

BACKGROUND PAPER 10 PAPUR CEFNDIR 10



LEISURE

DEPOSIT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
UP TO 2021

October 2008

HAMDDEN

CYNLLUN ADNEUO DATBLYGU LLEOL
HYD AT 2021

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**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Up to 2021**

**BWRDEISTREF SIROL CAERFFILI
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**LDP DEPOSIT
October 2008**

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Provision for recreation and leisure is an essential part of improving social and economic wellbeing of people and communities in Caerphilly County Borough. The Welsh Assembly Government supports the development of sport and a wide range of leisure pursuits, which promote physical activity among both children and adults.
- 1.2 Commercial leisure uses are also important in sustaining the vitality and viability of our town centres. Ready access to retail and leisure services and facilities is particularly important in promoting social inclusivity.
- 1.3 This background paper is one of a series of supporting documents for the Local Development Plan (LDP). The purpose of each paper is to set out background information and issues relevant to topics such as leisure and to provide a context for planning policy decisions to be made. The Local Development Plan contains land use policies and proposals to meet the County Borough's leisure needs up to 2021.

2 PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE AND LOCAL STRATEGIES

- 2.0** In order to meet statutory requirements, the Local Development Plan (LDP) must take into account legislation and planning guidance issued by Central and Welsh Assembly governments. This guidance must be followed as closely as possible throughout plan preparation. Occasionally material considerations may necessitate a departure from the guidance, though any such deviation must be carefully justified.

There are a large number of documents and publications that influence planning for Leisure, the most important of these being listed below, together with a summary of contents and relevant requirements.

2.1 Wales Spatial Plan (2004)

The Wales Spatial Plan sets out the Welsh Assembly Government's planning agenda at a spatial level. It seeks to provide for sustainable communities as attractive places to live and work, promoting healthier lifestyles taken forward by the Welsh Assembly Government's Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity – 'Climbing Higher' (January 2005).

2.2 Planning Policy Wales (2002)

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the principal land-use planning document setting out Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) policy for local authorities. It provides guidance on preparing development plans and determining planning proposals.

PPW outlines WAG's main planning objectives in relation to leisure (summarised in Appendix 1) in a Sport and Recreation chapter. These promote:

- a more sustainable pattern of development by creating and maintaining networks of facilities and open spaces in places well served by sustainable means of travel, in particular within urban areas;
- social inclusion, improved health and well-being by ensuring that everyone, including the elderly and those with disabilities, has easy access to good quality, well designed facilities and open space

PPW requires local authorities to provide the framework for well located sport, recreation and leisure facilities and that these should be sensitive to the needs of users, attractive, well designed, well maintained, safe and accessible to all. PPW refers to the need for the planning system to ensure that adequate land and water resources are allocated for formal and informal sport and recreation. It also suggests that these objectives can only reasonably be achieved by undertaking local assessments of need and an audit of existing provision.

2.3 Technical Advice Note 16

One of a series of documents expanding upon PPW guidance, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 – Sport and Recreation, sets out the key planning considerations in relation to planning for leisure. WAG have revised TAN 16 (retitled 'Sport Recreation and Open Space'), and consulted upon this in July 2006, **but is yet to publish the revised version**. Future planning policy is likely to be based upon this draft as it is more comprehensive and specific than the previous TAN. The TAN aims to further integrate the links between health and wellbeing, sport, recreational activity and sustainable development.

2.4 Environment Strategy for Wales (2006)

WAG's long-term strategy for protecting and enhancing the environment is set out in the Environment Strategy for Wales (May 2006). The Strategy states that every

community should have a high quality, well planned built environment, which provides access to green spaces, areas for recreation, and supports biodiversity. It recognises that poor quality environments with poorly maintained public spaces and lack of parks and green spaces can have a detrimental effect on health and wellbeing.

2.5 Climbing Higher (2005)

The Welsh Assembly Government's strategic direction for sports, recreation and play is contained in: 'Climbing Higher: Strategy for Sport and Active Recreation'. 'Climbing Higher' is the Welsh Assembly Government's 20-year strategy for sport and physical activity.

The purpose of the strategy is to achieve:

"An active, healthy and inclusive Wales, where sport, physical activity and active recreation provide a common platform for participation, fun and achievement, which binds communities and the nation and where the outstanding environment of Wales is used sustainably to enhance confidence in ourselves and our place in the world." (WAG, p.4)

'Climbing Higher' has spatial land use planning implications that need to be taken into account at the national and local level. The strategy includes targets which should guide the development of planning policy and the setting of standards within local authorities, in particular that by 2025:

- The percentage of people in Wales using the Welsh natural environment for outdoor activity will increase from 36% to 60%
- 95% of people in Wales will have a footpath or cycle path within a 10 minute walk
- No-one should live more than a 6 minute walk (300 metres) from the nearest natural green space
- All public sector employees and 75% of all other employees will have access to sport and physical activity facilities at, or within a 10 minute walk of, the workplace.

By encouraging healthier lifestyles, the Assembly Government hopes to improve the health and well being of people in Wales, including the elderly, disabled people, and children and young people. It aims to address health inequalities by encouraging people to adopt healthier lifestyles and ensuring good access to local services.

The Sports Council for Wales (SCW) is the principal agency tasked with implementing the Assembly Government's strategy with the specific remit of:

- Developing and improving education and knowledge of, and practice and training in, sport and physical activity, in the interests of social welfare and to encourage the attainment of high standards;
- Fostering, supporting the provision of facilities for sport and recreation
- Advising, encouraging and assisting individuals and teams participating in sport and physical activity in their pursuit of health and social benefits.

2.6 Fields in Trust (FIT)

Fields In Trust (FIT) is a UK wide organisation concerned with improving the quality of life and health of all members of society, by assisting in the provision, improvement and protection of high quality, well used facilities for outdoor sport and play throughout the nation. FIT Cymru works closely with the Welsh Assembly Government and unitary authorities on matters relating to facility protection and improvement and acts as an advisor to WAG in respect of planning policy and

appropriate use of the planning system. Fit Cymru supports the need for local audits and assessments of all forms of open space and the need for locally determined standards. FIT Cymru does not seek slavish adherence to the Six-Acre Standard, it recognises that it provides a useful basis on which local policies and standards have been developed, but advocates that the standard should be adjusted so that it will strengthen guidance on quantity, quality and accessibility.

2.7 **Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy**

Every local authority in Wales is required by the Local Government Act to produce a Community Strategy promoting economic, social and environmental well being of its area and to contribute to sustainable development over a 10-15 year period. LDPs and Community Strategies need to be complementary, but it is the Community Strategy that is intended to “...provide the overarching strategic framework for all other plans and strategies for the local authority area” (NAW 2001a, p5). The Leisure topic of the LDP relates directly to many of the key vision statements of Caerphilly County Borough’s Community Strategy and will provide the land use framework and criteria based policies for achieving them. The vision statements of particular relevance include:

Living Environment –

- Increase awareness of opportunities for safe access to the countryside and open spaces
- Encourage the improvement of town and village centres as a focus for community pride, accessible facilities and activities

Regeneration –

- Develop integrated, efficient local and regional transport systems, including public transport, cycling and walking networks

Education for Life –

- Increase appreciation of environmental assets and utilise their potential for enhanced quality of life and sustainable tourism opportunities

Health Social Care and Well-being –

- Improve public health by promoting factors that contribute to healthy lifestyle and well-being
- Expand and develop community based health and social care services

[Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy, 2004]

2.8 **Caerphilly County Borough Council Play Strategy**

Caerphilly County Borough have adopted the Welsh Assembly Government Play Policy in 2007 and is working towards developing a holistic play strategy of which a fixed play (playground) strategy is an integral part. This will be consulted upon in Autumn 2008.

The Council is responsible for 150 outdoor fixed equipment facilities made up of children’s playgrounds, skate parks, multi-use games areas (MUGAs), kick walls and youth shelters.

Construction of new playgrounds and refurbishment of existing ones must take into account the need for facilities such as a good mix of equipment, imaginative areas of play, rubber safety surfacing and dog proof fencing. These facilities require regular maintenance in order to meet ever increasing public expectations and

comply with new minimum European standards relating to safety and cleanliness. Whilst provision is inextricably linked to the age make-up of each ward, access to play and youth facilities within a reasonable distance of people's homes is considered to be a public right.

The playground strategy (fixed equipment) will consider the following issues:

- Existing provision ward by ward
- Age makeup of each ward
- Vandalism history
- Household and other public survey results
- Existing linked strategies or policies
- Police feedback
- The annual external playgrounds report (RoSPA)
- Potential areas of new development

For the purposes of fixed play, the Strategy will consider,

- a. the improvement of existing equipped playgrounds,
- b. the identification and recognition of non-equipped play areas,
- c. the development of new playgrounds/youth facilities in the future.

3. TRENDS IN LEISURE

Recreational activity is constantly evolving, as a result of higher standards of living and the increasing availability of individual leisure time. Factors influencing demand for recreation are complex and vary geographically throughout the county borough. However, trends in the past 10 years indicate that overall Caerphilly County Borough has experienced a net growth in recreational demand. The main contributing factors are considered to be as follows.

3.1 Economic Influences

A society's level of economic development is a major determinant of the magnitude of recreational demand because the economy influences so many critical, and interrelated, factors.

In common with other parts of the UK, Wales has experienced a continual process of economic restructuring over the past half century. New jobs have gradually replaced those lost in the traditional mining and manufacturing industries, and total employment has grown steadily since the 1980s. Nevertheless, GVA (Gross Value Added) per head remains low compared to the rest of the UK and European averages. *Source: Wales Spatial Plan, 2004.*

Caerphilly County Borough is by no means an exception to this case. The main economic issue in Caerphilly is unemployment coupled with the problems of low income, low skills and below average levels of qualifications within the workforce.

The economic climate has and will continue to have a significant impact on adult and youth sports participation. The demand for leisure facilities within the county borough will inevitably relate to the economic climate. In periods of economic growth, it is suggested that increases in disposable income, coupled with increases in leisure time will lead to growth in demand for leisure facilities.

3.2 Demographic Influences

Population Change: Population growth is one of the most important determinants of demand in the recreation sector. The population of Caerphilly County Borough was estimated most recently at 171,300 [*Source: ONS mid year population estimates, 2006*]. This is only 400 lower than that in mid-1981, reflecting remarkably little variation in the County Borough's population in the last quarter-century. However there have recently been small positive levels of net in-migration into Caerphilly, and the total population of the county borough is expected to grow during the Plan period (up to 2021). In view of a moderate growth scenario being pursued in the Local Development Plan, the increase in population is projected from 171,300 in 2006 to 177,500 in 2021, an increase of 6,200, or 3.6%.

For the purpose of planning future leisure provision the changes in the age structure of the population are particularly relevant. Fertility rates are difficult to predict, but they are currently rising and this trend is expected to continue for some time, while mortality rates are consistently improving. The effects of these changes, together with those of population movements, are that the number of children is expected to decrease slightly between 1996 and 2021, whereas the number of persons of pensionable age is expected to increase by 15% over the period.

Falling rolls in schools however recent information indicates slight increase in live births, therefore it will be necessary to continually monitor this information to assist in the planning processes in relation to leisure, playgrounds and other facilities.

