



**Powys Local Development Plan
Topic Paper
Environment – Leisure and Recreation**

DEPOSIT VERSION PAPER

(Updates the Pre-Deposit Stage version)

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to explore the leisure and recreation topic area looking at related strategies and policies and key issues for Powys. The document looks at the following areas: lifestyle statistics, walking and cycling, common land and village greens, allotments, play areas and open spaces, leisure centres, arts and cultural facilities.

It is recognised in this paper that there is a growing emphasis on the benefits of leisure and recreation for health and wellbeing. This is promoted through national strategies such as Climbing Higher (2005) and the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. A particular driver for this is that obesity levels in Wales are rising resulting in serious complications to people's health such as heart disease and type two diabetes. The Welsh Health Survey (2009 - 2012) found that one in three children in Wales (35% in Wales, 30% in Powys) were estimated to be overweight or obese (19% in Wales, 17% in Powys were obese). In addition to this it was found in the 2012 – 2013 survey that over half (58%) of the adults in Powys were overweight or obese (21% were obese).

The importance of open spaces and play provision on a child's development is highlighted, allowing children to play freely, experiencing nature and exploring their local environment whilst interacting with friends. However due to the risks perceived by parents there are a significant number of children unable to play freely in the county's parks and open spaces.

Walking and cycling opportunities in the County need to be protected and enhanced in conjunction with the drive to build in sustainable locations. Allowing people to minimise their car usage by choosing to walk or cycle reduces greenhouse gas emissions with added health benefits. In support of this the Local Development Plan (LDP) seeks to promote the creation of routes within new developments that link into the existing rights of way network.

Within Powys the level and type of provision for recreational activities vary across the county. With Powys (including the Brecon Beacons National Park) hosting 15 leisure centres; formal, organised activities are mainly located within the main towns and larger settlements. The Powys LDP needs to be flexible enough to allow the leisure services provided to respond to altering demographics such as the growing elderly population and to the changing economic situation.

Introduction

The planning system regulates the development and use of land in the public interest. It should reconcile the needs of development and conservation, securing economy, efficiency and amenity in the use of land, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

In 2004, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced a new Local Plan process for Wales. The new system requires each authority in Wales to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) for their area which, once adopted, replaces any existing development plan, which for Powys is the Powys Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

Welsh Assembly Government guidance on the preparation of LDPs includes, within Paragraph 4.3 of *Local Development Plans Wales: Policy on Preparation of LDPs* (WAG, 2005), that local planning authorities are required to prepare, maintain or have access to an up-to-date information base on sufficient aspects of the economic, environmental and social characteristics of their area in order to ensure that its development plan policies and proposals are founded on a thorough understanding of the area's needs, opportunities and constraints

This paper is one of a series of topic papers being prepared by Powys County Council as part of its preparation of the Powys Local Development Plan.

The aims of these papers are to:

- Provide a summary of the policies and strategies at national, regional and local level that will influence the development of Powys' Local Development Plan
- Provide a summary of the current evidence base for the topic
- Identify key messages arising from the policy review and evidence base
- Identify emerging key issues
- Provide a review of existing Powys development plan (UDP) policies for the topic

Whilst each topic paper produced focuses on a different theme, they are inter-related and together form the strategic overview of issues to be addressed in the Local Development Plan.

- The *Environment* Theme

The Environment theme covers a broad range of spatial planning and development issues that can be distilled into four main sub-themes:

- Natural Heritage
 - Leisure and Recreation
 - Pollution and Flooding
 - Historic Environment
-
- The subject of this topic paper is the *Leisure and Recreation* sub-theme.

Leisure and Recreation Policy Context

1. National – Wales

1.1 People, Places, Futures - The Wales Spatial Plan – 2008 update

1.1.1 The overall role purpose and principles of the Wales Spatial Plan are:

- To make sure that decisions are taken with regard to their impact beyond immediate sectoral or administrative boundaries and that everything is governed by core sustainable values
- To set the context for local community planning
- To influence where the Welsh Assembly Government spends money by understanding the roles of and interactions between places
- To provide a clear evidence base for the public, private and third sectors to develop policy and action.

(Wales Spatial Plan 1.1)

1.1.2 The five national themes that govern the plan are the following:

- Building Sustainable Communities;
- Promoting a Sustainable Economy;
- Valuing our Environment;
- Achieving Sustainable Accessibility; and
- Respecting Distinctiveness.

(Wales Spatial Plan 9.1)

1.1.3 Ensuring access to services across the area is essential to meet the aim of building sustainable communities. This requires residents to have access to a range of facilities including recreational activities.

1.2 Environment Strategy for Wales (2006)

1.2.1 The purpose of the Environment Strategy for Wales (2006) is to provide a framework that will enable the achievement of an environment that is clean, healthy, biologically diverse and valued by the people of Wales. The strategy contains a series of outcomes that are supported by actions laid out in the 'Environment Strategy Action Plan (2008 – 2011). The Environment Strategy is currently under review to ensure that it reflects the relevant commitments in the Natural Resource Management Programme.

1.2.2 The main outcomes identified in the strategy that relate to leisure and recreation are:

- There is easy, equitable access to ample high quality green space.
- There will be sustainable, widespread and equitable access to the countryside and coast, which recognises the need for a balance

between tranquil areas and areas supporting larger numbers of people and a range of activities. Damaging access will be discouraged.

- The number of people choosing to walk or cycle as a means of transport is increasing.

1.2.3 The strategy emphasises that the action plans alone will not deliver the strategy and that it will need to be done through other policies and programmes such as Local Development Plans reflecting its priorities.

1.2.4 Welsh Government are currently in the process of reviewing the Environment Strategy to ensure that it reflects the relevant commitments in the [Natural Resource Management Programme](#).

1.3 Planning Policy Wales Edition 7 (July 2014)

1.3.1 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. PPW alongside Technical Advice Notes (TANS), circulars and policy clarification letters make up the national planning policy which should be taken into account in the preparation of the local development plan.

1.3.2 The Welsh Government's objectives regarding sport and recreation are to promote:

- A more sustainable pattern of development, creating and maintaining networks of facilities and open spaces in places well served by sustainable means of travel, in particular within urban areas;
- Social inclusion, improved health and well-being by ensuring that everyone, including children and young people, the elderly and those with disabilities, has easy access to the natural environment and to good quality, well-designed facilities and open space;
- The provision of innovative, user friendly, accessible facilities to make our urban areas, particularly town centres, more attractive places, where people will choose to live, to work, to visit.

1.3.3 PPW states that the planning system should ensure that it allocates adequate land and water resources for sport and recreation whilst taking needs into account and the current level of provision including deficiencies. The Local Development Plan (LDP) should contain clear policies to provide for, protect and enhance sport, leisure and recreational facilities. In addition to this the plan should set out policies to avoid conflict between different pursuits, provide protection to playing fields and open space of amenity or recreational value to communities. PPW highlights the preference for using previously developed land for new facilities; the need to ensure facilities that will generate high levels of travel are located within town centres and that new facilities can be accessed through sustainable means. Furthermore the plan should encourage the multiple uses of open space and facilities where appropriate.

1.4 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 – Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009)

1.4.1 TAN 16 aims to provide advice about how the land use planning system can make provision for sport and recreational facilities and informal open spaces, whilst also providing protection to existing facilities and open spaces. It should be read in conjunction with PPW.

1.4.2 TAN 16 highlights how the objectives from PPW can be best achieved through the undertaking of an 'Open Space Assessment'. The TAN gives guidance on what is included within the definition of 'Open Space' and what an assessment should include. Emphasis is given on how policies should be founded on a robust evidence base that has been derived from the Open Space Assessment. The Assessment should also facilitate the ability of the LPA to set out a strategic vision for providing, protecting and enhancing facilities for sport, physical activity, open space and recreation.

1.4.3 Further topics covered in more detail include:

- Protecting and Enhancing Existing Sport and Recreation Facilities and Open Spaces
- Planning New Open Space and Recreation Facilities
- Major Sport and Recreation Facilities
- Provision for Children and Young People
- Off-road Recreational Vehicles
- Allotments
- Water Based Recreation
- Marinas
- Golf Courses
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
- Countryside
- Accessibility and Rights of Way
- Standards of Provision

1.4.4 An Open Space Assessment has been produced in conjunction with this topic paper, it contains an audit of the majority of the open spaces within the county and highlights any deficiencies on a settlement by settlement basis. It is not intended to repeat the findings of that study in this document.

1.5 Climbing Higher (2005) – The Welsh Government's Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity

1.5.1 Climbing Higher is the Welsh Government's long-term (20 year) strategy for sport and physical activity. The strategy is primarily concerned with maximising the contribution that sport and physical activity can make to people's well being in Wales.

1.5.2 The aims for sport and physical activity identified in the strategy are to achieve the following:

- To increase physical activity across all age, gender and social groups.
- To maximise the economic impact of sport and physical activity.
- To enrich and develop our cultural and social life.
- To use sport and physical activity to develop and enhance vibrant communities.
- To realise the synergy between sport and the natural environment for the people of Wales.
- To enable Wales to succeed systematically at the highest international level in priority sports.

1.5.3 The strategy highlights the importance of planning processes in supporting the strategy (para 2.7) in its ability to meet its overall objective of:

“An active, healthy and inclusive Wales, where sport and physical activity provide a common platform for participation, fun and achievement, which binds communities and the nation and where the outstanding environment of Wales is used sustainably to enhance confidence in ourselves and our place in the world” (para 2.1).

1.5.4 The strategy sets out a series of targets some of which need to be taken into consideration in the development plan process:

- All public sector workers and 75% of people in other forms of employment will have access to sport and physical activity facilities, at or within a 10 minute walk from the workplace.
- The percentage of people in Wales that use the Welsh natural environment for outdoor activity increase from 36% to 60%.
- 95% of people in Wales will have a footpath or cycle path within a ten minute walk.
- No one should live more than a six-minute walk (300m) from their nearest natural green space.

1.6 Climbing Higher Next Steps (2006)

1.6.1 This document was produced as a follow on to the Climbing Higher Strategy. It builds on the strategy with a focus on implementation looking at what has been achieved and what needs to be done

1.6.2 It highlights that planning should focus on encouraging increased physical activity through the development of more appropriate and attractive locally community based resources and developments, together with enhanced access to the outdoor environment, playing fields and existing community facilities.

1.6.3 It continues by saying that *“developments should actively encourage activities such as walking, cycling, jogging, fitness, indoor fitness and low level recreational activity in communities, retail parks, town centres, the workplace and linked to new housing developments”* (page 19).

1.7 Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

1.7.1 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 is a Welsh law aimed to make it easier for people to walk and cycle in Wales.

1.7.2 The Act makes it a legal requirement for local authorities in Wales to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel, and to build and improve their infrastructure for walking and cycling every year. It has created new duties for highways authorities to consider the needs of walkers and cyclists and make better provision for them. It also includes a requirement for both the Welsh Government and local authorities to promote walking and cycling as a mode of transport.

1.7.3 By connecting key sites such as workplaces, hospitals, schools and shopping areas with active travel routes, the Act will encourage people to rely less on their cars when making short journeys.

1.7.4 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 completed its passage through the National Assembly for Wales on 1 October 2013. The Bill became an Act of the Assembly on 4 November 2013 and came into force in September 2014.

1.7.5 The Act will be supported by the Active Travel Action Plan which supersedes “A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales (2009 – 2013”.

1.8 Children and Families (Wales) Measure (2010)

1.8.1 The purpose of the Measure is to assist in the tackling of child poverty. It covers three main subject areas:

1. Child poverty, play and participation;
2. Child minding and day care for children;
3. Integrated family support teams.

1.8.2 In November 2012 as part of this measure the Welsh Government introduced a duty on local authorities to carry out an assessment (part one) of sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. This assessment which was conducted as part of the LDP Open Space Assessment was submitted to the Welsh Government in March 2013.

1.8.3 On July 1st 2014 Welsh Ministers commenced the second part of this legislation, which placed a duty on Powys County Council to secure sufficient play opportunities for children in the county, so far as reasonably practical, having regard to the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The duty also requires the Authority to publish and keep up to date information about play opportunities for children in their areas.

