

3. Environment and Community in Bracknell Town



Left to right : 8 Olympic Legacy Play Area, Mill Pond, Wildridings
9 Harmans Water Playing Field, Harmans Water Road , 10 Mill Pond, Mill Park, Wildridings

Key Objective 1: Improve social, community and leisure facilities

Foreword

Maintaining and improving parks and green spaces means having a green infrastructure strategy which is critically important in dealing with the challenges of climate change.

Green infrastructure can be considered as an organising framework for integrating physical resources and natural systems with ecological, geological and historical assets. In urban development, it is central in considering the needs and opportunities for protecting, enhancing and extending green areas.

Green infrastructure, the NPPF definition in annex 2, glossary p52, says, is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Bracknell Town's own infrastructure has been described as 'utopian'.

The West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework - delivering sustainable new communities to 2036 - of 13 Dec 2016 on p17 cites a green infrastructure for Public Parks figure of 5 ha per 1000 population.

This neighbourhood plan starts with this town's "green spaces" and describes its Active Open Space of Public Value (OSPV)...As a neighbourhood plan this document is meant both for residents (so includes jargon busting definitions in the text) and for planners to use as a development plan. The policies are presented in their own sections clearly separated from the others.

Policies

Community Leisure Provision

Active OSPV (Open Space of Public Value)

Policy Context

1 Bracknell Forest is 82,211.66 m² that's 0.49% of South East England
Bracknell's distinctively

blends roads, roundabouts and green grass verges together. Bracknell Town benefits from several types of green space. They make a significant contribution to its character and are highly valued by all Bracknell residents. The green spaces are areas of importance to the form and character of the settlement which is Bracknell Town. They also contribute to the wellbeing of residents and their communities as everyone has the luxury of easy access to public green space. The green spaces have been described as pockets within the urban area of Bracknell Town. It is important to note that they were designed to break up the built- up areas. Now, with great pressure from development, it is of the utmost importance that these green spaces enjoy the highest levels of protection.

John Reeds of Smart Growth UK recently expressed the, (contrary,) view that a key garden city concept was vast acres of pointless roadside landscape (wildlife corridors), ecologically worthless and highly wasteful of scarce building land.

Great Aycliffe Town Council, in their Neighbourhood Plan on Newton Aycliffe,

describe their parish as having “large, green open spaces, with groupings of mature trees or tree lined avenues and **excellent access**

to public open space.” This also describes the green “public realm” in Bracknell. (- Public Realm & Parks definitions
The public realm includes all exterior places, linkages and built form elements that are physically and/or visually accessible regardless of ownership. ... Parks: Public open spaces within a community for recreational use...)

16 Residents said they used its green spaces mainly for their walks, for exercising their dogs and for recreation in its play areas for their children. Other uses mentioned were sitting or relaxing, playing sports or running. (New Developments Residents' Survey, 2014).

Provision of green spaces and parks should be included in major new developments. Trees and groups of trees which are features should have appropriate protection, such as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

There should be areas to encourage wildlife and trees and flowers should be planted or restocked. [Y12/13, 2015
Ranelagh/Brakenhale School visit]

The Bracknell Forest Borough Council (2008) Core Strategy Development Plan says:

98. Recreational Facilities are generically defined as including open space, sporting, leisure and cultural facilities and are of prime importance to improving and

maintaining the quality of life in the Borough.

99. Recreational Facilities can be summarised into the following categories;

1. Open Space of Public Value (OSPV) comprising;
 - Active OSPV (e.g. sports pitches, tennis courts,
 - , kick-about areas, children's play areas, associated buildings and other infrastructure).
 - Passive OSPV (e.g. natural and semi-natural open space, green corridors, country parks and urban woodlands) and
2. Built Sports Facilities (e.g. sports halls, synthetic pitches and swimming pools) and
3. Leisure and Cultural Facilities (e.g. cinemas, theatres and art centres).

The retention of Open Spaces is an important priority for all local residents. The assumption that Open Spaces provide important socialisation and recreation opportunities guided the layout of the green spaces between the houses when Bracknell New Town was originally built. It provided in-built easy access to community leisure provision within easy walking distance of everyone's home.

It is important they are within easy access of housing in the areas they serve, and that their positions lend themselves to effective surveillance. The play areas include Local Areas of Play (LAPs) for small, accompanied children and Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs) for older children.

Policy Intent

To encourage protecting and enhancing Bracknell Town's current environmental asset of green spaces, especially its Recreational Facilities.

To maintain its character and use the standard based on that which was used in the development of Bracknell as a New Town to create residential areas of high environmental quality.

Policy Justification

National Planning Policy Framework (2012) (NPPF) paras 73 and 74.

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002, Saved Policy R4 Provision of open space of public value, 7.22.

This type of recreational facility is referred to in BFC Core Strategy 2008, CS8 Recreation and Culture para 106 and in para 99.

Illustration 11 Figure 22. (extract) Use of Council-provided services by Bracknell Town Ward

Services appearing in the top three most frequently used (activities done at least monthly)								
Ward	Recycling facilities		Parks and open spaces		Sport/leisure facilities		Longshot Lane household recycling centre	
	Pos. 1-3	%	Pos. 1-3	%	Pos. 1-3	%	Pos. 1-3	%
	Bullbrook	1	87%	2	84%	3	53%	
Crown Wood	1	87%	2	76%	3	56%		
Great Hollands North	1	85%	2	82%	3	50%		
Great Hollands South	1	86%	2	86%	3	60%		
Birch Hill & Hanworth	1	88%	2	82%	3	53%		
Harmans Water	1	90%	2	83%	3	53%		
Old Bracknell	1	88%	2	78%	3	54%		
Priestwood & Garth	1	88%	2	75%			3	51%
Widridings & Town Centre	1	87%	2	80%	3	58%		

From Bracknell Forest Council (5 December 2014), Bracknell Forest Residents' Survey 2014 Report by: Qa Research, page 32. Available at: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/residents-survey-results-2014.pdf>

Illustration 12 Map 13 BFBC POSS Study 2016

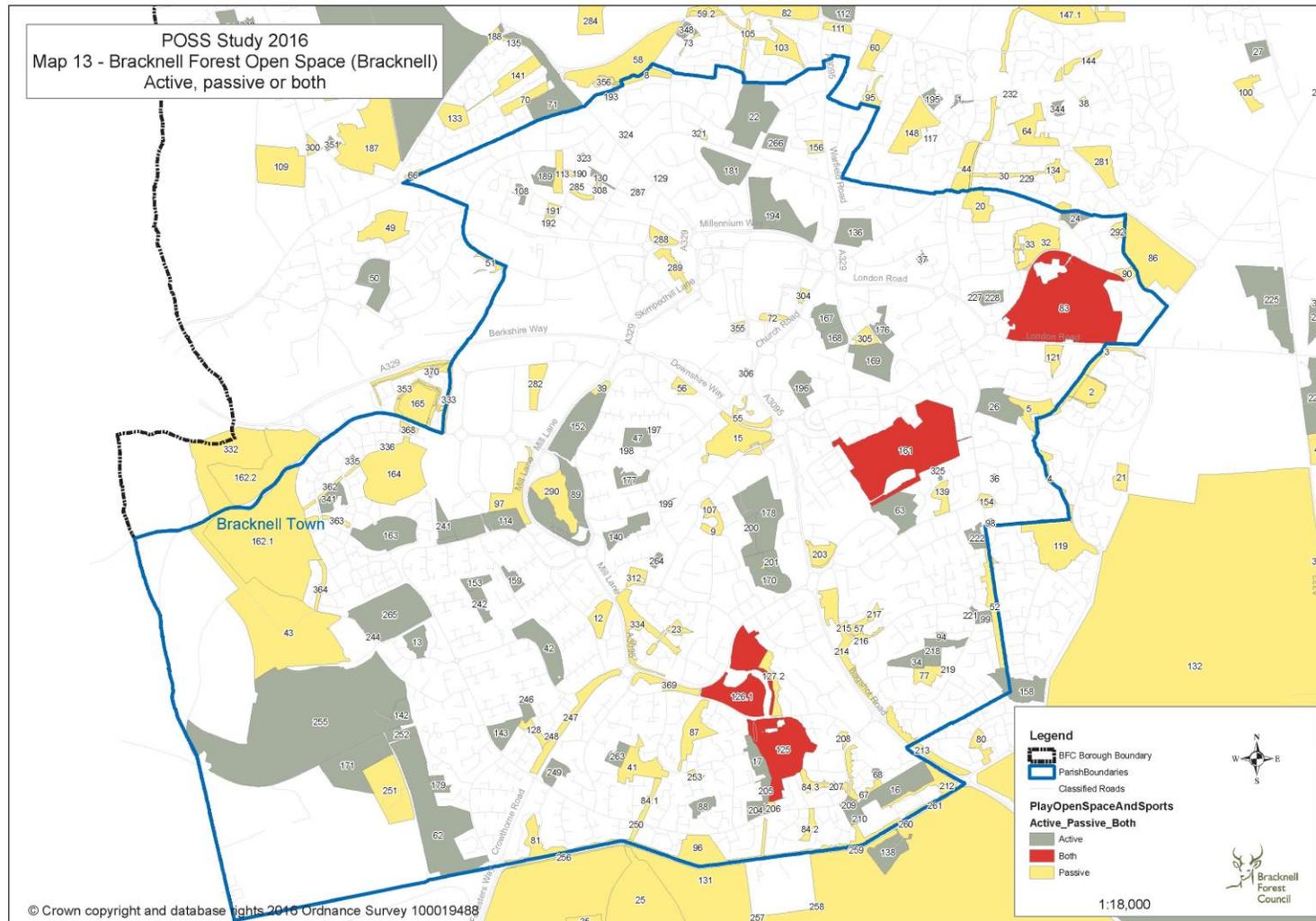


Illustration 13 POSS Typology

POSS Typology	New description (POSS)
A	Parks and Gardens
B	Natural and semi-natural (includes urban woodlands)
C	Green corridors
D	Children and people (children's play)
E	Outdoor sports facilities
F	School facilities
G	Allotments
H	Civic spaces
I	Cemeteries and churchyards
J	Amenity greenspace / landscape buffer / incidental verge
K	Drainage / SUDS / ponds
L	N/A

Illustration 14 Active OSPV

POSS Ref No	Site Name	Active, or both	Area (ha)	Typology 1	Typology 2	Typology 3
83	Lily Hill Park	Both	23.25	A	B	
126.1	South Hill Road Play Area / North Lake	Both	9.08	A	D	
125	South Hill Park (south lake)	Both	9.00	A	D	K
136	The Elms	Active	2.68	A	E	D
161	The Parks (RAF Staff College)	Both	19.36	B	E	D
89	Mill Park	Active	6.20	D	K	B
143	Ullswater	Active	2.43	D	B	
140	Threshfield Play Area	Active	1.92	D		
17	Hedgehog Park	Active	1.55	D	B	
13	Beedon Drive	Active	1.52	D	A	
142	Helicopter Park	Active	1.45	D		
24	Bullbrook Drive	Both	1.36	D	B	
34	Crown Wood Play Area	Active	1.29	D	B	

88	Latimer/Lydney Play Area	Active	0.98	D	B	
153	Winscombe Play Area	Active	0.87	D		
159	Yardley Play Area	Active	0.80	D		
209 (see 16)	Jameston Play Area	Active	0.52	D		
99 (see 221)	Opladen Way Play Area	Active	0.47	D	B	
108	Pollardrow Avenue	Active	0.45	D		
130	Stoney Road Play Area	Active	0.44	D		
68	Hornby Avenue (incl Barry Square Play Area)	Active	0.26	D		
37	Deepfield Road	Active	0.23	D		
221 (see 99)	Opladen way Play Area.	Active	0.22	D		
94	Nettlecombe Play Area	Active	0.22	D		
335	Osprey Avenue	Active	0.21	D		
198	Off Ennerdale	Active	0.17	D		
98	Oareborough Play Area	Active	0.13	D		
36	Cumnor Way Play Area	Active	0.12	D		
33	Freeborn Way (part of Clintons Hill)	Active	0.07	D		
81	Land off Nine Mile Ride (Quinitilis)	Active	0.05	D		
129	St Anthony's Close Play Area	Active	0.04	D		
337	Woodpecker Place	Active	0.03	D		
336	Pigeon Grove	Active	0.02	D		
107	The Green Play Area	Active	0.02	D		
255	Downshire Golf Course	Active	49.02	E	B	
62	Great Hollands Recreation Ground	Active	14.88	E	B	D
171	Downshire Golf Course driving range	Active	6.64	E		
22	Braybrooke Recreation Ground	Active	6.30	E	D	K
71	Jock's Lane Recreation Ground	Active	5.49	E	D	B
152	Wildridings Playing Field	Active	5.43	E		
163	Jennett's Hill (Jennett's Park)	Active	4.82	E	D	
16	Birch Hill Recreation Ground	Active	4.77	E	D	
114	Ringmead Playing Field	Active	4.40	E		
42	Jurassic Park	Active	3.89	E	D	
63	Harmanswater Playing Field	Active	3.30	E	D	B
26	Calfridus Way Recreation Ground	Active	3.24	E	D	
170	Bracknell Sports & Leisure Centre	Both	2.97	E	B	
167	Bracknell & District Cricket Club	Active	1.86	E		
47	Ennerdale (playing field)	Active	1.56	E	D	
168	Bracknell Football Club	Active	1.40	E		
201	Bracknell Sports & Leisure Centre	Active	0.90	E		
210	Tennis courts (Racquets)	Active	0.26	E		
250	Ringmead - Near Nine Mile Ride	Active	0.11	E		
265	Easthampstead Park Community School	Active	8.49	F		
194	Garth Hill College playing fields	Active	6.36	F		

178	The Brakenhale School	Active	6.14	F		
169	Ranelagh C of E School playing fields (Larges Lane field)	Active	3.68	F		
181	Garth Hill College	Active	3.14	F		
218	Crown Wood Primary School	Active	1.98	F		
196	Ranelagh C of E School playing fields	Active	1.63	F		
341	Jennett's Park CE Primary School	Active	1.39	F		
177	Wildridings Primary School	Active	1.35	F		
249	St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School	Active	1.25	F		
200 (see 349)	Fox Hill Primary School playing fields	Active	1.22	F		
176	St Joseph's RC Primary School	Active	1.16	F		
242	Great Hollands Primary School	Active	1.13	F		
222	Harmans Water Primary School	Active	1.08	F		
189	Meadow Vale Primary School (fields)	Active	1.07	F		
266	Sandy Lane Primary School	Active	1.03	F		
263	The Pines Primary School / Hanworth Community Centre	Active	1.01	F		
204	Birch Hill Primary School	Active	0.87	F		
179	Woodenhill Primary and Nursery School	Active	0.82	F		
228	Holly Spring Junior School	Active	0.82	F		
205	Birch Hill Primary School	Active	0.66	F		
175	Sandy Lane Primary School	Active	0.41	F		
264	St Michael's Easthampstead School	Active	0.31	F		
227	Holly Spring Infant & Nursery School	Active	0.27	F		
349	The Rowans Children Centre (See ref. 200)	Active	0.00	F		
241	Ringmead Allotments	Active	1.16	G		
252	South Road Allotments	Active	1.02	G		
193	Anneforde Place Allotments	Active	0.37	G		
199	Crowthorne Road Allotments	Active	0.15	G		
325	Glenwood Allotments	Active	0.15	G		
323	Windlesham Road Allotments	Active	0.12	G		
287	Limerick Close Allotments	Active	0.09	G		
324	Wilders Close Allotments	Active	0.07	G		

Policy EV 1

Community Leisure Provision

Active OSPV (Open Space of Public Value)

Development proposals are expected to retain all existing provision, of existing parks, play areas and sports pitches in Bracknell Town.

