

Sustainable Development Select Committee Supplementary Agenda

Tuesday, 10 March 2020
7.00 pm, Committee room 3
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Timothy Andrew (timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk)

This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed.

Part 1

Item	Pages
5. Parks and open spaces strategy	3 - 96

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Sustainable Development Select Committee

This report was not available for the original dispatch because it was awaiting final sign off. The report is urgent and cannot wait until the next meeting of the Committee as it is on the schedule to go to Mayor and Cabinet on the 25th and it needs to be properly scrutinised by SDSC prior to adoption

Report title: Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 - Adoption

Date: (Mayor and Cabinet) 25 March 2020

Key decision: Yes/No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Regeneration & Customer Services

Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration and the Environment

Head of Law

Outline and recommendations

This report seeks the adoption of a new Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 for parks and gardens, allotments, nature reserves, churchyards and highways enclosures owned or maintained by the London Borough of Lewisham.

It is recommended that Mayor & Cabinet:

- Adopt the Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 into Council Policy

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the context, vision, and themes contained within the Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025. The strategy has been developed as a tool to identify, communicate, map out and monitor a series of actions to protect, maintain, and enhance parks and gardens, allotments, nature reserves, churchyards and highways enclosures owned or maintained by the London Borough of Lewisham.
- 1.2. The strategy seeks to protect our existing parks and open space and to ensure the quality of provision meets the needs of Lewisham's growing population.
- 1.3. At the core of the strategy is the ambition that our parks and open spaces become: "the heart and lungs for Lewisham, connecting active, healthy, and vibrant local communities."

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Mayor & Cabinet:
Adopt the Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 into Council Policy.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019, promotes the protection and improvement of green open spaces. It encourages the strategic protection of green infrastructure to create high quality environments, enhance local landscape character and contribute to a sense of place. Policy also recognises the role of green spaces in promoting healthy communities by reducing air pollution and noise as well as easing the impacts of extreme heat and extreme rainfall events. Furthermore, parks are recognised for the important role they play in encouraging ecology and biodiversity.
- 3.2. Although there is no national or regional requirement to produce a Parks and Open Space Strategy there is: "Open Space Strategies Best Practice Guidance" produced by the Mayor of London and CABI Space in 2009. This document sets out the benefit of preparing a strategy as a management tool to prioritising spending and plan resources. Crucially, it shows how much open spaces are valued and makes the case to funders for increased resources.
- 3.3. The Lewisham's Corporate Strategy sets out seven corporate priorities and the adoption of this strategy contributes to six of these in particular:
 - **Open Lewisham** – to preserve and enhance parks and open spaces that provide welcoming and safe spaces which support events that bring our communities together
 - **Giving children and young people the best start in life** – by consulting with young people about parks improvements and by facilitating a program of outdoor environmental education in our parks and open spaces
 - **Building an inclusive local economy** – through the 'insourcing' of the current parks management service
 - **Delivering and defending health, social care and support** – by creating opportunities for people to develop and sustain healthy lifestyles through the provision of activities and opportunities that support physical and mental wellbeing
 - **Making Lewisham greener** – to preserve and enhance the borough's award winning green spaces, increase the use of environmentally friendly transport options, and lead by example to promote better care for our local environment and the planet

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- **Building safer communities** – by working in partnership with communities and the police to explore opportunities to provide and act on better intelligence led data about antisocial behaviour and explore opportunities to provide a greater formal presence in parks

4. Background

- 4.1. This strategy has been developed to follow on from the previous Parks and Open Space Strategy 2012-2017 [Appendix 4]. It should be read in conjunction with the Lewisham “Open Space Assessment (OSA)” report, May 2019. This study carried out by Jon Sheaff and Associates assessed the current provision and quality of public parks and spaces across the borough and proposed a future level of provision. [Appendix 2]
- 4.2. Forecasts indicate that Lewisham’s population will increase to 318,000 people by 2021 and it is anticipated the population will reach 344,500 people by 2031. To accommodate this growth the draft London Plan indicates the need for between 20 to 30 thousand new homes in Lewisham over the next ten years.
- 4.3. The purpose of the Parks and Open Space Strategy is to plan how the borough’s parks and open spaces can support the health and wellbeing of this growing population, adapt to climate change, and support biodiversity and conserve nature.
- 4.4. In developing both this strategy and the OSA the study team consulted local key stakeholders through an online questionnaire, at a public meeting and at the Lewisham Parks Forum, (the umbrella group for the borough’s 25 formalised parks user friend groups).
- 4.5. The online consultation had 806 responses and the summary report of November 2018 is included as Appendix 3 in the strategy.

5. Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025

- 5.1. This Parks and Open Space Strategy has been developed as a tool to identify, map out, communicate and monitor courses of actions to reflect the shared vision: “to be the heart and lungs for Lewisham, connecting active, healthy, and vibrant local communities.”
- 5.2. The strategy provides the framework for the management and development of open spaces within the borough that seeks to protect, create, enhance, and connect spaces and people. It is intended to maximise the benefit of every £ spent and to enable the whole community - residents, community organisations, voluntary and statutory agencies and businesses - to work in partnership to obtain the maximum benefit from our open spaces.
- 5.3. The strategy builds on the previous Open Space Strategy 2012-2017 and the recent OSA, 2019. It is, however taking a new approach by presenting the baseline, vision, priorities, goals and delivery plan in a readily accessible way. Themes, priorities, and goals are at the beginning of the strategy document. This format is more user friendly, easily accessed and understood. All the evidence that supports the strategy is contained in the Appendices. This is a new approach intended to promote and present the core message, values and deliverables up front so the reader does not have to search through pages of background evidence before discovering what the plan actually says.
- 5.4. The online consultation identified that good quality parks deliver benefits under three themes:
 - Social

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- Economic
 - Environmental
- 5.5. The strategy uses these as headings and provides: “Priority Statements,” “Goals,” and a “Delivery Plan” for each theme.
- 5.6. The ‘Priority Statements,’ provide the direction of travel that if achieved, will deliver positive social, economic and environmental aims and benefits.
- 5.7. The ‘Goals,’ identify actions and provide the finer detail of what this strategy is seeking to achieve. These goals will then be monitored and tracked to demonstrate progress or identify where further work is required so our parks and open spaces meet future needs.
- 5.8. The ‘Delivery Plan,’ sets out the goals, measures and work required. It provides milestones and a time scale for achieving goals. Monitoring will be conducted annually and presented in an, ‘Annual Review Monitoring Report,’ that will track progress.
- 5.9. The option to significantly change this Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 will delay the adoption of this strategy and any associated delivery plan.
- 5.10. The option of not adopting the Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 will mean the Council will miss an opportunity to endorse a strategy that supports six of the Council’s Corporate Priorities. Additionally, the plan to prioritise spending and resources based on the OSA and public consultation, will not be achieved. This will have a negative impact on the delivery of an improved network of high quality parks and open spaces.
6. Financial implications
- 6.1. This report recommends that Mayor & Cabinet adopt the Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 into Council Policy.
- 6.2. It sets out the benefit of the strategy as a management tool to prioritise spending and plan resources. Crucially, it shows how much open spaces are valued and makes the case to funders for increased resources.
- 6.3. Online consultation with key local stakeholders identified that good quality parks deliver benefits under three themes:
- Social
 - Economic
 - Environmental
- 6.4. The ‘Delivery Plan,’ sets out the goals, measures and work required. It provides milestones and a time scale for achieving goals. Monitoring will be conducted annually and presented in an, ‘Annual Review Monitoring Report,’ that will track progress and facilitate management of risk.
- 6.5. A key output under the social aims theme will be the delivery of £1m of additional facilities and improvements to parks and open spaces over the five year strategy via the “Greening Fund”. This is funding provided by developers under s106 agreements, and £360k has been allocated under the corporate priority of “making Lewisham greener”. Under the economic theme, a key deliverable will be securing £300k external investment from non-Development Control sources over the five year period.
- 6.6. The Green Scene service sits within the Environment Division and is currently forecasting an overspend of £157k against its revenue budgets.

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Legal implications

7. There is no statutory requirement for the Council to have a Parks and Open Space Strategy in place but this is considered to be a matter of best practice. The Council has a wide general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do. The existence of the general power is not limited by the existence of any other power of the Council which (to any extent) overlaps the general power.
 - 7.1. The Council has a range of powers and duties in relation to those parks and open spaces identified in the Strategy, specific legal implications will be provided in respect of any proposals for implementing the Strategy's aims in the future
 - 7.2. The Parks and Open Space Strategy does not fall within the range of plans or strategies whose introduction needs to be approved by Full Council. Therefore the decision as to whether to adopt it is an executive function for Mayor and Cabinet.
 - 7.3. The report at paragraph 6.5 identifies that £360k has been allocated to the "Greening Fund" from S106 agreements. Whether or not money from that fund can be applied to any of the projects brought forward to fulfill the aims set out in the Strategy will depend upon whether or not they meet the legal tests set out in the S106 Agreement that secured the money.
 - 7.4. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
 - 7.5. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - 7.6. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above.
 - 7.7. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.
 - 7.8. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled "Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice". The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory

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force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>

7.9 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
- Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
- Engagement and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities
- Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities
- Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities

7.10 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1>

8. Equalities implications

8.1. The Parks and Open Space Strategy has positive equalities implications as it aims to preserve and enhance parks and open spaces so that they provide welcoming and safe spaces for the whole community. The strategy will promote and support events that bring our communities together and provide outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles for all. A priority for park managers will be to weigh up local needs so that parks serve the broadest diversity of people whilst balancing their value as a place to relax and enjoy being in nature.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

9.1. The Parks and Open Space strategy has positive climate change and environmental implications. At its core is the principle to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of our parks so they can deliver 'eco-system services' and a range of public benefits, including play, habitat creation, landscape improvements and flood storage. A series of priorities and goals can contribute to the councils plans to address climate change, such as:

- To 'green the grey' by developing partnerships to deliver active green travel links through highways infrastructure projects so both people and wildlife benefit

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- To commit to exploring the value of commissioning a Corporate Natural Capital Account (CNCA) for the borough to assess the value of economic, social and environmental benefits that investment in green infrastructure will deliver
- To manage the spaces sustainably and recycle wherever viable and as close to the source as possible
- To explore a reduction in the use of herbicides where economically viable and practical
- To reduce carbon emissions and the reliance on fossil fuels by using electric machinery where reasonably viable
- To plant more trees and hedgerows where appropriate and where this does not conflict with balancing environmental and social uses/needs
- To support existing and new greening of active travel links so both people and wildlife benefit
- To contribute to regional partnerships that are working to maintain and enhance the environment such as the Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group and the Green Chain Walk
- To facilitate and support the work of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership so that it can continue to develop strategies and projects that enhance the borough for people and wildlife

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. The Parks and Open Space Strategy has positive crime and disorder implications because at its core is the principle to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of our parks.
- 10.2. A key element of this is to provide clean, welcoming and safe parks that can appeal to everyone. Over 95% of respondents to the online consultation said that quality parks and open spaces made neighbourhoods good places to live in. Feeling safe, providing good sports areas and quality facilities such as toilets, cafés; and good infrastructure (e.g. bins and benches) and good play provision for children were all highly important and encouraged greater use by the whole community.
- 10.3. It is widely recognised that well-kept and maintained areas attract greater use and that this is the key ingredient to enable the broadest appeal for users and for these spaces to be successfully self-policed. This will be achieved by:
- Seeking investment prioritising neglected and rundown areas
 - The promotion and support of active citizens and the ethos, “My space, my responsibility” by promoting more public involvement and engagement with the formal user ‘friends’ groups
 - Achieving a cost effective high quality parks service that delivers continuous improvement by winning 15 Green Flag Awards and continue to rank highly in the ‘Good Parks for London’ benchmarking exercise
 - Responding to anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues in parks by exploring opportunities to provide a greater formal presence in parks and by working in partnership with formal user groups, the Safer Neighbourhoods Team and Lewisham enforcement officers to promote the bye laws and encourage respectful use

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11. Health and wellbeing implications

11.1. The Parks and Open Space Strategy has positive health and wellbeing implications because it aspires to deliver 'wellbeing' by putting parks and open spaces at the heart of outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles for all. A goal is to work with colleagues in Public Health and community services to support and encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes that link open spaces such as, the South East London Green Chain, Waterlink Way, the Thames Path and other local elements of the All London Green Grid.

11.2. A priority is to get nature to people and people to nature. The delivery plan sets out how the Council intends to:

- Develop and enhance the nature conservation and wildlife habitats, where appropriate, in parks by supporting nature conservation volunteering initiatives and environmental education
- To support and encourage the cultural, physical and mental health benefits and opportunities that our parks and open spaces offer
- To support the partnerships and work to support Highway colleagues on, 'Cycleways,' 'Legible London' and 'Healthy Neighbourhood' transport programmes to promote 'pathways to parks' and 'greening the grey' by developing sustainable travel links that use planting and greening as a tool to reduce carbon emissions
- To promote the different features and facilities available in Lewisham's parks so that the characteristics of each park are fully promoted via the LBL website
- To work with colleagues in Public Health and community services to support and encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes that link open spaces

12. Social Value implications

12.1. The Parks and Open Space Strategy has positive social value implications as detailed in the approved Mayor and Cabinet report "The Future Management and Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces."

12.2. The Parks and Open Space Strategy also will deliver on the corporate priorities to create a greener and healthier Lewisham as already detailed in sections 9 and 11.

13. Background papers

13.1. Mayor and Cabinet report "The Future Management and Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces."

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=23753>

14. Report author and contact

14.1. Nicholas Pond – Service Development Manager, Greenscene - 020 8314 2007

15. Glossary

15.1. 'Anti-social behaviour (ASB)' - Is defined as 'behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to persons not of the same household as the person' (Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 and Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011).

15.2. 'CABE' – Is the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.' This was an executive non-departmental public body of the UK government, established in 1999. It

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was funded by both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Communities and Local Government. It was merged into the Design Council on 1 April 2011. CABE was the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space in England. Its job was to influence and inspire the people making decisions about the built environment. It championed well-designed buildings, spaces and places, ran public campaigns and provided expert, practical advice. It worked directly with architects, planners, designers and clients.

- 15.3. 'Corporate Natural Capital Account (CNCA)' - Is a method of accounting a monetary value to green infrastructure. Capital assets have the important capacity to produce various goods and services. Nature, or 'natural capital', can be thought of in the same way. In fact, natural capital can be regarded as the source of all other types of capital: whether manufactured, financial, human or social. Natural capital can be defined as, "The elements of nature that directly and indirectly produce value or benefits to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions." Natural capital comprises of individual assets, which include ecological communities, species, soils, land, freshwaters, minerals, sub-soil resources, oceans, the atmosphere, and the natural processes that underpin their functioning. Typically natural capital needs to be combined with other capital inputs (i.e. manufactured, human capital) to produce 'goods' and 'services', which can be either consumptive (e.g. timber, drinking water) or non-consumptive/'experienced' (e.g. recreation). The value of these goods and services represent the benefits that are derived by individual organisations or wider society in general.
- 15.4. 'Cycleways' - Is a Transport for London initiative to develop routes that link communities, businesses and destinations across London in one cycle network.
- 15.5. 'Eco-system services' - These services come from ecosystems that are made up of a combination of soil, animals, plants, water and air. They include production of food and medicines, regulation of climate and disease, provision of productive soils and clean air and water, and landscape opportunities for recreation and spiritual benefits.
- 15.6. 'Delivery Plan' – Is a document that sets out priorities for spending funds and outlines the activities that need to be delivered over a specified period of time.
- 15.7. 'Good Parks for London' - Is an annual report. This report is intended to support and give recognition to the work that London Boroughs and other land managers do to maintain London's parks and green spaces. The initiative is administered by 'Parks for London' an independent charity that promotes London's parks and green spaces.
- 15.8. 'Insourcing' - The practice of using an organisation's own personnel or other resources to accomplish a task that was previously delivered by a contractor on behalf of the organisation outsourced.
- 15.9. 'Open Space Assessment (OSA) 2019' - Is a report commissioned by the London Borough of Lewisham as part its Local Plan review process. The report assessed the quality of 349 public parks and green spaces across the borough and conducted a needs assessment of current levels of provision of greenspace and proposes a future level of provision.
- 15.10. 'Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)' - The revised National Planning Policy Framework was updated on 19 February 2019 and sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. This revised Framework replaces the previous National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012, and revised in July 2018.

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"To be the heart and lungs for Lewisham, connecting active, healthy and vibrant local communities"

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020-2025



"The creation of spaces for outdoor education-forest schools, school visits is important"

"Provide closed picnic areas"

"Not all parks need to be the same"

"Parks are for everybody and should be versatile. Sport one day relaxing the next..."

"I love the variety of parks in Lewisham. Each is different and unique. As I get older feeling safe is also important and access to well-run public toilets. Seating for those not so able to walk far and being close to public transport"

"When I was recovering from post-natal depression I found the Park invaluable, the playground gave me a non-threatening place to meet other local families and make friends, the community that meets round the café is incredibly supportive and friendly"

"Use less pesticides"

"It is important that the parks belong to everyone in the community and where there are no social barriers"

"Make it easy to report problems"

"I am now a pensioner and have been going to my local park for 45 years –in the seventies to relax after work, in the eighties to play in the park with my children, in the nineties finding a natural space with my teenager and since then for relaxation, exercise and sheer enjoyment of the open space, the lack of pollution, the friendliness of the other park users. If anything I value the open space more now than I ever did when I was younger"

"Don't neglect micro open spaces"

"I love exercise, running on my own but also group activities like park run"

"Areas that provide the opportunity for off-lead exercise for dogs have less problems with dogs due to dogs being able to learn correct social behaviour off the lead"

"Better dog facilities, accessible water fountains, park attendants would improve my park"

"A diversity of areas will attract a diversity of people"

"Biodiversity is really fundamental – knowing that bees and other species can thrive and breed. Provision of shade on hot days, and trees to help 'cleanse' the air- is a real respite from the crowded and polluted road of Lewisham"

"Improve connections linking green spaces"

"Zero tolerance to dog fouling but not dogs"

"The best parks have a good café, they are clean and safe and community focused"

"I like to be able to watch wildlife, especially birds and see the seasons changing in the park"

"Invest in parks and you'll probably have a healthier community"

Introduction & forward by Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

This Parks and Open Space strategy has been developed as tool to identify, communicate, map out and monitor a course of actions to reflect the shared vision: “to be the heart and lungs for Lewisham, connecting active, healthy, and vibrant local communities.”

The network, number, size and quality of parks and open spaces provides an essential ecosystem service that regulate our immediate environment and help protect us from the effects of the climate emergency.

They give clean air, regulate temperature and provide flood storage. They are an important home for wildlife and biodiversity, and have direct social value providing health and wellbeing for local residents. They do this by encouraging recreational opportunities and supporting active lifestyles.

They can connect and shape an area and improve the visual attractiveness of where we live and work. Our parks and open spaces define the character of our neighbourhoods and their unique identity. They improve the economic performance of the borough by supporting town centres, retaining employment, attracting new businesses and skills, and by increasing the value of domestic and commercial properties.

The benefit from this green infrastructure has been calculated to a value of up to £2.1 billion. This equates to an annual value per resident of the borough of £393. The value of these benefits across Lewisham outstrip the cost of maintaining these assets by a factor of 25:1. (Mayor of London/HLF/National Trust (2017): Natural Capital Accounts for public greenspace in London).

This document provides the strategic framework for the management and development of open spaces within the borough that seeks to protect, create, enhance, and connect spaces and people. It intends to maximise the benefit of every £ spent taking into account the future anticipated population growth in the Borough and the areas of the Borough where population increases are likely to be greatest. This will enable the whole community - residents, community organisations, voluntary and statutory agencies and businesses - to work in partnership to obtain the maximum benefit from our open spaces.

The strategy builds on the previous Open Space Strategy 2012-2017 and the recent Open Space Assessment 2019 (OSA). It is, however taking a new approach by presenting the vision, priorities, goals and delivery plan in a readily accessible way. Themes, priorities, and goals are presented so that they can be easily understood and more widely used. The objective evidence base strategy is then presented.

In setting out the strategy, we are stressing the importance we place on our desire to involve both partners and the whole community in shaping the future of our open space. We recognise that open space affects the lives of almost everyone that lives and works in the borough and believe that sustainable management and community involvement of our open spaces offers considerable potential for helping to make Lewisham the best place to live, work, and learn.

