

Summary of current play from information provided by Littleport 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 Littleport, using information provided by Littleport Parish Council in September 2012.

Map Ref	Location	Category ¹	Age Group(s)	Size (hectares)
2D	Saffron Close	Play Area	T	0.05
2C	Croft Park Road	Play Area	TJ	0.15
2B	Peacock Way / Sandy's Crescent	Play Area	TJ	0.04
2F	Recreation Ground	Play Area	TJY	0.04
2E	Black Horse Drove	Play Area	TJY	0.03
LIT002	Sports Centre (Skate / BMX)	Play Area	JY	0.06
LIT003	Sports Centre	Play Area	AdiZone	0.07
LIT001	Primary School	Play Area	not built	0.05
LIT003	Cottier Drive	Play Area	TJ	0.01
LIT004	Chamberlain Fields	Play Area	TJ	0.06
3A	Woodfen Road	Informal Open Space		0.84
3B	Longfield Road	Informal Open Space		0.19

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.

3C	Church Lane	Informal Open Space		0.54
3D	Peacock Way	Informal Open Space		0.08
3E	Saffron Close	Informal Open Space		0.42
LIT101	Parsons Lane	Informal Open Space		0.06

There is an area of green space on the Highfield Estate however the site contains a temporary sign erected by the developer. This area has not yet been adopted as informal open space.

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

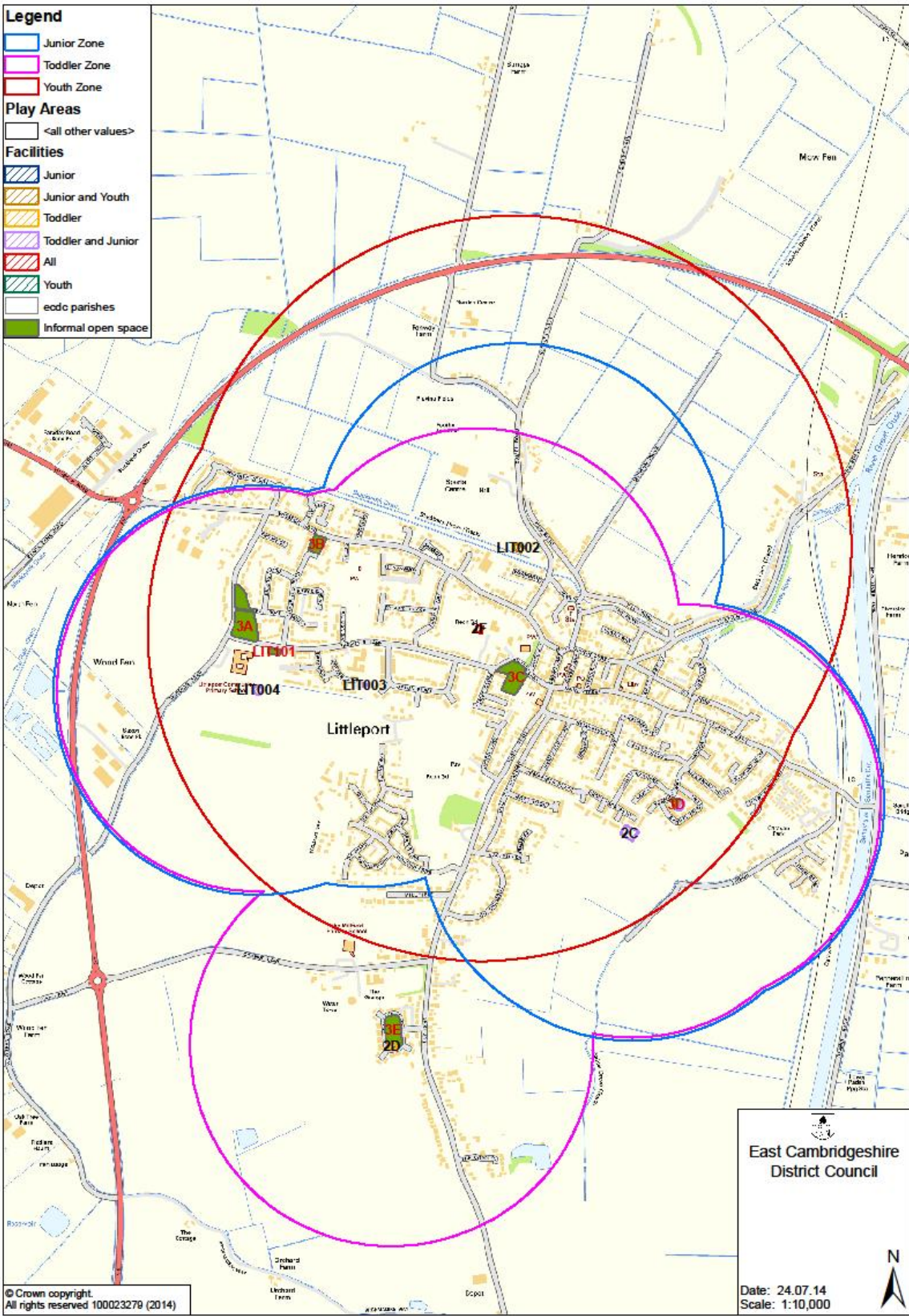
J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

