



INSPLACE PLANNING LTD

**East Dorset District Council
PPG17 Open Space Study**

Section 6

**Area Profile:
Verwood**

May 2007

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LOCAL NEED AREA – VERWOOD

1.0 DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL NEED AREA - VERWOOD

Verwood lies on rising land north of the River Crane at the eastern edge of the District, adjoining the County boundary with Hampshire. The shallow valley of the Crane curves around the west and south of the town. The highest land is to the north of the town where the hills behind Stephen's Castle reach 90 metres. Much of the area was formerly covered by heaths, with farmed land and woodlands along the river valley. In the twentieth century large parts of the heathland were covered by forestry plantations and housing.

The housing development has resulted in a rapid increase in population, which reached just under 9,000 by the 1991 Census and by 1996 was estimated to be about 10,000. In comparison with the rest of the District, Verwood has a relatively young age structure, reflecting the extensive 'family housing' on many of the recent estates.

The town has two small shopping centres. The historic centre around the Village Green has grown as Verwood has developed, and offers a variety of small shops and services. A major superstore with a recreation centre and smaller shops was developed in the early 1980's at a second site away from the historic centre, centrally placed on the planned road network and with extensive car parking.

Verwood has a new community building called 'The Hub', due to open in 2007: it is currently served by the Memorial Hall, built when Verwood was a much smaller settlement. However, the town does have a purpose-built Youth Centre and Leisure Centre (see below), and there are a number of other halls and rooms, including the Church and the British Legion, which provide meeting places.

There are formal recreation areas including the Memorial Recreation Ground, the Bowls Club green and the Potterne Park sports fields. By national standards these are not adequate for the existing population. However, there is a wider range of informal open spaces within the town, partly as a result of the policy of the Planning Authority since 1978 to require developers to provide open space within new housing areas.

There has recently been an increase in equipped children's play areas, with provision at Potterne; there are other play areas within some for the new housing developments, for example LEAPs at Ebblake Close, Eastworth Road, Kiln Way and Crane Close.

The nearest main sports centres are at Ferndown and Ringwood, both of which have pools and substantial sports halls. Without a car access to either of these is difficult, not least because the routes to them lie along extremely busy main roads, and bus services are limited.

Countryside recreation opportunities are more extensive, with the northern end of the Moors Valley Country Park effectively reaching to the southern edge of the town, and public access permitted to the forestry plantations which lie to the south-east and to the north. Adjoining the built-up area are the heathlands of Dewlands Common and Stephen's Castle which are also open to public access and designated as Local Nature Reserves. However, they are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and candidate Special Areas of Protection and their protection is necessarily a key objective of their management. Bugden's Copse and meadows in the centre of Verwood has also been designated as an SSSI. Several of the heathlands, including parts of Cranborne Common north of the town and heathlands to the south and south west of Verwood, have also been proposed as sites under the Ramsar Convention as internationally important wetlands.

A number of open spaces have been proposed as part of the housing developments, these will provide local play spaces for children and informal recreational spaces for adults. In addition to these, there will be a need for approximately 9 hectares (22 acres) of additional sports fields to provide the growing population of Verwood with adequate formal playing areas. There are benefits in having this as a single area of land, which would be of broadly similar size to the existing Potterne Recreation Ground on the south-eastern side of the town. There are only a few large areas of level land that could be developed for playing fields without extensive and costly earth moving. These are all in the valley of the River Crane. A site on the south western side of the town is proposed which will be closer to the central and western parts of the town than Potterne, and which can allow dual use by the public and the Emmanuel Middle School and the youth centre which are already there. Part of the land has already been developed as playing fields for the school which would retain assured use-rights on the extended playing field area. This dual use could extend to a Verwood Upper School if one were developed in this area at a later stage. Because part of the area is already in use for playing fields, the site proposed is somewhat greater than the 9 hectares required under the national standards.

The new Village Green is called Ferrett Green, an attractive area of open space in the centre of Verwood. It has recently been landscaped and includes the War Memorial as a key feature in the open space. A car park has now been provided at Potters Wheel.

The Village Green, the Memorial Playing Field, the woodland at Church Hill and Champtoceaux Green at the southern end of Vicarage Road, make up an important series of green open spaces in the heart of the town. Although these are all on the main County Distributor Routes as they pass through the town, the road proposals have been designed to ensure that all these spaces remain.

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROVISION AND QUALITY OF OPEN SPACE

2.1 Open Space within Verwood

The accompanying Map shows the location and typology of open space within Verwood. The following sites have been mapped; many were included in the quality audit; detailed scores of the assessments are held on the GIS database and should be referred to as required.

