

9 Recreation

Open Space

Policy BAS R1

Within the urban areas, planning permission will not be granted for development of open space which would cause significant harm to the recreational or amenity value of the open space, or to the contribution which the open space makes to the character of the area within which it is located.

9.1 As urban areas within the District continue to develop, there is a danger that areas of open space which have a recreation or amenity function may be built upon. These areas are important not only for their recreation and amenity value, but as a break in an otherwise unrelieved urban development. Much of the open space in Basildon was planned as an integral part of the original New Town concept. The open space has always played an important role in shaping the form and character of the New Town, and should be protected so that this form and character is retained.

9.2 In the New Town, some of these areas have been released for development on appeal, due to the rather general Open Space and Games notation in the Master Plan. Other areas at risk throughout the District, are the many small areas of open space alongside roads and within residential and industrial estates. In this plan these areas are protected as open space where they contribute to public recreation and amenity. These are identified on the Proposals Map.

9.3 In the same way that amenity open space available to the public should be protected from building to prevent town cramming, some constraint should be put on the development of private open space.

Proposed Open Space

Policy BAS R4

2.02 hectares (5 acres) of additional public open space will be provided in Billericay by the extension southwards of the Hannikins Farm public open space.

9.4 An area of land 2.02 hectares (5 acres) could be added to the existing Hannikins Farm open space. The Council will seek to acquire this land. This will help to redress the lack of formal open space in Billericay, providing a valuable addition to the recreational provision in this part of Billericay.

Sports Facilities

Policy BAS R11

6.8 hectares (16.8 acres) of land between Pound Lane and Church Road, Laindon, is allocated for leisure/recreation purposes. This development may include buildings but should retain an emphasis on open land uses.