

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent



Leisure Background Paper

Papur Cefndirol Hamdden

Deposit Local Development Plan
Cynllun Adeneuo Datblygu Lleol

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aim of this Paper

- 1.1 To set out the background and evidence for how objectives, allocations and policies have been identified and developed.

Overview of how this Paper fits into Plan preparation

- 1.2 This paper will provide information for Officers and Members of the Authority, stakeholders, members of the public and the Inspector to help explain the approach taken on Leisure.

Context

- 1.3 The provision of a range of leisure facilities accessible to as many people as possible is essential to improve our quality of life. By encouraging healthier lifestyles, Blaenau Gwent Council hopes to improve the health and well being of people in the authority, including the elderly, disabled people, and children and young people. It aims to address health inequalities by encouraging people to adopt healthier lifestyles and by ensuring good access to local services. The natural and built environment of Wales is a valuable resource for sport and recreational activities and needs to be managed in an effective way to ensure that it can be used sustainably.
- 1.4 This Background Paper is a supporting document of the Local Development Plan. Its sets out:
 2. **National Policy Context** for leisure;
 3. **Regional Policy Context** for leisure;
 4. **Local Policy Context** for leisure;
 5. **Current and Future Provision** of leisure;
 6. **Key Issues in Blaenau Gwent**, which relate specifically to leisure;
 7. **Preferred Strategy**, policy in respect of leisure, representations to the Strategy and proposed policy responses; and
 8. **Draft LDP Policy**, which provides the proposed planning policy context for leisure in Blaenau Gwent.

2.0 NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

Wales Spatial Plan – People, Places, Futures (July 2008 Update)

- 2.1 The Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) provides a framework for the future spatial development of Wales and integrates the spatial aspects of national strategies, including social cohesion, economic health, transport and environment policy. The purpose of the update was to reflect new drivers for change, including One Wales and to give status to Area work undertaken by each region. The core themes are: Building Sustainable Communities; Promoting a Sustainable Economy; Valuing our Environment; Achieving Sustainable Accessibility; Respecting Distinctiveness and Working with our Neighbours.

- 2.2 The Wales Spatial Plan identifies that successful, thriving communities are formed where many social interactions take place in a high quality environment, with a good mix and balance of population with high aspirations to achieve. Health, well-being and quality of life are also identified as a key spatial dimension to assist in delivering prosperity and dynamism. One key challenge identified is to focus regeneration to enhance the natural and built environment and deliver sustainable communities and a high quality of life within a healthy local economy.
- 2.3 Blaenau Gwent along with neighbouring authorities; Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Torfaen, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Bridgend, Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan have been identified as part of the South East – Capital Zone Network.
- 2.4 The Vision for the area is:
'An innovative skilled area offering a high quality of life – international yet distinctively Welsh. It will compete internationally by increasing its global visibility through stronger links between the Valleys and the coast and with the UK and the rest of Europe, helping to spread prosperity within the area and benefiting other parts of Wales.'
- 2.5 In relation to leisure facilities, the Wales Spatial Plan identified the following as strategy requirements for the South East region: -
- Key valley settlements will have more affordable and attractive housing, a better range of local services and a variety of retail and leisure facilities
 - A wide range of mid and upper valleys towns need modern shopping, leisure, community and cultural facilities, more attractive and affordable housing, clean, vibrant town centres, accessible open countryside and employment opportunities
 - High quality natural and built environments, which everyone can enjoy through an emerging cycling and walking network, and spaces designed to enhance and create clean, safe environments are essential characteristics of these areas.
 - The Capital region accounts for a third of all tourism revenue to Wales. The Heads of the Valleys programme will support development of the economy of the mid and upper valleys, including the sustainable tourism and leisure sector, which has the potential to contribute to a much greater extent than is currently the case
 - Getting the best of both high quality urban living and close proximity to stunning countryside, making the most of the unique dispersed low-density, metropolitan development and green spaces in the Area
 - Identifying strategic wildlife areas to join up natural habitats, linking existing designated habitats where possible. This will enable people to enjoy and participate in the countryside and wildlife, whilst providing high quality environments within which species can develop.
 - Addressing river habitats, which are important for wildlife and biodiversity. This function needs to be combined with their role in protecting against flooding and in offering opportunities for leisure and tourism
 - Action to strengthen the environmental networks will enhance the quality of life, and support tourism and leisure. The development of wildlife areas, public rights

of way and cycle paths in the Heads of the Valleys area and the Valleys part of the Connections Corridor should be managed by all stakeholders in partnership as a Valleys Regional Park, building close associations with the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 4, 2011)

- 2.6 Assembly Government Leisure policy is embodied in chapter 11 of Planning Policy Wales (2011). Further guidance in relation to Leisure is contained in Technical Advice Note 16.
- 2.7 The Assembly Government's main planning objectives for leisure are to promote:
- A more sustainable pattern of development, 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 children and young people, the elderly and those with disabilities, has easy access to the natural environment and to good quality, well-designed facilities and open space; and
 - The provision of innovative, user-friendly, accessible facilities to make our urban areas, particularly town centres, more attractive places, where people will choose to live, to work and to visit.

Technical Advice Note 16 'Sport, Recreation and Open Space' (2009)

- 2.8 Technical Advice Note 16: 'Sport, Recreation and Open Space' (2009) (TAN 16) supplements Planning Policy Wales (2002/10). TAN 16 provides guidance on sport, recreation and open space and gives a clear outlines the need for clear, effective and well-implemented planning policies for sport, recreation and open space, as they contribute to economic development, community regeneration and social inclusion. They may also contribute to the conservation of Wales' natural assets and to the health, well-being and quality of life of individuals and communities. PPW recommends that an Open Space Assessment is undertaken and policies should be founded on robust evidence derived from the assessment. PPW does not prescribe particular standards of provision. Instead, these should be based on the results of the Open Space Assessment process.

Climbing Higher (2005)

- 2.9 Climbing Higher is the Welsh Assembly Government's long-term strategy for physical activity and sport, setting out the strategic direction in Wales for the next twenty years. The essence of the strategy is to maximise the contribution that physical activity and sport can make to well being in Wales across many dimensions - health, economy, culture, society, environment and Wales on the world stage. The document states that although it is the responsibility of Government to help create an environment that supports healthy living, it is also the responsibility of individuals to make lifestyle choices that improve their well-being.
- 2.10 Climbing Higher aims to set the direction so that physical activity and sport will be at the heart of Welsh life and at the heart of Government policy, complementing other

actions and strategies within integrated policy priorities. Because physical activity and sport can contribute across all these dimensions the strategy has multiple targets under the following complimentary aims:

- **Health:** To increase physical activity across all age, gender and social groups
- **Economy:** To maximize the economic impact of sport and physical activity
- **Culture:** To enrich and develop our cultural and social life
- **Society:** To use sport and physical activity to develop and enhance vibrant communities
- **Environment:** To realise the synergy between sport and the natural environment for the people of Wales
- **World Stage:** To enable Wales to succeed systematically at the highest international level in priority sports

2.11 *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.

2.12 As Wales' sport development and advocacy agency, Sport Wales has a leading role in contributing to achieving the Climbing Higher targets. The creation of Local Authority Partnership Agreements (LAPAs) between Sport Wales and each of the 22 authorities in Wales is the start of a new approach to partnership working which will help increase physical activity and deliver Climbing Higher targets.

Climbing Higher: Creating an Active Wales A 5-Year Strategic Action Plan 2009

2.12 'Creating an Active Wales' builds on Climbing Higher and focuses on increasing levels of physical activity so as to deliver improvements in health and well-being. One of its strategic aims is entitled 'Active Environments' - this relates to developing a physical environment that makes it easier for people to choose to be more physically active.

2.13 Blaenau Gwent's natural environment offers many opportunities for leisure activities, including walking and cycling. This will be encouraged by tourism and leisure allocations in the Local Development Plan. Policies will be contained in the Local Development Plan, which will increase availability and access (for example, by creating new cycle paths) to high quality local green spaces such as parks.

Environment Strategy for Wales 2006

- 2.14 The strategy outlines how we must deliver high quality places for people to live. This means a high quality built environment and opportunities to access green space areas for recreation and biodiversity, where environmental nuisances are minimised.
- 2.15 The strategy will focus on ensuring that the land use planning system maximises economic, social and environmental benefits when considering developments and encourages the retention or provision of green spaces in urban areas.
- 2.16 It also aims to increase the number of people walking and cycling, and using the natural environment for physical activity and enjoyment. This will provide health, well-being and economic benefits, as well as encouraging people to value their environment.

