

**DRAFT BRAINTREE GREEN SPACES STRATEGY  
REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**Agenda Item 1b**

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**Background Papers:-** Draft Braintree Green Spaces Strategy  
 Draft Site Location Maps  
 Summary of Consultation Representations

**Financial Implications:-** No direct implications associated with this report.  
 Implementation of strategy will have financial implications

**Equalities Implications:-** Accessibility of green spaces is an equality issue.

**Legal Implications:-** Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17): Planning for open space, sport and recreation requires local authorities to carry out assessments of needs for and audits of open space, sport and recreational facilities, to set locally derived standards for provision and maintain an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreational facilities.

**Options:**

1. To adopt the Draft Braintree Green Spaces Strategy as proposed for amendment as the evidence base for the provision and improvement in quality of green spaces through the Local Development Framework and the management and maintenance of Council owned land.
2. To reject the Draft Braintree Green Spaces Strategy and pursue the provision and improvement in the absence of an evidence base.

**Risks:** The Braintree Green Spaces Strategy will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework. In its absence it will be difficult to substantiate open space policies and proposals or to secure developer contributions towards open space provision.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Braintree Green Spaces Strategy will form the evidence base for planning the provision of open spaces and sport and recreation facilities and will influence the management and maintenance of the Council's green spaces. As such it has a high degree of importance.

The Draft Strategy followed an audit of open spaces in 2006-07 and sets standards for the provision, quality and accessibility of green spaces. It examines different types of green space and highlights areas of surplus or deficiency on a sub-area basis. It will form the basis for developing planning policies for the provision of new spaces and securing funding through s106 obligations or a future community infrastructure levy. It will also influence the Council's future management and maintenance plans and will enable priorities to be set for improving the quality of green spaces.

The Draft Braintree Green Spaces Strategy was endorsed by the Local Committees earlier this year for the purposes of public consultation. The consultation period ended on 26 May and the responses considered by the Strategy Development Group on 17 June. The Schedule of Representations includes the Strategy Development Group's comments and recommendations for amending the Draft Strategy. The most significant amendments to the document relate to a greater recognition of the consideration given to the historic environment in drawing up management and maintenance plans.

## **DECISION**

It is **RECOMMENDED** that:

The Cabinet endorses the Draft Braintree Green Spaces Strategy as recommended for alteration by the Green Spaces Strategy Development Group and recommends it to the Local Development Framework Panel for adoption as the evidence base for future green space planning policies and future management and maintenance plans produced by the Council.

## DRAFT BRAINTREE GREEN SPACES STRATEGY REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### **Introduction**

1. The open space audit and the draft Braintree Green Spaces Strategy were undertaken as a preliminary to setting up to date local standards for the provision of open space as a basis for securing developer contributions towards open space provision. The importance of green spaces and outdoor recreational activity has been recognized by government, various national bodies and this Council. Open space, sport and recreational facilities can make our towns and villages better places to live; they need to be sufficient to meet people's needs, of high quality, attractive to use and well managed and maintained. They contribute to the Council's desire to create a cleaner and greener District and making the District a better place in which to live, work and play.

### **Open Space Audit**

2. The Braintree Open Space Audit took place in 2006-07 and, in addition to the audit of open spaces, included surveys of residents, users and sports clubs. The audit was co-ordinated by an internal Open Space Audit Steering Group with member representation and was in general conformity with PPG17. Over 700 open spaces in the District were mapped and full audits carried out on 330 spaces. The audits assessed each space on its typology, quality of the landscape, buildings and other structures or furniture, its cleanliness and standard of maintenance, its accessibility and its community use.
3. To obtain the views of the community a household questionnaire survey was sent to 1 in every 13 households in the District, and a 17% return rate ensured that the information derived is robust enough to stand public scrutiny. This provided information on how open spaces are valued and used, the public perception of their quality, people's sporting interests and their travel patterns. A user survey was carried out at the sites most frequently used, providing information on catchment areas for each type of space. A survey of sports clubs using outdoor playing surfaces looked at their membership patterns, their playing and training facilities, the quality of their playing surfaces, their problems and their aspirations.

### **Braintree Green Spaces Strategy**

4. The Braintree Green Spaces Strategy aims to provide accessible high quality green spaces and outdoor sports facilities which meet the recreational needs of all sections of the community; to engage the local community to participate in their improvement; to raise their profile and to promote their benefit to the District. It draws on the results of the PPG17\* open space audit and the household, user and sports club surveys that provide the basis for setting provision, quality and accessibility standards. The Strategy makes recommendations for the provision and improvement of green spaces, and provides a basis for developing planning policies and proposals for improving the management and maintenance of green spaces. The Open Space Audit Report is included as an appendix to the Strategy document.
5. The Strategy was developed with the assistance of a Strategy Development Group including representatives from the Council, parish councils, CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), Essex Wildlife Trust and the Braintree and Bocking Civic Society. The Group approved the Strategy on 9<sup>th</sup> January and referred it

to the Area Committees in February and March for comment and endorsement prior to public consultation.

6. The Strategy draws on the results of the PPG17 open space audit and the household, user and sports club surveys that provide the basis for setting provision, quality and accessibility standards. It was developed by a Strategy Development Group which comprised members, officers, and local community representatives of parish and town councils, the Rural Community Council Essex, Essex Wildlife Trust, Braintree and Bocking Civic Society, and local secondary school.
7. Public consultation took place over a period of 6 weeks in April/May and 100 representations were received from 24 respondents comprising 15 parish councils, 6 individuals, a local action group, CPREssex and Essex County Council. The Schedule of Representations Received (see Appendix 1) comprises a summary of the representations and the comments and recommendations of the Strategy Development Group. It is presented in the order of the BGSS document, working through from Section 1 to the Appendices, followed by representations on the Draft Site Location Maps and additional green spaces not identified in the original mapping exercise. There will be a number of consequential amendments following the recognition of additional green spaces; these are not significant enough to affect the outcomes of applying the provision standards.
8. The main changes are:
  - (i) an update on the East of England Plan,
  - (ii) the inclusion of a number of Essex community strategies as part of the Policy Background. Please note that this Council's Corporate Action Plan will also need to be amended prior to publication of the Strategy,
  - (iii) a number of amendments that confirms the intention to also have regard to the historic environment of the District's green spaces, and
  - (iv) the inclusion of a additional small green spaces in the Site Location Maps and consequential amendments to Section 5 (Application of Provision Standards).
  - (v) amended references to allotments following the report by the Allotments Task and Finish Group (see Appendix 2).
9. It is essential that the Council has in place a green spaces strategy to ensure that future policies and proposals for green spaces in the Local Development Framework will be considered sound. The intention is that the Strategy will be adopted by the Local Development Framework Panel for this purpose.

