and young people will be consulted early in the design of new or existing GI sites. Consultation will be completed in line with principles proposed within the BCKLWN's Adopted Statement of Community Involvement, 2007. Where appropriate, support will be provided to organisations working with the community, parish councils and charitable organisations to identify, develop, enhance and create new and existing GI sites.

4.2.4 Joined Up Planning Approach

The movement of wildlife and people is not constrained by administrative boundaries and it is therefore important to ensure that the wildlife corridors and recreation routes identified in the Borough link with those in neighbouring authorities. GI studies are being completed for the Wash Estuary, Cambridgeshire County, Thetford Growth Point and Bury St. Edmunds. The Coast also supports significant ecological and recreational links. Further regeneration and housing growth is planned for Ely, Thetford and Wisbech and this should also be considered to ensure GI development plans are complimentary.

Policy: BCKLWN will work with neighbouring authorities and relevant agencies to support the development of GI linkages across local authority boundaries.

4.2.5 Green Roofs

Green roofs are vegetated layers that sit on top of the roof surface of a building. Two types of green roofs exist: intensive and extensive. These terms refer to the degree of maintenance the roofs require. Intensive green roofs which are composed of relatively deep substrates and support a wide range of plant types: trees and shrubs as well as perennials, grasses and annuals. This type of green roof is heavy and may require additional support. Extensive green roofs generally support less diverse and lower growing vegetation. They are composed of lightweight layers of free-draining material that support low-growing, tough drought-resistant vegetation. These roof types require little or no additional structural support from the building, can be retrofitted to existing buildings and require little maintenance.

Green roofs have significant environmental benefits and are able to support the migration of wildlife and the development of habitats, the reduction of water run off and improve water quality. They can also help to reduce heating and insulation costs. Green roofs could potentially provide a significant role in developing West Norfolk's



GI, particularly in supporting wildlife migration, where opportunities for building demolition and redevelopment are limited.

Opportunities for green roof development include new business parks, particularly ‘green’ companies and those wishing to meet Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) requirements. Examples of green roof developments include Adnams Brewery, Southwold, Barclays Bank Headquarters, Isle of Dogs and Norfolk Community Primary School, Sheffield. Sheffield City Council is the first Council outside London to adopt a green roof policy within its planning regulations. The policy states that green roofs will be required upon all developments over 1,000m² gross internal floorspace or more than 15 dwellings.

Policy: To encourage the development of green roofs, and other innovative solutions, upon new and existing buildings.

4.2.6 Design of GI Sites



New GI sites will be designed to take into consideration opportunities for multifunctional use. Guidelines for allotments, green streets, wildlife corridors etc. will be considered, such as documentation created by the Local Government Association, Shared Earth Trust, CABEspace and the Forestry Commission. Designs will also consider information with the policies of this GI strategy. Further work will be required to ensure that designs for new sites

adhere to Secure by Design principles in an effort to reduce opportunities for vandalism and antisocial behaviour within GI sites, whilst remaining sympathetic to the nature of the site. All new GI sites with public access will need to demonstrate adherence to Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) principles to support access for all, including those with impaired mobility. Sites should also be designed and managed with specific regard to encouraging biodiversity, through encouraging integrated habitat areas and borders, supporting the movement of plants and animals. The ease of future maintenance should also be considered within site design to ensure that the quality of the sites is sustained. Management plans for new schemes would aid high standards of maintenance. The use of street trees should be encouraged in the development of new residential areas.

There is a need for professionals to be involved in the creation of new GI sites so that they are designed in order to create a sense of place and support sustainability objectives, whilst ensuring low maintenance costs.



Policy: A number of principles for consideration in the design of new GI sites include:

- **Secure By Design objectives;**
- **DDA requirements,**
- **accessibility on a wider scale;**
- **enhancing biodiversity and maximising biodiversity opportunities; and**
- **the assessment of appropriate maintenance practices.**

4.3 Access

Public access to GI sites will be supported, where possible, to increase the number of social and economic benefits provided by these sites. Accessibility by public transport will be required to and from the larger, strategic sites, supporting linkages with the footpath and cycleway network, thus decreasing the need for private transport and supporting sustainability objectives. There is also a requirement to increase the number of access points into GI sites, particularly parks and nature reserves. Increasing the number of points will decrease walking and cycling times to these facilities increasing their attractiveness to local residents and encouraging their participation in recreational activity.