3.0 REGIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

“Turning Heads...” – A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020 (June 2006)

- 3.1 In June 2006, the Heads of the Valley Strategy was launched to help tackle the issues faced by the Heads of the Valleys communities. The Heads of the Valleys Programme area covers the whole of Blaenau Gwent.
- 3.2 The objectives of the programme reflect those of the Wales Spatial Plan in seeking to ensure:
- An attractive and well used natural, historic and built environment;
 - A vibrant economic landscape offering new opportunities;
 - A well educated, skilled and healthier population;
 - An appealing and coherent tourism and leisure experience, and
 - Public confidence in a shared bright future.
- 3.3 The Strategy identifies the accessible countryside and rich historic environment as an opportunity to capitalise upon the following strategic programmes:
- 3.4 **SP3: Well-Used and Easily Accessed Amenities**, sets out the objective of targeting inward investment towards improving the quality and maintenance of public spaces and amenities, including recycling facilities. This will include cleaner river corridors, and accessible and pleasant paths and cycle routes. Consideration will be given to finding new uses for the vast network of underused tramways, canal paths and old railway lines.
- 3.5 **SP7: Improving Health Through Prevention**, also sets out the aim to invest in leisure facilities and access to the countryside and capitalising on this through encouraging people to participate in physical activity in order to improve health.
- 3.6 **SP9: Linked Local and Regional Attractions and Facilities**, is a programme to develop linked and integrated local regional attractions and facilities – which

although aimed at creating a stronger tourism industry in the area, it will also provide for local residents.

4.0 LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 As a corporate document, the Local Development Plan must have regard to other documents produced by the Council. The relevant documentation in terms of leisure is set out below.

Making a Difference – A Community Strategy for Blaenau Gwent 2010-2030

4.2 The Community Strategy builds on the work undertaken by the Community Plan and takes forward the vision of making: Blaenau Gwent a better place to live, work and visit. The Community Strategy has 7 key themes and each theme has its own vision.

 **Lively and Accessible Communities**
Creating communities that people enjoy and want to live in

 **Thriving Communities**
Offering the opportunities, support and resources in our communities for people to thrive

 **Fair and Safe Communities**
Making people feel safer and included in our communities

 **Learning Communities**
Giving people the skills to succeed

 **Healthy Communities**
Helping people to be healthy and get the right care and support when they need it

 **Green & Sustainable Communities**
Improving our environment today for tomorrow

 **Leading Communities**
Working with, and for our communities

4.3 Two of the above seven themes relate to leisure: 'The first, 'Lively and Accessible Communities' refers to encouraging walking and cycling and this will be supported through completion of the cycle network. The second, 'Healthy Communities' includes an aim of improving people physical and mental health and well-being – this will be partly achieved by creating the right social and physical environment for people to be healthy.

Sport and Active Living Strategy (2007)

4.4 The overarching purpose of this strategy is to contribute to the health and well-being of the local population through increased regular participation in sport and other forms of physical activity.

4.5 The strategy identifies the following six thematic approaches, which endorse this aim, and considers the relationship between them:

- Healthier lifestyles
- Active throughout life
- Community Sports Development
- Partnerships and People
- Sport and active living in the natural and built environment
- Measurement and evidence

Draft Healthier Future 3, Blaenau Gwent Health, Social Care and Well-Being Strategy (2011-2014)

- 4.6 Healthier Future 3 is the third Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy for Blaenau Gwent, developed in partnership between the Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and its partners. The Strategy sets out a continued commitment working together to improve the health, social care and well-being of people living and working in Blaenau Gwent.
- 4.5 This strategy recognises that the LDP is crucial for ensuring the right facilities and environments are available and developed in Blaenau Gwent to support a range of activities that improve health and well-being for the local population, for example, leisure facilities. It refers to the growing appreciation of the mental and physical health benefits of the natural environment and that at present we have a rich resource locally, which should be preserved.

Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 – Working to Address Issues of Child Poverty

- 4.6 The draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011/14 – Working to Address Issues of Child Poverty is the second Children and Young People's Plan and the first Child Poverty Plan for Blaenau Gwent. The overarching aim of the plan is to work towards reducing child poverty and mitigating its effects. It is one of four plans that the Council has to produce and is a 3 year plan, which sets out how all agencies in Blaenau Gwent working with children and young people will co-operate to achieve common goals, to improve outcomes for children and young people. The plan articulates the Partnership's vision, and details the actions it will take, in order to bring about changes in young people's lives.
- 4.7 The priorities of the Plan are aligned to the Welsh Assembly Government's 7 core aims for children and young people. The core aim relating to leisure is that all children have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities (Core Aim 4). Under this core aim, one of the priorities is to promote and develop opportunities for children's play by raising awareness of the nature and importance of children's play as well as further developing children's play facilities and play spaces.

Blaenau Gwent Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan (Draft first version) December 2010

- 4.8 The Regeneration Strategy identifies an overarching aim and six principles along with the proposals to translate them into action. The overarching aim is to 'Share

Benefits of Regeneration Widely'. This will be achieved by ensuring that all those in Blaenau Gwent share the benefits of regeneration. The six principles are:

- Principle 1: Diversify the economy and develop manufacturing;
- Principle 2: Boost business support and enterprise;
- Principle 3: Promote Learning and modern skills;
- Principle 4: Focus investment in key communities;
- Principle 5: Deliver 'The Works' as a National flagship; and
- Principle 6: Develop the transport infrastructure.

- 4.9 Under principle 1 tourism and leisure has been identified as one of the priority sectors where Blaenau Gwent can diversify the local economy. The plans for a theatre and leisure centre at the Works will provide a platform for this. The sector can provide high quality cultural and leisure jobs.
- 4.10 One of the programmes under Principle 6 refers to public transport, walking and cycling. The intention is to maximise the use of walking and cycling to the Works particularly from the town centre and adjacent areas of Ebbw Vale.

Review of Sport and Recreation Services (July 2009)

- 4.11 Consultants looked at opportunities for rationalisation, refurbishment, development and investment in leisure facilities. The report concluded that:
- There does not appear to be the justification to rationalise any of the core sports facilities and swimming pools at this stage as each of the facilities serves the needs of a specific community
 - There is a need to deliver a replacement for Ebbw Vale Sports Centre
 - There is a need to decide on the future provision of indoor bowls in the area

Blaenau Gwent Play Strategy 2008

- 4.12 This strategy has been developed in recognition of the importance of play in the lives of children and young people in Blaenau Gwent.
- 4.13 The Council is responsible for 60 static play areas, 12 multi use game areas and 10 wheeled sports areas. The strategy refers to the growing trend towards creating more naturalistic play environments with greater use of non-prescriptive play features such as logs, boulders, slopes, sand and water.
- 4.14 The Play Strategy objectives are as follows:
- Encouraging More Play provision
 - Play in Schools
 - Play in the Community
 - A Playwork Profession
 - Managing Risk And Parental Concerns
 - Play Across the Council

5.0 CURRENT AND FUTURE LEISURE PROVISION

- 5.1 The following section seeks to identify the current leisure provision within Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the future requirements for such provision and the proposed locations and allocations that will be included within the Local Development Plan.

INTRODUCTION

- 5.2 Open space provides a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits and can make an important contribution to people's quality of life by providing opportunities for recreation, physical activity and healthy living. Open spaces are vital in the fight against climate change by providing a sink for carbon emissions as well as serving a biodiversity and sustainable drainage function. The role and importance of the natural environment on health cannot be overestimated and in Blaenau Gwent there is much countryside where physical activity and recreation can take place leading to an improvement in the health and well-being of people. The surrounding countryside offers opportunities in terms of activity tourism, which is a sector of the tourism industry that aims to attract visitors by developing activity product such as cycling, walking, riding, watersports, adventure and fishing. Policy TM1 includes a number of sites, which have been allocated for activity tourism. The natural environment is not restricted to the countryside alone as urban greenspace is equally as important, for example, by providing opportunities for physical activity, play and leisure. The linking together of individual sites brings about considerable added value to them. Policy DM16 supports the protection and enhancement of such sites, which form part of the Green Infrastructure. As open space is of paramount importance Policies DM 13, 14 and 16 will serve to ensure that it is provided, enhanced and protected from loss.
- 5.3 In light of national policy guidance (Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 16) an Open Space assessment of Blaenau Gwent was undertaken as there was no up-to-date comprehensive audit of open space to meet PPW/TAN 16 objectives. The Open Space assessment comprised an assessment of Natural Green Space by consultants (see Heads of Valleys Greenspace Provision (Exegesis 2007) and an in-house desktop survey for other types of open space. Details of both assessments follow below.

Categories of open space

- 5.4 WAG has provided the following typology in TAN 16, which should be taken into account by local planning authorities when assessing existing need and provision, and when determining future requirements for open space and recreational facilities.
- public parks and gardens
 - natural and semi-natural greenspaces
 - green corridors
 - outdoor sports facilities
 - amenity greenspace
 - provision for children and young people

- allotments, community gardens, and city (urban) farms
- cemeteries and churchyards;
- accessible areas of countryside in the urban fringe
- civic spaces
- water

NATURAL GREEN SPACE PROVISION

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

- 5.5 Greenspaces are publicly accessible open spaces that have a 'predominantly natural' character. The benefits of such places are explored in the 'Greenspace Toolkit', launched by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) in May 2006. The Toolkit not only outlines the environmental and wider social benefits that accrue from Greenspace, but also defines provision standards (see Table 1) and proposes ways in which these standards might be measured.