Acacia Avenue / Magnolia Close Amenity Greenspace
Acacia Avenue / Wistera Drive Amenity Greenspace
Additional amenity Greenspace to north of Potterne Park
Additional Amenity Greenspace to south and west of Potterne Park
Additional grounds at Hillside First School
Amenity greenspace (walkway) between Taylor Way and Newtown Road
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to 153 Albion Way
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to 59-69 Bingham Road
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to 70 Bingham Drive
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to Blackmoor Road
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to Potterne Playing Fields
Amenity greenspace along cycleway, Pennine Way to Bumbake Road
Amenity greenspace at Bridleways, Dewlands Way
Amenity Greenspace at Hunters Close
Amenity greenspace at junction of Potterne Wood Close and Liederbach Drive
Amenity Greenspace at Redmans View
Amenity Greenspace at The Chase
Amenity Greenspace at the end of Blackthorn Way
Amenity greenspace between 135-137 Hazlewood Drive
Amenity greenspace between 98 and 100 Hazlewood Drive
Amenity Greenspace between Bumbake Road and Pennine Way
Amenity greenspace between Eastworth Road and Champtoceaux Avenue
Amenity Greenspace connecting Holly Grove and Haywards Way
Amenity Greenspace connecting Keswick Way & Burley Close
Amenity Greenspace off Howe Lane
Amenity Greenspace off Oaklands Close
Amenity Greenspace on Haywards Farm Close
Amenity Greenspace on Howard Road
Amenity Greenspace on Meadow Grove
Amenity greenspace on Sherwood Drive
Amenity Greenspace on Sleepbrook Close
Amenity greenspace on Starlight Farm Close
Amenity Greenspace opposite 16-18 The Grove
Amenity greenspace to east of 72 Hazlewood Drive
Amenity greenspace to east of 84 Hazlewood Drive
Amenity greenspace to north of 70 Hainault Drive
Amenity greenspace to north of 96 Hainault Drive
Amenity greenspace to south east of 22 Merryfield Close
Amenity greenspace to south of 141 Hazlewood Drive
Amenity greenspace to south of 23 Merryfield Close
Amenity greenspace to the east of 12 Hillside Road
Amenity greenspace to the north of 19 School Close
Amenity greenspace to the north of 25 School Close

Amenity Greenspace to the rear of 47-57 Bingham Road
 Amenity Greenspace to the rear of 52-72 Margards Lane
 Amenity greenspace to the south of 36 School Close
 Amenity Greenspace to the south of Albion Way
 Amenity Greenspace to the south of Bingham Close
 Amenity Verge adjacent to 10 The Grove
 Amenity Verge at junction of Hayward Way and Hayward Crescent
 Amenity verge at junction of St Stephens Lane and School Close
 Amenity verge on Coronation Road
 Amenity verge on Field Place
 Amenity Verge on south side of The Grove
 Amenity verge to east of 112 Hainault Drive
 Amenity verge to east of 8-21 Woodland Close, on Champtoceaux Avenue
 Amenity verge to east of Champtoceaux Avenue
 Amenity verge to east of junction of Albion Way and Station Road
 Amenity verge to west of Champtoceaux Avenue
 Amenity verge to west of junction of Albion Way and Station Road
 Amenity Woodland at Dewlands Park
 Aspen Drive / Blackthorn Way Amenity Greenspace
 Aspen Drive Amenity Greenspace
 Bingham Road Amenity Greenspace
 Bitterne Way Amenity Greenspace
 Bugdens Copse (Part of Nature Reserve)
 Burnbake Road to Newtown Lane Amenity Greenspace
 Cemetery at St Michael & All Angels Church (No longer used)
 Cemetery off Ringwood Road
 Champtoceaux Green and Liederbach Green
 Club House at Potterne Park
 Coronation Road / Moorlands Road Amenity Space
 Crane Close LEAP
 Dewlands Common (north)
 Dewlands Common (south)
 Dewlands Common Nature Reserve
 Dewlands Wood
 Ebblake Bog Nature Reserve
 Ebblake Close LEAP
 Emmanuel Middle School Hall
 Emmanuel Middle School MUGA
 Emmanuel Middle School Playing Fields
 Ferrett Green
 Greenspace buffer at Merryfield Close
 Greenspace buffer to east of Bugden's Copse
 Hillside First School Hall
 Hillside First School MUGA
 Hillside First School Playing Fields
 Lake Road / Lombardy Close Woodland
 LAP adjacent to Verwood Leisure Centre
 LAP on Eastworth Road
 LAP surrounding Crane Close Play area
 LAP to north of 19 Hainault Drive and south of 1 Taylor Way
 LEAP on Eastworth Road
 Moors Valley Country Park Amenity Greenspace (part)
 Monmouth Drive Amenity Greenspace
 NEAP at the Recreation Ground
 Otter Close Amenity Greenspace