1.9 Creating an Active Wales (2009)

1.9.1 The purpose of this plan is to encourage an increase in levels of physical activity to deliver improvements in health and well-being across the

population in Wales. The plan consists of a target which is to get everybody to do 'one day more' This reflects data from the Welsh Health Survey (2008) that indicates that only 30% of adults take the recommended 30 minutes of physical activity on 5 or more days of the week. In line with this only 44% of 7 – 11 year olds and only 35% of 11 -16 year olds, take the recommended 60 minutes on 5 days or more of the week.

1.9.2 The plan has four strategic aims, below is the one of most relevance to the LDP:

Active Environments –to develop and maintain a physical environment that makes it easier and safer for people to choose to be more physically active.

The priorities that have been identified to meet this aim include:

- Ensuring that the natural and built environment encourages people to be physically active. This includes ensuring new developments take accessibility and safety into consideration to make physical activity an attractive option.
- Developing an infrastructure that supports sustainable and healthier modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- Increasing availability, access and the use of high quality local green space, waterways and the countryside.

The document includes a table of actions to meet these priorities, the ones relevant to planning that need to be taken into account by the LDP are the following:

- For local planning authorities to be encouraged to use tools such as Open Spaces Assessments and Health Impact Assessment in preparation of the LDP.
- For new regeneration and housing projects to be encouraged to consider the impact of physical activity in their design.
- For LDPs to be encouraged to protect green space/playing fields and to provide a framework for well-located sport, recreation and leisure facilities. In addition to this where appropriate planning conditions and agreements should be used to provide, safeguard and enhance open spaces, sport and recreation facilities.

1.10 Our Healthy Future, the Public Health Strategic Framework (2009)

1.10.1 Our Healthy Future is the Welsh Government's commitment to improve the quality and length of life and to ensure that everyone in Wales has a fair chance to lead a healthy life. The Powys LDP can contribute towards its long term vision particularly in its aim for *"healthy sustainable communities – places where people want to live, work, play and flourish – are sought for all."*

1.10.2 The strategy identifies the planning system as having an important role in creating healthy, sustainable communities and in promoting increased physical activity. It states that *"public health and planning systems will need to work more closely together in the future, exploring how any new build,*

redevelopment or regeneration scheme can be designed to make healthy living the easy option”.

1.11 Woodlands for Wales (2009)

1.11.1 This is the Welsh Government’s 50 year Strategy for woodlands and trees. The vision for this strategy is that “Wales will be known for its high quality woodlands that enhance the landscape, are appropriate to local conditions and have a diverse mixture of species and habitats.” From this vision there are four broad themes with 20 high level outcomes.

1.11.2 “Woodlands for People” is the main theme that relates to leisure and recreation it is described as “*servicing local needs for health, education and jobs*”. This includes an outcome for more people to lead healthier lives because they take advantage of opportunities to use and enjoy woodlands.

1.13 The National Transport Plan (2010)

1.13.1 The purpose of this plan is to take forward the process of delivering integration of the Wales Transport Strategy. How the main transport elements of this plan can be incorporated into the LDP will be discussed in the ‘*Transport*’ topic paper. This paper will concentrate on the walking and cycling elements of the plan. However it needs to be minded that Welsh Government are developing a new transport plan which is due to be published in 2015.

1.13.2 Paragraph 2.3 of the plan includes the following aim that the plan will work to achieve: “*Increasing healthy and sustainable travel choices, including walking and cycling*”. The plan sets out a number of ways in which this will be achieved, including:

- The development of a larger number of traffic free walking and cycling routes and segregated public transport routes.
- Maintaining the Safe Routes in Communities program, to develop safer walking and cycling opportunities across Wales.
- By continuing to increase the amount of funding available for walking and cycling schemes.

1.13.3 The Powys LDP contributes to this aim by ensuring new developments are designed to incorporate the needs of all transport users especially cyclists and walkers. In addition to this the settlement hierarchy reduces the need to travel by car by locating new development in sustainable locations.

1.14 Policy Advice Note: Inland Waterways (TCPA and British Waterways) (2009)

1.14.1 Part of the purpose of this guidance note is to:

- Identify the key planning policy challenges and issues that need to be tackled in order to fully unlock the economic, social and environmental benefits of inland waterways and secure their long-term sustainability as a national asset;
- Promote the need for a supportive planning policy framework for inland waterways at all the different spatial levels; and
- Make recommendations to policy-makers and planners at the different spatial levels on how the planning system can help to secure the long-term future, and support the development, regeneration and improvement, of the inland waterways network.

1.14.2 The guidance note recognises the purpose of inland waterways as a multi-functional resource that includes the following:

- Acting as an agent of or catalyst for regeneration,
- Acting as a contributor of water supply and transfer, drainage and flood management,
- A tourism, cultural, sport, leisure and recreation resource,
- A sustainable mode of transport (boating and cycling),
- And routes for telecommunication.

1.14.3 Powys hosts two waterways that are covered by this guidance note, the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal in the south of the County and the Montgomery Canal in the north. However, the section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal that is within Powys falls wholly within the Brecon Beacons National Park so although it will need to be taken into consideration will be outside the focus of the LDP.

1.14.4 The LDP includes policies for the protection of the Montgomery Canal together with a specific policy that not only protects but aims to enable any restoration works.

2. Regional

2.1 Mid Wales Transportation- Regional Transport Plan (TraCC) (2009)

2.1.1 Currently this regional transport plan covers Powys, Ceredigion, and parts of Gwynedd, Snowdonia National Park and the Brecon Beacons National Park. The plan includes a vision and a number of policies to address issues that have been identified specifically in the region.

2.1.2 The regional priorities and objectives that relate to this topic paper are the following:

Priority no.6: Provide, promote and improve sustainable forms of travel.

- Develop high quality maintained networks that facilitate both local and cross boundary cycling.
- Ensure that facilities for cyclists are incorporated in key locations such as transport interchanges, public locations and town centres.
- Provide safe and convenient pedestrian routes within communities.
- Promote and encourage travel by non-motorised modes.

Priority no. 8: Ensure travel and accessibility issues are properly integrated into land use decisions.

- Ensure travel and accessibility issues are reflected in LDP policies and implemented effectively in the planning process.

2.1.3 The Powys LDP contributes to priorities by ensuring new developments are designed to incorporate the needs of all transport users especially cyclists and walkers. In addition to this the settlement hierarchy reduces the need to travel by car by locating new development in sustainable locations.

2.1.4 This topic paper will need to be updated when this plan is superseded by a Local Transport Plan in 2015.

3. Local

3.1 One Powys Plan (2014 – 2017)

3.1.1 The One Powys Plan has been produced to set out a collective vision and to focus public services in Powys. The Plan is *“the transformational plan for the Powys Local Service Board to enable us as partners to work together to provide improved outcomes for citizens”*.

3.1.2 The vision of the *One Powys Plan* is *“We will work together to meet the needs of Powys citizens”*

3.1.3 Priorities for improvement are:

- Integrated health and adult social care
- Children and young people
- Transforming learning and skills
- Stronger, safer and economically viable communities
- Financially balanced and fit for purpose public services

3.1.4 One of the actions in the plan is *“Powys citizens will be supported and empowered to lead active and healthier lives”*. This action has a direct link with this topic paper particularly for increasing access and opportunities for physical activity.

3.3 Creative Powys – Powys Arts Strategy (2011 – 2016)

3.3.1 The vision of the Powys Arts Strategy is “*Inspire to Aspire*”. The strategy aims to develop and promote Powys as a vital, creative place to live, work and visit and for the arts to enrich the life of every resident and visitor to Powys. The strategy wants to excite and inspire through the arts, offering an opportunity for all people to experience and enjoy the arts and develop their own creativity as participants, artists and audiences in a county where a thriving arts and cultural scene makes significant contribution to economic and social well-being.

3.3.2 The Powys Draft Deposit LDP has policies for the protection of community and indoor recreation facilities, which include many of the buildings used by the arts together with policies for new facilities if required.

3.4 Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2007)

3.4.1 The purpose of this plan is to set out how the council will manage the network of public rights of way in Powys over the next ten years. The plan identifies, prioritises and plans for improvements to the local rights of way network whilst making better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems.

3.4.2 The plan’s vision is to have a well utilised, well managed, meaningful and accessible countryside across Powys, supported by high quality information.

3.4.3 Paragraph 7.1 (i) of the plan highlights how planning can have a negative impact on the rights of way network if countryside access is not taken properly into account. To try and tackle this issue “*Development and Public Rights of Way: A Practitioners Guide (2007)*” was published. However there is clearly a need for a close working relationship between planning and countryside services.

3.4.4 Part of policy DM1 in the Draft Deposit LDP requires national trails and public rights of way to be protected from development.

3.5 Play Strategy (DRAFT August 2014)

3.5.1 Aim/Vision:

All children and young people in Powys will be satisfied with:

- The amount of time they have for playing,
- The amount and quality of space they have available for playing

And that they are supported by the adults, communities and services around them which foster a positive attitude towards children and young people’s play opportunities.

3.5.2 The strategy has several objectives that have direct links with the Open Space Assessment and the implementation of LDP policies DM1 part 4 and H14. These include:

Play Friendly Spaces and Services:

- Increase access to the number of open spaces, designated play areas and playing fields for children and young people to play/hang out.
- Improve the data collection of open spaces, designated play areas and play fields, structured recreational, sporting and cultural activities.
- Improve the play value of open spaces, designated play areas and playing

Play Friendly Powys:

- Promote and support partners/stakeholders to undertake Children's Rights Impact Assessment in relation to considering the play needs of children/young people in their policies, plans and day to day activities.

3.5.3 The Open Space Assessment has been conducted as part of the Council's Play Sufficiency Assessment therefore it is anticipated that the LDP will continue to have a direct link with the Play Strategy.

3.6 Powys Active and Healthy Lifestyles Strategy 2012 – 2017

The vision for this strategy is "Powys will be a County that makes it easier for people to choose to be physically active contributing to their long-term health and wellbeing. There will be high quality programmes and resources, support for learning and skills development, a commitment to sporting excellence and improved access to participation enabling more people to be more active more often".

The strategy focuses on getting more people active across Powys despite the following identified issues (some of these issues are the same as those identified in this topic paper; others have been picked up in other papers):

- Decreasing budget,
- Being the most sparsely populated county in England and Wales,
- A growing ageing population
- Children and Young People form a small proportion of the population,
- Poor access to services by foot or bus.

The main focus of the Strategy at the moment is Strategic Priority One – Infrastructure. This topic includes a review of the leisure portfolio as well as establishing an 'Alternative Management and Delivery' model for leisure.