Table 1 - Natural Greenspace standards

No person should live more than 400m 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

- 5.6 A typology of spaces is also contained in the Green Space Toolkit and 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)

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

- 5.7 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council commissioned consultants (Exegesis) to undertake an Accessible Natural Green Space Assessment in conjunction with four other local authorities. The Natural Green Space Assessment was able to calculate accessibility to green space for areas along most of Blaenau Gwent 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. The study was able to allocate a pass or fail to every physical census data area in Blaenau Gwent on each of the Greenspace standards. Further information including methodology used and results of the assessment are contained in the Heads of the Valleys Greenspace Provision Report (September 2007).
- 5.8 Tables 2 and 3 show that across the County Borough almost two thirds (65%) of the population lived within the minimum distance criteria to any area of green space, using the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network.

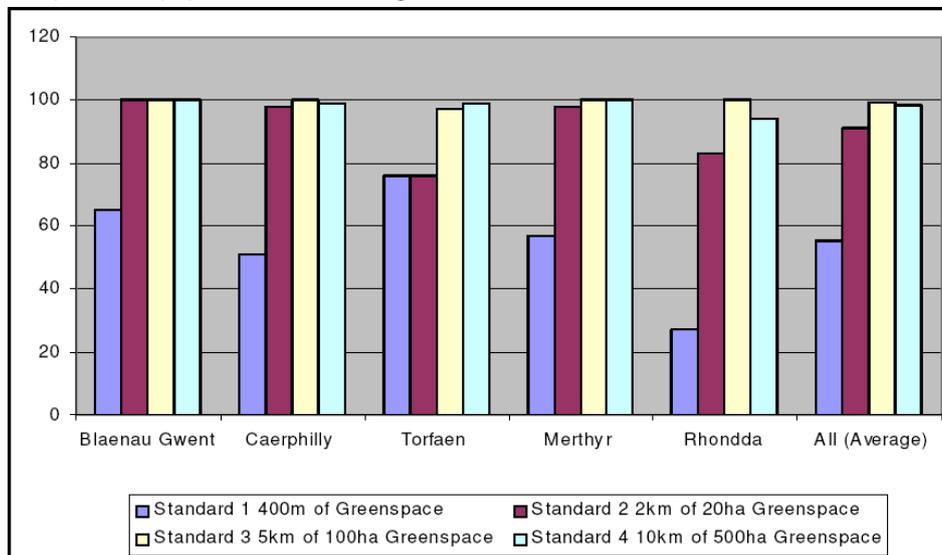
Table - 2: Percentage of population in Blaenau Gwent meeting CCW 'Green Toolkit' criteria

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
65%	100%	100%	100%

- 5.9 Blaenau Gwent fares much better (by achieving 100%) against the criteria for longer distances and larger spaces as can be seen in Tables 2 and 3. This reflects the County Borough's geography, which largely consists of a number of linear settlements along the Sirhowy and Ebbw Valleys, surrounded by countryside extending up the valley sides.

Table 3 - Green space provision in 5 Heads of the Valleys local authorities meeting CCW 'Green Toolkit' criteria

Proportion of population (%) meeting standards



5.10 Policy SP9 makes reference to increasing the proportion of people in Blaenau Gwent who live within 400m of their nearest green space from 65% to 80%. This will be achieved by creating new open space, enhancing access to existing natural green space, managing existing green space for biodiversity, and removing barriers that prevent current access to natural green space. Blaenau Gwent's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2009-2014) has been produced to meet the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and is the cornerstone of the future management, maintenance and improvement of the local rights of way network

OPEN SPACE

5.11 An in-house open space assessment was carried out which assessed the level of provision of various types of open space against standards (see Tables 4 and 5) and this differed from the Exegesis study, which focused on accessibility to natural greenspace.

Categories of open space assessed

5.12 It has not been possible to assess some of the categories of open space, for example, cemeteries, as there are no established standards for them. However, an assessment has been made, using the standards in Tables 4 and 5, of the existing provision within the following categories:

- **Outdoor sport** (playing fields, bowls and tennis)
- **Formal playing space** (play areas, skateparks, MUGAs)
- **Informal playing space** (e.g. grassed area maybe with a goal post)
- **Major amenity space** (parks)
- **Allotments**

Formal/Informal Play Space

- 5.13 The Assembly Government recognises the critical importance of play for the development of children's physical, social, mental emotional and creative skills. It is committed to ensuring that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments in which to play freely and recognises that play is integral to the health and well-being of children.
- 5.14 Open space provides a wealth of opportunities for outdoor play, and it helps children and young people to stay healthy and tackles problems of obesity by providing opportunities for exercise and fresh air. Policies in the Plan will protect existing open space and promote the provision of new open space where appropriate.
- 5.15 Fixed equipment play areas have been traditionally provided for children but there is now the trend towards creating more naturalistic play environments, with greater use of non-prescriptive play features such as logs, boulders, slopes, ditches and planting, along with sand and water. Although no sites have been allocated for this type of play in the LDP, appropriate sites are currently being sought in the area following successful funding applications. However, land has been allocated in Policy L1 for informal play space at Chartist Way, Tredegar.

Standards of Provision

- 5.16 PPW does not prescribe particular standards of provision for open space but states that these should be set by local authorities, based on the results of the Open Space Assessment process.
- 5.17 The Council has previously adopted the National Playing Fields Association Six Acre Standard except in respect of children's play areas where the adopted standard is to provide 1 play area per 250 children. The NPFA standard is a minimum standard for outdoor playing space of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) for 1000 people, comprising 1.6 hectares (4 acres) for outdoor sport and 0.8 hectares (2 acres) for children's play.
- 5.18 The Six Acre Standard publication has traditionally provided the leading guidance on all issues relating to the provision of outdoor sport and play but has now been reissued under the new name '*Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play*'. This publication contains Fields In Trust (FIT) Standards for Play Spaces and Outdoor Sport and these standards (see Table 4) when aggregated equals the NPFA's standards headline figure of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 people. Blaenau Gwent has used the FIT standards in assessing the types of open space included in Table 4.
- 5.19 FIT standards only apply to outdoor sport and play areas and Table 5 shows other standards which were used in assessing major amenity space and allotments.

Table 4 – FIT standards

Type of open space	Hectares per 1,000 projected population
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	1.15 hectares
Outdoor sport (other outdoor sports such as bowls or tennis)	0.45 hectares
Formal playing space	0.25 hectares
Informal playing space	0.55 hectares

Accessibility standards

FIT stipulates the following benchmark standards in terms of accessibility:

- Playing pitches should be available within 1.2 kilometres of all dwellings in major residential areas
- The accessibility benchmark standard for children’s formal equipped play areas identified by FIT is a straight-line distance of 240 metres.

Table 5 - Other standards

Type of open space	Hectares per 1,000 projected population
Major amenity space	0.40 hectares
Allotments	0.125 hectares

Calculating Blaenau Gwent Standard

5.20 In assessing compliance with the standards for open space in Blaenau Gwent, identified in Tables 4 and 5, statistics have been collated on a ward basis. The total areas of existing provision 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 relevant standards for the types of open space assessed.

5.21 It should be noted that this exercise has been carried out purely on a ward basis, which does not necessarily take into account the natural catchment areas for facilities as the population will use their nearest facility regardless of ward boundaries.

5.22 In the case of all-weather provision the area of the playing pitch has been doubled for recording/assessment purposes (this is supported by FIT and reflects the greater contribution that those sites can make). According to PPW a sports pitch is currently defined as a playing field, larger than 0.4 hectares in size that has been marked for team games in the last five years. Consequently no sports pitches have been included in the assessment if they fail to meet that criterion.

Results of Open Space Assessment

5.23 The in-house open space assessment compared actual provision of each type of open space with a target provision required by the Council standard identified

previously in Tables 4 and 5. The following table provides a summary of the results of the assessment.