Owls Road / The Lea Amenity Greenspace
 Paddock Grove Amenity Greenspace
 Pavilion at Bowling Club
 Pennine Way / Chiltern Drive Amenity Verge
 Pennine Way / Purbeck Drive Amenity Greenspace
 Play area at Potterne Park
 Play area off Kiln Way
 Potterne Park Recreation Ground
 Potterne Wood
 Proposed School and Public Playing Fields, Margards Lane Acacia Avenue /
 Magnolia Close Amenity Greenspace
 Purbeck Drive / Cheviot Way Amenity Greenspace
 Skate bowl at Potterne Park
 Springfield Close / Howe Lane area of Woodland
 Teenage Facilities at the Recreation Ground
 The Curlews / Nightingale Close Amenity Greenspace
 The Kabin
 Trinity CE First School Hall
 Trinity CE First School Playing Fields
 Verwood Bowling Club
 Verwood CE First School Hall
 Verwood CE First School MUGA
 Verwood CE First School Playing Fields
 Verwood Community Tennis Club
 Verwood Leisure Centre
 Verwood Memorial Hall
 Verwood Memorial Recreation Ground
 Verwood Sports and Social Club
 Verwood Youth Club
 Village Green Amenity Greenspace on Albion Way
 Woodland at junction of Albion Way and Station Road
 Woodland at the end of Blackthorn Way
 Woodland between Dewlands Road and Sleepbrook Close
 Woodland off Eastworth Road
 Woodland off Hillside Road
 Woodland on Church Hill
 Woodland on north side of The Grove
 Woodland strip, rear of Monmouth Drive
 Woodland surrounding the Cemetery
 Woodland to the north of Liederbach Drive

2.2 Quality of sites in Verwood

In the following lists 'n/s' means 'Not scored'.

2.2.1 Active Sport Space

Site

Quality

Verwood Bowling Club	94.1 %
Verwood Community Tennis Club	76.7 %

There no significant quality issues with the sport spaces within Verwood.

There is also active sports space at two sites currently listed under Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens: at Potterne Park Recreation Ground – with a range of pitches and other court facilities and also Verwood Memorial Recreation Ground, where there is an informal pitch. (see 4.2.5)

2.2.2 Space for Children and Young People

Site

Quality

Crane Close LEAP	100.0 %
Ebblake Close LEAP	100.0 %
LEAP on Eastworth Road	93.8 %
NEAP at the Recreation Ground	81.2 %
Play area at Potterne Park	65.6 %
Play area off Kiln Way	88.4 %
Skate bowl at Potterne Park	85.0 %
Teenage Facilities at the Recreation Ground	81.5 %
The Kabin	n/s
Verwood Youth Club	n/s

The majority of sites (apart from Potterne Park play area), are of very good quality. Sites with the most potential include:

- Potterne Park Play Area (65.5%). Does not meet BS EN 1176 & 1177. Needs attention.

2.2.3 Amenity Green Space

Site

Quality

Acacia Avenue / Magnolia Close Amenity Greenspace	80.0 %
Acacia Avenue / Wistera Drive Amenity Greenspace	80.0 %
Additional amenity Greenspace to north of Potterne Park	66.6 %
Additional Amenity Greenspace to south and west of Potterne Park	n/s
Amenity greenspace (walkway) between Taylor Way and Newtown Road	n/s
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to 153 Albion Way	87.0 %
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to 59-69 Bingham Road	80.0 %
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to 70 Bingham Drive	70.1 %
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to Blackmoor Road	73.3 %
Amenity Greenspace adjacent to Potterne Playing Fields	53.3 %
Amenity greenspace along cycleway, Pennine Way to Bumbake Road	n/s
Amenity greenspace at Bridleways, Dewlands Way	n/s
Amenity Greenspace at Hunters Close	73.3 %
Amenity greenspace at junction of Potterne Wood Close and Liederbach Drive	n/s
Amenity Greenspace at Redmans View	73.3 %
Amenity Greenspace at The Chase	73.3 %
Amenity Greenspace at the end of Blackthorn Way	80.0 %
Amenity greenspace between 135-137 Hazlewood Drive	n/s
Amenity greenspace between 98 and 100 Hazlewood Drive	n/s
Amenity Greenspace between Bumbake Road and Pennine Way	80.0 %
Amenity greenspace between Eastworth Road and Champtoceaux Avenue	66.6 %

