

SECTION 5

Recreation and Leisure

5.0. RECREATION AND LEISURE

5.1. INTRODUCTION

5.1.1. Generally, the provision of recreational facilities is good in the Local Plan area however, a number of deficiencies were identified in the Report of Survey. Notable deficiencies include a shortage of play areas in the older areas of the town, absence of any public outdoor athletic facilities and lack of squash courts. On top of these considerations, is the role played by Ross-on-Wye as the major tourist centre of the Lower Wye Valley. The riverside open space is a particularly valuable asset and although improvements have been made over the years, every effort should be made to further improve its attractiveness.

5.2. POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

Policy RL 1 - "The future provision of open space in the Local Plan Area should conform with the following standards:-

a) Overall provision - 7 acres (2.8 hectares) per 1,000 population

b) Individual provision:-

Playing Fields 2.5 acres (1.0 hectare) per 1,000 people

Parkland and 4.0 acres (1.6 hectares) per 1,000 Amenity Open Space.. people

Childrens Play Space ... 0.5 acre (0.2 hectare) per 1,000 people

(Under 11) to be within 1/4 mile of home."

5.2.1. Although, provision of open space is generally good, there is a need to ensure that adequate provision is made in the event of any further development in accordance with the above policy on a pro-rata basis.

5.2.2. There is a deficiency of play areas and amenity areas in the older districts of the town and it is desirable that as a long term objective facilities should be provided in these areas. It is possible that an opportunity for such a proposal might occur if the proposed development of the Overross area proceeds.

Proposal RL 2 - "ALLOCATE LAND FOR ADDITIONAL PLAY/AMENITY AREAS AT MERRIVALE LANE AND OLD GLOUCESTER ROAD AND IN THE OVERROSS AREA OF THE TOWN"

Policy RL 3 - "Development for other purposes of existing open spaces or playing fields will generally be resisted unless there is an established case for some other community facility and an alternative acceptable allocation can be provided."

5.2.3. This policy is necessary in order to protect the overall provision of existing open space in the Local Plan area. If a case can be established for some other important community need on a particular open space and providing there is no serious damage to the environment together with an alternative allocation, then the proposal will be considered on its merits.

5.2.4. The provision of outdoor athletic facilities in the area is poor and it has been suggested that dual use of improved outdoor facilities at John Kyrle High School might ameliorate the problem but this could equally be achieved at any other school if facilities exist or can be provided. Policy R29 of the Draft Structure Plan Review encourages such action.

Policy RL 4 - "The District Council will encourage the provision of outdoor athletic facilities and, in conjunction with the County Education Authority and other relevant bodies investigate the feasibility of increasing the joint use of school facilities, in particular, outdoor athletics."

5.2.5. At present there are no squash facilities in the Local Plan Area, which is surprising in view of the fast growing popularity of this sport throughout the country. The Ross-on-Wye Sports Council have drawn attention to the need for such provision and have suggested that a site adjoining the Swimming Pool might be appropriate. Space is available in this location or alternatively the under-used land to the rear of Kyrle Street and Brookend Street Car Park would be suitable providing the requisite funding or sponsoring can be obtained.

Policy RL 5 - "The District Council will encourage the provision of Squash Courts."

Policy RL 6 - "Investigations will be made to ascertain if an appropriate and acceptable location can be found for a public canoe launching area."

5.2.6. Canoeing on the Wye is growing in popularity by both private and commercial interests and whilst the District Council have previously endeavoured to provide an adequate canoe launching area without success to date, it is still desirable to provide such a facility.

Policy RL 7 - "Proposals for motor boating on the River Wye and other undesirable commercial activities on or adjacent to the river will be resisted."

5.2.7. This policy will serve to protect the attractive environmental qualities of the riverside which is within the designated 'Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. It will also serve to protect the established and appropriate interests of angling, rowing, and canoeing.

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* Policies are indicated in *italics* and underlined whilst PROPOSALS
* are shown in BLOCK CAPITALS and are again underlined.
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