Table 6 Results of Open Space Assessment
Summary of adequacy of Open Space

Ward	Outdoor sport (ha) Playing fields	Outdoor sport (ha) Others	Formal play space (ha)	Informal play space (ha)	Major amenity space (ha)
Ebbw Vale					
Beaufort	-0.46	-1.39	-0.77	-0.82	1.67
Rassau	-4.46	-1.74	-0.74	-0.29	1.55
EV North	2.37	-1.79	-0.94	-0.58	6.47
EV South	-4.83	-1.89	-0.79	-2.24	1.68
Cwm	-0.92	-1.81	-0.78	-2.00	0.17
Badminton	-2.07	-1.42	-0.67	-1.74	0.99
Total	-10.37	-10.04	-4.69	-7.67	12.53
Tredegar					
Sirhowy	-5.24	-2.48	-0.88	-1.07	-2.21
Georgetown	-4.01	-1.57	-0.42	-1.92	-1.40
Tredegar Central and West	0.92	-2.33	-0.63	-0.71	9.72
Total	-8.33	-6.38	-1.93	-3.70	6.11
Upper Ebbw Fach					
Brynmawr	-4.29	-2.23	-0.90	-1.34	0.73
Nantyglo	0.13	-1.77	-0.77	-0.04	0.20
Blaina	-1.75	-2.03	-0.69	-1.85	3.96
Total	-5.91	-6.03	-2.36	-3.23	4.89
Lower Ebbw Fach					
Cwmtillery	2.64	-1.71	-0.89	-0.96	14.77
Abertillery	-5.16	-2.02	-0.81	-1.82	-1.80
Six Bells	-2.35	-0.94	-0.49	-1.46	2.84
Llanhilleth	-1.95	-2.00	-0.81	-1.51	1.24
Total	-6.82	-6.67	-3.00	-5.75	17.05
Overall Total	-31.43	-29.12	-11.98	-20.35	37.48

- 5.24 Appendix 2 provides a more detailed analysis than the previous table and shows the requirement for each type of open space on a ward basis, together with the corresponding surplus or deficit.
- 5.25 Table 7 shows the results of measuring the current provision of outdoor sport play space, together with both formal and informal play space against the FIT standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population. It can be seen that the current standard in respect of this provision is 1.25 hectares per 1,000 population and in order to meet the FIT standard of 2.4 hectares another 83.31 hectares of open space would need to be provided.

Table 7 - Results of Open Space Assessment - Standards of provision

Typology	Current level of provision (hectares per 1000)	Current level of provision (hectares)	Standard per 1000 population (hectares)	Open space required to meet standard (hectares)	Surplus/ deficiency (hectares)
Outdoor sport/Formal play space/ Informal play space	1.25	88.34	2.4	171.65	83.31 (deficiency)

Accessibility

- 5.26 The open space assessment also involved not only auditing and assessing the level of current provision but also determining accessibility to open space where standards are applicable.
- 5.27 In terms of accessibility Blaenau Gwent is well served by sports pitches. A catchment area of 1.2 km was drawn around each playing pitch, which showed that only one settlement (Soffryd) was not served. The steep topography of the area provided a justifiable explanation for this.
- 5.28 A catchment area of 240m was drawn around formal play spaces, which indicated that the majority of settlements are well served in this respect.

Allotments Introduction

- 5.29 Allotments are important green spaces, which provide opportunities for leisure, healthy food and improve biodiversity.
- 5.30 The importance of allotments is increasingly being recognised and the National Assembly of Wales Sustainability Committee published a report in July 2010 on Allotment Provision in Wales. Its main recommendations were that a map be

created of allotment land in Wales; that a Wales-wide standard for waiting lists be established; and to increase public/private land available for allotment use.

- 5.31 In accordance with the Allotments Act of 1908, local authorities and town and community councils are under an obligation to provide sufficient plots for residents where they believe they believe there is a demand for allotments. The Act does not however indicate any time limit for such provision.
- 5.32 There are two types of allotment, statutory and non-statutory. Statutory allotments are provided by local authorities and receive protection under the Allotments Act 1925. There may be fewer safeguards for privately owned or temporary allotments occupied in accordance with agreements between the landowner and allotment holder.
- 5.33 Blaenau Gwent is directly responsible for 9 allotment sites, which are managed through the Estates Section. The 9 allotments are run by small allotment committees who deal directly with allocation of sites. The Council is unaware of waiting lists for new gardeners.
- 5.34 Obtaining information on allotments has proved extremely difficult, as Blaenau Gwent does not have a designated Allotments Officer and there is no central database, which holds such data. Also, as Blaenau Gwent is not responsible for all allotments in the area it was necessary to obtain some data from other sources. A list of allotments in Blaenau Gwent is shown in Table 8.
- 5.35 Where a shortfall of provision has been identified it may be appropriate to use Planning Obligations to provide allotments.

Council Standard

- 5.36 In the case of allotments FIT standards are not applicable and there is no legal national minimum provision standard. However, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners suggest a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (i.e. 20 allotments per 2,200 people (2.2 per house) or 1 allotment per 200 people. This equates to 0.125 ha per 1,000 population based on an average plot size of 250 square metres. This standard has been used in assessing local provision.

Results of Open Space Assessment - allotments

- 5.37 The following table shows the results of the assessment of allotment provision in Blaenau Gwent. The provision of allotments was measured against a standard of 0.125 per 1,000 population.
- 5.38 When assessed on a larger geographical area i.e. valley areas, the target is met in three out of the four areas (Ebbw Fawr, Lower and Upper Ebbw Fach) but not in Sirhowy. The results of this assessment on a larger spatial area are contained in the following table.

Table 8 – Results of Open Space Assessment – allotments

Ref	Name	Town	Area	Current provision Ha	Surplus/deficit
A2	Mount pleasant	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	0.47	
A3	Farm road	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	0.80	
A26	Steelworks road	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	0.57	
A7	Kitcheners Garden	Cwm	Ebbw Vale	1.32	
A8	Marine Street	Cwm	Ebbw Vale	0.18	
A21	William Street	Cwm	Ebbw Vale	0.14	
A1	Glanffrhyd	Ebbw Vale	Ebbw Vale	0.35	0.83
A12	Vale View	Tredeggar	Tredeggar	0.55	
A13	Mile Field	Tredeggar	Tredeggar	0.48	
A14	Southend	Tredeggar	Tredeggar	0.28	
A20	Tredeggar by-pass	Tredeggar	Tredeggar	0.12	-0.46
A4	Intermediate Road	Brynmawr	Upper Ebbw Fach	0.62	
A15	Henwain Street These	Blaina	Upper Ebbw Fach	0.69	
A16	Caddicks Row	Blaina	Upper Ebbw Fach	0.34	
A17	Rear of Victoria Street	Blaina	Upper Ebbw Fach	0.04	
A18	Victoria Street	Blaina	Upper Ebbw Fach	0.32	
A19	Victoria Street	Blaina	Upper Ebbw Fach	0.41	
		Nantyglo	Upper Ebbw Fach	0.00	0.58
A24	Upper Gwastad Terrace	Cwmtillery	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.53	
A5	Rhiw Parc	Abertillery	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.69	
A6	Adam Street	Abertillery	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.76	
A9	Heol Gelli Crug Rd	Abertillery	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.30	
A10	Heol Gelli Crug Rd (adj 28)	Abertillery	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.21	
A11	Rear of the Brooklands	Abertillery	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.41	
A27	Cwm Farm Lane	Abertillery	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.63	
A25	Cwm Farm Road	Six Bells	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.99	
A22	Cwm Farm Road	Six Bells	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.42	
A23	Bryn Gaer Tce.	Llanhilleth	Lower Ebbw Fach	0.64	3.50
TOTAL					4.45

MAJOR SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES - CURRENT PROVISION

Sports centres

5.39 The four major sports centres in Blaenau Gwent, which are located in Abertillery, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo and Tredegar, all offer a wide range of leisure and sporting opportunities.

Swimming Pools

5.40 Swimming pools are located at each of the four main sports centres in Blaenau Gwent (see Table 8).

Table - 9 Swimming Pools in Blaenau Gwent

Location of Pool	Open to Public	Size	Times Open
Abertillery Sports Centre	Yes	25m 4 lanes	7 days a week
Ebbw Vale Sports Centre	Yes	33m 6 Lanes	7 days a week
Nantyglo Sports Centre	Yes	25m 4 Lanes	7 days a week
Tredegar Sports Centre	Yes	25m 4 Lanes	7 days a week

Golf Courses

5.41 The two main golf courses in Blaenau Gwent are listed below and another (Tredegar and Rhymney) lies in close proximity to Blaenau Gwent.

- **West Mon Golf Club**

West Mon Golf Club is privately owned and is located near Nantyglo. The 18-hole golf course at Nantyglo boasts the highest tee in the U.K. and offers a golf course, new driving range as well as onsite clubhouse.

- **Parc Bryn Bach**

The Parc Bryn Bach Golf Course and driving range provides the setting for a fantastic 9-hole course, 6-bay driving range and a pitch-and-putt area. The 250 metre driving range and nine hole, par 3 golf course is open seven days a week.

MAJOR SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES - FUTURE PROVISION

5.42 According to the results of a recent report 'Review of Sport and Recreation Services' (July 2009) there is no need for rationalisation of the sports centres because they all serve a local need.

Ebbw Vale Sports Centre

5.43 The report highlighted that Ebbw Vale Sports Centre is in need of major investment, which means it is beyond its economic life. In the circumstances it has been decided to relocate it at the former Corus site, now known as 'The Works'. Outline planning permission was granted in 2007 for its redevelopment as a mixed-use site, and this

included a leisure centre and two sports pitches. The 'Works' is allocated as a mixed-use site (MU2) in the LDP.

