

Draft Summary of current play from information provided by the City of Ely Council

This Summary of Play report has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council following the 2012-13 Play Audit on behalf of parish councils to help guide their planning and funding for new or upgrading play facilities.

The report includes details of current provision and any issues highlighted by the City of Ely Council when completing the consultation. The findings are based on information provided by the parish council during 2012-13 and have been compared to the local planning standards which provide a benchmark on provision that should be available according to population size.

The findings indicate where there may be deficits and will be useful for parishes that are considering any improvements or enhancing play provision to address deficits or growth.

Play Provision and Informal Open Space

The table below identifies all play areas and areas of informal open space in Ely, using information provided by City of Ely Council in September 2012.

| Map Ref | Location | Category ¹ | Age Group(s) | Size (hectares) |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 2I | Willow Walk | PLAY | TJ | 0.05 |
| 2N | Tennyson Place | PLAY | T | 0.029 |
| 112K | Cherry Hill | PLAY | TJ | 0.047 |
| 2A | Abbots Way | PLAY | TJ | 0.045 |
| ELY011 | Darwin Close | PLAY | Developer | 0.079 |
| 2D | St Johns Road | PLAY | TJY | 0.106 |
| 2F | High Barns | PLAY | TJY | 0.055 |
| ELY010 | High Barns | PLAY | TJY | 0.013 |
| ELY008 | Kingsley Walk | PLAY | TY | 0.007 |
| ELY012 | Goldsmith Court | PLAY | JY | 0.009 |
| ELY009 | Kilkenny Avenue (MoD) | PLAY | TJ | 0.032 |
| 2H | Paradise Recreation Ground | PLAY | Y | 0.034 |

¹ Play Area: A space with equipment sited for the purpose of enabling children and young people to play legitimately (including Skate Parks)

Informal Open Space: Areas of informal space (not used for formal sports), including parks, kick-about areas, green corridors and village greens.

| | | | | |
|------------|--|--------|-----|-------|
| ELY008 | Heaton Drive (MoD) | PLAY | JY | 0.101 |
| 2G | Paradise Recreation Ground | PLAY | TJ | 0.078 |
| ELY007 | Murfitts Close | PLAY | JY | 0.038 |
| ELY006 | Morley Drive | PLAY | T | 0.020 |
| ELY004 | Bereford Road | PLAY | T | 0.029 |
| ELY003 | Brooke Grove | PLAY | T | 0.033 |
| ELY002 | Cresswells Park | PLAY | TJY | 0.546 |
| ELY001 | Jubilee Gardens | PLAY | T | 0.015 |
| STU001(2M) | Field Lane, Stuntney | PLAY | TJ | 0.082 |
| ELY013 | Main Street, Prickwillow | PLAY | TJ | 0.390 |
| 3A | Columbine Road | INFORM | | 3.468 |
| 3A | Rear of Alexander Chase/Collier Close/Brooke Grove | INFORM | | 5.584 |
| 3A | Morley Drive | INFORM | | 1.150 |
| 3A | Rear Bedford Close/Leicester Close | INFORM | | 2.456 |
| 3B | Abbots Way | INFORM | | 1.055 |
| 3C | St Ovins Green | INFORM | | 0.384 |
| 3D | Debden Green | INFORM | | 0.209 |
| 3E | Redman Close | INFORM | | 2.230 |
| 3F | Queen Emma Walk | INFORM | | 0.245 |
| 3F | Bentham Way | INFORM | | 0.958 |
| 3G | High Barns | INFORM | | 0.065 |
| 3H | Arundell | INFORM | | 0.279 |
| 3I | St Marys Green | INFORM | | 0.116 |
| 3J | Cathedral (rear) | INFORM | | 0.107 |
| 3J | Cathedral (north) | INFORM | | 0.416 |
| 3J | Cathedral (rear) | INFORM | | 0.140 |
| 3J | Palace Green | INFORM | | 0.212 |
| 3K | Pocket Park | INFORM | | 5.252 |
| 3L | Prickwillow Road | INFORM | | 1.930 |
| 3L | Prickwillow Road | INFORM | | 1.251 |
| 3M | Archery Crescent | INFORM | | 0.121 |
| 3N | Herford Close | INFORM | | 0.242 |
| 3O | Witchford Road | INFORM | | 0.420 |
| 3P | Barton Square | INFORM | | 0.108 |

| | | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|--|-------|
| 3Q | Cherry Hill | INFORM | | 2.750 |
| 3R | Jubilee Gardens | INFORM | | 1.044 |
| 3S | Ship Lane | INFORM | | 0.076 |
| 3T | Lavenders Land | INFORM | | 0.748 |
| 3U | Castlehythe | INFORM | | 0.083 |
| 3X | Columbine Road | INFORM | | 0.850 |
| ELY101 | John Amner Close | INFORM | | 0.008 |
| STU101 | Field Lane, Stuntney | INFORM | | 0.106 |

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)
J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)
Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

Map illustrating the locations of existing play areas and areas of informal open space.

The attached map illustrates the locations of play areas and areas of informal open space in Ely.

Radial travel distances have been outlined to illustrate catchment areas for each play area. The radial travel distances are a part of the East Cambs planning standard for play areas set out in the East Cambs Sports Facilities & Play Areas Assessment 2005.