## DRAFT BRAINTREE GREEN SPACES STRATEGY - SCHEDULE OF REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
<b>General:</b>	<u>Mr A Dawson</u> GSS/002 BGSS is good & considers best use of spaces available	Noted.
	<u>Mr A Dawson</u> GSS/003 Problems of premises in flood plains.	This is a general issue not exclusively related to the BGSS. The erection of buildings within an open space forming part of a flood plain is considered as part of the planning process and consultation with the Environment Agency. It is recommended that no amendment be made to the strategy.
	<u>Great Bardfield PC</u> GSS/044 Appreciates the District Council's concern for the preservation of both rural and urban green spaces. The document and maps were very informative in respect of the whole District.	Noted.
	<u>Rivenhall PC</u> GSS/058 The audit should have been conducted at Parish level & the methodology allowing for multiple use of spaces.	The audit was carried out in house to ensure consistency in the scoring following a training session. Multiple use of green spaces was taken into consideration in applying the provision standards in Section 5 of the BGSS.
	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/059 Although the GSS is thorough & identifies priorities, green spaces are not considered as part of a multi-functional system as required by Regional Spatial Strategy Policy ENV1	See response on following page (see rep no. GSS/062)
	<u>CPREssex</u> GSS/099 Welcomes the initiative to improve the provision of green spaces in Braintree District. The audit is extremely thorough. Agrees that green spaces of every kind are essential to the well-being of people and biodiversity. Supports the strategic aims to enhance existing spaces and to make new provision, especially of structured and informal play opportunities in rural areas. It would be very advantageous for residents of many villages if safe cycle paths and footways were provided to allow better access to the countryside - quiet lanes are beneficial in rural areas for this purpose.	The issue of links to the countryside was also raised by Rivenhall PC. A limited number of green lanes which serve have this function have been identified in the audit, and it is likely that there are some others which have not been identified. Although only green lanes would be considered by the audit, there is some merit in identifying links between open spaces which do not meet the criteria for recognition as linear spaces in their own right.
<b>Section 1: The Vision</b> p.2 para 1.2	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/060 Fails to recognise the historic environment. Recommends an additional vision statement "green spaces are managed to protect and enhance the historic environment and to maximise their cultural value."	Although the natural, historic and cultural heritage of sites were audited, it is acknowledged that overall the BGSS may appear to give insufficient weight was given to these aspects. <b>It is recommended that paragraph 1.2 be amended by the following addition:</b>

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
<b>Section 2: Policy Context</b>	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/061 Refer to the role of English Heritage under the National Agenda for Open Spaces. Additional wording suggested.	“(f) green spaces are managed to protect and enhance the historic environment and to maximise their cultural value.”  The advisory role of English Heritage is acknowledged, and indeed their advice welcomed in the Council’s bids for Green Flag status for Halstead Public Gardens, Silver End Memorial gardens and Witham Park.
p.5 para 2.2	<u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/008 Earls Colne Village Design Statement recognises the importance of green spaces	Noted.
p.10 para 2.24 (Draft East of England Plan)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/062 The EEP was adopted in May 2008 - refer to Policy ENV1 as worded in the EEP. The document should provide a more spatial vision with regard to green spaces.	Para 2.24 was written before the RSS was adopted in May, and the intention was to update it upon adoption. <b>It is proposed that para.2.24 be deleted and substituted by: “East of England Plan (RSS14) “2.24 The East of England Plan (EEP) was published in May 2008 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. It covers the period to 2021 and sets a vision, objectives and core strategy for the longer term. EEP Policy ENV1: Green Infrastructure states:</b>  ‘Areas and networks of green infrastructure should be identified, created, protected, enhanced and managed to ensure an improved and healthy environment is available for present and future communities. Green infrastructure should be developed so as to maximise its biodiversity value and, as part of a package of measures, contribute to achieving carbon neutral development and flood attenuation. In developing green infrastructure opportunities should be taken to develop and enhance networks for walking, cycling and other non-motorised transport. Local Development Documents should: • define a multiple hierarchy of green infrastructure, in terms of location, function, size and levels of use, based on analysis of natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, and the identification of areas where additional green infrastructure is required; • require the retention of substantial connected networks of green space in urban, urban fringe and adjacent countryside areas to serve the growing communities in key centres for development and change; and • ensure that policies have regard to the economic and social as well as environmental benefits of green infrastructure assets

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
		<p>and protect sites of European or international importance for wildlife.</p> <p>Assets of regional significance for the retention, provision and enhancement of green infrastructure include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads; the Norfolk Coast, Suffolk Coast &amp; Heaths, Dedham Vale and Chilterns Areas of</li> </ul>
		<p>Outstanding Natural Beauty; and the Heritage Coasts (shown on the Key Diagram);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• other areas of landscape, ecological and recreational importance, notably the Community Forests (Thames Chase, Marston Vale and Watling Chase), the Brecks, Epping Forest, Hatfield Forest, the Lee Valley Regional Park and areas around the Stour Estuary, and</li> <li>• strategically significant green infrastructure projects and proposals, such as the Great Fen Project, Wicken Fen Vision, the Milton Keynes to Bedford Waterway Park, and green infrastructure projects around the fringes of Greater London and associated corridors.' <p>“Green infrastructure refers to networks of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, waterways and green linkages. It seeks to promote the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure having a range of benefits to the community. It should be considered as a system where all linked elements contribute to an overall whole, delivering amenity, recreation, biodiversity, carbon absorption and air filtration, along with a spatial identity and the making of place.”</p> <p>The BGSS is part of the evidence base for the LDF and will be used to develop the spatial strategies of the LDF. As a background document it is not intended to include a spatial strategy. It is the intention that a multiple hierarchy of green spaces will be defined in a LDD.</p> </li></ul>
p.11 (Links With Other Local Strategies)	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/063</p> <p>The GSS should make reference to the "Essex Local Area Agreement 2008-11: Liberating Potential", and local indicator 10.1 "progressing the Living Landscapes Vision - the number of Living Landscape Areas with a Management Vision." Possible wording suggested. Clearly the component land uses identified in the GSS could be included in any landscape vision.</p>	<p>LAA2 is in its final stages of consultation; the Braintree District LAA and consequent LSP proposals will go to Cabinet in July. This will replace the existing County Council Community Strategy. <b>It is agreed that reference should be made to the relevant parts of the LAA by inserting after paras. 2.39 the following:</b></p> <p><b><i>“Local Area Agreement 2008-11 – Liberating Potential, Fulfilling Lives”</i></b></p>

