

LISKEARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

OPEN SPACES AND LEISURE

DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACE AND LEISURE FOR LISKEARD

We define **open space** to include all the categories of publicly accessible open areas in the parish as set out at Appendix 1. These conform to the definitions in Cornwall Council's *Open Space Strategy for Larger Towns in Cornwall*, published in 2014¹.

We define **leisure** as people's active or passive participation in play, pastimes and hobbies, sport, physical exercise, the arts, film, the natural environment, heritage and personal development (adult education). This is in line with the inclusive approach of HM Government² and goes beyond Cornwall Council's current strategy with its primary focus on leisure centres and sporting facilities³.

Some - but by no means all - leisure activity can take place in open spaces, where quality and access are shared objectives.

A list and map of existing public spaces and leisure facilities in Liskeard is provided at Appendix 2.

VISION FOR OPEN SPACE AND LEISURE IN LISKEARD

Our vision is of a town that has better access to more open spaces and leisure facilities of high quality close to where people live, because they are vital to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of everyone in Liskeard.

¹ *Open Space Strategy for Larger Towns in Cornwall* July 2014: Appendix 1
<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/8104587/open-space-strategy-cornwall-towns-2014.pdf>

² *Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport*. DCMS Jan-Dec 2010 Statistical Release
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/77449/Taking_Part_Y6_Q3_Jan-Dec10.pdf

³ *Leisure Resources Strategy* Cornwall Council 2014
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/10009089/leisure-resources-strategy-2014-web.pdf>

OBJECTIVES⁴

1 Good for all

- 1.1 Liskeard will conserve existing open spaces and leisure facilities and exploit opportunities⁵ for improving quality and access.
- 1.2 A high standard for new open spaces and leisure facilities suitable for all will be met in future developments.
- 1.3 Open spaces and leisure facilities will be well managed for the key role they play in the social fabric of the town, where people enjoy a range of formal and informal interactions.
- 1.4 Open spaces and leisure facilities in the town will be celebrated for creating a positive sense of place as a tangible part of Liskeard's identity.
- 1.5 Existing play areas will be improved so that children of all abilities can be stimulated and play in safety.
- 1.6 The rights of access for people of all abilities to open spaces and leisure facilities will be championed in their design and management.
- 1.7 Loss of or removal of public access to open spaces or leisure facilities will not be permitted unless a better alternative is provided.

2 Good for health

- 2.1 Access to high quality, well-maintained public spaces and leisure facilities are needed for the contribution they make to all aspects of everyone's health and wellbeing.

3 Good for business

- 3.1 Liskeard's open spaces and leisure facilities are worthy of sustained investment for the important role they play in attracting people to live, work and visit the town.

⁴ Some useful ideas, albeit ten years old, are set out in the Design Council's *The Value of Public Space*, 2005, which can be accessed at <https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/the-value-of-public-space.pdf>

⁵ For example through Section 106 agreements negotiated with developers to provide improved or new facilities for the town https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7770/151363.pdf

4 Good for nature

- 4.1 Open spaces will be designed and managed to improve biodiversity, because greening the town benefits everyone in Liskeard.
- 4.2 Areas of natural and semi-natural woodland in the town will be designated for improved access and management when the opportunity arises.
- 4.3 Soft landscaping will be incorporated in open space design to mitigate the impact of heavy or sustained rainfall, particularly important in a town characterised by steep hills.

5 Good for safety

- 5.1 The design and management of open spaces must ensure a safe environment for people of any age or ability.
- 5.2 Design and provision of signage and bins must be sufficient to ensure a healthy environment in open spaces that are shared with dogs.

6 Good to come and go

- 6.1 Liskeard's open space design will be improved to meet and reconcile the needs of people moving around and through the town on foot, by bicycle or vehicle.
- 6.2 The concept of 'shared space'⁶ will be explored, tested and introduced in Liskeard, so that people can reclaim the town, particularly in Barras Street – The Parade.
- 6.3 Attractive and safe links for pedestrians from major housing areas to the town centre, schools and other facilities will form part of any new development.