Opportunities to access GI provision should be made available to all persons. It is therefore important that DDA principles are adopted within the design process to ensure that those with visual and physical disabilities are able to access sites, where appropriate. This may include works such as widening footpaths and altering surfaces.

Policy: Access to GI sites by modes of sustainable and public transport will be encouraged; this will include increasing the number of entrance points available. DDA principles will be adopted when designing new sites and improving access within existing sites.



4.4 Maintenance and Management

The maintenance of GI sites was a significant issue identified at the second consultation event. Attendees indicated that the funding of appropriate maintenance regimes was a concern, with the resources of the Forestry Commission particularly stretched by developers who created open space for woodland to meet Section 106 requirements. The maintenance of GI sites is also affected by the level of vandalism in the area and once an object has been damaged there is often a lack of funding to replace/repair the facility. Locating additional funding to support maintenance activity is often challenging as many funding packages provide capital project funding, but few provide resources for ongoing maintenance costs or associated personnel.



One method of increasing the maintenance of Public Rights of Way (PROW) discussed at the event is to engage with volunteer groups to provide specialist maintenance activities, such as sensitive pruning and path enhancement. The preparation of site specific management plans, identifying maintenance regimes and opportunities for volunteer activity, should be completed for strategic sites and new developments.

BCKLWN's grounds maintenance services are responsible for the operational management and day-to-day care of the various parks/ gardens and play areas distributed across the Borough. Mobile gardening teams visit sites to ensure that the defined standards are maintained in parks and gardens. Further research is required to explore the feasibility of reorganising these teams to ensure that staff members are split into groups, which care for a specific neighbourhood.

Other councils such as Milton Keynes have applied the use of endowments to the management of GI. In Milton Keynes a self financing "social enterprise was established in the form of a trust, to manage local green space". The development of the park and network of open spaces that join Milton Keynes' neighbourhoods was funded by the local Development Corporation with an endowment to cover ongoing maintenance. The Park has been leased to the Trust on a 999 year lease, with the freehold owned by the Borough, as is the land alongside the transport corridors with some reservations. (The Park was endowed with properties of relatively low value, unattractive to institutional investors, comprising four neighbourhood shopping centres, seven village shops, two industrial and two office developments, plus 11 public houses. The trust is self-financing, with an annual income of £3.3 million (M) in 2003, of which £2.7M came from property. The expenditure broke down into £1.9M on management of greenspace).

The use of such endowments is supported within the DoE People Parks and Cities-A Guide to Good Practice in Urban Parks-Greenhulgh and Worpole, HMSO March 1996.

"It is clear that parks provision in Milton Keynes benefits from having a dedicated agency working solely to a single remit, without having constantly to fight political battles for resources with other, equally important local services, or following the occasional vagaries of national and local decision making... To the outsider, the



overwhelming benefit which derives from owning, managing and funding a new parks portfolio as a dedicated trust is the continuity of staff, the single mindedness of the organisational ethos, and the close attention to the job in hand."

Opportunities to bring more County Wildlife Sites into positive management should be considered, in line with NI 197, in order to protect and enhance local biodiversity. These sites are generally maintained by the landowner and therefore will involve significant engagement with stakeholders to encourage positive management and highlight any benefits.

Policy: Further opportunities to support the enhancement of ground maintenance services and private landowners should be considered in relation to greenspaces. Site management plans should be created which state how maintenance will be achieved, by whom, and how this will be funded in the future. These bespoke management plans for individual sites, should also identify opportunities for volunteers involvement in maintenance activities. Exploring methods by which to ring fence planning contributions towards maintenance in order to support a more focused neighbourhood approach to the upkeep of GI will also be key to ensuring such activities can be delivered.

4.5 Partnership Working

A number of stakeholders have already contributed to the development of this GI Strategy and various agencies have been identified as project leads within the action plan demonstrated in chapter 5. It is therefore important that partnership working is supported, with BCKLWN acting as the main co-ordinator of this activity. As detailed later in the report, it is recommended that a specific GI Co-ordinator is employed to complete such a task.