		<p>“2.39a Priority 10 refers to a ‘Well-managed Environment’ which seeks the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance Essex’s coast and countryside and accommodate the impact of growth and climate change for the benefit of both the local environment and wildlife and local communities</li> <li>• Preserve and improve biodiversity and the historic environment</li> </ul>
TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect Essex’s natural and historic resources and promote their sustainable and efficient use</li> <li>• Increase access to and use of the natural environment to support healthy and active lifestyles</li> <li>• Increase understanding and awareness of the countryside and environment.</li> </ul> <p>Within this priority the partnership has included a local indicator 10.1 titled <i>Progressing the Living Landscapes Vision – the number of Living Landscapes Areas with a Management Vision</i>.</p> <p>“2.39b The vision is to establish large areas of countryside which are good for wildlife, recognise the importance of history and culture and integrate the social and economic benefits for people. These living landscapes will be ecologically-functioning areas that are large enough to provide resilience and connectivity for wildlife, access and employment for people, sustainable low carbon contributions to the economy and are able to adapt to climate change. This vision will influence the management of open spaces within these areas.”</p>
p.11 (Links With Other Local Strategies)	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/064</p> <p>Reference should be made to the Community Wellbeing Strategy currently being prepared by EssexCC and partners. One of the four priorities is "ensuring public spaces are friendly, clean, attractive and usable: improving atmospherics and practicalities of our areas". ECC considers the emerging BGSS is in keeping with this.</p>	<p>The CWBS is being considered by ECC this month. It is recommended that reference be made to this strategy in line with ECC suggestion by inserting a new paragraph after 2.41 as follows:</p> <p><b>“Community Wellbeing Strategy (Essex County Council)</b></p> <p><b>“2.39c One of four priorities of the Community Wellbeing Strategy (in preparation) focuses upon ensuring public spaces are friendly, clean, attractive and usable by ‘improving atmospherics and practicalities of our areas’.</b> Work will be undertaken to ensure safe public access, provide ‘walkable neighbourhoods’ to reduce the need to travel by car. identify priority footpath improvements. find</p>

**Appendix 1**

		<p><b>funds to improve accessibility for all and create safe, attractive environments in which to live. The BGSS is compatible with this strategy.”</b></p>
<p>p.11 (Links With Other Local Strategies)</p>	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/065          Consideration should be given to the recently published Green Infrastructure Study for the Haven Gateway Growth Area.</p>	<p>The Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy includes a schedule of ‘vision projects’ on around 150 green corridors, areas of ANG deficiency and other space-related improvements within the Gateway area. There is a case for improving access to the countryside from urban areas and villages, and where possible links to green infrastructure in adjoining districts.</p>

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
p.13 paras 2.40-2.41	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/066</p> <p>A revised Essex Community Strategy is being prepared to cover the period 2008-2018 entitled "Essex Strategy - Liberating Potential, Fulfilling Lives". It seeks to promote sustainability and protect the County's physical environment. Accommodating the substantial growth targeted to 2021 in the EEP will be considered alongside the protection and/or enhancement of nature conservation and key habitats, valued landscapes, heritage and historic features, air and water quality, water resources, outdoor recreation areas and the undeveloped coast and countryside. The Strategy also seeks to maximise the benefits of the Olympic Games by encouraging increased participation in sport.</p>	<p>In tandem with LAA2, the ECS is in its final stages of consultation; the Braintree District CS and consequent LSP proposals will go to Cabinet in July. <b>It is agreed that reference should be made to the relevant parts of the ECS by making deleting paras 2.40 and 2.41 and substituting the following:</b></p> <p><b><i>“Essex Strategy - Liberating Potential, Fulfilling Lives (Essex County Council)</i></b></p> <p><b>“2.40 The Essex Community Strategy is currently being prepared to cover the period 2008-2018. One of its aims is to promote sustainability and protect the County’s physical environment. Essex is targeted for substantial growth over the period to 2021 within the East of England Plan (May 2008). Accommodating this growth needs to be considered alongside the protection and/or enhancement of nature conservation and key habitats; valued landscapes; heritage and historic features; air and water quality; water resources; outdoor recreation areas; and the undeveloped coast and countryside. The Strategy also seeks to maximise the benefits of the Olympic Games in 2012 by encouraging increased participation in sport throughout the country.”</b></p>
<p><b>Section 3: Aims &amp; Objectives</b></p> <p>p.15 para 3.1(Aims and Objectives)</p>	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/067</p> <p>Recommend a change to the 6th bullet point by adding "and historic" after "natural" and adding "and cultural activities" at the end.</p>	<p>See response to GSS/060 above. It is considered that the historic environment should be recognised as an important element in its own right, and not to be an ‘add-on’ to references to the natural environment. <b>It is recommended that a new bullet point be inserted after the 6<sup>th</sup> bullet point to read “Conserving the historic environment and encouraging cultural activities where appropriate.”</b></p>
<p><b>Section 4: Developing Standards</b></p> <p>p.19 para 4.7 (Quantity standards)</p>	<p><u>CPREssex</u> GSS/100</p> <p>Although allotments were not included in the study, CPREssex urges BDC to support the provision of these important green spaces - in many places they are in short supply and much in demand.</p>	<p>The Allotments Task and Finish Group have recommended that allotment land should be considered as part of leisure and amenity land in new residential developments, in a similar way to children’s play areas, and where appropriate be considered for Section 106 contributions. It is intended that this will be achieved through the Allocations Document as part of the LDF. Para 4.7 of the BGSS refers to this study and states that “if necessary further provision will be made in the Local Development Framework.” A report is being made to Cabinet in July.</p>

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
p.23 para 4.12 (Quality Standards)	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/068</p> <p>Although the quality assessment referred to "culture, heritage and community use", heritage value has otherwise been ignored and treatment of the historic environment inadequately integrated. It is necessary to make explicit the connections between the natural and historic environment of Braintree's green spaces and the need to consider the historic environmental interests of a green space alongside biodiversity and other values when determining appropriate management regimes or considering changes of use as proposed by the GSS. The importance of biodiversity or the potential to enhance it for the benefit of wildlife will be directly related to historic land use, the historic environment and the wider cultural values of a site.</p>	As mentioned above, the historic and cultural environments could be given greater consideration in the BGSS. It is proposed to do this by making reference to them in Section 7 (management and maintenance).
p.23 para 4.13 (Quality Standards)	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/069</p> <p>Welcomes BDC's programme to bring the best and most well-used public parks and gardens up to Green Flag standard.</p>	Noted.
pp.23-24 Map 8	<p><u>Witham TC</u> GSS/033</p> <p>Witham Urban has only 0-0.2 hectares per thousand people for allotment provision - need to re-open Conrad Road allotments.</p>	An allotment strategy is to be developed separately from the green spaces strategy. It will identify potential sites for new or extended allotments, including a change of use of open space or the re-opening of former allotments, which proposals being implemented through the Allocations Document under the LDF process.
pp.23-24 Map 15	<p><u>Witham TC</u> GSS/034</p> <p>Provision for a play area in Maltings Lane is required urgently.</p>	The remaining phases of the Maltings Lane development include provision for children's play areas as part of the Section 106 agreement. Work could be starting later this year.
<b>Section 5: Application of Provision Standards</b>	<p><u>Rivenhall PC</u> GSS/053</p> <p>Concerns over the methodology - disagrees with the overall assessment that there are serious open space deficiencies - does not take into account multifunctionality of green spaces.</p>	Section 5 of the BGSS takes into account multifunctional use of space when in identifying shortfalls of provision in each type of space. The open space deficiencies in Rivenhall are primarily formal parks and gardens, and childrens play provision. Since Rivenhall has a population under 3,000, the provision of a formal park would not be required.
	<p><u>Rivenhall PC</u> GSS/055</p> <p>A local poll showed that people are satisfied with existing local play equipment and have not requested more provision.</p>	The standards developed in the BGSS followed from the findings of the household survey and comparison with other local authority open space strategies. If Rivenhall residents do not consider there to be a need, then a low priority will be given to meeting any needs identified in the BGSS.