Shared space is defined (2011) by the UK Department for Transport as "*a design approach that seeks to change the way streets operate by reducing the dominance of motor vehicles, primarily through lower speeds and encouraging drivers to behave more accommodatingly towards pedestrians.*"

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3873/ltn-1-11.pdf

- 6.4 In any new development, the importance of Liskeard's open spaces for their visual links to important landmarks will be safeguarded.
- 6.5 Well placed and maintained green 'people corridors' also serve as wildlife corridors, be it along new or ancient lanes or roadside verges and cycle-ways.
- 6.6 Design of open space will support and integrate safe, accessible circular walks connecting the town centre with the surrounding countryside.

Appendix 1

DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACE

In Liskeard's Neighbourhood Plan, our definition of open space includes:

- **Parks and gardens:** formally maintained and may include play areas and seating
- **Amenity green space:** informal recreation areas, not natural, managed around housing and public buildings
- **Civic spaces:** spaces within the town centre, with hard landscaping for pedestrian use
- **Natural and semi-natural green spaces:** managed for nature conservation as well as public access
- **Green corridors:** rights of way along footpaths, bridleways, cycle ways, etc. connecting across town and to the surrounding countryside
- **Accessible countryside within parish fringe:** land not in public ownership where there is a tradition of permitted public access
- **Sports grounds and facilities:** in either public or private ownership with some degree of community use
- **Children's play area:** designated areas with equipment designed for children's play
- **Provision for teenagers:** multi-use games areas for young people, including skate-board parks
- **Allotments:** in either local authority or private ownership
- **Cemeteries and graveyards**
- **School pitches and out-door sports club facilities:** playing fields and club bowling greens with limited or no public use

EXISTING OPEN SPACES AND LEISURE FACILITIES IN LISKEARD

Need to decide how best to present the information (David/group). Taking the integrated approach might be feasible to plot everything on a map of the parish, with two keys:

- *one key for **open spaces** (David has started this with numbers 1-37, each to be given a name, as audited by the team).*
- *a second key for **leisure facilities**, perhaps lettered A-L? To start that ball rolling, here's a list of leisure facilities (Jenny has provided a detailed audit of technical facilities provided in some of the following as performance venues):*

A **Stuart House**, Barras Street

Exhibitions and talks on art, photography and local heritage, community history archive, concerts, art tuition, meeting place for local hobby groups.

Owned and maintained by independent charity, run entirely by volunteers.

B **Public library**, Barras Street

Full range of functions provided by a local library service, book lending, reference, local history archive.

Owned and maintained by Cornwall Council. Paid professional staff.

C **Town Museum**, Pike Street

Collections, exhibitions and talks on local history.

Owned and run by Town Council. Accredited by ACE. Paid curator assisted by volunteers.

D **Liskerrett Community Centre**, Varley Lane

Multi-purpose centre for local community: all ages from young children to elderly. Range of activities includes dance, aikido, theatre, music and film.

Owned and maintained by independent charity. P/t paid staff and volunteers.

E **Liskeard Public Hall**, West Street

Concerts, craft fairs, art exhibitions, lectures.

Owned and maintained by Liskeard Town Council. Paid staff for facility; events largely volunteer run.

F **Laity House**, Higher Lux Street

Adult education – range of courses provided.

Owned and maintained by Cornwall Council. Courses led by p/t paid subject specialists.

- G **Liskeard Wesley Methodist Church**, Barn Street
Concerts and rehearsal space for choir and Liskeard Silver Band.
Owned and maintained by Methodist Church.
- H **Liskeard Silver Band Hall**, Barn Street
(Omit from list – currently up for sale?)
- I **St Martins Church**
Concerts and rehearsal space.
Owned and maintained by Church Commissioners, C of E.
- J **Liskeard School & Community College**, Luxstowe
Hall available for hire for rehearsals and meetings.
Part of Liskeard Community Co-operative Learning Trust.
- K **Barley Sheaf**, Church Street
Live music: folk and jazz, Thursday and Saturday nights. Beer
festival.
Privately owned and run.
- L **Lux Park Leisure Centre**
Indoor facilities for swimming, badminton, football, netball,
basketball, cricket, squash, indoor bowls; fitness suites; outside all-
weather astroturf pitch for hockey and football.
Managed by independent charity, Tempus Leisure. Paid professional
staff.