Population Density: The average population density in Caerphilly County Borough is 6.2 persons per hectare, relatively high when compared to the Welsh average of 1.4 persons. [Source: *ONS mid year population estimates, 2006*]. However, this average does not reflect the County Borough's population overall, the highest densities being located in two key locations – the Mid Valleys Corridor and the Caerphilly Basin. Despite high levels of demand, there is a shortage of leisure facilities and useable recreational space here, particularly in the Caerphilly Basin area where land is scarcer and development pressure is greatest. In rural locations where densities are lower, certain recreational facilities – particularly commercial leisure tend to be less prevalent.

Age Structure: As a result of improving mortality rates in line with national trends, the County Borough has an ageing population. This is most evident in the expected increase in the numbers of the elderly: for example, the number of persons of pensionable age in Caerphilly is expected to increase by 15% over the Plan period. This trend implies the need for an increase in the targeted provision of recreational facilities suitable for older generations, for example, the provision of walking opportunities in quality open spaces and appropriate low impact leisure activity.

3.3 Socio-cultural

Cultural trends are also crucial. Nationally, there have been a number of changes in recreational trends. Local performance indicators show that there has been increase in use of facilities over the same time period.

In recent years there have been a number of changes in culture and consumer behaviour influencing recreational trends. Participation in sport and physical activity has declined in the last 6 years. While this is disappointing, the figures represent a return to the levels of participation found by surveys in the mid 1990s and show that over a long period, the level of participation has been stable.

Gender is another key socio-cultural determinant. The Sports Council for Wales (SCW) 'Sports Update' (2005) identified that women and men were equally likely to participate in indoor games and outdoor pursuits, but more than three times as many men as women took part in outdoor games. The study found differences. More than 20% of men enjoyed competitive aspects of sport, compared to only 6% of women.

There are also disparities between prosperity and levels of participation. The Adult Sports Participation and Club Membership analysis undertaken by SCW in 2003 found that the higher the prosperity of an area, the higher the level of participation. This is reflected geographically where rural areas across Wales demonstrated higher levels of participation and physical activity than urban areas.

Caerphilly County Borough is among the most deprived areas in Wales, and according to the Welsh Health Survey areas of deprivation, is also an area with the greatest health need.

The Survey carried out during Autumn 2005 – Spring 2006 has shown how health status relates to socio-economic circumstances, the lifestyles of individuals and how they relate to local services – particularly community and **leisure facilities**.

The needs assessment has identified the salient health and lifestyle characteristics of the Borough.

The results portray a population with significant health concerns. Key messages from the assessment are illustrated below:

- Life expectancy in Caerphilly County Borough is the fourth worst out of all local authority areas in Wales. There are particular issues in the North of the Borough.
- Main causes of death in the area are heart disease, stroke and some cancers.
- Numbers of older people in the County Borough are increasing; this is likely to result in a rise in age-related illnesses and an increase in the number of vulnerable adults.
- Caerphilly County Borough residents have the third worst mental and physical health status in Wales as a whole (1998 Welsh Health Survey).
(*Sue Essex AM, CCW: "People need regular access to areas that appear natural to remain physically active and mentally well"*).
- There are a high number of people that have a long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits their daily activities or the work they can do. This is particularly high in the North of the County Borough.
- 20% of the borough's population is obese (highest in Wales).

Although these key health concerns can be attributed to many social, economic and environmental factors, it is considered that lifestyle choices regarding levels of physical activity and access to open green space are a major contributing factor.

[Source: Welsh Assembly Government, Welsh Health Survey 2005-06 (2006)]

Adult Participation in Caerphilly County Borough

According to the Welsh Assembly Government, recommended levels of physical activity to ensure benefit to health in adults can be achieved through a total of 30 minutes moderate intensity activity on at least five days per week. Moderate intensity level activities include brisk walking, swimming, cycling etc. The Sports Council for Wales have commissioned studies into the physical activity levels of Adults and Young People within each local authority area in Wales, the findings of which are summarised below.

When compared against the recommended healthy levels indicated above results indicate that less than a quarter of adults in Caerphilly undertake sufficient physical activity. This means that more than half of adults can be considered inactive against this measure.

Overall, levels of adult participation in physical activities across Wales have fallen since 2000/01. The participation rates in Caerphilly County Borough however (57%), are amongst the highest of the valley authorities in South East Wales, all of which record participation scores below the Wales average of 59%.

Participation rates in any activity when the activities of billiards, snooker and walking are excluded give a figure of 35% in Caerphilly County Borough, emphasising the importance of distinguishing between outdoor/indoor activities. In terms of indoor games, Caerphilly County Borough is ranked 11th in participation rates with a figure of 26%, slightly below the national average of 27%.

Figure 1: Adult participation rates in sports/physical activities in Caerphilly / other local authorities

Activity	Average rates - all local authorities in Wales	Rates in Caerphilly	Rank – Caerphilly relative to other authorities in Wales
Any activity excluding billiards/snooker/walking	36	35	11
Indoor games	27	26	11
Outdoor games	14	13	10
Any outdoor pursuits	45	40	16
Any outdoor pursuits excluding walking	9	9	10

[Source: *Analysis of Adult Participation 2004/2005*, Sports Council for Wales (2006)]

Children's Participation

Three quarters of young people in Caerphilly have participated in extracurricular sports and physical activity in the year 2004-05. In fact the second highest participation rates in the South East Wales valleys and the third highest in Wales are to be found in Caerphilly.

In terms of regular extracurricular participation, Caerphilly tops the all-Wales rankings with 50% of young people taking doing so on a weekly basis – 8% higher than the national average. There is a slight gap in gender participation, with a higher rate among boys (55%) than girls (46%), but age appears to have little bearing on these figures when comparing figures for those between 11-18 years old. Indeed the consistently high extracurricular activity throughout secondary school ages bucks the national trend of decline in the later school years.

Almost three quarters of young people in Caerphilly participated in club-based activities over the year 2004-05, similar to the national average. Also the frequency of visits by young people in Caerphilly to sports/leisure centres over the year (55% doing so on a regular basis daily/weekly) closely reflects the all-Wales trend.

[Source: *Analysis of Young People's Participation in Sport Survey 2004*, Sports Council for Wales (2005)]

4. CURRENT PROVISION OF LEISURE FACILITIES IN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH

- 4.0 The Education and Leisure Directorate is responsible for the provision of leisure services in the County Borough. The Directorate is responsible for a number of services including education, the youth service and leisure services which should bring a number of advantages for sport and recreation. The Council will be able to provide better planning of integrated leisure strategies, the potential for more comprehensive community leisure programmes, enhanced education and community links, and improvements in efficiency.

The Welsh Assembly Government published draft Technical Advice Note (TAN) No 16 'Sport, Recreation and Open Space' in Summer 2006. In this document, reference is made to Planning Policy Wales which, although not prescribing national standards for provision of sport, recreation and leisure facilities, does require local authorities to create a framework for allocating adequate land for this purpose. This can only be reasonably achieved by undertaking local assessments of need and audits of existing provision.

4.1 Natural Green Spaces – Countryside Council for Wales 'Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities' (Green Space Toolkit)

In relation to accessible natural green space, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has developed a set of criteria commonly known as the 'Greenspace Toolkit' contained in their document 'Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities' (2006). CCW believes that accessible natural green spaces have an important contribution to make to the quality of the environment and to the quality of life in urban areas. Such sites are valued by the community, provide important refuges for wildlife in sometimes deprived areas, and are beneficial to public health and wellbeing.

A typology of spaces is also contained in the Green Space Toolkit, which differ from the open spaces in being more natural with little if any formal management taking place; this is shown below:

- **Woodlands and woodlots** with freely growing shrubbery or extensively managed grassland underneath. Trees and tree clumps with freely growing shrubbery or extensive grassland underneath;
- **Freely growing scrub** and dwarf shrubs (e.g. heathland);
- **Rough grassland**, semi-improved grassland, wild herbs and tall forbs;
- **Rocks and bare soil** where succession is allowed to freely occur (including bare soils in wastelands);
- **Open water** and wetlands with reeds, tall forbs etc

Source: CCW 'Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities' (2006); (Note: Please refer to this document for further clarification)

The 'green-space toolkit' advocates an assessment of accessible natural green spaces within an authority's administrative area. The purpose of the toolkit is to set out the principles of the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards model in order to help local authorities in identifying the current level of provision of accessible natural greenspace and to assist with the production of local standards and targets based on the following recommendations:

No person should live more than 300m* from their nearest area of green space

There should be at least 1 green space site of 20ha or more within 2 km of every home

There should be at least 1 green space site of 100ha or more within 5 km of every home

There should be at least 1 green space site of 500ha or more within 10 km of every home

There should be at least 2 ha of green space site for every 1,000 of population

* 400m if network analysis method used, see para below

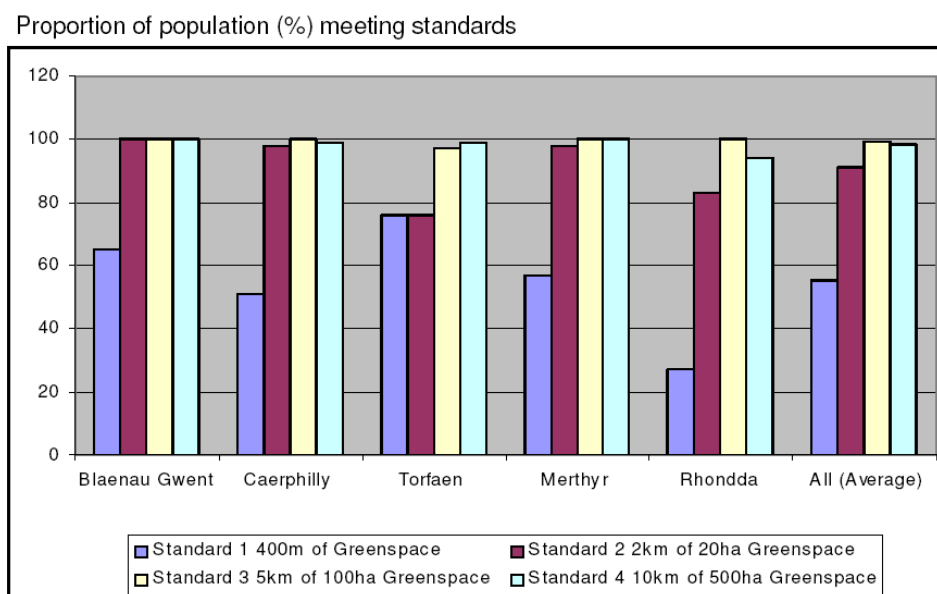
Source: CCW 'Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities' (2006); (Note: Please refer to this document for further clarification)

The recommendations put forward in the 'toolkit' are based on the Welsh Assembly Government's aspiration that no one should live more than a six minute walk (300m) from their nearest green space (*Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity: 'Climbing Higher'*). In planning policy terms draft TAN16 adopts these standards and links assessment of accessible natural green spaces with a more general Open Space Assessment which is also encouraged.

Results of Natural Green Space Assessment (CCW 'Green Space Toolkit' criteria)

As the work involved five local authorities, the Natural Green Space Assessment was able to calculate accessibility to green space for areas along most of Caerphilly County Borough's boundaries. This allowed spaces used by residents but located outside the administrative area to be taken into account. Consequently it was possible to draw up interesting comparisons between areas with often similar geography and population patterns.