Where there is sufficient existing provision, contributions will be sought towards their improvement.

Proposals that would result in the loss of public open space will only be supported when alternative and equivalent public open space is provided.

Alternative public open space provision proposed as part of such development proposals will be required to meet the following criteria:

- **the scale of alternative provision must be of an equivalent scale to the existing public open space provision and**
- **any alternative site must be of at least an equivalent standard, or better, in terms of layout to the existing public open space provision and**
- **the location of the alternative provision must be generally accessible by foot and within or adjacent to the existing settlement boundary of Bracknell Town.**

Community Leisure Provision

Passive OSPV

Policy Context

Passive OSPV (e.g. natural and semi-natural open space, green corridors, country parks, and urban woodlands). Bracknell Forest Borough Council has no Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and no Green Infrastructure Policy. Unlike Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan which refers to the County Durham Green Infrastructure Strategy, this plan has no such context.

Policy Intent

To encourage protecting and enhancing Bracknell Town's current environmental asset of green spaces, especially its Recreational Facilities.

To maintain its character and use the standard based on that which was used in the development of Bracknell as a New Town to create residential areas of high environmental quality.

Policy Justification

Illustration 15 Passive OSPV

POSS Ref No	Site Name	Passive or both	Area (ha)	Typology 1	Typology 2	Typology 3
83	Lily Hill Park	Both	23.25	A	B	
126.1	South Hill Road Play Area / North Lake	Both	9.08	A	D	
125	South Hill Park (south lake)	Both	9.00	A	D	K
127.2	South Hill Park (North Lake Estate)	Passive	1.35	A		
368	Harrier Green	Passive	0.52	A		
72	Jubilee Gardens	Passive	0.47	A		
355	Station Green	Passive	0.34	A		
365	Swinley Forest	Passive	104.88	B		
162.1	Peacock Meadows (Jennett's Park)	Passive	25.41	B		
161	The Parks (RAF Staff College)	Both	19.36	B	E	D
43.1	Easthampstead Park	Passive	14.68	B	A	
164	Tarmans Copse (Jennett's Park)	Passive	9.68	B		
43.2	Easthampstead Park	Passive	8.16	B	A	
15	Bill Hill	Passive	4.87	B	C	
32	Clinton's Hill	Passive	3.90	B	D	
334	Church Hill House	Passive	3.58	B	D	C
97	Northerams Wood	Passive	3.16	B		
41	Dryden Play Area	Passive	3.07	B	D	
87	Ludlow Play Area	Passive	2.83	B	D	C
213	Bagshot Road (Woodland off Chesterblade Lane)	Passive	2.36	B	C	
20	Bluebell Hill	Passive	2.11	B		
212	Coral Reef - area around	Passive	2.06	B		
282	Wildridings Copse	Passive	1.64	B		
203	Woodland south of Firlands (Nightingale Crescent)	Passive	1.58	B		
12	Avebury	Passive	1.50	B		
369	Land to the west of South Hill Park	Passive	1.47	B		
121	Scotts Hill (Drovers Way)	Passive	1.10	B		
139	The Mound	Passive	1.09	B		
8	Anneforde Place playing field	Passive	0.91	B	D	
55	Friendship Way	Passive	0.90	B	J	
56	Frog Copse	Passive	0.77	B		
156	Wick Hill Woodland	Passive	0.60	B		
292	Beswick Gardens	Passive	0.54	B		
57	Garswood	Passive	0.53	B		
90	Milman Close	Passive	0.53	B	J	
154	Woodland by Oareborough	Passive	0.53	B		
285	Windmill Road Copse	Passive	0.51	B		
39	Domesday Copse	Passive	0.40	B		
217	Garswood	Passive	0.37	B		
208	Spaces nr South Hill Park	Passive	0.34	B		
216	Opladen Way, Garswood	Passive	0.28	B		
215	Garswood, Bagshot Road	Passive	0.22	B		
96	Nine Mile Ride	Passive	8.99	C	B	
214	Bagshot Road	Passive	3.32	C	C	
52	Farningham Ride	Passive	3.21	C	B	
247	Crowthorne Road	Passive	2.88	C		
113	Queensway	Passive	1.00	C		
84.3	Linear space between Jevington and Hillberry	Passive	0.75	C		
84.1	Linear Space between Oakengates and Nutley	Passive	0.68	C		
364	Queens Wood Wildlife Corridor	Passive	0.62	C		

84.2	Linear space between Juniper and Jameston	Passive	0.61	C		
333	Bracknell Footpath 5	Passive	0.60	C		
363	Jennett's Hill Wildlife Corridor	Passive	0.60	C		
362	Tarmans Copse Wildlife Corridor	Passive	0.53	C		
190	Off Queensway	Passive	0.18	C		
248	Crowthorne Road	Passive	0.02	C		
24	Bullbrook Drive	Both	1.36	D	B	
170	Bracknell Sports & Leisure Centre	Both	2.97	E	B	
251	Easthampstead Park Cemetary & Crematorium	Passive	6.29	I		
305	Larges Lane Cemetery	Passive	0.92	I		
312	St Michael and St Mary Magdalene Church	Passive	0.84	I		
307	St Andrew's Church (Priestwood)	Passive	0.51	I		
304	Holy Trinity Church (Bracknell)	Passive	0.27	I		
321	Bracknell Methodist Church	Passive	0.18	I		
306	New Covenant Church Bracknell	Passive	0.07	I		
77	Land north & west of Crown Row shops	Passive	1.30	J		
9	Area around Point Royal	Passive	1.30	J		
289	Arlington Square	Passive	1.29	J		
67	Hornby Avenue	Passive	1.20	J		
288	Boyd Court	Passive	0.94	J		
128	South of Ullswater	Passive	0.81	J		
191	Priestwood Avenue	Passive	0.41	J		
207	Linear spaces nr South Hill Park	Passive	0.37	J		
253	Lydney	Passive	0.34	J		
206	Below South Hill Park	Passive	0.28	J		
192	Priestwood Avenue	Passive	0.27	J		
219	Land near Crown Row shops	Passive	0.14	J		
197	Off Ennerdale	Passive	0.08	J		
246	Near Ullswater	Passive	0.05	J		
126.3	South Hill Park South Hill Road Play Area / North Lake (balancing pond)	Passive	TBC	K		
290	Mill Pond balancing pond	Passive	3.87	K		
5	Allsmoor Pond	Passive	1.98	K	B	
254	Downshire Golf Course (balancing pond)	Passive	0.10	K		

Policy Justification

National Planning Policy Framework (2012) (NPPF) paras 73 and 74.

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002, Saved Policy R4 Provision of open space of public value, 7.22.

This type of recreational facility is referred to in BFC Core Strategy 2008, CS8 Recreation and Culture para 106 and in para 99.

The BFBC Play Open Space and Sports (POSS) study provides an evidence base for new comprehensive local plan policies and replaces the previous PPG17 study carried out in 2016.

Policy EV 2

Community Leisure Provision

Passive OSPV (Open Space of Public Value)

Development proposals are expected to retain all existing provision of existing OSPV.

Where there is sufficient existing provision, contributions will be sought towards their improvement.

Proposals that would result in the loss of public open space will only be supported when alternative and equivalent public open space is provided.

Alternative public open space provision proposed as part of such development proposals will be required to meet the following criteria:

- the scale of alternative provision must be of an equivalent scale to the existing public open space provision and**
- any alternative site must be of at least an equivalent standard, or better, in terms of layout to the existing public open space provision and**
- the location of the alternative provision must be generally accessible by foot and within or adjacent to the existing settlement boundary of Bracknell Town.**

Protection and Maintenance of Local Green Spaces

Policy Background

Around Bracknell Town's boundaries

Here are some distinct areas of recreational land use and movement of people in and out of Bracknell Town and its neighbouring parishes, (clockwise), Binfield, Warfield, Winkfield, Crowthorne and Wokingham Without.

Future movement into the Bracknell Town area from adjacent parishes outside the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan designated boundary should be financially supported by **CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)**, contributions from developers whether or not the development takes place in Bracknell Town.

This could also apply to CIL calculations where Bracknell Town Council is concerned and to negotiating contributions to Jock's Lane Recreation Ground for instance which is owned & managed by Bracknell Town Council but situated in Binfield Parish, (whose CIL revenue is from a different charging zone), outside the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule details at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/cil-charging-schedule.pdf>

Binfield

Bracknell has commented in its response to the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan on the importance of having cycle

lane links & pedestrian routes as alternatives to roads especially to Bracknell Station.

Warfield

Bracknell residents walk to Warfield Parish via Jock's Lane recreation area (in Binfield Parish) with its tennis courts, cricket pitch, splash pool, cafe etc to the west of Binfield Rd or via Garth Meadow and the Cut River Corridor to the east of Binfield Rd.

Warfield residents and those from its new developments will, in turn, have access to Jock's Lane Recreation Ground, (managed by Bracknell Town Council at their expense) or to the walk along the Cut, north to Binfield.(in Binfield Parish)...

Winkfield

Bracknell residents use Allsmoor Field or Savernake Park in Winkfield Parish or walk further into Swinley Forest. The Cut runs through Winkfield Parish on its way to Bracknell. The crossing into Bracknell is over the bridge between Upshire Gardens and Letcombe Square in Harmans Water.

Crowthorne

The Look Out, is directly accessible to all residents in Birch Hill via the crossing south of Jameston. Both Swinley Forest and the woodland behind the Look Out is also open as a recreation area in which both residents and visitors to cycle, orienteer, join the Santa Run, walk the dog, build dens, visit the Iron

Age Fort called Caesar's Camp, the coffee shop at the Look Out or try its 90

hands on science and nature activities and use its award winning toilets. The Bracknell Forest Local Countryside Access Forum's work here to promote open air recreation and enjoyment of the area through a rights of way network open to is a success

The TRL site under development is right next to the Bracknell Town boundary so future residents will use be able to use its recreation facilities especially at Great Hollands .This site lies to the south of the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan area and, following planned development, there will be increased movements into the BTNP area both to use Great Hollands Recreation Ground and to go to and

from Easthamsptead Park Community secondary school nearby.

Wokingham Without

In Wokingham Without Parish at Pinewood, with its boxing club, scout facilities, judo club, model railway club, theatre etc, Bracknell residents have access to a very special recreation facility.

Cross boundary co-operation between parishes is vital to plan for the future needs of residents and calculate the capacities of the places described so in writing this plan we ask the neighbouring parishes for their comments.

Protection and Maintenance of Local Green Spaces

Policy Context

Inside Bracknell's Town's boundaries

To protect and maintain local green spaces, the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan's policies support sustainable development and its economic, social and environmental benefits.

In The Guardian of 13 August 2016 “**Out to grass: is your local park under threat ?**” Keiron Pim refers to “the broader issue of how government cuts and councils’ finances are affecting Britain’s 27,000 public parks.”

He states that “Our parks have long been political spaces, a managed approximation of the rural in the midst of our towns and cities, and as such, prey to conflicting intentions.”

Later on in the article he says: “The chair of the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (Dave Morris)...cites a Heritage Lottery Fund report from 2014..... 45% of local authorities were looking at selling their parks and **green** spaces or outsourcing their management....Selling off parkland, transferring the management to corporate interests, ‘inappropriate development’ and commercialisation – these are all strategies Dave Morris tells me he has seen authorities deploy.”

Note that in the list below, A to C are historic parks pre-dating the new town while D to J are new parks with balancing ponds etc.

Policy Intent

To protect the green spaces listed from development to give all Bracknell Town's residents the maximum ensuing aesthetic, ecological and recreational benefits

Policy Justification Grid

NPPF 77

BFC Core Strategy page 21 CS7: Design:

iii enhance the landscape and promote biodiversity;

vi provide high quality usable open spaces and public realm.

The following areas are a network of groups of local green spaces.

Each A-K composite area’s breakdown of Land Registry BK title numbers, freeholders & leaseholders cross referenced to the BFBC POSS study areas is recorded on a spreadsheet which is **Appendix 17: NP Designation Spreadsheet.**

This is the reference document for **Appendix 2: Protection and Maintenance of Local Green Spaces Designation Justification.**

Policy EV 3

Protection and Maintenance of Local Green Spaces

The following areas are designated as Local Green Spaces:

A: South Hill Park

B: Lily Hill Park

C: Easthampstead Park

D: Great Hollands Recreation Ground

E: Jurassic Park (Great Hollands Playing Fields)

F: Mill Park and Wildridings Playing Fields

G: Harmans Water Playing Fields and The Parks Fields

H: Calfridus Way Playing Fields

I: Braybrooke Recreation Ground

J: Queensway and Brook Green

K: The Elms Park

Proposals for built development on these Local Green Spaces must be consistent with policy for Green Belts and will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that it is required to enhance the role and function of that Local Green Space.

Trees in Bracknell Town



Left to right :16 Cedar at Hedgehog Park , Birch Hill,17 Lucombe Oak (Quercus Hispanica), Hedgehog Park, Birch Hill and 18 Yew at St Michael and St Mary Magdalene's Church, Wildridings

Tree Heritage : Avenues of Trees

Policy Background

The Bluesky National Tree Map: <http://www.bluesky-world.com/bluesky-completes-national-tree-map> shows tree coverage nationally.