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 Littleport.

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
 8738²

² 2011 Census, Neighbourhood Statistics, January 2013

Informal Open Space (hectares)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
2.073 hectares	21.845 hectares	-19.772 hectares

Toddlers (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
38.00 facilities	17.48 facilities	20.52 facilities

Juniors (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
9.75 facilities	17.48 facilities	-7.73 facilities

Youths (facilities)		
Actual	Requirement	Deficit/ Surplus
1.28 facilities	8.74 facilities	-7.46 facilities

- deficit
- surplus
- no response
- incomplete response

Analysis of existing provision in Littleport

There are currently nine play areas and six areas of informal open space in Littleport.

Deficits and surpluses of provision

The nine play areas in Littleport cater for toddlers, juniors youths. Despite this, the audit identifies shortfalls in provision for juniors and youths. This is also backed up by Littleport Parish Council who have identified that there are insufficient play areas to meet existing community needs.

Littleport Parish Council advises that there is adequate provision of informal open space, however the audit identifies that this is in fact a deficit based on the planning standard per head of population.

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 Littleport is the Parsons Lane Recreation Ground.

The map identifies that the majority of houses in Littleport fall within the radial travel distance of toddler, junior and youth play provision.

The areas that fall outside of the radial travel zone for toddler play include:

- Meadow Court
- North end of Camel Road (near the Garden Centre)
- The East of Station Road towards the train station
- Little Ouse

The areas that fall outside of the radial travel zone for junior play include:

- Meadow Court
- North end of Camel Road (near the Garden Centre)
- Majority of Station Road towards the train station
- South of the village towards Ely (including part of Ely Road, The Coppice, Saffron Close and Grange Lane)
- Little Ouse

The areas that fall outside of the radial travel zone for youth play include:

- South of the village towards Ely (including part of Ely Road, The Coppice, Saffron Close and Grange Lane).
- Part of Station Road and towards Mill Farm
- East of the village including Padnal, Fishers Bank and the east of Victoria Street
- Little Ouse

The parish council highlighted the fact that the Highfield Estate has no provision.

Play experiences

Littleport Parish Council scored the existing play areas 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 parish council identified three of the five play areas as needing some improvements to the range of play experiences provided. Of the areas identified, it was also identified that these sites had either weak or average usage levels. This is a particular concern of the play area at Saffron Close as it was also identified as being in an 'excellent' location, therefore it may be worth considering this aspect if the play areas were to be improved.

Future development

Littleport Parish Council has advised that they have no plans at present to develop new play areas other than to add equipment to existing sites if required.

The Paddocks area will be passed from developers to the Parish Council for use as public open space. The site is currently being inspected as to how it could be best used to suit this purpose.

Consultation

At the time of consultation, Littleport Parish Council advised that they were awaiting the results from youth consultation regarding new equipment for the skate park.

Accessibility

Littleport Parish Council has advised that there is no specific equipment for people with physical disabilities therefore access may be restricted.

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