Fig 2: Green space provision in 5 Heads of the Valleys local authorities meeting CCW 'Green Toolkit' criteria



Across the County Borough, it was found that just over half (51%) of the population lived within the minimum distance criteria to any area of green space, using the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. However, Caerphilly fares much better against the criteria for longer distances and larger spaces. This reflects the County Borough's geography, which largely consists of a number of linear settlements along the Rhymney and Ebbw Valleys, surrounded by countryside extending up the valley sides.

Fig 3: Percentage of population in Caerphilly meeting CCW 'Green Toolkit' criteria

Living within 400m of any green space	Living within 2km of 20ha size green space	Living within 5km of 100ha size green space	Living within 10km of 500ha size green space
51	98	100	99

Analysis

Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area

Fig 4a: Percentage of population in electoral wards in Caerphilly meeting CCW 'Green Toolkit' criteria

Ward	Living within 400m of any green space	Living within 2km of 20ha size green space	Living within 5km of 100ha size green space	Living within 10km of 500ha size green space
Aberbargoed	72	98.7	98.7	98
Argoed	38	98.9	99.7	99.7
Bargoed	28	100	100	99.4
Darren Valley	78	99.8	99.8	99.8
Gilfach	88	100	100	100
Moriah	49	97	99.9	99.9
New Tredegar	70	98.3	98.4	98.4
Pontlottyn	33	96	99.1	99.1
Twyn Carno	73	99.8	99.8	99.8

In summary the results indicate that, in common with other strategy areas, there is a very high percentage of population per ward living further distances away from larger spaces as defined by CCW standards. However, the percentage of population per ward satisfying the standard of living within 400m of any green space is significantly lower. The wards with a substantially lower percentage in meeting the standard within this strategy area are Bargoed (28%), Pontlottyn (33%) and Argoed (38%).

Country Parks play a significant role in addressing need and providing managed natural green spaces that are accessible to the public, as such a protection policy is required in the emerging LDP to ensure that Country Parks are safeguarded. There are currently 3 country parks within the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area:

Parc Bryn Bach

Parc Bryn Bach is situated between Rhymney and Tredegar, the majority of the site being within the neighbouring Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's boundaries and thus administrative control. Bryn Bach is a reclaimed former colliery site, and the proportion lying within Caerphilly County Borough boundaries includes grassland and mixed woodland at the western end of a central lake. There is scope here for an afforestation project which would involve tree planting, landscaping and the laying out of walks, cycle paths and bridleways as well as seating.

Parc Cwm Darran

Parc Cwm Darran extends along a river tributary of the River Rhymney north west of Bargoed for some length taking in the old railway that once served the collieries here. The main element occupies part of the Ogilvie Colliery site north of Deri and includes the following leisure facilities:

- Foot/cycle ways
- Visitor centre including café and toilets
- Parking
- Campsite
- Picnic areas

Parc Coetir Bargoed

Parc Coetir Bargoed is laid out along the centre of the Rhymney Valley between Bargoed and Aberbargoed. Once the site of 3 collieries, including Bargoed Colliery, the park contains the following facilities:

- Foot/cycle ways
- Public art (including gateway sculpture features)
- Seating and ornamental features

With the construction of Angel Way, the new A469 bypass serving communities in the Bargoed area likely to stimulate further development, the importance of Parc Coetir Bargoed as an informal recreation resource is likely to increase.

There is justification for the insertion of policies both to protect existing country parks and allocate land for new ones within the Local Development Plan. The allocation of new country parks where practical, will help to ensure that those communities identified as having least access to natural green space in the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area are better served.

In view of the successful restoration of old industrial landscapes to create Country Parks (as shown above), it is proposed to create a similar new facility at Markham.

Here the remaining fragments of the old colliery (which closed in 1985) and derelict land/waste tips are to be cleared and landscaped to form a new country park. The creation of a new country park in this location should be addressed through an allocation policy in the emerging LDP.

Northern Connections Corridor

Fig 4b: Percentage of population in electoral wards in Caerphilly meeting CCW 'Green Toolkit' criteria

Ward	Living within 400m of any green space	Living within 2km of 20ha size green space	Living within 5km of 100ha size green space	Living within 10km of 500ha size green space
Blackwood	42	99.7	99.8	99.8
Cefn Fforest	65	100	100	100
Crumlin	47	98.3	98.3	98.3
Hengoed	94	100	100	99.4
Maesycwmmmer	70	95.3	99.6	99.6
Nelson	47	99.9	100	100
Newbridge	58	99.5	99.5	99.5
Pengam	78	100	100	100
Penmaen	62	98.9	98.9	98.9
Pontllanfraith	49	99.2	99.6	99.6
St Cattwg	76	99.1	99.6	99.6
Ystrad Mynach	26	82.7	99.6	99.6

In summary the results indicate that, in common with other strategy areas, there is a very high percentage of population per ward living further distances away from larger spaces as defined by CCW standards. However, the percentage of population per ward satisfying the standard of living within 400m of any green space is lower, although the average in this category is slightly higher than in other strategy areas.

Country Parks play a significant role in addressing need and providing managed natural green spaces that are accessible to the public, as such a protection policy is required in the emerging LDP to ensure that Country Parks are safeguarded. There are currently 2 country parks within the Northern Connections Corridor:

Penyfan Pond

Penyfan Pond is a feeder reservoir for the now largely disused Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal which once reached as far as Crumlin. Located north of the Oakdale industrial plateau between Croespenmaen and Manmoel, the County Borough's main caravan site is situated on adjacent land and the overall facility offers the following:

- Foot/cycle ways
- Café kiosk and toilets
- Parking
- Picnic areas
- Campsite
- Fishing

Penallta Park

Parc Penallta is situated between the settlements of Ystrad Mynach, Nelson and Gelligaer. Here also there is an industrial legacy, with the park having been created around a former coal tip. Parc Penallta is linked to Route 47 of the National Cycle

Network, which runs east-west through the mid-valleys. The park was a community project opened as part of the Millennium celebrations in 2000 and contains the following features:

- Foot/cycle ways
- Public art (including observatory, pit pony earthwork and sculptures)
- Educational/visitor centre
- Parking
- Picnic areas

Southern Connections Corridor

Fig 4c: Percentage of population in electoral wards in Caerphilly meeting CCW 'Green Toolkit' criteria

Ward	Living within 400m of any green space	Living within 2km of 20ha size green space	Living within 5km of 100ha size green space	Living within 10km of 500ha size green space
Aber Valley	60	99.7	99.7	99.7
Abercarn	65	99.9	99.9	99.9
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	46	98.9	99.6	99.6
Crosskeys	61	98.7	99.9	99.9
Llanbradach	60	90.2	99.4	99.4
Morgan Jones	30	98.1	100	100
Penyrheol	32	99.9	100	100
Risca East	36	84.4	99.5	99.5
Risca West	23	97.4	98.5	98.5
St James	32	96.9	97.9	97.9
St Martins	26	98.3	98.3	98.3
Ynysddu	75	99.9	99.9	99.9

In summary the results indicate that, in common with other strategy areas, there is a very high percentage of population per ward living further distances away from larger spaces as defined by CCW standards. However, the percentage of population per ward satisfying the standard of living within 400m of any green space is significantly lower.

The wards with a substantially lower percentage in meeting the standard within this strategy area are Risca West (23%) and the 4 wards in Caerphilly town: St James (32%), Morgan Jones (30%), St Martins (26%) and Penyrheol (32%). With Risca East also showing a low percentage (36%), the results reflect the most urban areas of the County Borough.

Country Parks play a significant role in addressing need and providing managed natural green spaces that are accessible to the public. There is currently one country park in the southern connections corridor:

Sirhowy Valley Country Park

Sirhowy Valley Country Park is located in the Southern Connections Corridor, entranced off the A4048 at Cross Keys. The park is a great base for walking and cycling and is linked to cycle route 47 of the National Cycleway which links to Parc Penallta and beyond in the west or south to Newport. A former railway track runs through the park leading to Flatwoods Meadows Local Nature Reserve which is

situated alongside the River Sirhowy. The park is also home to the recently restored Penllwyn Tramroad Bridge.

There is justification for the insertion of policies both to protect existing country parks and allocate land for new ones within the Local Development Plan. The allocation of new country parks where practical, will help to ensure that those communities identified as having least access to natural green space in the Southern Connections Corridor are better served.

Around Bedwas, there is a network of open and green spaces that could be consolidated into a new park. With the Bedwas Riverside Park already in existence, there is potential to extend this north-eastwards to take in allotments and green areas adjoining Trethomas and Graig y Rhacca. Much of the land would be Informal with the overall character of a country park, but would also incorporate a 'pocket park' element with defined amenity/play areas for community use. The creation of a new country park in this location should be addressed through an allocation policy in the emerging LDP.

4.2 Pitch, Play Provision and Recreational Land

National Playing Fields Association 'Six Acre Standard'

The National Playing Fields Association 'Six Acre Standard' is the main reference document for any planning of future outdoor playing space provision. The NPFA defines playing space as:

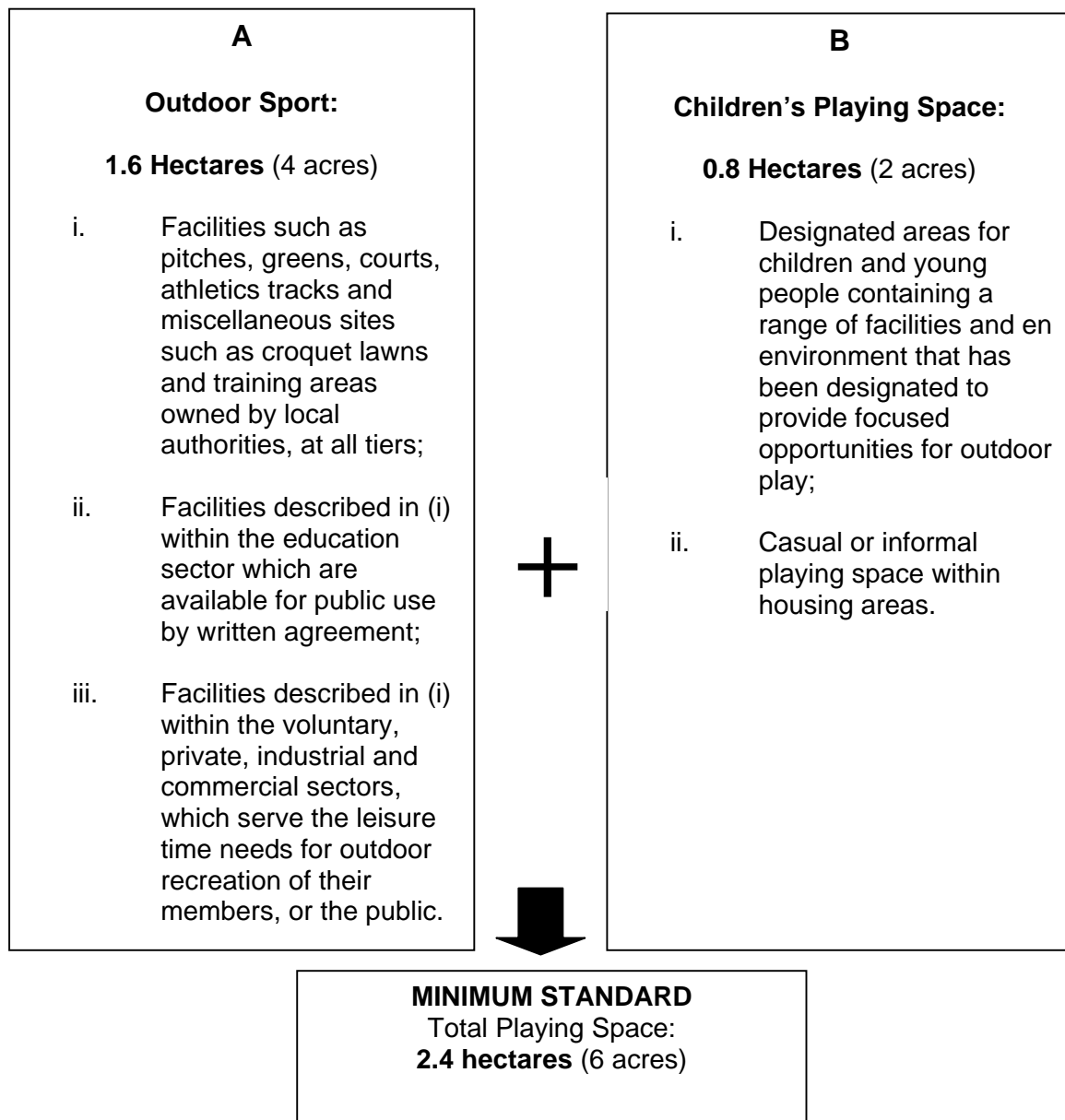
"Space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children's play." (NPFA 2001, p14)

Supported in the Assembly's TAN 16, the NPFA recommend that, in the absence of an alternative, the 'Six Acre Standard' should be adopted by all local planning authorities, within statutory and non-statutory development plans and policy documents, as a model for the development of their own standards based upon a robust assessment of local needs. This is intended to ensure adequate provision is made for the population served by such facilities.