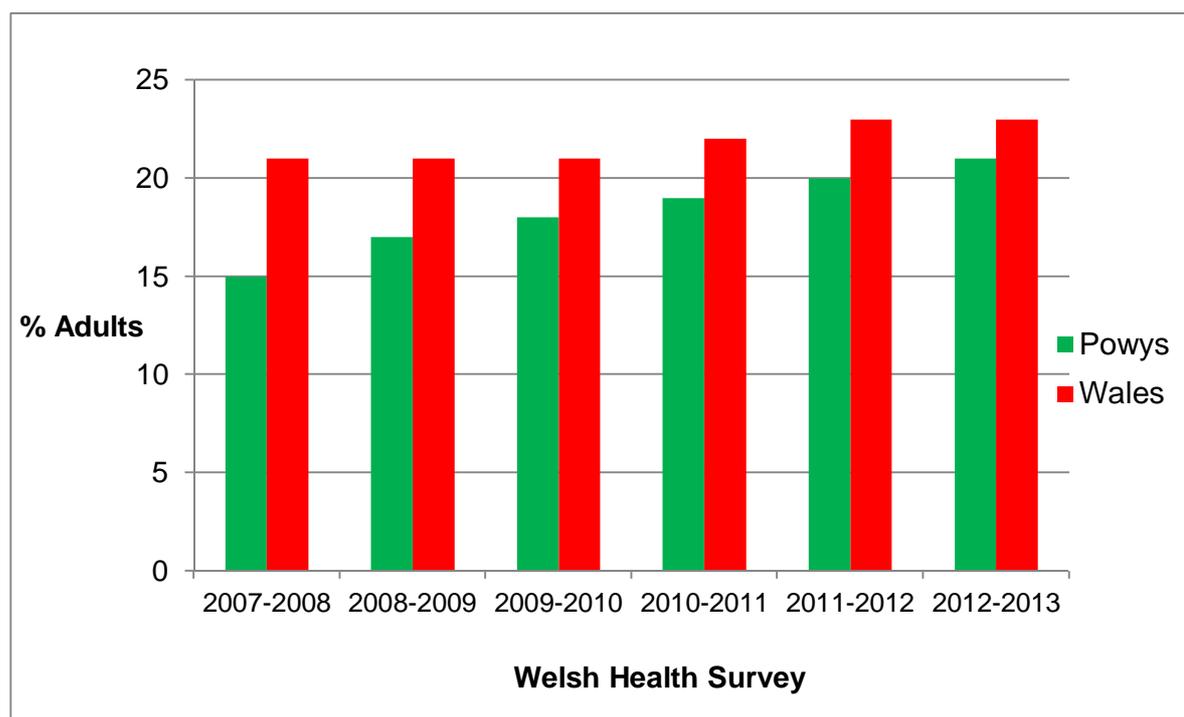
4. Local Context

4.1 Powys Lifestyle Statistics

4.1.1 **Obesity** - It is recognised that obesity levels in Wales are rising resulting in serious complications to people's health such as heart disease and type two diabetes. The Welsh Health Survey (2009 - 2012) found that one in three children in Wales (35% in Wales, 30% in Powys) were estimated to be overweight or obese (19% in Wales, 17% in Powys were obese). In addition to this it was found in the 2012 – 2013 survey that over half (58%) of the adults in Powys were overweight or obese (21% were obese).

4.1.2 The chart below shows the percentage of adults (aged 16+) classified as obese (i.e. had a body mass index of 30 or more). The body mass index is calculated as a person's weight in kilogrammes divided by the square of their height in metres. The chart demonstrates that obesity levels in Powys are steadily increasing, although they remain below the national average the gap is reducing.

Percentage of Adults Classified as Obese (Reported Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30+.)

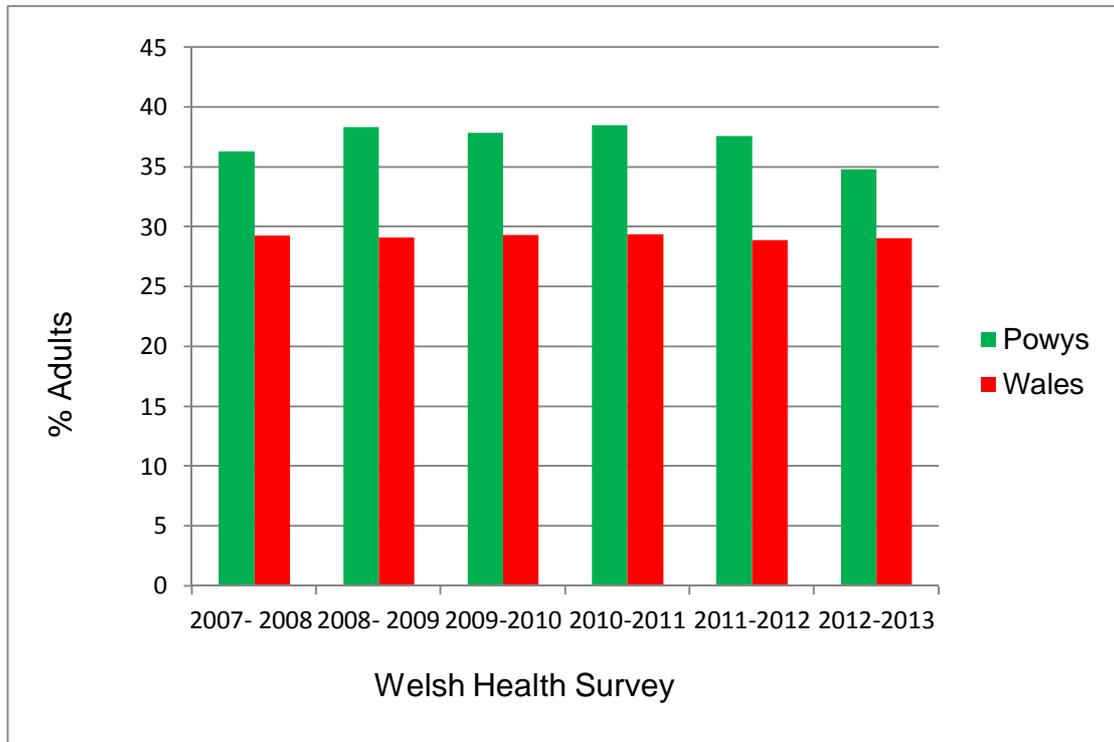


Welsh Government: Welsh Health Surveys.

4.1.3 The current obesity problems stem from low levels of physical activity along with unhealthy eating patterns. To combat the obesity problem the Welsh Government has launched several initiatives related to healthy eating and active lifestyles. The targets set by the Welsh Government in the Climbing Higher Strategy (2005) are for adults to undertake 30 minutes of exercise on five days a week or more and for children to undertake 60 minutes of exercise on five days a week or more. The chart below

demonstrates the number of adults meeting this target compared to the Welsh average.

Percentage of Adults Meeting Physical Activity Guidelines



Welsh Government: Welsh Health Surveys.

4.1.4 The chart shows that the percentage of adults meeting the guideline for physical activity in Powys fluctuates but is consistently higher than the percentage of adults meeting the guideline in Wales. Further findings from the Welsh Health Survey (2009 - 2012) found that the percentage of children (aged 4 – 15 years) in Powys meeting the climbing higher target (5 X 60 minutes a week) was just 56%.

4.1.5 A number of national initiatives are currently in place to encourage and support people to maintain a healthy balanced diet and be more physically active. These include programmes such as Change4life, Appetite for Life, the National Exercise Referral Scheme and a Children’s Weight Management Referral Programme.

4.2 Other Lifestyle Statistics (refers to Powys including the BBNP)

4.2.1 Population - Powys had an estimated population of 132,952 in mid-2012, representing an increase of 4.6% from mid-2002, (Wales 5.2%). (*Fifty facts about Powys 2013*)

4.2.2 Age profile – Retired – Mid 2012, 23.9% of the population of Powys is above 65+. This is above the average of 19% in Wales. (*Fifty facts about Powys 2013*)

4.2.3 Age profile – Young – Mid 2012, 15.6% of the population of Powys is of school age (15 years or less) compared to 16.9% in Wales. (*Fifty facts about Powys 2013*)

4.2.4 Life expectancy - Life expectancy at birth in 2010-2012 was 80 for men, 83.5 for women, compared to the Welsh national averages of 78.2 and 82.2 respectively.

4.2.5 Binge Drinking – 21% of adults were reported to be binge drinking (men drinking more than 8 units a day and women drinking more than 6 units) compared to 26% for Wales. (*WHS 2012-2013*).

4.2.6 Smoking - 17% of adults smoke compared to 22% in Wales (*WHS 2012-2013*).

4.3 Local Context - Walking, Cycling, Horse Riding and Motorised Vehicles

4.3.1 Public Rights of Way

4.3.2 These can be described as paths that the public have a right to pass and re-pass. In Powys there are over 12,000 individual rights of way, including those in the Brecon Beacons National Park which equates to 9,244.1 km. The main purpose of these rights of way is recreation including walking, cycling, horse riding and the driving of 'off-road' motor vehicles (all vehicles must be road legal with a valid MOT, Insurance and Tax). See Table 1 for the different types of rights of way and corresponding users.

Public Rights of Way In Powys

Type	Legal User	Length in Powys (including BBNP)	Percentage of the overall network
Footpath	Walkers, Dog Walkers	5,835 km	64%
Bridleway	Walkers, Dog Walkers, Horse Riders and Cyclists	2,587 km	28%
Restricted Byway	Walkers, Dog Walkers, Horse Riders and Cyclists, Horse Drawn Carriages	526 km	6%
Byway Open to all Traffic	Walkers, Dog Walkers, Horse Riders and Cyclists, Horse Drawn Carriages, Motorised Vehicles	218 km	2%
Total:		9,166 km	100%

(2011)

4.3.3 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 (para 3.41) states that public rights of way should be protected and that they should be taken into consideration when planning applications are being determined. It also says, in paragraph 3.42, that along with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, LDPs should provide for the use, maintenance and enforcement of existing rights of way, including enhancements to natural history interest.

4.3.4 Open Access Land

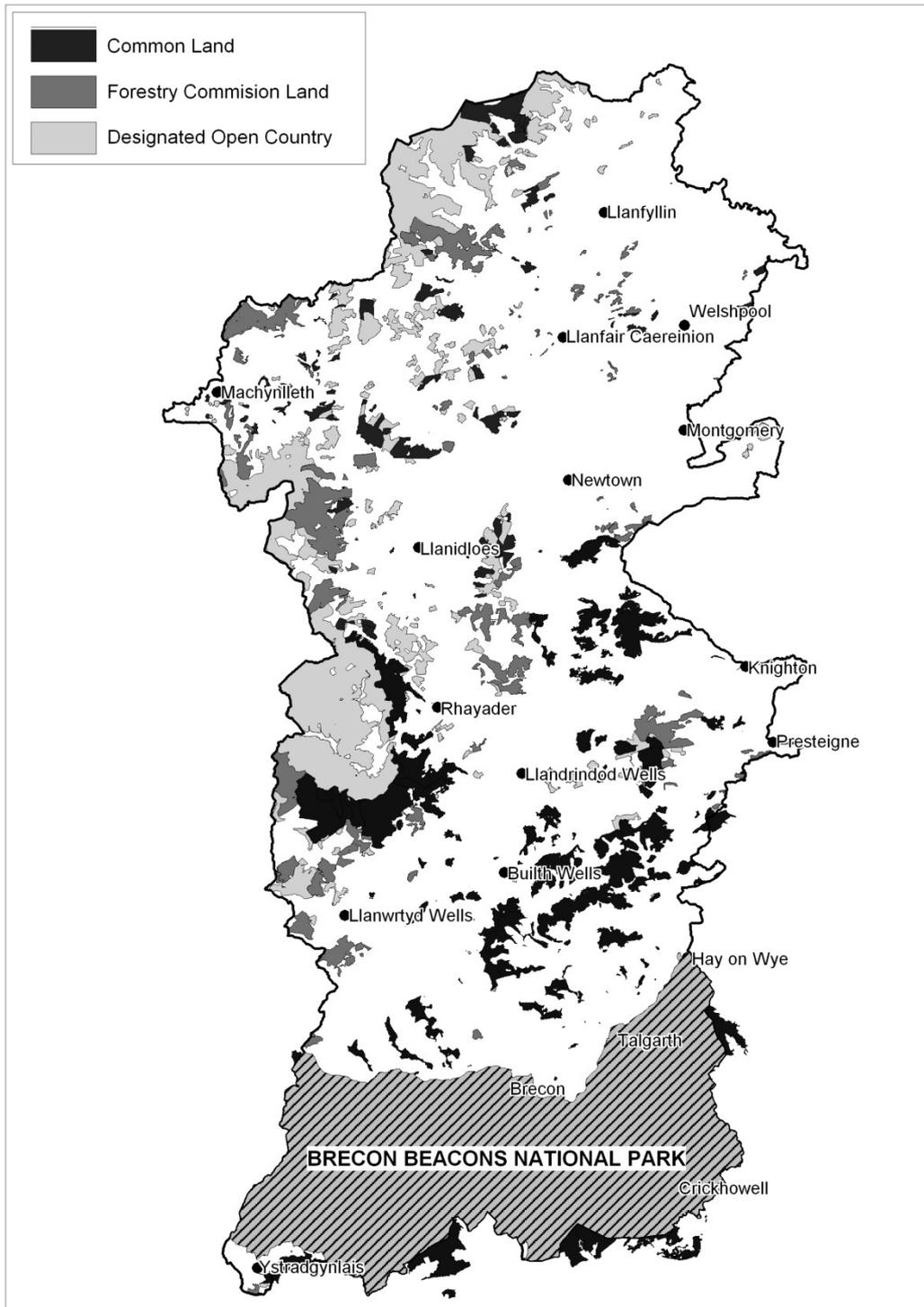
4.3.5 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) introduced a new right of access to the countryside on land designated by the former Countryside Council for Wales ((CCW) now Natural Resources Wales (NRW)) as access land. This land includes all commons and any land that has been determined by CCW as being of 'open country'. In addition to this the forestry commission designated a high proportion of the land within its control as access land.