Former Abertillery Sports Centre

- 5.44 A new sports centre was opened in Abertillery in 2004, which, it was intended, would replace the old one located at Vivian Street. However, this was not the case as the old Abertillery Sports Centre is currently partly occupied by Abertillery Bowls Centre until an alternative venue can be found. The former Abertillery Sports Centre will eventually be demolished.

Swimming Pools

- 5.45 The Sport Wales (Sports Council for Wales) facilities planning model for Blaenau Gwent indicates that although there is more capacity for swimming pools than demand, there are still key areas of unmet demand. This is as a result of the distribution of pools related to the population and that all not demand can be satisfied. Therefore, according to the **Review of Sport and Recreation Services (July 2009)** there is no significant over provision and justification for rationalising facilities.

OTHER LEISURE FACILITIES - CURRENT PROVISION

Countryside trails and walks

- 5.46 Blaenau Gwent has over 250km (160miles) of public rights of way, together with an expanse of common land, which has open access meaning that there are thousands of acres of countryside available to walkers. For those wishing to undertake set walks, a series of trails have been published in leaflet form to help explore Blaenau Gwent's countryside and history. The more adventurous can set out on the 26 mile Sirhowy Valley Walk from Aneurin Bevan Memorial Stones or the Ebbw Valley walk from Festival Park, Ebbw Vale. The Ebbw Fach trail links 13 green spaces alongside the Ebbw Fach River, which are locally managed and it is hoped, will become a tourist attraction. All of the towns' 14 trails are available on the council website - www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

The Jim Owen Pavilion

- 5.47 The Jim Owen Pavilion was originally constructed in 1994 to provide a recreational facility to complement the adjacent sports pitch. It is currently used as a changing facility for people using the sports field and contains one small room for communal use. Its relative size and internal facilities limits a number of community groups from using the facility.
- 5.48 Recently concerns have been raised about its condition particularly in light of vandalism to the fabric of the building. It is indicative of a lack of sense of ownership of the building with the local community and an absence of adequate community activities.
- 5.49 As part of the CALON (Cwmtillery Active Lifestyles Outdoors Nexus) project, the potential to expand the use of the Jim Owen Pavilion as an Outdoor Gateway and Education Centre is being explored, whilst retaining the existing function and

purpose of the existing and identified community users. Land has been allocated in the Plan for tourism and leisure allocation in light of this project.

Cinema/Theatres - Current provision

Market Hall Cinema

- 5.50 Market Hall Cinema is the only cinema in Blaenau Gwent and is located on the main square in Brynmawr. The 350-seat big screen cinema has first release status, which guarantees blockbuster films on release dates.

Beaufort Theatre and Ballroom

- 5.51 The theatre has a regional reputation for the quality and breadth of its music, drama, dance and light entertainment. The ballroom also has a history of hosting quality acts – the twin venues regularly attract large audiences.

The Metropole Cultural and Conference Centre

- 5.52 The Met is now established as a premiere centre for entertainment and events in the centre of Abertillery. It is one of the area's major conference centres and the 216 seat theatre hosts major drama and music productions staged by community organisations as well as professional productions. The café bar holds jazz and folk events

Cinema/Theatres – Future provision

New Arts Centre

- 5.53 In August 2010 Consultants were appointed to update the 2007 feasibility study for the proposed new Arts Centre on the Works site in Ebbw Vale. Part of their brief was to consider the merits of an integrated cinema within the new arts centre proposal. Once it is certain that this project will go ahead, a review would be undertaken of the Beaufort Theatre and Ballroom and the Market Hall Cinema, Brynmawr.

Valleys Regional Park

- 5.54 The concept of a Valleys Regional Park is being developed around similar objectives to those of National Parks. Unlike National Parks, a Regional Park is not a planning designation but a mechanism for realising the opportunities within an area and capitalising on the area's assets. In the case of Blaenau Gwent these assets are the large expanses of land within the Valleys which are of significant landscape, ecological, historic, cultural and tourism importance. A single park designation seeks to protect these areas and offer a unified network of high quality facilities under the highly marketable Valleys Regional Park theme.

- 5.55 The Valleys Regional Park incorporates an area extending from eastern Carmarthenshire to western Monmouthshire, roughly equating to the historic coalfield boundaries.

- 5.56 Blaenau Gwent County Borough is included in its entirety, and the existing outdoors activities provision would be standalone elements of this wider entity. Blaenau Gwent County Borough contains a significant amount of accessible countryside, parks and common land and other green spaces that would be involved. This includes Parc Bryn Bach, Bedwellty Park, together with numerous other parks and

other sites throughout the Borough. The overall aim of the VRP is to create a high quality, sustainable network of green space and the LDP will support this through policy DM16 to ensure no loss of connectivity between sites included within the Green Infrastructure, to facilitate connections between the sites and create open space to enhance linkages between them. An important element of the VRP in Blaenau Gwent is the Ebbw Fach Trail, an 8-mile cycling and walking trail through the Ebbw Fach valley from Brynmawr to Llanhilleth.

- 5.57 The Valleys Regional Park offers excellent recreational opportunities throughout South Wales and the LDP contains policies to promote the VRP (see Policy SP9) and activity tourism - this consists of leisure activities such as walking, cycling and mountain biking. A number of sites are allocated for tourism and leisure in Policy TM1 in order to encourage these activities to improve the tourist offer and help improve the quality of life, health and well-being of the people of Blaenau Gwent.

Summary and Conclusions

- 5.58 Accessibility to natural green space is good in Blaenau Gwent as it meets CCW standards except over the shortest distance of 400m. Blaenau Gwent's Blaenau Gwent's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2009-2014) proposes to improve the local rights of way network and increase access to the countryside. The aim is to increase the number of people with access to natural greenspace within 400m of their home from the current 65% to 80% by 2021.
- 5.59 The results of the open space assessment show that the current provision in Blaenau Gwent falls short of the standards set out by the Fields in Trust publication 'Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play'. The standards relate specifically to outdoor sport, formal and informal play space. Current provision is 1.25 hectares per 1,000 projected population, which is considerably below the FIT standard of 2.4. The Council will attempt to work towards the nationally set standards whilst conceding that some of these standards may not be met by the end of the plan period.
- 5.60 The results of the assessment indicate a shortfall in open space, thereby providing clear justification for requiring developers to make appropriate contributions towards the County Borough's leisure infrastructure. Policy DM13 is aimed at securing the provision of recreational open space and other appropriate recreation and leisure facilities from developers in all new residential developments of 10 or more units where the development would result in a level of demand that exceeds local capacity. A list of planning obligations for leisure provision is shown in Appendix 1.
- 5.61 As it is not feasible to rely on planning obligations to make up the entire deficit of provision, policies are included in the Plan to protect existing open space (Policy DM14) and to protect and enhance the Green Infrastructure (GI) of Blaenau Gwent. (Policy DM16). In simple terms the Green Infrastructure is a network of green spaces and natural elements, which provides multiple benefits for people and nature. Whilst the individual green assets are important on their own, it is the linking together of them that brings about added value with additional benefits on environmental, social and economic levels. The benefits of Green Infrastructure in

terms of leisure include access to local resources for recreation and amenity as well as linking communities to local green space resources and open countryside, for example, the Central Valley Wetland area on the Works will provide new pedestrian and cycle routes; open recreational spaces and link the former Steelworks site to Tyllwyn. The Green Infrastructure Policy is important as it seeks to ensure no loss of connectivity of the green spaces and where appropriate, encourage the creation of natural open space and features to enhance linkages between the Green Infrastructure. Blaenau Gwent's Green Infrastructure consists of a number of GI assets, many of which have been assessed through the Open Space Assessment such as playing fields; children's play space, parks and allotments. Other GI Assets such as public rights of way, cycle paths and other recreational routes have not been assessed in terms of level of provision but are important in that not only are can they be used for leisure purposes i.e. walking and cycling, with corresponding health benefits for the user, but they provide a link between the green spaces. In Blaenau Gwent the Ebbw Fach Trail, an 8-mile cycling and walking trail through the Ebbw Fach valley links 13 green spaces and is an example of the Green Infrastructure. An example of a multi-functional green asset in Blaenau Gwent is Parc Bryn Bach, which serves an important environmental role as a Local Nature Reserve and provides an opportunity for recreation in terms of walking and cycling. As a major tourist attraction in Blaenau Gwent, Parc Bryn Bach also provides a boost to the local economy. Further information on the Green Infrastructure is contained in the Environment Background Paper, which is closely linked to this and the Tourism Background Paper.

- 5.62 Blaenau Gwent's natural environment offers many opportunities in terms of activity tourism, which is a sector of the tourism industry that aims to attract visitors by developing leisure activities such as cycling, walking, riding, watersports, adventure and fishing. This will be encouraged through Policy TM1 in the Local Development Plan, which allocates several sites for activity tourism.
- 5.63 The only allocation of formal leisure provision required by Leisure Services is land at Chartist Way, Tredegar, which is allocated in Policy L1 for informal play space with a kick-about area planned adjacent to an existing play area.