Amenity Greenspace connecting Holly Grove and Haywards Way	70.0 %
Amenity Greenspace connecting Keswick Way & Burley Close	73.3 %
Amenity Greenspace off Howe Lane	66.6 %
Amenity Greenspace off Oaklands Close	80.0 %
Amenity Greenspace on Haywards Farm Close	45.4 %
Amenity Greenspace on Howard Road	76.0 %
Amenity Greenspace on Meadow Grove	86.6 %
Amenity greenspace on Sherwood Drive	n/s
Amenity Greenspace on Sleepbrook Close	95.6 %
Amenity greenspace on Starlight Farm Close	84.6 %
Amenity Greenspace opposite 16-18 The Grove	80.0 %
Amenity greenspace to east of 72 Hazlewood Drive	n/s
Amenity greenspace to east of 84 Hazlewood Drive	n/s
Amenity greenspace to north of 70 Hainault Drive	n/s
Amenity greenspace to north of 96 Hainault Drive	n/s
Amenity greenspace to south east of 22 Merryfield Close	n/s
Amenity greenspace to south of 141 Hazlewood Drive	n/s
Amenity greenspace to south of 23 Merryfield Close	n/s
Amenity greenspace to the east of 12 Hillside Road	n/s
Amenity greenspace to the north of 19 School Close	n/s
Amenity greenspace to the north of 25 School Close	n/s
Amenity Greenspace to the rear of 47-57 Bingham Road	70.1 %
Amenity Greenspace to the rear of 52-72 Margards Lane	35.2 %
Amenity greenspace to the south of 36 School Close	n/s
Amenity Greenspace to the south of Albion Way	80.0 %
Amenity Greenspace to the south of Bingham Close	90.0 %
Amenity Verge adjacent to 10 The Grove	80.0 %
Amenity Verge at junction of Hayward Way and Hayward Crescent	70 %
Amenity verge at junction of St Stephens Lane and School Close	n/s
Amenity verge on Coronation Road	86.6 %
Amenity verge on Field Place	90.0 %
Amenity Verge on south side of The Grove	80.0 %
Amenity verge to east of 112 Hainault Drive	n/s
Amenity verge to east of 8-21 Woodland Close, on Champtoceaux Avenue	83.3 %
Amenity verge to east of Champtoceaux Avenue	83.0 %
Amenity verge to east of junction of Albion Way and Station Road	100.0 %
Amenity verge to west of Champtoceaux Avenue	77.7 %
Amenity verge to west of junction of Albion Way and Station Road	86.6 %
Aspen Drive / Blackthorn Way Amenity Greenspace	73.3 %
Aspen Drive Amenity Greenspace	80.0 %
Bingham Road Amenity Greenspace	72.0 %
Bitterne Way Amenity Greenspace	80.0 %
Burnbake Road to Newtown Lane Amenity Greenspace	80.0 %
Champtoceaux Green and Liederbach Green	85.0 %
Coronation Road / Moorlands Road Amenity Space	80.0 %
Ferrett Green	n/s
Greenspace buffer at Merryfield Close	n/s
Greenspace buffer to east of Bugden's Copse	n/s
LAP adjacent to Verwood Leisure Centre	n/s
LAP on Eastworth Road	95.5 %
LAP surrounding Crane Close Play area	100.0 %
LAP to north of 19 Hainault Drive and south of 1 Taylor Way	80.0 %
Monmouth Drive Amenity Greenspace	66.6 %
Otter Close Amenity Greenspace	80.0 %

Owls Road / The Lea Amenity Greenspace	80.0 %
Paddock Grove Amenity Greenspace	53.3 %
Pennine Way / Chiltern Drive Amenity Verge	73.3 %
Pennine Way / Purbeck Drive Amenity Greenspace	73.3 %
Purbeck Drive / Cheviot Way Amenity Greenspace	86.6 %
The Curlews / Nightingale Close Amenity Greenspace	86.0 %
Village Green Amenity Greenspace on Albion Way	91.0 %

In general, the management and maintenance of amenity green spaces across Verwood was found to be good. A number of sites offer opportunity for improvement;

- Paddock Grove Amenity Greenspace
- LAP to north of 19 Hainault Drive and south of 1 Taylor Way
- Monmouth Drive Amenity Greenspace
- Amenity Greenspace on Haywards Farm Close
- Amenity Greenspace to the rear of 52-72 Margards Lane
- Amenity Greenspace adjacent to Potterne Playing Fields

2.2.4 Natural & Semi Natural Space and Green Corridors.

Site

Quality

Amenity Woodland at Dewlands Park	62.5 %
Bugdens Copse (Part of Nature Reserve)	90.9 %
Dewlands Common (north)	72.7 %
Dewlands Common (south)	72.7 %
Dewlands Common Nature Reserve	72.7 %
Dewlands Wood	50.0 %
Ebblake Bog Nature Reserve	45.5 %
Lake Road / Lombardy Close Woodland	75.0 %
Potterne Wood	72.7 %
Springfield Close / Howe Lane area of Woodland	75.0 %
Woodland at junction of Albion Way and Station Road	n/s
Woodland at the end of Blackthorn Way	n/s
Woodland between Dewlands Road and Sleepbrook Close	87.5 %
Woodland off Eastworth Road	n/s
Woodland off Hillside Road	45.5 %
Woodland on Church Hill	n/s
Woodland on north side of The Grove	86.0 %
Woodland strip, rear of Monmouth Drive	60.0 %
Woodland surrounding the Cemetery	62.5 %
Woodland to the north of Liederbach Drive	62.5 %