The potential for partner delivery may reduce costs in the long term, as several partners have access to funding pots that BCKLWN cannot use. It is also possible to increase the multifunctionality of the GI network (a key GI objective) through the inclusion of a wide range of partners in strategic planning and delivery. The feasibility of creating a formal GI delivery group, with a supporting, specific GI officer, therefore requires consideration.

Policy: The feasibility of developing a GI delivery group should be considered, following the completion of this GI strategy. This group will be tasked with supporting partnership working and increasing knowledge of site developments across the various sectors so that opportunities for partner involvement can be recognised early in the process. The employment of a specific officer to co-ordinate such a group requires consideration.

4.6 Promotion

Stakeholder consultation demonstrated the limited publicity material and promotion of GI that has generally, taken place across the Borough. This is particularly the case with regard to Public Rights of Way and other recreational



routes. Few leaflets exist promoting such routes and many signs displaying the location of pathways are either old and unclear or out of date.

The promotion of GI sites is key to increasing their value both as an asset for the local community and also as an economic development facility, which attracts tourists. A variety of media can be used to promote GI sites, such as leaflets, the internet, interpretation boards, markets, community events and TV/radio.

Policy: Further work should be undertaken to identify sites which require promotion. There is also need for a greater level of partnership working in order to support the effective co-ordination of promotional activity.

4.7 Climate Change

It is widely accepted that the climate is changing and that the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the activities of mankind are largely responsible. This means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the scale of future changes, i.e. mitigation, while at the same time we need to understand in what way we will be vulnerable to climate impacts and take appropriate action to manage this risk, i.e. adaptation. The East of England Climate Change Partnership Climate Change Action Plan and the Norfolk County Council Climate Change Strategy address both of these aims and indicate that GI has a significant contribution to make.

4.7.1 Mitigation

Mitigation is the action of limiting greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere, thereby limiting the scale of future climate change. GI has a number of roles to play:

- Greenspaces are ‘sinks’ for carbon emissions with carbon either being stored/sequestered in the ground or converted to oxygen through photosynthesis. Agricultural and land management practices can be modified in order to maximise the amount of carbon sequestered thereby providing additional benefits.
- Manage sources of biomass for use as a low carbon, renewable source of energy are an important aspect of greenspace in our communities, particularly in terms of mitigation. Managed woodlands and the introduction of coppicing can offer the additional benefit of habitat creation. The use of biomass would also support the NCC Climate Change Strategy, which identified the use of under managed woodland to provide renewable fuel.
- The interconnection of greenspaces and the use of green corridors provide alternative routes for travel, encouraging people onto bicycles or foot and out of their cars. Within the NCC Climate Change Strategy is an objective to support sustainability through a decrease in private car based travel.



Policy: Effective land management across all greenspaces will be encouraged in order to maximise the amount of carbon sequestered, contributing to overall carbon reduction targets.

Policy: Encourage the development of woodlands as a source of biomass, to support an increase in the level of renewable technology uptake, recognising the multiple mitigation benefits this offers (i.e. carbon sequestration and provision of a low carbon, renewable fuel).

4.7.2 Adaptation



Adaptation is taking action to reduce exposure to the impacts of climate change, some of which are now inevitable. It is known that West Norfolk will become hotter throughout the years with winters becoming wetter and summers drier. Frequency of drought is likely to increase, as is the likelihood of other extreme events such as storms, heat wave and flood. Some of the flood events seen across the UK in recent years have been caused or exacerbated by the inadequacy of local drainage systems to manage the volumes of rain falling over a short period of time. Increasing the possibility of a heat wave also poses heat risks and the need for cool, shaded spaces which offer respite from the heat. This is particularly important in an urban environment as a means of countering the urban heat island effect.