4.3.6 Members of the public have a right to use this land 'on foot' and can undertake activities such as walking, running, bird watching, and picnicking. However there are no rights for cyclists, horse riders or vehicles to use the

land. Powys has 88, 000 hectares (340 square miles) of access land this represents 17% of the land in Powys.

4.3.7 Other areas of land open to the public for recreation on foot include the land surrounding the Elan Valley and Lake Vyrnwy reservoirs.

Map Showing Open Access Land in Powys



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4.3.8 Recreational Trails

4.3.9 Powys has two national trails, the Offa's Dyke Path and Glyndwr's Way. The Offa's Dyke path is 285 km (177 miles) long, of which 72 km (45 miles) falls within the county of Powys. It passes through eight different counties crossing the English / Welsh border a total of 20 times. The route links the Sedbury Cliffs near Chepstow to the Coastal town of Prestatyn.

4.3.10 The Glyndwr's Way national trail is wholly within Powys and is 217km (135 miles) long. The route starts in Knighton and runs in a giant horseshoe across to Machynlleth and back again to Welshpool.

4.3.11 In addition to the two national trails Powys has several regionally important promoted trails these include the Wye Valley Walk, Severn Way, Ann Griffiths Walk, Kerry Ridgeway, Pererindod Melangell and the Epynt Way.

Recreational Trails In Powys

Trail	Length of route	Approximate Length of Route in Powys	General direction of the route in Powys
Offas Dyke	285 km	72 km	Hay on Wye – Llanymynech (crossing backwards and forwards into England)
Glyndwrs Way	217 km	217 km	Knighton – Welshpool via Machynlleth
The Ann Griffiths Walk	11 km	11 km	Vyrnwy Valley (Pont Llogel to Pontrobert)
Pererindod Melangell	24 km	24 km	Between the Vyrnwy and Tanat Valleys
The Severn Way	338 km	88.5 km	Plynlimon through Welshpool north eastwards to England
Kerry Ridgeway	24 km	19 km	Kerry eastwards to England
Wye Valley Walk	218 km	96.5 km	Hay on Wye through Hafren Forest to Plynlimon
Epynt Way	90 km	90 km	Within the Sennybridge Army Training Area

<http://tourism.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=28>

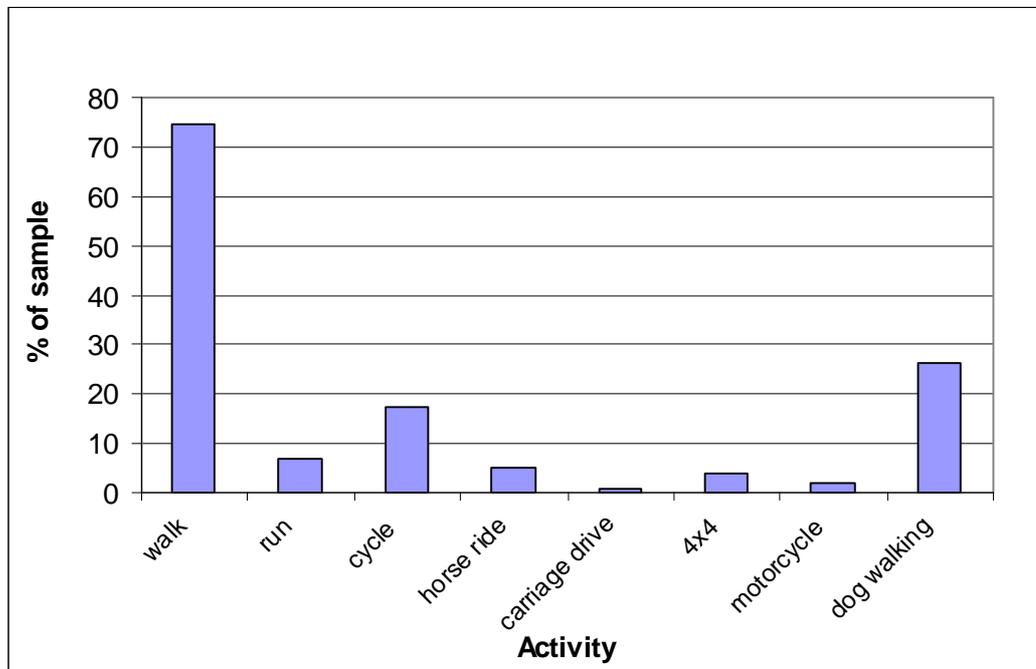
4.3.12 In addition to the recreational trails mentioned above there are other routes in Powys promoted by external organisations. An example of this is the Cambrian Way that is 440 km (275 miles) long, traversing across Wales from Cardiff to Conway.

4.3.13 Walking

4.3.14 As part of the preparation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan a survey was sent to local residents, landowners, groups, town and community councils, tourist information centres and accommodation providers. The response rate to this survey was high with over 1300 responses. Of interest to this topic paper is the fact that over 74% of the respondents walked the rights

of way network at least once a month, whilst 54% walked the network at least once a week. It was also noted that out of these respondents 26% regularly used public rights of way to walk their dogs. This demonstrates that there is a high demand for access on foot which is expected to grow.

Participation in Activities on Public Rights of Way



Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2007)

4.3.15 The survey also found that there was a demand for more local circular routes around settlements, with 79% of respondents wanting to see more. The LDP should take into account existing routes around settlements and encourage new developments to create new routes that link in with the existing network.

4.3.16 Cycling

4.3.17 In Powys cyclists have a right of access to 36% of the public rights of way network. In addition to this there are some urban cycle networks and other routes and trails (including the Elan Valley trail). Powys also hosts some off road mountain biking trails in the Llanwrtyd Wells and Machynlleth areas. The Epynt Way recreational trail is open to cyclists, whilst many forests managed by the Forest Commission also allow access for cyclists.

4.3.18 Powys hosts 295 miles of the national cycle network, where possible this network uses traffic free or quiet lanes. A list of the national and regional routes that can be found in Powys are listed in Table 3 below:

The National and Regional Cycle Network In Powys

Trail	Length of route	Approximate Length of Route in Powys	General direction of the route in Powys	Route Number
Lon Las Cymru	386 km	185 km	Hay on Wye - Machynlleth	National routes no.8 and 42
Lon Cambria	177 km	107 km	Aberystwyth – Welshpool and eastwards towards Shrewsbury	National route no. 81
Tawe Uchaf Trail.		73 km	Builth Wells - Ystradgynlais	National routes no.43
Radnor Ring	138 km	132 km	This is a circular route linking Rhayader, Llandrindod Wells, Presteigne and Knighton	Regional route no.25

<http://tourism.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=29>

4.3.19 The survey conducted as part of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan found that 17% of the respondents (of which there were over 1000) cycled on the rights of way network at least once a month.

4.3.20 Horse riding

4.3.21 Horse riders have access to bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic, this equates to 36% of the public rights of way network in Powys (including the Brecon Beacons National Park).

4.3.22 In addition to this work has been done on creating a series of circular rides; these have been published in a dedicated BHS guide called “*Powys on Horseback*” (also on <http://tourism.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=201>). Other routes include the Radnor Forest Ride, a 113 km (70 mile) trek stretching from the Brecon Beacons National Park northwards through Powys to Shropshire. The Epynt Way, Prince Llewellyn Ride and the William Morgan Ride, also provide for recreational trails for riders on horseback.

4.3.23 There are over 20 centres across Powys (or just over the border) providing riding schools and pony trekking.

4.3.24 Motorised Vehicles

4.3.25 These include any vehicle powered by a motor and include 4x4s, cars, motorbikes and quad bikes. Motorised vehicles can legally access 650 km of the Powys (including the Brecon Beacons National Park) public rights of way network, on the byways open to all traffic.

4.3.26 However, motorised vehicles can cause problems, this includes the damage such vehicles can do to un-surfaced routes, leading to severe ruts and surface damage. Motorised vehicles can also conflict with other users of the network and cause damage to the flora and fauna. In addition to this its activity and management can have visible implications on the landscape.

4.3.27 Further problems include illegal off-roading across Powys. There are various initiatives looking at illegal off-roading which include close working with the Welsh Off-Road Motoring Steering Group (WORMS), with its three pronged approach of provision, education and enforcement. There is also a regional Mid-Wales off Road Forum that is a partnership with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Dyfed-Powys Police and other partners that looks specifically at appropriate enforcement of the unlawful use of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, and of course land not forming a highway. There is also close liaison with the Community Safety Partnership to determine hot spots and allow the use of ant-social behaviour orders.

4.3.28 Technical Advice Note 16 (para 3.25) highlights the fact that Local Planning Authorities should have regard to existing activities and likely demand, and the merits of preparing policies to facilitate regulated practice and racing when preparing an open space assessment and the LDP.

4.3.29 Tranquil Areas

Much of Powys' open countryside is of high landscape quality, including tranquil and wilderness areas which are important areas for recreation that complement other recreational areas that exist within the County. Given the importance of tranquil and wilderness areas to the county's landscape, and the opportunity they offer to sustain and improve health and wellbeing such areas should be incorporated into the proposed landscape SPG. This SPG should take on board the findings from LANDMAP and the tranquil areas report produced by CCW.

4.4 Local Context - Common Land and Village Greens

4.4.1 Common Land

4.4.2 There are approximately 75,000 hectares of common land in Powys; most of the commons are in private ownership and provide an important resource for nature conservation, recreation and agriculture.

4.4.3 Most common land in Powys is subject to rights of common that originate from the manorial land tenure system that predates Parliament. A right of common is defined "*as the right for someone to use the product of another man's land in common with the owner of the soil*". Rights holders are often referred to as Commoners or Graziers.

4.4.4 As mentioned above (para 4.3.4) in May 2005, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 extended a public right of access on foot to all finally registered common land, previously only certain commons had a right of public access.

4.4.5 Planning permission can be granted for works that affect common land; however, additional consent needs to be sought from the Welsh Government for the erection of any buildings, fencing or the construction of any other 'works' which would prevent or impede access to the land. These actions would be unlawful without consent under Section 38 of The Commons Act 2006.

4.4.6 The Commons Act 2006 received Royal Assent on the 19th July 2006 but was not fully implemented until April 2012 in Wales. Part 3 the Act, Section 38 replaces; the former Section 194, and is intended to provide better protection for common land and will apply to all registered common land. Commons should be maintained or improved as a result of the 'works' and the use must be consistent with its status as common land.

4.4.7 When determining a Consent for 'works' on common land, the Welsh Government must have regard to the "benefit of the neighbourhood" and to the "private interests" in the land. This may be a particular issue for wind farm applications, which may face refusal because the proposed 'works', which may confer some wider benefit for the community do not benefit the common.

4.4.8 An alternative approach for developments such as wind farms is by making an application to deregister the affected area of common land in exchange for another piece of land that is equal in size and of value to all those who have an interest. Applications for an exchange of land should be made under Section 16 of the 2006 Act with came into effect in April 2012; all applications must be made to and determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

4.4.9 VillageGreens

4.4.10 These are usually areas of land that fall within a defined settlement and are used by the local residents for activities that may include organised or informal games, picnics and village fetes. Some greens may also have rights of common over them.