Bracknell Forest is the fifth most tree-covered borough in the country according to Bracknell Forest Council's newsletter Town & Country, Winter 2016, page 15 "*Keeping the 'forest' in Bracknell Forest*" <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/town-and-country-winter-2016.pdf>

Bracknell Town was built on land which historically was part of Windsor Forest which includes some of the oldest trees in Europe .So, because of Bracknell Town's unique character, trees should be carefully considered in the integration of any development.

In Bracknell Forest District, Bracknell Town has two distinct types of soil: clay

north of the railway line and sand south of it. Planting those species which are overall more suited to their environment is advisable.

At a meeting of the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan Steering group, when talking about the maintenance of both parks and landscaping in the town, Andrew Radgick of The Bracknell Forest Society asked for it to be noted that "planting trees needs aftercare e.g. watering." So, in a town with a lot of trees, it is essential to budget not only for buying the, (new), trees and planting them but also for watering them. In some cases residents have agreed to do the watering themselves. Reporting dead trees to local authorities is expensive and so is replacing them.

According to Charles Arnold-Baker's Local Council Administration 25.3, Dust and carbon dioxide pollution especially from motor vehicles...is absorbed in huge quantities by trees. Tree planting is thus an adjunct to public health and amenity.



Illustration 19 View from Point Royal courtesy of Bracknell Forest Homes

Bracknell Town has inherited a selection of fine individual specimen trees. Both inside Lily Hill Park and in the developed area around South Hill Park there is evidence of the original historic parkland design around both houses.

In more recent years the park has seen the restoration of some of the key Victorian features of Lily Hill Park thanks to a grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2001 . See <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/lilyhillpark> of £1.077m <http://gotlottery.uk/heritage-lottery-fund->

[bracknell-forest-borough-council-10-90128](http://gotlottery.uk/heritage-lottery-fund-bracknell-forest-borough-council-10-90128) and of £0.994m in 2005 according to <http://gotlottery.uk/heritage-lottery-fund-bracknell-forest-borough-council-10-213197>

The grounds of South Hill Park have been restored back to their former glory thanks to a £2.3 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund. See <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/southhillpark>

Tree Heritage : Avenues of Trees

Policy Context



Left to right: 20 Avenue of limes on highway land along Mill Lane 21., Avenue of ash trees planted in 1994, on either side of the cycle lane, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II, Ringmead, Old Bracknell 22, Avenue of sycamores between road and pavement in Sycamore Rise, Bullbrook.

Avenues of trees are significant landscape features.

There are several distinct avenues of trees in Bracknell Town. These are the avenue of 90 limes along Mill Lane planted for The Queen Mother's 90th birthday in 1990, the avenue of ash trees planted in 1994 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of World War II on North Field in Old Bracknell, the avenue of sycamore trees in Sycamore Rise, the avenue of yew trees between South Hill Park and Ringmead and the avenue of lime trees incorporated in The Parks housing development in Harmans Water. One of the oldest avenues of trees in Bracknell and a fine landscape feature is the one leading up to Easthampstead Park Conference Centre. All the avenues are definitely worth preserving. They're incorporated in the New Town landscape design.

The last two avenues listed were "inherited" and designed to show off the private residences to which they led

whereas the first four were planned for and planted on public land and designed as a feature for all residents to enjoy.

Bracknell Forest Council Parks and Countryside aim to add planting schemes which involve a smooth transition from newer, urban, residential areas to existing, (and some inherited), natural wild areas in their design.

Policy Intent

To retain beneficial, significant landscape features and, where reasonable, enhance these features.

To increase the number and the variety of avenues of trees already planted and growing in Bracknell Town by planting new ones in future development.

The BFBC Development and Adoptions Manager's caveats that "The highway verges can – sometimes – provide access to sewers so it may not be

possible to have tree planting on all sites and that trees need to be planted far enough back from the highway to avoid impacting visibility splays.”, apply.

Policy Justification

BFBC Core Strategy CS1: sustainable development principles vii the quality of natural resources including water, air, land and biodiversity and viii.the character and quality of local landscapes and the wider countryside.

CS7 Design

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (2002) Saved Policies EN1 and EN2. EN20 (ii) retain beneficial landscape, ecological or archaeological features

and, where reasonable, enhance these features.

Bracknell already has at least 5 clearly identifiable avenues of trees.

In *Bracknell Forest Council (2010) Bracknell Forest Character Area Assessments Supplementary Planning Document, Chapter 5 Bracknell study area B*, available at:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/chapter-5-bracknell-study-area.pdf>, the landscape feature of the

avenue planting on Ranelagh Drive forming the historic approach to Ranelagh is described as distinctive.



23 View along Lime Walk, Harmans, Water : Avenue of trees retained and incorporated into the new housing development of The Parks

Policy EV 4

Tree Heritage: Avenues of Trees

To recognise the heritage value of avenues of trees in Bracknell (as identified in the policies map) development will be required to recognise the heritage value of existing avenues of trees by incorporating them within landscape design and/or to create new avenues of trees where possible in new developments over one hectare and/or to create tree lined corridors for roads, footpaths and cycleways.

Note:

Bracknell Forest Council defines sites as follows:

- Large Housing Sites (1ha or more)
- Medium Housing Sites (less than 1ha with 10 + dwellings)
- Small Housing Sites (less than 10 dwellings)

See <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/planning-commitments-for-housing.pdf>

Tree Landscape Character

Policy Background

Trees in the parks and elsewhere in Bracknell Town can be protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), where they are of significant amenity value. The trees covered by a TPO are listed in individual, group and woodland site categories. Online TPO data for Bracknell Town in the Bracknell Forest Borough Council tree records, uses Geographic Information System, (GIS) mapping.

Elsewhere, authorities such as Bromley Council (“with the largest tree stock of any borough in the capital”) has imposed TPOs on trees growing on Network Rail land who have identified sweet chestnut, poplar, lime and horse chestnut as “problematic” so targeted these for removal as part of their “enhanced clearance from 1 April 2019. In Bracknell Town, a wooded railway cutting is part of the Waterloo/ Reading line.

The tables below detail the wide variety of types of trees found and preserved in Bracknell Town.

Tree Landscape Character

Policy Context

The Town’s tree landscape character is very varied as listed in the TPO tables below and is the jewel in the crown of Bracknell. When choosing what to plant it is advisable not to plant those species susceptible to known pests and diseases current at the time of planting (e.g. ash and chestnut in 2016). Planting

all trees is a good antipollution measure. It also helps with flood prevention, provides shade in times of climate change, increases biodiversity and improves people’s physical and mental wellbeing.

Policy Intent

To further enrich the density and variety of the current tree landscape character of Bracknell Town.

Policy Justification

BFC Core Strategy CS1 sustainable development principles vii the quality of natural resources including water, air, land and biodiversity and viii. The character and quality of local landscapes and the wider countryside. CS7 Design.

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (2002) Saved Policy EN1 Protecting Tree and Hedgerow Cover and Saved Policy EN20 Design Considerations in New Development.

These Bracknell Forest Council Parks and Countryside tables of tree data are dated 7th September 2016 and show all the trees currently contributing to the tree landscape character of Bracknell Town.

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO): is defined as a mechanism for securing the preservation of individual trees or groups of trees of acknowledged amenity value. A preserved tree may not normally be topped, lopped or felled without the consent of the local planning authority.

24 Individual Trees with a Tree Preservation Order

Tree Species	Number of trees	Tree Species	Number of trees
ACER PLATANOIDES 'CRIMSON KING'	1	LONDON PLANE	6
ALDER	7	MAGNOLIA CONSPICUA	1
ASH	31	MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA	2
ATLAS BLUE CEDAR	3	MAGNOLIA SOULANGIANA	1
BEECH	35	MALUS	1
BIRCH	27	MAPLE	24
BIRCH (TWIN STEM)	1	NORWAY MAPLE	5
BLACK WALNUT	1	NORWAY SPRUCE	1
CATALPA	1	NORWEGIAN MAPLE	1
CEDAR	9	OAK	303
CEDAR ATLANTICA	1	OAK (TWIN STEMMED)	1
CEDAR OF LEBANON	1	PEAR	2
CHERRY	38	PINE	60
CHERRY PLUM	1	PINE (TWIN STEM)	1
CHESTNUT	7	PLANE	1
COPPER BEECH	5	PORTUGUESE LAUREL	2
COTONEASTER	1	PRUNUS	6
CRAB APPLE	4	PURPLE PLUM	3
CUPRESSUS	7	PYRUS	1
CYPRESS	2	QUERCUS RUBRA	1
DAMSON	2	RED OAK	1
DEODAR CEDAR	1	REDWOOD	2
EUCALYPTUS	1	ROBINIA	7
FALSE ACACIA	1	ROWAN	12
FASTIGATE HORNBEAM	3	SCOTS PINE	11
FIELD MAPLE	2	SEQUOIA GIGANTA	2
FIR	1	SILVER BIRCH	37
GLEDITSIA	1	SILVER MAPLE	3
GOLDEN ELDER	1	SNOWY MESPIL	5
GOLDEN FALSE ACACIA	1	SPRUCE	2
GREENGAGE PLUM	1	SWEET CHESTNUT	18
HAWTHORN	6	SWEET GUM	3
HAZEL	2	SYCAMORE	46
HEMLOCK	1	THUJA PLICATA	2
HOLLY	17	TULIP TREE	2
HOP HORNBEAM	1	VARIEGATED MAPLE	1
HORNBEAM	17	WALNUT	1
HORSE CHESTNUT	17	WEeping BIRCH	1
IRISH YEw	1	WEeping WILLOW	1
JUDAS TREE	1	WELLINGTONIA	1
LABURNUM	3	WHITEBEAM	11
LARCH	1	WILD SERVICE	1
LAWSON CYPRUSS	2	WILLOW	7
LIME	62	YEw	7
LIQUIDAMBAR or (SWEETGUM))	5	YOUNGS WEeping BIRCH	1
		Total individual trees with a tree preservation order	609

25 Groups of Trees with a Tree Preservation Order

Tree Species	Number of Groups
BEECH	3
CYPRESS	2
HOLLY	2
HORNBEAM	3
LIME	13
PINE	36
SYCAMORE	6
Mixed Tree Species	7
Not stated	40
Total groups of trees with a tree preservation order	112

26 Woodlands with a Woodland Preservation Order

Tree Species	Number of Woodlands
SCOTS PINE	1
Mixed Tree Species	14
Total woodlands with a woodland preservation order	15

Policy EV 5

Tree Landscape Character

Development proposals must demonstrate how they will maintain and enhance the current unique tree landscape character of Bracknell New Town as evident in the density and variety of its planting.

Where new tree planting is provided, it must support the existing natural wooded character of Bracknell Borough and favour native species unless alternatives are shown to be beneficial for instance for disease tolerance or for specific landscape design.

Tree Heritage Protection and Trees as a Visual Amenity

Policies Context

There is a heritage of many fine tree specimens which the Bracknell Development Corporation had the foresight to preserve and include in the design of Bracknell New Town. It is of the utmost importance to keep and enhance this for future generations to enjoy.

A good example of new planting is the group of young copper beech trees between the South Hill Park car park and Evedon, planted near the “inherited”, ex parkland one.

A heartfelt community plea follows:

Don't Save The Trees

In Bracknell, we don't like trees.
We don't like the oak, elder and ashes.
Things with no profit here don't please,
Their leaves untidy, people slip, cause crashes.
Cut them down, grub them up and clear them out !
Chip and burn the scented lime, the red berried holly,
Like a witch finder general, eager to rout out an evil folly !
Wise burghers of Bracknell deem themselves beneficial, honest
To denude a borough of native trees, that calls itself a forest.
Only hard bricks, glass, concrete and black tarmac will be seen.
Heavens forbid, never let Bracknell Forest ever again be green.

Anonymous poem
found pasted on the hoardings in
Bracknell High Street on April 2016
during retail regeneration building work

Policies Intent

To further enrich the tree heritage of Bracknell Town.

Policies Justification

NPPF para 118.

BFC Core Strategy CS7 Design, page 21.

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (2002) Saved Policy EN1 Protecting Tree and Hedgerow Cover, Saved Policy EN2 Supplementing tree and hedgerow cover and Saved Policy EN20 Design Considerations in New Development

These policies support identifying, protecting, retaining and enhancing Bracknell Town's tree heritage and preserve the individual Bracknell New Town characteristic environment for its future residents.

The three trees illustrated at the beginning of this section under the heading Trees in Bracknell Town, that is the Cedar, the Lucombe Oak and the ancient Yew tree, clearly show examples of the retention of ancient trees of arboricultural and amenity value.

On page 82 of the Buildings of England, see NP introduction page 5, Pevsner describes the landscaping of Bracknell as “having been handled exceptionally well”.

Policy EV 6 Tree Heritage Protection

Development proposals in Bracknell Town must not damage or result in the loss of ancient trees or trees of good arboricultural and amenity value. Proposals should be designed to retain ancient trees or trees of arboricultural and amenity value. In such circumstances, proposals, should be accompanied by an arboricultural survey that establishes the health and longevity of any affected trees.

Policy EV 7 Trees as a Visual Amenity

Development proposals in Bracknell Town will be expected to retain all trees making a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the area. The significance of any mature trees should be established through an arboricultural survey.

Proposed developments in Bracknell Town that:

plant new trees in highly visible locations except where these would have a detrimental impact on views or light and use tree species that have sufficient potential size and longevity (eg to enable them to provide a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the area which will constitute a legacy for local residents) will be supported.



27 Crowthorne Road Allotments next to Bracknell Care Home

Allotments

Policy Background

A Community in a Sea of Biodiversity ?

- The question Franklin Medhurst asks in “A Quiet Catastrophe, The Teesside Job”, 2nd Edition page 162, is whether we are no longer a community in a sea of biodiversity. He says that when people began to build communities they were gathered in villages, towns and small cities placed in a countryside that was a continuous web of biodiversity disrupted only locally where

communities were built.

(Could Bracknell Town become an urban environment surrounded by more urban environment in the next twenty years ?)

- He then asks on page 146, “**Have we reached the stage where towns and cities do not rely on their surrounding farms for their food supplies ?** These are brought from all parts of the country and from abroad.”

(Indeed, Bracknell, to the west of London, in the south east of England is strategically placed in a national food distribution network. Since 1972, Bracknell has been the location of the head office of Waitrose. One of its four regional distribution centres, (RDCs), and its warehouse is also there. Its national distribution centre, (NDC), in Milton Keynes handles 25,000 grocery and home department lines.)