Toddler: Approx 600m straight line distance
Junior: Approx 600m straight line distance
Youth: Approx 1000m straight line distance

ECDC Assessment of play provision and informal open space against the local planning standard

East Cambs Planning Standards for Play Areas and Informal Open Space

Local provision standards set by the East Cambs Sports Facilities & Play Areas Assessment 2005 and the East Cambridgeshire Informal Open Space Study 2005 were used to measure against existing provision in order to determine whether or not there is a surplus or deficit of provision.

| Category of Space | Space per person (m2) | Standard size of area (ha) |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Informal Open Space | 25 square metres (2.5 ha) | |
| Toddler Outdoor Play Space (2 to 5 years old) | 0.2 square metres (0.02 ha) | 0.01 ha |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|
| Junior Outdoor Play Space (6 to 12 years old) | 0.8 square metres (0.08 ha) | 0.04 ha |
| Youth Outdoor Play Space (13 to 18 years old) | 1 square metres (0.1 ha) | 0.1 ha |

Population
20,256²

² 2011 Census, Neighbourhood Statistics, January 2013

| Informal Open Space (hectares) | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 34.06 Hectares | 50.64 Hectares | -16.58 Hectares |

| Toddlers (facilities) | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 154.00 facilities | 40.51 facilities | 113.49 facilities |

| Juniors (facilities) | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 36.50 facilities | 40.51 facilities | -4.01 facilities |

| Youths (facilities) | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 8.10 facilities | 20.26 facilities | -12.16 facilities |

 deficit
 surplus
 no response
 incomplete response

Analysis of existing provision in Ely

There are currently nineteen play areas and thirty-two areas of informal open space in Ely. There are three other play areas in Ely that could not be included as part of this audit, these were Kilkenny Avenue and Heaton Drive (private play areas for the children of the US Military), and Darwin Close (which was still in the ownership of the developer at the time of the audit).

Deficits and surpluses of provision

Although Ely's play areas cater for toddlers, juniors youths, the audit identifies significant shortfalls in provision for juniors and youths. There is also a significant shortfall in informal open space.

The City of Ely Council state that there are sufficient play areas and areas of informal open space to meet existing community need, however when measured against the local planning standards there are in fact significant deficits of informal open space and junior and youth play provision.

City of Ely Council recognises that most of Ely's play areas are targeted at younger children. This is supported by the audit findings as there is a significant surplus of toddler provision. It is also recognised that there are very few areas equipped for older children and teenagers and that there is a need for this, this is again supported by the audit findings.

The majority of the city falls within the radial travel distances of play areas for each age category. This is particularly the case with provision for youth facilities. The areas that fall outside of the radial travel distance for youth play provision include:

- All of Stuntney
- All of Prickwillow
- All of Queen Adelaide
- The very northern tip of Ely (Morton Close and Gunning Road)
- Angel Drove (which is predominantly a commercial area)

Although there is a significant surplus of toddler play provision in Ely, there are still parts of the city that fall outside of the radial travel distances for the existing play areas, including:

- All of Queen Adelaide
- North Ely (Williams Close, Fitzgerald Close, Longchamp Drive, the east of Kings Avenue and Allen Road)
- Angel Drove (although this area is predominantly commercial)
- Parts of Cam Drive and Stour Green
- A small section in the middle of West Fen Road (this is the most centrally located area without toddler provision)

The areas that fall within the radial travel distances of play areas with junior equipment are very similar to those covered by toddler provision, areas include:

- All of Queen Adelaide
- North Ely near the Princess of Wales Hospital (Williams Close, Fitzgerald Close, Longchamp Drive, the east of Kings Avenue and Allen Road)
- Angel Drove (although this area is predominantly commercial)
- Middle section of Cam Drive and Stour Green
- A very small area between Cromwell Road and St. Mary's Street

City of Ely Council advises that play provision would be sufficient if the areas managed by developers and the U.S. Military were included as public play.

Any areas of open space with pitch markings or containing sporting infrastructure (e.g. goal posts, basketball hoops) have not been included in this audit as they are categorised as formal open space/sports pitches. An example of such an area in Ely is the Paradise Centre Playing Field.

City of Ely Council scored the majority of the play areas in Ely as 'average' to 'excellent' using a modified version of Play England's Play Space Quality Assessment Tool Kit which considered the following criteria:

- Level of usage
- Maintenance
- Health & Safety
- Location
- Range of play experiences

The play areas that scored either a '1' (serious weaknesses, improvements needed) or '2' (weaknesses, improvements needed) for Level of Usage, all scored a '1' for location, therefore it is presumed that poor location is the reason for the poor usage.

The following play areas scored lowly in category 'Range of play experiences provided':

- Tennyson Place
- Beresford Road
- Brooke Grove
- Kingsley Walk

This is something that may wish to be considered if enhancing play opportunities in the future.

Accessibility

The City of Ely Council advises that the existing play areas are not necessarily suitable for children with disabilities and that only some of the play areas are suitable for children of different ages to play together.

Further information

Fields in Trust protection

Protecting outdoor recreational space is vital for the health and wellbeing of communities now and in the future, and to increase wildlife diversity and provide habitat.

Fields in Trust works with landowners to protect outdoor spaces with legal documentation. The landowner will nominate the site and a deed of dedication is drawn up by Fields in Trust and signed by both parties. There's no transfer of ownership or management to Fields in Trust.

For further information on safeguarding outdoor recreational space, visit www.fieldsintrust.org.

Best Practice Guidance

Attached you will find up-to-date, best practice guidance on play area development, with information on the following:

- Location
- Design
- Access and inclusion
- Consultation and participation
- Quality
- Risk Management

Promotion of online tools

The following websites may provide useful information regarding play and open space, along with helpful ways to promote your existing facilities:

Fields in Trust Protected Fields Map
www.fieldsintrust.org

East Cambridgeshire District Council
www.eastcambs.gov.uk