## Appendix 1

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
	<u>Rivenhall PC</u> GSS/057 Agree need for additional open space at Rivenhall End, although there is an issue of access and proximity of the railway and busy roads.	Access issues would need to be considered when identifying a suitable location for any new open space.
p.24 para 5.3 (Application of Provision Standards)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/070 ECC would welcome the opportunity to provide information and comment on any future proposals (for the location of new green spaces) to ensure adequate consideration of their historic environment from the outset.	Noted.
p.27 para 5.15 (Witham Urban Sub-Area - Outdoor Sports Provision bullet point 1)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/071 It should be noted that the Maltings Lane development will include a Primary, rather than a Junior, School.	Noted – <b>paragraph 5.15 will be amended by substituting 'primary' for 'junior' in line 3 of the first bullet point.</b>
p.28 para 5.19	<u>Mr H M Phillips</u> GSS/004 Rayne requires additional amenity & recreation space - shortage of football pitches	The BGSS acknowledges in paras. 5.19 and 5.20 deficits in outdoor sports provision and amenity greenspace at Rayne. These must be seen in the context of an overall surplus of outdoor sports provision in the Braintree Rural Sub-Area and the Flich Way through Rayne which provides a local amenity as well as a long-distance green corridor.
p.30 para 5.29	<u>Kelvedon PC</u> GSS/022 The need for a play space at Heron Road is questioned since access to Kelvedon Playing Field and Brockwell Meadows LNR is relatively easy. Kelvedon PC in partnership with the Kelvedon Youth Forum has identified site ref. 60249 (Glebe Road play area) as the ideal site for play equipment as this would give local provision without the need to cross Kelvedon High Street	The audit concluded that there is a need for additional play spaces in the northern part of the village. Kelvedon Playing Field is 370 metres from the nearest point in Heron Road, so there is justification for a toddler play area in the vicinity of Heron Road. There is no obvious site available for this at the present time. Glebe Road play area is in a backland location. This type of location is no longer favoured by BDC for reasons of personal safety and security. Nevertheless this play area is well-used.
p.30 para 5.30	<u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/009 (new open spaces most likely to be funded through developer contributions) - EC residents do not want further large scale development.	The funding of new open spaces through developer contributions does not imply that development will be permitted in an area which is not otherwise acceptable simply as a means of securing additional open space. If there is no further large scale development at Earls Colne, then it is unlikely that there will be further open space provision.
p.30 para 5.30	<u>Kelvedon PC</u> GSS/021 The need for 4 hectares of parks and gardens is noted, but members advise that the identification of a suitable area will	This is one of the areas suggested in the BGSS, although it is liable to flooding. The identification of any future park will be considered as part of the Allocations Document in the LDF

	be difficult unless a 'water-based' area is included at the bottom of Feering Hill, adjacent to the Blackwater River.	process.
TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
p.31 Para 5.32	<u>Witham TC</u> GSS/031 River Walk north of Chipping Hill (site ref: 30433) should be extended northwards.	The area referred to is owned by BDC, extends to 3.5 hectares and is identified as public open space in the Local Plan Review, although only part of this area is well-used. There may be a case for managing the area to encourage greater public use of it, although this could reduce biodiversity within it. The full extent of this area is not reflected on the Draft Site Location Map. <b>It is recommended the future of this land is referred to the Riverside Walk Group for further consideration.</b>
p.31 Para 5.33	<u>Witham TC</u> GSS/032 Improvements to the Blackwater Rail Trail, including replacing the demolished wooden bridge over the River Brain should be a priority. WTC supports the BDC proposal to extend the cycleway.	BDC is committed to finding ways to secure the completion of the Blackwater Rail Trail in conjunction with the County Council which owns the land. A feasibility study into a bridge over the Brain will be carried out later this year.
p.31 para 5.33-5.34 (Opportunities for the development of a network of linkages between green spaces)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/072 The decision to seek funding opportunities to enhance the Flitch Way and Blackwater Rail Trail are welcomed. Similarly the proposal to open up the Colne Valley railway either side of Halstead will represent a significant contribution to the network of green corridors in the District. The development of a new green corridor should be informed by an up-to-date understanding of the historic environment interest.	Noted.
<b>Section 6: Raising the Quality of Open Spaces</b>	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/073 The management/improvement of each green space should be informed by an up-to-date understanding of its historic environment, and due consideration should be given to sustaining or enhancing its historic environmental values during management/improvement works. The guiding principles included in the English Heritage publication "Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets" could be used to inform the management of green spaces in the district.	As recommended above it is proposed to amend Section 7 to reflect the need to consider any historic environment when formulating management and maintenance plans. Many green spaces have no heritage value, and therefore it is not appropriate to over emphasise historic value in general. It is agreed that the historic environment will be given special consideration in management plans where a site has heritage value.
p.33 Table 5 (Quality:Value Matrix)	<u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/010 Marks Hall is wrongly attributed to Earls Colne	Noted. <b>Table 5 and Appendix 1 will be amended to read "Marks Hall Estate, Marks Hall Road, Coggeshall"</b>
p.33 Table 5 (Quality:Value Matrix)	<u>Bulmer PC</u> GSS/017 The recreation ground is named 'Coe's Meadow' and not 'Vicars Orchard'. Vicars Orchard is a cul-de-sac of dwellings.	<b>Table 1 and Appendix 1 (Site Audit Scores) will be amended accordingly.</b>

**Appendix 1**

p.33 Table 5 (Quality:Value Matrix)	<u>Sible Hedingham PC</u> Why is land east of Summerfields the only Sible Hedingham site listed?	GSS/036 Table 5 includes sites which have either high or low scores for quality and which are either well-used or seldom used. Not all sites are included.
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TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
p.33 Table 5 (Quality:Value Matrix)	<u>Feering PC</u> GSS/045 Feering Playing Field appears in two categories. FPC believes it should appear in the first category (High Quality-High Value) only	Noted. <b>It is recommended that the site should appear in the first category only.</b>
p.33 Table 5 (Quality:Value Matrix)	<u>Terling &amp; Fairstead PC</u> GSS/087 Would like further information on the criteria applied in determining the values referred to in Table 5, with particular reference to Terling football ground "low quality high value".	At the time of the audit, the playing field showed signs of being poorly maintained. It scored below average on its landscape, pavilion, design of space, condition of entrance, signage, dog fouling, information, gaffiti & vandalism, grass areas and railings.
p.33 Table 5 (Quality:Value Matrix)	<u>Terling &amp; Fairstead PC</u> GSS/088 Would like further information on the criteria for including sites in Table 5. Other green spaces in Terling have not been included e.g. Terling cricket ground.	See reference above. Not all sites were included. Although quality was above average, its value was only considered as average because it was not used other than for cricket.
p.34 para 6.4 (Raising the overall quality of green spaces)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/074 In section iii) add at end "and management, protection and interpretation of the historic environment."	Accepted in principle. In keeping with other changes relating to the historic environment <b>it is recommended that paragraph 6.4 be amended by inserting a new point to read:</b> <b>" xii) management and maintenance plans will provide for the management, protection and interpretation of the historic environment where appropriate."</b>
p.34 para 6.4 (Raising the overall quality of green spaces)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/075 Section vii) - ECC consider a sound understanding of the historic environment of a green space can provide a source of inspiration for cultural events and activities that take place on a site.	It is accepted that a site's historic environment can inspire and influence the events and activities which take place. In keeping with other changes relating to the historic environment <b>it is recommended that paragraph 6.4 (vii) be amended by inserting "reflecting the cultural and heritage value of a site where appropriate," after "activities"</b> .
p.36 para 6.7(Management and maintenance plans)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/076 Add at end of second sentence "together with the management, protection and interpretation of the historic environment."	Accepted. In keeping with other changes relating to the historic environment <b>it is recommended that a new paragraph 6.17 be inserted to read</b> <b><i>"Historic Environments</i></b> <b><i>"6.17 Where green spaces have a historic environment, management and maintenance plans will provide for the management, protection and interpretation of that environment. When planning habitat management within historic environments, historic practices will be considered when appropriate.</i></b> It is recognised that there is a need to define and give examples of historic environments: therefore a glossary will be