GI has a significant role to play through:

- Moderating local temperatures, especially in urban centres, and providing the cooler areas of shade that will be required to help people and biodiversity cope with the stresses and health risks of higher temperatures.
- Reducing flooding by providing spaces, which can collect flood water, i.e. flood attenuation zones, or areas where rainwater can soak away rather than gather. Green areas also slow down surface water run-off and hence moderate the volumes of rainwater arriving in drainage systems, helping to reduce the risk of such systems being overwhelmed and flooding. This is the basic premise of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). The Water Cycle Study will identify appropriate areas for SUDS.
- Allowing species to move in response to climate change as their habitats are impacted. Connectivity and the development of a GI network will provide the mechanism for species to migrate in response to rising temperatures or to access new water sources in times of drought.



- Providing opportunities for green travel, such as walking and cycling.

Policy: Encourage the use of greenspace with new development as a means of managing flooding risk, both through slowing surface runoff and in providing flood attenuation zones. Incorporate SUDS, including reedbeds and other natural filtration systems, as a mechanism for managing floods while creating new habitats and green corridors.

4.8 Biodiversity

4.8.1 Linkages



To aid the creation of physical links between Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and its neighboring local authorities it is important to ensure that the GI Strategy is aligned with the overarching green infrastructure studies, which are being completed in the sub region. An Indicative Ecological Network for Norfolk named ‘Making Space for Wildlife and People’ has been developed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust. The report highlights the importance of agri environment schemes, implementation of BAP targets and related habitat creation in developing the ecological

network. The report highlights a number of priority themes that have clear linkages to the projects identified in this GI Strategy, thus supporting the achievement of such sub regional goals. Themes which are supported by the GI Strategy include:

- Fen wetland creation - Wissey Living Landscapes;
- major development and GI - a number of residential and industrial areas highlighted for development, including Hardwick Industrial Estates and the Waterfront Regeneration Areas; and
- linear corridors - King’s Lynn/Wash/Norfolk Coastal Path Link and the development of disused railway routes.

There are also opportunities to provide bat, great crested newt, BAP habitats, community woodland schemes and lowland meadows within plans for individual projects as detailed plans are created for the sites.



Wildlife corridors in the local area are currently being mapped by Natural England at a county level. This includes the identification of species specific biodiversity corridors, which are linked to the type of habitat, e.g. coniferous woodland. The Wash Estuary Group is currently focusing on GI mapping in relation to the development of wildlife corridors and wider GI provision within the Wisbech area. It will be important to consider any links identified between the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk local authority area and neighboring authorities within this document, plus any overarching policies which have been developed.

Policy: To support physical and thematic/policy links between King’s Lynn and West Norfolk and neighboring authorities as identified in sub regional and county documents, such as Making Space for Wildlife and People. To incorporate the relevant findings of the Wash Estuary GI Study within the action plan and identify any relevant policies, which require development following the completion of this study.

4.8.2 Orchards

Norfolk County Council has produced an Orchards Habitat Action Plan, focusing on the protection of orchards in the County following their significant loss over the past 10 years. A number of actions are highlighted in this document, which include:

- the protection of orchards in urban fringes through Tree Preservation Orders;
- developing orchards as Local Nature Reserves, which will involve increasing community links with local residents and potentially schools; and
- encouraging environmental stewardship schemes focused on orchards; and
- targets have been set which support the planting of 2ha of new traditional orchards in Norfolk per annum and increasing the area of traditional orchards in agri environmental schemes by 5%.

Orchards are identified as a GI asset, particularly in relation to their multifunctionality (ability to support food production, biodiversity and provide aesthetic quality). This GI Strategy therefore supports efforts to enhance, protect and create further provision, therefore the suitability of current and planned GI sites for such purposes will be assessed. Potential for orchards to be created in urban areas as well as traditional rural sites will be examined. Opportunities will be sought to develop community orchards and school orchards, which will involve engaging local residents in their initial planting and future upkeep.

Policy: To protect, enhance and create orchards as part of the GI network, identifying suitable sites for new orchards within rural and urban areas.



4.9 Renewable Energy

A Biofuels East project is currently being completed in the local area. This initiative produces fuel specifically for wood burners within public sector buildings. Opportunities should be sought to expand this renewable energy scheme to support the wider use of biofuels as an energy source within the Borough. However, the growth of biofuels should not be at the detriment of local biodiversity.

Policy: To expand the growth of biofuels at GI sites within the Borough, to support the use of renewable energy sources.