4.4.11 There are 34 town or village greens in Powys. Most were registered between 1967 and 1970, under the Commons Registration Act 1965, which made it possible to register three categories of land as town or village green:

- Land allotted under an Act of Parliament for 'exercise and recreation'
- Land with a customary right for the inhabitants to indulge in lawful sports or pastimes
- Land used by the inhabitants for sports and pastimes 'as of right' for 'not less than twenty years'

4.4.12 Anyone can apply, under Section 15 of the Commons Act 2006, to have piece of land registered as a village green either by dedicating their own land; or by submitting evidence that a piece of land has been used by a significant number of inhabitants, of any locality or neighbourhood within a locality for lawful sports and pastimes, 'as of right' (without secrecy, force or permission) for a period of at least 20 years.

4.4.13 Village greens are protected under two statutes:

Section 12 of the Inclosure Act 1857 makes it a criminal offence to:

- wilfully cause injury or damage to any fence on a green;
- wilfully take any cattle or other animals onto a green without lawful authority;
- wilfully lay any manure, soil, ashes, rubbish or other material on a green;
- undertake any act which causes injury to the green (e.g. digging turf); or
- undertake any act which interrupts the use or enjoyment of a green as a place of exercise and recreation (e.g. fencing a green so as to prevent access).

Section 29 of the Commons Act 1876 makes it a public nuisance to:

- encroach on a green (e.g. extending the boundary of an abutting property so as to exclude people from that area);
- inclose a green (i.e. by fencing it in, whether or not the effect is to exclude public access);

4.4.14 It is a criminal offence to undertake any works on a green which contravene the 1857 Act and any works in breach of the 1876 Act are deemed to be a public nuisance. Neither the Welsh Government nor any other body is able to give consent for illegal works to be undertaken on a town or village green. Section 16 of the Commons Act 2006 also applies to greens.

4.5 Allotments and Community Growing Spaces

4.5.1 Allotments and community growing spaces are important green spaces whose cultivation can contribute to sustainability, providing opportunities for leisure, exercise and healthy food; whilst also encouraging interaction between different sections of the community.

4.5.2 Local Authorities, together with town and community councils have an obligation to provide allotments where there are six or more residents in that area requesting them. In accordance with the 'Smallholdings and Allotment Acts 1908 (plus amendments)' *"it is the express duty of every allotment authority, where they are of the opinion that there is a demand for allotments in their area, to provide a sufficient number of them, and then to let them to persons resident in the area"*. Whilst, community growing is the cultivation of land by community groups, often on land owned by someone else.

4.5.3 Powys County Council is responsible for eight allotment gardens that have a combined total of 88 allotment plots, in addition to this it leases a further six allotments, totalling at 154 plots, to private allotment associations. The waiting list of people who have requested one of these allotments totals at around 100 (January 2011). This figure does not include town or community council allotments or those run by private allotment associations. Further information on allotments in Powys can be found in the Open Space Assessment.

4.5.4 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 (para 3.27) states that authorities should ensure that statutory allotments in the area are properly protected, promoted and managed and that they are sufficient to meet the demands of residents. TAN 16 also highlights the importance of allotments for wildlife, requiring them to contain an element of wildlife habitat. According to the TAN; policies in the LDP should provide and protect allotment sites with their wildlife habitat and compost components and where needed improve the accessibility of such sites to its users.

4.6 Play Areas for Children and Young People

4.6.1 TAN 16 (para 3.21) states that it is vital for children and young people to be able to access areas that provide safe, secure opportunities to socialise and play. These areas can be in a formal or informal setting but should allow for the inclusion of those who are disabled.

4.6.2 In 2010 Section 11 of the “Children and Families (Wales) Measure” set a duty on local authorities (such as Powys County Council) with regard to Play Opportunities. Welsh Ministers decided to commence this duty in two parts. The first part covered the duty on local authorities to assess for sufficient play opportunities in accordance with regulations. To implement this Welsh Government issued “The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations” in November 2012. These regulations placed a requirement on Powys County Council to submit a Play Sufficiency Assessment, together with an Action Plan, to the Welsh Government by March 2013. An opportunity was taken at the data collation stage of the Open Space Assessment for the data to also be collected as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

4.6.3 As part of the Open Space Assessment all equipped play areas have been mapped and provision assessed against Fields in Trust standards. Additionally all other informal open spaces such as village greens and woodlands that children may use as areas of play have also been mapped where the area is greater than 0.2ha. Please refer to the Open Space Assessment for the results and conclusions.

4.6.4 The definition of play used by the Welsh Government is that “*Play encompasses children’s behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development – not only for individual children but also for the society in which they live.*”

4.6.5 There are ten design principles that have been identified (by Play England) of being of importance in the design of areas for play:

1. The play space enhances its setting
2. It’s well located
3. Makes use of natural elements
4. Provides a wide range of different play experiences
5. Accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
6. Loved by the community
7. Allows children of different ages and abilities to play together
8. Builds in opportunities for risk and challenge
9. It is sustainable and appropriately managed
10. Allows for change and evolution

4.6.6 Play areas can be split into two types those with fixed equipment; these can include traditional equipment such as swings and slides or have specific uses such as skate parks and BMX tracks. They are generally managed by Powys County Council, Town and Community Councils, Housing Associations and the voluntary sector. The other type of play areas are parks and open

spaces. However due to the costs of maintaining traditional fixed play equipment and changes in attitudes towards what enhances play, a move is being made away from traditional fixed equipment areas to the use of a more natural environment. This includes utilising landscaping, planting and community art installations alongside equipment that has been designed to complement the natural environment, rather than acting as a standalone piece of apparatus. This form of play area makes the best use of open spaces whilst adhering to the ten design principles listed above. More detailed information can be found in *“Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces”* by Play England (2008).

4.6.7 It was recognised in the Children and Young People’s needs assessment for Powys that there are a significant number of children who are not able to play freely in the county’s parks and open spaces. This is partially due to the risks perceived by parents in letting their children play outside. This conflicts with the evidence that risk taking and challenge have an especially important role in a child’s play and development, together with playing freely, experiencing nature and exploring their local environment whilst interacting with friends. The interaction of local children with one another is also important for community cohesion.

4.6.8 To overcome the restrictions being placed on children’s access to the outdoors ‘Play Rangers’ have been employed to encourage outside play by visiting local areas. However it is important that the planning system contributes towards making sure that proposals for new areas of play provide a far wider range of play activities and environments than they have in the past. This includes providing children with access to more natural and creative play settings that help stimulate the senses and encourage greater use of the imagination. Thought also needs to be given to how the needs of children and young people can be incorporated into the design of other areas of the public realm.

4.6.9 The development of new play areas related to new housing developments relies primarily on S106 obligations. The Open Space Assessment aims to make sure that provision secured through this mechanism will be of the most use to the new residents and to the rest of the community.

4.6.10 The incorporation of play areas in new housing developments can be problematic. Instances have occurred in Powys where the Town / Community Council do not wish to take on the responsibility of these new play areas (despite being offered an annual payment). This may be due to liability issues and the resources required for regular inspections and maintenance. This has resulted in reluctance by the developer to construct the play area potentially breaking the terms of the S106 legal agreement.

4.7 Open Space Assessment

4.7.1 Powys County Council has undertaken an Open Space Assessment to inform the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP). The assessment provides an overview of the current provision of open space in the key settlements across the County, it sets out those areas which are to receive protection through the Draft Deposit LDP Policy DM1 (part 4) and provides a framework for the provision of new open spaces to support the implementation of Policy H14 in the Draft Deposit LDP. It is intended that it is not a static document but that it is updated, as and when new information is received. This will help to make sure that any planning decisions regarding open space provision are made based on a settlements need at that time.

4.7.2 The open space assessment includes an audit on all equipped play spaces, outdoor sports (including pitches) and informal open spaces (over 0.2 ha) such as public parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green spaces, amenity greenspace and cemeteries and churchyards. Following the audit an assessment was made on provision using set standards identifying areas of overprovision or deficiencies.

4.7.3 This Leisure and Recreation Topic paper should be read in conjunction with the Open Space Assessment; it is not intended to repeat the sections that are covered in the assessment, including the results and conclusions, but for the two documents to be considered together.

4.8 Leisure Centres within Powys

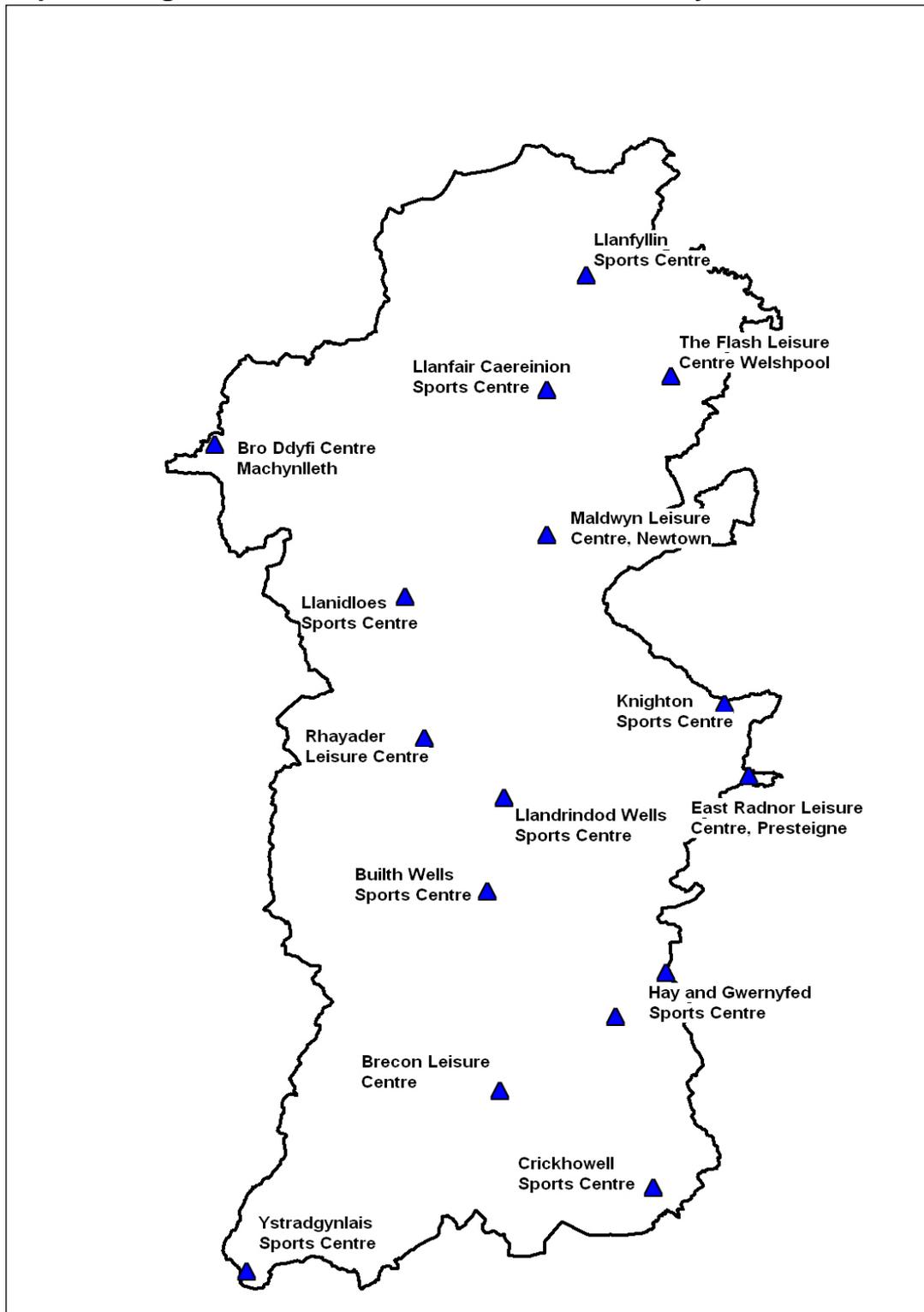
4.8.1 Within Powys the level and type of provision for recreational and leisure activities vary across the county. Formal, organised activities are mainly located within the main towns and larger settlements.