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
p.36 para 6.9 (Encouraging native flora and fauna)	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/077            Consideration should be given to choosing native species of flora that are distinct to the local area. Management of habitats, such as hedgerows, should also follow historic management practice e.g. coppicing, rather than layering, of hedges.</p>	<p>added to the final document.</p> <p>The point about species distinct to the local area is accepted. <b>It is recommended that paragraph 6.9 be amended by inserting ‘and where possible distinct to the local area,’ after ‘fauna’.</b> Historic management practice is referred to in the new paragraph 6.17 (see previous response).</p>
p.36 para 6.10 (Common BDC branding)	<p><u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/011            It would be desirable to maintain some form of local individuality</p>	<p>The branding refers to BDC owned sites. Where a site is managed in conjunction with the local community, or where the local community have an input into its design or management, then this can be acknowledged on the site. <b>It is recommended that “Where there the local community has an input into the design or management of the site, this will be acknowledged on information boards or signs’ be added at the end of paragraph 6.10.</b></p>
p.36 para 6.11 (Events and activities)	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/078            The historic environment of a green space can provide a source of inspiration for cultural events and activities, which in turn can help people to understand the history of their community, reinforcing their sense of place.</p>	<p>This follows from the suggested changes to paragraph 6.4. <b>It is recommended that para. 6.11 be amended by adding “In green spaces with a heritage value the historic environment can be a source of inspiration for cultural events and activities which promote the history of their communities and reinforce people’s sense of place.</b></p>
p.37 para 6.15 (Increasing accessibility)	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/079            The publication "Easy access to historic landscapes" (English Heritage) provides useful guidance on improving accessibility to parks and gardens.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<b>Section 7: Management &amp; Maintenance</b>	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/080            ECC recommends the inclusion of an additional paragraph in line with the consideration of management for biodiversity, e.g. Management for the Historic Environment. The historic environment contributes to quality of life and is a core component of sustainable development. It has economic, social, educational, spiritual and amenity values. Historic places give people a sense of the past and the future. Protection and enhancement of the historic environment is essential to local distinctiveness and a community’s sense of place.</p>	<p>Although not all sites have a historic environment, those that do usually have a distinctive quality which is worthy of protection. <b>It is therefore recommended that a new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 7.9 to read: “Management of the Historic Environment “7.9a The historic environment contributes to the quality of life, having economic, social, spiritual and amenity values. Historic places give people a sense of the past and reflect changes over time. Protection and enhancement of the historic environment is essential to local distinctiveness and a community’s sense of place. Where a site has heritage value this will be protected and enhanced through management plans and maintenance regimes.</b></p>

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
p.39 para 7.1 (Management Plans for appropriate strategic green spaces)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/081 ECC would welcome the opportunity to provide specialist input, in the form of information and advice, into the development of management plans for strategic green spaces in the District. Consideration of the historic environment from the outset will enable a holistic approach to the management of the Districts green spaces, helping to identify conflicts and mitigation measures where appropriate.	Consideration of the historic environment forms part of the initial site assessment when preparing any open space management plan. Where there is a known archaeological interest Essex County Council is invited to contribute to management and interpretation. The County Council may not be the only contributor; others involved will be the local community, including local history and natural history groups. <b>It is recommended that para 7.1 be amended by adding at the end “Where appropriate, in drawing up management plans, the Council will consult with other specialist stakeholders.”</b>
p.40 para 7.3 (“Model” management & maintenance plans for green spaces of each typology)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/082 ECC would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of model management plans for each of the green space typologies to ensure appropriate consideration of the historic environment.	Essex County Council will be invited to contribute to the historic element of model management plans. <b>It is recommended that para 7.3 be amended by adding a new second sentence “In drawing up model management plans the Council will consult with any relevant bodies.”</b>
p.40 para 7.5 (Environmental education and interpretation)	<u>Essex CC</u> GSS/083 The council’s intention to use interpretation to inform communities and maximise the educational potential of green spaces is welcome. The historic environment of a green space can provide a rich source of stories and information to increase peoples understanding of their past and to enhance their sense of place. Green corridors such as the Flitch Way and other dismantled railways lines are a good example of sites with the potential for enhanced interpretation.	Noted. <b>It is recommended that paragraph 7.5 be amended by inserting after the first sentence “The interpretation of a green space will include its function, its past use and remaining evidence of its past, its future management and maintenance and its use for cultural and social events”.</b>
<b>Section 8: Action Plan</b> p.42 para 8.1(PACT Action Plan)	<u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/012 Unsocial behaviour in the local primary school grounds has resulted in the field being fenced off. If required to re-open to the public, policing and wardens would be needed.	Local instances of anti-social behaviour do not invalidate the principle of greater community use of school playing fields. Where a school field is to be used by the community, security will be an important consideration.
p.42 para 8.2 (Corporate Action Plan)	<u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/013 Earls Colne has just one playground funded by the Parish Council. Is Braintree offering financial help with this area.	Corporate Action Plan 2007-08 Action Point AD6 refers to working with Earls Colne PC and part-funding the refurbishment of play sites in the village.