Our Baseline

47 Parks, 18 Nature Reserves, 6 designated Local Nature Reserves, 5 Churchyards, 37 Allotments

15 Green Flag Parks and 3 Community Green Flag Award Spaces

1st Place “Good Parks for London” benchmarking in 2017, 2018 & 3rd in 2019

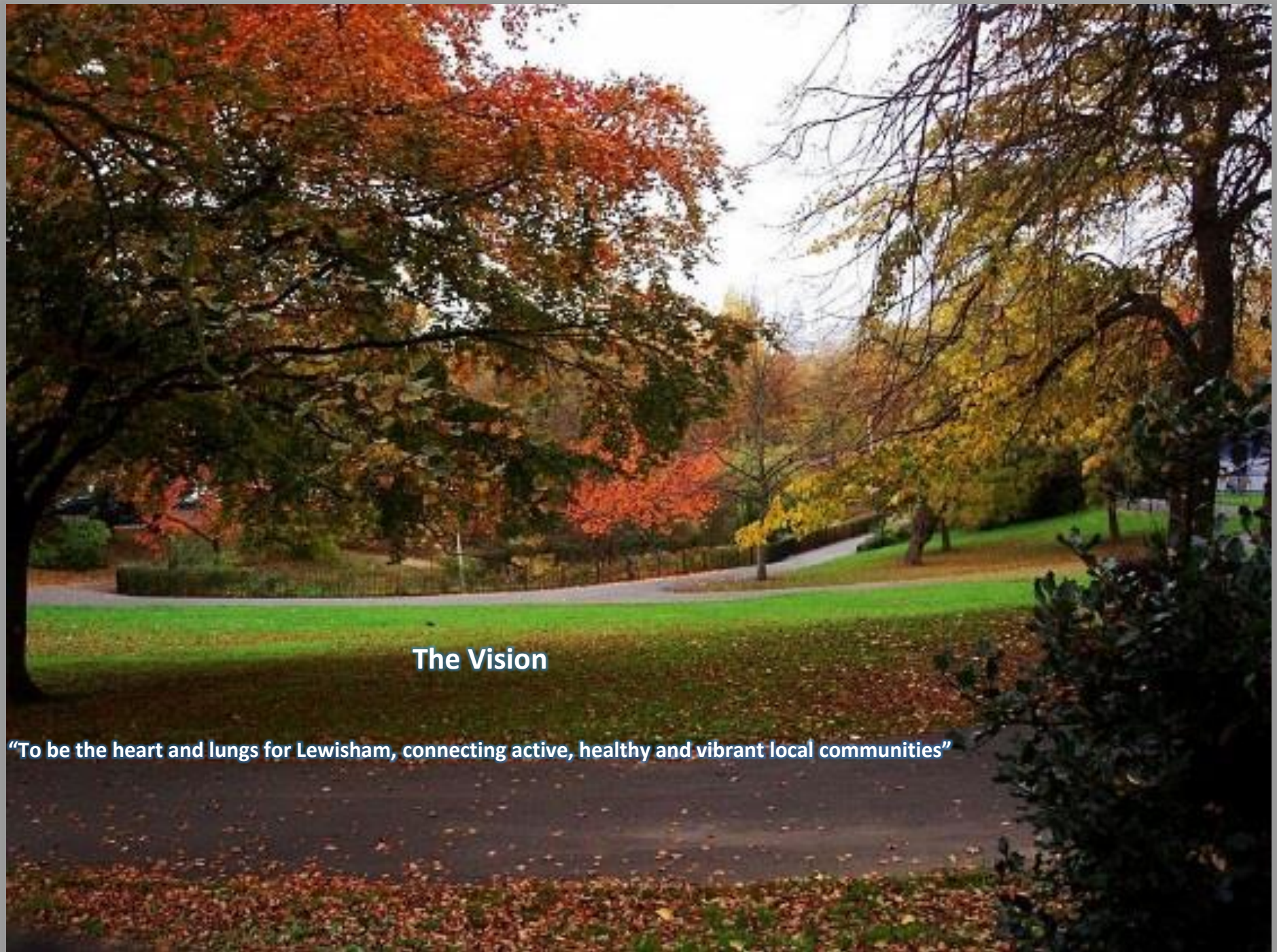
Support 25 formalised park user ‘Friends’ groups

In the last 4 years delivered 2951 nature conservation events, with 24,437 volunteers who’ve achieved 73,311 hours of work, worth £773,431

Won Heritage Lottery Grant to invest £5m in Beckenham Place Park

Over 96% of respondents to the 2018 Parks and Open Space consultation thought that the current condition of Lewisham’s parks was either ‘good’ or ‘fair’

74% felt that the standard had improved or stayed the same over the last 3 years



The Vision

“To be the heart and lungs for Lewisham, connecting active, healthy and vibrant local communities”

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Scope and Limitations of the Parks and Open Space Strategy

This Parks and Open Space Strategy focuses on areas that fall within the current Parks Team's management responsibility. This includes publically owned parks and gardens, council owned allotments, 'maintained' churchyards, and numerous highway enclosures.

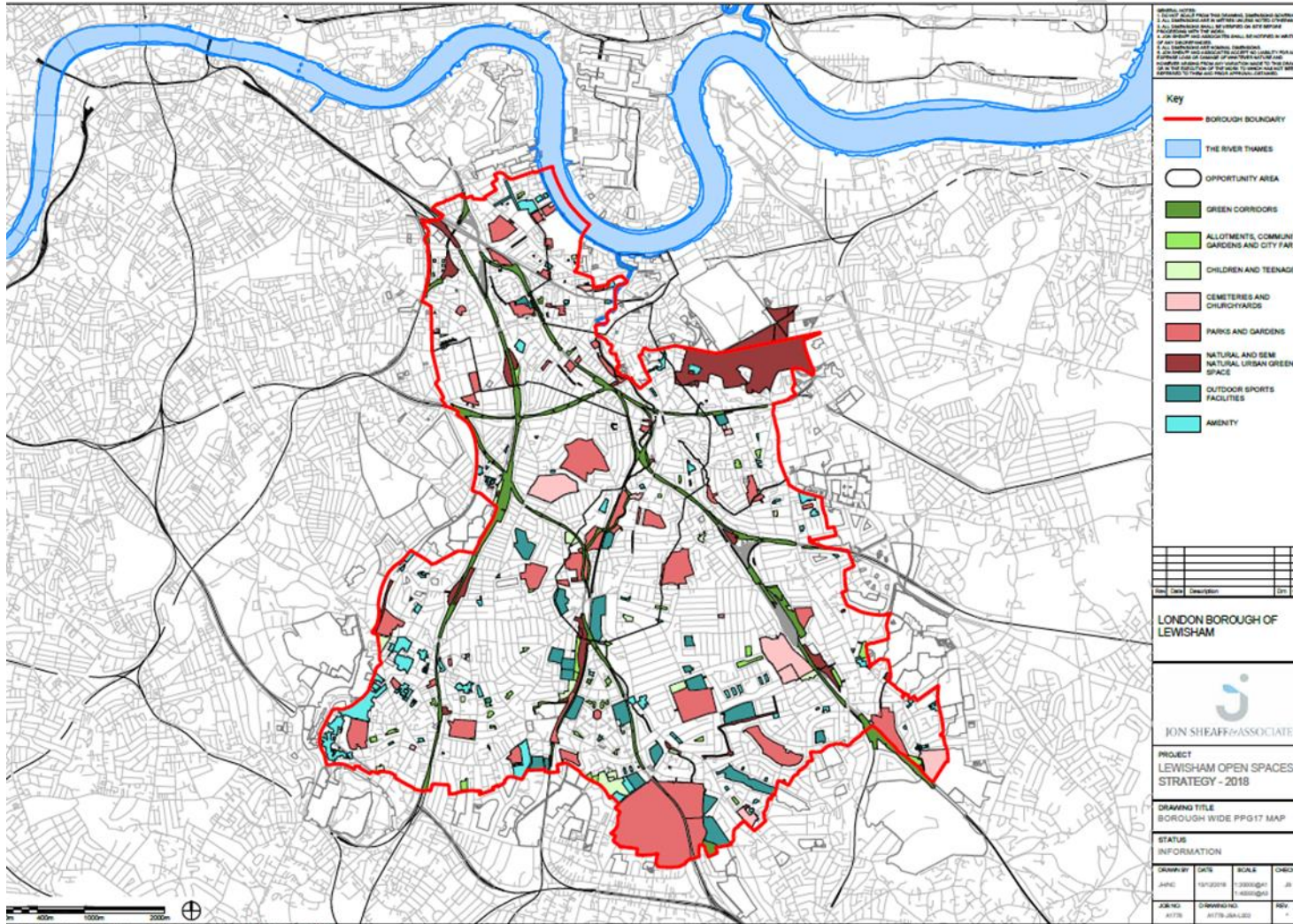
This strategy is not intended to strategically deliver policy recommendations for amenity green spaces, housing land, private sports grounds, private allotments, green corridors, natural or semi-natural urban greenspace or Lewisham cemeteries, although some of the same evidence base has been used and is discussed in the following sections. Policy recommendations for these open space types can be found in other studies, such as, the Strategic Open Space Assessment 2019 or the Lewisham habitat surveys 2015-16.

The strategy has a number of themes and certain priorities are cross cutting as they can deliver on more than one theme.



Open Spaces in Lewisham

Open Spaces in Lewisham



Key themes: Social, Economic, Environmental

Public responses to the 'Parks and Open Space survey' (November 2018) identified three broad themes or areas of benefit that our parks deliver for our residents and visitors,

- Social
- Economic
- Environmental

This strategy therefore acknowledges the three themes as areas where we aim to deliver positive benefits.

Following from evaluation of the survey and further consultation the strategy sets out:

- **Priority Statements** -these statements provide the direction of travel that if achieved will deliver the positive social, economic and environmental aims and benefits
- **Goals** – these are identified actions that provide the finer details of what this strategy aspires to achieve. These goals or outputs will then be monitored and tracked to demonstrate progress or identify where further work is required to ensure our parks meet our future needs
- **Delivery Plan** – this sets out the goals, measures and undertakings required. It also provides an anticipated time scale and/or milestone for the undertaking identified

The word cloud below represents what Lewisham residents value and think are the most important features that should be maintained and enhanced in our parks, according to Parks and Open Space survey in November 2018.



Strategic Social Aims

Over 95% of respondents expressed the view that quality parks and open spaces made neighbourhoods good places to live in. Feeling safe, providing good sports areas and facilities such as toilets, cafés and good infrastructure (e.g. bins and benches) and good play provision for children were all highly important and encouraged greater use by the whole community. The value of, and need for, good quality maintenance, cleanliness, and safety attracted the most written comments. Formally protecting parks and the enforcement of Bye-laws and Public Space Protection Orders was considered important as was providing a visible presence in parks to combat antisocial behaviour. It is widely recognised that well-kept and maintained areas attract greater use and that this is the key ingredient to enable the broadest appeal for users and for these spaces be successfully self-policed. Overall the value of the parks as places for quiet relaxation and access to nature and wildlife was the fourth most significant comment from respondents who ranked spending to support nature conservation as the highest priority.

Priority – To preserve and increase the number of Green Flag Award Parks

Priority – To improve, protect and provide clean and safe parks, allotments and nature reserves by seeking inward investment prioritising neglected and rundown areas

Priority – To deliver ‘wellbeing’ by putting parks and open spaces at the heart of outdoor activities and healthy lifestyles for all

Priority – To promote and support active citizens and the ethos, “My space, my responsibility”

Priority – To get nature to people and people to nature

Goal – To work in partnership with park user ‘friends’ groups, Local Assemblies, Neighbourhood Forums, the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership and Allotment Committees to deliver the ‘Greening Fund’ and other grants and initiatives to provide additional facilities and make improvements to parks and open spaces

Goal – To promote more public involvement and engagement with the formal user ‘friends’ groups so that they can broaden their appeal and capacity

Goal – To target and deliver investment for parks, pocket parks and small open spaces that are classified as fair or poor in the Open Space Assessment (OSA) 2019

Goal – To improve and maintain the highest feasible standards of grounds maintenance for formal sports areas to maximise their use and appeal

Goal – To develop a park events strategy that supports active, cultural or artistic events that take account of environmental sustainability using the “right time, right place and right space,” principles

Goal – To work with colleagues in Public Health and community services to support and encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes that link open spaces such as, the South East London Green Chain, Waterlink Way, the Thames Path and other local elements of the All London Green Grid

Goal – To protect, develop and enhance the nature conservation, wildlife habitats and species, where appropriate, in parks by supporting nature conservation volunteering initiatives and environmental education

Goal – To support and encourage the cultural, physical and mental health benefits and opportunities that our Parks and Open Spaces offer

Goal – To consult with and seek the views of young people via available networks and the Young Mayor’s forum to ensure that park improvements deliver safe well used and respected spaces

Goal – To consult and seek advice through the new Disability Commission to ensure that our parks and open spaces are designed to enable children and adults, of all abilities, to access and enjoy our open spaces

Goal – To respond to anti-social behavioural (ASB) issues in parks by exploring opportunities to provide a greater formal presence in parks and by working in partnership with formal user groups, the Safer Neighbourhoods Team and Lewisham enforcement officers to promote the bye laws and encourage respectful use

Strategic Economic Aims

Catford, Lewisham town centre, New Cross and south west Deptford will be the principle regeneration area for the borough over the next 20 years. As a consequence, existing greenspace within this part of the borough will come under increasing pressure from intensified use. Improving the quality of parks and open spaces and providing robust, diverse spaces that can deliver a range of economic, social and environmental outcomes will be essential as will adopting measures to enhance the multifunctionality of greenspaces. New developments within this area are required to include adequate provision of green and open spaces, based on the needs from the residents and occupiers of the development and the particular deficiencies identified in the local area.

Priority – To protect parks and open space

Priority – To preserve and where possible, enhance the quality of existing green and open spaces, to deliver eco-system services and a range of public benefits, including play, habitat creation, landscape improvements and flood storage

Priority – To achieve a cost effective high quality parks service that delivers continuous improvement

Priority – To promote the concept of Corporate Natural Capital Accounting (CNCA) as a methodology used to assess the value of economic, social and environmental benefits accruing from green infrastructure

Priority – To 'green the grey' by developing partnerships to deliver active green travel links through highways infrastructure projects

Goal – Parks and Open Space Officers to recommend the refusal of planning permission for all insensitive development, on site or on surrounding land that significantly erodes the biodiversity value, quality, use, access or enjoyment of designated green and open spaces

Goal – To support sustainable development and urban regeneration that delivers enhancements to the quality of existing open spaces to deliver a range of benefits and uses, that embrace its long term maintenance

Goal – To successfully insource the current park management service and maintain standards by winning 15 Green Flag Awards and continue to rank highly in the 'Good Parks for London' benchmarking exercise

Goal – To explore the value of commissioning a Corporate Natural Capital Account (CNCA) for the borough so that decision and policy makers are better apprised of the collective value of decisions that relate to the natural environment

Goal – To support the partnerships by working with Highway colleagues on, 'Cycleways,' 'Legible London' and 'Healthy neighbourhood' transport programmes to promote 'pathways to parks' and 'greening the grey' by developing sustainable travel links that use planting and greening as a tool to reduce carbon emissions

Goal – To actively support and encourage partnerships that seek to deliver important green infrastructure/eco-system services, such as: appropriate Environment Agency flood alleviation schemes; the All London Green Grid; the London Environment Strategy 2018 and National Park City initiative

Strategic Environmental Aims

Action to conserve and enhance Lewisham's natural environment has a long tradition and much of what Lewisham has now is the result of the endeavours of a number of committed local residents and voluntary organisations who have given their support for over 25 years. Along with organisations like the Environment Agency and the Lottery Fund, ecological restoration work has taken place on many of our greenspaces such as at Chinbrook Meadows, Beckenham Place Park, Brookmill Park, Cornmill Gardens, Ladywell Fields and along the River Pool Linear Park and Riverview walk. The 2016 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) habitat assessment, (the evidence base that underpins the SINC designations,) demonstrated a 35% reduction in Areas of Deficiency for access to nature over the last 10 years. Spending more money on managing sites for wildlife and nature conservation has been endorsed by consultation and it is clear that supporting biodiversity is a principle function of our parks and is important for many people, for our collective understanding and for the guardianship of the environment.

Priority – To balance functionality and local needs for parks and open space to serve the broadest diversity of people without compromising their value as a place to relax and enjoy being in nature

Priority – To manage the spaces sustainably and recycle wherever reasonably practical and as close to the source as possible

Priority – To explore a reduction in the use of herbicides where economically viable and practical

Priority – To develop, with user groups, management and improvement plans that seek to enhance nature and people's connection with it

Priority – To reduce carbon emissions and the reliance on fossil fuels by using electric machinery where reasonably practical

Priority – To plant more trees and hedgerows where appropriate and where this does not conflict with balancing environmental and social uses/needs

Goal – To promote the different features and facilities available in Lewisham's Parks so that the characteristics of each park are fully promoted via the LBL website

Goal – To encourage recycling, promote home recycling and discourage single use plastic

Goal – Where new planting is implemented these will be designed, where appropriate, to be sustainable planting schemes e.g. hardy and drought tolerant

Goal – To compost green waste in the parks it was generated in, leave fallen trees and standing dead wood in situ, where appropriate and safe to do so

Goal – To develop and trial an integrated weed control policy to avoid, explore alternatives and reduce the use of herbicide

Goal – To work with 'Friends of' user groups to support the implementation of projects designed to benefit locally appropriate biodiversity and engagement

Goal – To trial electric machinery to understand its performance and cost benefits

Goal – To prohibit ice cream van idling and work towards installing electric points to improve air quality in and around parks

Goal – To increase the parks tree stock and linear metres of hedgerow

Goal – To achieve new green linkages and work with neighbouring boroughs to address regional environmental issues

Priority – To support existing and new greening of active travel links so both people and wildlife benefit

Priority – To contribute to regional partnerships that are working to maintain and enhance the environment such as the Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group, and the Green Chain Walk

Priority – To facilitate and support the work of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership so that it can continue to develop strategies and projects that enhance the borough for people and wildlife

Goal – To improve water quality in the Ravensbourne, Pool and Quaggy rivers so that they can achieve 'Good ecological potential'

Goal – To continue to partner the 'Street trees for Living' initiative to plant and care for more street trees

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Delivery Plan

Social Aims	Delivery plan measures and undertakings	Timescales/milestones
Goal – To work in partnership with park user ‘friends’ groups, Local Assemblies, Neighbourhood Forums, the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership and Allotment Committees to deliver the ‘Greening Fund’ and other grants and initiatives to provide additional facilities and make improvements to parks and open spaces	Greening fund successfully delivers £360k of improvements by April 2021.	April 2021
	Greening fund successfully delivers £0.5m	May 2022
	Three completed rounds of the Greening Fund	May 2022
	Successful delivery of the Greening Fund leading to its adoption post 2022	June 2022
	Number successful applicants + 70	January 2025
	£250k additional match funding delivered	January 2025
Goal – To promote more public involvement and engagement with the formal user ‘friends’ groups, broadening their appeal and capacity	Greening fund successfully delivers £1m	May 2025
	Explore and, if feasible, provide umbrella PLI insurance for running events	March 2021
	Develop a memorandum of understanding, for the functioning of Park User Groups and a model constitution for new groups	March 2021
	Maintain updated information on the Lewisham website for all groups so contact details, web links and other information can be provided	Every 6 months
Goal – To target and deliver investment for parks, pocket parks and small open spaces that are classified as fair or poor in the Open Space Assessment (OSA) 2019	Explore and, if feasible, facilitate training and/or advice sheets on topics such as: <i>“Effective methods of communication, consultation and social media use”</i> <i>“Promotion of the ‘Lewisham Way’ ethos of collaboration”</i>	x1 training/seminar every year
	Deliver investment to: 1) Durham Hill 2) Southend Park 3) Forster Memorial Park 4) Riverview Walk 5) Folkestone Gardens 6) Home Park 7) Lewisham Park 8) Blythe Hill Fields 9) Riverdale Sculpture Park 10) Lewisham Way 11) Hatcham gardens 12) Ferranti Park	18) Ravensbourne Park Gardens 19) Edith Nesbitt Gardens 20) Eckington Gardens 21) Margaret McMillan Park 22) Sayes Court Park 23) Lewisham War Memorial Gardens 24) The Common & Summerhouse Field 25) Deptford Memorial Gardens 26) Westbourne Drive Enclosure 27) Grove Park Library Gardens 28) Laywell Green/Slagrove Place 29) Wickham Gardens 30) Beachborough Gardens

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13) Friendly Gardens 14) Luxmore Gardens 15) Broadway Fields 16) Evelyn Green 17) Baxter's Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31) Beaulieu Avenue Green 32) Kirkdale Green 33) St Norbert Green 34) Turnham Road green 35) Culverley Green 	
	Target and spend the £54k grant from the Office Communities and Local Government in Lewisham's parks and open spaces that are outside the identified growth area where there is less Section 106 availability		March 2021
	Next Open Space Assessment to validate the upgrade in the status of all the listed sites above		March 2025
Goal – To improve and maintain the highest feasible standards of grounds maintenance for formal sports areas to maximise their use and appeal	To support Lewisham's Playing Pitch Strategy (June 2019) and its Action plan where funds are available and do not conflict with the varying requirements to provide a broad range of activity and appeal for our park users		Annual review monitoring report
	Number of new facilities and external grants achieved		Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To develop a park events strategy that supports active, cultural or artistic events that take account of environmental sustainability using the "right time, right place and right space," principles	To achieve an endorsed and adopted strategy		March 2023
Goal – To work with colleagues in Public Health and community services to support and encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes that link open spaces such as, the South East London Green Chain, Waterlink Way, the Thames Path and other local elements of the All London Green Grid	Ensure that all new interpretative initiatives and appropriate infrastructure promote the linking of parks and open spaces across the borough.		Annual review monitoring report
	Provide interpretation and way marking to link River Pool Linear Park and Ladywell Fields Park with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Manor House Gardens 2) Manor Park 3) Mountsfield Park 4) Lewisham Park 		All by March 2025
	The Greening Fund will finance improvements to parks. This will include new bike locking points, new water drinking fountains, new signs and way-finding		Annual review monitoring report

	posts, new benches & bins. The implementation of these improvements will improve and refresh parks and attract greater use.	
Goal – To protect, develop and enhance the nature conservation, wildlife habitats and species, where appropriate, in parks by supporting nature conservation volunteering initiatives and environmental education	Deliver 52 Natures Gym sessions engaging 550 volunteers per year	Annual review monitoring report
	To facilitate and support 10 forest schools	
	Nature Conservation Team to deliver x10 sessions per year (300 children)	
	Lead the 3 Rivers Clean Up initiative in June/July each year	
Goal – To support and encourage the cultural, physical and mental health benefits and opportunities that our Parks and Open Spaces offer	Install new outdoor gym equipment	x4 March 2022
	Install new outdoor gym equipment	x8 March 2025
	Install new table tennis tables	x2 March 2022
	Install new table tennis tables	x4 March 2025
	Maintain and updated the Lewisham website so that the information on parks remains current Monitor and maintain the Natures Gym and Rivers and People web sites	Annual review monitoring report
	Increase the number of licenced boot camps from 25 Increase the number of community events facilitated in parks from 694	30 by March 2022 35 by March 2025 714 by March 2022 734 by March 2025
Goal – To consult with and seek the views of young people via available networks and the Young Mayor’s forum to ensure that park improvements deliver safe well used and respected spaces	Where major park projects take place, monitor the number and outcome of any young people consulted	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To consult and seek advice through the new Disability Commission to ensure that our parks and open spaces are designed to enable children and adults, of all abilities, to access and enjoy our open spaces	Where major park playground projects take place monitor the number and outcome of consultation with disabled stakeholders and the application of inclusive play principles in their design, layout and equipment choices	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To respond to anti-social behavioural (ASB) issues in parks by exploring	Seek to maximise the static presence in major parks through the process of in-sourcing the parks Grounds Maintenance Service	November 2021

opportunities to provide a greater formal presence in parks and by working in partnership with formal user groups, the Safer Neighbourhoods Team and Lewisham enforcement officers to promote the bye laws and encourage respectful use.	Provide customer care training to all new and transferring staff so they can perform frontline duties as the face of the Park Service	November 2022
	Develop a reporting process/protocol to train staff to capture essential information on ASB occurrence & patterns	November 2022
	Develop a data base of antisocial behaviour patterns and deliver joint enforcement events where feasible and appropriate	November 2022 Annual review monitoring report
	Address all antisocial casework issues within the 10 day timescale	Annual review monitoring report
	Record any metrics/improvements in perception of safety	Annual review monitoring report