4.8.2 There are currently 15 leisure centres across Powys, the Brecon, Crickhowell and Hay-On-Wye and Gwernyfed Sports Centres are located within the Brecon Beacons National Park but have been included to demonstrate the facilities available to residents in the Brecknockshire area.

Leisure Centre	Facilities
Brecon Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool, Learner Pool, Fitness Suite, Main Sports Hall, Activity Hall, Indoor Green Bowls, Ten Pin Bowling, Squash Courts, Astro Turf Pitch.
Ystradgynlais Maesydderwen Sports Centre	Swimming Pool, Fitness Suite, Multi Activity Sports Hall, Astro Turf Pitch.
Crickhowell Sports Centre	Sports Hall, Fitness Suite, All Weather Hockey Pitch.
Hay-On-Wye and Gwernyfed Sports Centre	Sports Hall, Fitness Suite, Swimming Pool.
Knighton Sports Centre	Swimming Pool, Fitness Suite, Squash Courts, Outside Multi Sports Area.
Llandrindod Wells Sports Centre	Swimming Pool, Sports Hall.
Presteigne East Radnor Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool, Fitness Suite, Exercise Studio, Sports Hall, Squash Courts.
Builth Wells Sports Centre	All Weather Pitch, Fitness Suite And Free Weights Room, Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Swimming Pool.
Rhayader Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool, Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Fitness Suite.
Newtown Maldwyn Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool, Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Fitness Suite, Exercise Studio, Astro Turf Pitch, Soft Play Area.
Welshpool The Flash Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool, Fitness Suite, Sports Hall, Exercise Studio, Indoor Green Bowls, Astro Turf Pitch, Soft Play Area.
Machynlleth Bro Ddyfi Leisure Centre	Swimming Pool, Fitness Suite, Sports Hall, Indoor Green Bowls, Squash Courts, Climbing Wall.
Llanfyllin Sports Centre	Swimming Pool, Fitness Suite, Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Outside Sports Area.
Llanfair Caereinion Sports Centre	Sports Hall, Multipurpose Hall, Fitness Suite Squash Courts, Outside Sports Area.
Llanidloes Sports Centre	Swimming Pool, Sports Hall, Fitness Suite Squash Courts, Outside Sports Area.

Source: <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=5133&L=0>

Map Showing the Location of Leisure Centres in Powys



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4.8.3 Out of the 15 leisure centres listed above 13 include a swimming pool; these are not the only pools within the county as a number of hotels also include facilities.

Other Facilities:

Facilities	Number	Location
Athletic Track	2	Brecon, Newtown
Bowling Green	>13	Brecon, Builth Wells, Crickhowell, Hay on Wye, Llandrindod Wells, Llanfair Caereinion, Llanidloes, Rhayader, Ystradgynlais, Welshpool, Newtown, Guilsfield.
Golf Courses	>15	Brecon, Builth Wells, Welshpool, Pontneddfechan, Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Llanymynech, Machynlleth, Caersws, Crickhowell, Newtown, Llanidloes, Palleg (Ystradgynlais), Rhosgoch.
Health & Fitness	>22	Brecon, Machynlleth, Builth Wells, Crickhowell, Hay on Wye, Llandrindod Wells, Llanfair Caereinion, Llanidloes, Rhayader, Ystradgynlais, Welshpool, Newtown, Presteigne, Knighton, Llanfyllin, Nant Ddu, Llangammarch Wells.

Source: Sports Council for Wales (<http://www.activeplacescymru.org.uk/View/en/Index.aspx>)

4.8.4 Powys has one outdoor education centre at Staylitttle near Llanidloes this centre has access to the Clywedog Reservoir. Activities offered from the centre include sailing, canoeing, kayaking, walking. The accommodation itself sleeps up to 50 in bedrooms with a lounge area, drying room, activity room, dining room and fully equipped kitchen. The centre run various types of outdoor learning courses mainly for Powys schools and youth groups covering high adventure, Duke of Edinburgh, environmental and youth and adult development training.

4.8.5 Educational services are being reviewed across the County. Although the two are separate processes thirteen of the fifteen leisure centres are associated with the high schools. All of the leisure centres in Powys have a working arrangement with the schools whereby specific physical activities such as swimming are booked out for educational purposes during term time.

Further opportunities are provided for children and teenagers through schemes such as the Free Swimming programme for under 17's, Youth Exercise Program, the 5 X 60 scheme and Dragon Sports.

4.8.6 The current movement is for the services provided by the Leisure Centres to put more of an emphasis on health rather than leisure. This change in focus helps in tackling the nationally recognised issues of a growing elderly population and childhood obesity.

4.8.7 In connection with the emphasis on health six of the leisure centres (plus The Welfare Arts and Community Centre in Ystradgynlais) offer Phase 3 and 4, Community Based Cardiac Rehabilitation. The scheme includes individual consultations, activity sessions and health education sessions for people in the later stages of recovery from a heart problem.

4.8.8 All leisure centres in the county run the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS). The scheme is designed to help inactive adults who are at risk of poor health or have a pre-existing condition to become more active. Participants in the scheme receive individual consultations and access to a 16 week activity program. It is open to people suffering from certain medical conditions such as, arthritis, high blood pressure, raised cholesterol, depression, diabetes and obesity following a GP referral.

4.8.9 For people in the county aged 50 and over Powys County Council operates the AAA scheme - Get Active, Stay Active, Be Active. Whilst those residents in Powys that are on benefits such as Long Term Incapacity Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Job Seekers Allowance or are Registered Disabled are entitled to an ATF card which gives free access to the Fitness Suite and Swimming Pool during public sessions.

4.8.10 From above it can be seen that the leisure centres in Powys provide a number of different services. This includes providing a level of healthcare, providing the resources for schools to carry out some of the physical education needs of the curriculum and the provision of recreational activities for the public. These competing demands have to be carefully managed to ensure everyone's needs are met.

4.8.11 The biggest issue facing the leisure centres in Powys is that to keep the buildings running capital needs to be reinvested. All of the buildings run at a loss and the funding being received towards specific schemes from the Welsh Government is being capped or reduced.

4.8.12 The key challenges to be addressed to transform and ultimately sustain the council's leisure service are to:

- Reduce the level of revenue cost and subsidy
- Ensure that it is affordable to maintain the buildings
- Provide local solutions for local people in diverse communities
- Maintain / improve levels of service to customers

4.8.13 Therefore Powys County Council took a decision to agree to the procurement of a suitable leisure operator / partner to manage and deliver Leisure Services in Powys. This will reduce the need to decommission the number of centres required to meet the increasing financial pressures. However the affordability of the existing infrastructure is in question due to a backlog of maintenance, repair and replacement issues amounting to at least £600k (required annually). It is anticipated that a preferred bidder will be selected and leisure services transferred to a new operator by summer 2015.

4.8.14 It is therefore pertinent that the LDP has policies that will allow for the modernisation of this service area. This has been considered in the writing of policy DM1 (part 5) where such services are protected unless alternative provision can be found or the continued use is no longer viable.

4.9 Arts and Culture Facilities

4.9.1 Museums

4.9.2 Powys County Council through its Museum Service collects and cares for the material culture of Powys. It recognises and promotes a variety of collections that demonstrate the regional distinctiveness and cultural diversity of the county. This assists in raising the public's awareness and understanding of Powys' heritage.

4.9.3 The main aims of the Museum Service are:-

- to collect and care for the material culture of Powys according to recognised national standards and to interpret and exhibit the material culture of Powys for the benefit of local communities and visitors;
- to provide resources for people of all ages and abilities engaged in formal and informal learning, taking into account a full range of accessibility requirements;
- to develop the role of and improve the museums as a regeneration driver in accordance with Council economic, social and environmental priorities,
- recognising the opportunities presented by their location within historic buildings to attract visitors into Powys and to help create a sense of place and cultural identity;
- to provide a network of professional support to assist in the development of quality independent museums in Powys.

4.9.4 Within Powys, the Museum Service delivers three regional shire-based museums in Welshpool, Llandrindod Wells and Brecon – plus a local museum in Llanidloes and a specialist museum in Newtown. In addition to these, the Judges Lodgings in Presteigne is leased to and operated by an independent charitable trust. See Table Below:

Museum	Services provided
<p>Brecknock Museum (Shire Hall)</p> <p>This is the regional museum for Brecknockshire.</p> <p>(In the BBNP but covers wider area)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent display and interpretation of the regions' archaeological, historical, geological, cultural, social and natural history artefacts. - Temporary exhibition programme. - Recreation of an 1830's Victorian Assize Court. - Collections care and management. - Research facilities and service for the public, students and academics
<p>Radnorshire Museum (Llandrindod Wells)</p> <p>This is the regional museum for museum for Radnorshire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent display and interpretation of the regions' archaeological, paleontological, geological, cultural, social & natural history artefacts - Temporary exhibition programme - Collections care and management - Research facilities and service for the public, students and academics

Presteigne Old Shire Hall / Judges Lodgings Presteigne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restored and recreated 1860's judges apartments - Conserved, original courtroom - Exhibitions on law & order and Presteigne - Events programme - Education and access programme - Audio Tour - TIC
Newtown Textile Museum Newtown	<p>A typical early nineteenth century weaving shop with associated displays that illustrate the town's history as the early centre of the woollen industry in Wales.</p>
Powysland Canal Side Museum Welshpool This is the regional museum for Montgomeryshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent display and interpretation of the regions' archaeological, historical, geological, cultural, social and natural history artefacts. - Displays of material related to the canal. - Temporary exhibition programme. - Collections care and management - Enquiry service for the public, students and academics
Llanidloes Town Hall / Llanidloes Museum of Local History and Industry Llanidloes	<p>Permanent display and interpretation of social and natural history artefacts relating to Llanidloes ,particularly the local mining and woollen industries, and also material related to the Chartist Riots of 1839.</p>

Source: Service Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for Arts & Culture (2010)

Further privately owned museums include the Andrew Logan Museum (Berriew), The Old Bell Museum (Montgomery), the Robert Owen Museum (Newtown) and Rhayader Museum and Gallery (CARAD).

4.9.5 Arts

4.9.6 Powys County Council's Arts Service delivers a county-wide programme of Theatre in Education and Dance to schools, and also a varied programme of drama, dance and music activity (primarily with children and young people in community settings). An Arts Development Officer offers advice and information to arts and community organisations and also supports the development of creative businesses.

4.9.7 Theatres - There are four main professional theatres in the county and a number of others within reach of the county's borders; this ensures that the majority of the residents of Powys live within a 40 minute drive time of a professionally programmed and managed theatre.

- Theatr Brycheiniog (Brecon), Theatr Hafren (Newtown), Wyeside and the Market Theatre (Builth Wells) and the miners Welfare Hall (Ystradynlais) are the four main professional theatres other there are another four venues of note which include the Albert Hall (Llandrindod Wells).

4.9.8 There are also a number of community-based arts organisations which act as small scale venues; these include Mid Border Arts (Presteigne),

CARAD (Rhayader), The Living Willow Theatre (Rhayader) and Y Tabernacle (Machynlleth).

4.9.9 A thriving theatre sector is seen as a mark of a culturally enriched society, in Powys everyone should have an equal right to experience theatre in buildings of the highest quality (whether newly designed, purpose-built or converted). They are seen as valued community assets that help to appreciate our arts, culture and heritage.

4.9.10 It is recognised that demand for different types of community and cultural facilities will change over time but it is seen as important that these venues are retained to meet the future needs of residents and visitors. The policies for the safeguarding of existing community and cultural facilities will help to realise the potential for community use of existing buildings and encourage reuse of buildings when they become available.

4.9.11 Galleries – Powys hosts the Oriel Davies Gallery in Newtown which is developing an international profile, the Museum of Modern Art, Machynlleth and the Bleddfa Gallery near Knighton. In addition to this there are several museums offering art exhibitions and educational programmes most notably the Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery and the Andrew Logan Museum of Sculpture in Berriew.