<p><b>Section 12: Funding</b> p48 para 12.1 (Funding)</p>	<p><u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/014 If responsibility for developer-led greenspace falls to the Parish Council, will Braintree be willing to fund their upkeep?</p>	<p>Funding of long-term maintenance is an issue which needs to be resolved. Some parish councils have budgets for the acquisition and maintenance of open spaces. BDC cannot commit itself to full funding of open spaces in the parished areas of the District. <b>The Council offers advice and assistance to parish councils applying for funds such as the Community Initiatives Fund.</b></p>
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TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
	<u>Coggeshall PC</u> GSS/095 An interesting draft strategy which will not achieve much without proper funding. The financial burden is put on the local community, particularly in relation to Vicarage Field which would be attractive if purchase and maintenance were not too costly. The parish council leased it from the Church Commissioners in the past, but the lease was not renewed due to unattractive terms. The Commissioners may be hoping to get planning consent on the land eventually for housebuilding.	See above.
<b>Appendix 1: Braintree District Open Space Audit</b> p.17 Table 4	<u>Witham Town Council</u> GSS/029 Period garden to rear of town hall (1.5) should be shown as formal recreation.	<b>This is a small formal public garden of 0.05 ha. owned by the Town Council. The site will be mapped as a 'park and garden' for future reference and consequential changes made to the BGSS as necessary.</b> It is not proposed to audit this space now.
p.23 para 4.15	<u>Witham Town Council</u> GSS/030 The closed churchyard at Guithavon Street (1.7) should be shown as natural greenspace.	As a closed churchyard with graves intact, the typology given in the BGSS is correct. It is managed for wildlife on behalf of Town Council and accessible to the public.
p.28 para 5.15 (Dog Fouling)	<u>Finchingfield PC</u> GSS/093 Winsey Chase, Bardfield Road could be included here; it is a particularly misused area where the parish council have installed an additional dog bin.	The audit did not reveal a problem of dog fouling in 2006, although there were inadequate provision for disposal of waste.
Section 5 (Green Corridors)	<u>Sible Hedingham PC</u> GSS/037 Should Riverside Walk be included here?	The Colne Valley sites at Sible Hedingham were classified as natural/semi-natural green spaces because they are characterised by their dense vegetation and limited public use.
p.40 para 7.11	<u>Kelvedon PC</u> GSS/025 Reference to a pavilion at Church Road is incorrect as it is not known. This could refer to Church Road car parking area which includes a hut. The Church Road area is not zoned.	This is an error. <b>Paragraph 7.11 should have referred to land surrounding the scout hut in St. Giles Road and will be amended accordingly.</b>
p.45 para 8.19	<u>Sible Hedingham PC</u> GSS/038 Should read "Recreation Ground" and not "Recreation Park".	Noted. <b>Paragraph 8.19 will be amended accordingly.</b>
p.46 Table 11	<u>Sible Hedingham PC</u> GSS/039 Should read "Recreation Ground" and not "Recreation Park".	Noted. <b>Table 11 will be amended accordingly.</b>
Appendix 1A -	<u>Coggeshall PC</u> GSS/098 The parish council own some of the land where ownership is questioned. Details can be provided if required.	Requested. Appendix 1A will be revised as necessary.

## Appendix 1

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
<p><b>Appendix 2: Corporate Action Plan 2007-2008</b> App2 AD7 (Corporate Action Plan - refurbishment of playgrounds)</p>	<p><u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/015 The playground at Tey Road Close also needs refurbishment.</p>	<p>This is acknowledged in Action Point AD6, which refers to working with Earls Colne PC and part-fund the refurbishment of play sites in the village.</p>
<p><b>Appendix 1: Braintree District Open Space Audit – Draft Site Location Maps</b> Bocking North Ward: Bocking (North) Index</p>	<p><u>Essex CC</u> GSS/084 Appendix 1 (Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Options) - The Braintree Audit of Open Spaces identifies land at Panfield Lane (Site Ref 40587), totalling 4ha, for outdoor sport and recreation. In preparation of the above document investigation has been undertaken regarding the reclassification/use of this land for approximately 150 dwellings, as part of a Greenfield extension to Braintree Urban Area. Clearly, if this proposal was to progress, the District Council would need to consider incorporating this within the overall Greenfield extension or elsewhere within the district. However, its relocation should not be to the disadvantage of existing users of the site.</p>	<p>ECC raises a real issue with this site. This is BDC land currently used for football and BMX. At the same time it has the potential to meet part of the District's housing requirements in the period to 2021. If selected, there would be a need to find replacement sites for the activities carried on there; in particular the search for an appropriate alternative site for the BMX track may be difficult. This will ultimately be a matter for the LDF Panel to determine.</p>
<p>Bradwell, Silver End &amp; Rivenhall: Rivenhall/Rivenhall End and Silver End Insets</p>	<p><u>Rivenhall PC</u> GSS/054 Villages have extensive rights of way across the countryside, amounting to linear green spaces, yet both Rivenhall &amp; Silver End are listed as having no green corridors.</p>	<p>See responses to CPREssex and Rivenhall PC above. Not all rights of way form green corridors of open space in their own right; most frequently they are field margins.</p>
<p>Coggeshall &amp; North Feering: Feering Inset</p>	<p><u>Feering PC</u> GSS/052 The dimensions of site ref. 40427 (in Kelvedon) should be checked. A significant proportion of the large garden adjoining the northwestern edge has been gifted to the school and should be included.</p>	<p><b>To be checked; the mapping and the audit results amended accordingly.</b> Any consequential impact on the quantitative analysis will be assessed.</p>
<p>Hedingham &amp; Maplestead: Sible Hedingham Inset</p>	<p><u>Sible Hedingham PC</u> GSS/040 The Sible Hedingham map does not include the full extent of the riverside walk east of Summerfields. It should be extended southwards (to Alderford Street).</p>	<p>The riverside walk at Summerfields has not been constructed yet. The site has been included because, subject to problems of being overgrown much of the year, there is already <i>de facto</i> public access. There is no evidence that land to the south is so used; there is no access from Alderford Street.</p>

## Appendix 1

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
Hedingham & Maplestead: Gestingthorpe Inset	<u>Gestingthorpe PC</u> GSS/007 Amenity green- space 50935 (village hall, Gestingthorpe) is wrong. The amenity greenspace is in front of the parish church.	Although there is a small grassed area in front of the village hall, the whole of the village hall site is shown as site 50935. Adjoining the south side of the site is a grass verge of 0.06 ha. with mature trees standing in front of the parish churchyard. This is a registered village green and it appears that it is this site which should have been included in the mapping. The original site was below the audit threshold and therefore not audited. <b>Existing site ref. 50935 will be deleted and substituted by the new site; consequential changes will be made to the quantitative analysis if necessary.</b> Its size of 0.06 ha falls below the threshold for auditing.
Kelvedon: Kelvedon Inset	<u>Kelvedon PC</u> GSS/023 The BDC/ Greenfields area adjacent to site ref. 70250 (allotments) has not been zoned.	This refers to a small grassy site located between dwellings in New Road and the allotments. It is now owned by Greenfields Community Housing. It is not a public open space.
Kelvedon: Kelvedon Inset	<u>Kelvedon PC</u> GSS/024 Site ref. 70251 (part adj. Treetops, Dowches Gardens, is not an allotment area but amenity grass.	This is an error. The part of site 70251 adjacent to Treetops, Dowches Gardens, is an area of amenity greenspace. Its area is below 0.2 hectares. <b>The site will be reclassified as amenity greenspace ref. no. 50251.</b>
Stour Valley North: Foxearth/ Liston Inset	<u>Mr R D Douglas-Hughes</u> GSS/001 Site 10163 is part of a private garden & should be deleted	The representation has been verified on site. The land is clearly not being used as a public park or garden. <b>It is recommended that the site be deleted from the Foxearth Inset Map.</b>
Stour Valley South: Alphamstone & Lamarsh Inset	<u>Alphamstone &amp; Lamarsh PC</u> GSS/086 The green in front of the Village Hall (500825) is Hall Green.	Noted. <b>This site was too small to be audited, but BDC records will be amended accordingly.</b>
Stour Valley South: Twinstead Green/ Twinstead Inset	<u>The Hennys, Middleton &amp; Twinstead PC</u> GSS/026 There is a track leading up to "The Cottage" which is part of Twinstead Green and belongs to the PC. Should be part of 50962.	Although the track may be part of the village green technically and legally, it does not really form part of the open space. There is a vehicular right of way over it and public use of the access should not be encouraged by including it as part of the open space.
Stour Valley South: Great Henny Inset	<u>The Hennys, Middleton &amp; Twinstead PC</u> GSS/026 Only part of Great Henny is shown; the Lower Road by the Henny Swan is not shown.	Only settlements with open spaces are included in the Draft Site Location Maps. No open spaces were mapped at Great Henny.
Three Colnes: Earls Colne Inset	<u>Earls Colne PC</u> GSS/016 20125 is privately-owned land, being an old allotment site; 10930 - the Millennium Green is incorrectly plotted.	20125 – the site was included because there is <i>de facto</i> public access, with footpaths crossing the site. It is not an allocated public open space in the Braintree Local Plan Review. 10930 – The error is acknowledged and <b>the GIS mapping will be amended. There will be consequential</b>