Economic Aims	Delivery plan measures and undertakings	Timescales/milestones
Goal – Parks and Open Space Officers to recommend the refusal of planning permission for all insensitive development, on site or on surrounding land that significantly erodes the biodiversity value, quality, use, access or enjoyment of designated green and open spaces	Number of planning applications refused from 2019-2025.	Annual review monitoring report
	Amount in hectares and/or number of parks and open spaces lost to development.	No net loss by 2025
Goal – To support sustainable development and urban regeneration that delivers enhancements to the quality of existing open spaces to deliver a range of benefits and uses, that embrace its long term maintenance	Number and monetary value of park enhancements that derive from S106 agreements or Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.	Annual review monitoring report
	£1m of investment from Development Control sources.	March 2025
	£300k external investment target for non-Development Control sources.	March 2025
	15 Green Flag Awards	July 2022

<p>Goal – To successfully insource the current park management service and maintain standards by winning 15 Green Flag Awards and continue to rank highly in the Good Parks for London benchmarking exercise</p>	<p>17 Green Flag Awards</p>	<p>July 2025</p>
<p>Goal – To explore the value of commissioning a Corporate Natural Capital Account (CNCA) for the borough so that decision and policy makers are better apprised of the collective value of decisions that relate to the natural environment</p>	<p>Present a briefing paper and potential business case to the Sustainable Development Select Committee to seek political support and steer so that policy makers are better apprised of the collective value of decisions that relate to the natural environment</p>	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>Goal – To support the partnerships by working with Highway colleagues on, ‘Cycleways,’ ‘Legible London’ and ‘Healthy neighbourhood’ transport programmes to promote ‘pathways to parks’ and ‘greening the grey’ by developing sustainable travel links that use planting and greening as a tool to reduce carbon emissions</p>	<p>The Healthy neighbourhood programme – is part of Lewisham’s transport strategy, it will create streets that encourage more people to walk and cycle. An element of the program is to make areas greener and to reduce air pollution. We are delivering the first tranche of Healthy Neighbourhoods in the Lewisham Lee Green, East Sydenham, Telegraph Hill and Bellingham areas. The Cycleways program is designed to encourage and promote safe cycling routes not dominated by vehicles. A key element of this is promoting our green spaces to provide a well-designed network of neighbourhoods. An important element of this is more street planting and sensitive grounds maintenance throughout the routes.</p>	<p>x3 Healthy neighbourhoods by April 2021 x2 Healthy neighbourhoods per FY thereafter 2 Cycleways by April 2021 4 Cycleways by April 2022</p>
	<p>Provide interpretation and way marking to link River Pool Linear Park and Ladywell Fields Park with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Manor House Gardens 2) Manor Park 3) Mountsfield Park 4) Lewisham Park 	<p>All by March 2025</p>
<p>Goal – To actively support and encourage partnerships that seek to deliver important green infrastructure/eco-system services, such as: appropriate Environment Agency flood</p>	<p>Play an active role in all appropriate forums & partnerships, such as, the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group, Environment Agency- Flood Alleviation consultations, Thames Tideway,</p>	<p>Annual review monitoring report</p>

alleviation schemes; the All London Green Grid; the London Environment Strategy 2018 and National Park City initiative	All London Green Grid, London Parks and Open Spaces benchmarking group, Allotment Officers Association, and the London Tree Officers forum.	
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Environmental Aims	Delivery plan measures and undertakings	Timescales/milestones
Goal – To promote the different features and facilities available in Lewisham’s parks so that the characteristics of each park are fully promoted via the LBL website	Update and review all web based information	Complete overhaul by 2021,
	Explore with the web team some interactive search element or map that the public can access to illustrate park features and facilities, such as: -toilets; -cafes; -sports (field, tennis, table tennis, bowls, rugby, cricket, kite-ing, frisby); -horticultural features e.g. trees and bedding; - play provision including water play; - relaxation; - walking for health; - events; - linkages	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To encourage recycling, promote home recycling and discourage single use plastic	To install H ₂ O drinking water fountains	3 per year, 15 by 2025
	Install signs on all newly installed bins and on noticeboards to encourage and promote home recycling	Annual review monitoring report
	Monitor amount of green waste disposed of offsite and reduce quantity every year	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – Where new planting is implemented these will be designed, where appropriate, to be sustainable planting schemes e.g. hardy and drought tolerant	Monitor the number of new planting schemes that deliver an integrated approach to fertiliser, weed control and watering by using drought tolerant plants, recycled mulches and that minimise the need for all chemical applications	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To compost green waste in the parks it was generated in, leave fallen trees and standing dead wood in situ, where appropriate and safe to do so	Monitor the amount of mulch imported from suppliers and reduce quantity every year	Annual review monitoring report
	Actively work with tree contractors to co-ordinate the use of chipped bark for local parks and open spaces when contractors are working in the vicinity	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To develop and trial an integrated weed control policy to avoid, explore alternatives and reduce the use of herbicide	Target specific locations within key parks where alternative methods would have the greatest benefit and monitor effectiveness and cost.	Interim report by May 2023 Final report by May 2025

Goal – To work with ‘Friends of’ user groups to support the implementation of projects designed to benefit locally appropriate biodiversity and engagement	Measure the number of distinct biodiversity projects Measure the number of volunteers	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To trial electric machinery to understand its performance and cost benefits	Measure the area/features managed with electric machinery, and monitor the effectiveness and cost.	Interim report by May 2023 Final report by May 2025
Goal – To prohibit ice cream van idling and work towards installing electric points to improve air quality in and around parks	Monitor the number of ice cream concessions and the installation of electric points	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To increase the parks tree stock and linear metres of hedgerow	Record the number of newly planted trees and tree losses. Achieve a greater than 2:1 ratio. Record the establishment of 150 metres of hedgerow per year.	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To achieve new green linkages and work with neighbouring boroughs to address regional environmental issues	Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood (DPLN) – new greening areas on Rolt Street, Scawen Road and Woodpecker Road following community engagement	April 2021
Goal – To improve water quality in the Ravensbourne, Pool and Quaggy rivers so that they can achieve ‘Good ecological potential’	Deliver over 40 river related volunteer sessions Lead the 3 Rivers Clean Up initiative in June/July each year Work in partnership with the Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group to identify projects that will enhance the biological quality of the rivers and river corridors	Annual review monitoring report
Goal – To continue to partner the ‘Street trees for Living’ initiative to plant and care for more street trees	Deliver the £48k Street Trees for Schools project in partnership	Plant 100 trees by 2022
	Plant an additional 200 street trees per year in partnership	Annual review monitoring report

Open Space Distance Standards

There are distance standards for the provision of different sizes of publically accessible greenspace, types of playspace and types of natural greenspace set out in The London Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance. These standards specify what should be provided at maximum walking distances from the location of any home in the Borough.

Distance to Publically Accessible Greenspace

Minimum Size of Green Space	Maximum Walking Distance from homes	Name of type of Green Space
2 hectares	400m / approximately 5 minutes	Small Park
20 hectares	1.2km / approximately 15 minutes	District Park
60 hectares	3.2km / approximately 15 minutes	Metropolitan Park

Distance to Playspace

Type of Playspace	Walking Distance & Approximate Time	Minimum Size	Description
Play are for ages 0-6 - a Local Area for Play	100m / 1 minute	0.01 hectare	A stimulating landscape that encourages play, however, it won't necessarily include play equipment.
Playground for ages 0-8 - a Local Equipped Area for Play	400m / 5 minutes	0.04 hectare	A stimulating landscape that encourages play that includes play equipment.
Playground for ages 0-12+ - a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play	1,000 / 15 minutes	0.1 hectare	A stimulating landscape that encourages play that includes play equipment with some equipment for teenagers.

Natural Greenspace

Natural Greenspaces are also known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). They are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation for their nature and biodiversity value.

There are 3 different categories of Sites for Importance for Nature Conservation – Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation, Sites of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation and Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

Type of Publically Accessible Natural Greenspace	Walking Distance and Approximate Time
Borough or Metropolitan Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	1,000m (approximately 15 mins)

Access to sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation do not have a distance standard in the London Plan.

Mapping Open Space Distance Standards

Maps illustrating which areas of the Borough meet the distance standards and where there are areas of deficit are provided on page XX.

Other Types of Open Spaces

Standards do not currently exist for the provision of other types of open spaces such as allotments, community gardens and outdoor sports facilities.

Responding to Open Space Deficits

Where deficits of open space provision are identified there will most often not be the land availability to create new open spaces given the need for land for housing. Therefore it will be necessary to consider the following mitigation strategies for the areas of deficit:

- Improving the quality of the nearest open spaces
- Improving walking and cycling routes to the nearest open spaces
- Introducing 'pocket parks' on streets where small sections of roads are closed and replaced with pocket parks. (See precedents below).
- The Council will continue to secure planning contributions from strategic sites to contribute to the continued improvements of open spaces within the sub-area.

New developments in Areas of Deficits of Open Space

For new developments in areas of deficit to open space the Council will strongly resist the location of communal amenity spaces and playspaces on roofs instead of on the ground and very high quality soft landscaping including tree planting will be required.

Occasionally, we will seek to negotiate the provision of publically accessible open space on a development site taking into account the following factors:

- The size of the site and the practicality of making on-site provision of open space
- The additional open space users which the development of the site will generate
- The accessibility of the site to existing publically accessible open space
- The need for open space, taking into account factors including child population density, health and deprivation levels of the local population
- Ensuring that there is a sustainable mechanism for maintaining the space after it has been provided
- The Local Plan will identify sites on which on-site provision of open space will be required

Precedents (To be distributed within the document when desktop published).

A New Open Space: Charlottenburg Park, Deptford



In 2016 Charlottenburg Park was delivered as part of a planning consent for a new development. This removed an area of deficit to open space around New Cross.

Temporary Pocket Park, Prince Street, Deptford



This pocket park scheme was implemented in August 2019 as part of the TFL 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' project to test the impact of removing traffic from the street and creating more pedestrian friendly amenity spaces.

A Pocket Park, Northcote Road, Waltham Forest



This pocket park has reduced vehicular use of residential streets and increased public space.

Part of the recently implemented Surrey Canal Linear Park



Open Space Overview Borough Wide

This document assesses publically accessible open space and does not include assessment of private housing land, private sports pitches and private allotments.

An audit of current open space provision and the quality of this provision was carried out in the summer of 2018. A total of 349 sites were surveyed, categorised in accordance with the following typologies.

Typology (PPG17)	Area (ha)
Parks and Gardens	47
Children and Teenagers (play)	43
Natural and Semi-natural Urban Greenspace	26
Outdoor Sports facilities	25
Amenity	88
Allotments and Community Gardens	47
Green Corridors	62
Cemeteries and Churchyards	11
Total	349

Parks and Gardens

In the hustle and bustle of modern inner city life the significance of local parks and gardens cannot be underestimated. They provide an essential ecosystem service. By moderating the ambient temperature of our inner city, providing clean air, attenuating rainfall to preventing flooding, and supporting important biodiversity and wildlife. For many residents they have a crucial impact on both quality of life and the perception of the area where they live and work. Good quality parks are what make an area attractive and this in turn supports the local economy. Parks and gardens provide accessible opportunities for a range of informal recreation, formal sporting opportunities and a place for peace and relaxation. They provide space to walk the dog, look at the flowers, meet friends, and opportunities for children of all ages to play.

The Parks and Open Space Assessment (OSA) identified 50 sites ranging from Metropolitan Parks (Beckenham Place Park and Blackheath), District Parks, and Local Parks.

Parks and gardens cover 273ha, 7.8% of the borough. Whilst the borough is fortunate to have a good geographic spread of parks and gardens certain areas are found to be deficient.

Lewisham is well-served with open spaces of 'Metropolitan' scale. There are small areas of deficiency to the west of Forest Hill and to the south-east of Grove Park. Lewisham has a significant deficit in 'District' parks. Only Beckenham Place Park Common and Summerhouse Fields in the extreme south of the borough lie within this definition. 'District' parks in neighbouring boroughs create some provision on the western fringes of the borough.

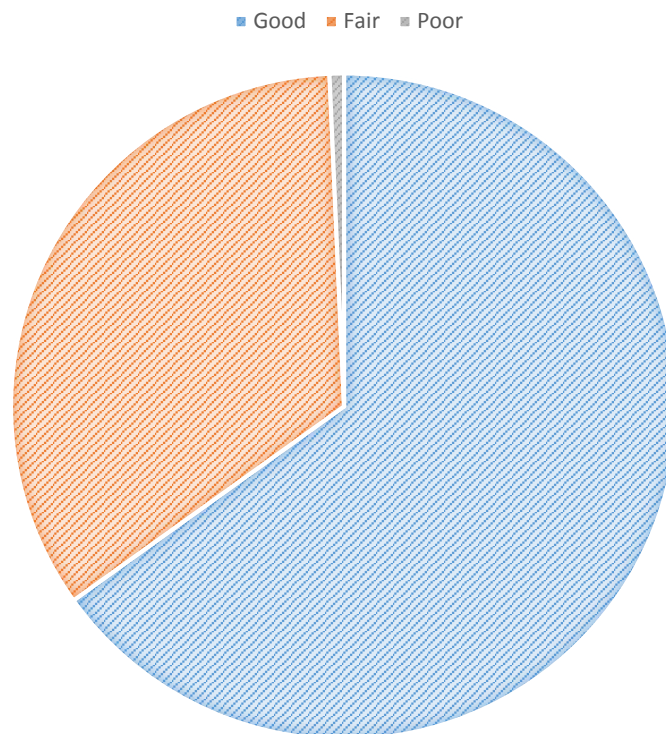
Local park provision is good but there are corridors of under provision between New Cross and Forest Hill and between Lewisham, Grove Park and Bellingham. Given these gaps in provision, the retention and enhancement of several individual sites is of particular significance. These include Forster Memorial Park, Blythe Hill Fields, Mayow Park and Manor House Gardens.

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Quality Assessment

	ha	%
good	168.41	65.1
fair	88.41	34.2
poor	1.9	0.7
total	258.72	100

QUALITY BY AREA

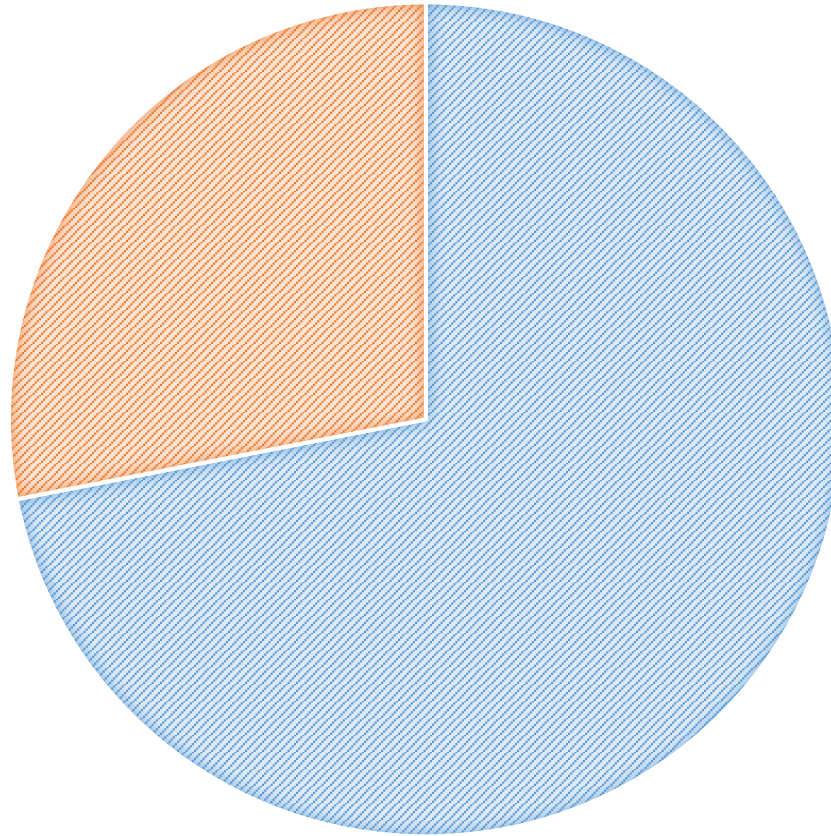


The Quality Assessment for Lewisham's parks and gardens based on area shows 65% is 'good' quality 34% is of 'fair' quality and just under 1% of the area is of poor quality.

The assessment suggests, in the context of the London Plan typology, there are no local parks judged as being 'poor.' 45% are assessed as 'good' and 55% as 'fair'.

LONDON PLAN

■ Good ■ Fair



'Good' quality sites are mostly local parks with only 17% being 'small' open spaces. 'Fair' quality parks are evenly distributed between 'local' and 'small open space.'

'Poor' quality open spaces are evenly distributed between 'small' open spaces and 'pocket' parks and.

Summary of quality assessment findings

Local Park Typology

Poor	Fair		
	Durham Hill	Home Park	Folkestone Gardens
	Southend Park	Lewisham Park	Forster Memorial Park
	Riverview Walk	Blythe Hill Fields	Beckenham Place Park –The Common & Summerhouse Field

Small Open Space Typology

Poor	Fair		
Friendly Gardens (Lewisham)	Baxter's Fields	Edith Nesbitt Gardens	Grove Park Library Gardens
Lewisham War Memorial Gardens	Evelyn Green	Eckington Gardens	Ladywell Green/Slagrove Place
Luxmore Gardens	Broadway Fields	Sayes Court Park,	Ravensbourne Park Gardens
	Margaret McMillan Park		

Pocket Park Typology

Poor	Fair		
Riverdale Sculpture Park	Lewisham Way	Hatcham gardens	Ferranti Park
Deptford Memorial Gardens	Culverley Green		
Westbourne Drive Enclosure			
Wickham Gardens			
Beachborough Gardens			
Beaulieu Avenue Green			
Kirkdale Green			
St Norbert Green			
Turnham Road Green			

Children's Play

Providing facilities for children and young people is important because it offers opportunities for play and physical activity and this helps with the development of movement and social skills. Provision for children consists of equipped play areas and specialised provision for young people, including skate parks, multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and teen shelters.

The OSA audit of facilities identified 78 areas. Lewisham has good levels of provision of 'Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play' (NEAP) but there is a swathe of under-provision along the eastern edge of the borough. The potential influence of NEAPs outside the borough on provision in this area was not assessed.

'Local Equipped Areas for Play' (LEAP) are evenly distributed across the borough but there are areas of relative under-provision in a corridor between New Cross and Forest Hill and between Catford and Grove Park. Local Areas for Play are also broadly distributed but there are similar geographical gaps in provision to those affecting access to LEAP sites.

Overall, play site provision across the borough is satisfactory apart from the area to the south-east of Catford where there is a lack of provision.

The upgrading of Northbrook Park and Mountsfield Park to achieve NEAP status would help alleviate some of the lack of provision in an area of deficiency.

Natural and Semi-natural Urban Greenspace

Natural green spaces are open spaces that include woodland and scrub, grassland, wetlands, open and running water and wastelands. They provide valuable habitat for wildlife and biodiversity but also opportunities for environmental education and nature conservation volunteering.

In 2015-16 Lewisham Planning Policy commissioned a borough wide 'Habitat and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) survey'. The survey was required to inform the preparation of a new integrated Local Plan to replace the Lewisham Core Strategy.

For the full report see: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/ldf/evidence-base/ldf-evidence-base--environment>

The report found that all 64 SINCs maintained their ecological interest for which they were designated and made a number of recommendations including:

- the identification of six new proposed SINCs
- upgrading of four sites from Sites of Local Importance to Sites of Borough Importance
- boundary changes to 28 SINC sites that increase the area by 12.8ha

If adopted by the new Local Plan there will be new additions to existing SINCs, six new proposed SINCs. This will increase the SINC area from 595ha to 614ha. This represents a 3% increase in ten years.

Access to nature is a key component of living in an urban environment. Although Lewisham has good access to green spaces, in some parts of the borough people do not enjoy easy access to green spaces with wildlife value. Localities where people are further than 1km walking distance from a publicly accessible site of Metropolitan or Borough level significance for nature conservation are defined by the GLA as 'Areas of Deficiency' (AoD).

Previously Lewisham had five AoD covering 14% of the Borough. The largest of these was located in the north-west, spreading from the River Thames in the north to Brockley in the south and the boundary with Southwark in the east. The other four are smaller and discrete. Their broad location and extent are listed below:

- A large area in the north-west around Deptford – 319ha
- Central, around Lewisham town centre – 55ha
- East, around Lee – 48ha
- South west, Forest Hill – 77ha

Following the 2015-16 study the AoD in nature has reduced from 520ha to 337.4ha, a fall or drop of 182.6ha or 35%. This is the result of improvements at Bridgehouse Meadows and Ladywell Fields, creating wildlife rich habitats valued at the borough level. Improved access into the River Quaggy and Manor Park Site of Borough Importance has also helped to reduce the AoD.

A proposed boundary extension to Beckenham Place Park has alleviated the AoD by 28.5ha in the London Borough of Bromley to the south. A further 45.5ha of AoD is also alleviated in Southwark as a result of Bridgehouse Meadows recommendations.

Of strategic ecological importance to Lewisham are the railway lines and naturalised stretches of the River Ravensbourne, River Pool and River Quaggy. These form habitat corridors and are contiguous with a large number of other SINCs of borough importance. The size, maturity and variety of habitats are integral to the sustainability of populations of bats, birds and invertebrates.

Five SINCs were assessed as meeting their current level of designation, but are in decline. These are Grove Park Cemetery; Hillcrest Estate Woodland; Hither Green Cemetery, Lewisham Crematorium and Reigate Road Open Space; Mayow Park; St Paul's Churchyard and Crossfield Street Open Space. Since the publication of this study Crossfield Street Open Space has been lost to development to facilitate the Tideway Tunnel.

Outdoor Sports facilities

This category includes stand-alone sports facilities such as public, private, leisure and educational sports grounds and playing fields. They also include sports facilities listed under other typologies, for example public parks. A dedicated 'Playing Pitch Strategy' (PPS) and needs assessment has been prepared (June 2019), that provides a robust evidence base and identifies if the supply and demand of playing pitches within the Local Authority is sufficient to meet the current and future needs and demands for sport.

Amenity Green space

Amenity green space is classified as housing area green space, roadside enclosures and verges and other sites usually near to people's homes and may include facilities such as play areas. Many of these sites are simple and less formal but in their own way they provide valuable and aesthetic spaces.

The housing amenity sites are managed by a number of housing providers in the borough and many sites are currently being improved, recognising the importance quality green space can play, alongside improvements to the housing stock.

Allotments

There are currently 37 allotments sites within the borough catering for more than 1,100 plot holders, including schools and community groups. This is an increase of 200 plot holders over a 3 year period. The number of plots has increased as we encourage smaller, more manageable plots to provide better opportunities for families and those with less time to manage a traditional full sized plot.

