

APPENDIX 8

Leisure and Recreation

(a) Outdoor Playing Space Provision in Wealden's Towns 1994

Town	Population	Area (Ha)		Rate of Provision (Ha/000's)	
		Youth & Adult	Children	Youth & Adult	Children
Crowborough	19,650	29.2	3.0	1.5	0.15
Hailsham	18,450	13.3	2.2	0.7	0.12
Heathfield	7,050	5.4	0.4	0.8	0.06
Polegate	7,890	4.7	0.4	0.6	0.05
Uckfield	12,850	16.7	2.1	1.3	0.16
Willingdon	5,760	10.9	1.1	1.9	0.20

NB: The National Playing Fields Association recommends a minimum standard for outdoor playing space of 2.43 hectares per 1,000 population. This total standard should be met by 1.6-1.8 hectares for youth and adult use and 0.6-0.8 hectares of children's play space.

(b) Parishes deficient in facilities for tennis and bowls

In addition to the shortfalls in playing pitch provision described in Chapter 7, a broad survey of rural recreation provision undertaken in 1990 using National Playing Fields Association and Sports Council guidelines identified the following areas of the District as deficient in other outdoor sports facilities: Buxted (tennis courts, bowling green); Framfield (tennis courts, bowling green); Hartfield (bowling green); Pevensey (tennis courts, bowling green); Polegate (tennis courts, bowling green); Rotherfield (tennis courts); Wadhurst (tennis courts); Westham (tennis courts, bowling green); Willingdon (tennis courts, bowling green).

(c) Calculating outdoor playing space requirements in new housing development

For the purposes of implementing Policies LR3 and LR4, the population of a given housing development will be based on the size and number of dwellings, using the occupancy rates set out below:-

OCCUPANCY OF DWELLINGS

1 bedroom dwellings	2 persons
2 bedroom dwellings	3 persons
3 bedroom dwellings	4 persons
4 or more bedroom dwellings	5 persons

The figures used have been derived following consultations with the National Playing Field Association and other local authorities with the relevant experience of outdoor playing space provision in new housing development. It is considered more appropriate to base the potential occupancy of each dwelling in a given scheme on the number of bedrooms rather than on average household size or on the number of available bedspaces. The average household size in Wealden is only 2.5 persons, as such, its use for determining open space requirements on large new housing developments would be liable to perpetuate existing deficiencies in outdoor playing space in the District, since such developments tend to be mainly occupied by young families with children. Another problem with applying a single occupancy rate to all types of housing is that it fails to distinguish between the sizes of dwellings so that, for example, the open space requirements for a scheme of 30 one-bedroom flats would equal that of a scheme of 30 five-bedroom houses. On the other hand, basing the occupancy rate of a dwelling on its available bedspaces would be unrealistic

since many households do not, by themselves, utilise every potential bedspace in their home. For the purposes of determining open space requirements in accordance with Policy LR3, it is therefore assumed that in most dwellings the main bedroom would be occupied by two people and that, as dwellings increase in size, the occupancy rate of bedrooms would fall since in large dwellings a greater proportion of rooms may be expected to remain “spare” than in smaller dwellings.