## Appendix 1

		amendments to Appendix 1A to the Audit Report and to the tables used in the quantitative appraisal.
TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
Three Fields: Finchingfield Inset	<u>Finchingfield PC</u> GSS/092 The area adjacent to the sports ground (ref. 10934) would be better identified as Amenity Green Space rather than Parks and Gardens which is inappropriate for the type of activity which takes place there.	The park and gardens typology does include some larger spaces which are used for informal recreation, and which are not used as playing fields and are more than simply amenity green spaces. <b>It is recommended that no change be made.</b>
Three Fields: Finchingfield Inset	<u>Finchingfield PC</u> GSS/094 Site ref. 50152 and 50153 (The Causeway, Finchingfield) - this area of land was purchased from Braintree District Council by the parish council approx. 10 years ago.	Noted. <b>Appendix A1 to the Audit Report will be amended accordingly.</b>
	<u>Witham Town Council</u> GSS/028 Map 4: Witham Chipping Hill & Central Ward - please include.	This appears to be in order – further clarification being sought.
<b>Other Representations</b>	<u>Mr H M Phillips</u> GSS/005 Lack of parking for existing pitches at Rayne	On match days the existing car park is woefully inadequate and results in parking on the grass verges in Gore Road and The Street. The landlord of the public house in The Street allows matchday parking in the pub car park.
	<u>Kelvedon PC</u> GSS/020 Welcomes the Strategy and in particular the inclusion of an area at London Road, Kelvedon for outdoor sports provision.	Noted.
	<u>Great Bardfield PC</u> GSS/043 Pipers Meadow (50939) has been part of the Oxlip Project, which involved the whole community and would not have been possible without public access.	Noted.
	<u>Mrs S Thorpe</u> GSS/090 There should be wheelchair access to the green spaces between Great Bradfords Estate and the River Blackwater. Are there any plans for this now or in the future?	Increasing accessibility for people with mobility problems is considered in para 6.15 (Increasing accessibility).
<b>Additional Open Spaces</b> Coggeshall & North Feering: Feering Inset	<u>Feering PC</u> GSS/046 Taylors, Coggeshall Road, should be included as amenity greenspace. It is an amenity green space owned by the Parish Council.	<b>This space will be mapped on the GIS system for future reference. Its inclusion will require amendment to Appendix A5 and consequential amendment to the Quantity analysis tables.</b>

<p>Coggeshall &amp; North Feering: Feering Inset</p>	<p><u>Feering PC</u> <span style="float: right;">GSS/047</span> The new cricket ground at the end of Rye Mill Lane should be added. Whilst it is inset from the marked edge of the field, fenced to allow walkers all round the outside, it is a recreational facility.</p>	<p><b>This space will be added to the GIS system for future reference.</b> It is a new ground which will be available for cricket use in 2009. <b>It will impact on the BGSS and consequential changes to the quantitative analysis will need to be assessed.</b></p>
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TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
Coggeshall & North Feering: Feering Inset	<u>Feering PC</u> GSS/048 Lady Meadow, at the bottom of Feering Hill, should be marked as natural/semi-natural greenspace, even though it is not owned by the PC.	This site has <i>de facto</i> public access and makes a pleasant river walk. It could have been included in the audit. The GIS mapping will be amended and to include this site, It is in private ownership. <b>It is recommended that Appendix A5 to the Audit Report be amended and consequential amendments made to the quantity analysis tables.</b>
Coggeshall & North Feering: Feering Inset	<u>Feering PC</u> GSS/049 Land adjacent the river, by Bloor Homes, at the bottom of Feering Hill should also be included as natural/semi-natural greenspace.	<b>This small site will be mapped on the GIS system for future reference. Its inclusion will have a minor effect on the quantitative analysis.</b> It is below the 0.2 hectares audit threshold.
Coggeshall & North Feering: Feering Inset	<u>Feering PC</u> GSS/050 Land opposite Sun Inn and Sculpture Green, in front of Bloor Homes, at the bottom of Feering Hill should also be included as amenity greenspace.	<b>This small site will be mapped on the GIS system for future reference. Its inclusion will have a minor effect on the quantitative analysis.</b> It is below the 0.2 hectares audit threshold.
Coggeshall & North Feering: Feering Inset	<u>Feering PC</u> GSS/051 Amenity greenspace near the bus stop adjacent John Raven Court should also be included.	<b>This small site will be mapped on the GIS system for future reference. Its inclusion will have a minor effect on the quantitative analysis.</b> It is below the 0.2 hectares audit threshold.