Where the minimum standards cannot be met, due to the scarcity of open land, the local planning authority should adopt them as a target. It should make specific land allocations towards achieving the standards or secure improvements to existing facilities to enable them to sustain a greater intensity of use, or both. Appropriate policies should be adopted to safeguard the existing recreational land bank for outdoor sport and children's playing space.

The Outdoor Sport standard provides direction for the provision of playing fields and recreational land. It recommends a minimum of 2.4 hectares of designated playing space (6 acres) per 1,000 population. The criteria should be met or exceeded in all new developments, based upon a national average occupancy rate of 2.36 people per dwelling, or at a local rate specified in an adopted development plan.

National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) 'The Six Acre Standard' (2001) – Minimum Standards



Caerphilly County Borough Council does not have a set 'standard' for leisure provision that can be applied borough-wide, therefore the Six-Acre Standard will be applied in order to establish current leisure provision and the implications that future growth will have on existing facilities.

For the purpose of this paper, the standard has been applied on a ward basis within the Borough. The standard takes into account all space within each ward, which is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children's play. The standard takes into account facilities which includes football and rugby pitches, artificial pitches, athletics tracks, red gra, tennis courts, bowling greens, cricket pitches, basketball courts, parks, skate parks, kickwalls, youth shelters and Multi Use Games Areas. Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) are a relatively new concept in terms of leisure

provision, allowing for greater flexibility and intensity of use, enabling a variety of games to be played on a single piece of land. A detailed audit of pitch, play facilities and recreational land per ward is contained in the below analysis.

Facilities that are not audited as part of the 'Six-Acre Standard' include:

- i) outdoor sports facilities which are not as a matter of policy and practice available for public use, such as professional sports stadia,
- ii) grounds of Her Majesty's Services, unless as a matter of policy and practice and by formal agreement they are made available for public use
- iii) verges, woodlands, commons, nature conservation areas, allotments, ornamental gardens and parks (except for clearly defined areas within them for sports, games, practice and play)
- iv) golf facilities
- v) water used for recreation, except where it forms an interactive feature of an outdoor play area
- vi) sports halls or leisure centres
- vii) commercial entertainment complexes.

The provision of some of the aforementioned facilities that are not included in the 'Six-Acre Standard' are discussed in Section 4.4.

Calculating the Six-Acre Standard in Caerphilly County Borough

In assessing compliance with the standard in Caerphilly County Borough, statistics have been collated on a ward basis. The total area of existing facilities have been added together and measured against the ward population taken from the 2001 Census. This is in order to calculate both the ward's actual current provision and how it compares to the target provision in relation to the Outdoor Sport standard (6 acres per 1,000 population).

In order to calculate existing provision per ward and how this compares to the 'Six Acre Standard', a number of assumptions have been made:

1. The size of each 'type' of facility has been based on the average size of the facility 'type' in Caerphilly County Borough (Please see Appendices 3 & 4) and this standard has been applied for the purposes of the ward analysis.
2. The exercise has been conducted purely on a ward basis, which does not necessarily take into account the natural catchment areas for facilities (ie the population will use their nearest facility regardless of ward boundaries).

Analysis

Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area

Fig 5a: Comparison between wards against NPFA 'Six Acre Standard'

Ward	Total size of facilities (acres)	Population	Target Provision (acres)	Shortfall (acres)	
Aberbargoed	7.33	3558	21.348	14.02	
Argoed	5.78	2515	15.09	9.31	
Bargoed	18.44	6274	37.644	19.2	
Darren Valley	4.47	2545	15.27	10.80	
Gilfach	4.19	2059	12.354	8.16	
Moriah	12.17	4580	27.48	15.31	
New Tredegar	12.35	4945	29.67	17.32	
Pontlottyn	2.99	1803	10.818	7.83	
Twyn Carno	0.25	2374	14.244	14.00	

The results of this exercise indicate that wards within the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area perform reasonably well in relation to provision of pitch, play and recreational provision against the 'Six-Acre Standard'. This strategy area has the highest level of provision per head of population in the County Borough.

Catchment Area Analysis

As noted, this exercise has been conducted purely on a ward basis, which does not necessarily take into account the natural catchment areas for facilities - as a population will use their nearest facility regardless of ward boundaries.

In light of the catchment area analysis and in addition to leisure Section 106 Requirements related to Housing, Leisure Services have identified that the emerging development plan should designate land to make provision for leisure facilities (including playing pitches) in the following locations:

- North of Glan y Nant, Rhymney
- Former MacLaren Colliery, Abertyswg
- Pont Bren, Deri
- Heol Fargoed, Bargoed
- Former Bedwellty Comprehensive School, Aberbargoed
- South of Gilfach, Gilfach

Northern Connections Corridor

Fig 5b: Comparison between wards against NPFA 'Six Acre Standard'

Ward	Total size of facilities (acres)	Population	Target Provision (acres)	Shortfall (acres)
Blackwood	14.33	8162	48.972	34.64
Cefn Fforest	5.18	3589	21.534	16.36
Crumlin	6.15	5724	34.344	28.19
Hengoed	1.62	5044	30.264	28.64
Maesycwmmmer	2.69	2141	12.846	10.15
Nelson	4.28	4577	27.462	23.18
Newbridge	19.11	6000	36	16.89
Pengam	17.87	3842	23.052	5.18
Penmaen	6.37	4478	26.868	20.50
Pontllanfraith	14.02	7773	46.638	32.62
St Cattwg	10.44	7452	44.712	34.27
Ystrad Mynach	10.96	4077	24.462	13.50

The results of this exercise indicate that wards within the Northern Connections Corridor have significant shortfalls in pitch, play provision and recreational land against the 'Six Acre Standard'. The wards with the greatest shortfall are Blackwood and Pontllanfraith, demonstrating a need to safeguard existing provision within these wards.

Catchment Area Analysis:

As noted, this exercise has been conducted purely on a ward basis, which does not necessarily take into account the natural catchment areas for facilities - as a population will use their nearest facility regardless of ward boundaries.

In light of the catchment area analysis and in addition to leisure Section 106 Requirements related to Housing, Leisure Services have identified that the emerging development plan should designate land to make provision for leisure facilities (including playing pitches) in the following locations:

- Panside, Newbridge
- Adjacent to Ysgol Penalltau, Ystrad Mynach
- Former Hospital, Ystrad Mynach

Southern Connections Corridor

Fig 5c: Comparison between wards against NPFA 'Six Acre Standard'

Ward	Total size of facilities (acres)	Population	Target Provision (acres)	Shortfall (acres)
Aber Valley	11.87	6696	40.028	28.31
Abercarn	11.11	4793	28.758	17.65
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	15.87	10428	62.568	46.70
Crosskeys	8.31	3092	18.552	10.25
Llanbradach	4.36	4622	27.732	23.37
Morgan Jones	18.78	6515	39.09	20.31
Penyrheol	10.75	11530	69.18	58.43
Risca East	6.03	6384	38.304	32.28
Risca West	18.97	5071	30.426	11.46
St James	0.77	5912	35.472	34.70
St Martins	7.94	7293	43.758	35.82
Ynysddu	11.88	3698	22.188	10.31

The results of this exercise indicate that wards within the Southern Connections Corridor have significant shortfalls in pitch, play provision and recreational land against the 'Six-Acre Standard'. This strategy area contains the two wards (Penyrheol and Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen) with the greatest shortfall in provision of pitch, play provision and recreational land in the County Borough.

Such a general shortfall against these criteria (however aspirational) is still a major cause for concern, demonstrating a need for strong policies within the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan to protect and promote pitch, play provision and recreational land.

Catchment Area Analysis

As noted, this exercise has been conducted purely on a ward basis, which does not necessarily take into account the natural catchment areas for facilities - as a population will use their nearest facility regardless of ward boundaries.

In light of the catchment area analysis and in addition to leisure Section 106 Requirements related to Housing, Leisure Services have identified that the emerging development plan should designate land to make provision for leisure facilities (including playing pitches) in the following locations:

- Llanbradach Plateau, Llanbradach
- Former Bedwas Colliery
- Adjacent to Bedwas Comprehensive School, Bedwas
- St Ilan's School, Caerphilly

- Adjacent to St Cenydd School, Caerphilly
- Castlegate, Caerphilly

4.3 Open Space

Open spaces are a vital element in the wellbeing of Caerphilly County Borough's towns and villages, serving as 'green lungs' and often separating built-up areas otherwise prone to coalescence.

In the TAN 16 guidance, the following definition of open space is given: *"Open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value including not just land but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport, recreation and tourism, and can also act as a visual amenity, and may have conservation importance."*

Furthermore, the draft TAN 16 contains a suggested typology of open spaces to be used in any such assessment:

- Parks and gardens
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces
- Green corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Amenity green space
- Provision for children and teenagers
- Allotments, community gardens, and city (urban) farms
- Cemeteries and churchyards
- Accessible countryside on urban fringes
- Civic spaces
- Water

Open Space Assessment (NPFA based standard)

Caerphilly County Borough Council commissioned consultants to undertake an Open Space Assessment, allied to an Accessible Natural Green Space Assessment. The Open Space Assessment was commissioned to focus on the accessibility of open and play / sport areas 1000m² and above using a public rights of way network analysis.

It is important to note the clear distinction between the accessibility of open space and the provision of open space. Accessibility is based purely on public access using the public rights of way network analysis which looks at the distance people would have to walk to access an open space 1000 m² and above, and does not necessarily reflect the provision of open spaces 1000 m² and above. To demonstrate – if an individual lived in house backing onto an open space 1000 m² it would not necessarily mean that the open space was accessible to the individual as accessibility is based on a network analysis of the public rights of way and would look at the distance that an individual would have to walk to gain access to the area, although the area is situated immediately behind the individual's house, the individual may not be able to gain access at this point and would have to walk a distance to gain access through a gate.