4.10 Montgomery Canal

4.10.1 The Montgomery Canal presents many opportunities for tourism and recreation and possesses potential for related development. Whilst the canal connects to the national canal network through Shropshire, over 60% of its total length lies within Powys. The Welsh section of the canal is some 36 kilometres (22 miles) long and extends from the Welsh border at Llanymynech to Newtown. Major restoration work is required at a number of bridge locations and locks and dry sections in Shropshire will also have to be reinstated in order to return the canal to a navigable condition over its entire length.

4.10.2 Despite the Montgomery Canal not being fully navigable it is still an important leisure asset to Powys. Trail boats offering short trips along the canal and canoeists are frequent sights. In addition to this a large proportion of the tow path has now been surfaced, this has opened up the walking and cycling opportunities available in the north of the County.

4.10.3 The Montgomery Canal is valued for a number of assets that include its natural and historic heritage and its importance for tourism. Reference is made to these assets in the relevant topic papers. The potential restoration of the canal would open up opportunities for boaters to access the wider network of inland waterways further reference to this is given in the tourism topic paper. The LDP includes a policy to enable the restoration of the canal whilst also providing for its protection.

4.10.4 Potential issues that need to be taken into consideration regarding the Montgomery Canal include cross border working with Shropshire;

regeneration initiatives, and the importance of the canal for its variety of assets including built heritage and as a Special Area of Conservation reflecting its international importance for biodiversity.

5. Data / Information Gaps

5.1.1 Very little information is currently recorded by the development management section. This makes it difficult to determine the success of the policies currently in use in the Unitary Development Plan.

5.1.2 The data on allotment waiting lists is patchy this makes it difficult to identify areas of need.

6. Issues

Below are the issues that have emerged throughout this topic paper.

6.1. Changing Demographics

6.1.1 Improvements in health over the last century mean that people are living longer. Life expectancy is currently 79 years for men and 83 years for women. Wales has a higher concentration of older people than the rest of the United Kingdom. Over the next 20 years demographic changes will significantly change the balance of the population in Wales. It is projected that in Powys by 2026, 32% of the population will be aged over 65. The current practice is to provide services that allow elderly people to remain living in their communities. *See key issue 19.*

6.1.2 Powys experiences a loss of population from those aged 18 to those in their early 20s. Reasons for the loss of population may include school leavers in search of further education, young people looking for employment opportunities and affordable housing. This is a problem for the leisure centres when trying to retain trained and experienced staff falling within this age bracket. *See key issue 20.*

6.2 Obesity

6.2.1 It is recognised that obesity levels in Wales are rising resulting in serious complications to people's health such as heart disease and type two diabetes. The Welsh Health Survey (2009 - 2012) found that one in three children in Wales (35% in Wales, 30% in Powys) were estimated to be overweight or obese (19% in Wales, 17% in Powys were obese). In addition to this it was found in the 2012 – 2013 survey that over half (58%) of the adults in Powys were overweight or obese (21% were obese). This has resulted in drivers such as the Welsh Government publishing a physical activity action plan – Creating an Active Wales and other initiatives such as the 5 x 60 scheme. *See key issue 25.*

6.4 Economic Climate

6.4.1 The current economic climate is resulting in ever increasing cuts in public spending. Many of the leisure and recreation facilities mentioned in this paper rely on some level of public funding. Cuts to this funding are having a threat to the service and require efficiencies to be made. This has led to the implementation of proposals to outsource leisure facilities within the county to a private provider; however this may have to include a reduction in the level of services and a change to how they are distributed.

Additionally the viability of developments needs to be taken into consideration before developer contributors through Section 106 obligations can be sought. This has been done in part by Policy H14 being considered in the viability assessment. The purpose of which was to make an assessment of the impact on development viability of the policies in the LDP to ensure that the level of affordable housing and other policy requirements are appropriate, and that the policies in the LDP imposed on developers do not generally render development unviable.

In the viability assessment it assumes that a certain amount (£2000 per house) will be required in Section 106 monies, this includes for the provision of open spaces as required in Policy H14. This amount was taken into account when looking at how much affordable housing would be considered as viable and has influenced the recommendations.

Policy DM3 in the LDP includes a provision for planning obligations to be sought for recreation and open space facilities. Within the supporting text of this policy it is stated that viability will be taken into account.
See key issue 1.

6.5 Climate Change

6.5.1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by minimising car use is a key action in tackling climate change. This means building in sustainable locations and ensuring that there are alternatives to car travel by providing walking and cycling opportunities. *See key issue 5.*

6.6 Open Space and Recreational facilities

6.6.1 Planning Policy Wales (July 2014) highlights that the planning system should ensure that it allocates adequate land and water resources for sport and recreation whilst taking needs into account and the current level of provision including deficiencies. It also states that the LDP should set out policies to provide for the protection of playing fields and open space of amenity value to communities. This relates to the Environment Strategy for Wales (2006) outcome for there to be easy, equitable access to ample high quality green space, and that of Creating an Active Wales (2009) where a priority is to increase the availability, access and the use of high quality local green space, waterways and the countryside. These areas have been mapped and provision assessed in the Open Space Assessment. *See key issue 26.*

6.7 Walking and Cycling

6.7.1 One of the outcomes from the Environment Strategy for Wales (2006) is that there is an increase in the number of people choosing to walk or cycle as a means of transport. This is further supported in Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013; this act has actions for all landuse and planning decisions to be assessed to ensure they have good access for walkers and cyclists and that planning authorities secure maximum provision for cycling and walking in new developments. There are a number of other plans relating to physical activity, healthy lifestyles and sustainable travel choices that highlight the importance of locating development in sustainable locations where car use can be minimised and the incorporation of safe and convenient pedestrian / cycle routes within communities. *See key issue 32.*

6.8 Public Rights of Way

6.8.1 TAN 16 states that public rights of way should be protected and that they should be taken into consideration when planning applications are being determined. It also says that along with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, LDPs should provide for the use, maintenance and enforcement of existing rights of way, including enhancements to natural history interest. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2007) highlights how development can have a negative impact if the rights of way network is not taken into consideration. *See key issues 10& 11.*

6.9 Play Provision

6.9.1 The Powys Play Strategy's vision is that *"All children and young people in Powys will be satisfied with: the amount of time they have for playing, the amount and quality of space they have available for playing. And that they are supported by the adults, communities and services around them which foster a positive attitude towards children and young people's play opportunities"*. This is supported by TAN 16 which states that it is vital for children and young people to be able to access areas that provide safe, secure opportunities to socialise and play; and now has to be considered, as a statutory duty under the Play Opportunities, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. All equipped play areas have been mapped and provision assessed in the Open Space Assessment

6.9.2 It has also been recognised that in Powys there are a significant number of children who are not able to play freely in the county's parks and open spaces. This is partially due to the risks perceived by parents in letting their children play outside. This conflicts with the evidence that risk taking and challenge have an especially important role in a child's play and development, together with playing freely, experiencing nature and exploring their local environment whilst interacting with friends. This means that there is an increasing interest in making sure that play provision within the county is sited in the most appropriate locations and promotes access to more natural and creative play than has been done previously. *See key issues 11& 26.*

6.10 Allotments

6.10.1 TAN 16 states that authorities should ensure that statutory allotments in the area are properly protected, promoted and managed and that they are sufficient to meet the demands of residents. Local authorities together with community councils have an obligation to provide allotments where there is sufficient demand. The provision of new dwellings at increased densities may act to increase this demand; consideration may need to be given in these situations for onsite provision. Where known allotment sites have been mapped in the Open Space Assessment and will afford protection through LDP policy DM1. *See key issue 27.*

6.11 Leisure Centres, Arts and Museums

6.11.1 The Powys LDP Policies are flexible enough for these services to respond to the altering demographics and changing economic situation. This may include the combining, relocation or downsizing of services where necessary, but promoting their protection where possible. *See key issues 33 & 34.*

7. Key Issues in the plan that relate to the issues identified in the Leisure and Recreation topic paper.

7.1 Economic Considerations

1. Powys has a wide economic base focussed on agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, the public sector, and services and supports a high number of SMEs with few large private sector companies. Challenges such as the global economy and constraints on public sector finance and European funding will have significant implications not only for these sectors but for the entire economy of Powys.
5. Sustainable travel to work opportunities should be promoted through the LDP co-locating employment, housing and public transport and supporting home-working.
10. Tourism is important to the Powys economy, although employment in the sector can often be seasonal and part-time. Visitors to Powys are drawn to the area for its outstanding scenery, heritage and recreational activities. Protecting these attractions and supporting a sustainable and year-round tourism sector is a must for the LDP.

7.2 Environmental Considerations

11. As a rural county, Powys' natural resources and ecosystems are important for carbon storage (soil and vegetation), renewable energy generation, food, materials, water, flood alleviation, recreation and amenity. The LDP must manage development carefully to protect these resources and reconcile competing demands.

7.3 Population and Housing Considerations

19. Powys has an ageing population and it is projected that 32% of the population will be aged over 65 by 2026. The needs of the oldest in the

population, such as access to services, public transport, and accommodation requirements must be taken into account.

20. Whilst the lack of a university within the county accounts for the large net outward migration of 18 to 20 year olds from the county, low wages, poor employment opportunities and high housing costs are considered to be the main reasons for outward migration of adults aged 21 to 30 from the county. Although there is a net gain from inward migration to the county of this age group, it needs to be higher if the size of workforce is to be sustained.
25. Obesity levels and related health problems are increasing amongst Powys' population. Development should be located and designed to enable and encourage active and healthy lifestyles.
26. Any shortfall in the provision of space and facilities for play, recreation and sport should be met wherever possible through development opportunities.
27. Allotments should be protected from development and further provision encouraged enabling more locally grown produce, community cohesion and healthy lifestyles.

7.4 Infrastructure and Resource Considerations

32. One of the challenges for the LDP, given the rural nature of Powys and its dispersed population, will be to direct development to accessible locations which ideally provide a choice of transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.
33. The LDP will need to direct development to locations that are best served by existing and potential infrastructure and services and to ensure that the location of development is co-ordinated with the review of public service provision.
34. The LDP will support the provision and retention of community facilities and seek contributions from development to provision where appropriate.

8. Objectives

The following objectives relating to this topic have been proposed for the LDP. They have been written to address the key issues listed in this topic paper above and those listed in some of the other topic papers.

LDP Objective 1 – Meeting Future Needs

To meet the needs arising in Powys over the plan period up to 2026, to provide adequate, appropriately located land for:

- i. 5,000 dwellings to meet all the housing needs of Powys' increasing and ageing population and its decreasing size of households, including open market and affordable housing, gypsy and traveller accommodation and other specialist housing needs.
 - ii. 49 hectares of employment and economic development uses.
 - iii. Retail, tourism, recreation, infrastructure, services and other needs.
- (Addresses key issues 19,20, 26, 27 and 33).*

LDP Objective 9 – Infrastructure and Services

To support the provision of infrastructure and services to meet the future needs of Powys' communities. *(Addresses key issues 5, 32, 33 and 34 whilst it cannot address key issue 1 it can support the flexibility to respond to the downturn in the global economy).*

LDP Objective 12 - Resources

To facilitate the sustainable management of Powys' natural and environmental resources whilst enabling development to take place including the contribution of 2.51 million tonnes of crushed rock aggregates to the South Wales supply per year. *(Addresses key issues 10 and 11).*

LDP Objective 14 – Healthy Lifestyles

To encourage active healthy lifestyles by enabling access to open spaces, areas for recreation and amenity including allotments or growing spaces, and to ensure development provides opportunities for walking, cycling, open and play spaces where required. *(Addresses key issues 5 10, 11,25,26,27 and 32).*

9. Policies

The Policies below are what have been included in the draft deposit plan that support and aim to achieve the objectives above. Most of these policies cover a wide range of issues and objectives not just those in this topic paper, additionally some of the policies have not been repeated in their entirety please see the Deposit Plan for the full policy. Furthermore the deposit LDP contains supporting text which in most cases is covered in this and other topic papers (where relevant) so has not been repeated here.