We have also centralised the allotment waiting list system ensuring the process is clear and accountable. As a result of this, in the year 2018-19, we have reduced the average waiting time by 4 years.

Lewisham has an above average number of allotment sites compared to other London Boroughs and whilst waiting lists are lengthy in certain areas of the borough, demand is significantly less in others. The key to managing waiting lists lies in supporting local allotment committees to effectively manage their sites, ensuring regular maintenance of plots and promoting those allotments in areas of less demand. All allotment applicants are sign-posted to online information resources regarding community gardens and a neighbouring local authority that has vacant plots so there is the option of taking part in food growing until an allotment plot becomes available in their area.

Lewisham's Allotments and Community Gardens have an intrinsic role in the health and well-being of the boroughs residents, offering multiple benefits –

- **Personal** – individuals actively involved in managing their own space, producing their own food and engaging in their local environment
- **Community Building** – engaging groups of all ages and cultures in taking responsibility and ownership for their local Open Spaces; shared decision making and shared skills input

Self-managed committees are offered annual training sessions which focus on site management processes and current themes. These sessions promote good practice along with fair and transparent processes in allotment management. This is also an opportunity for committees to network and share experiences.

The spirit of allotmenting in Lewisham is exemplified by the popular and well attended annual allotment awards event organised by our valued volunteers, the Lewisham Self-Managed Allotments Association (LSMAA)

- **Health** – access to locally grown nutritious food, regular outdoor exercise and fostering of physical and mental well-being.
- **Education** – all ages learning how to plan, grow, maintain and harvest crops; learn about organic, sustainable methods of land management as well as encouraging co-operative, social skills.
- **Environmental sustainability** – provides the forum for and encourages the prudent use of resources (water/composting), reduces food miles and encourages wildlife habitats.

Lewisham has recently installed a compost toilet offering environmentally friendly and sustainable facilities for allotment users. We will be supporting the installation of more compost toilets across the borough's sites using the Mayor's Greening Fund.

Green Corridors – networks, chains and grids

Greenspaces are important in their own right but there are also benefits in creating and enhancing links between sites to form a connected green infrastructure for both wildlife and people. The South East London Green Chain is a linked system of over 300 open spaces connected by a network of footpaths that stretch 50 miles (80km) from the riverside at Beckenham Place Park and through to Crystal Palace Park. The South East London Green Chain was extended in 2011 to include Sydenham Well Park, Sydenham Hill Woods, Dulwich Park and Nunhead Cemetery.

The Waterlink Way is a shared route for cyclists and pedestrians that runs from the River Thames at Deptford Creek southwards to the Green Chain Walk at Beckenham Place Park. It follows the route of Sustrans Route 21 as it passes through Inner London on its way to the south coast at Eastbourne. The Waterlink Way takes users north-south through the centre of the borough along the rivers Ravensbourne and Pool. It serves as a valuable blue-green artery connecting many of the borough's green spaces with the green chain walk network and has been a driving force for restoring the river corridor and its associated habitats.

Both the Green Chain and Waterlink Way forms part of the South East London Green Chain Plus Area which is a component of the All London Green Grid (ALGG). The ALGG aims to create a regional network of interlinked and multi-purpose open and green spaces with good connections to the places where people live and work, and to public transport, the capital's rivers especially the Thames, the countryside and urban fringe.

The railway embankments and neighbouring soft landscaping in Lewisham include long stretches of valuable natural greenspaces with high levels of biodiversity. However, large parts of these areas are currently not publically accessible. Introducing pedestrian and cycling routes along them represents a key strategic opportunity for significantly improving pedestrian and cycling accessibility through the Borough.

Cemeteries and Churchyards

Cemeteries and churchyards can provide a valuable contribution to the portfolio of open space provision. They provide a place for peaceful contemplation and often have wildlife conservation and biodiversity value.

The borough has three cemeteries: Grove Park, Hither Green and Ladywell and Brockley Cemetery. In addition, the Bromley Hill Cemetery falls within the Lewisham borough boundary but is managed by the London Borough of Bromley.

The Council maintains five churchyards: St Mary's, St Margaret's, St Pauls, St Bartholomew's, and St Andrew's under the 1906 Open Spaces Act where deeds of grant were signed agreeing that the churchyards are to be used by the public as open space and that the Council would maintain them in a 'good and decent' state.

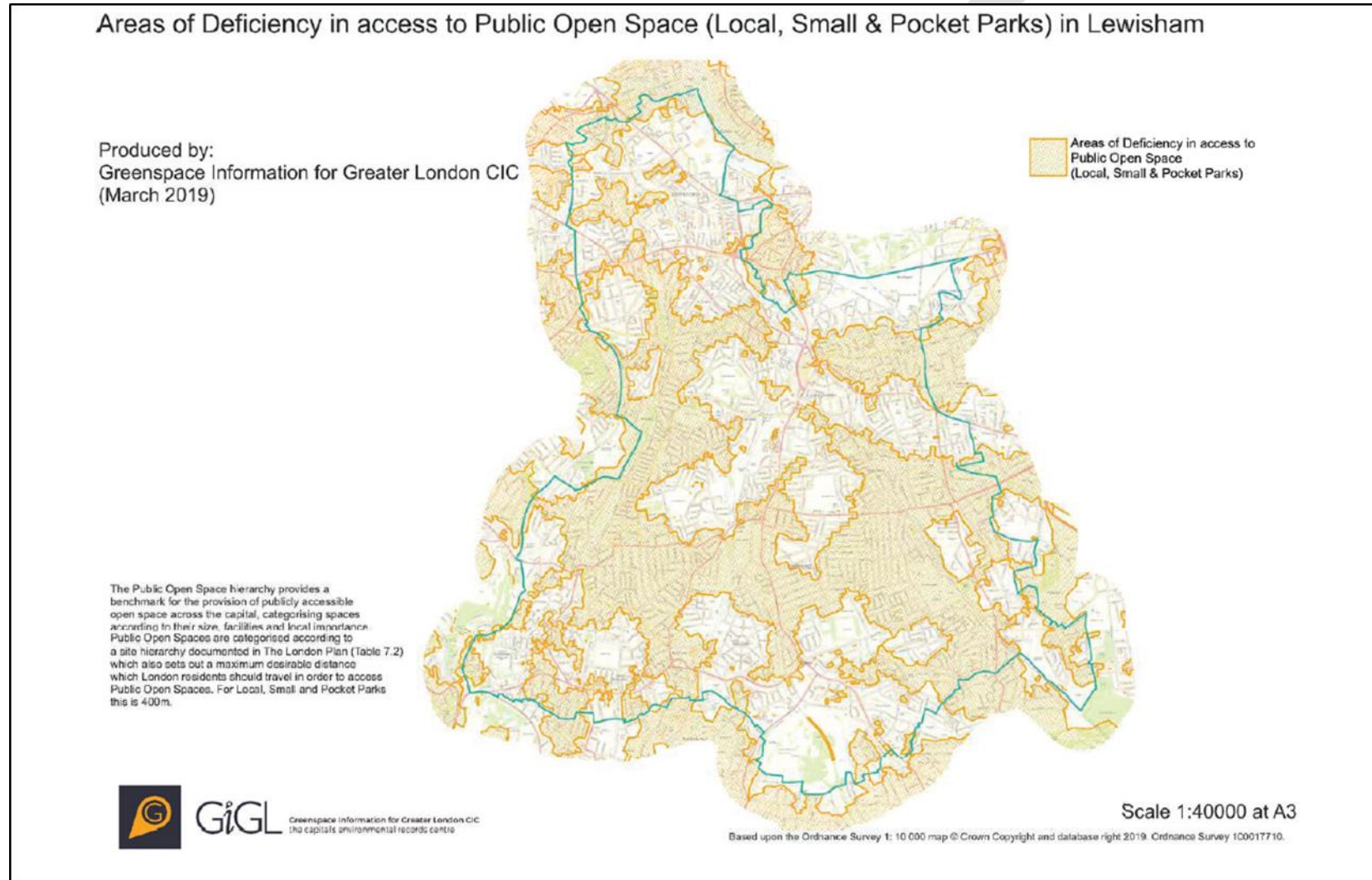
Cemeteries and churchyards can make a significant contribution to the provision of urban green spaces often providing a sanctuary for wildlife. A wide variety of habitats can be found supporting the natural and semi-natural space typologies.

"The opportunity to study the flora and birds is not to be underestimated" Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery.

Open Space Provision

The below maps show Open Space Provision of parks, play and sites of nature importance in accordance with the distance standards set out on page XX.

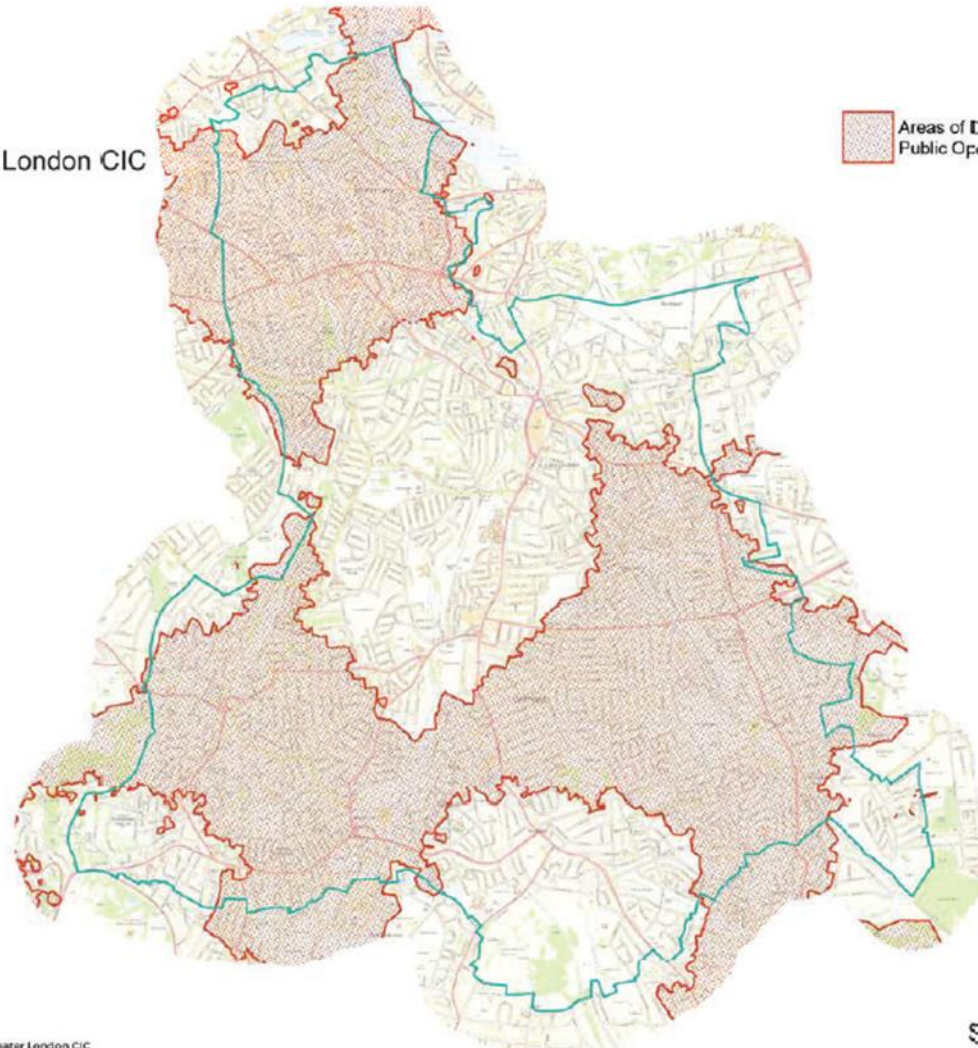
Maps to be replaced with improved formatted maps currently being produced.



Areas of Deficiency in access to Public Open Space (District Parks) in Lewisham

Produced by:
Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
(March 2019)

 Areas of Deficiency in access to Public Open Space (District Parks)



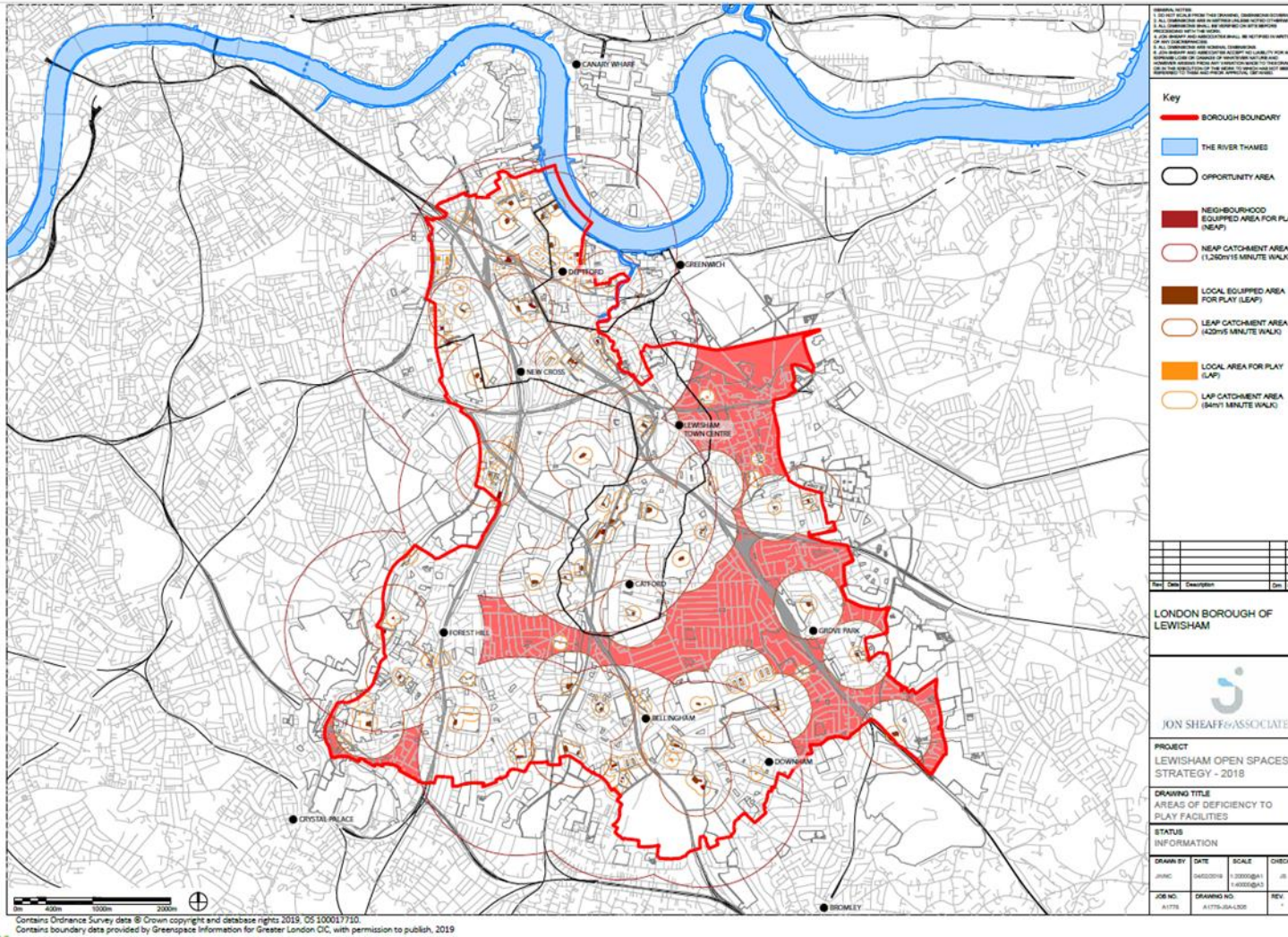
The Public Open Space hierarchy provides a benchmark for the provision of publicly accessible open space across the capital, categorising spaces according to their size, facilities and local importance. Public Open Spaces are categorised according to a site hierarchy documented in The London Plan (Table 7.2) which also sets out a maximum desirable distance which London residents should travel in order to access Public Open Spaces. For District Parks this is 1.2km.



Scale 1:40000 at A3

Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map © Crown Copyright and database right 2019. Ordnance Survey 100017710.

Areas of Deficiency in Access to Playspace

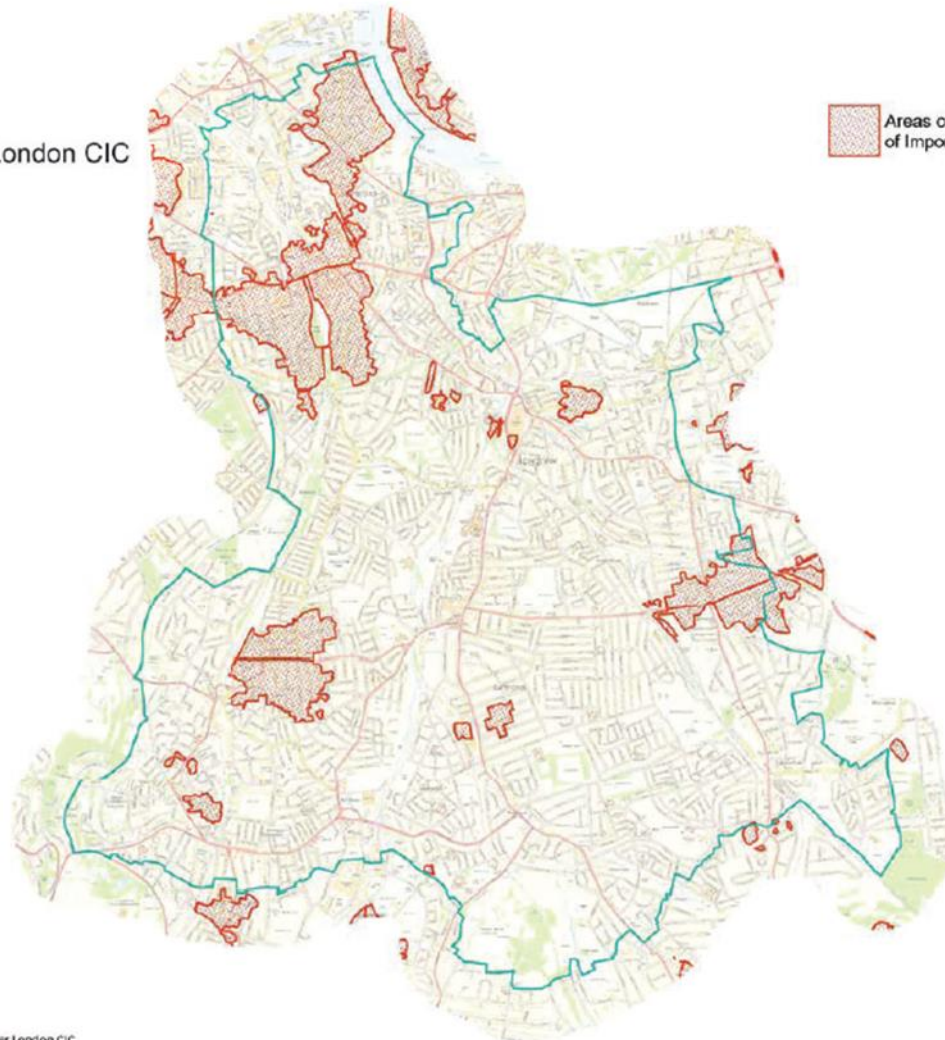


It should be noted that the methodology for producing the above Playspace Map uses straight line distances.

Areas of Deficiency in access to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Lewisham (Updated Designations)

Produced by:
Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
(Jan 2019)

 Areas of Deficiency in access to Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation



The Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation have been identified since 1986 and the categorisation of sites is related to their protected status in the land-use planning system. The boundaries and site grades reflect the most recent consideration of each site. Note that boundaries and grades may change as new information becomes available.