4.10 Linking Urban and Rural Areas

Demand was identified during the Stage Two stakeholder workshop for greater connectivity between the urban and rural areas of the Borough. Increasing linkages between these areas was thought to decrease the distances people living in towns would travel to participate in outdoor recreation. Coherent pedestrian and cycle links are therefore required to support the development of connectivity between towns and the local countryside. The action plan identifies a number of projects which will create these synergies.



Policy: To support the development of PROW linking local urban and rural areas as identified in the action plan.

4.11 Deprivation

Local levels of deprivation should be considered when planning GI due to its ability to support local regeneration objectives. A map which identifies levels of deprivation at ward level (Figure 2.1) is included within section 2.4. This indicates that the area of greatest deprivation is the town of King's Lynn. It is therefore imperative that GI is incorporated in new commercial and residential developments within the Town, to support opportunities to increase quality of life (through providing additional provision to support outdoor recreation), local investment (through enhancing the image of the area) and environmental quality.

Policy: To include GI provision within all commercial and residential developments within King's Lynn.



4.12 Play Areas

The GI Strategy supports the objectives of the Urban Renaissance Strategy, Sport and Recreation Study, which identifies significant deficiencies in play provision in King’s Lynn (26.61ha), Downham Market (5.32ha) and Hunstanton (3.71ha). It also demonstrates that a further 72 parishes have no provision (Appendix A). A Play Policy has recently been developed for BCKLWN and quality standards included within the Document are supported by this strategy. The Six Ace Standard is identified for delivery within the Open Space Assessment and identifies the development of the following levels of provision for new residential developments:

Table 4.1 Requirements for Play Provision in New Residential Developments

Number of new residents in development	Type of play provision required
1,000	LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs
250-1,000	LAPs and LEAPs
100-250	LAP and LEAP
Less than 100	LAP

Source: Urban Renaissance Strategy, Sport and Recreation Study, 2006

However, it should be considered that nationally there has been a movement away from the development of LAPs due to their high maintenance costs and low recreation value. It should also be noted that national bodies, such as Fields in Trust, are encouraging the construction of play facilities from natural sources, such as grass covered mounds of earth. These types of facilities also support greater multifunctional use.

Policy: To provide support for the development of new play areas and enhancements as outlined within the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy. This will include identifying opportunities for new play sites and enhancing existing facilities at current sites through Section 106 contributions as additional GI sites are developed.

4.13 Community Facilities

A number of new community and education facilities are to be developed in future years in order to support housing growth encouraged by the King’s Lynn area’s Growth Point status and the levels of housing demand demonstrated within the Growth Point bid. It is important that opportunities to include GI within the development of community and education facilities are considered within site designs and masterplans.

Links with the PCT, training providers, volunteering and community organisations are currently being developed by BCKLWN and will help to identify opportunities to develop GI at community sites. The inclusion of GI at



these facilities could potentially take the format of community gardens, allotments, play areas, nature gardens or formal gardens for relaxation. Opportunities to increase biodiversity at these sites should also be considered.

Policy: Encourage the inclusion of GI provision within plans and development schemes for new community facilities.

4.14 Allotments



Allotment provision in the Borough is much greater than national standards dictate, however certain wards have no provision (Appendix A). Downham Market currently has no allotment provision, despite significant demand being identified by the Town Council. Allotments have a number of benefits including a meeting place for local residents, a form of informal exercise, provision of flora enhancing biodiversity and supporting local food production. In some areas the Primary Care Trust has been recommending gardening allotments to patients as a form of light, informal exercise, i.e. GP referral schemes. Examples of allotment GP referral schemes which have been implemented elsewhere include an NHS Health

Project at Bridgend Allotments, Edinburgh and Darlington Green Exercise North East. A number of allotment schemes have also been created in schools in order to accommodate school garden and food production projects.

Policy: To identify a site in Downham Market to support allotment provision and investigate possibilities to provide further allotment provision in wards with insufficient or no provision and high demand.