In general, the management and maintenance of Natural & Semi Natural Green Space across Verwood were found to be in good condition. A number of sites offer opportunity for improvement, however, the gap scores are not significant in any of the cases, and it is more a case of improving 'attention to detail', these sites include:

- Woodland off Hillside Road
- Dewlands Wood
- Ebblake Bog Nature Reserve
- Woodland strip, rear of Monmouth Drive

2.2.5 Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens

Site	Quality
Potterne Park Recreation Ground	59.4 %
Verwood Memorial Recreation Ground	75.0 %

Potterne Park requires significant improvement to bring in line with the general quality of surrounding green spaces within Verwood. This site is important within the community because it is only one of two recreation grounds in Verwood.

Potterne Park also includes pitches, courts, a skatebowl and play area.

2.2.6 Education Outdoor Sports Facilities

Site	Quality
Hillside First School MUGA	n/s
Hillside First School Playing Fields	n/s
Trinity CE First School Playing Fields	n/s
Emmanuel Middle School MUGA	n/s
Verwood First School Playing Fields	n/s
Verwood First School MUGA	n/s
Emmanuel Middle School Playing Fields	n/s

The schools were not assessed within Verwood. The schools have no formal dual use agreements, but they should have a future role in providing for formal sport and recreation. School sites are generally of better quality, as they are secure and generally have some sort on site management presence.

2.2.7 Country parks

Site	Quality
Moors Valley Country Park Amenity Greenspace (part)	n/s

Around 23ha of the Moors Valley Country Park lies within this LNA. This area has not been quality assessed.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ACCESSIBILITY TO OPEN SPACE

3.1 Overall access to open space

Section 1 of the report outlines access standards to different types of open space within the Local Need Area, a summary of the main standards is shown in Table 2:

Table 2 Access standards for open space

Typology	Access Standard
Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens	450 metres
Amenity Green Space	450 metres
Natural & Semi Natural Green space	600 metres
Space for Children	450 metres
Space for Young People	450 metres
Active Sports Space	600 Metres
Routeway/Green Corridor	n/a
Cemetery and churchyards	n/a
Allotments	n/a

The accompanying Maps show local access standards for the various typologies (i.e. Space for Children and Young People, Amenity Open Space, Natural and Semi Natural Green Space, Active Sports Space and Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens).

3.2 Access to different types of open space

Table 3 makes observations on access to different types of open space within the catchment area, using the adopted access standards, as shown on the accompanying maps.

Table 3 Access to open space in the area

Typology	Provision against access standard
Recreation Grounds and Public Gardens	Significant gaps in the centre and west of the LNA
Amenity Green Space	Access standard met
Natural & Semi Natural Green Space	Access standard met
Space for Children	Significant gaps in centre of LNA
Space for Young People	As above
Active Sports Space	Access standards not met in parts of central LNA
Routeway/Green Corridor	No standards set
Cemetery and churchyards	No standards set
Allotments	No standards set

4.0 FINDINGS FROM SURVEY AND CONSULTATION

74 people living in Verwood responded to the Citizen's Panel Survey; for analysis, placed in Northern Sub Area (103 in total). People living in the Northern Sub Area are more frequent (compared to the district as a whole) visitors to:

- Local recreation ground or park
- Recreation cyclepaths
- Spaces to enjoy nature and wildlife
- Sports centres and community halls

And less frequent visitors to:

- Swimming pools and health and fitness centres

The types of open space respondents would like to see more of in the Northern Sub Area are:

- Space to enjoy nature and wildlife
- Space for teenagers

The most important attributes of open space are that they should be easy to get to, safe and secure, with a range of facilities. The most important facilities to have in nearby open space areas are: toilets, dog bins and seats.

Two thirds of respondents would like to use open spaces near them more often: more information and if facilities and open space areas were perceived to be safer would be important in encouraging this.

Most Visited Local Areas of Open Space by residents in Verwood

26 – Moors Valley Country Park, 18– Potterne Park, 13 – areas in the New Forest nearby, others included beaches, Hengistbury and Dewlands Common.

The overwhelming reasons for visiting these areas are to go for a walk and to visit areas of nature interest and value.

Other comments

- East Dorset has superb facilities - only improved by toilet facilities!
- As my comment on Q21, a swimming pool in Verwood - better sports facilities in the town rather than Ringwood and Bournemouth
- Would like a swimming pool in Verwood.
- None - thanks ever so much
- Car park charges at Moors Valley are appalling - should be changed to low cost permit for residents.
- Please build a swimming pool in Verwood
- Being in Verwood I have access to a fairly good range of wilder open space that usual, so feel lucky to have such a variety though usually need to go further afield.