GiGL Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC
the capital's environmental records centre

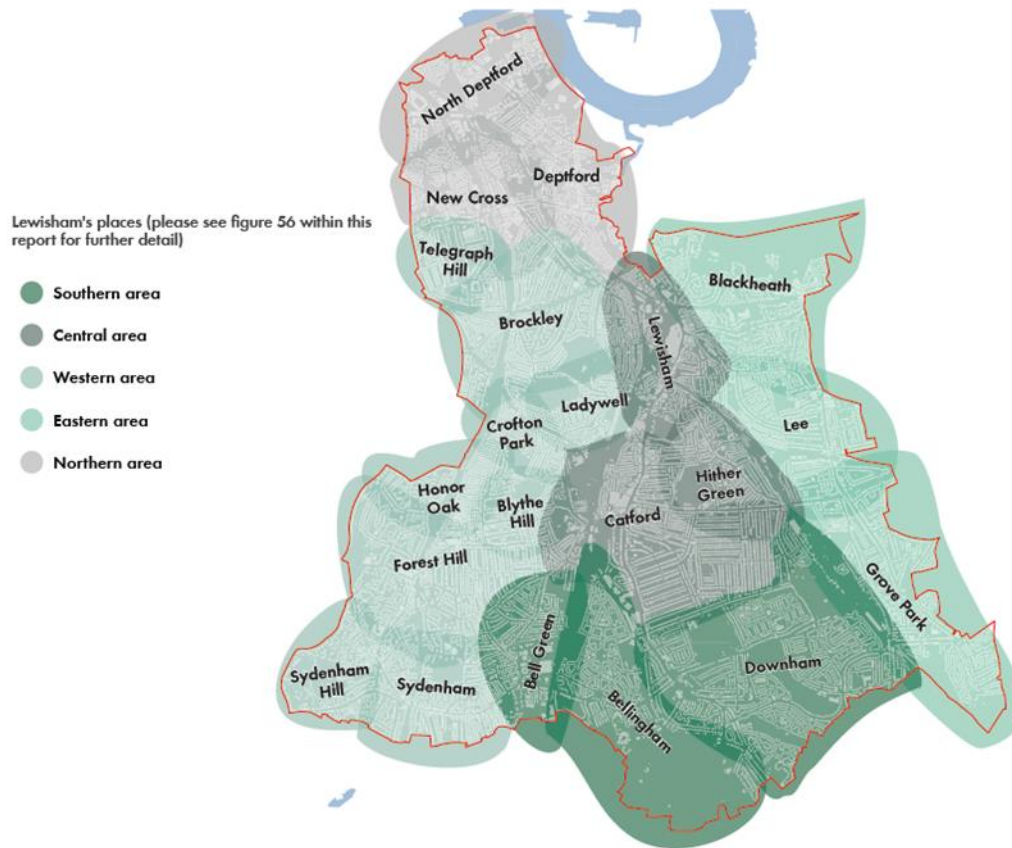
Scale 1:40000 at A3

Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map © Crown Copyright and database right 2019. Ordnance Survey 100032216. GLA

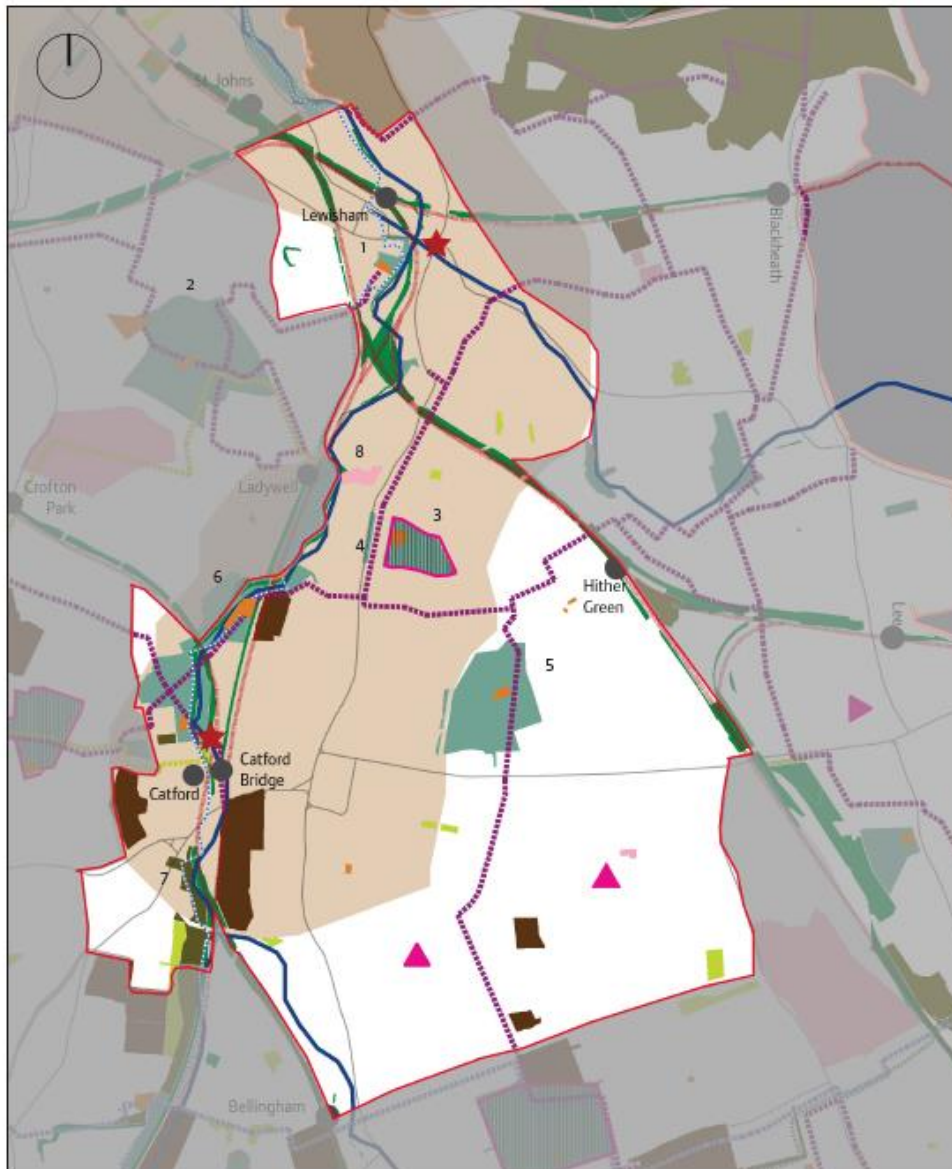
Sub-Area Strategies

The open space assets and needs of different areas of the Borough are summarised below. The Borough has been broken up in to 5 sub-areas as shown below. For more detail on the sub-areas please see the Lewisham Characterisation Study (2019).

The 5 Sub-Areas of the Borough



Central Sub-Area



Central sub-area

Legend

<p><u>Categories of open spaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks and gardens Natural greenspace (publically accessible) Natural greenspace (not publically accessible) Allotments Outdoor sports facilities Cemeteries Play areas <p><u>Improvements/Proposals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterlink Way New open spaces (as part of new development) Park prioritised for improvement Potential approximate location for pocket park 	<p><u>Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stations Subarea boundary Rivers Opportunity Area Main roads Railway lines Cycling routes between parks to be enhanced Walking and cycling routes between parks to be enhanced Walking routes between parks to be enhanced
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Parks

1. Commill Gardens and River Mill Park
2. Hilly Fields (northern sub-area)
3. Lewisham Park
4. Lewisham Memorial Gardens
5. Mountsfield Park
6. Ladywell Fields
7. River Pool Linear Park
8. St Mary's Churchyard

0m.500m.
2000m.

Current and Future Area Profile

Lewisham Central comprises of the borough's two principle centres - Lewisham Town Centre and Catford Town Centre. Located centrally, the area is bounded to the north by Deptford, to the east by Blackheath and Lee, to the south by the Southern Suburbs and to the west by the sub area at the western edge. Lewisham Central comprises of four distinct places - Lewisham Town Centre, Ladywell, Hither Green and Catford.

The Central sub-area currently has the highest density of all the sub-areas in Lewisham, with Lewisham Town Centre being of a very high density with a predominance of tall towers of between 10 and 25 storeys and several large developments having been delivered over the last 15 years. There are also some tall buildings located around the A21 and the South Circular between Lewisham Town Centre and Catford and the rest of the sub-area is of a typically lower density with two-storey housing being the predominant typology. The density of the Central sub-area is set to rise further over the next 20 years, particularly within the Lewisham and Catford regeneration and growth area which is one of the most significant areas of growth within the borough and the sub-area has the potential provision of approximately 7,000 new homes. As the population of the sub-area increases the demand on the existing open space will also increase and the need for the provision of new public open spaces in Lewisham Town Centre is recognised in The Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan (2014). To provide new open space for the growing population, one new open space has already been delivered as part of the redevelopment of Lewisham Town Centre - Cornmill Gardens (1.38 hectares) and River Mill Park (2007) and further spaces are planned – see below.

Provision

Greenspace

The largest park serving the Central Sub-Area are Mountsfield Park (13 hectares), Ladywell Fields (16 hectares) and Lewisham Park (4 hectares). The River Ravensbourne is a key feature of several parks in the area and runs through Ladywell Fields and the smaller River Pool Linear Park.

There are 2 substantial Areas of Deficiency in Access to Local Parks in the Central Sub-Area - an area surrounding Lewisham town centre and another area covering Catford Town centre, south Catford and much of Hither Green. Both of these Areas of Deficiency in Access to Local Parks are characterised by extensive grids of Victorian and Inter-War low-rise housing, with no undeveloped land to accommodate new open spaces. There are two large private sports fields within walking distance from Catford town centre, which provide visual amenity from the street.

There are no parks above District Park size (20 hectares or more) in the Central Sub-Area, although small parts north and south of the sub-area benefit from being within the catchment area of Metropolitan Parks – Blackheath (83 hectares) and Beckenham Place Park (70 hectares) respectively.

Lewisham Town Centre also benefits greatly from being within 10 mins walking distance of Blackheath Metropolitan Park in the Eastern Sub Area.

Playspace

The Areas of Deficit in Access to Playspace in the Southern Sub-Area, broadly correspond to the Areas of Deficit to Local Parks. There is an area to the east of Lewisham Town Centre and another area that includes Catford Town centre, South Catford and much of Hither Green. There are only two Local Equipped Areas for Play in the area which are both located at Ladywell Fields.

Natural Greenspace

There are no Areas of Deficiency to Accessible Natural Greenspace in the Central Sub-Area.

Quality

The two largest parks in the sub-area – Mountsfield Park and Ladywell Fields - are of a good quality, however, Lewisham Park which serves the Town Centre is only of fair quality.

Walking and Cycling Access

The two north-south railway lines as well as the north-south A21 road create east-west severance within the area and compromise access between Ladywell Fields in the west of the sub-area and Mountsfield Park and Lewisham Park in the east of the sub-area.

The Waterlink Way provides a generally good quality north-south walking and cycling route through the River Pool Linear Park and Ladywell Fields, however, the section of the route that links the River Pool Linear Park and Ladywell Fields through Catford is of low quality. In addition, the walking and cycling routes from Catford Town Centre to the Waterlink Way could be enhanced with safer and more attractive pedestrian and cycling crossings of the South Circular (A205) and the surrounding roads.

Improvement Strategies

Addressing Open Space Deficiencies

Within Lewisham Town Centre the second and final part of the redevelopment of Lewisham Gateway will create new high quality public space and re-naturalise a section of the culverted River Ravensbourne. The redevelopment of other sites within the town centre such as the Lewisham shopping centre, the Tesco site and Connington Road will also provide enhanced public spaces and offer the opportunity to further enhance and re-naturalise the River providing a more comprehensive network of green links and open spaces.

As part of the Catford Masterplan a new civic Square fronting the Broadway Theatre at the heart of the town centre is being proposed as part of a Council led masterplan.

Local parks and playspace deficiency around South Catford and Hither Green could be alleviated through the closure of some sections of streets to vehicles and the creation of pocket parks (see precedent on page XX).

Improving Quality

The improvement of Lewisham Park should be prioritised given the high density development proposed for the nearby Lewisham Town Centre.

In Catford, a new public space will be created through the realignment of the South Circular (A205) in front of the Broadway Theatre.

Improving Walking and Cycling Access

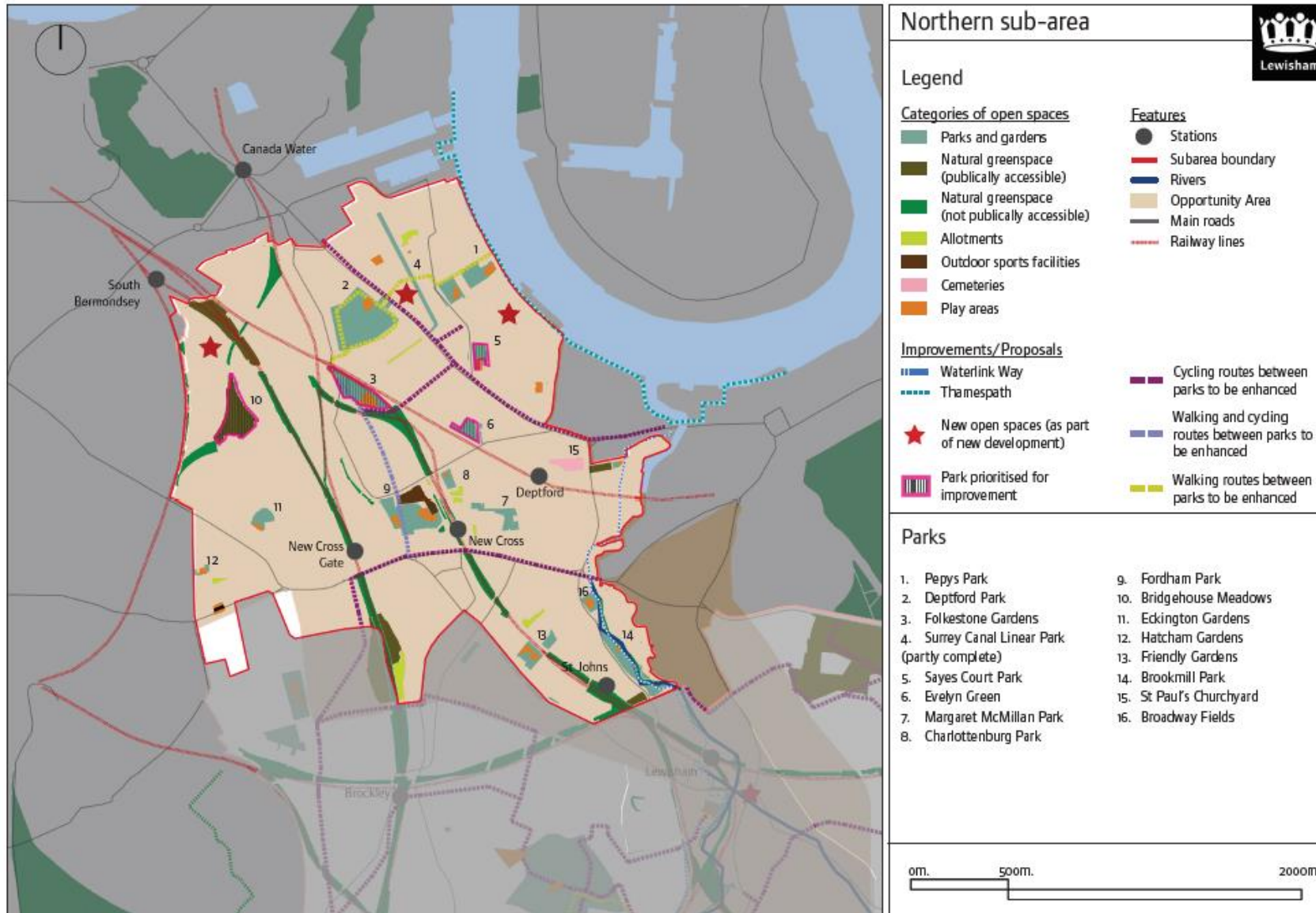
Pedestrian and cycling access between the River Pool Linear Park and Ladywell Fields (The Waterlink Way) should be improved through providing a clear cycle route along Catford Hill between River Pool Linear Park and the South Circular Road and widening the opening through the Catford Bridge arch to improve visibility of the Waterlink Way route and reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour.

Attractive and safe east-west walking and cycling routes should be provided between Ladywell Fields and Mountsfield Park and Lewisham Park to reduce the severance impacts of the A21 and north-south railway lines.

Green walking and cycling links should be created through the redevelopment of Lewisham Town Centre to help improve connections to the Waterlink Way, Blackheath, parks in the north of the Borough and the River Thames.

An east-west cycle link should be implemented that runs parallel to the South Circular (A205).

Northern Sub-Area



Current and Future Area Profile

The northern sub-area is bounded by the river Thames to the north, Deptford Creek and the London Borough of Greenwich to the East, Telegraph Hill to the South and the London Borough of Southwark to the West. The sub area corresponds to the Deptford and New Cross regeneration and growth area and comprises three distinct places – New Cross, Deptford, and North Deptford.

The northern sub-area already has a much higher density than the southern, western and eastern sub-areas and given that a large proportion of the housing in the northern sub-area is flatted and without private gardens which means that often residents are dependent on parks and opens spaces for external amenity space and access to nature.

Several railway corridors run through the area which create severance and divide the sub-area into three zones.

The northern sub-area is one of the most significant areas of growth within the borough with the potential for the provision of approximately 10,000 new homes over the next twenty years. Most of the sub-area is located within the Lewisham, New Cross, Catford Opportunity Area and there are a number of strategic development sites identified through the existing Core Strategy and emerging Local Plan that have either been delivered or will be delivered in the near future that will result in the addition of thousands of new homes in the area. Significant growth in Southwark will also influence the area's future role and character, including the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area to the west and Canada Water to the north.

Provision

Greenspace Space

There is a good level of overall provision of Local Parks in the Northern sub-area, although most of the sub-area lies in an area of deficit to large green spaces of 20 hectares and above (District and Metropolitan Parks). The largest parks are Fordham Park (7 hectares) and Deptford Park (3.5 hectares).

The creation of Charlottenburg Park in 2016 removed an Area of Deficit to Local Parks to the north of New Cross (see photo pXX), however, there remain some Areas of Deficiency to Local Parks. There is an Area of Deficit to Local Parks to the north-east and south-west of Deptford that lies adjacent to Deptford Creek, although there are three small greenspaces that provide some mitigation for this deficit, namely Sue Godfrey Nature Park, St Paul's Churchyard and just to the East of the sub-area in Greenwich there are Twinkle Park and Charlotte Turner Gardens. Two Areas of Deficit to greenspace in the Borough are mitigated by open spaces in Southwark. One of these is located around the Kender Triangle and the other around Concorde Way and they are mitigated by Brimington Park and Southwark Park, respectively.

The rivers in the northern sub-area provide some mitigation for the deficiency of greenspace. The sub-area enjoys adjacency to the River Thames for a short stretch of approximately 700m and the River Ravensbourne – a tributary of the Thames, runs through it and joins the Thames at Deptford Creek.

Playspace

The Northern Sub-Area has no Areas of Deficit for Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play, however, there are a few pockets of deficit to Local Equipped Areas for Play and much of the northern area lies in an area of deficit to Local Areas for Play, as does most of the Borough.

Natural Greenspace

There are areas of deficiency in access to natural greenspace area around New Cross and at the most northern point of the sub-area.

The embankments of the two north-south railway corridors in the sub-area provide green corridors which include substantially sized Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, however, these are mostly inaccessible.

Quality

The two largest parks in the sub-area – Fordham Park and Deptford Park are rated as being of a good quality. However, over 50% of the open spaces are rated as either fair or poor.

Walking and Cycling Access

The railway corridors that run through the area create severance and compromise walking and cycling accessibility to open spaces. To address this issue a programme of green space improvements and links to and from these spaces is ongoing which is called the 'North Lewisham Links' project. This includes the provision of 'Route 1' - an east-west walking and cycling route that runs between Deptford and New Cross that is very well used.

Improvement Strategies

Addressing Open Space Deficiencies

To provide future mitigation for deficits to open space and meet the needs of the growing population, new open spaces are being planned as part of several very large development sites including New Bermondsey and the Surrey Canal Linear Park will link the developments of Marine Wharf, Cannon Wharf and Timberyard. Opportunities will also be sought to create new open space on other strategic sites including Hatcham Works and Creekside.

However, it is recognised that in the context of Lewisham facing significant housing need, there is limited scope to provide major additional open space and it is therefore essential that the quality of existing greenspaces and access to them be improved to meet the needs of the growing population.

The Council will work with key local stakeholders in the area including Goldsmiths University to improve the quality and range of activities at open spaces in the New Cross Area.

Existing and Future Projects

All open spaces in this sub-area should receive investment to ensure that they can meet the demands of the existing and greatly increased future population

Evelyn Green is one of the few publically accessible open spaces that is rated as 'poor' in the sub-area and it is a priority for enhancement.

The Council is currently working with park user groups and other key stakeholders to improve a number of Local Parks within the area with a 'fair' rating, including Folkestone Gardens and Sayes Court Park.

Bridgehouse Meadows should be prioritised for additional funding to help provide some mitigation for the Area of Deficit in Access to Local Parks to its south and serve the needs of the future expanded population.

The New Cross Nature Reserve and Sue Godfrey Nature Reserve should be prioritised for improvement as the two accessible nature reserves in the Northern sub-area that are rated as 'fair'.

High quality access to the rivers in the sub-area should be maximised. Through the Convoys Wharf development the Thames Path should be implemented along the Thames River frontage and public access, Rights of Way and views of the river along Deptford Creek should be improved through planning applications for schemes located adjacent to Deptford Creek.

Improving Walking and Cycling Access

Walking and cycling access will continue to be improved through The North Lewisham Links project (described above). [The North Lewisham Links](#) webpage and [New Cross Area Framework](#) provide further details on the key links across the area which include, the Thames Path, the Waterlink Way, the Surrey Canal Road, the Surrey Canal Linear Park, the Woodpecker Walk, the Childer Street to Deptford route and the New Cross Nature Reserve Link.

Improvements will also be made through the Healthy Neighbourhoods project where traffic is being removed from sections of residential streets to improve the public realm and facilities for walking and cycling.

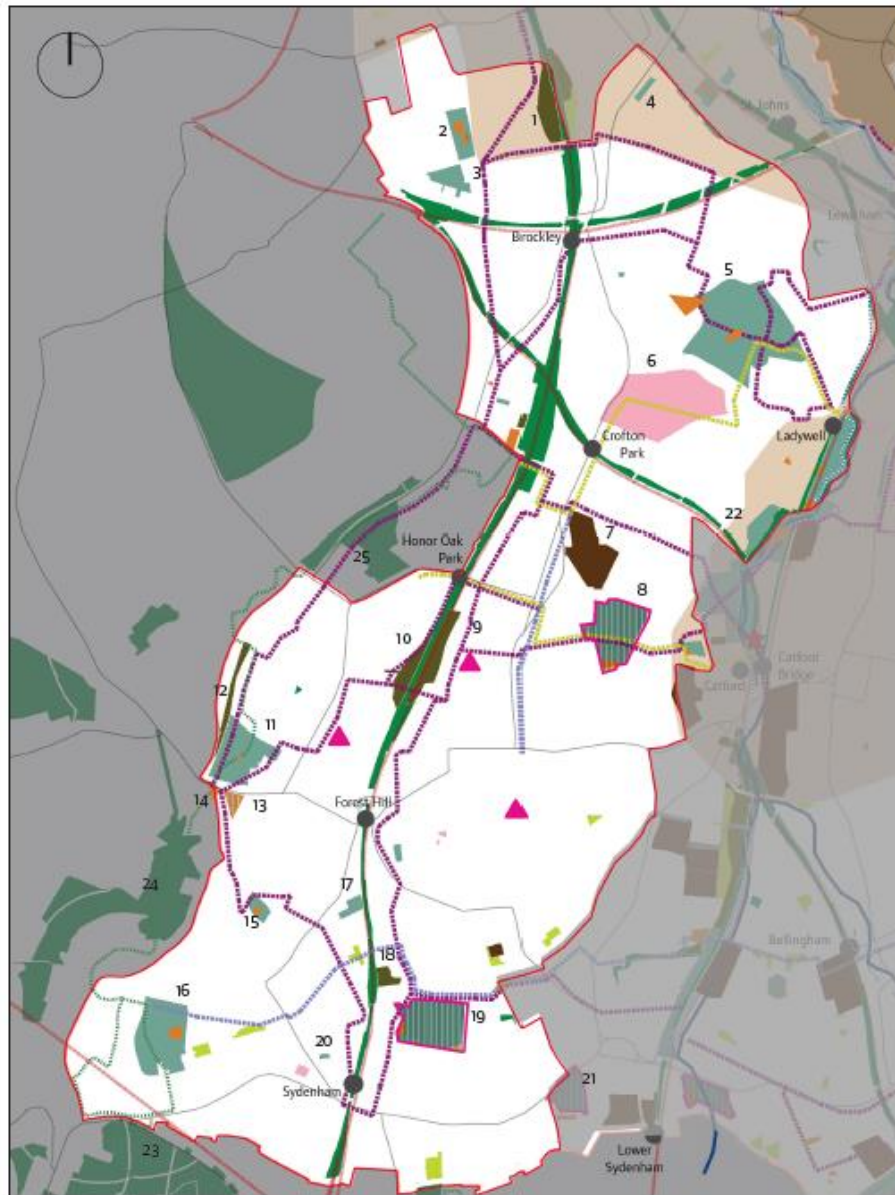
Links between the Convoys Wharf site and the neighbouring Pepys Parks should be improved as part of the redevelopment of Convoys Wharf.