6.0 KEY ISSUES IN BLAENAU GWENT

- 6.1 Pre-deposit participation undertaken between July and August 2007 has provided a clear indication of those land use issues that key stakeholders consider to be of primary importance in Blaenau Gwent.

The Issues Paper (July 2007)

- 6.2 The Issues Paper (July 2007) identified a key issue that the Plan needed to address:
- To foster sustainable tourism and leisure in order to boost the local economy.
- 6.3 A consultation exercise on the Issues Paper asked the following questions in relation to the provision of leisure facilities:

Question 7.1 – Is there adequate protection of open spaces?

71% of respondents believed there is adequate protection, whilst 29% thought there was not adequate protection. One respondent suggested that there was not enough adequate protection for existing open spaces and that local designations should be encouraged, for example nature reserves, or parks for these areas, in addition to the National Park. Another commented that the protection and enhancement of green corridors and the countryside should be given sufficient weight.

How addressed

Protection for existing open space is afforded through Policy DM14 in the Local Development Plan. Five additional Local Nature Reserves have been designated in the Local Development Plan making an overall total of six in Blaenau Gwent. The designation of another Conservation Area means that there are now two in Blaenau Gwent. The Green Infrastructure policy (DM16) promotes the protection and enhancement of green corridors.

Question 7.2

Should local standards be further developed or examined against NPFA standards?

The majority of those answering said that local standards should be applied and one respondent commented that the Council should consider local need, and policies requiring the provision of open space should provide this flexibility. Also, it was considered that in the light of recently proposed NPFA changes, it is desirable that local recreational space standards should be examined.

How addressed

It is the Council's intention to judge local provision against NPFA standards and set local standards.

Question 7.3

If a need for more land is identified in the open space assessment where should this be located?

A range of comments was received and it was thought that new facilities should be provided close to large populations, where there is a clear current deficiency and close to public transport routes to minimise environmental impact. Open space should be accessible and an integral part of local communities. There should be connectivity between local green space and the wider countryside e.g. Common Land. One respondent was concerned that recreational open space areas should not compromise areas that might have sensitive ecological value and argued that the development of new open space land would require ecological assessment.

How addressed

The open space assessment has identified areas of deficit in provision and it is in such areas where new play facilities will be sought via planning obligations.

Policy L1 allocates land at Chartist Way for the provision of outdoor recreational facilities. This provision will be located within an urban settlement and accessible by public transport.

Policy DM 16 refers to the Green Infrastructure of Blaenau Gwent and promotes the connectivity between different types of green spaces.

Ecological matters are considered as part of the planning application process meaning that recreational open spaces would not have a detrimental impact on areas of ecological value.

Sustainability Appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Exercise

- 6.4 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Exercise was undertaken between March – December 2007. The process identified key strategic problems, objectives and issues for sustainability. 18 key sustainability issues were identified, one of which is related to leisure:

- Health

7.0 THE PREFERRED STRATEGY

- 7.1 The Preferred Strategy provided the following policy framework for leisure facilities in Blaenau Gwent:

Objective

10. Create an accessible network of open spaces and high quality leisure infrastructure to promote participation in sport and active recreation to improve health and well-being

- 7.2 No comments were made on objective 10.

SP7 Development of the Tourism and Leisure sectors

Foster sustainable tourism and leisure sectors which re-engage local communities with the natural and historic environment and boost the local economy

7.3 One comment was made on this policy that SP7 needs redrafting for clarity; it appears to be very broad and general and could benefit from the addition of some of the detail from paragraph 6.10.

7.4 Policy SP7 has since been redrafted. Reference is now made to the development of the tourism and leisure sectors in Strategic policies SP8, SP9 and SP11. These policies are more specific than the original SP7 and Policy SP9 promotes the development of Valleys Regional Park, which was referred to in paragraph 6.10.

SP13 Leisure and Recreation

Sites will be safeguarded for a new leisure centre at Ebbw Vale, and to ensure that identified shortfalls in open space provision are met.

Three comments were made on this policy.

Objective 10

7.5 One comment objected to policy SP13 as it does not clearly reflect objective 10 or its monitoring indicators. Policies should protect existing areas of accessible natural greenspace and formal public open space, and to encourage the creation of new areas and access improvements.

7.6 Policies DM13 and DM 14 have been included in the draft Deposit Plan which will protect existing open space and encourage creation of additional open space

Enhancement of open space

7.7 It was considered that the policy should also seek to enhance the provision of existing open space where appropriate, ensuring that it is both usable and accessible.

7.8 Policies DM13 and DM16 have been included in the draft Deposit Plan that will enhance the provision of existing open space as well as improving connections between areas of open space.

Open Space Assessment

7.9 It was recommended that the work relating to the assessment of leisure and open space is undertaken in line with the provisions of an appropriate Open Space Assessment.

7.10 An in-house open space assessment has been carried out using recognised Fields in Trust standards. A review of leisure facilities has been undertaken by consultants who have produced a report entitled 'Review of Sport and Recreation Services (July 2009)'.

8.0 DRAFT LDP POLICY

8.1 To address the issues raised the following policies are proposed.

Strategic Policy

SP9 Active and Healthy Communities

To create active and healthy communities the Council will:

- a. Promote the Valleys Regional Park and leisure activities;**
- b. Protect and improve existing open space, sport and leisure facilities; and**
- c. Protect and enhance accessibility to natural greenspaces for all members of the community.**

The countryside makes up much of the land area of Blaenau Gwent and is a positive asset that can strengthen regeneration strategies and maximise tourism opportunities. The countryside can provide an enhanced quality of life and provide benefits to people's health and well-being. This Policy seeks to develop opportunities for Blaenau Gwent to contribute to the Valleys Regional Park, which is a network of countryside recreation areas linked by strategic footpaths and cycleways and represents a key opportunity to attract tourists and investment. Activity tourism, for example, mountain biking and walking will be encouraged in such areas. Development proposals that would contribute to the delivery of the Valleys Regional Park, including leisure and tourism development at Parc Bryn Bach, will be considered favourably. As it is important that proposals do not have an unacceptable impact on existing areas of environmental importance any proposals should conform to policies DM15, DM16 and DM17.

At present 65% of the population in Blaenau Gwent live within 400m of they're nearest green space but the Plan aims to increase this to 80%. This will be achieved by creating new open space, enhancing access to existing natural green space, managing existing green space for biodiversity, and removing barriers that prevent current access to natural green space.

Access to public open space, natural greenspace and recreational facilities is important in promoting public health and wellbeing and enhancing quality of life for both residents and visitors. The Council will therefore seek to protect these land uses to avoid their loss as they represent an important part of the Council's strategy to improve the public health of the resident population.

Development Management Policy

Community and Leisure Facilities

DM12 Protection of Community and Leisure Facilities

Proposals that would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility will not be permitted unless:

- a. A comparable replacement facility is provided by the developer either on site or in an accessible location which is served by public transport or by foot or cycling; or**
- b. It can be demonstrated that the facility is surplus to requirements.**

Local leisure and community facilities such as sports centres and community buildings are important to the health, social and economic well being of the settlements within the County Borough (a list of community facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Background Paper). In addition, these facilities often provide the key elements to achieving more sustainable settlements by providing facilities within easy reach of people by foot or bicycle. Consequently this Policy seeks to retain such facilities. This Policy applies to all proposals that may lead to the loss of a facility.

With regard to criterion b of this Policy, planning applications will need to be supported by appropriate evidence in order to demonstrate that the facility is surplus to requirements.

DM13 Provision for Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Facilities

Where there is quantitative or qualitative deficiency in open space, recreation and leisure facilities, provision will be sought in conjunction with all new residential developments of 10 or more units, based on a minimum of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1000 projected population.

This Policy is aimed at securing the provision of recreational open space and other appropriate recreation and leisure facilities in conjunction with all new residential developments of 10 or more units where the development would result in a level of demand that exceeds local capacity. This Policy will help enhance the existing network of green spaces and provide increased opportunities for healthy recreation and leisure activities. A recent assessment of open space provision highlights a deficiency of outdoor sports and play space across Blaenau Gwent. Further information is available in the Leisure Background Paper.

Obtaining recreational open space and appropriate leisure facilities through the development process is provided for in national planning policy. It explains that Local Planning Authorities may be justified in seeking Planning Obligations to

contribute to the maintenance of safe and attractive facilities and open space, and to meet the needs of new communities.

The Council has adopted the Fields in Trust standards and the appropriate amount of recreational open space is assessed against the standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population, which is the standard endorsed by Fields in Trust.

As a general rule, provision of a satisfactory level and standard of open space will be sought on all new residential developments. For those developments of **10 or more dwellings** the amount of on-site open space provision is calculated from the projected population of the development and the application of the minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of recreational open space per 1,000 population.