- Mr Medhurst then asks whether to keep a much expanded new town sustainable we should start to use open spaces, parks and school grounds for growing food.

Many argue that we may need allotments to feed the nation, as we did in wartime, if global warming and population growth cause food shortages. In Britain, there are still 300,000 council plots.

Are Bracknell Town residents growing their own food ?
Bracknell in Bloom through the Bracknell Town : Your Gardens, annual gardening competition has an allotment category so its community is being encouraged to grow some of its own food.

Growing in the community

The government's single action resulting from the parliamentary enquiry on allotments in 1998 was to sponsor a guide to best practice, Growing in the Community (2001). This forward-looking handbook encouraged councils to promote allotments and advocated that

local authorities communicate with each other to foster a shared appreciation of how allotments could help to deliver “a diverse range of agendas, such as help, biodiversity and social inclusion.”

Landshare, launched in 2009, has helped by putting thousands of people that want to grow together with people that have land to spare.

Jealott's Hill Community Landshare

Jealott's Hill Community Landshare (JHCL) is a 2.43 hectare community garden in neighbouring Warfield Parish, in the Green Belt whose purpose was simple : to prevent cities spreading).. “In June 1927, Nitram Ltd bought the adjoining farms of Jealott's Hill, Hawthorndale and Nupton, together some 433 acres, near Bracknell in Berkshire, to serve as a centre for agricultural research and demonstration.” According to page 2 of Jealott's Hill, Fifty years of Agricultural Research, 1928-1978, ISBN 0 901747017, published by ICI..

The Landshare is managed by volunteers and is an innovative partnership between private, voluntary and public sectors and is funded by Bracknell Forest Homes, Bracknell Town Council and Warfield Parish Council. The current owner, Syngenta, whose worldwide research centre is based at Jealott's Hill has leased the land to Bracknell Forest Homes. It is open 365 days per year and includes an orchard, a small vineyard a sensory

garden. This site includes disabled toilets....

www.jealottshilllandshare.org.uk

Around Bracknell Town, Binfield Parish has 51 allotment plots on 1 site at Red Rose, Winkfield Parish Council has 116 plots ,(mostly half plots), on 2 sites at Cranborne Allotments and at Winkfield Row, Crowthorne Parish Council has no allotments, Warfield Parish Council is planning to start some at New Quelm Lane and Sandhurst Town Council has :

1 allotment site at the Memorial Park which is outsourced.

Allotments

Policy Context

Bracknell Town Council manages all 241 allotments. Their locations in Bracknell Town are listed in appendix 3.2. There are eight different allotment sites with plots available to rent including two large sites, one at either end of Great Hollands and other, smaller sites listed here.

<u>28 : Bracknell Town Allotment Sites</u>	Number of Plots
Anneforde Place	21
Crowthorne Road	13
Glenwood	12
Limerick Close	7
Ringmead	96
South Road	74
Wilders Close	7
Windlesham Road	11
Total	241

38% are full plots.

As waiting list figures have remained at two to three years for a number of years, there's a need for new allotments.

The allotment waiting list in January 2017 for Bracknell Town residents is 76 Some residents will wait longer for a specific site to become available.

Each quarter of a year, on average, 10 new residents join the waiting list. Allotments are becoming more popular as more people want to enjoy the

benefits of growing fresh fruit and vegetables.

Due to the hard work of the Bracknell Town Allotment Administrator, the allotments given out are now of a more manageable size. The new allotment holders are helped to understand what they are taking on and are also introduced to others nearby for help and advice, should they want it. Some of the allotments have small community areas next to them for the allotment holders to sit and have a cup of tea together in.

Policy Context (cont.)

Proposals for sites for new allotments and also for community growing space areas would be welcome. Sites need to be easily accessible on foot, i.e. no more than a 1,200m walk. (This is the preferred maximum walking distance for such facilities, as recommended by the Institute of Highways and Transportation [2000] Guidelines for providing for Journeys on Foot).

An allotment garden is a plot not exceeding 1,210 square yards which is wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier to produce vegetables or fruit for consumption by himself and his family according to Arnold Baker on Local Government Administration tenth edition on page 9.

In 29.4, Obligation to provide allotment gardens., it says ; “ A local council must formally consider any written request by six or more electors to operate the Allotments Acts and, in addition, if it is of the opinion that there is a demand it is bound to provide allotments”.

The continued provision of allotments or in some cases, where appropriate, community growing spaces in agreement with their respective landowners, will be strongly supported. A good example of a community growing project is Bracknell's own Jealott's Hill Community Landshare, already described.

In the current Local Plan there is no Bracknell Forest policy giving a suggested ratio of allotments to dwellings for developments so there is

no common ratio being used. In Warfield, an ad hoc allocation is being negotiated, not a standard one, which could, in future, apply to all 6 parishes including Bracknell Town. Considering how much development is now scheduled for Bracknell, ensuring a borough wide standard proportion of allotments to new dwellings would be worth doing.

A **map** of Bracknell Town Allotments is shown in **appendix 3.2 Allotments**.

Policy Intent

To protect existing allotment provision in Bracknell Town and this kind of active open space of public value.

Any alternative allotment site offered will be of similar size and quality, within reasonable walking distance from existing plottolders' houses and will be given statutory protection. says Caroline Foley in her book *Of Cabbages and Kings, The History of Allotments by Caroline Foley, Frances Lincoln, 4 Sept. 2014. The quotes in italics in this section are from pages 189, 203, 205 and 206.*

To ensure the provision of allotments in new developments in Bracknell Town.

Policy Justification

BFC Core Strategy CS8: Recreation and Culture.

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002 Saved Policies R4, Provision of open space of public value 7.23 allotments and R5, Publicly usable open space for small sites.

Page 123: Recreation in context 7.1 states :For the purposes of this local

plan recreation refers to sports, leisure and tourism provision. Examples of such provision include sports pitches, country parks, amenity open space, recreational footpaths and cycleways, bridleways, sports centres, golf courses, **allotments**, childrens' play areas, visitor

centres, restaurants, public houses, theatres, cinemas, hotels and camping and caravan sites.

The BTC waiting list is evidence of demand for allotments in Bracknell Town ..

Policy EV 8 Allotments

Proposals that would result in the loss of all or part of existing allotment spaces will not be supported unless alternative and equivalent allotment space is provided.

Alternative allotment provision will be required to meet the following criteria:

1 The scale of the alternative site must be of an equivalent scale to the existing allotment provision and

2 the quality of the alternative site must be of equivalent standard in terms of layout and soil character to the existing allotment provision and

3 the location of the alternative provision must be generally

accessible by foot and within or adjacent to the defined settlement area of Bracknell Town as shown on the Proposals Map.

Where there is sufficient existing provision contributions will be sought towards their improvement. New allotment provision should be located in locations generally accessible on foot.

Cemetery Space



28 The 19th Century Larges Lane Cemetery Chapel, built of local bricks from the Thomas Lawrence Brickworks. Its “Living Churchyard” is wildlife friendly.

Policy Context

The councils of districts, parishes and communities are burial and cremation authorities according to 33.6, page 337, Arnold-Baker, C. (2009) Eight Edition *Local Council Administration*. London: Reed Elsevier (UK) Ltd.

Bracknell Forest Council own and manage the **Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium** facility at RG40 3DN. It has sufficient space to receive up to 140 new burials.

“Approximately 1,600 cremations and 80 burials are carried out annually. Around 66% of cremations are from outside the Borough. The crematorium is to be extended to cater for an estimated 20 year period using BFBC capital projects’ funding. If pressures on land availability emerge, it might be necessary to restrict custom from beyond the Borough and there is potential to extend onto adjacent pitch and putt (BFBC) and allotments (BTC) land subject to agreement.”

says the Bracknell Forest Council, Infrastructure Delivery Plan – Post Submission Site Allocations Development Plan Document, SAL106, October 2012 on p 106 at: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sal105-infrastructure-delivery-plan-post-submission-sadpd.pdf>

The **cemetery in Larges Lane** (1.16 ha) is managed by Bracknell Town Council. When possible or practicable, land should be allocated for its expansion. Both Easthampstead Park Crematorium (6.56 ha) in South Road and the closed churchyard of St Michael and St Mary Magdalene (0.84 ha), another “Living Churchyard”, are managed by Bracknell Forest Borough Council. Holy Trinity’s churchyard (0.92 ha) is also closed. **Cemeteries and churchyards** in Bracknell are listed and shown in the **map in appendix 3.4**.

At the 18th January 2017, Bracknell Town NP Steering Group meeting, Cllr, McCracken said that the issue of where to find new land or different land for burial needed to be addressed by Bracknell Forest Borough Council sooner rather than later.

Beaufort Park, Nine Mile Ride, adjoining the crematorium was put forward as a site for development and is listed in the work for the emerging Local Plan by Bracknell Forest Borough Council as SHELAA site BRA4.

Policy Intent

To ensure that there is sufficient cemetery space as part of its community facilities’ infrastructure and that there is also specific land allocated in Bracknell Town in the emerging BFBC Comprehensive Local Plan for the growing population of Bracknell Town perhaps via contributions to the expense from its burial authority.

Funds to be requested from CIL, (Community Infrastructure Levy,) contributions.

Policy Justification

BFC Core Strategy CS6.

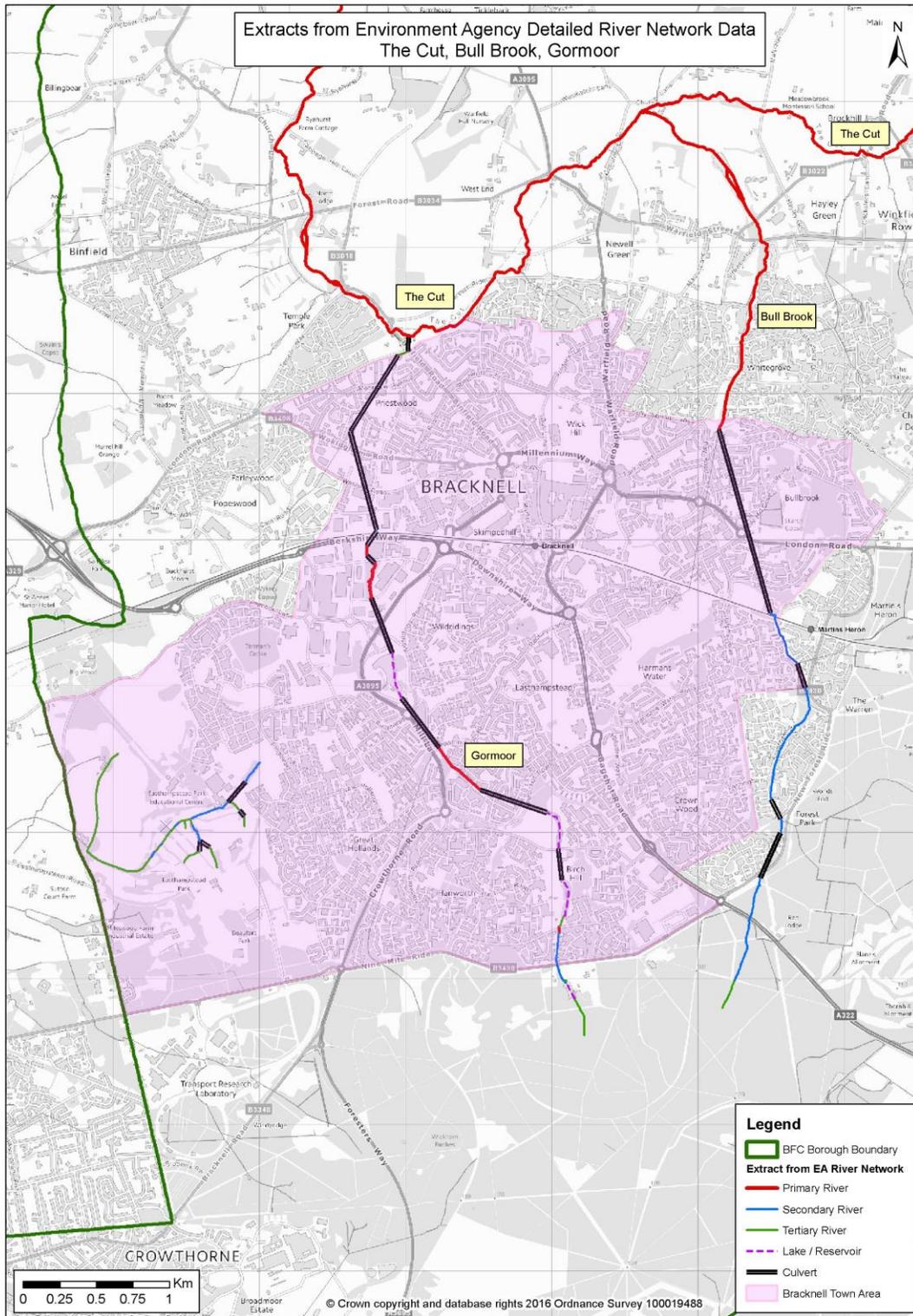
The Larges Lane cemetery is now only available for the interment of ashes. St Michael and St Mary Magdalene’s and St Joseph’s churchyards are now “closed”.

The population in Bracknell Town increased from 1951 to 2011 by 35% from 1971 to 2011, see Introduction.

Policy EV 9 Cemetery Space

The provision of further cemetery space to serve the needs of the population of Bracknell Town will be strongly supported. This applies specifically to land adjacent to Larges Lane Cemetery but does not exclude future proposals for land elsewhere.

29 Watercourses and River Corridors



Watercourses and River Corridors

Policy Context

According to the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework Pack 2nd edition, September 2006, p 30 4.9, the Environment Agency monitors the following watercourses every year: The Cut [23km total length] and the Bullbrook, its southern tributary, rising in Whitmoor Bog. The Cut runs east-west from the artificially landscaped private lake at Ascot Place, forms part of the boundary between Bracknell Town and Warfield, south of Garth Meadows and then runs north via the artificially landscaped private lake at Binfield Manor. The Bullbrook runs south-north, with a section of its course forming part of the boundary between Bracknell Town and Winkfield, west of The Warren and continuing via the artificially landscaped private lake at Warfield House.

Water quality measurement is an important environmental measure.

Ian Marsh of the Bracknell Forest Society drew up a map :“The Lost River of Bracknell” in 2015. This illustrates the link via both BFBC paths and BTC open areas, from Swinley Forest to The Cut before it flows into the Thames at Bray. It describes the character and function of this Bracknell Town watercourse leading to The Cut river corridor & Warfield.