The criteria was based on access to the nearest area of open and play/sport provision of NEAP size (1000 m²) and above:

No person should live more than 1km from their nearest play/sport area of 1000 m ²

Source: *Caerphilly Green Space Assessment (2007) based on NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' (2001)*

In order to calculate the provision of the larger open and play/sport facilities in Caerphilly, all potential sites qualifying as such spaces were collated using existing map details. Using site surveys and applying a map layer showing the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network, the spaces that were actually accessible for public use only were taken forward for further assessment.

Fig 6: Access to open and play/sport space NEAP size (1000 m²) and above in Caerphilly County Borough

Area (km ²)	Population	No of play/ sport spaces	No of open spaces
277	171,300	136	665

Source: *Caerphilly Green Space Assessment (2007) based on NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' (2001)*

Population figures derived from the 2001 Census were then introduced and mapped according to Census Output Areas and electoral wards. By inputting the figures into the standard NEAP-based formula shown above, it was possible to build results showing exactly which population in the Census Output Areas lived within and outside the 1 kilometre minimum distance to larger outdoor play/sport areas.

Results of Open Space Assessment

Across the County Borough, 67.4% of the population met the accessibility for larger play/sport areas as used in the study. The distance at which all the population (100%) had access to any of these larger play/sport spaces at all was found to be 1.4 kilometres.

Fig 7: Percentage of population within County Borough with access to nearest area of open and play/sport provision of NEAP size (1000 m²) and above

<i>Living within 1km of nearest play/sport area of 1000 m²</i>	
<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>
67.4	32.6

Source: *Caerphilly Green Space Assessment (2007) based on NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' (2001)*

The table above illustrates that 32.6% of the population do not live within the threshold of living within 1km of the nearest play / sport area of 1000 m².

4.4 Major Sport and Recreation Facilities

For the purposes of this paper 'major sports facility' constitutes all facilities that are not covered in section 4.3 - Pitch and Play facilities and recreational land, such facilities include Swimming Pools, Golf Courses and sports halls that are provided by both the public and private sector.

Sports Halls

Fig 8: Sports Halls in Caerphilly County Borough

Facility	% Unmet demand by existing facilities	Units	% unmet demand Wales average	Rank in Wales (from bottom)
Sports Hall	46		39	6 th

Source: Sports Update No 48 (2002) Sports Council for Wales.

In 2002, The Sports Council for Wales identified a shortfall in Sports Hall provision of 48% unmet demand within Caerphilly County Borough. Since 2002, the Leisure Division of the Council in conjunction with partners have developed a number of sports halls. The additional sports halls more than satisfy the unmet demand identified in the 2002 study. The facilities developed include:

- St Cenydd Leisure Centre
- Y.M.C.A Leisure Centre in Abertridwr
- Lewis Boys School Leisure Centre & all weather pitch
- Cwm Rhymni School Leisure Centre & all weather pitch
- Rhymney School Sports Hall and all weather pitch

Swimming Pools

In total, there are 5 swimming pools within Caerphilly County Borough that are available for public use. These are listed below highlights the location and size of the facility.

Fig 9: Swimming Pools in Caerphilly County Borough

Location of pool	Open to Public	Size	Times Open
Bedwas Leisure Centre	Yes	20m 5 lanes	7 days a week
Caerphilly Leisure Centre	Yes	25m 4 Lanes	7 days a week
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre	Yes	25m 4 Lanes	7 days a week
Heolddu Leisure Centre	Yes	25m 5 Lanes	
Newbridge Leisure Centre	Yes	25m 6 lanes	7 days a week

A 5km grid square is the most common method for ascertaining 'unmet' demand for swimming pool provision. In order to ascertain the current provision of swimming pools within the county borough, the location of existing swimming pools have been plotted. These can be seen on the 5km grid squares in Appendix 2.

Analysis

A geographical analysis of swimming pool provision by 5km grid squares shows that there is an unmet demand in certain areas of the County Borough. Unmet demand can be largely attributed to smaller rural communities, whereby the need is too small and thinly spread to warrant the building of a new feasible facility. Unmet demand is greatest in the north of the County Borough in the Upper Rhymney Valley. A feasibility study could examine the potential for locating a new swimming pool facility in this location. Alternatively, another way of reducing unmet demand may be to increase the usage of existing facilities, either through extending opening hours or improving accessibility to facilities.

Golf Courses

Fig 10: Golf Courses in Caerphilly County Borough

Name	Ward	Number of Holes	Open to Public
Bargoed	Bargoed	18	Yes
Blackwood	Blackwood	9	Yes
Bryn Meadows	Maesycwmmmer	18	Yes
Caerphilly	St Martins	18	Yes
Castell Heights	St Martins	9	Yes
Mountain Lakes	St Martins	18	Yes
Oakdale	Penmaen	9	Yes
Ridgeway	St Martins	9	Yes
Tredegar & Rhymney	Moriah	18	Yes
Virginia Park	Morgan Jones	9	Yes

Analysis

A geographical analysis of golf course provision indicates that Caerphilly County Borough is well provided for in terms of golf courses. Spatial distribution analysis shows that the Sothern Connections Corridor is particularly well provided for, with two 18-hole courses and two 9-hole courses within a 5km radius of Caerphilly Town Centre. Where there are settlements that appear not to have a golf course within a 5 km radius, demand is met by provision outside of the borough in adjoining authorities.

4.5 Commercial Leisure

The commercial leisure sector incorporates a number of facilities including cinemas, leisure parks, fitness studios, bowling alleys and arcades. The popularity and demand of such facilities follow key economic and social trends and therefore fluctuate over time.

The UK has experienced high levels of economic growth during the past 15 years, and in relation to this, average household disposable incomes have increased. This has increased demand for commercial leisure facilities, which in South Wales has resulted in a number of new leisure parks, bowling alleys and multiplex cinemas (although none have located within Caerphilly County Borough). Traditionally town centres have been the focus for leisure and entertainment,

however, these new large scale leisure activities have tended to locate in out-of-centre locations.

Pressure still exists for the provision of such commercial facilities in locations outside existing centres, often on greenfield sites where the commercial advantages of large scale, purpose built facilities, with generous car parking exist. MIPPS – 02/2005, (amending sections 10.1 to 10.3 of Planning Policy Wales (2002)) identifies town centres as the preferred location for leisure development, before other types of location in a stated order preference. In line with guidance contained in the MIPPS, the LDP should seek to encourage Commercial Leisure within the 5 main retail centres of Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Newbridge, Ystrad Mynach and Risca / Pontymister.

This process of site selection, by which the most acceptable location for new leisure development is established, is called the “sequential approach”. Adopting a ‘sequential approach’ means that preference in site allocations should be given in the following order:

- A retail centre;
- An edge-of-centre site;
- An out-of-centre site, provided it is accessible by a choice of means of transport.

In determining proposals for leisure development in edge of centre or out of town locations, the developer will be required to demonstrate that there is no other more suitable site available within a retail centre. Such proposals will be assessed against their impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre and local area, including:

- Impact on the existing centre;
- Consideration of the need for the development;
- Accessibility by a variety of transport modes;
- Impact upon overall travel patterns;
- Best use of land close to any transport hub in terms of density and use;
- Sequential approach to site selection.

Cinema

In assessing the provision of commercial leisure facilities, it is considered appropriate to study the need for a multiplex cinema, as these form the anchor of most leisure development and provides most widely available information. Within Caerphilly County Borough there is only a single cinema facility at Blackwood Miners Institute from autumn. This was provision was revived in 2007 on a part time basis, having been suspended in 2004. It comprises of monthly showings of films for 3 nights at a time. Although other similar facilities existed in a number of towns until the 1970s/80s – none of these have survived.

The industry requirement for a multiplex cinema is usually reported as between 100,000 and 300,000 population within a 20 minute drive-time. The industry has pointed out that catchments do vary depending on competition in the surrounding area. The table below shows the population of each local authority in South East Wales and the number of cinema screens per authority.

Fig 11: Number of cinema screens in Caerphilly/other local authorities

Authority	Population	No. of Screens	Av. no. of screens per 100,000 population
Caerphilly	170,000	1 (p/t)	0.06
Cardiff	316,000	42	13
Newport	140,000	14	10
Torfaen	90,000	5	5.5
Blaenau Gwent	68,000	1	2.2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	231,000	16	7

Figure 11 illustrates that the provision of cinema screens within Caerphilly County Borough is significantly lesser than that of neighbouring authorities. The population of the Borough is such that it would be able to sustain a multiplex facility, however the borough cannot be considered in isolation. There are 5 multiplex cinemas located in neighbouring authorities that are within a 20-minute drive of most major settlements within Caerphilly County Borough (with the exception of Rhymney, New Tredegar, Aberbargoed and Newbridge).

Settlements that are not within a 20 minute driving distance of a multiplex, lie within the Heads of the Valleys strategy area and include the settlements of Rhymney, New Tredegar and Aberbargoed. The siting of a multiplex in the Heads of the Valleys strategy area would have a catchment population of circa 230,000 within a 20 minute drive. This figure falls well within the market requirement for a new multiplex cinema and suggests that such a development may be feasible in the north of Caerphilly Borough.

Given these findings, the most suitable location for a new multiplex cinema would be in a principal town and one of the most sizeable area of relatively flat land with development potential in the north is at Bargoed. In terms of potential catchment population in the immediate surroundings, Bargoed town has a population of 8,000 and forms part of a greater conurbation of settlements in the Northern Connections Corridor containing 65,000 people.

A regeneration scheme is proposed for the town centre involving a new anchor supermarket. This will replace an assortment of land uses including small businesses, housing and car parks at the southern end of the main retail centre.

Due to the land constraints it is proposed to construct this new retail complex on split levels, with expansive business floorspace on the groundfloor and an upper floor which would be suitable for a multi-screen cinema. Provision should thus be made in the LDP for commercial leisure at this location.

4.6 Smaller Recreational Facilities

Allotments

Allotment gardening is a popular leisure pastime, and the importance of this land use has been recognised in the past in the Caerphilly County Borough Council document 'Development Design Guide No 16: Replacement of Allotments', which was drawn up as part of the preparation of the Unitary Development Plan.

Caerphilly County Borough Council manages 80 allotments listed in Schedule 1. Up until 2008, there was very little demand for allotment gardens within the Borough. Due to a change in social trends, it is becoming evident that there is an increasing demand for allotments in strategic locations.

Caerphilly County Borough Council Leisure Division is in the process of developing an Allotment Strategy, which will be consulted on in 2009. Considerable importance is attached to protecting the existing stock and ensuring that major new developments take account of the valuable contribution that these facilities make throughout the County Borough.

Given the demand for allotments and their importance as a leisure facility, a policy is required in the emerging local development plan to protect allotments and to ensure that existing levels of provision are maintained. Development which results in the loss of allotments should only be permitted where a suitable alternative location is available. Where it is impossible not to build upon allotment land, developers will be required to make provision either on site (in the case of housing proposals), or as near as possible to the removed facility. The policy will request that in such instances, the new facility is within easy reach in order to promote walking and other sustainable means of transport to access them.

4.7 Off Road Motorcycling

The interest in off road motorcycling in Wales has grown dramatically over the last few years. It is a recognised sport and is subject to rules and regulations issued by its governing bodies. Where it is properly regulated and undertaken on land with the permission of the landowner, it can be an attraction for the participants and the spectators, and in some instances has proven to boost the local economy.