- Lack of staff to ensure the woods, walks etc are not abused by horse riders and motorised bikes/scooters. These people are putting children and adults at risk in Potterne Woods
- Recently visited Nuneaton - wonderful parks, gardens, swimming pool, athletics track, museum with photography, needlework and art exhibitions. East Dorset could use Nuneaton Warwickshire as a model.
- I do feel a swimming pool would be beneficial to youngsters and "oldies" alike. We have to travel to Ringwood or Ferndown.
- There are no allotments in my area, they should be made available. Lots of people with small gardens or none would like to "grow their own".
- Verwood Recreation Ground - only walking and football for under 10's. Potterne Park - mainly used for football. Poor facilities for tennis or netball.
- More emphasis at schools on the amount of litter dropped around Verwood. Suggest a clean-up day once a fortnight.
- The litter bins in Potterne Park are inadequate for the amount of people using the park for football etc.
- Have more dog free areas as too many dog owners do not clear up after their animals.
- Verwood teenagers dig up park as no activities for them. Need more lighting - injured back due to poor lighting. Need benches and more bins (slipped 3 discs).
- Improve directional path signposting. Cross country footpaths kept clear of wild growth (brambles etc)
- I would like to see nature reserves with controlled public areas.
- With reference to sports etc facilities being somewhat long in the tooth. I do not avail myself of them apart from swimming, so my comments are not that of a user. The parks and open spaces I do use on the whole are excellent.
- Facilities for teenagers are locally considered too distant to prevent gatherings in the town centre
- Insufficient police presence for protection, even in emergency, to protect youngsters from undesirable characters.
- I am disabled and use a mobility scooter. Locally, access is not good. Some accesses to deter cyclists bar me too.

Verwood Leisure Centre in the centre of the town provides a wide range of sport, health and fitness facilities. It is operated by the Verwood Community Association, a registered charity which aims to 'develop sport and leisure facilities and activities to meet the physical, health and social needs of the community regardless of age, gender and culture. It is supported by grant aid from EDDC and Verwood Town Council but is also heavily dependent on revenue from users. The Association has a paid team of staff to deliver services and manage day to day operations. Recent research demonstrates that 90% of the current membership lives within 12-15 minutes' drive time, 86% live within a one mile radius. The latest catchment figures are 15,146. The numbers aged 18 years and under are lower, and those aged over 65 higher, than the national average

Potterne Park is leased to the VCA by EDDC and operated by the VCA; on the edge of the town it offers 4 football pitches, 1 rugby pitch, junior/mini pitches and a training pitch (up to 7 pitches available), a cricket square, 2 tennis courts, 2 netball courts with kickboards, children's play area and high quality pavilion with 10 changing rooms.

Indoor Facilities

At present, the Leisure Centre has a gym and CV studio which is at saturation point at peak times. It also has health and beauty facilities and a small activity room. The 3 court sports hall accommodates a variety of sports but cannot meet demand for five-a-side, climbing, indoor netball and cricket. It could cater for daytime school use and part of the VCA's strategy is to link to schools and special needs schools. Other issues:

- Changing rooms are sub standard and need upgrading
- In some cases where the facilities cannot meet demand it may be down to equipment and there is very little storage
- The centre itself feels that it does not cater adequately for young people in terms of range of activities and equipment

The closest swimming pools to Verwood are dual use facilities: at Ringwood (just over 5 miles away), Ferndown Leisure Centre (7 miles) and Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, Wimborne (12 miles). Although there is the space to build a swimming pool and local interest, this may not be supported because of the cost of the feasibility of building and running the facility.

The Centre would like to extend the facilities to include dedicated studios for fitness classes and children play, a larger gym and CV and young people's gym, to provide better storage for essential equipment and to improve changing rooms

Pitch Sports

- Main provision at Potterne. The site has difficulty in meeting demand, 9 matches played on Sundays. Football in great demand
- Rossgarth Youth FC has 15 youth teams and 350 members including a girl's team. It has strong links with local schools has to use other pitches at Three Legged Cross and Verwood Recreation Ground to accommodate demand.
- Verwood Town FC is in the Wessex league and are hoping to be promoted to level 2. Possibly going to start 3rd team with youngsters from Rossgarth.
 - Facilities for training are poor unusable in wet weather, no finance available for desperately needed all weather floodlit facility. Would like to run additional teams like ladies.
 - Stopped from progressing in Wessex league due to lack of floodlighting of main pitch
- Verwood RUFC one adult and juniors – would like to run more junior and ladies team. Better floodlighting with on-site gym and bar.

Play Groups

One heard from in Verwood, enough equipped play for younger children but more adventure play facilities and general meeting areas for older children.