A watercourse is defined as any channel through which water flows.

Watercourses can be natural or man made, open on the surface or enclosed

underground (as in a culvert). There are culverts, piping and open streams on the watercourse and river corridors map.

Actions of agencies and other bodies such as Bracknell Town Council should be co-ordinated to maintain and enhance the multi-functional importance of watercourses for wildlife, landscape and townscape, recreation and managing flood risk.

Some of the Bracknell local watercourses were diverted underground in the 20th century. BTC leases Mill Park from BFBC where Thames Water managed the Mill Pond, originally the site of a mill, now a balancing pond. In 2005, partnership working between Bracknell Town Council, Thames Water and the Environment Agency, led to planting to establish new reed beds and fishing platforms to improve the management of Mill Pond.

Neighbouring Reading’s City Plan at <http://livingreading.co.uk/reading-2050> suggests on p 25, “ the re-establishment of hidden rivers in Reading Town Centre” and on p 27, that “ it makes more of the rivers and landscape.” On p20, it says that “Reading could make better use of retail/ leisure and allied uses (including green infrastructure) in the riverside areas..”, So Reading is aiming for more recreational space along its watercourses for its expanding population.

The watercourse Ian Marsh depicts is already a valuable recreational asset to Bracknell residents which could be better used. This is part of what was

previously the Gormoor Brook which used to run through much of Bracknell better used.

It starts in Swinley Forest, flows via the South Hill Park lakes and reed beds, through to Mill Pond and then to Jocks Copse, before joining The Cut near the Cut Countryside Corridor.

There are footpaths along parts of the watercourse.

The fact that fishing, a popular recreational activity, already takes place on it further justifies why it should be protected.

Fishing on the Watercourses

At Mill Pond and North Lake both on the Bracknell Town watercourse and both pictured on “The Lost River of Bracknell” map , North Lake equals South Hill Park Lakes), Bracknell Town Council works

with Bracknell Herons Angling Club who manage these facilities so residents can fish there.

Annual memberships to the Braybrooke Nature and Fishing Club can be bought from Bracknell Town Council for Jean’s Pond, Braybrooke Recreation Ground. The Angling Trust has helped set up this new club.

These are the freshwater fish found in three places in Bracknell Town:

In Jean’s Pond, part of Braybrooke Recreation Ground, there are now common, crucian and koi carp, perch, roach, rudd and tench.

Mill Pond has bream, common carp, perch, roach and tench .

At North Lake there are predominantly common carp along with gudgeon, perch, roach and rudd.



30 A Bracknell Brick and Tile Stamp

Jean’s Pond was previously a clay pit for the nearby brickworks. There are two ponds on either side of Folders Lane, Jean’s Pond and Lakeside. “There were large brick and tileworks on either side of the lane, opened and abandoned sometime between 1870 and 1898. The Bracknell Pottery Brick and Tile Company was active in 1883 and 1895”.according to p 20 of Brickmaking in Bracknell – Bracknell and District Historical Society (1990), *Brickmaking: A Local History*.

Bracknell Town's Watercourses and River Corridors

Policy Context (cont)

What are Sustainable Drainage systems ? (SuDS)

Approaches to manage surface water that take account of water quantity (flooding), water quality (pollution) and amenity issues are collectively referred to as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). SuDS mimic nature and typically manage rainfall close to where it falls. SuDS can be designed to slow water down (attenuate) before it enters streams, rivers and other watercourses.

Here is a link to the CIRIA susdrain project

Sustainable Drainage ; Ever wondered where the water goes ?

See link <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/12578/Sustainable-drainage-requirements-for-planning-applications>

According to the London Borough of Hillingdon, Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) are now a material planning consideration for major developments (ie developments of 10 dwellings or more and equivalent non residential schemes) , and decisions on planning applications from this date will be expected to make sure that SUDS are in place to ensure surface water is controlled on site..

The Watercourses map shown above and the Lost River of Bracknell map which follows although drawn for leisure purposes by Ian Marsh of the Bracknell Forest Society which is interested in history shows the Bracknell Town south –north SuDS . They are both also particularly relevant in this environment section of the NP as shown in the following quote about **green infrastructure**.

West Berkshire's Core Strategy 5.124 For the purposes of this Core Strategy, green infrastructure is defined as :

*Parks and public gardens, including parks, country parks and formal gardens
Natural and semi-natural green spaces- including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, common land, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land rock areas*

*Green corridors- including **river** and canal **banks**, cycleways and rights of way*

<http://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=36374&p=0>

31 The Lost River of Bracknell Map by Ian Marsh, Bracknell Forest Society.

The Lost River of Bracknell

Gormoor (or Haw) Brook used to run above ground. Nowadays the river is mostly underground or diverted. Here is a 1816 map and some history along its path

The river ran into the Cut and on to the Thames

Manor Farm
Manor Farm, now demolished, was just to the east of the wood. The farm should not be confused with the other Manor Farm (& Manor House) situated where the river meets the cut. Also on the river was Brook House located where the river meets the Wokingham Road.

Easthampstead Church
Believed by some to be an Anglo-Saxon site associated with St Birinus. In 1865 the 1159 church was rebuilt. It contains fine examples of 'Art & Craft movement' stained glass windows. Several older church features were also retained. The nearby workhouse (now Churchill House) was developed from 1826 almshouses. Much of the grounds of Churchill House have been developed into the Churchill Housing Estate. At one time Easthampstead sewage works was situated between the house and the river.

Mill Pond
A 1568 will mentions the mill. In 1974 it became a balancing pond and the outflow diverted

Wildridings Wood
Waitrose sponsor care of this wood which once occupied a quarter of the Southern Industrial estate. It provides a green corridor (and flood control) which follows the dried up river bed

South Hill Park Lakes
There have been buildings on the site since the early 1600s. The lakes were created as part of the c1760 building works. Originally the north lake started much closer to the building and part of it is now below the carpark. Over the years the building has had a successive number of owners, including nobility, a prime minister, a wartime hospital, the BBC and now an arts centre.

South Hill Park Reed Bed
A recent addition on the path of the underground river

Swinley Forest
The river starts here. Once heathland, conifers were planted after the enclosure acts and then WWI

Gormoor Pond
This 1701 document leases the pond as a fish pond, which is still its function

Policy Intent

To enhance the character and the function of the watercourses and to improve public access including footpaths and their signposting to this important recreational resource for the local community.

To open the watercourses up further as recreation routes for walking and cycling. This policy applies to land where public access has been intermittent, both inside and outside the current settlement boundaries, especially to the west, in the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.

To support partnership working to protect and encourage public access to Bracknell's watercourses and river corridors.

To link up the footpaths along Bracknell's watercourses from Gormoor Brook to Jocks Lane and to signpost them so that residents find out that there is a north/south recreational link through the urban environment of the town.

To ensure the green infrastructure associated with the watercourses & river corridors is maintained and enhanced, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

To improve access in a way compatible with protecting the watercourses & river environment.

To prevent degradation of existing standards of provision and improve

where applicable, if additional usage is likely to increase as a result of a specific development.

To fund by requests from CIL,(Community Infrastructure Levy), contributions,, ie joint funding and also bid partnership working..

Policy Justification

NPPF definition of Open Space in Annex 2 refer.

NPPF Paragraph 75.

BFBC Local Plan (2002) Saved Policy EN14 River Corridors.

BFC Core Strategy CS1 and CS7.

This would promote biodiversity, enhance local visual amenity and improve public access along the watercourse.

Policy EV 10

Watercourses and River Corridors

Development proposals that are closely related to the watercourses and river corridor environment and approaches to them will be supported where they take advantage of opportunities to improve their environment, including access.

Air Quality

Policy Background

“At the beginning of the 21st century, more than 80 per cent of the world’s population lived in cities . . . in the new industrial cities of the 19th centuries, they lacked sewerage, refuse disposal and clean water . . . **new hazards**, like the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles, have replaced smoke from railways and factories, for example.” Says Mark Harrison on p190 of *Disease and the Modern World*, ISBN 7-7456-2810-9 Polity Press, 2004

“In 2008, the south east produced 64,000 kilotonnes of CO₂, the highest of any region or country in the UK. However, this mostly reflects the fact that the south east has the largest population and extensive road networks; in terms of emissions per resident, the region had the joint lowest emissions of 7.6 tonnes per resident.” [ONS regional trends no 43: portrait of the south east 2011, p 28]. In 2008, BFC per capita emissions were 6.2 t. (BBFC climate change action plan, 2013)

“Across the country, the government estimates 23,500 people [a year] die prematurely from NO₂ pollution . . .

London [29 miles to the east of Bracknell] has an acute problem with NO₂, possibly the worst in the world”. Reference: The Guardian, 6 February 2016, *The truth about London's air pollution*, page 7.

The UK’s prevailing wind is southwesterly. Bracknell Town’s prevailing wind is westerly.

“Across the UK, 169 local authorities – 40% - had illegally high NO₂ air pollution in 2015.” According to The Guardian article on 7 January 2017: *Air pollution limit breached five days into 2017*.

Air pollution for human beings means exposure throughout their whole lifecycle thinks Professor Holgate who expressed the view that a new Clean Air Act was overdue. He said: “The smog of the 1950s was due to coal burning in domestic fires and industry. In today’s society the picture is different. The pollution is invisible and is a silent killer. Coal fires are no longer causing us the problem – now tiny toxins and particles are being poured into our air from cars, lorries and buses and we are breathing them in day by day.”

Professor Holgate goes on to say: “We desperately need a **new Clean Air Act** that reflects the problems that today’s society faces, in particular the pollution caused by diesel cars. . . . We need a new way of thinking about transport and how we move about the country, one that encourages people to get out and cycle or walk.” Reference: Professor Stephen Holgate, Medical Research Council Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology (6 September 2016) It’s about time for a new Clean Air Act. “Available at: <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/news/2016/09/new-clean-air-act-needed.page>

The **woodland** (or hinterland as referred to in the foreword to the Housing

section of this plan), adjacent to Bracknell Town has **carbon dioxide benefits**

The BAP map <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/biodiversity-action-plan-2012-2017.pdf> on page 11 clearly shows the urban environment of Bracknell Town. To the south and south east of it are the woods south of The Look Out and Swinley Forest. According to Dr Nick Atkinson of The Woodland Trust on page 162 in “What Nature does for Britain” by Tony Juniper in the chapter on “Carbon Country”, “The total contribution of these”, (natural woodland), “systems to our national carbon balance is not massive” but it is “at a very low cost”.

On page 164 of the same book, it says that :“Benefits include encouraging valuable wildlife corridors, boosting pollinator populations, providing a haven for predatory insects that control pests, slowing down water runoff and cutting soil erosion”.

“The woodland adjacent to Bracknell Town NP is in Winkfield Parish Swinley Forest is ancient woodland and in Crowthorne Parish, south of The Look Out, there are Crown Estate commercial conifer plantations. Following the fires affecting 300 hectares in May 2011, they are now being partially restored by re-establishing a mix of native woodland species.”The aim **is progressive conversion to broadleaf forest** by reversing the proportions of conifer to broadleaf planting as being specified on the TRL site in Crowthorne”, says Marlies Boydell, Biodiversity Officer at BFBC. This will contribute to the national expansion of native broadleaf woodland by not spraying with herbicides etc...

SANGs designations are decided and recorded by Bracknell Forest Borough Council.<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/suitablealternativenaturalgreenspaces>

Winkfield and Crowthorne parishes in their Neighbourhood Plans could consider ensuring that they designate Swinley Forest to remain as native broadleaf woodland and that they ask the Crown Estate to work to reverse the respective proportions of commercial conifer plantation and reconverted native broadleaf woodland south of and around The Look Out and to the south east and designate both areas to remain as woodland.

Residents could then work locally against climate change by reducing greenhouse gases causing climate change coming from changes in the natural world i.e. woodland. This is crucial in a world and in a part of south east England where the population is set to increase further.

Where Bracknell Town is concerned, the tree planting could be described as “**urban forest**”. This has been studied and quantified by looking at the urban forest structure, species compositions, tree cover etc, its hourly emissions contributing to ozone formation, its hourly pollution removal, the effect of trees on building energy and carbon dioxide emissions, the relative ranking of species effects on air quality and the total carbon stored and sequestered annually by urban trees.

Policy Context

The Neighbourhood Plan area is bisected by the Bagshot Road where there are 54,000 traffic movements per day.

Bracknell Town although an urban environment has a high proportion of **trees** per square kilometre. Although incorporated in the original design and also planted mainly for their amenity value, now they contribute to the environment for their **anti-pollution function**. Those tree species better equipped to thrive and survive in more polluted areas include the London plane tree.

In accordance with statutory requirements, Air Quality has been monitored in Bracknell Forest since 1999 and AQMAs, (Air Quality Management Areas), were declared in 2010, one in Crowthorne High Street, the other in Bracknell Town along the Bagshot Road and Downshire Way, and are monitored in the Updating and Screening Assessment for Bracknell Forest Council.

See www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/2015-updating-and-screening-assessment.pdf
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/pollutioncontrolairquality

The yearly AQMA results are published by BFBC.

A map of the AQMA in Bracknell Town is shown in appendix 3.1.

Inclusion of BFBC annual air quality management statistics on BTC environmental services committee agenda is strongly supported.

Policy Intent

To limit and mitigate any adverse effects on air quality and any ensuing harm to residents from air pollution in future development in Bracknell Town.

Policy Justification

NPPF paragraphs 109, 120 and 124. Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002 Saved Policy EN25 Noise and other pollution.

Core Strategy CS1 Sustainable Development Principles, Protect & Enhances : vii. the quality of natural resources including water, air, land and biodiversity.

This policy is suggested in the context of the yearly BFC AQMA monitoring and the BFBC policies on air pollution.