The exact requirements for each site will need to be agreed with the Council as local circumstances may require amendment to these standards, for example, the location and quality of existing provision. The Leisure Background Paper identifies the wards where there is a shortfall in provision and Chapter 9 – Delivery and Implementation gives an indication of the facilities that may be sought on allocated housing sites.

Whilst it is preferable to provide open space facilities on-site, where this is not practicable the Council will expect the developer to provide a financial contribution for the provision of open space off-site that is appropriately located in relation to the development, or a contribution towards the upgrading of existing nearby open spaces. Similarly, contributions for the future maintenance of any open space provision will also be required to meet the needs arising from the development

DM14 Protection of Open Space

Development proposals which affect existing Open Space will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that: -

- a. There is a surplus of such facilities in the locality, or;**
- b. The loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality; or**
- c. The development enhances an existing facility.**

Open Space includes all land that is available for use by the public for informal and formal recreational and leisure use. Open Space provision in Blaenau Gwent includes a range of urban and country parks, common land, community sport and recreation grounds and facilities and children's play areas. It is recognised that all these spaces play a key role, given the largely urban population, (having the 4th highest population density in Wales) offering the opportunity to improve the health and well being of residents. Open Space in Blaenau Gwent lies both within and outside of the settlement boundaries and as such has the potential to come under significant pressure for development.

Allocations and Designations

MU2 'The Works'

In accordance with Policy SP1 land is allocated at the former steelworks site for mixed use including; the construction of a new hospital, learning zone, leisure centre, playing pitches, arts centre, approximately 520 houses, business hub, family history & genealogy visitor centre, environmental resource centre and wetland park.

Development of the site will be guided by the latest Masterplan and supporting documentation.

The former Steelworks runs along the bottom of the Ebbw Valley to the South East of Ebbw Vale Town Centre. It is about 3 kilometres from north to south and half a kilometre from east to west. The site has the benefit of outline planning permission. The original Masterplan Design and Access Statement sets out a 10-year programme for development divided into 5 phases between 2008 and 2018. The revised masterplan incorporates an amended indicative framework with four phases allowed to run to a maximum of 4 years each to allow development flexibility although the 2018 date continues to be a broad indication of the time-scale envisaged for the delivery of the scheme.

The Vision is:

“The Works is the regeneration of the former steelworks site in Ebbw Vale which is transforming the site into a vibrant and distinctive area. It’s a £350 million project that will create new places for learning, working and recreational. It will be integrated into the existing town centre to make stronger connections and links to important local landmarks. The scheme includes delivering new houses, primary and special education needs school, hospital, commercial floor space, a learning zone, basement park, central valley wetland park, 2km railway extension and a mechanical link. Already some of the projects have been completed (e.g. Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan and the environmental resource centre) and others are ongoing (The learning zone and general offices). The Works is widely recognised as a sustainable exemplar project across Wales and the UK and is driven by four key objectives; economic, social, resources and environmental, all of which give the project its green credentials. These objectives include retaining the history and heritage of the area, involving the community in developing the site and creating wider employment and commercial benefits for Blaenau Gwent.”

Key elements are:

- **Aneurin Bevan Hospital** – a 96 bed Local General Hospital;
- **The Central Valley & Wetlands Park** – a green corridor running through the site;

- **Environmental Resource Centre** – Provides an education facility for local children and the community to explore the heritage and ecology of the site;
- **Employment** – 5 ha of commercial and business space primarily located adjacent to the hospital site;
- **Residential** – Approximately 520 houses at varying densities across the site built to higher than nationally required standards and including 20% affordable housing;
- **Learning Zone** – The Learning Zone includes the provision of education and training for 14-19 year olds. The Works site will also include a 21st Century 3-16 School over two sites that will provide; primary education; an integrated children's centre, secondary education and the relocated Pen y Cwm Special School (subject to ministerial decision and Judicial Review)
- **Leisure Centre and Sports Fields** – A new leisure centre and sports pitches will be developed to provide new leisure amenities for the community;
- **Arts Centre** – A new arts centre will be developed to provide a community and professional arts/cultural event programme;
- **Basement Strategy** – A range of uses are being considered for the basements including sports and leisure, exhibition space, summer markets for food & craft including a café, education and recreation facilities;
- **Retail** – The retail element will only consist of local convenience facilities, including local shops and smaller commercial units;
- **Energy Centre** – A centralised energy hub.
- **Family History & Genealogy Visitor Centre** – The Former General Offices (Grade II* Listed Building) is to become a visitor centre bringing industrial heritage to life and showcasing one of the largest archives in Wales.
- **Public Realm** – Focus on a sequence of public squares running through the site.

TM1 Tourism and Leisure

The following sites are allocated for tourism related activities:

1. **Eastern Valley Slopes**
2. **Garden Festival**
3. **Blue Lakes**
4. **Bedwellty House and Park**
5. **Parc Bryn Bach (including a hotel)**
6. **Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers**
7. **Cwmtillery Lakes**

Eastern Valley Slopes

The Eastern Valley Slopes and its juxtaposition with 'The Works' site Ebbw Vale ensures that the site has tremendous potential for the development of tourism, leisure and education, via promotion of access to the countryside and improvement to the natural environment through woodland planting. Much of the land is managed for pasture, with significant areas open to public access for horse riding, cycling (particularly mountain biking) and walking.

The site provides a physical link between the Environmental Resource Centre at the Works site and Silent Valley Nature Reserve and has an interesting and valuable ecosystem of its own. The Council will work closely with interest groups to develop the sites potential for tourism, leisure and education.

Garden Festival

There are proposals to develop Festival Park into a major tourist destination. The improvement of the shopping offer, enhancement of the café, and provision of outdoor recreation facilities, will attract further visitors to the Festival Park. Other initiatives in keeping with attracting visitors to the park will be encouraged including parkland enhancement by creating woodland walks and linking the park to the shopping area.

Blue Lakes

The Blue Lakes lie adjacent to the Aneurin Bevan Stones, and form an important green space between Tredegar and Ebbw Vale. Ebbw Vale and District Development Trust (EVAD) propose to create a new park and establish a new visitors centre with a café restaurant. It is also proposed to construct an education and learning centre, create a recreation space for walking and provide an enhanced fishing venue for local people and visitors to the area.

Bedwelty House and Park

Tourism could contribute significantly more to the economy of the County Borough. Attractions such as Bedwelty House and Park, which form part of a network of historic buildings and landscapes, are key to attracting people to the area. This will be achieved by restoration of Bedwelty House to provide a visitor experience, restaurant, gardens and function area. There are plans to transform it into a high quality conference, wedding and visitor centre and make it a major tourist attraction.

Parc Bryn Bach

Parc Bryn Bach is conveniently located just off the A465 and is a major tourist attraction with a lake and visitor centre. The Park offers a wide variety of facilities and activities including walking, cycling, golf, angling, model boating and flying and adventure activities. There is potential to further develop the tourism features at the Park, with opportunities for hotel development on the site and to develop the bunkhouse facilities. Parc Bryn Bach, which has been designated as a Local Nature Reserve, is likely to be one of the main park elements of the proposed Valleys

Regional Park and could benefit from its close proximity to the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers

Nantyglo Roundhouse Towers has potential as a heritage centre and educational resource for local people and an attraction for visitors. The Council will work closely with the owners of the property in order to develop the site.

Cwmtillery Lakes

Cwmtillery Lakes provides an educational and recreational resource for the local community and is used for walking, bird watching and fishing. A new community-led project, called CALON, is seeking to establish an Outdoor Gateway and Education Centre at the Jim Owen Pavilion as a base for locals and visitors to utilise the significant potential for outdoor activities within the surrounding countryside of Cwmtillery. The proposed Calon Centre will also serve as a community centre offering venue hire, light refreshments and tourism information.

L1 Formal Leisure Facilities

Land is allocated for leisure at:

Chartist Way, Tredegar

The Policy allocates land required by Leisure Services for the provision of outdoor recreational facilities at the above named site.

An area of land is allocated for informal play space at Chartist Way, Tredegar with a kick-about area planned adjacent to an existing play area.