Verwood Town Council

- Verwood Town Council has identified the need for additional tennis and netball courts, changing facilities, teenage areas and shelters and cycleways. The Town Council is responsible for maintaining play areas, recreation grounds, some open spaces and the cemetery for which it employs contractors.
- In particular, they feel that young people would also benefit from a youth drop-in centre and that the town as a whole would benefit from a multi use games areas.

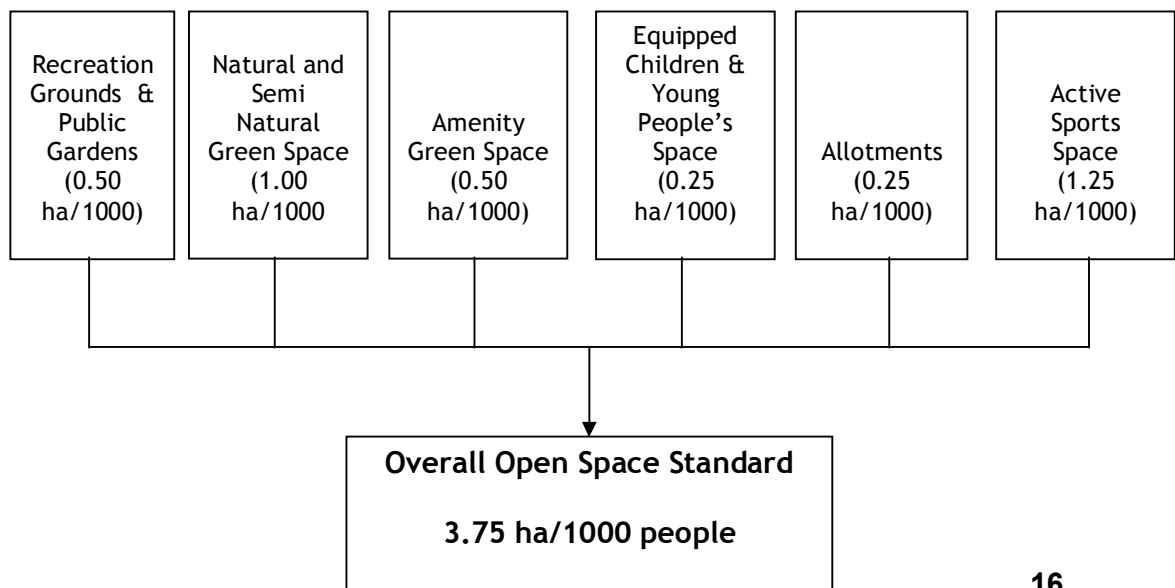
Schools

- Emmanuel Middle School responded to the survey; has several mini football and rugby pitches and an artificial cricket pitch. Also tennis/netball courts and hall marked for badminton. Would like upgrade of basketball and tennis facilities. There is existing community use : Verwood netball club use the courts regularly; Rossgarth FC use the pitches at the weekends and Verwood gym club use the hall once a week
- School says there is scope to increase use - tennis/netball courts and mini soccer pitch are available in the evenings

5.0 QUANTITY OF OPEN SPACE

5.1 Quantity standards for open space

Section 5 of the report outlines the quantity standards for open space within the District; a summary of these draft minimum standards is shown below:



5.2 Quantities of different types of open space

These standards have been applied at a local level to determine the provision of different types of open space across the adopted minimum standard, this is summarised in Table 4 which shows:

- the existing quantity of open space (existing provision);
- the required quantity of open space for the population of the area (required provision);
- the surplus or deficiency of open space (in m² and acres);
- Supply against the standard.

Table 4 Quantities of open space within the area – VERWOOD (Pop. 12090)

Typology	Existing provision (m²)	Required provision (m²)	Area of open space above/below the recommended minimum level of provision (m²) / (ha)
Recreation Grounds & Public Gardens	105056	60450	44606m / 44.61ha
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	453792	120900	332892m / 33.3ha
Active Sports Space	3446	151125	-147679m / -14.7ha
Children & Young People's Space	4008	30225	-26217m / -2.6ha
Amenity Green Space	164279	60450	103829m / 10.38ha
Allotments	0	30225	-30555m / -3.05ha