Policy EV 11

Air Quality

Any development proposal which is required to be accompanied by an environmental statement will be expected to demonstrate the following :

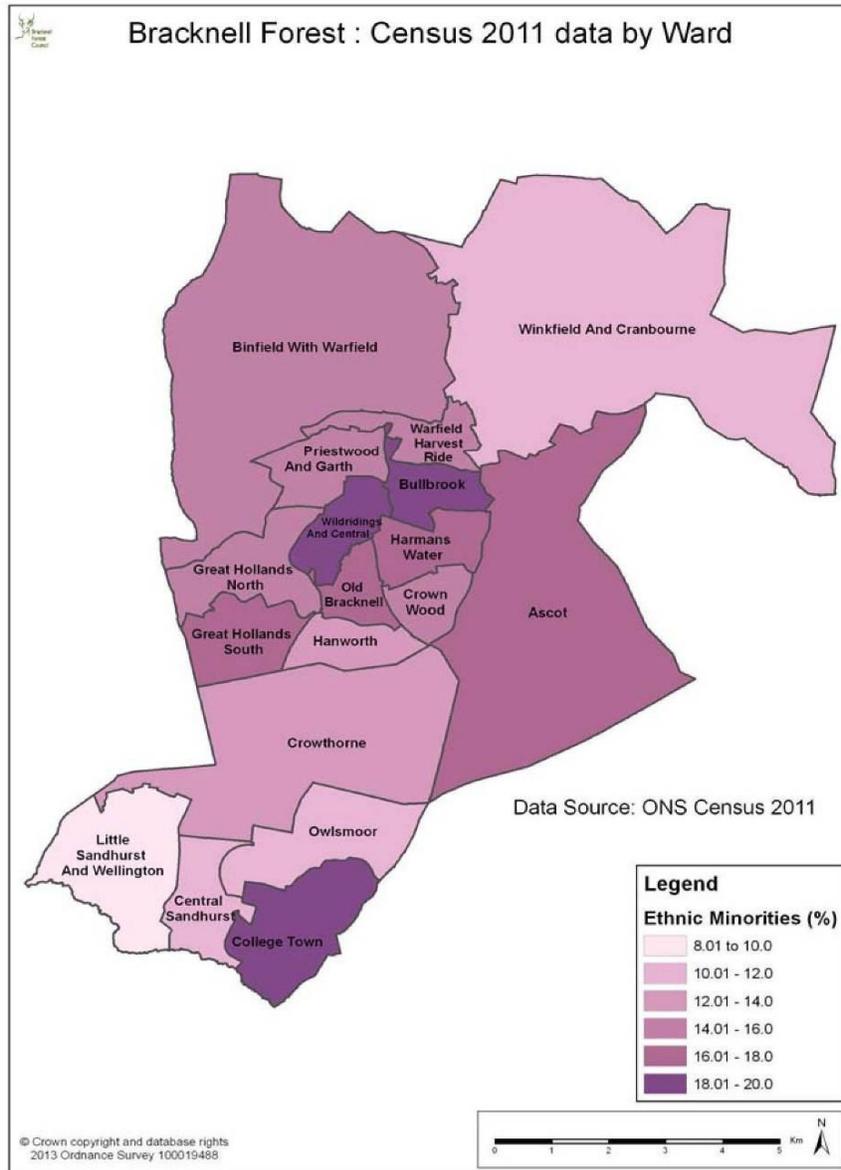
1 It is not likely to result in the breach of European Union limits for air pollution and

2 If such limits are likely to be breached, then measures will be expected to be put in place to adequately mitigate this impact and ensure that air pollution levels are maintained below the limit.

Community in Bracknell Town

Key Objective 1: Improve social, community and leisure facilities

Foreword : Bracknell Town Population



Map showing wards in 2011, colour-coded according to percentage of BME population.

Illustration 32

This **illustration, no 32 Map showing wards in 2011**, is from Bracknell Forest: Key facts from the Census 2001-2011, ward level page 1 : available at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/the-changing-face-of-bracknell-forest-key-census-facts-2001-to-2011.pdf> In this map showing the percentages of Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) population, Bracknell Town has a higher proportion of **ethnic minorities** in relation to most of Bracknell Forest. So it is already **culturally diverse** and different from the other five parishes in the borough. The top three languages spoken by children attending Bracknell schools are English then Polish then Nepalese.

Population : Age Structure

This table below, (Crown Copyright 2013 Population Structure Parish Table.doc), shows the population's age structure.

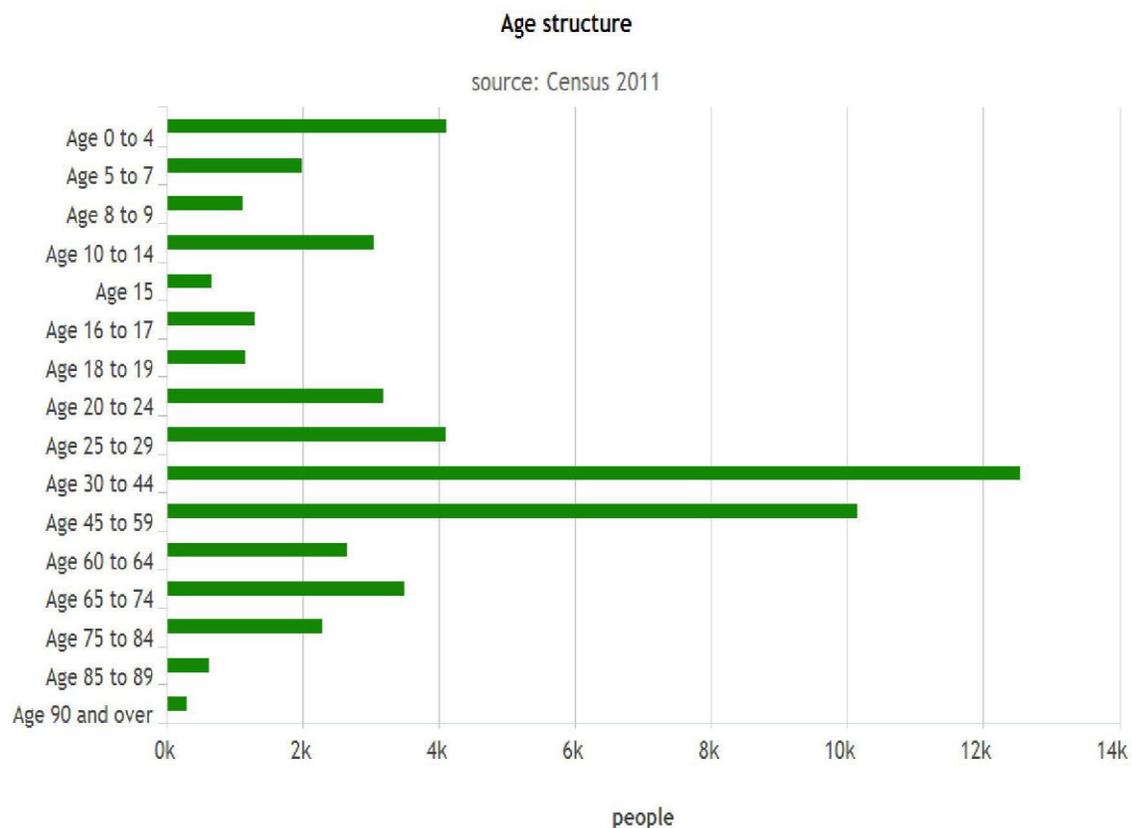


Illustration 6

Bracknell, 2011

Powered by esd

This illustration, no 33 is from Local Government Association, **Basic facts about Bracknell Neighbourhood plan area, page 2** at:

<http://reports.esd.org.uk/reports/15?pa=NBHD-188>.

It shows that 39.2% of the population is under 29 years while 43.1% is aged 30 to 59 years. The predominant age band is age 30 to 44 which represents 23.81% of the total Neighbourhood Plan area population.

Population :Post Second World War Expansion

On page 210 of Berkshire A County History by Daphne Phillips, it says :

“...A government agency was entrusted with Sir Patrick Abercrombie’s scheme for the reconstruction of Greater London and his far-reaching plan to re-house some of its population in new towns...these would offer ... *self contained communities*, (NP italics), where work, education, social and leisure amenities would be within reach of everyone, as well as easy access to the countryside.” This encapsulates the original plan for Bracknell and shows that it was based on planned, centralised migration.

Population : Census Data .

BFBC publishes parish level census data for Bracknell Town, broken down to ward level. Using this to calculate current recreation provision and to forecast the use of facilities and assets such as South Hill Park Arts Centre and the community centres would improve planning for the future.

Welcome to Bracknell’s flourishing Arts Centre : South Hill Park.



34 Photo by Jeff Lawrence, Bracknell Camera Club



Arts Centre: South Hill Park

Policy Context

South Hill Park Trust Limited is registered charity no 265656. Activities are: Performances, courses and workshops across all art forms. It operates in Bracknell Forest, Hampshire, Surrey, Windsor and Maidenhead and in Wokingham, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>.

South Hill Park Trust Limited is registered as company number 01104422 and the nature of its business is Performing arts, type 90010, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>

SHP has been the primary arts provider for the people of Bracknell and beyond for over 40 years.

Some of the arts competition in Berkshire is from the Norden Arts Centre in Maidenhead and The Corn Exchange Theatre in Newbury.

“On average, how often would you say that you or members of your immediate family used South Hill Park arts facility ? At least monthly, 22%, less frequently than monthly, 44%, never, 33%, don't

know, 2%.” according to question 5.4 in the Bracknell Forest Residents’ Survey 2014 Report by: Qa Research on p 28, figure 20 : Frequency of using Council-provided services ;<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/residents-survey-results-2014.pdf> The 35-44 age group used SHP the most.- see- table 21 p 30.

SHP's income streams were Bracknell Forest Council, (BFBC), Bracknell Town Council, (BTC), and ticket sales. After a devastating funding cut by Arts Council England, (ACE), in 2011, the SHP Trust has grown income from commercial activity such as catering and room hire for arts events and for functions like weddings. The Arts Centre still receives project funding from ACE.

It now has to fundraise for income alongside what it receives from grants, box office and commercial activity. Although the purpose of fundraising is to generate income, it can have additional benefits such as developing key relationships and partnerships with local businesses and individuals which can open up a range of new opportunities and networks both locally, in Bracknell, and regionally, in Berkshire, and also beyond.

“SHP'S programme of crafts and workshops is a key to community creative learning.” says the August 2016, South Hill Park report.

As already noted in this plan, South Hill Park is registered as UD1581 and no 1000591 on the National Heritage List for England which means that it is not operating out of a purpose built, modern building but is based in a listed building as well as in the theatre built in 1982.

Policy Intent

To support SHP's 3 priorities:

- Providing increasingly high quality arts for and with the local community,
- continuing to grow commercial activities,
- building a sustainable operation

Policy Justification

NPPF paragraph 70.
BFBC Local Plan 2002 EN12, EN14
BFC Core Strategy CS8.

This is in the context of Bracknell Forest Borough's designation of SHP as an Arts Centre in the lease dated 31st March 1974 in para xi, where it says

the term “Arts Centre .. shall mean ...the promotion and fostering of the development maintenance and improvement of artistic knowledge understanding and appreciation of the arts.

The Mansion at South Hill Park has been used as an Arts Centre since its designation in 1973 and plays an important part in the cultural life of the Bracknell community and so continued use of the whole site, including the National Lottery refurbished park, for this purpose, is strongly supported.

Policy EV 12

Arts Centre: South Hill Park

Development proposals that will help to retain the use of South Hill Park as an arts centre/theatre by continuing to provide high quality, accessible, cultural, community resources will be strongly supported.



**Neighbourhood Community
Centres:**



Colocation of Community Facilities

Policy Context

See also the policy context for the protection of community facilities policy.

The neighbourhood community centres in Bracknell Town are owned by Bracknell Forest Council and run by voluntary community associations which are registered charities. They should continue to be maintained and run by and for their local communities. They are:

Birch Hill,
Bullbrook,
Crown Wood,
Easthampstead and Wildridings,
Great Hollands,
Hanworth,
Jennett's Park,
Priestwood,
The Parks.

Neighbourhood community centre locations in Bracknell are **mapped on appendix 3.5** and listed in appendix 4. Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Centre has a police point on site available to the general public.

The running of the registered charities whose volunteer residents administer the community centres is currently supported by Bracknell Forest Borough Council who provide advice and guidance to their trustees.

two local authorities, (BFBC and BTC), of elected Councillors as Bracknell Forest Council and Bracknell Town Council representatives at the meetings of Bracknell Town Community Associations and their registered charities.

It supports reviewing - where applicable - the current single use of neighbourhood community buildings and considering their mixed use where appropriate.

It also supports exploring future possible multi uses of current single use D1 use class neighbourhood community centres and the land around them for the benefit of Bracknell Town residents. This applies both to those owned by Bracknell Forest Borough Council and to the others.

Finally, this policy refers to meeting places as defined in use classes D1, (Non- residential institutions), & D2, (Assembly & Leisure), & aims to rethink the best use of current community facilities and also to try out new configurations for the future in any new areas of development outside the existing classic New Town Neighbourhoods. This means considering for instance juxtaposing use classes A1 to A3 with D1 & D2 in new developments.

Policy Intent

To maximise the benefits of current community centres for Bracknell Town

The policy below strongly supports continued yearly appointments by the

To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the Bracknell Town Community needs.

To improve the efficiency of the land use of existing community facilities such as community centres and/or to create new multi-storey and/or multi-functional community hubs, where and if appropriate, on the same sites to incorporate suitable, additional, new community facilities on them.

To sustain the overall provision of social infrastructure and its social, recreational and cultural benefits.

Policy Justification

NPPF paragraphs 69.

NPPF paragraph 70 & bullet point 3.

BFBC Core Strategies CS2 Locational principles and CS8 Recreation and Culture policy

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002 Saved Policy SC3 No reduction in existing community facilities.

Policy EV 13

Colocation of Community Facilities

Development proposals for the colocation of existing and future neighbourhood community facilities in Bracknell Town will be strongly supported.

Protection of Community Facilities

Policy Context

Bracknell Forest Borough Council as the successor authority in some cases to Bracknell Development Corporation, (following Berkshire County Council), now owns the sites of community assets such as schools, community centres and libraries. The Bracknell Development Corporation purchased the land they now stand on for their use by the residents of Bracknell Town.

The new **community right to bid for assets of community value** means communities can ask their council to list certain assets as being of value to the community. If an asset is listed and then comes up for sale, the community that wants it has six months to put together a bid to buy it. This gives it an increased chance to save much loved shops, pubs or other local facilities. The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 are available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2421/contents/made>

This Plan is not suggesting community assets to list but is noting a community's right to do so.

See **appendix 3.5 Neighbourhood Community Centres (map)** and **appendix 4 Neighbourhood Community Centres (table) in Bracknell Town** for details of community facilities in Bracknell Town.

Voluntary, Community and Faith Groups' Future Needs

The "vision" of the registered charity, Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action, known as Involve is:

"To be the best at working with Voluntary, Community and Faith, (VCF,) groups and public sector partners to ensure there is a healthy and fair environment in which VCF groups are prepared for, and can access, opportunities to provide services to local people".