Policy DM1 - Strategic Planning Matters

All proposals for development must not compromise, or unacceptably adversely affect, either on their own or in combination with existing or approved development, the following:

- 1. The integrity, role or objectives of a settlement as defined by the LDP's Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy or lead to unacceptable detrimental pressure on existing community facilities, public service provision or infrastructure.**

- 4. An existing area of Open Space, complete or in part, as identified in the Open Space Assessment, unless it can be demonstrated that:**
 - i. There is an excess of such provision in the area; and**
 - ii. There is no longer a requirement for that type of open space in the area, and**

- iii. The site would not be suitable to provide an alternative type of Open Space for which there is a shortfall; and
 - iv. The site is not of value for other benefits including biodiversity, landscape, amenity value and drainage; or It can be demonstrated that alternative provision can be made available that is of enhanced or equivalent community benefit in terms of its size, characteristics, location and accessibility.
5. An existing community or indoor recreation facility unless it can be demonstrated that:
- i. Appropriate alternative provision is to be made available or the potential for continued use is no longer viable; and
 - ii. Alternative solutions to support the long term use of the facility for the community have been adequately explored.
7. Important material assets and their operation including:
- i. Strategic infrastructure including:
 - a. Transport and safeguarded routes.
 - b. Reservoirs and water supplies.
 - c. Sennybridge Training Area.
 - ii. Important tourism assets and visitor attractions
 - a. National Cycle Network routes.
 - b. National Trails.
 - c. Local Trails and public rights of way.
 - d. Montgomery canal.
 - e. Open access land and common land.
 - f. Royal Welsh Agricultural showground.
 - iii. Potential future routes along linear features such as former railway lines.
9. The natural environment, integrity or conservation objectives of:
- i. European Protected Sites / Habitats (Natura 2000 sites).
 - ii. Local Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats.
 - iii. Wildlife Trust Reserves.
 - iv. Local Wildlife Sites.
 - v. Sites Importance for Nature Conservation.
 - vi. Local Nature Reserves.
 - vii. Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
 - viii. Regionally Important Geological Sites.
 - ix. Important carbon stores
 - x. Best and most versatile Agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a).

(Objectives: 12 and 14)

Policy DM2 – Detailed and Site Specific Planning Matters

In addition to the requirements set out in National Guidance, all proposals for development will be permitted where they comply with the following:

- 8. Proposals must meet highway access requirements and vehicular parking standards. Proposals must incorporate the access needs of all transport users, especially pedestrians and cyclists and those with disabilities or mobility impairment.**

- 13. The design, layout size, scale, mass and materials of the development shall complement and where possible enhance the character of the surrounding area and support community safety and crime prevention. Adequate amenity and / or open space shall be provided.**

(Objectives: 1, 9 and 14)

Policy DM3 – Planning Obligations

Planning obligations will be sought by agreement with applicants, where necessary, to ensure that:

- 1. The development provides for adequate infrastructure necessary to serve the proposal, and that satisfactory maintenance arrangements are achieved;**
- 2. Benefits in the public interest are secured where these are relevant and reasonably related to the proposal, and required to enable it to proceed.**

(Objectives: 1, 9 and 14)

From April 2015, councils will be unable to pool S106 and S278 contributions from more than five developments. This restriction is to encourage councils to adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – particularly where there are items of infrastructure to be delivered that will relate to multiple sites. In theory the restriction on pooling may have the effect of bringing S106 tariff policies for items like open space to an end.

Therefore it is important to note that for councils that adopt CIL they will still be able to raise additional S106 funds for infrastructure, provided this infrastructure can be directly linked to the site-specific needs associated with the scheme in question, and that it is not for infrastructure specifically identified to be funded by CIL, through the ‘Regulation 123’ (*Powys County Council – LDP and CIL Viability Assessment October 2014*).

The Council will consider introducing a CIL following adoption of the LDP.

Policy T1 – Transport Infrastructure

Transport infrastructure and traffic management improvements will be permitted where they:

1. Improve safety of transport users.
2. Reduce traffic congestion and/or improve the local environment.
3. Reduce demand for travel by private transport.
4. Provide, promote and improve sustainable forms of travel.

(Objectives: 1, 9 and 14)

Policy H14 - Open Space Provision in Housing Development

Housing development proposals for ten dwellings or more shall include provision for open space:

1. The type of open space required should be determined by the deficiencies identified in the Open Space Assessment for that area and may be provided on or off site depending on what is considered most appropriate.
2. Arrangements must be in place for the long term aftercare and maintenance of the open space.
3. In some instances it may be more appropriate for developer contributions of the equivalent value to be paid for the improvement of existing provision.

(Objectives: 1 and 14)

Policy C1 – Community Facilities and Indoor Recreation Facilities

Proposals for community or indoor recreation facilities will be permitted where:

1. Proposals are within or adjoining a settlement identified in the strategic settlement hierarchy;
2. No suitable facility exists nearby which could appropriately accommodate the proposed use; and
3. The feasibility of multi-use has been considered.

(Objectives: 1, 9 and 14)

10. Additional Policy in Planning Policy Wales

Within Planning Policy Wales, Edition 7 (July 2014) the following paragraphs contain statements of national development control policy that relate to this topic paper which should not need to be repeated as local policy in the LDP:

<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Policy Issue</i>
5.5.17	Towns and village greens
5.5.18	Allotments
11.1.8	Maintenance and accessibility of areas and facilities
11.1.8	Provision of green routes and rights of way
11.1.9	Provision on previously-developed land; re-use of buildings
11.1.11	Protection of open spaces
11.1.12	Protection of playing fields
11.1.13	Protection of Rights of Way
11.3.1.-11.3.3	Recreational and tourist development control considerations
11.1.8	Provision of green routes and rights of way

11. Monitoring

Below are the Annual Monitoring Indicators that link to this topic. Generally the indicators are looking for there to be the required amount of Open Space for each settlement. This needs to be done with reference to the Open Space Assessment which has identified deficiencies for each of the different typologies. In many cases this will need to be done with S106 obligations received through policy H14. However it is also important that Open Spaces are not lost without good justification as in policy DM1.

Topic & Reference	Open Space – AMR 6
LDP Objective	14 - Healthy Lifestyles
Target	For each settlement to have the required amount of each of the open space typologies identified in the Open Space Assessment.
Policies	DM1, H14
Local Indicator	Amount of open space in each typology per settlement against agreed standards.
Source	Planning Applications informing Open Space Assessment
Triggers and Actions	No overall increase in the amount of open space as required through the Open Space Assessment, proportionate to the amount of development that has taken place per settlement – Investigation / internal audit and recommendations. An overall loss below what is required through the standards set out in the Open Space Assessment – Consider policy review and modification.

Topic & Reference	Greenfield Sites / Loss of Open Space – AMR 7
LDP Objective	14 - Healthy Lifestyles
Target	For the amount of development, that is not taking place on allocated sites, to result in a minimal loss of greenfield land and open space.
Policies	DM1, H14
Core Indicator	Amount of greenfield and open space lost to development (ha) which is not allocated in the development plan.
Source	Planning Applications and Sustainable Development Indicators.
Triggers and Actions	More than 10% of development , not on an allocated site, takes place on greenfield land or results in a loss of open space – Investigation / internal audit and recommendations. More than 20% of development, not on an allocated site, takes place on greenfield land or results in a loss of open space – Consider policy review and modification.

Topic & Reference	Planning Obligations – AMR 11
LDP Objective	1 – Meeting Future Needs 2 – Sustainable Settlements and Communities 8 – Regeneration 9 – Infrastructure and Services
Target	Amount of planning gain achieved.
Policies	DM3
Local Indicator	Total amount of developer contributions (£) received for/towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transport infrastructure or improvements b. Utility infrastructure c. Affordable Housing provision d. Community facilities e. Health facilities f. Recreation and open space facilities g. Education/Welsh Language
Source	Development Management/ Section 106 monitoring officer Information
Triggers and Actions	Monitoring for information and to ensure S106 contributions aren't pooled more than 4 times.

12. Differences between UDP and LDP Policies

Table of review of existing UDP policies

UDP Policies	Comments	LDP Approach
RL1. Protection of Existing Outdoor Playing Space	Specific just for the protection of outdoor playing space with significant recreational / landscape/ amenity value.	Included within LDP policy DM1 part 4. Outdoor playing space is included within the Open Space definitions and typologies as listed in the Open Space Assessment.
RL2. Provision of Outdoor Playing and Recreation Space	For housing developments of over 10 dwellings to provide for outdoor playing and recreation areas. Together with a requirement for all housing proposals to incorporate an area for passive informal recreation.	Policy H14 includes for open space provision to be provided for developments of more than 10 dwellings. Whereas policy DM 2 part 13 places a requirement for all developments to incorporate adequate amenity / open space.
RL3. Leisure, Recreation and Arts Facilities	For the development or extension of new leisure, recreation and arts facilities.	Most of the factors within this policy are included within general policies DM1 and DM2. However further detail is given in Policy C1.

RL4. Outdoor Activity and Pony Trekking Centres	For the development of new outdoor activity and pony trekking centres.	Most of the factors are included within general policies DM1 and DM2. Any proposals for the reuse of building in the open countryside need to refer to national policy in PPW, TAN 6 and TAN 23.
RL5. Golf	For the development of new outdoor activity and pony trekking centres.	Most of the factors are included within general policies DM1 and DM2. Any proposals for the reuse of building in the open countryside need to refer to national policy in PPW, TAN 6 and TAN 23.
RL6. Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside	Proposals to improve access and enjoyment of the countryside to be encouraged.	Specific policy not required. All applications need to be assessed against policies DM1 and DM2 to assess impact on any protected sites and site specific and detailed planning matters. General favour in support of this type of development in line with PPW and TAN 16.
RL7. Long Distance Rights of Way.	Proposals for development of recreational facilities in association with national trails. Refers to picnic areas, information boards and car parking.	Specific policy not required. All applications need to be assessed against policies DM1 and DM2 to assess impact on any protected sites and site specific and detailed planning matters. General favour in support of this type of development in line with PPW and TAN 16.
RL8. Water Based Recreation	Proposals for the use of lakes, reservoirs and rivers for water based recreation and associated facilities.	Specific policy not required. All applications need to be assessed against policies DM1 and DM2 to assess impact on any protected sites and site specific and detailed planning matters. General favour in support of this type of development in line with PPW and TAN 16.
RL9. The Safeguarding of Allotments	Protection of allotments.	Included within LDP policy DM1 part 4. Allotments are included within the Open Space definitions and typologies as listed in the Open Space Assessment.

13. Table of Involvement

Person Organisation Contacted.	Method	Reason	Outcome
Countryside Services Manager	Meeting	To discuss rights of way, and data for the open space assessment.	Highlighted data required from countryside services.
Cycling Officer	Meeting	Discussed the cycle network how it fits in with the open space assessment. Data required. Issues.	Highlighted data required from Anthea.
Manager Outdoor Recreation	Meeting	Discussed Allotments and council owned land that will be included in the open space assessment, should all be found in asset register. Issues.	Agreed to go back to Chris when specific issues arise. (Will now need to be Stuart Macintosh).
Senior Corporate GIS Officer	Meeting	Discussed GIS data sources for the open space assessment. How to measure accessibility.	Following discussions with Karen Smith, permissions granted to view asset register on GIS.
Commons Registration Officer	Meeting	Discussed Common land and Village Greens.	Given information on common land and village greens in relation to planning.
Strategic Play Co-ordinator	Meeting	Discussed Play Areas and the Play Strategy.	Given information on play areas - design and play audit.
Leisure and Recreation Team Meeting	Meeting	To discuss the LDP process and Leisure Services involvement in the process.	Given a list of individuals to contact.
Leisure Services Manager (North)	Meeting	To discuss leisure centres in the county services they provide and issues.	Given information on services provided to follow up with individuals.
Jenny Haynes	Meeting	To discuss the leisure and recreation strategy.	Discussed relationship between the two strategies.
LDP Working Group 13.10.2011	Meeting	Approval before consultation	Approved
Consultation to all interested parties 21.10.2011	Email	To obtain comments on the draft topic paper	Feedback given and amendments made to the document as necessary.

Feedback from the consultation exercise in October 2011 has influenced the content of this paper and following the consultation exercise subsequent discussion with stakeholders has taken place on an individual basis to further inform and update the paper.