In addition cleansing and lighting strategies should be developed for underpasses and railway viaducts to improve their safety and attractiveness for pedestrians and cyclists.


Pedestrian and cycling priority should be strengthened on 'Route 1' at junctions with the highway, with the inclusion of zebra crossings where possible and traffic calming measures.

DRAFT

Western Sub-Area



Western sub-area



Legend

Categories of open spaces

- Parks and gardens
- Natural greenspace (publicly accessible)
- Natural greenspace (not publicly accessible)
- Allotments
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Cemeteries
- Play areas

Improvements/Proposals

- Waterlink Way
- Green Chain Walk
- Potential approximate location for pocket park
- Park prioritised for improvement
- Additional play facilities recommended

Features

- Stations
- Subarea boundary
- Rivers
- Opportunity Area
- Main roads
- Railway lines


Improvements/Proposals

- Cycling routes between parks to be enhanced
- Walking and cycling routes between parks to be enhanced
- Walking routes between parks to be enhanced

Parks

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Cross Gate Cutting 2. Telegraph Hill 3. Telegraph Hill Upper Park 4. Luxmore Gardens 5. Hilly Fields 6. Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery 7. King's College Sports Ground 8. Blythe Hill Fields 9. Garthome Road Nature Reserve 10. Devonshire Road Nature Reserve 11. Horniman Museum and Gardens 12. Horniman Nature Trail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Horniman Triangle Play Park 14. Baxter Field 15. Sydenham Wood 16. Sydenham Wells Park 17. Albion Millennium Green 18. Dacres Wood Nature Reserve 19. Mayow Park 20. Kirkdale Green 21. Home Park 22. Ladywell Fields 23. Crystal Palace Park (Southwark) 24. Sydenham Hill Wood (Southwark) 25. Camberwell New Cemetery (Southwark)
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0m. 500m. 2000m.



Current and Future Area Profile

The Western Area is made up of a series of older villages located along a north-south spine which developed intensely in the Victorian period around railway stations. It comprises Telegraph Hill, Brockley, Ladywell, Crofton Park, Honor Oak, Blythe Hill, Forest Hill, Sydenham and Sydenham Hill. Although the area has a predominantly suburban character it includes a considerable number of flatted developments without private gardens where residents are more dependent on parks and open spaces to fulfil their open space needs. The significant number of flatted developments and terraced housing results in the Western Sub-Area being of a significant density. Large scale redevelopment is not anticipated in the western area, however, there are opportunities for sensitive infill development, particularly in Sydenham and Forest Hill with the potential provision of approximately 1,000 homes and some related demand on open space.

Provision

Greenspace

Greenspace provision is relatively fragmented, There are two large local open spaces in the northern part of the sub-area - Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery (15 hectares) and Hilly Fields (19 hectares) area and a concentration of open space sites in Sydenham and Upper Sydenham in the south-west corner of the borough including the following large parks – Mayow Park (7 hectares) and the Horniman Museum and Gardens (6 hectares).

There is a significant area of deficit to local parks in the relatively dense area of gridded residential streets between Forest Hill Station and Catford that straddles the South Circular (A205).

The southern part of the Western Sub-Area benefits from the nearby Crystal Palace Park in neighbouring Bromley – a large Metropolitan Park.

The Western Sub-Area also benefits from the proximity to Sydenham Hill Wood located adjacent to the western border of the sub-area on Sydenham Hill in Southwark.

Playspace

There is an area of deficiency of all types of play spaces which is a similar but smaller in size to the area of deficiency of local open space described above which straddles the South Circular to the east of Forest Hill Station.

There is a long area of deficiency in access to Locally Equipped Areas for Play to the east of the railway line from Roundhay Close to the northern edge of the sub-area.

Most of the Western Sub-Area is deficient in access to Areas of Local Play.

Natural Greenspace

There are no areas of deficiency to natural greenspace in the western sub-area.

The Devonshire Road Nature Reserve is of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation however public access is limited to a few hours each month.

Quality

The largest parks in the Western Sub-Area are of good quality including Hilly Fields, Mayow Park, Sydenham Wells and The Horniman Museum and Gardens.

The Horniman Triangle Play Park occupies an important strategic location but is only rated as 'fair'.

Walking and Cycling Access

The north-south railway line between Sydenham and New Cross (The Brighton Main Line) is a barrier to access between the east and the west of the sub-area. This issue is partially alleviated by a footbridge with a wheeling channel for bikes which crosses the railway between Sydenham Park and Dacres Road and an underpass at Forest Hill Station, however, the gradient of the wheeling channel does not meet current Cycle Standards.

Improvement Strategies

Addressing Open Space Deficiencies

The creation of pocket parks on current small sections of residential streets should be considered within the area of deficiency to open space and play that straddles the South Circular to the east of Forest Hill Station (see example on page XX).

Existing and Future Projects

Blythe Hill Fields should be prioritised for improvement as it is the one larger park in the Western Sub-Area that is currently rated as fair.

Increasing the hours of public access to the Devonshire Road Nature Reserve will be considered.

To mitigate for the Areas of Deficit to Play in the sub-area, improved play facilities are recommended for Blythe Hill Fields, Mayow Park and the Horniman Triangle Play Park.

Improving Walking and Cycling Access

To improve walking and cycling access across the Brighton Main Line It is recommended that step-free access is provided at Forest Hill Station to the subway and ramps are provided on the footbridge between Sydenham and Forest Hill Stations.

To mitigate for the deficits of local space and play in the area straddling the South Circular (A205) walking and cycling access should be improved to the following parks nearest to the areas of deficit - Blythe Hill Fields to the north, Mayow Park to the south and The Horniman Museum and Gardens and The Horniman Triangle Play Park to the east.

An east-west cycle link should be implemented that runs parallel to the South Circular (A205).

Southern Sub-Area



<p>Southern sub-area</p>	<p>Parks</p>		
	<p>1. Forster Memorial Park</p> <p>2. Home Park</p> <p>3. Bellingham Playzone</p> <p>4. Bellingham Green Children's Park</p>	<p>5. Southend Park</p> <p>6. Beckenham Place Park</p> <p>7. Summerhouse Playing Field</p> <p>8. Bromley Hill Cemetery</p>	<p>9. Downham Fields</p> <p>10. Hither Green Cemetery</p>



Current and Future Area Profile

This area comprises the neighbourhoods of Bellingham, Downham and Bell Green. It is the lowest density area in the Borough and was largely developed after World War 1. It is characterised by suburban development with spacious gardens. There is some growth expected in this area with the potential provision for approximately 2,000 to up to 6000 new homes if the Bakerloo Line Extension is delivered.

Provision

Greenspace

There are no areas of deficiency to greenspace in the Southern Sub-Area. It benefits Beckenham Place Park (70 hectares) – a very large Metropolitan Park as well as other large sized parks such as Summerhouse Playing Fields (hectares – and located directly adjacent to Beckenham Place Park 25 hectares) Downham Fields (13 hectares), Forster Memorial Park (17 hectares) and Hither Green Cemetery (18 hectares). The sub-area also includes a number of smaller open spaces. A succession of inter-connected open spaces lie along the valley of the Pool River which forms the southern section of the Waterlink Way. The River Ravensbourne runs through Summerhouse Fields and then along the Catford Loop Railway line until it merges with the River Pool at River Pool Linear Park just to the north of the Southern Sub-Area.

Playspace

The Southern Sub-Area is generally well covered by Local Equipped Areas for Play and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play however, there is a small Area of Deficit to Play to the north-east of Downham District Centre. A lot of the sub-area lies within an Area of Deficit to Local Areas for Play, as is the case across the Borough.

Natural Greenspace

There are no Areas of Deficit to Natural Greenspace in the Southern Sub-Area.

Quality

The recently regenerated Beckenham Place Park is rated as a 'good' park, however, a large proportion of the parks are of 'fair' quality and should be prioritised for improvement. These include Forster Memorial Park, Downham Fields, and Summerhouse Playing Fields.

Walking and Cycling Access

The Southern Sub-Area benefits from the regional north-south walking and cycling route of the Waterlink Way. The route runs through the sub-area alongside the River Pool from Lower Sydenham up to the River Pool Linear Park near Catford and beyond the Southern Sub-Area boundaries it extends up to Deptford Creek and the River Thames in the north and down to Cator Park in Beckenham in the south. The Waterlink Way is connected to Beckenham Place Park through a spur but this is not currently signposted or supported by walking and cycling infrastructure.

The Southern Sub-Area benefits from another strategic walking route - the South-East London Green Chain - an east-west route which runs through Beckenham Place Park, joining the site to Crystal Palace to the west and Mottingham to the north east.

Access between the adjoining Beckenham Place Park and Summerhouse Fields is difficult due to the Catford Loop Railway Line that separates the two open spaces and there is an 850m distance between the existing bridges crossing the railway line. Additional severance within Summerhouse Fields is created by the River Ravensbourne.

Improvement Strategies

Existing and Future Projects

Parks of a 'fair' quality should be prioritised for improvement.

To improve play provision for residents within the Area of Deficit of Play, a 'pocket park' should be considered for inclusion within the area of deficit and play facilities within the nearest park – Downham Fields, should be improved.

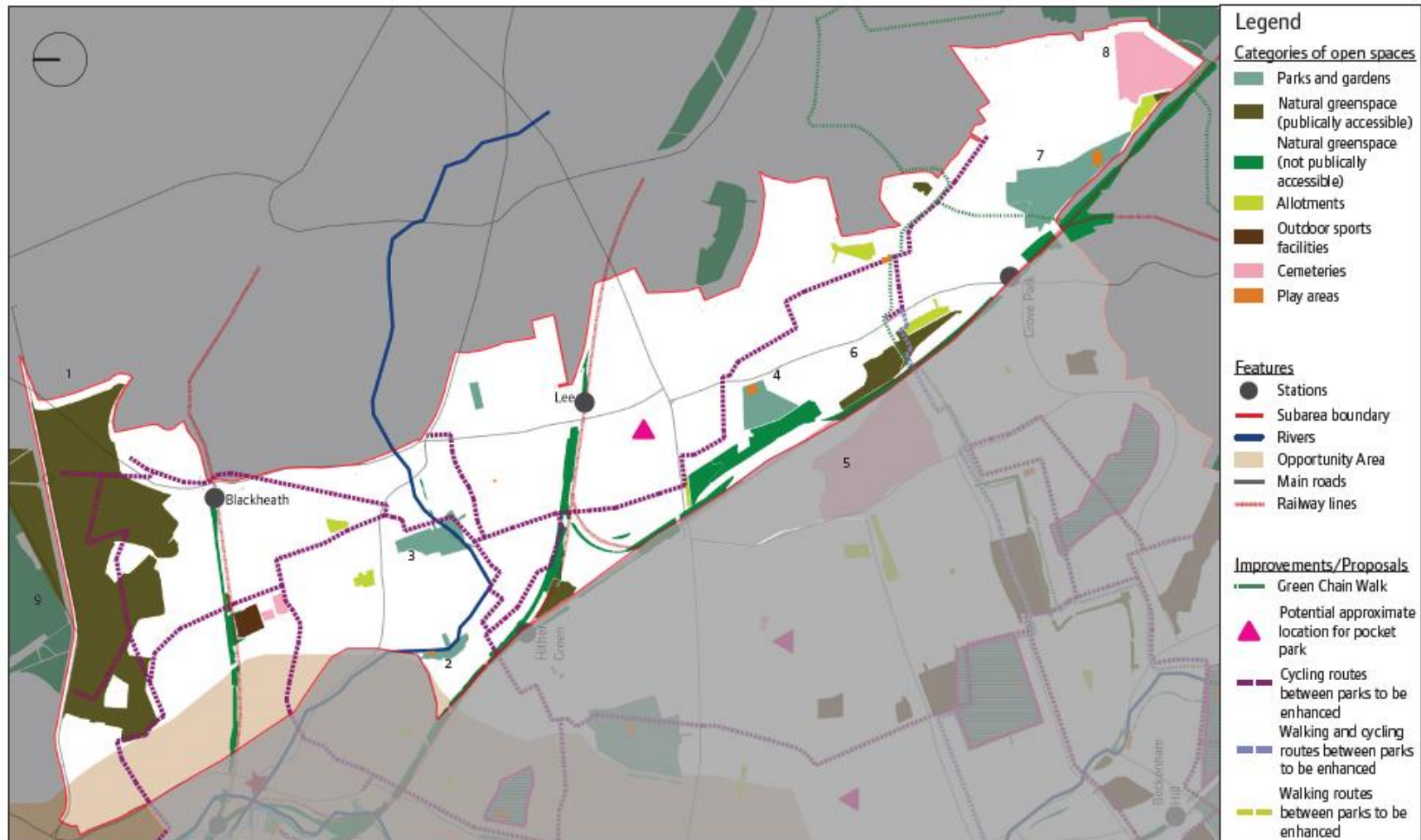
Improving Walking and Cycling Access

Signage and other walking and cycling infrastructure is recommended for the spur of The Waterlink Way connecting The Waterlink Way to Beckenham Place Park.

An additional bridge across the Catford Loop Railway Line between Beckenham Place Park and Summerhouse Fields should be considered.

Access from the Areas of Deficit to Play in the east of the Southern Sub-Area to the nearest play facilities at Downham Fields should be improved.

Eastern Sub-Area



<p>Eastern sub-area</p>	<p>Parks</p>		
	<p>1. Blackheath</p> <p>2. Manor Park</p> <p>3. Manor House Gardens</p> <p>4. Northbrook Park</p>	<p>5. Hither Green Cemetery (southern sub-area)</p> <p>6. Grove Park Nature Reserve</p> <p>7. Chinbrook Meadows</p>	<p>8. Grove Park Cemetery</p> <p>9. Greenwich Park (Greenwich)</p>



Current and Future Area Profile

The Eastern Sub-Area comprises three distinct places - Blackheath, Lee, and Grove Park which historically were three centres on the road to Greenwich. It is bounded by Lewisham Town Centre, Hither Green and Downham to the West, the London Borough of Greenwich to the East and the London Borough of Bromley to the South. Generally development is of a low scale and density with a suburban feel and the character of the Eastern Sub-Area transitions from north to south from a discernible village at Blackheath with a mixture of sizes of housing, to Victorian terraces in Lee and then 20th century suburbs in Grove Park in the South.

Over the next 20 years it is anticipated that growth will be relatively moderate with the potential to provide approximately 1,000 new homes. There are likely to be concentrations of growth around town centres particularly within Lee Green and Grove Park that offer the opportunity to provide new and improved public spaces as part of any future development.

Provision

Greenspace

The Eastern Sub-Area enjoys Lewisham's largest greenspace – The Metropolitan Park of Blackheath (83 hectares) as well as proximity to Greenwich Park - another large Metropolitan Park that adjoins Blackheath and is located just beyond the sub-area and Borough boundary in the London Borough of Greenwich.

There are three other Local Parks in the area of a significant size – namely Manor House Gardens (4 hectares) Northbrook Park (4 hectares) and Chinbrook Meadows (11 hectares) as well as the accessible Grove Park Nature Reserve (5 hectares) and all four of these spaces are of a 'good' quality. Manor House Gardens is a site with particular significance as an island of provision in an otherwise under-provided part of the borough, that serves the south-east of Lewisham Town Centre. Manor Park which is located directly South of Lewisham Town Centre, although small (1.3 hectares) also plays an important strategic role for the Town Centre.

The sub-area area also benefits from 2 parks that are located just beyond the eastern sub-area and Borough boundary in Greenwich – namely Blackheath Park and Horn Park.

The River Quaggy flows through the Eastern-Sub Area through the open spaces of Manor House Gardens and Manor House.

There is an Area of Deficit to Greenspace in the Eastern Sub-Area between Manor House Gardens and Northbrook Park to the south of the A20 and the east-west Dartford Loop Railway Line that runs between Lewisham Town Centre, and through Lee. There is another Area of Deficit to greenspace to the north-east of Manor House Gardens.

The central part of the Eastern Sub-Area lies within an area of deficit to District Parks.

All of the main local parks in the Eastern Sub-Area have a 'good' quality.

Playspace

There is a significant Area of Deficit in access to all types of play in the north of the sub-area. This is partly caused by Blackheath – the largest greenspace, not including a play area.

The Grove Park Library Park playground plays an important strategic role in the Grove Park Area.

As is the case throughout the Borough, much of the sub-area lies within an Area of Deficit of Access to Local Areas for Play.

Natural Greenspace

There is a moderately sized area of Deficit of Access to Natural Greenspace that straddles the A205 around Lee District Centre.

Quality

The key accessible open in this area are of a 'good' quality – namely Chinbrook Meadows, Manor House Gardens, Manor House, Grove Park Nature Reserve and Northbrook Park.

Walking and Cycling Access

The A20 lies in between Blackheath and Greenwich Park which creates severance between the two open spaces.

The 3 railways within the Eastern Sub-Area – The South Eastern Mainline, The Dartford Loop Line and The North Kent Line (Blackheath) as well as the Hither Green Traction Maintenance Depot create severance and hinder access between open spaces and to the West of the sub-area.

Access between Blackheath District Centre and Blackheath (the open space) is compromised by the presence of the east-west North Kent Railway Line that runs between Blackheath and Lewisham Railway Stations.

Improvement Strategies

Existing and Future Projects

It will be important to ensure the delivery of new, publically accessible open spaces on sites including Lee Gate and Grove Park Centre and the Council will continue to secure planning contributions from strategic sites to contribute to the continued improvements of open spaces within the area.

New play provision should be considered on Blackheath or nearby to address the deficit in access to play in this area.

Improving Walking and Cycling Access

Additional bridges across the River Quaggy should be considered within parks in which the river is located.

DRAFT

Heritage of Parks and Open Spaces

The historic origins of Lewisham's parks and open spaces has influenced their character to this day. A few of the borough's parks and open spaces were created in the 19th century, hand in hand with rapid urban growth and an expanding population, a time when politicians began to recognise the health and wellbeing benefits of providing space for recreation within the urban environment, for instance at Mayow Park (1878) and Telegraph Hill Lower Park (1894). Many were formerly the gardens of old private estates which were opened as public parks in the 20th century, such as Sydenham Wells Park (1901), Mountsfield Park (1905) and Beckenham Place Park (1927). Some parks in Lewisham have been created more recently on previously residential sites that became derelict in the post-war period, such as Fordham Park (1975) and Eckington Gardens Park (1981). Elsewhere, fields through which the Borough's rivers flowed were left undeveloped due to the fact they flooded regularly, such as Ladywell Fields and River Pool Linear Park.

Two of the Council's open spaces, Manor House Gardens and Grove Park Cemetery, are of particularly special architectural and historic interest and are on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens, at grade II. Manor House Gardens formed the garden and landscaped pleasure grounds of the listed 18th century Manor House on Old Road, Lee, and an oval lake and an ice house survive from its original layout. Grove Park Cemetery is an unusual example of 1930s municipal cemetery design which combines formal and informal elements with Moderne and Art Deco influences. The cemetery retains most of its original buildings and structures, along with much of its structural planting. More information on both can be found on [Historic England's website](#). The [Gardens Trust](#), which is dedicated to protecting and conserving the heritage of designed landscapes, has more information.

Several of the borough's parks and open spaces are located within Conservation Areas and contribute towards their special character (see map X below). Conservation Area Appraisal Supplementary Planning Documents outline recommendations for the preservation and enhancement of the special character of historic parks within their areas. These are available to view on the Planning webpages – [insert appropriate [weblink](#)].

There are also eleven historic open spaces which are protected by the 1931 London Squares Preservation Act, which protect their use for '*ornamental garden, pleasure ground or ground for play rest or recreation*'. One such example is the grassed enclosures at Rushey Green, which serves as a reminder of the area's rural past and marks the line of a stream lined with mature trees that rose at Catford and flowed northwards.

The Council promotes the preservation, restoration and reinstatement of historic features of value in parks and open spaces. It also seeks to increase the provision of interpretation facilities within parks that explain the origins and historic features of parks. These are greatly valued by visitors and they add interest and opportunities for greater understanding of the place.

Heritage Lottery Fund grants are available for the restoration of historic parks and in 2016 Beckenham Place Park was awarded 4.7m Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery Funding. The works undertaken included the reinstatement of an 18th Century lake for wild-swimming and the restoration of Grade II Listed stable block to include educational facilities.