4.15 Education

GI sites can be used as educational tools in order to teach children and adults about biodiversity, climate change and general sustainability principles. Associated infrastructure, such as interpretation boards and leaflets, is required to support education. Links with training providers, schools and community/voluntary organisations should also be created in order to maximise the use of GI in providing education. A farm near Downham Market is identified as a possible future educational resource.

There is also potential to develop school grounds in order to provide GI and this may include creating wildlife gardens, allotments and play areas. Related opportunities could be sought through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and the Extended Schools programmes. Community access to education facilities ought to be



provided where possible and the Extended Schools initiative could potentially be used to support after hours access to these sites, encouraging their use by the wider community.

Policy: To support the use of GI assets in providing environmental education and wider training. School grounds provide an opportunity for GI development/enhancement and the examination of BSF and Extended Schools initiatives and their ability to support this activity is required.

4.16 Local Community

GI sites support opportunities for community cohesion as they provide focal points for the community and places to support local events. The involvement of the local community in planning and designing GI sites is therefore imperative to maximise its future use. Providing local open space is also considered to be important in improving resident's quality of life and decreasing the need to travel for outdoor recreation purposes.



Stakeholder consultation demonstrated that community involvement had been abandoned in the past as it had been seen as too challenging and time consuming. Where possible BCKLWN and other relevant agencies will work with relevant partners, particularly the active voluntary sector, to undertake community engagement and consultation exercises. The RSPB, Wildlife Trust and historic environment groups were noted to be well supported. Stakeholders also believed that it was imperative to inform local residents about the progression of local schemes in order to gain their commitment.

Policy: BCKLWN will work with relevant stakeholders and agencies to undertake related community engagement and consultation exercises in relation to GI development and upkeep.

4.17 Economic Development

GI is able to support economic growth through improving the aesthetic quality of an area and improving its image. Companies are often more likely to invest in areas with quality GI and uplift has been seen in the land values of sites close to attractive GI sites. A breadth of information to demonstrate these benefits has been prepared by CABESpace and other agencies, such as Natural Economy Northwest. In light of these findings investment in GI improvements should be encouraged in areas of poor environmental quality. Opportunities to enhance derelict sites



and those awaiting development should be considered for environmental improvements and landscaping works to provide temporary enhancements until the Site is fully developed.

Policy: To improve the environmental quality of the Borough through enhancing existing GI and developing new sites to support wider regeneration objectives and economic growth.

4.18 Green Routes

Opportunities to develop green routes to employment locations and local schools should be sought through initiatives such as Green Transport Plans, Safer Routes to Schools and Eco Schools ought to be considered in the future. There is a need to ensure that new employment sites being developed in the Borough are served by PROW and green links. In urban areas, street trees can be used to define these routes, plus the development of living walls (e.g. the use of climbers), green artwork and the provision of hanging and floral vegetation. The benefits of such schemes include the enhancement of an area's image, greater environmental awareness/education and various health benefits.

Sustrans is currently developing a Draft Strategy for the East of England which will include the Borough. The findings and proposed actions of the GI Strategy should be used to inform the study, where possible. It is also important that any findings and new projects are included within the GI action plan.

Policy: Opportunities to create formal green routes to places of work and local schools will be sought. Where possible vegetation should be used to enhance these routes and improve the environmental quality of these areas.

4.19 Historic Environment



The Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has a wealth of historical buildings and it is important that GI is used carefully to enhance the settings of these various structures. The Borough contains 42 Conservation Areas, 1878 Listed Buildings, five Historic Parks and Gardens and 29 Scheduled Monuments, demonstrating the significance of this GI function. The Borough contains a number of windmills, castles, railways, historic estates and routes, which are important in demonstrating the area's heritage and support the Borough and its' residents identity.

Opportunities to enhance, in particular, the management of historic parks/gardens and estates to provide recreational opportunities, enhance biodiversity, increase tourism and support



the connectivity of the local GI network will be sought. The promotion of local heritage through the use of interpretation boards and public art on GI sites will also be considered to help local residents gain information on the area's heritage and support local tourism activity.

Policy: Identify historic sites which further support GI functions and consider ways in which they can be further connected with the local network.

Further work will be completed by BCKLWN to modify and develop Core Strategy policies and Development Plan Documents (DPDs) in alignment with the policies detailed above.



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