Bocking North Ward	<p><u>Convent Lane and Broad Road Action Group</u> GSS/006          100 ha. of land to the north of the Fairview Estate (Bocking Blackwater), B1053 Broad Road and A131 Braintree Bypass should be designated for leisure and recreation in the form of a country park to include fishing, golf and informal recreation.</p>	<p>Much of this area has been worked for sand and gravel, the land restored, presumably by waste infill, and left as unimproved grassland which shows evidence of quite intensive use by children and dog walkers. The former plant site to the quarry, which lies below the surrounding ground level, is now an industrial estate with a mix of B2 and B8 uses. Two of the three small lakes on the site are well used for fishing, although the lake in the south-western corner of the area is reserved for members of the Billericay and District Angling Club.</p> <p>The reason for this proposal is that much of this land is quite intensively used for recreation at present, and has been for many years. Apart from the use of footpaths crossing the area, recreational use is <i>de facto</i> rather than permitted. Vehicular access is from Chapel Lane, with an informal parking area near the access gate at Chapel Lane or outside the gate to the industrial area in the former plant site.</p> <p>A similar representation has also been submitted in connection with the LDF Issues and Options and it will be more appropriate to consider the future of this area in the Allocations Document.</p>
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TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
	<p><u>Bulmer PC</u> GSS/018 Open spaces not shown are Little Dean Spinney, a conservation area at Upper Houses, and the green corridor from Upper Houses to the Brickyards on Hedingham Road.</p>	<p>Woodlands and green lanes were excluded from the audit except where they were located on the edge of a settlement. Little Dean Spinney is a parish council space open to the public and planted with trees. <b>These spaces will be noted for future reference.</b></p>
	<p><u>Bulmer PC</u> GSS/019 Various allotments are not shown - Paddock Land at Upper Houses and allotment land leased to St. Andrews School and Brambley Hedge Nursery School.</p>	<p>There are a number of 'allotments' in Bulmer owned by the parish council &amp; let to residents as garden areas or paddocks. They are not used as public open spaces and so were not mapped. The former allotment land leased to the school and nursery (Bakers Field) is let in part to the LEA and part to the nursery; it has been planted as a wildlife area, but it is not open to the public. The paddock is not public open space.</p>
	<p><u>Witham TC</u> GSS/035 Further additional playing fields are needed in Witham.</p>	<p>This is recognised in paras. 5.15 and 5.30.</p>
	<p><u>Great Bardfield PC</u> GSS/041 Glebe Meadow, a designated Visually Important Space in the Local Plan Review, is not shown on the Map.</p>	<p>Glebe Meadow is used as a private paddock with gated access and not open to the public. There is no justification for including it on the Site Location Map. Visually Important Space is a Local Plan Review notation which seeks to protect important open areas in settlements; it does not imply that it is public open space.</p>
	<p><u>Great Bardfield PC</u> GSS/042 School Green, Causeway End (50181) and Long Green, Braintree Road were purchased as part of the manor by the parish council to protect them. Long Green is not shown on the Map.</p>	<p>Long Green is a green lane located in the open countryside near Little Bardfield. Green lanes were only included in the audit where they are located on the edge of settlements. Green lanes frequently form part of the network of green infrastructure an this site will be noted for future reference.</p>
	<p><u>Rivenhall PC</u> GSS/056 The following green spaces are not listed in the Draft Strategy - Henry Dixon Road football pitch, land adjacent the recycling site in Oak Road, land surrounding the village sign in Rivenhall End, land rear of the hotel in Rivenhall End, open spaces next to Rickstones School and the playing fields, local bridleways and Tarecroft Wood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All parishes were consulted and asked to verify our inventory of open spaces; Rivenhall PC did not reply.</li> <li>- The Henry Dixon football pitch is an informal space of 0.3 ha with two large goals, but is not a marked pitch because of the size and shape of the site. <b>It will be included as an amenity greenspace in the mapping and the consequential impact on provision standards assessed and amendments made to the text as necessary.</b></li> <li>- The land surrounding the village sign at Rivenhall End was formed as a result of changes to the road layout and, although important to the local community, it would not be appropriate to include this space.</li> <li>- The space near the hotel is part road verge and part</li> </ul>

## Appendix 1

TOPIC	REPRESENTATION	COMMENT
		landscaping within the eastern edge of the hotel site and extends to 0.45 ha. The verge area is quite wide, but verges
		are not included in the audit. - Open spaces in front of the Rickstones School car park were considered for inclusion in the audit, but rejected as these are just landscaping areas in front of the school. - See responses to CPREssex and Rivenhall PC above re bridleways. Not all rights of way form green corridors of open space in their own right; most frequently they are field margins. - Woodland in the open countryside were not included in the open space audit.
	<u>Alphamstone &amp; Lamarsh PC</u> GSS/085 The area behind Old School House/Village Hall should be included as Parks and Gardens as it is parish council owned - Chestnut Green.	<b>The mapping will be amended to include this land;</b> it is below the size threshold for an audit.
	<u>Terling &amp; Fairstead PC</u> GSS/089 Fuller Street and Ranks Green are not referred to in the document.	BDC is not aware of any green spaces in these settlements; awaiting verification form Terling PC.
	<u>Castle Hedingham PC</u> GSS/091 Are happy with the document and its accuracy for Castle Hedingham, but would like to request that the Memorial Hall Garden is recorded as informal open space.	<b>This small public garden of 0.03 ha. at the rear of the Memorial Hall will be mapped as a 'park and garden' for future reference and consequential changes made to the BGSS as necessary,</b> although it is not proposed to audit this space now. <b>The open space south of the Memorial Hall is coloured brown (allotments) on the Site Location Map; it should be coloured flesh for amenity greenspace.</b>
	<u>Coggeshall PC</u> GSS/096 Amenity green space west of Dampier Road and natural green space to the west of that area, between the footpath and Robins Brook have not been included in the audit.	BDC was not made aware of these two spaces during the 2006 consultation with parish councils. Both of these are public green spaces and should have been included in the study; <b>the amenity greenspace appears to be a play area of 0.14 ha,</b> although it is a sloping site and does not contain play equipment. <b>The natural greenspace extends to 0.49 ha. The sites will be mapped for future reference and consequential changes made to the BGSS as necessary,</b> although it is not proposed to audit them now.

	<p><u>Coggeshall PC</u> GSS/097 Doubleday Gardens site should be included under Parks and Gardens; it lies between the burial ground (ref. 80084) and the public car park off Stoneham Street.</p>	<p>BDC was not made aware of this space during the 2006 consultation with parish councils. It is a small formal public garden of 0.02 ha. <b>The site will be mapped as a 'park and garden' for future reference and consequential changes made to the BGSS as necessary</b>, although it is not proposed to audit this space now.</p>
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## **DRAFT BRAINTREE GREEN SPACES STRATEGY AMENDED REFERENCES TO ALLOTMENTS**

Following the BDC Allotments Task Group Report presented to Council last February, and the further work which will be taking place to assess the adequacy of existing provision, the following changes to the Draft Braintree Green Spaces Strategy are proposed:

### Section 4 – Developing Standards:

- (1) Paragraph 4.7 – delete the last two sentences.
- (2) Add new paragraph 4.7(a) as follows:  
“Although the household survey suggests that there is only limited support for allotment provision, there is evidence to show an increasing popularity of and demand for allotments. Gardening and horticulture are receiving increasing coverage in the media, and influencing people’s interest in growing their own plants, herbs and vegetables. The Council has undertaken a study of its own allotments and has an Action Plan to assess the level of demand and the future provision of land for allotments in the District. The need for additional supply will be addressed in the Local Development Framework. “

### Section 6 – Raising the Quality of Green Spaces:

- (3) Add new paragraph after paragraph 6.14 as follows:  
**“Allotments**  
“6.14(a) Braintree Council’s Action Plan on Allotments will recognise the need for improved management of the Council’s allotments and greater investment in the allotments service. The Plan includes actions that will address the infrastructure condition of existing allotment sites, the need to improve facilities at some of the sites, and future management and maintenance arrangements.”

### Section 7 – Management and maintenance:

- (4) Paragraph 7.1 – in line 2 insert “, including allotments,” after “spaces”

### Section 8 – The Action Plan:

- (5) Paragraph 8.3 – Insert new second sentence as follows:  
“A Green Spaces Action Plan will be prepared by the end of 2008, and will include consideration of allotments following the further study referred to in paragraph 4.7(a).”