Involve helps coordinate the work of many local charities and is a source of useful data on the future needs of respective residents based on their age and how they relate to Bracknell Town's actual population profile and its trend for the future. Through community partnerships, it works with key stakeholders such as local voluntary, (non-profit), organisations and groups. Bracknell & District CAB is a prominent voluntary group in Bracknell.

Policy Intent

To ensure that Bracknell residents continue to enjoy the maximum social, recreational and cultural benefits from their community buildings owned by their local district authority and, while doing this, to help third sector, (charity & voluntary), and faith sectors to support Bracknell Town's community activities.

continued on the next page..

Policy Intent cont.

To support partnership working with and between these local, non- profit, organisations, especially Involve, by enabling the formation of an integrated, informed community engagement programme to identify the future needs of Bracknell Town's residents using its community buildings and facilities.

Policy Justification

NPPF paragraphs 69 and 70.

BFC Core Strategy CS1 Sustainable development principles and CS8 Recreation and culture.

Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan 2002 Saved Policy SC3 No reduction in existing community facilities.

Policy EV 14

Protection of Community Facilities

Proposals that retain and enhance and improve existing community facilities will be strongly supported.

Actions to take for the future Community Health Provision and Infrastructure:

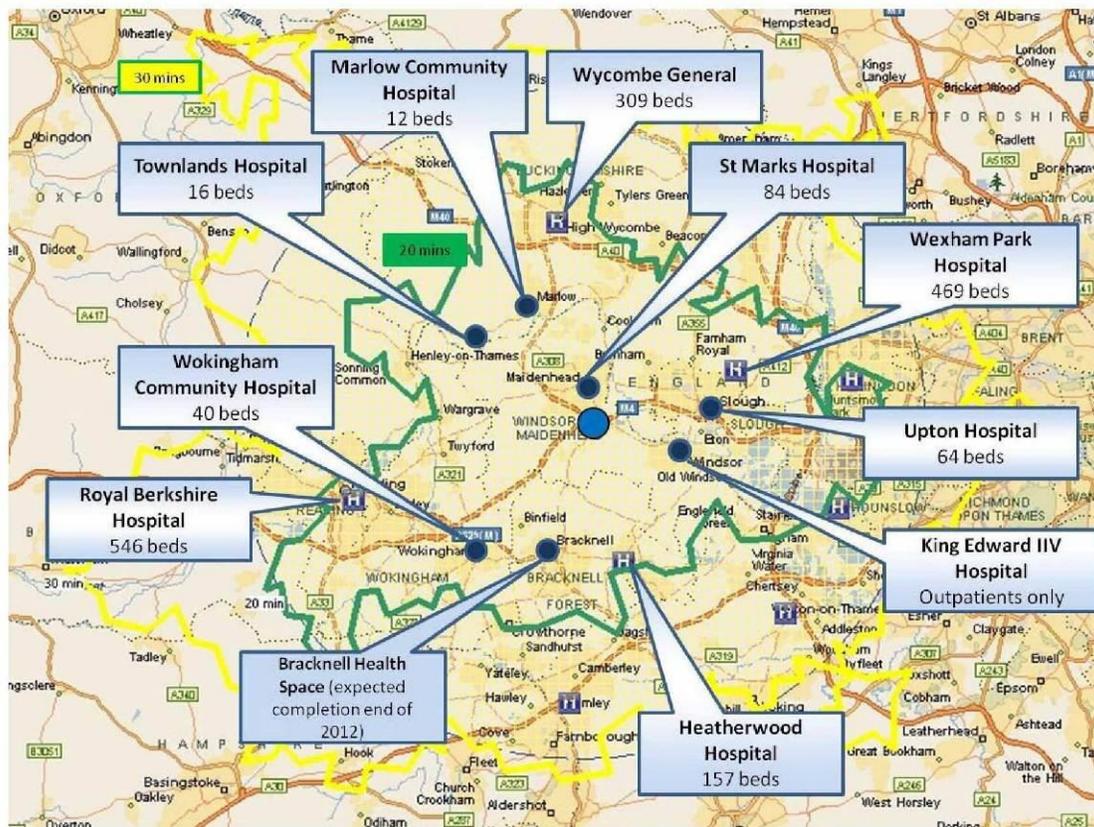
THE ROYAL THAMES VALLEY HOSPITAL

21st Century Patient Care

Local Hospital Provision

The locations of the current acute and community hospital facilities are shown on the map below. These are within a 20mins drive time radius by car from the proposed new hospital location.

Figure 5: Drive time estimations from M4 Junction 8/9



The above map highlights our region's hospital infrastructure, comprising both community and acute hospitals. It is apparent that many small community hospitals and clinics are scattered across the region and larger hospitals are mostly found on the outskirts, hardly within easy reach. Also, linkage between inter-departmental services is made considerably more difficult by this disparity in location. Access to the only 'proper' acute hospital, Wexham Park, is severely restricted by its geographic positioning in the north-east of the region. Hence, access to services is difficult and time consuming.

Illustration 35 is Figure 5 Drive time estimations from M4 junction 8/9 . The map and text above are an extract from: The Royal Thames Valley Hospital, 21st Century Patient Care: Challenges & opportunities, A Vision of a Sustainable Healthcare Plan for the Thames Valley, Dr Phillip Lee, Member of Parliament for Bracknell Constituency, 2012 p23

In the map, the yellow isochron is for 30 minutes' drive time, and the green isochron for 20 minutes' drive time from the proposed new hospital location site.

The map doesn't include Frimley Park Hospital.

"With over 8,000 employees and 1,100 beds across its three principal sites, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust provides NHS hospital services for 900,000 people in Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey and South Buckinghamshire." says the Annual Report and Accounts 2014-2015 for Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Months 1-6) & Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust (Months 7-12) on page 6.

The map doesn't include the Fitzwilliam House Outpatient Centre, Skimped Hill Lane, Bracknell or Prospect Park Hospital for mental illness in Reading.

Bracknell Urgent Care Centre, managed by Royal Berkshire Healthcare Trust, is now open 8am to 8pm, 365 days a year.

This plan suggests the following eight actions.

All 8 are strongly supported

Action 1

Urgent Care Centre Opening Hours

Current estimated waiting times at Wexham Park and Frimley Park vary from six to four hours in Accident and Emergency. These waiting times in the South East of England, one of the most prosperous and densely populated areas of the country, are some of the worst in the country. Anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that residents going to A&E could actually be seen at the Urgent Care Centre if it were open for longer hours.

Extend the opening hours of the Bracknell Urgent Care Centre so that they are from 7am to 10pm, 365 days a year.

Action 2

Urgent Care Centre Pharmacy

Highlight to the Clinical Care Commissioning Group that any development proposals to identify a location within Bracknell Urgent Care Centre, or within close proximity, for a pharmacy from which to obtain prescriptions given out at the centre and so avoid a second journey to obtain medication, will be strongly supported.

Action 3

Sustainable Regional and Town Health Infrastructure Planning

Continue to support long term, local, Bracknell Town and regional, Berkshire, sustainable health planning to improve the hospital and healthcare infrastructure for local residents and to adapt its component locations to reflect changing and future settlement patterns in Berkshire.

Action 4

Transport to Hospitals

Geographical constraints exist and methods of transport to hospital vary.

There is little, fast, direct public transport to Frimley Park, Royal Berkshire and Wexham Park hospitals. Note drive times on the map above.

Despite Bracknell Town having 55,000 residents, there is no hospital in the town and the region, (see map above), has 1,697 beds (excluding Frimley Park Hospital).

In 2014, Heatherwood and Wexham Park Healthcare Trust was taken over by Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. In April 2016, plans were announced by them to rebuild Heatherwood Hospital in 2017-19.

Note that emergency transport to hospital is being done by Thames Valley Air Ambulance by flying over the road and rail network by helicopter. This helps with the most acute cases but the issue of the location and deployment of ambulances on local roads for less acute cases is still a very important one in an area where more housing development is planned. Bracknell Voluntary Centre has in the past driven patients to individual appointments.

This plan notes Bracknell Forest Council Core Strategy 2008 Policy CS3 Bracknell Town Centre and, on page 51, Objective H. To deliver Accessible Development meeting the needs of the Borough with monitoring indicator : CO1 3b : Amount of New development within 30 minutes' public transport time of a GP, a hospital, a primary school, a secondary school, areas of employment and a major retail centre(s) (CS23, CS24).

Address the needs of non-car owners and their transport to hospital

Action 5

Retention of Current Town Location for Ambulance Services

Support the continued land use of Bracknell Ambulance Station, Old Bracknell Lane West, Bracknell, RG12 7AG, as an Ambulance Station.

Action 6

Retention of Current Town Locations for GP Surgeries.

Bracknell Town has the following: Balfron, Boundary House and Crown Wood Surgeries, Easthampstead Practice, Evergreen, Forest End, Great Hollands, Ringmead: Birch Hill, Ringmead: Great Hollands and Waterfield Surgeries.

Retention of Current Town Locations for GP Surgeries

Support keeping all the current surgeries in their current locations as they form a good working network.

Action 7

Sheltered Housing and Nursing Home Space

Note that **sheltered housing & nursing homes** planned into the original New Town neighbourhoods are becoming more scarce especially after the recent closure of Heathlands in Wildridings.

Note that where community participation in Berkshire and local Bracknell health provision and infrastructure planning are concerned, where they are now and will be in the future are important issues for Bracknell's residents. They can lobby elected Bracknell Town Councillors to continue to voice their concerns and ask them to articulate and publicise them in Bracknell Matters published by Bracknell Town Council, online and on social media to the relevant authorities to ensure maximum community participation in decision-making.

Cllr Isabel Mattick, the BFBC representative on the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has asked for this plan to note that residents can involve themselves by joining their patient groups or by seeking election as a governor on hospital trusts.

Clement House, Bracknell's flagship extra care scheme is owned by Bracknell Forest Homes which is in merger discussion with Housing Solutions. The building specification included 61 units of which were 51 for rent and 14 for sale.

Strongly support the replanning and reallocation of new, necessary sheltered housing & nursing home space for Bracknell's current and future, expanding, population in appropriate locations in each town neighbourhood and in new developments.

Action 8

Crematorium as a Heat Source

Action Background

In the Redditch Advertiser, 8 February 2011 article entitled "*Councillors approve Redditch crematorium heat scheme*," it states:

"The scheme will work by using waste heat from the crematorium, which currently escapes through the chimney, and diverting it into the redeveloped leisure centre, which will include a swimming pool.

Installing the necessary equipment, including the laying of insulated pipes to carry the heat away from sensitive burial areas, will cost £39,000 but will result in a saving of £14,560 a year."

On 23rd February 2012, The Daily Telegraph reported that Sir George Young, Leader of the House of Commons had said that the Government was considering whether the plan could be duplicated elsewhere in Britain.

BBC Radio 4's "The Design Dimension" programme featured it on 19th April 2016.

Action Context

Where other authorities are leading could Bracknell Forest Borough Council follow with the crematorium in Bracknell Town ?

Action Intent

To support both Bracknell Forest Borough and Bracknell Town Council as either landowners, leaseholders and/or managers of nearby community leisure and other facilities as well as other landowners nearby to innovate and increase energy efficiency by considering using waste energy from the crematorium as a heat source in redesigning both their current and new buildings.

Action Justification

Bracknell Forest Borough is planning to extend the crematorium and Bracknell Town Council is planning to rebuild its leisure pavilion next door, at Great Hollands Recreation Ground as this plan is being written. Exploring the possibility of using the crematorium as a heat source for inclusion in nearby renewable energy systems is supported. This plan notes Bracknell Forest Council (2008) Sustainable Resource Management, Supplementary Planning Document, section 1.3 Development's impact on natural resource use, The need for Sustainable Resource Management which states: "Buildings not only use resources such as energy and raw materials, they also generate waste" refers

Action 8 Crematorium as a Heat Source

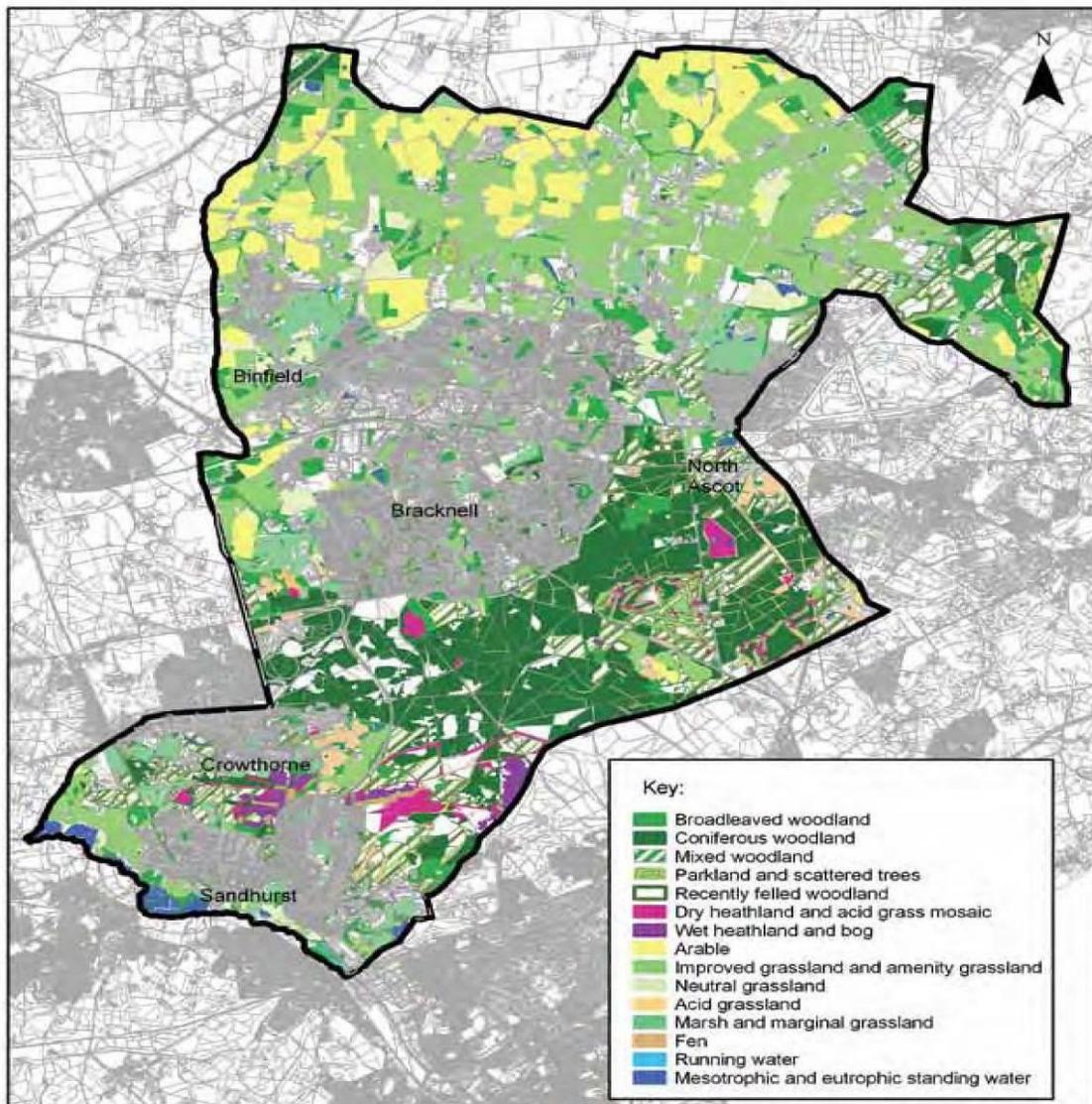
The crematorium is adjacent to the Downshire Golf Complex and across the road from Great Hollands Pavilion; any proposals for the development and implementation of an energy efficient heat system using waste energy from the crematorium for any existing and/or future facilities thereon, at the crematorium itself and nearby will be strongly supported.

