

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

| Map Ref | Location | Category ¹ | Age Group(s) | Size (hectares) |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 2A | Recreation Ground | PLAY | T | 0.039125681 |
| 2B | Recreation Ground | PLAY | TJY | 0.031046518 |
| 3A | Westway Place | INFORM | | 0.067447788 |

T = Toddler (2 to 5 year olds)

J = Junior (6 to 12 year olds)

Y = Youth (13 to 18 year olds)

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.

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 Witcham.

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

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

429²

² 2011 Census, Neighbourhood Statistics, January 2013

| Informal Open Space (hectares) | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 0.07 hectares | 1.07 hectares | -1.01 hectares |

| Toddlers (facilities) | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 7.02 facilities | 0.86 facilities | 6.16 facilities |

| Juniors (facilities) | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 0.78 facilities | 0.86 facilities | -0.08 facilities |

| Youths (facilities) | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | Requirement | Deficit/ Surplus |
| 0.31 facilities | 0.43 facilities | -0.12 facilities |

- deficit
- surplus
- no response
- incomplete response

Analysis of existing provision in Witcham

There are currently two play areas in Witcham and area of informal open space.

Deficits and surpluses of provision

All age groups are catered for in Witcham and the parish council advises that there are sufficient play areas and areas of informal open space to meet existing community needs. Despite this, the audit identifies minor shortfalls in provision for juniors and youths and informal open space; this is based on the planning standard per head of population.

Some aspects of the audit could not be commented on, such as accessibility and consultation with residents, as the consultation was not fully completed by the parish council.

The map identifies that all of Witcham falls within the radial travel distance for youth provision. The majority of houses in Witcham fall within the radial travel distance of both toddler and junior play, the following areas fall outside of this catchment area:

- Witcham Toll
- Some settlements north of the village along Hive Road (including Woodlands Farm and Claremont).

Future development

Witcham Parish Council advises that no further development is planned however they aim to ensure that existing provision is maintained for the future.

Consultation

Witcham Parish Council advises that the Village Vision questionnaire highlighted a desire by some residents for further play and sports facilities.

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

Play England Nature Play Map
<http://www.playengland.org.uk/nature-play-map.aspx>