The Countryside and Rights of Way (CroW) Act, 2000 substituted a new section 34 in the Road Traffic Act 1988. This makes it an offence to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle without authority on land that is not a road. However, in the absence of 'legal' sites where off road motorcycling can take place and the increased availability of motorcycles and cheap imported 'mini bikes', a rise in illegal off road motorcycling has now become a major problem across Wales, with Caerphilly County Borough not escaping. Illegal off road motorcycling activity has resulted in significant damage to land, including in some instances very fragile and vulnerable biodiversity habitats and features, and to field and land boundaries. It creates a danger to the public, landowners, farm livestock and creates major noise nuisances and visual scarring of the landscape.

Caerphilly County Borough does not currently have a 'legal' off roading facility. However, both illegal and legal off roading sites have a major draw for people and anecdotal evidence for the county borough has seen riders of all ages come from not only the local area but also from adjoining authorities and as far afield as Bristol and the West Midlands, transporting their vehicles on trailers or in vans. The

council have actively sought a site that would act as a legal off road motorcycling venue. The identification of a suitable site within the county borough has not yet been possible due to a number of significant constraints.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW), 2002 recognises tourism, sport and recreation as a major element in both the Welsh economy and in contributing to our quality of life. Tourism, sport and recreation cover a wide range of leisure pursuits, activities, facilities and types of development in both urban and rural locations. Planning Policy Wales does not make specific reference to what is considered tourism, sport or recreation. PPW requires local planning authorities (LPA's) to provide the framework for well-located, good quality tourism, sport, recreation and leisure facilities. PPW require these facilities to be sensitive to the needs of others, attractive, well designed, well maintained, protected from crime and vandalism, safe and accessible, served by a variety of sustainable transport modes and be sensitive to the scale and nature in the local environment (para 11.1.7).

Draft Technical Advice Note 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space, July 2006 recognises the increase in the use of off-road vehicles for recreational purposes in Wales (para 2.26). The TAN highlights the different types of off-road activities that can take place and provides a number of issues that should be taken into consideration when identifying potential sites for legal off-roading venues. These considerations include; segregation from other users, adequate access and parking for participants, spectators and emergency vehicles, sites and buildings can be screened to minimise visual and noise impacts, existing landscape features can be incorporated, hours of operation are strictly controlled, sites are away from residential areas, brownfield land is preferably used and that sites of historic, scientific, nature conservation or agricultural importance are avoided (para 2.27).

Caerphilly county borough recognise the significant problems that off road motorcycling causes, particularly in the countryside, which is very sensitive to damage from harmful and intensive activities. However, the inclusion of a policy within the LDP that refers specifically to off road motorcycling is not considered necessary due to the comprehensive coverage it has within national legislation, specifically *TAN 16: Sport, recreation and Open Space*. The inclusion of a policy within the local development plan would be repeating national legislation and guidance.

5.0 PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

Together, the above factors indicate that pressures for recreational facilities are likely to continue, although exact patterns of demand may gradually change over the Plan period. It is important to acknowledge current provision and trends relating to recreational activities in future plans, and to ensure that where new development occurs, adequate protection is afforded to existing leisure facilities. Also securing appropriate leisure benefits secured through planning obligations that must be provided in connection with development proposals.

Housing proposals are likely to exacerbate the pressure on existing provision of pitch, play and recreational land due to the increased population per ward and thus demand. The ward analysis conducted using the 'Six-Acre Standard' indicates that many wards already show a shortfall in provision against the standard. Preparation of the Local Development Plan has included collating statistics on the number of residential units proposed per ward, that could potentially become housing allocations which can be summarised as below.

Potential housing allocations are broken down into strategy areas, with 1648 units proposed for the Heads of the Valleys Area, 1818 units proposed for the Northern Connections Corridor and 3341 units proposed for the Southern Connections Corridor.

The wards within each of the strategy areas with the greatest number of additional residential units proposed, include:

- *Southern Connections Corridor*
 - Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen – 446 units
 - Morgan Jones – 584 units
 - St James – 601 units
 - St Martins – 625 units
- *Northern Connections Corridor*
 - Ystrad Mynach – 472
 - Crumlin - 445
- *Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area*
 - Aberbargoed - 519 units

The requirements for Section 106 Agreements can be illustrated using the evidence contained within this paper. For instance, Aberbargoed – evidence indicates that the ward has over a 30 percent shortfall in provision when compared to the 'Six-Acre Standard' and potentially has capacity to accommodate an additional 519 residential units.

If all 519 units were to be developed, this would significantly overload the current provision of pitch, play and recreational land unless significant new provision were to be provided by the developer towards upgrading facilities for more intensive use or providing new facilities onsite or within reasonable distance of the development. Section 106 agreements are imperative to ensure that where new development is taking place, towns and villages do not slip further behind in meeting the 'Six-Acre Standard'.

The Planning Division in conjunction with the Leisure Division, using the evidence contained within this paper have identified where the Council will seek to enter into negotiations with developers to secure planning obligations in respect of all sites

that could potentially be allocated for residential use in the Local Development Plan (see Schedule 2).

Planning obligations can be used to secure benefits on the development site itself, or on other suitable sites in the district. Alternatively, developers may be requested to make a payment of money to the Council (known as 'commuted payments') to be spent on agreed benefits. The Council may also require commuted maintenance payments for a limited period to help pay the on-going costs of a new facility. A Section 106 agreement is a legal agreement entered into by the planning authority and the applicant/developer that sets out what form a planning obligation will take.

The Planning Division and Leisure Division have produced a schedule of Section 106 agreements that will be required in respect of each site that could potentially be allocated for residential use in the Local Development Plan. The Schedule forms Annex 1 of this paper.

In addition to allocated sites, residential development also takes place on sites that are not allocated as part of the development plan. For the purposes of this paper, 'windfall sites' are defined as sites with a capacity of 10 or more units that have not been allocated for housing in the UDP, Islwyn Local Plan, Rhymney Valley Local Plan or any other adopted Local Plan. The figure below shows the number of windfall completions that have taken place over the last 5 years.

Fig 12: Windfall Completions 2002-2006

Year	Windfall Completions
2006	125
2005	66
2004	34
2003	31
2002	13
5 year total	269
5 Year Average	53.8
15 year projection	807

Source: Adapted from Caerphilly Joint Housing Land Availability Study

The average number of windfall completions is 53.8 per year, which attributes to almost 8% of the average annual completions. At present windfall sites are not required to provide leisure contributions under current policy although over a plan period they can lead to a significant population increase within the borough. Evidence indicates that currently there is a shortfall in provision in every ward within the borough when compared to the Six-Acre Standard, therefore a serious policy consideration that the LDP should address is the application of a roof-tax per household on windfall completions, secured for leisure facilities.

6.0 VALLEYS REGIONAL PARK

Currently under discussion, the concept of a Valleys Regional Park is being developed around similar objectives to those of National Parks. There are large expanses of land within the Valleys of significant landscape, ecological, historic, cultural and tourism importance. A single park designation would seek to protect these areas and offer an unified network of high quality facilities under the highly marketable Valleys Regional Park theme.

It is intended that a Valleys Regional Park would incorporate an area extending from eastern Carmarthenshire to western Monmouthshire, roughly equating to the historic coalfield boundaries. The designation would include land north of the M4 motorway and along the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road.

As such Caerphilly County Borough would be included in its entirety, and the existing outdoors activities provision would be standalone elements of this wider entity. Caerphilly County Borough contains a significant amount of accessible countryside, parks and common land and other green spaces that would be involved.

SCHEDULE 1: Allotments provision in Caerphilly County Borough

Allotments			
Facility	Strategy Area	Ward	Comments
Aberbargoed – Ty Fry, Heol Tir y Llan	HoV	Aberbargoed	0.1244 ha
Abercarn – Brett Road	SCC	Abercarn	0.7316 ha
Abercarn – West End, off Woodland Ter	SCC	Abercarn	0.2493 ha
Abertridwr – Cwm Ceffyl, Bryncoed Ter	SCC	Aber Valley	0.7962 ha
Abertridwr – Danygraig	SCC	Aber Valley	0.2649 ha
Abertridwr – King St	SCC	Aber Valley	
Abertridwr – Thomas St	SCC	Aber Valley	0.2649 ha
Abertysswg – Greensway	HoV	Moriah	0.5063 ha
Bargoed – Eastview Terrace	HoV	Bargoed	0.1954 ha
Bargoed – Heol Fargoed	HoV	Bargoed	0.4118 ha
Bargoed – Oakland Hall, off Denleigh Cl	HoV	Bargoed	0.2498 ha
Bedwas – Bridgend, rear of Church St	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	1.1827 ha
Bedwas – St Mary Street	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	0.3747 ha
Blackwood – Fairview	NCC	Blackwood	0.6985 ha
Blackwood – rear of Smiths Terrace, Woodfieldside	NCC	Penmaen	0.7530 ha
Blackwood – Lewis Street	NCC	Blackwood	0.5674 ha
Caerphilly – Bowls/ Penyrheol, Y Felin Ffrwd	SCC	Penyrheol	1.0454 ha
Caerphilly – Nant y Calch, Railway Ter	SCC	St Martins	0.6128 ha
Caerphilly – Lansbury Park Phase 1, Brookside Cres	SCC	St James	1.5279 ha
Caerphilly – Lansbury Park Phase 2, rear of Van Rd	SCC	St Martins	1.5279 ha
Caerphilly – Pandyr Road, rear of Diamond Close	SCC	Penyrheol	1.2401 ha
Caerphilly – Pontygwindy, off Pontygwindy Rd	SCC	Morgan Jones	1.2041 ha
Caerphilly – Trecastle, Heol Trecastell	SCC	Penyrheol	0.1588 ha
Cefn Fforest – rear of	NCC	Cefn Fforest	1.209 ha

Pencoed Ave			
Crosskeys – Cobden St	SCC	Crosskeys	2.8233 ha
Crumlin – Halls Gardens	NCC	Crumlin	0.2572 ha
Cwmcarn – Nantcarn Road	SCC	Abercarn	0.6826 ha
Cwmfelinfach – off Islwyn St	SCC	Ynysddu	2.9931 ha
Deri – River Row, rear of Bailey St	HoV	Darran Valley	0.5901 ha
Fleur de Lys – Warne Street	NCC	Pengam	
Fochriw – Cae Glas	HoV	Darran Valley	1.2755 ha
Gelligaer – Greenhill	NCC	St Cattwg	
Gilfach – Alfred Street	HoV	Gilfach	0.1244 ha
Gilfach – Gwerthonor, Woodland Pl	HoV	Gilfach	1.9334 ha
Gilfach – Margaret St	HoV	Gilfach	0.5381 ha
Hengoed – Kings Hill	NCC	Hengoed	0.3630 ha
Llanbradach – Stanley Row, off Heol Beulah	SCC	Llanbradach	0.5807 ha
Llanbradach – Coed y Brain, rear of School St	SCC	Llanbradach	0.4276 ha
Llanbradach – Wingfield, off Wingfield Cres	SCC	Llanbradach	1.8489 ha
Machen – Wyndham Street	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	0.5846 ha
Machen – Ffwrwm Road, off The Crescent	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	0.3495 ha
Maesycwmmmer – Boot Road, off Main Rd	NCC	Maesycwmmmer	0.6701 ha
Newbridge – Ashfield Road	NCC	Newbridge	1.7789 ha
Newbridge – Tunnel Row	NCC	Newbridge	0.2607 ha
Nelson – Heol Fawr	NCC	Nelson	0.6005 ha
Nelson – Hollybush	NCC	Nelson	1.3770 ha
Nelson – Shingrig Rd	NCC	Nelson	1.3952 ha
New Tredegar – Tirphil, South View Ter, Phillipstown	HoV	New Tredegar	1.2781 ha
New Tredegar – Davalog, Dafolog Ter, Phillipstown	HoV	New Tredegar	0.3143 ha
New Tredegar – Brithdir, Tennyson Ter	HoV	New Tredegar	0.5095 ha
Oakdale – Penmaen, Christchurch Rd	NCC	Penmaen	0.5575 ha
Oakdale – Llwyn On Lane	NCC	Oakdale	0.8548 ha
Oakdale – Rhiw Syr	NCC	Oakdale	0.8421 ha