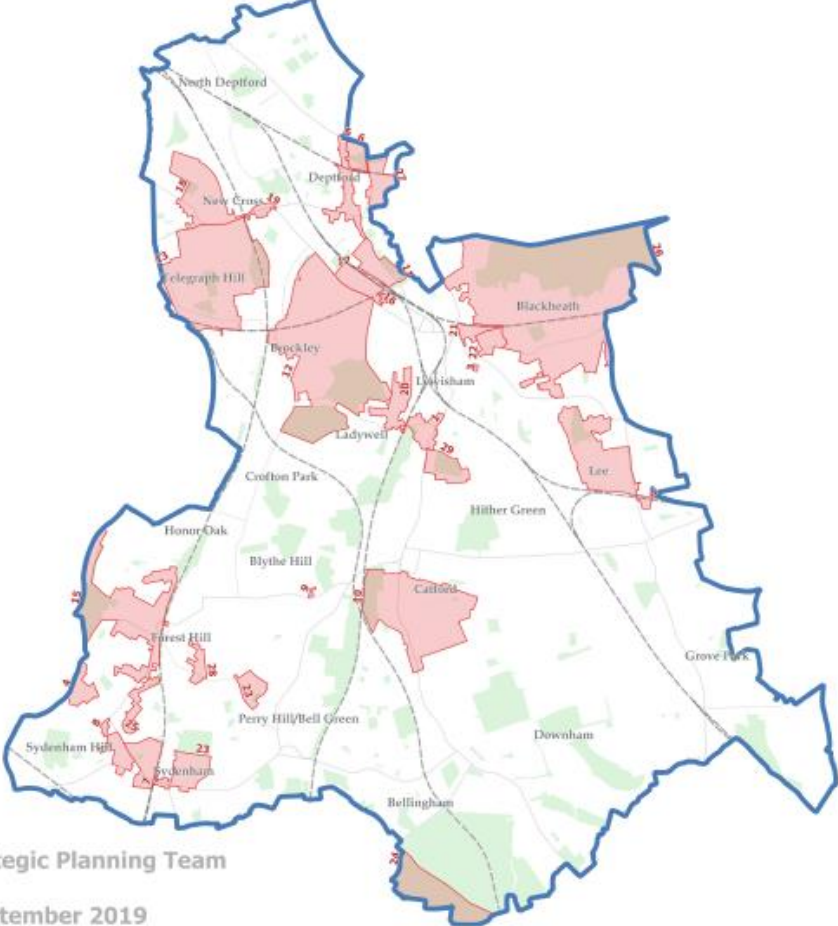
Beckenham Place Park and 18th Century lake



Lewisham

Mayow Park drinking fountain

Lewisham Council Borough Wide Conservation Map



Author: Strategic Planning Team

Date: 23 September 2019

No.	Name
1	St Marys
2	Lee Manor
3	Mercia Grove
4	Sydenham Hill
5	Deptford High Street
6	St Pauls
7	Cobbs Corner
8	Halifax
9	Stanstead Grove
10	Culverley Green
11	Brookmill Road
12	Brockley
13	Telegraph Hill
14	Jews Walk
15	Forest Hill
16	Somerset Gardens
17	St Johns
18	Hatcham
19	Deptford Town
20	Ladywell
21	St stephens
22	Belmont
23	Sydenham Thorpe
23	Perryfields
24	Beckenham Place
25	Sydenham Park
26	Blackheath
27	Deptford Creekside
28	Perry Vale and Christmas Estate
29	Lewisham Park

London Borough
of
Lewisham



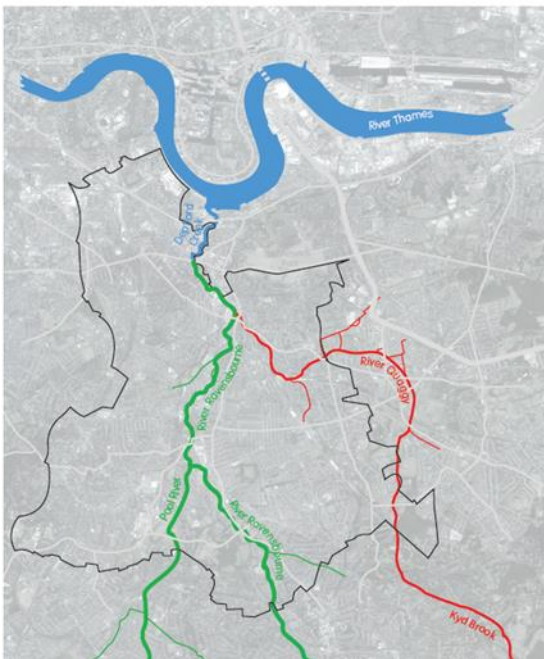
Rivers

Rivers

The Rivers of Lewisham – The Ravensbourne, The River Pool and The River Quaggy and beyond their merging point - Deptford Creek, as well, contribute significantly to the character of the Borough, the provision of amenity space and attractive walking and cycling corridors. As described earlier in this strategy, award winning river restoration schemes have already been implemented in the Borough and there are more proposed in Lewisham Town Centre. There is a short stretch of the River Thames in the north-eastern tip of the Borough which also provides a highly valuable amenity feature.

The Council supports improving access to the rivers and along river corridors, river restoration and naturalisation of river surfaces to maximise the environmental and social benefits of these amenity features.

Insert map showing the rivers in the Borough + key district centres, railways and roads.



From the River Corridor Improvement Plan SPD (2015)

Appendix: Supporting evidence

Strategic Context: National, London Plan and local

National and London Plan Planning Policy:

- Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018, MHCLG
- National Planning Guidance, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), including Guidance for the Natural environment, Climate change, Design, Health and Wellbeing and Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space
- The London Plan, Mayor of London, 2016, and The Draft London Plan, 2017
- The London Environment Strategy 7, Mayor of London, May 2018
- The All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance including the ALGG Area Framework 6 that focuses on the South East London Green Chain
- Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play And Informal Recreation, Supplementary Planning Guidance to the London Plan , September 2012
- Open Space Strategies Best Practice Guidance, Mayor of London and CABE Space, 2009

National Policy Context

The revised NPPF(2018) provides the principal national planning policy and for open space and green infrastructure which places particular emphasis on its role in promoting healthy and safe communities and conserving and enhancing the natural environment. In response, open space policies for Lewisham should:

- provide good and equitable access to high quality open spaces to support the health and wellbeing of communities
- proactively plan for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of green infrastructure to improve physical and ecological connectivity and promote biodiversity and nature conservation
- be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities, including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses, as well as providing opportunities for new provision
- identify the potential for designating specific sites as Local Green Spaces through Local and Neighbourhood plans

The revised NPPF (2018) provides further emphasis on the role of open space planning to support the communities' health, social and cultural well-being and particularly where this is able to address identified local health and wellbeing needs. This can be through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure including networks that encourage walking and cycling. More effective use should be made of sites that provide community services, such as schools and hospitals, and offer access to open spaces. Green infrastructure should also be proactively planned to mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve air quality and reduce the risk of flooding.

Regional Policy Context

Regional policy set out in the London Plan (2016). The Mayor of London's vision is for the capital to **excel among global cities – expanding opportunities** for all its people and enterprises, **achieving the highest environmental standards and quality of life** and **leading the world** in its approach to tackling the urban challenges of the 21st century, particularly that of climate change.

A city of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods to which Londoners feel attached, which provides all of its residents, workers, visitors and students – whatever their origin, background, age or status – with opportunities to realise and express their potential, and a high quality environment for individuals to enjoy, live together and thrive.

A city that delights the senses and takes care of its buildings and streets, having the best of modern architecture while also making the most of London's built heritage, and which makes the most of and extends its wealth of open and green spaces, natural environment and waterways, improving Londoners' health and welfare.

The London plan deals with London's living places and spaces and there are policies for 'place shaping', protecting open space, the natural environment, and landscape.

The plan also provides strategic regional open space and green infrastructure planning policy. Particularly Policy 2.18 Green Infrastructure: the multi-functional network of green and open spaces. This policy seeks to protect, promote, expand and manage the extent and quality of and access to London's network of green infrastructure to secure a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits.

In response, open space policies for Lewisham should align with the planning and investment objectives of the All London Green Grid (ALGG) with specific priorities set out in ALGG Area Framework 6 for South East London and the Green Chain. It should be noted that the strategic objectives for Area 6 are:

- enhance distinctive visitor destinations and boosting the visitor economy
- promote healthy living and sustainable food production
- promote green skills and sustainable design, management and maintenance
- increase access to open space, the Green Belt and the urban fringe
- conserve the landscape and the natural environment and increasing access to nature
- adapt to climate change and making sustainable travel connections
- ensure new development proposals provide additional green infrastructure that both contributes to and is connected to Lewisham's existing open space networks, including the Green Chain and particularly where these open spaces are publicly accessible

- incorporate all forms of green infrastructure and open spaces assets and carefully consider aspects of design, funding and long-term management
- take account of local biodiversity action plans and avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity and the natural environment through the development process

ALGG Area 6 Strategic Opportunities

The All London Green Grid (ALGG) is a policy framework to promote the design and delivery of 'green infrastructure' across London. A review of the All London Green Grid is currently under way. A review of the conclusions and recommendations contained within the Lewisham Open Space Assessment report might be required once the review of the All London Green Grid has been completed.

The ALGG Area 6 identifies a number of strategic projects that influence the provision of and access to greenspace across Lewisham.

Opportunity 1 - The Waterlink Way; proposes the creation of a connected park system along the valley of the Ravensbourne and Pool rivers. Proposals include the reinstatement of natural channels, improving habitats, creating an exemplary green transport route and creating a link southwards into the London Borough of Bromley.

Opportunity 2 - The Quaggy River route; would reinstate a natural river along the river valley with natural banks and meanders, creating additional flood storage capacity.

Opportunity 3 – The South East London Green Chain; would promote and enhance the South East London Green Chain route, improving extensions and linkages into Lewisham's green spaces.

Opportunity 11 – Deptford Links; would improve connections and open space quality in Deptford, Deptford Creek, New Cross and New Cross Gate through establishing new connections with the Thames and the Surrey Canal.

The ALGG proposes a number of projects, the execution of which would help to deliver these strategic objectives.

- Green Chain Walk 'Making the Links': a network of footpaths linking greenspaces with the SE London Green Chain across boroughs in south-east London. This project has not received any funding to date and there is currently no arrangement in place to co-ordinate or support its delivery
- Quaggy corridor: works to the river channel at Mottingham Farm, Sydenham Cottages Nature Reserve and Sydenham Cottages. There is currently no identified funding source to deliver this project
- Waterlink Way and Deptford Links: improvements to signage and walking and cycling infrastructure between Deptford Creek, Greenwich Park, Blackheath, Lewisham and Lower Sydenham and adjoining green spaces, including Beckenham Place Park, Hilly Fields, Ladywell Fields and Mountsfield

Park ; flood risk management within the River Ravensbourne between Lewisham and Catford; connections to green spaces in Deptford and the Surrey Canal. Much of this original project has been delivered - it will continue to be delivered along the Lewisham Links project that is planned for the south of the borough

A number of other publicly inaccessible greenspace linkages can be identified along transport corridors across the borough. The main railway lines between London Bridge, New Cross and Forest Hill and between London Bridge, Lewisham and Grove Park do not have public access but all act as significant wildlife corridors and include a number of linked Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC). Further railway line corridors between Nunhead, Catford Bridge and Bellingham include a number of un-designated sites with less well-established connectivity.

The London Environment Strategy (2018) is the first integrated strategy to combine specific policies for air quality, green infrastructure, climate change mitigation and energy; waste, adapting to climate change, ambient noise and the low carbon circular economy. Lewisham's open space network and environmental assets can make a significant contribution to delivering these policies for which the GLA will provide a variety of grants and resources. In particular this should take account of areas of known deficiency in access to local and district public open space provision.

The Mayor of London has committed to make the capital the world's first National Park City and Lewisham can proactively seek to support this initiative by aligning open space planning policy and provision across the borough that will contribute to making London a city which:

- is greener in the long-term than it is today, and where people and nature are better connected
- protects the core network of parks and green spaces, and where buildings and public spaces aren't defined only by stone, brick, concrete, glass and steel
- is rich with wildlife, where every child benefits from exploring, playing and learning outdoors. Where everyone can enjoy high-quality green spaces, clean air and clean waterways, and where more people choose to walk and cycle

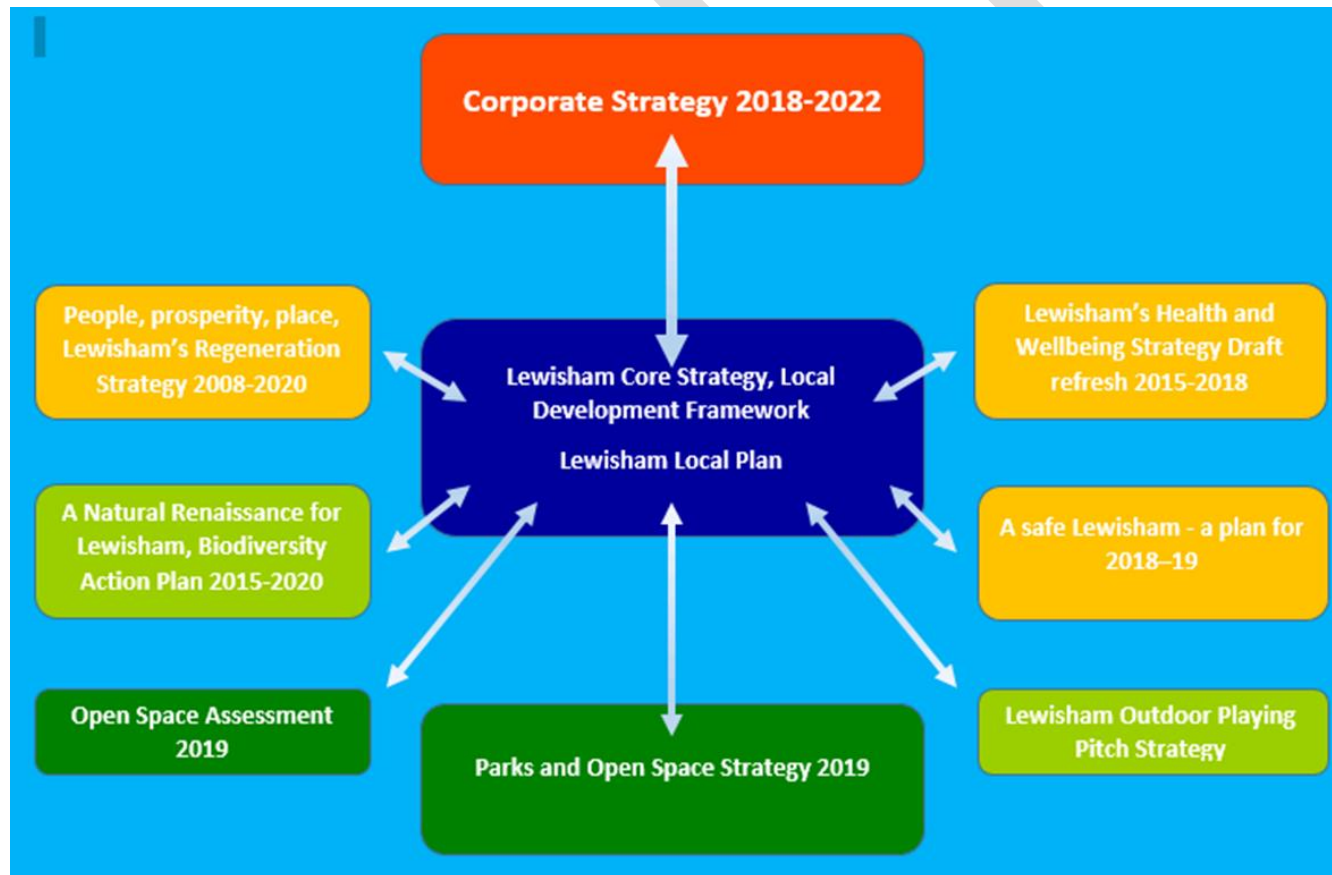
Policies should encourage greater participation and involvement by Londoners in the protection and enhancement of the natural environment at the neighbourhood level. Recent research published in the State of UK Public Parks reports (2014, 2016) indicate that the management and resourcing of parks and open spaces will become increasingly mixed and varied. Community groups, charitable organisations and the private sector are expected to take greater responsibility in funding and managing open spaces in the future. This is particularly evident for formal sports sites and clubs, community gardens and small neighbourhood spaces, nature conservation sites and allotments.

The shaping neighbourhoods: play and informal recreation supplementary planning guidance September 2012

In recognising the strategic importance of the natural environment to accommodate growth, promote public health and wellbeing, build resilience and help mitigate the impacts of climate change, the London Borough of Lewisham will adopt a Parks and Open Space Strategy that will articulate the Council's specific aims for parks and open spaces.

This strategy has involved wide ranging consultation with other services and sectors, service users and the general public. The strategy will address the key issues and opportunities facing the borough and will help protect, enhance, guide and manage open spaces and green infrastructure. It has been shaped by Lewisham's local policies that align with national and regional policy and guidance

Figure: Policy hierarchy



London Borough of Lewisham Planning Policy and Strategies:

- Lewisham Corporate Strategy 2018-2022
- Lewisham Core Strategy, Local Development Framework, adopted June 2011
- Lewisham Local Plan, draft for public consultation, October 2015
- People, Prosperity, Place, Lewisham's Regeneration Strategy 2008-2020
- Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy Draft Refresh 2015-18
- Lewisham Leisure and Open Space Study, May 2010
- Lewisham Open Space Strategy 2012-2017
- A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020 (Borough endorsed Biodiversity Action Plan)
- Lewisham Outdoor Playing Pitch Strategy (June 2019)

The Corporate Strategy 2018 – 2022 sets out how the Council plans to deliver for residents over the next four years. The policies have been chosen to show how in a time of austerity the Council can still make a positive change to people's lives and to protect the identities of neighbourhoods so that Lewisham can continue to be a place where people love to live.

Lewisham Council will build on its historic values, of fairness, equality and putting the communities at the heart of decision making. The Council's vision is to develop its inclusive tradition of working alongside residents and community, voluntary and faith groups and to call this partnership approach the 'Lewisham Way.'

The strategy aspires to deliver for people and place by joining up green spaces with ecological recreational routes, as well as creating a mix of low traffic, cycle and pedestrian-friendly 'healthy streets' and neighbourhoods.

The seven corporate priorities are:

1. **Open Lewisham** Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
2. **Tackling the housing crisis** Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.
3. **Giving children and young people the best start in life** Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
4. **Building an inclusive local economy** Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
5. **Delivering and defending: health, social care and support** Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
6. **Making Lewisham greener** Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

7. Building safer communities Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

The sixth priority is to make Lewisham greener so, “Everyone can enjoy and benefit from a healthy environment”. This policy commits the Council to the preservation of award-winning green spaces, increasing the use of environmentally friendly transport options and promotes better care for the local environment and the planet.

In recognition of the efforts of local community groups who have worked to protect and enhancing the borough’s parks and open spaces, the Council has established a new Greening Fund.

This acknowledges that Lewisham benefits from a number of Green Flag Award winning parks and open spaces, and the strategy emphasises the importance of attractive, liveable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods.

The Greening Fund is resourced by Section 106, which is a financial contribution negotiated from developers to make civic improvements that are needed as a result of their development. This fund provides a structured approach for park groups to apply for S106 money so they can focus on local priorities, build their capacity and work with the Parks Team in a collaborative and responsive way. It will speed up investment in parks and open spaces and will help deliver the Local Democracy Review that aims to:

- Enhance openness and transparency
- Further develop public involvement in Council decisions
- Promote effective decision-making

The Regeneration Strategy for Lewisham is structured around a set of specific objectives for ‘People, Prosperity and Place’.

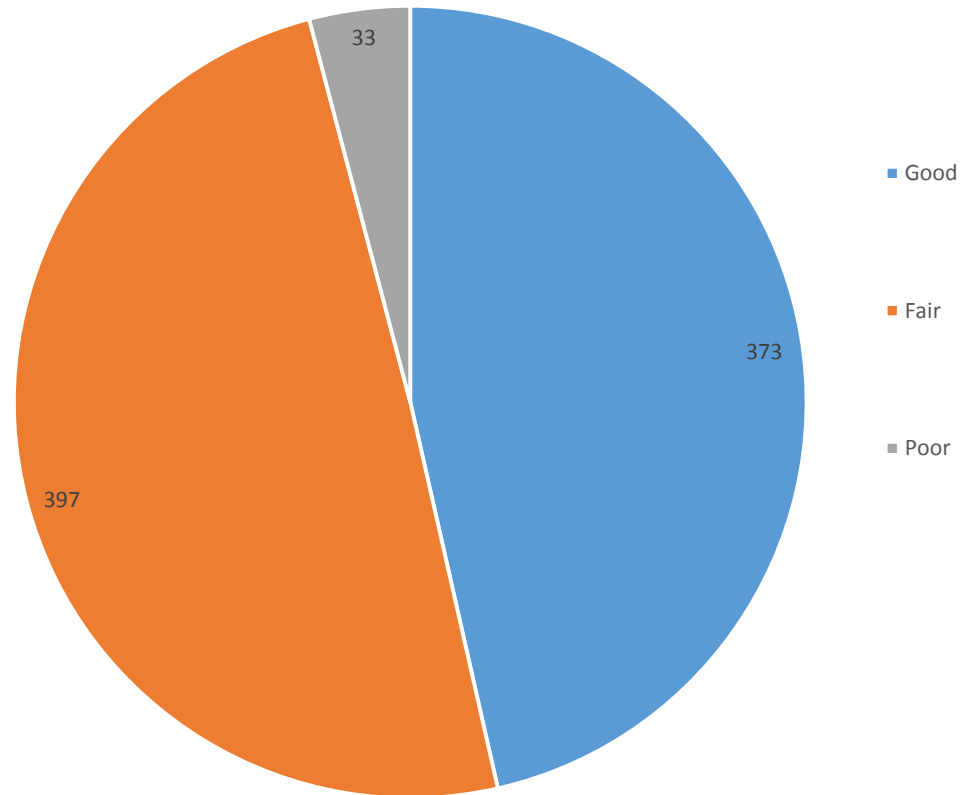
Following significant investment and improvements to Beckenham Park, and taking account of established aims including two separate Open Space Strategies (2005-2010) and (2012-2017), the regeneration strategy emphasises the need to:

- protect open space in Lewisham from inappropriate development
- enhance and improve the level of quality of open space in Lewisham
- improve accessibility of open spaces to promote greater social inclusion
- build on the role of open spaces in sustaining the health and well-being of residents
- reduce the fear of crime in open spaces, making Lewisham a safer place

Open space needs

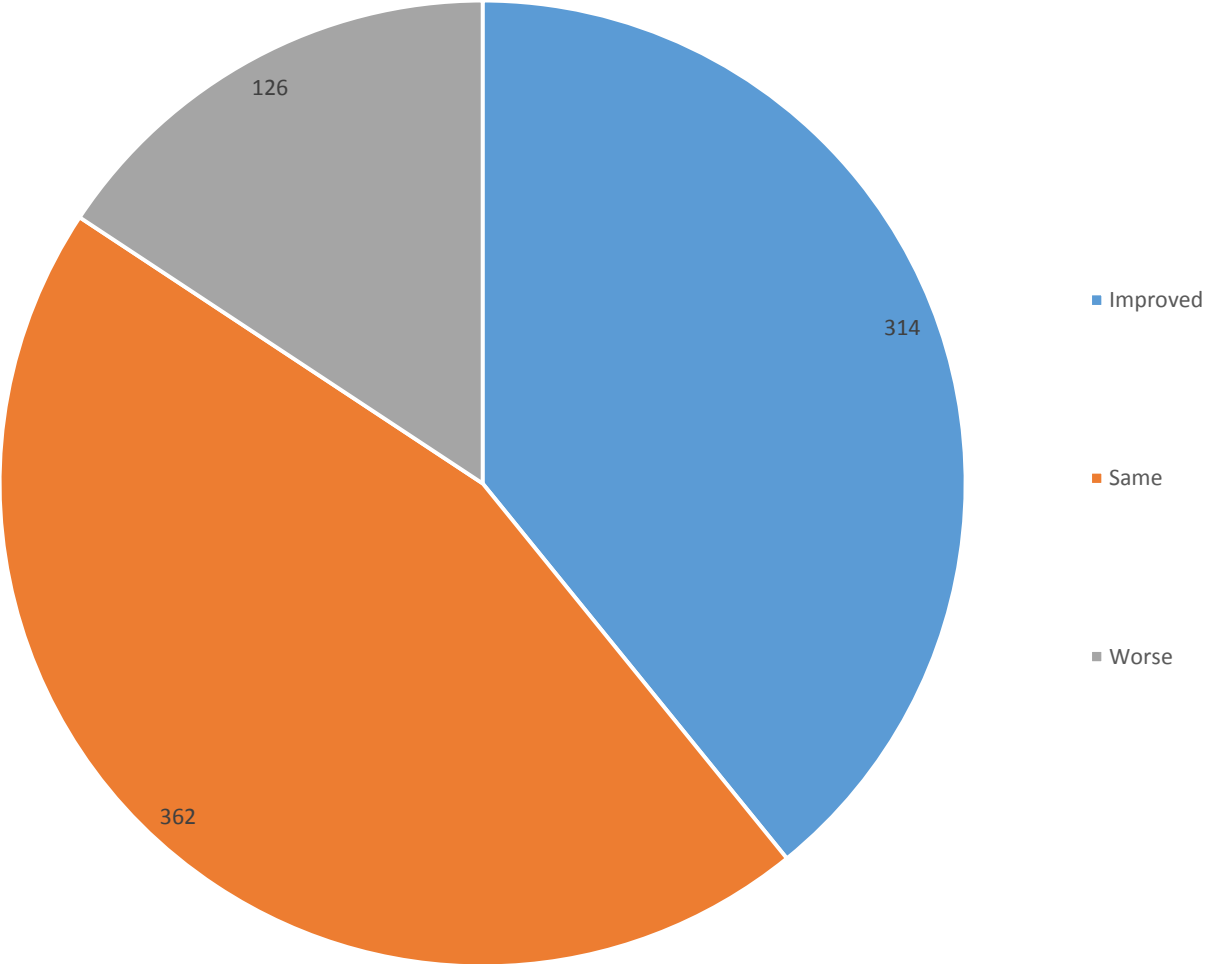
An online web-based parks and open space consultation survey was undertaken in October and November 2018. A total of 806 residents/respondents participated in the survey. The survey asked respondents' views on current levels of provision, the quality of this provision and the specific focus for the future development and management of open space across the borough. (Full survey summary Appendix 3)

What is the current condition of Lewisham's parks?