5.3 Key Points: Quantitative Provision of Open Space in Verwood

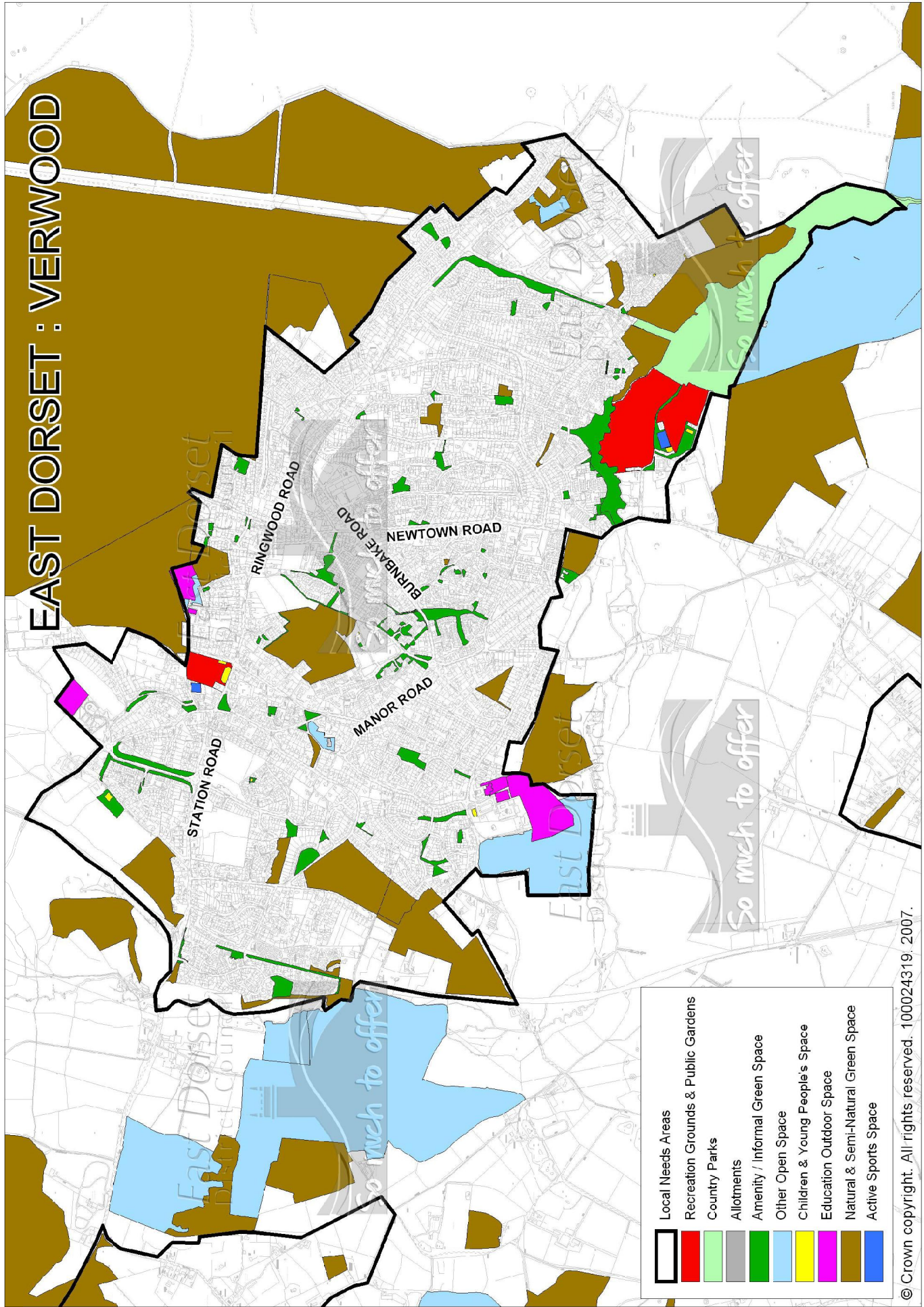
Verwood meets or exceeds the proposed standards for many types of open space other than space for children and young people, allotments and against active sports space. Potterne Park is classed as a Recreation Ground, although it is widely used for pitch sports by a number of teams. It is the second largest LNA in the District.










6.0 ISSUES ARISING

The following should be considered:

- synthetic turf pitch/multi use games area at Potterne Park
- and/or additional courts for tennis and netball at Potterne Park
- More adventure play areas for children
- Development and enhancement of footpaths and cycleways.
- More facilities for young people; relocate children's play space and teen areas to ensure access standards are met.
- Improvements/development of indoor sports provision
- Improve/develop access to education facilities within the LNA, for example at Emmanuel Middle School
- Produce a management plan for the two recreation grounds in the LNA
- Low key improvements to amenity open space through improved shrub and tree planting.
- Seek potential for additional play facilities, potentially disposing of amenity space, to fund reinvestment in facilities.
- Improve public access and management of the woodland on the outskirts of the LNA.
- Discuss the opportunity potential of school sites for outdoor recreation/holiday clubs for children etc. The future role of local schools in providing pitches and open space is emphasised
- Across the District, provision of allotments is low and many LNAs have no allotment sites. As set out in Section 5, this Report recommends a new look at the burgeoning interest in allotment gardening, and how new sites can be brought into use to cater for growing demand.

EAST DORSET : VERWOOD



Local Needs Areas	
	Recreation Grounds & Public Gardens
	Country Parks
	Allotments
	Amenity / Informal Green Space
	Other Open Space
	Children & Young People's Space
	Education Outdoor Space
	Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space
	Active Sports Space

So much to offer

So much to offer

So much to offer