Dafydd			
Pengam – Britannia, Britannia Ter	NCC	Pengam	0.2089 ha
Pengam – Vicarage, Old Vicarage Cl	NCC	Pengam	0.4185 ha
Penpedairheol – Cascade, off Ramson Cl	NCC	St Cattwg	1.0253 ha
Pontllanfraith – Gelligroes	NCC	Pontllanfraith	
Pontllanfraith – Hill View/ Penllwyn	NCC	Pontllanfraith	1.0355 ha
Pontllanfraith – Windyridge	NCC	Pontllanfraith	0.3530 ha
Pontlottyn – Brynglas	HoV	Pontlottyn	0.3633 ha
Rhymney – Pen y Dre, Glan y Nant	HoV	Moriah	0.7128 ha
Risca – Clyde Street, Pontymister	SCC	Risca West	0.2674 ha
Risca – Fernlea	SCC	Risca West	0.2038 ha
Risca – Hill Street, Pontymister	SCC	Risca West	0.1118 ha
Risca – Malvern Ter, Pontymister	SCC	Risca West	0.3013 ha
Risca – Ty Sign	SCC	Risca East	0.3255 ha
Senghenydd – Commercial Street	SCC	Aber Valley	0.3006 ha
Senghenydd – High St	SCC	Aber Valley	0.1230 ha
Senghenydd – Kingsley Pl	SCC	Aber Valley	
Tiryberth – William St, off Woodfield Ter	NCC	St Cattwg	0.2109 ha
Tiryberth – Horner St (William Street II)	NCC	St Cattwg	0.2962 ha
Trinant – Pentwyn	HoV	Crumlin	1.3906 ha
Tiryberth – off Cardiff Road	NCC	St Cattwg	1.7487 ha
Trethomas – Llanfabon Drive, off Newport Rd	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	1.5313 ha
Trethomas – Navigation Street	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	0.9152 ha
Trethomas – Newport Road	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	2.0089 ha
Trethomas – Lower Glyn Gwyn, Upper Glyn Gwyn St	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	
Trethomas – Upper Glyn Gwyn, Upper Glyn Gwyn St	SCC	Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	1.1615 ha
Ynysddu – High Street, Alexandra Rd	SCC	Ynysddu	0.7359 ha
Ystrad Mynach – Vicarage Lane	NCC	Ystrad Mynach	1.3289 ha
Ystrad Mynach – Tredomen	NCC	Ystrad Mynach	

SCHEDULE 2: Planning Obligations for Leisure Facilities in Local Development Plan

Housing Sites without planning consent (1st April 2007)

Leisure Obligations

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.01	Land to the South of Merthyr Road	Princetown	4.02	140	On-site provision of a fixed playground facility as per Council specification for a NEAP.	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play facilities of 14 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.02	Land East of Llechryd Bungalow	Llechryd	1.1	39	Contribution to improved recreation facilities at Bute Town Open Space.	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 15.19 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.06	Maerdy Crossing	Rhymney	2.4	57	Planning application, awaiting outcome. Leisure contributions negotiated - £800 per dwelling towards improved off-site Recreation facilities. Total £45,600	UDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 15.9 acres.

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.07	Former depot south of Pontlottyn Link Road	Pontlottyn	1.02	36	Off-site contribution required to upgrade play and recreation facilities at Pontlottyn Welfare Ground	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 7.8 acres
HG 1.09	Greensway	Abertysswg	0.82	28	Off-site contribution required to upgrade existing sports facilities at Abertysswg Recreation Grounds.	UDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 15 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.12	Land off Railway Terrace	Fochriw	4.2	147	Off-site contribution required to upgrade existing play and sports facilities within the village of Fochriw	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 10.8 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.14	Land fronting South View Terrace	New Tredegar	0.56	20	Off-site contribution required towards Phillipstown Playground	LDP Policy

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.15	Land adjacent to Abernant Road	Markham	2.3	82	Contribution to improved recreation facilities at King Georges Field, Markham and Sunny View Open Space, Argoed.	LDP Policy. Shortfall of place and recreation space of 9.31 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.16	Bedwelty Road	Aberbargoed	5.6	180	Planning application, awaiting outcome. Leisure contributions already negotiated - £50,000 towards improvement of play facilities & £200,000 for off-site recreation facilities	UDP Policy and shortfall of play space of 14 acres
HG 1.18	Aberbargoed and District Hospital	Aberbargoed	0.56	20	Contribution required to leisure and community leisure facilities off-site at Aberbargoed Recreation and Welfare Grounds.	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 14 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.19	Aberbargoed Plateau	Aberbargoed	11.8	413	Contributions for play facilities and off-site for the the upgrade of pitches	UDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 19.2 acres
HG 1.20	Bargoed Retail Plateau	Bargoed	2.7	2.8	Off-site contributions required for play facilities in the main Bargoed Park in lieu of an on-site facility.	
HG 1.22	Gilfach Fargoed (Phase 2)	Gilfach	1.5	53	Contribution to the upgrade of Gilfach Fargoed pitch provision	LDP Policy. Shortfall in formal pitch provision of 19.2 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.23	Bedwellty Comprehensive School	Aberbargoed	1.88	74	Retain pitch, provide changing facilities and an educational centre	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space in Pengam and Aberbargoed of 19 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.25	Navigation Colliery	Crumlin	4.2	145	Contribution to improve play and recreation facilities at Crumlin Park and Crumlin Rugby Ground.	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play space of 28.1 acres based on the NPFA Acre Standard
HG 1.26	Land off Brynhoward Terrace	Oakdale	2.2	77	Planning application, awaiting outcome. Negotiations currently underway to contribute £115,000 to off-site play and formal pitch provision in the catchment area. Developer has already allocated substantial open space as SINC	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play space of 20.5 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.28	Blackwood Ambulance Station	Blackwood	0.68	24	Contribution to upgrade play and sports facilities at the Showfield, Blackwood and open space at Cwm Gelli.	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play space of 34.6 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.30	Land east of Bryn Road	Cefn Fforest	0.68	24	Contribution required to the upgrade of play facilities at Cefn Fforest Welfare Ground.	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play space of 16.3 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.32	Land at Hawtin Park	Pontllanfraith	5.55	194		
HG 1.33	Oak Terrace	Fleur-de-Lys	0.69	21	Contribution required to upgrade existing play and recreation facilities at Trelyn Park, Fleur-de-Lys	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play space provision of 5.1 acres
HG 1.34	Tir y Berth	Hengoed	4.95	173	Contribution required to upgrade existing play, recreation and community leisure facilities at Tiryberth Welfare	UDP Policy. Shortfall in play space provision of 34.2 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.37	Land at New Road	Ystrad Mynach	1.16	18	Contribution required to upgrade play facilities at Ystrad Mynach Park	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play space of 13.5 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.40	Greenhill Primary School	Gelligaer	2.8	32	Contribution to play and recreation space at Greenhill Recreation Ground	Shortfall of playing space of 35 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.41	Land to the east of Handball Court	Nelson	3.3	90	Planning application, awaiting outcome. Contribution sought to enhance play and recreation facilities at Llwyn Yr Eos Recreation Ground and Wern Open Space.	UDP Policy L9/L10. Requirement to provide play facilities and existing recreation space within the catchment area. Shortfall of play space provision of 23.18 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.43	Land at Gellideg Heights	Maesycwmm er	3.9	137	On-site fixed play facility required plus contribution off-site to the improvement of formal pitches and changing rooms	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play space of 10.1 acres

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.45	Land west of Old Pant Road	Pantside	2.2	5.6	Planning application, awaiting outcome. Negotiations for on-site fixed play facility and improvements to off-site facilities	UDP Policy L9/L10. Shortfall in play space provision of 16.8 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.47	Land at Fields Park	Newbridge	2.3	80	Off-site contribution required to upgrade existing play and recreation facilities at Fields Park, Newbridge	UDP Policy L9/L10. Shortfall in play space provision of 16.8 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.51	Twyncarn House	Cwmcarn	0.39	26	Contribution to the upgrade of play facilities at Twyncarn	LDP Policy
HG 1.53	Land adjacent to Pen-y-Cwarel Road	Wyllie	1.6	56	Contribution to the upgrade of formal playground and youth facility at Wyllie.	Shortfall of play space of 32.6 acres
HG 1.57	Brooklands Road, Council Service Site	Pontymister	0.39	14	Contribution to off-site recreation improvements at Tredegar Park, Risca.	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space provision of 34.7 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.58	Eastern part of land adjacent to River Ebbw	Risca	1.38	48	Contribution to play and Recreation Space improvements at Tredegar Park, Pontymister Welfare Ground and Ty Isaf Recreation Ground	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space combined in Risca East and Risca West of 43.7 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.59	Sufflex Factory	Pontymister	1.82	88	Planning application, awaiting outcome. Off-site contribution of £95,000 sought for formal play facility and improvement to pitches	UDP Policy. Shortfall in play space provision of 43 acres (Risca East and Risca West)
HG 1.64	Bedwas Colliery	Bedwas	36.2 2	630	On-site pitch/changing, playground and other leisure facilities commensurate within the size of development	LDP Policy. Facilities required under existing planning policy plus there is an existing shortfall of play space of 46.7 acres
HG 1.65	St James Primary School	Caerphilly	29	49	Contribution to improved play and recreation space at The Twyn pitches, St	Shortfall of playing space of 35 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
					James	
HG 1.66	Land at Venosa Trading Estate	Caerphilly	4.55	130	Planning application, awaiting outcome. Off-site contribution required to improve recreation facilities at Virginia Park	UDP Policy. Shortfall of play space provision of 34.7 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.68	St Ilans Comprehensive	Caerphilly	12.7	200	On-site pitch provision	UDP Policy
HG 1.72	Caerphilly Miners Hospital	Caerphilly	3.3	114	Contributions to off-site play and recreation facilities commensurate with the size of development, at St Martin's School, Caerphilly.	LDP Policy. Shortfall of play space of 35.82 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.74	Hendre Infants School	Caerphilly	0.46	16	Contribution to play and recreation space at Aneurin Park, Penyrheol	
HG 1.75	Cwm Ifor Primary School	Penyrheol	2.8	46	Contribution to play and recreation space at Aneurin Park, Penyrheol	Shortfall of playing space in Penyrheol of 58 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.76	Land east of Coedcae Road	Abertridwr	0.78	27	Leisure contributions to upgrade play and recreation space off-site at the adjoining Abertridwr Park.	
HG 1.77	Windsor Colliery	Abertridwr	5.5	193	On-site pitch required	LDP Policy. To address shortfall in pitch provision. Shortfall is 28.4 acres