Action 9 Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity

Illustration 36 : Biodiversity Action Plan ,(BAP), 2012-2017 Map from p11 :

BAP Habitats

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre was commissioned to update the habitat mapping information to provide a baseline for future conservation action. This is based on a range of information sources available (see Appendix A4) and shows the distribution of BAP habitats within the borough using a simplified colour scheme to reflect basic habitat types.



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The habitat map is from p11 of the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2012-2017.

The largest urban area of the borough is Bracknell Town whilst the town of Sandhurst and villages of Crowthorne, Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield also provide habitats for people and wildlife alike according to p37 Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2012-[2017](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/biodiversity-action-plan-2012-2017.pdf)

Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity

Action Context

This plan has already referred to the juxtaposition of forest to town.

The current government's clean growth strategy includes establishing a new network of forests in England and funding larger scale woodland and forest creation.

To the east of London, the largest urban area in the UK, only 20 km north east of Mansion House, the headquarters of the Corporation of the City of London, the managers of the forest, lie the 2400 hectares of the distinctive landscape of Epping Forest, the majority of which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This biodiversity area is larger than the forest near Bracknell but the co-existence of urban and forest landscape area is the same.

The parallels are interesting as they include two areas of forest in private ownership adjoining urban development.

The BAP says that green infrastructure is being recognised as of key importance in establishing a multi-functional network through urban areas for the well-being of people and diversity.

Natural England in its Green Infrastructure Guidance p 7, states that green infrastructure should thread through and surround the built environment and connect an urban area to its wider rural hinterland. It then says that a strategically planned and managed **network of green spaces** and other environmental features, is vital to the sustainability of any urban area, parks and gardens, amenity green space, natural and semi-urban green spaces, green corridors, other.

According to Tony Juniper in his book *What Nature Does for Britain* published by Profile Books 2015, on p 38, there has been a progressive **homogenisation of our environment** and a damaging **loss of habitats** rich in wildflowers some of which are urban, such as parks, gardens and roadside verges, where there has been a decline in the quality of these ecosystems. He quotes Professor Jeff Ollerton, who states that 75 per cent of our native plants require insects as pollinators, as do 60 per cent of our trees.

On p 36, the BAP states that the Urban Habitat Action Plan will “maintain, enhance and increase urban habitat resource in the borough.” (Mostly in Bracknell Town, see above). This means protecting cowslips, hedgehogs and swifts.

Bracknell Forest Objectives

- A Identify and protect existing key areas of urban biodiversity
- B Make some provision for biodiversity within all urban greenspace
- C Make provision for biodiversity within new development
- D Increase public awareness of urban biodiversity
- E Increase area of private greenspace and gardens managed for wildlife

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	ACHIEVE BY	PARTNER ORGANISATIONS
A	i) Plant or replace at least 50 large native urban trees	2016	BFC, WEG, BDUWG, CaTH, BFH, Parish & Town Councils
A	ii) Undertake a public survey to identify the number of garden ponds without fish	2013	BFH, BDUWG, WEG, BFNHS
A	iii) Manage at least 25% of grass verges as roadside nature reserves within Bracknell town	2017	BFC, BTC, BFH, BDUWG
A	iiii) Identify, protect and increase swift nest sites by 30%	2016	BFC, Parish & Town Councils, BTO, RSPB, BDUWG, BRP
B	i) Create or enhance at least 5ha of wildflower areas including cowslips within urban greenspaces	2014	BFC, BFH, Town & Parish Councils, BCV, BDUWG, WEG
B	ii) All churchyards and cemetery management plans to include biodiversity actions	2015	BFC, ELCG, Town & Parish Councils, CNHG, BFNHS
B	iii) All public greenspace management plans to include biodiversity actions	2017	BFC, Town & Parish Councils
C	i) Planning permissions to include requirement for at least 50 new wildlife features (not mitigation)	Every year	BFC
C	ii) Adopt a Biodiversity Action Plan for Bracknell Town regeneration	2013	BRP, BTC

D	i) Restore or enhance at least 6 school wildlife areas for use in lessons	2014	BFC, BBOWT, RHS, WEG, BCV
D	ii) At least two published articles or events to include urban wildlife	Every year	BFC, NFH, BDUWG, Town & Parish Councils
D	iii) Identify and increase number of Bracknell Forest residents and schools taking part in garden wildlife surveys	2015	BFC, BTO, RSPB, WEG, BDUWG
E	i) At least 50 gardens connected as part of Hedgehog Street	2013	BFH, BDUWG, WEG, BFNHS
E	ii) At least 10 private landowners to have management plans including biodiversity	2017	BFP, BTC
E	iii) All golf courses to have identified areas of wildlife value in positive management	2017	BFC

Illustration 37 : Bracknell Forest Objectives from Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2012-2017 p38

The Bracknell Forest Nature Partnership with members from the Forestry Commission, Bracknell Forest History Society and Bracknell Horticultural Society, among others, meets twice a year and guides action towards achieving the aims of the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Plan. BTC is represented on the Bracknell Biodiversity Forum. All are now contributing to the next biodiversity action plan.

Action Intent

To further protect the wildlife habitats and encourage more biodiversity in the urban environment of Bracknell Town as mapped above

Action Justification

This action is suggested in the context of Bracknell Forest Council policy stated on p 16 of the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, (BAP), 2012-17 Urban Habitat Action Plan as the table shown above.

Action 9

Wildlife Habitats and Biodiversity

To sustain the quality of all types of wildlife habitats and to avoid any decline in biodiversity, the continuation of participation in agreed partnership working towards attainment of targets 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 in the

Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-17 Urban Habitat Action Plan, is strongly supported.



38 The Cut Countryside Corridor Signpost

Action 10

Wildlife Corridors and Roadside Nature Reserves

Action Context

Natural habitats need to be protected and enhanced, and allowed to thrive. Wildlife corridors allow movement and migration of wildlife in urban environments. In the Bracknell Forest Borough Council POSS, (Public Open Space Study), study which includes maps of green spaces in Bracknell Town, there are 2 relevant classifications that is: C Green Corridors and J Amenity Greenspace/landscape buffer/incidental verge

Increasing Urban Fox Population

Where wildlife is concerned, there is an increasing number of sightings of urban foxes across Bracknell Town, both in public and in private space, and reports of residents feeding them so data on their numbers, density and locations needs identifying. Indeed they were discussed at Bracknell Town Council's Environmental Services Committee meeting on 26th July 2016 as item 5.12. Advice and information is available in Bracknell

Forest Borough Council's Pest Control Advice Sheet - Foxes <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/foxes-pest-control-advice-sheet.pdf>. Foxes must be using the wildlife corridors in the town.

Note that in this Plan there is a housing policy on Private Gardens: Green Space Biodiversity Corridors.

Public **roadside nature reserves** are areas of grass, usually on verges or near underpasses, which are managed to allow wild flowers, sometimes rare species, to grow and support insects such as bees and butterflies. The mowing programme promotes biodiversity. Adjusting the grass cutting timings increases the amount of nectar available for pollinator insects each year. A grass cutting management regime to enhance urban biodiversity can counter any threats to it as listed on page 37 of the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan 2012 –2017.

Action Intent

To link up and to signpost in the urban environment of Bracknell Town its wildlife corridors.

Action Justification

It is important to sustain wildlife corridors and roadside nature reserves in an urban environment. Bracknell Town's strategic position means that if its own river corridor and wildlife and roadside nature reserves were linked, these could in turn be linked to those of the surrounding parishes of Binfield, Warfield, Winkfield, Crowthorne and Wokingham Without to form a recognisable Borough Green Infrastructure network.

Action 10

Wildlife Corridors and Roadside Nature Reserves

Continued partnership working between Bracknell Town Council and the surrounding parishes and partners like the Bracknell Natural History Society to further identify and protect and preserve the network of Bracknell's wildlife corridors and its roadside nature reserves will be supported.

Projects for a Future - Greener- Utility Infrastructure



39 Vertical planting: This is the Bracknell Waitrose supermarket “Living Wall”.

The following projects are beginning to harness technology in new ways to make a future, greener, -utility infrastructure. They’re included in this 20 year Neighbourhood Plan as a challenge for residents to consider when revising this neighbourhood plan.

Living Wall project

New and emerging future green technology projects should be supported. They help towards compliance with international agreements to tackle the challenge of climate change and to reduce local carbon footprint. In Bracknell Town, one practical measure is the “living wall”, above.

See this Neighbourhood Plan Housing section on “Buildings: :Sustainable Design for the Future”.

LED Street Lights project

You cannot stargaze in Bracknell Town as it is clearly an urban area and is lit for much of the night.

To increase energy efficiency, LED street lights are being installed fulfilling BFBC Climate Change Action Plan E1.

This is a current Bracknell Forest Borough Council project. Neighbouring councils such as Slough and Wokingham Borough are doing the same. Whether residents will prefer less light in their streets or a cheaper cost of running them, (once the installation bill has been paid), and a better view of the night sky remains to be seen.

On light pollution and dark skies, see The Campaign to Protect Rural England's light pollution maps at <http://nightblight.cpre.org.uk> CPRE also define "skyglow", "glare" & "light intrusion".

Robots to repair street lights and potholes...project

An even more ambitious city project is described here.

"A university is leading a pioneering £4.2m project to create "self-repairing cities" by developing robots that can fix street lights and potholes....."

"Professor Phil Purnell, leading the research team from the School of Civil Engineering, said:

"We want to make Leeds the first city in the world to have zero disruption from street works...We can support infrastructure which can be entirely maintained by robots and make the disruption caused by the constant digging up of the road in our cities a thing of the past. ""

This is from The Guardian of 16 October 2015, *Robots to replace diggers in plan to turn Leeds into self-repairing city*, see :

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/16/robots-to-replace-diggers-in-plan-to-turn-leeds-into-self-repairing-city>

Where Leeds leads could Bracknell follow ?

Bin Lorry Cameras to Map Potholes...project

Another pioneering project, this time in Thurrock, involves mapping the potholes from cameras on the waste collection vehicles. In what is the first of its kind in the country, the trial – worth £183,000 and funded by the Department for Transport – will revolutionise the way potholes and other road defects are dealt with in Thurrock. Surveying them and identifying them regularly will help plan routine maintenance as will the streetlight project referred to above. Sharing data such as this between District and Parish Councils is one way to the future and to harnessing technology to lead to a completely new way of operating customer services by anticipating the reporting of repairs.

Thames Valley Vision Project



40 SSE ESMU in Saffron Road in 2016

“The Thames Valley Vision (TVV) is a £30 million project established to ensure a high quality and affordable electricity network in the future. Customers in Bracknell and the surrounding area will benefit from this project that will help the UK achieve a low carbon economy.

To meet the Low Carbon Networks Fund, (LCNF), objectives of facilitating low carbon solutions by trialing new technologies and practices, TVV will collect new data and develop sophisticated modeling to allow the operation and planning of networks to avoid costly system reinforcement – essentially to use what we have already got more efficiently !” according to <http://www.thamesvalleyvision.co.uk/our-project/>

“Tier 2 projects in progress

- My Electric Avenue
- Northern Isles New Energy Solutions (NINES)
- Solent Achieving Value from Efficiency (SAVE)
- Thames Valley Vision (TVV)”

The TVV “is one of the largest projects awarded funding under the LCNF Tier 2 scheme. It will provide learning to enable network operators to better anticipate, understand and support customer behaviour change as the UK moves towards a low carbon economy,,according to ”<https://www.ssepd.co.uk/DistributionInnovation/LCNFTier2/>.

In Bracknell Town, 24 energy storage management un, (ESMU), were installed in 2016 which have now been taken out as the trial ended early in 2017.

“The project is deploying Energy and Micro-generator Management Appliances (EMMAs) . . . to learn about how customers with photovoltaic (PV), and other sources of electrical micro-generation can maximise the use of the energy they generate themselves. . .” There are 300 EMMAs installed in Bracknell Town.

according to <http://www.thamesvalleyvision.co.uk/our-trials/supporting/>

TVV is based in Bracknell because the local network is due for major system upgrade before 2020. Government 2050 projects require an 80 percent reduction in CO2 emissions.

See the **Appendix 13 Thames Valley Vision Project Flow Diagrams**.

The aim of Bracknell Forest Council, one of the TVV partners, is to “Support in promoting low carbon solutions with local stakeholders . . . according to :

<http://www.thamesvalleyvision.co.uk/our-project/partners/>

The BFC Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Post Submission Site Allocations Development Plan Document, SAL106, October 2012, pages 50 and 51 at: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sal105-infrastructure-delivery-plan-post-submission-sadpd.pdf> states:

“SSE (formerly Scottish and Southern Energy plc), in partnership with Bracknell Forest Council, has submitted a Low Carbon Network Fund Tier 2 bid submission for a New Thames Valley Vision pilot project that will “revolutionise the way in which Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) utilise their existing networks. This project is a complete solution that will allow us to anticipate, understand and support behaviour change in individuals, small businesses and larger companies to help us manage our networks more effectively as the UK moves towards a low carbon economy” (SSE August 2011).”

All the projects mentioned will change the way residents live.

This is the end of the Environment and Community section.

Ends

Next section is 4. Heritage in Bracknell Town