

## **Summary of current play from information provided by Little Thetford Parish 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 Parish 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 Little Thetford, using information provided by Little Thetford Parish Council in 2012-13.

Map Ref	Location	Category <sup>1</sup>	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2A	Cowslip Drive	PLAY	TJ	0.07
LTT001	The Wytches	PLAY	TJY	0.07
3A	New Close Road	INFORM		0.38
3B	Cowslip Drive	INFORM		0.29
LTT101	Holt Fen	INFORM		0.63

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

The following map illustrates the locations of play areas and areas of informal open space in Little Thetford.

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.

<b>Category of Space</b>	<b>Space per person (m2)</b>	<b>Standard size of area (ha)</b>
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

792<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 2011 Census, Neighbourhood Statistics, January 2013

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
1.29 hectares	1.98 hectares	-0.69 hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
14.00 facilities	1.58 facilities	12.42 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
3.50 facilities	1.58 facilities	1.92 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
0.70 facilities	0.79 facilities	-0.09 facilities

- deficit
- surplus
- no response
- incomplete response

## **Analysis of existing provision in Little Thetford**

There are currently two play areas in Little Thetford and three areas of informal open space.

### Deficits and surpluses of provision

The play areas in Little Thetford cater for toddlers, juniors and youths.

All of the village of Little Thetford falls within the radial travel distances for toddler, junior and youth play provision.

The parish council recognise that there is a shortfall in play areas; this is evidenced when measured against local planning standards, however this only applies to youth provision, where there is a small deficit. There is a surplus in provision for toddler and juniors.

Although there are three areas of informal open space in Little Thetford, there is a slight deficit of 0.69 hectares to meet the needs of the community based on local planning standards, per head of population.

### Range of play experiences

The parish council state that there is a good range of play experiences available and children of different ages are able to play together.

### Accessibility

The Cowslip Drive play area has equipment that can be used by children with disabilities.

### Consultation and Future Development

The parish council has advised that it is looking at provision for teenagers, specifically a BMX track and/or youth shelter.

Consultation regarding play provision was included as part of the consultation for the Parish Plan consultation in November 2009.

## **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](http://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](http://www.fieldsintrust.org)

East Cambridgeshire District Council  
[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)