Housing Sites with planning consent (1st April 2007)

Leisure Obligations

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG	Old Barrell Store	Rhymney	0.63	15	Site has planning	

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
1.03					consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.04	Lower Hill Street	Rhymney	0.3	10	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.05	Maerdy Garage adj to Maerdy House	Rhymney	0.79	16	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.08	Heol Evan Wynne	Pontlottyn	1.13	10	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.10	Land south west of Carn Y Tyla Terrace	Abertysswg	7.2	133	£106,400. Agreed under policies L9/L10 for off-site improvements to local pitches/changing accommodation	Abertysswg and Pontlottyn have a joint shortfall in pitch provision of 23.7 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.11	Land adjacent to Brynglas	Pontlottyn	1.2	56	£44,800. Agreed contribution to off-site recreation	A shortfall of pitch and changing accommodation

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
					improvements	
HG 1.13	Land at Graig Rhymney	New Tredegar	2.61	30	£36,000. Agreed in three equal payments of £12,000. S106 completed. Improvements to School Street Playground	Policy L9 UDP. Play facilities. These have been agreed off-site instead of on-site.
HG 1.17	Land immediately adjacent to Gelynos Avenue	Argoed	0.56	20	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.21	Former YGG Cwm Rhymni	Bargoed	0.62	28	Social Housing Site. Leisure contributions relinquished.	
HG 1.24	Land within curtilage of The Pentwyn Inn	Trinant	0.4	13	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.27	Allotment Garden, Llwyn on Lane	Oakdale	1.4	49	Agreed contribution of £30,000 towards improving play facilities off-site at Oakdale Recreation Ground and a	Replacement Allotment Policy L1 (UDP). Contribution to off-site play in lieu of on-site

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
					replacement Allotment (UPD Policy L1)	
HG 1.29	Pencoed Avenue	Cefn Fforest	1.87	65	Playground and pitch improvements in the process of being negotiated.	Cefn Fforest currently has a shortfall in recreation space of 16.36 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.31	Land south of Thorncombe Road	Blackwood	0.34	12	Site has outline planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions	
HG 1.35	Penallta Colliery	Ystrad Mynach	31.8	444	Site has planning consent. On site provision of playing pitch.	
HG 1.36	Penallta Yard	Ystrad Mynach	0.29	10	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions	LDP Policy. Shortfall of 13.5 acres of playing space based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard.
HG 1.39	Land off Valley View	Hengoed	1.46	31	Site has planning consent for phase 1 (11 dwellings). Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.42	Former Cattle Market Site	Nelson	0.62	12	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.42	Land at Ty Pwll	Pantside	0.64	16	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.44	The Stores, Albertina Road	Newbridge	0.41	10	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.46	Pennar Lane	Newbridge	4.00	63	Site has planning consent. On site children's play facility and off-site contribution to playing pitch secured.	
HG 1.47	Chris Bowen Garage	Newbridge	0.08	15	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.48	Land west of the A467 and Afon Ebbw	Abercarn	8.7	269	Site has planning consent. Contribution towards playing fields to the north of the site.	
HG 1.50	Land at Hillary Rise	Pontywaun	1.10	20	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.54	Land north east of Llanarth Street	Wattsville	2.16	30	Site has planning consent. Off-site contribution secured.	
HG 1.55	Land at Station Approach, Risca.	Risca	0.51	10	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.56	Rom River	Risca	1.9	38	Site has planning consent. Off-site contribution secured.	
HG 1.60	Tyn y Waun Farm	Machen	0.77	10	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions	LDP Policy. Shortfall of playing space in Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen of 46.7 acres based on NPFA

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
						6 Acre Standard
HG 1.61	Waterloo Works	Waterloo	17	545	On-site of provision of school, formal pitch and play facilities	LDP Policy. Size of development justifies the proposals under existing UDP
HG 1.62	Former Petrol Filing Station, Newport Road	Trethomas	0.19	10	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.63	The Grove	Trethomas	0.46	13	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions	
HG 1.67	Land at Pontypandy Industrial Estate	Caerphilly	7.58	199	£100,000 agreed for off-site playing pitch provision	UDP Policy. Shortfall of play space provision of 34.7 acres based on the NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.69	Cardiff Road/Pentrebane St	Caerphilly	1.27	130	Contribution relinquished as onsite provision impractical as mixed use sites with apartments. Provision of library agreed instead.	

Ref	Site Name	Settlement	Size (Ha)	Capacity	Leisure Contribution	Reasoned justification
HG 1.70	Land between Van Road/Maes Glas, and the Railway	Caerphilly	1.77	62	Contribution to upgrading play facilities at Bartlett Street.	LDP Policy. Shortfall in play and recreation space in St Martins of 35.8 acres based on NPFA 6 Acre Standard
HG 1.71	Gas Works Site, Mill Road	Caerphilly	2.2	55	Contribution agreed to off-site play facilities in Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly £40,000	
HG 1.73	Castlegate	Caerphilly	24.1	259	Site has planning consent. On site provision of playing pitch.	
HG 1.78	Land below Coronation Terrace	Senghenydd	0.76	12	Site has planning consent. Site under UDP threshold for leisure contributions.	
HG 1.79	Jeremy Oils	Llanbradach	1.80	45	Site has planning consent. Off-site contribution secured.	

Appendix 1: Relevant Planning Policy and Guidance

DOCUMENT	RELEVANT PARAGRAPH	ISSUES / COMMENTS
Planning Policy Wales (2002).	2.3.2	Planning policies and proposals should promote access to leisure and sports facilities and open and green space.
	10.1.2	Wherever possible retail provision should be located in proximity to other facilities for leisure and employment. Town, district, local and village centres are the best locations for such provision at an appropriate scale.
	10.2.11	Local planning authorities should adopt a sequential approach to selecting sites where a need is identified for such new development.
	10.3.13	Amusement centres are most appropriately sited in secondary shopping areas or in areas of mixed commercial development. They are unlikely to be acceptable in primary shopping areas, close to housing, schools, places of worship, hospitals and hotels, nor in conservation areas or areas of historic special architectural, historic, natural beauty.
	11.1.7	Local Planning Authorities should provide the framework for well located, good quality tourism, sport, recreation and leisure facilities. The areas and facilities provided in both rural and urban areas should be sensitive to the needs of users, attractive, well designed, well maintained, protected from crime and vandalism, safe and accessible by people whose mobility is restricted and by a variety of sustainable means of travel.
Planning Policy Wales (2002).	11.1.7	Long distance routes, rights of way, disused railways and waterways are important tourist and recreation facilities in their own right and as a means of linking other attractions.
	11.1.8	Where appropriate, sports and leisure uses should be located on previously

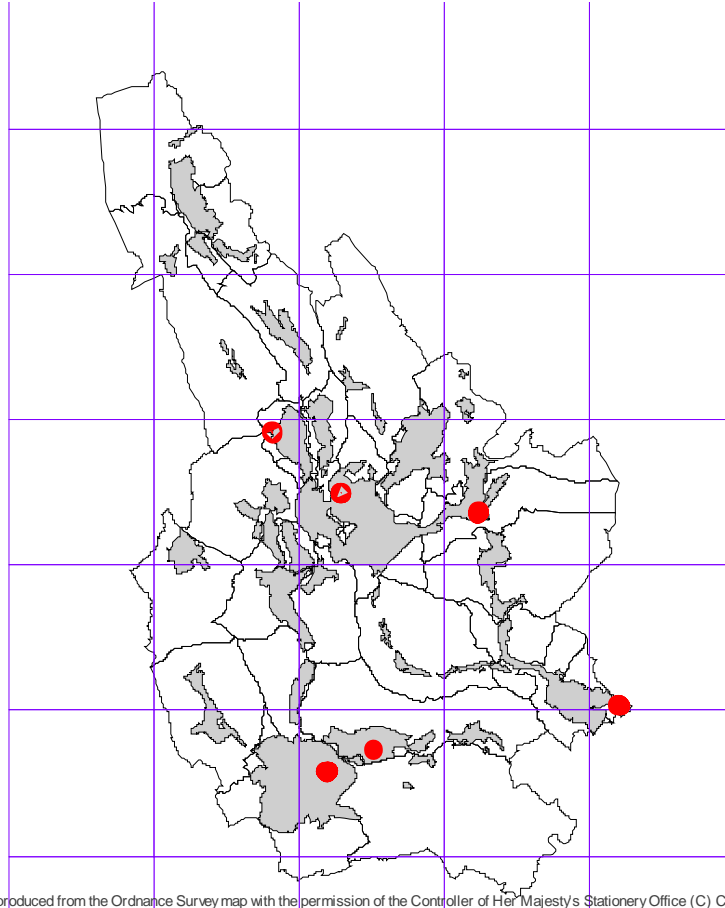
		used land. The sensitive refurbishment and re-use of historic buildings presents particular opportunities for tourism and leisure facilities.
	11.1.9	Ensure adequate land is allocated for formal and informal sport and recreation, taking account current provision and deficiencies and the impact on location.
	11.1.10	Protect formal and informal open spaces, including parks, with significant recreational or amenity value.
	11.1.10	Protect all playing fields (public & private) except where: facilities are best retained/enhanced by part redevelopment of the site; alternative/equivalent provision is made available; there is an excess of provision.
	11.1.12	Seek S106s for the maintenance of safe and attractive facilities and open space to meet the needs of new communities. Such agreements may also be used to ensure that standards of provision set out in the LDP are met.
	11.1.13	Protect and enhance rights of way, cycle networks, bridleways, inland waterways & disused railways for informal recreation.
	11.2.3	Locate facilities which may generate high levels of travel demand in or close to town centres where possible.
	11.2.3	Set out policies to avoid or resolve conflict between different pursuits.

DOCUMENT	RELEVANT PARAGRAPH	ISSUES / COMMENTS
The Wales Spatial Plan (2004).	'Promoting a sustainable economy'.	The Leisure sector has the potential to contribute to a much greater extent to the area's economy. This includes heritage, culture, events and countryside based activities and destinations.

DOCUMENT	RELEVANT PARAGRAPH	ISSUES / CONCERNS
TAN16	5 Standards of Provision	Formulate local standards for formal sports facilities and informal playing space for which material prepared by the NPFA may be helpful.
	9 The Provision of Sites and Facilities	Protect undeveloped land which has recreational or amenity value if it can be demonstrated that there is (or would be) a deficiency in accessible public open space in the area.
	10 The Provision of Sites and Facilities	Given their recreational and amenity value the possible disposal of school playing fields should be investigated to establish that the sites will not be required in the longer term for school or community use.
	12 The Provision of Sites and Facilities	It is important that that sport / recreation venues are readily accessible by a variety of means of transport and that their economic and other benefits are carefully considered in relation to access, amenity and environmental considerations.
	13 Sports and Noise	Where sports activities generate noise, local planning authorities should identify areas where these can be carried on compatibly with other uses. Criteria for the selection of areas for regular use must include the potential impact of the activity on the site or area, on an adjacent land uses and nearby residents.
	14 Sports and Floodlighting	Where there are concerns about the impact of floodlit sports pitches on amenity and the environment, any permission granted may need to be subject to conditions, for example limiting the hours during which the lights may be switched on, or requiring the installation of some sort of shielding.

Appendix 2: Swimming Pool provision in Caerphilly County Borough

Swimming Pool provision by 5km grid squares



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