Over 96% of respondents thought that the current condition of Lewisham's parks was either 'good' or 'fair'.

Condition trend over the last 3 years?



39% of respondents thought that the condition of Lewisham's parks had improved over the past three years. 45% felt that their condition had stayed the same.

The vast majority of respondents who participated in the survey hold their local parks in high regard and value the contribution that they make to their neighbourhood. Respondents' experience of the condition of parks in Lewisham is very positive and 39% feel that condition has improved in the last three years. Respondents have a range of views in respect of the function of parks but the majority feel that they should be inclusive, provide a range of offers and support a variety of functions and activities.

66% of respondents were in the 30-56 age range. 62% of respondents were female.

Over 83% of respondents walked to their local park and over 63% felt that it was important to have a park within 5 minutes' walk of home, emphasising the importance of local open space provision.

Over 95% felt that parks and open spaces made neighbourhoods good places to live.

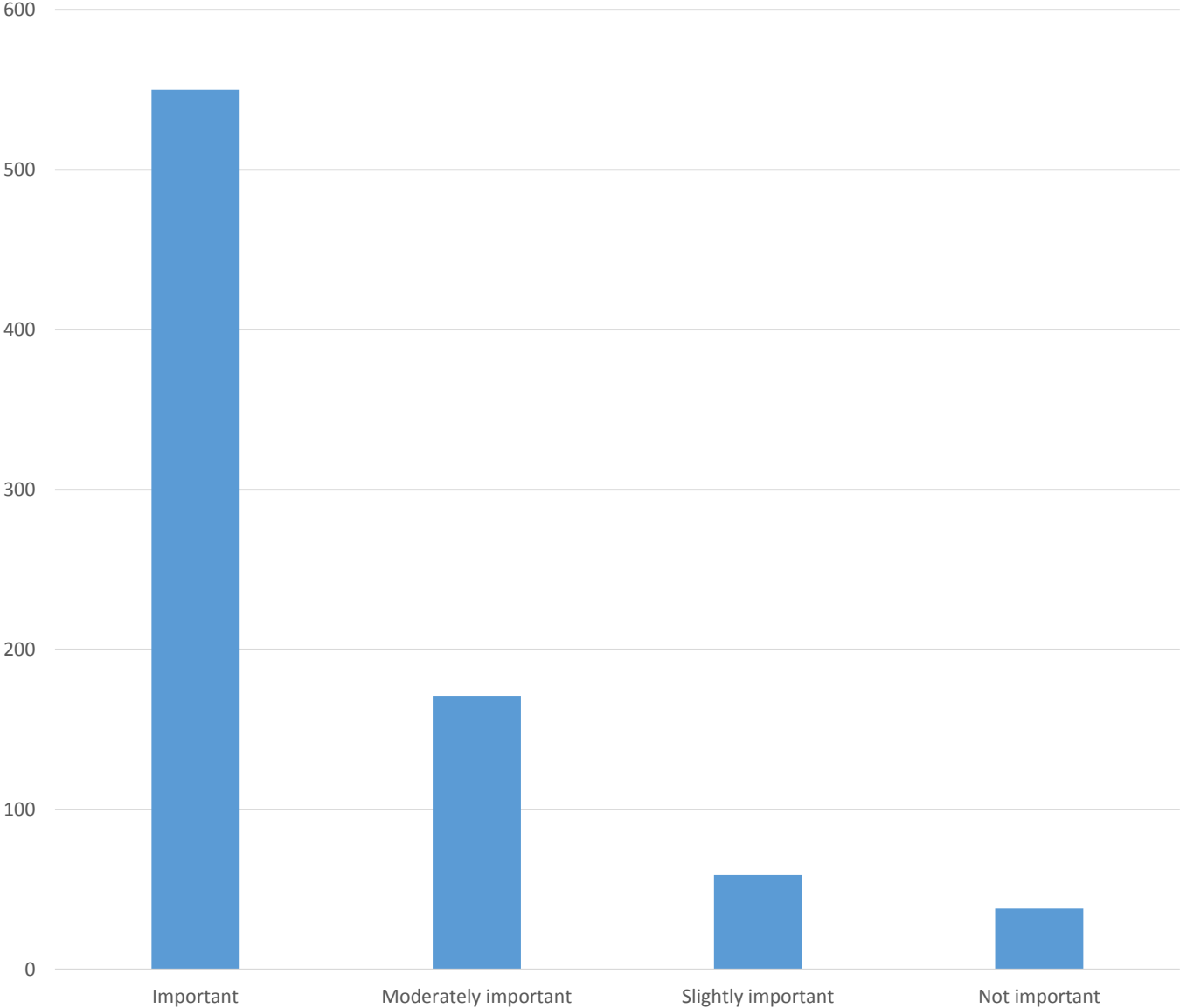
Around 95% of respondents felt that parks should provide access to nature and help to reduce air pollution.

High percentages of respondents felt that safety, security, good facilities such as toilets and café and good equipment (e.g. bins and benches) and good play provision for children were all highly important.

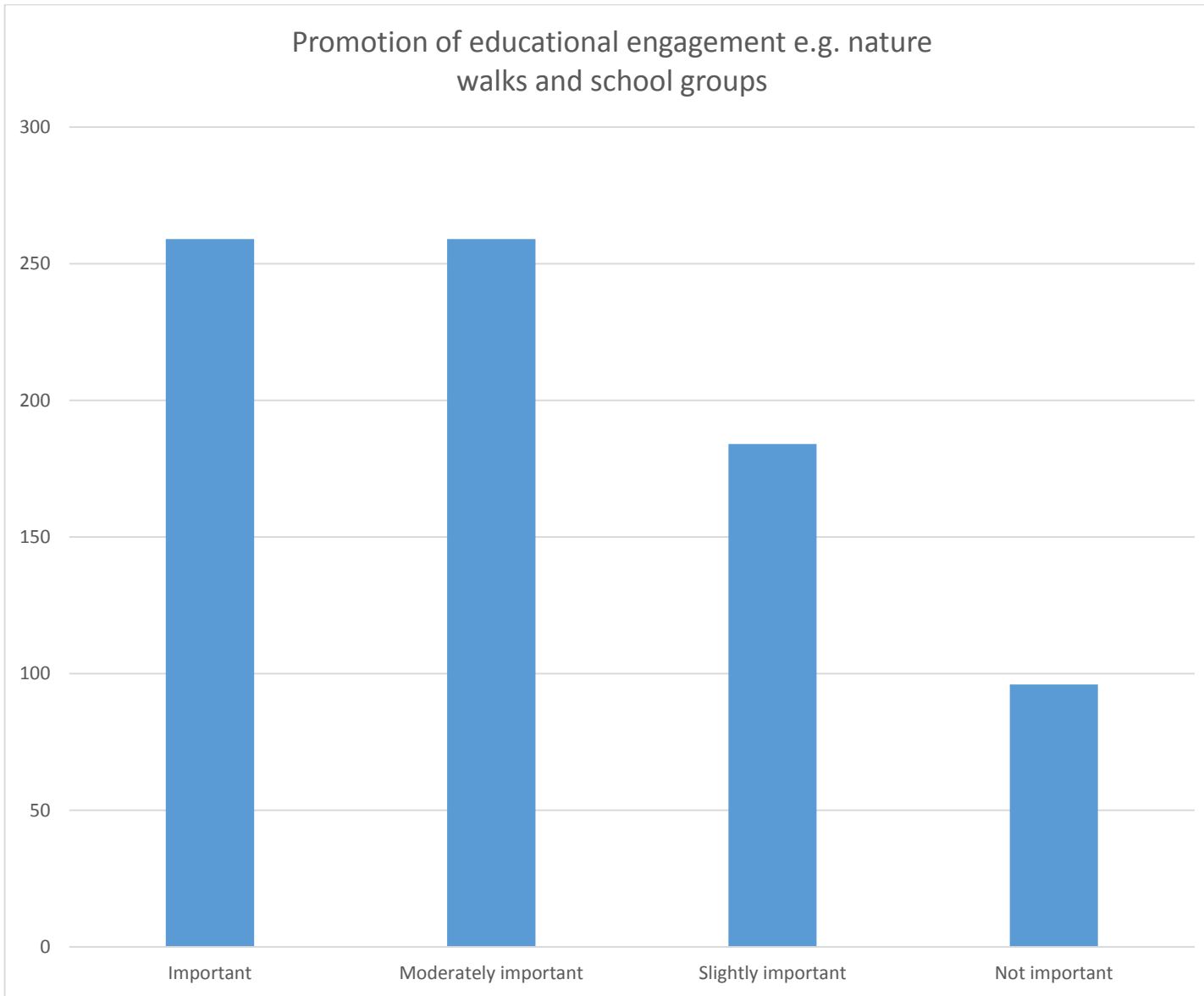
The value of, and need for, good quality maintenance, cleanliness, and safety attracted the most written comments. Formally protecting parks and the enforcement of bye laws and public space protection orders was considered important as well as trying to provide a visible presence in parks to combat antisocial behaviour.

Overall the value of the parks as places for quite relaxation and access to nature and wildlife was the fourth most significant comment from respondents who rank spending to support nature conservation as the highest priority.

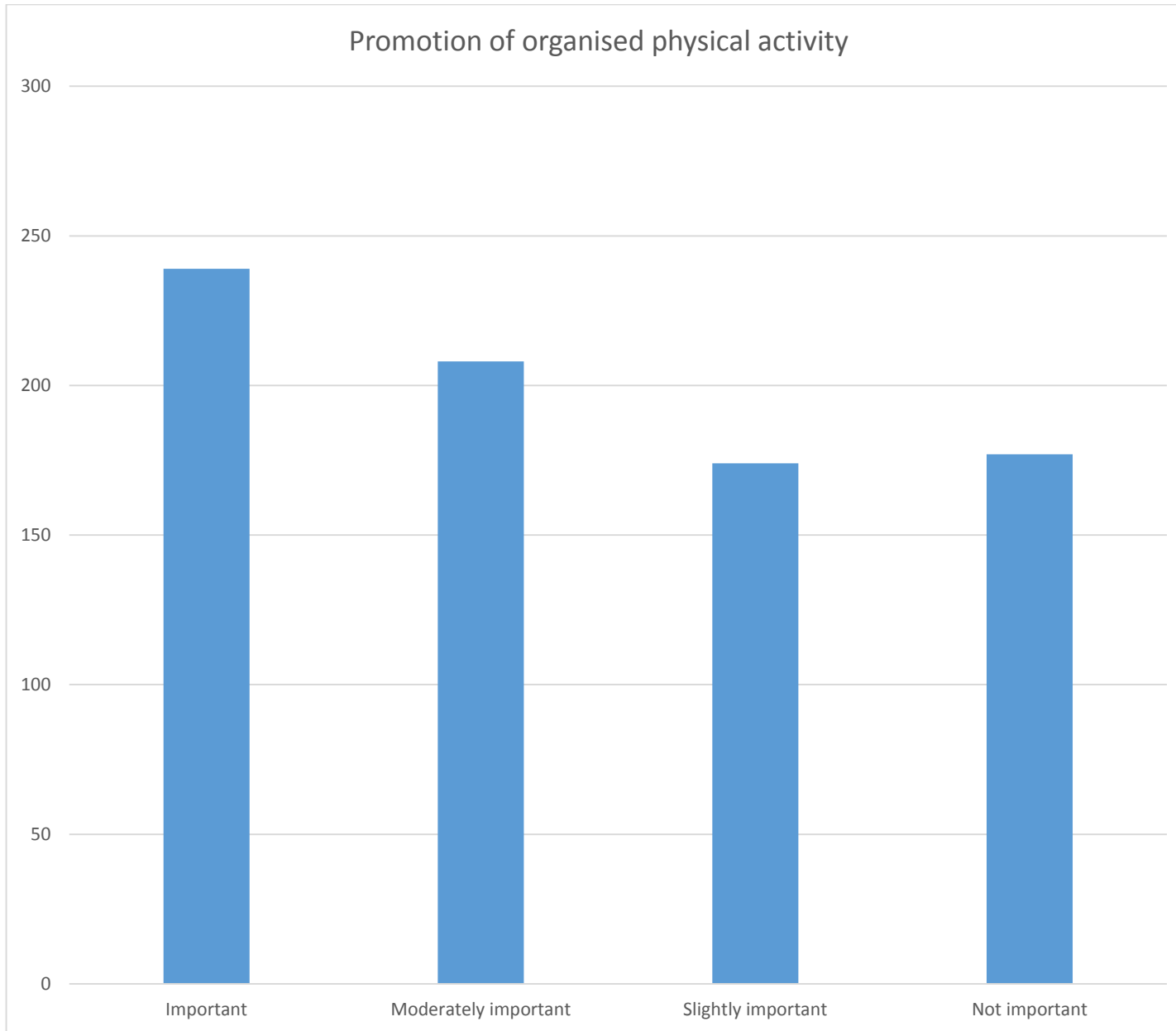
Areas for quiet relaxation



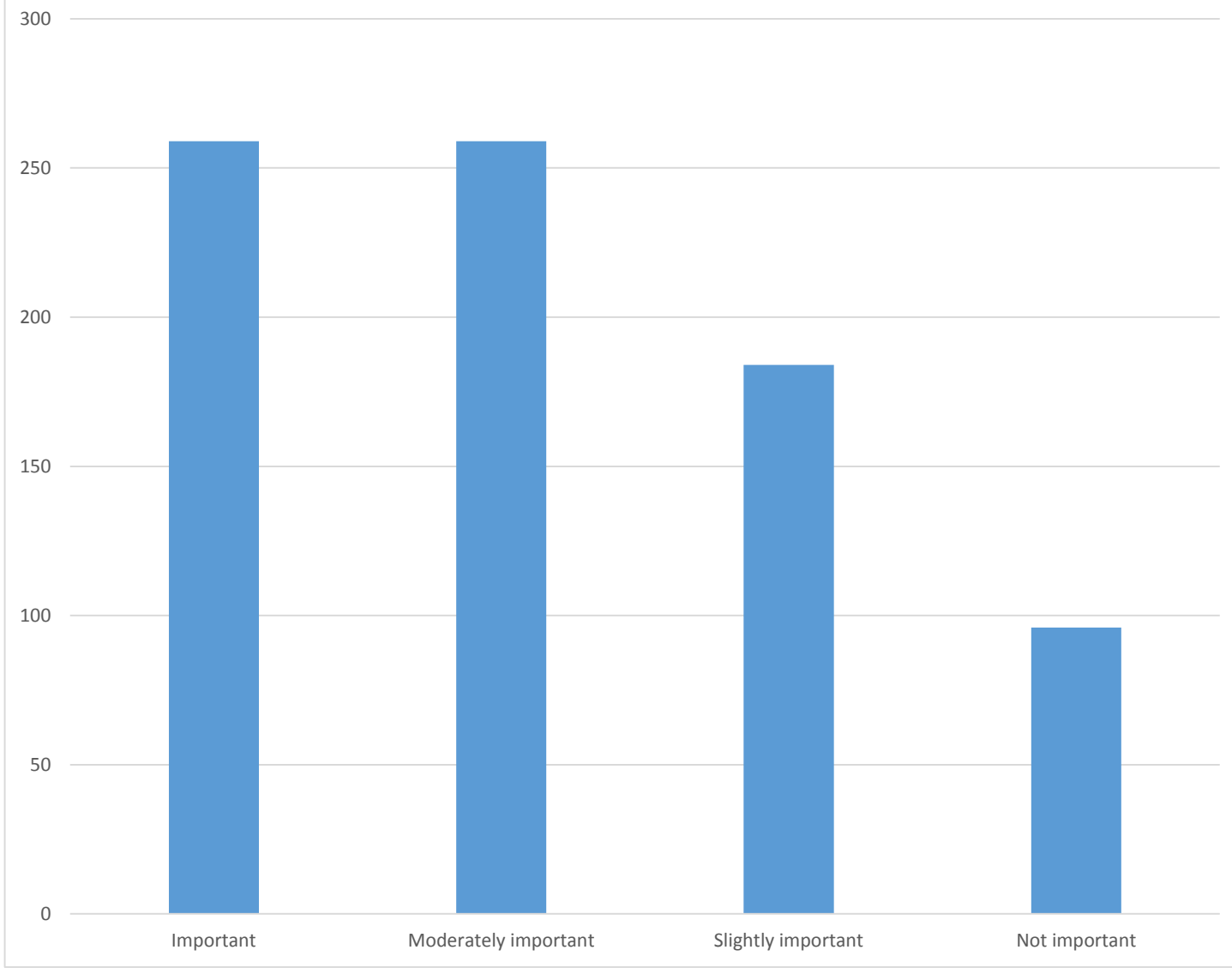
Promotion of educational engagement e.g. nature walks and school groups



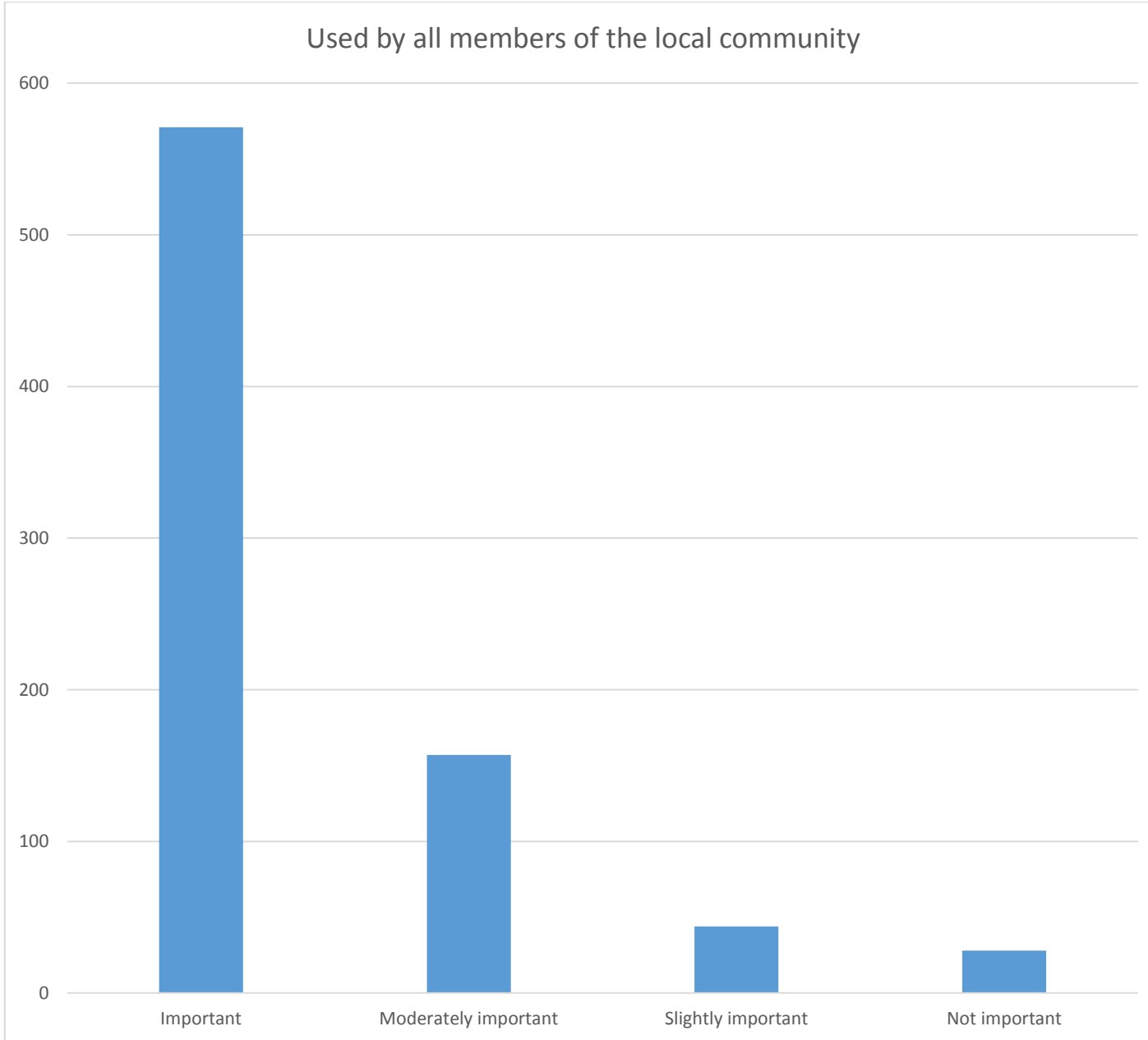
Promotion of organised physical activity



Promotion of educational engagement e.g. nature walks and school groups



Used by all members of the local community



Used for growing food