APPENDICES



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APPENDIX 1: PLANNING OBLIGATIONS FOR LEISURE FACILITIES IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ebbw Vale Area

Ref No	Name	Ward	Capacity	Leisure contribution	Reasoned Justification
H1.1	Willowtown School	EV North	22	Improve existing facilities at Letchworth Road Play Area.	Shortfall of play space (0.94 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.79 ha) based on the FIT Standard
MU1	Ebbw Vale Northern corridor	EV North Badminton	700	Provision of a new fixed Play Area and improve existing Rec facilities within the Badminton Ward area.	Shortfall of play space (0.94 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.79 ha) based on the FIT Standard (EV North ward) Shortfall of play space (0.67 ha), playing pitches (2.07 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.42 ha) based on the FIT Standard (Badminton ward)

Tredegar Area

Ref No	Name	Ward	Capacity	Leisure contribution	Reasoned Justification
H1.2	Cartref Aneurin Bevan	Tredegar Central & West	13	Improve existing Recreational facilities for young people at Parc Bryn Bach	Shortfall of play space (0.63 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.33 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.3	Greenacres	Sirhowy	18	Improve existing Recreational facilities for young people at Ty Newydd.	Shortfall of play space (0.88 ha), playing pitches (5.24) and other outdoor sport (2.48 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.4	Jesmondene Stadium, Cefn Golau	Tredegar Central & West	184	On site provision of a fixed playground. Size to be determined by financial contribution.	Shortfall of play space (0.63 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.33 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.5	Business Resource Centre, Tafarnaubach	Tredegar Central & West	42	Improve existing Recreational facilities for young people at Parc Bryn Bach.	Shortfall of play space (0.63 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.33 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.6	Land adjacent to Chartist Way	Sirhowy	101	Off site provision of a MUGA and Wheeled Sports Area.	Shortfall of play space (0.88 ha), playing pitches (5.24) and other outdoor sport (2.48 ha) based on the FIT Standard

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Upper Ebbw Fach Area

Ref No	Name	Ward	Capacity	Leisure contribution	Reasoned Justification
H1.7	Garnfach School	Nantyglo	28	Develop new fixed wheeled sports area in the Nantyglo Ward.	Shortfall of play space (0.77 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.77 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.8	Crawshay House	Brynmawr	25	Develop a new MUGA in the Brynmawr Ward.	Shortfall of play space (0.90 ha), playing pitches (4.29 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.23 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.9	Infants School & Old Griffin yard, Brynmawr	Brynmawr	36	Develop a new MUGA in the Brynmawr Ward.	Shortfall of play space (0.90 ha), playing pitches (4.29 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.23 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.10	Hafod Dawel Site	Nantyglo	44	Develop new fixed wheeled sports area in the Nantyglo Ward.	Shortfall of play space (0.77 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.77 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.11	West of the Recreation Ground	Nantyglo	15	Develop new fixed wheeled sports area in the Nantyglo Ward.	Shortfall of play space (0.77 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.77 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.12	Land to the East of Blaina Road, Brynmawr	Brynmawr	25	Develop a new MUGA in the Brynmawr Ward.	Shortfall of play space (0.90 ha), playing pitches (4.29 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.23 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.13	Land to the North of Winchestown	Nantyglo	15	Develop new fixed wheeled sports area in the Nantyglo Ward.	Shortfall of play space (0.77 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.77 ha) based on the FIT Standard
MU3	NMC Factory and Bus Depot	Nantyglo	60	Improve existing Recreational Facilities for young people within the locality.	Shortfall of play space (0.77 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.77 ha) based on the FIT Standard



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Lower Ebbw Fach Area

Ref No	Name	Ward	Capacity	Leisure contribution	Reasoned Justification
H1.14	Six Bells Colliery Site	Six Bells	40	Develop existing facilities in Six Bells Park.	Shortfall of play space (0.49 ha), playing pitches (2.35 ha) and other outdoor sport (0.94 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.15	Warm Turn	Six Bells	32	Improve facilities at the existing Play Area in "Warm Turn".	Shortfall of play space (0.49 ha), playing pitches (2.35 ha) and other outdoor sport (0.94 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.16	Roseheyworth Comprehensive	Cwmtillery	33	Improve existing facilities on Roseheywoth Playing Fields.	Shortfall of play space (0.89 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.71 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.17	Former Mount Pleasant Court, Brynithel	Llanhilleth	18	Improve existing facilities on Brynithel Recreation Ground.	Shortfall of play space (0.81 ha), playing pitches (1.95 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.00 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.18	Hillcrest View, Cwmtillery	Cwmtillery	22	Improve existing facilities on Jim Owen Recreation Ground.	Shortfall of play space (0.89 ha) and other outdoor sport (1.71 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.19	Quarry Adjacent to Cwm Farm Road	Six Bells	22	Improve existing facilities in Six Bells Park.	Shortfall of play space (0.49 ha), playing pitches (2.35 ha) and other outdoor sport (0.94 ha) based on the FIT Standard
H1.20	Land at Farm Road, Swffryd	Llanhilleth	130	On site provision of play area	Shortfall of play space (0.81 ha), playing pitches (1.95 ha) and other outdoor sport (2.00 ha) based on the FIT Standard



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APPENDIX 2: RESULTS OF OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT - SURPLUS/DEFICIT OF OPEN SPACE PER AREA/WARD

Ebbw Vale			
Beaufort	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.55	3.22	1.67
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	4.46	4.00	-0.46
Outdoor sport (others)	1.74	0.35	-1.39
Formal play space	0.97	0.20	-0.77
Informal play space	2.13	1.31	-0.82
Rassau	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.55	0.00	-1.55
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	4.46	0.00	-4.46
Outdoor sport (others)	1.74	0.00	-1.74
Formal play space	0.97	0.23	-0.74
Informal play space	2.13	1.84	-0.29
EV North	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.90	8.37	6.47
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	5.46	7.83	2.37
Outdoor sport (others)	2.14	0.35	-1.79
Formal play space	1.19	0.25	-0.94
Informal play space	2.61	2.03	-0.58
EV South	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.68	0.00	-1.68
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	4.83	0.00	-4.83
Outdoor sport (others)	1.89	0.00	-1.89
Formal play space	1.05	0.26	-0.99
Informal play space	2.31	0.07	-2.24
Cwm	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.74	1.91	0.17
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	5.00	4.08	-0.92
Outdoor sport (others)	1.96	0.15	-1.81
Formal play space	1.09	0.31	-0.78
Informal play space	2.39	0.39	-2.00
Badminton	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.26	2.25	0.99
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	3.63	1.56	-2.07
Outdoor sport (others)	1.42	0.00	-1.42
Formal play space	0.79	0.12	-0.67
Informal play space	1.74	0.00	-1.74

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Ebbw Vale Total	67.98	41.08	-26.9
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Tredegar			
Sirhowy	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	2.21	0.00	-2.21
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	6.35	1.11	-5.24
Outdoor sport (others)	2.48	0.00	-2.48
Formal play space	1.38	0.50	-0.88
Informal play space	3.04	1.97	-1.07
Georgetown	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.40	0.00	-1.40
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	4.01	0.00	-4.01
Outdoor sport (others)	1.57	0.00	-1.57
Formal play space	0.87	0.45	-0.42
Informal play space	1.92	0.00	-1.92
Tredegar Central and West	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	2.42	12.14	9.72
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	6.95	7.87	0.92
Outdoor sport (others)	2.72	0.39	-2.33
Formal play space	1.51	0.88	-0.63
Informal play space	3.33	2.62	-0.71
Tredegar Total	42.16	27.93	-14.23

Upper Ebbw Fach			
Brynmawr	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	2.24	2.97	0.73
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	6.44	2.15	-4.29
Outdoor sport (others)	2.52	0.39	-2.23
Formal play space	1.40	0.50	-0.90
Informal play space	3.08	1.74	-1.34
Nantyglo	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.72	1.92	0.20
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	4.94	5.07	0.13
Outdoor sport (others)	1.93	0.16	-1.77
Formal play space	1.07	0.30	-0.77
Informal play space	2.36	2.32	-0.04
Blaina	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity	1.93	5.89	3.96



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space			
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	5.55	3.80	-1.75
Outdoor sport (others)	2.17	0.14	-2.03
Formal play space	1.21	0.52	-0.69
Informal play space	2.66	0.81	-1.85
Upper Ebbw Fach Total	41.22	28.68	-12.54

Lower Ebbw Fach			
Cwmtillery	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.90	16.67	14.77
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	5.46	8.10	2.64
Outdoor sport (others)	2.14	0.43	-1.71
Formal play space	1.19	0.30	-0.89
Informal play space	2.61	1.65	-0.96
Abertillery	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.80	0.00	-1.80
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	5.16	0.00	-5.16
Outdoor sport (others)	2.02	0.00	-2.02
Formal play space	1.12	0.31	-0.81
Informal play space	2.47	0.65	-1.82
Six Bells	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.06	3.90	2.84
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	3.05	0.70	-2.35
Outdoor sport (others)	1.19	0.25	-0.94
Formal play space	0.66	0.17	-0.49
Informal play space	1.46	0.00	-1.46
Llanhilleth	Ward requirement	Ward Total	Surplus/Deficit (ha)
Formal major amenity space	1.91	3.15	1.24
Outdoor sport (playing fields)	5.49	3.54	-1.95
Outdoor sport (others)	2.15	0.15	-2.00
Formal play space	1.19	0.38	-0.81
Informal play space	2.63	1.12	-1.51
Lower Ebbw Fach Total	46.66	41.47	-5.19



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