

# Open spaces and leisure strategy

## Introduction

This section sets out our strategy for our opens spaces, parks and natural green spaces and for leisure and recreation in our town.

***Our vision is that Liskeard will be a place that promotes the health and wellbeing of all its community by protecting, conserving and enhancing its green spaces, connectivity, and leisure facilities.***

## Objectives

The objectives of the Open Space and Leisure plan strategy are to:

### Green spaces

- protect/conserve and enhance existing green spaces within the town for the benefit and good health of all ages with particular emphasis on children's play and adult relaxation
- enhance access to the town centre for pedestrians through use of shared surfaces (e.g. the Parade)
- encourage the creation of new green spaces (formal and informal) through conditions applied to planning approvals
- protect the character of the surrounding countryside and facilitate safe access to walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and others by designation of footpaths, bridleways, trails, quiet lanes and green corridors
- conserve and enhance designated landscapes, heritage assets and areas of local significance, including Local Plan objectives relating to the World Heritage Mining area

### Leisure

- support the enhancement of community leisure facilities in and around the town through protection of existing sites, and allocation of land for additional ones
- encourage greater access to formal sports facilities through multi-functional use of existing pitches/spaces and developer led provision of additional space
- promote Liskeard as a destination for locals and visitors through well publicised walks, trails, and formal leisure facilities, and so promoting football and leisure businesses in and around the town

## Evidence base

<p>National Policy: NPPF: DCLG 2012</p>	<p>(section 11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment - looks at protecting valued landscapes, areas of tranquility, and impact of light pollution: section 8 Promoting healthy communities considers the importance of access to high quality open spaces and the protection of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land)                  Local green space                  Para 76: Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.</p>
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Adopted Local plan: Caradon Local Plan first alteration – August 2007 (First alteration 2013)	Until a Local Plan for Cornwall is prepared, the statutory development plan for the Caradon District at 31st March 2009 remains the Caradon Local Plan First Alteration (adopted in August 2007) . This contains a combination of policies that were adopted in August 2007 including a housing chapter, employment land allocations and retail policies; and "saved" policies from the local plan that were adopted in December 1999. Due to the weight of saved policies, material considerations (particularly national and regional planning guidance that has emerged since December 1999) are likely to have significant weight in decisions where saved policies are used. The weight will vary with the degree to which the Policy is still relevant in terms of evidence and <u>National Policy</u> . saved policies EV6: Open Areas of Local Significance in Towns & Villages CL 9 protection of AGLV to North & LISK 5 Bay Tree Hill improvements) ALT 15, land for open recreational use – St Cleer Rd
Draft Cornwall Local Plan 2010 -2030	(especially PP15 – 1(d): 'retention and enhancement of heritage assets with physical linkages between Liskeard and the Cornwall and Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site' ; Objective 5 – improve and maintain leisure facilities; Policy 17 - Health and wellbeing; Policy 22 – landscape value; Policy 23 – Natural environment – respecting landscape character, dark skies & tranquility and ref to AGLV's; Policy 24 – looks at conserving and enhancing heritage assets and their settings, including historic landscapes & World Heritage Sites; Policy 25 – green infrastructure; Policy 27 – Transport and accessibility – includes info on sustainable & safe cycle and pedestrian routes as well as public transport)
A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Cornwall 2012	
Open Space strategy for larger towns in Cornwall – Cornwall Council July 2014	(open space definitions plus assessment of provision and proposed requirement)
Liskeard Conservation Area Character Appraisal & Management Plan (consultation draft) 2012	(acknowledges the towns unique topography, historic buildings and attractive setting in its surrounding landscape. It recommends tree-planting to further enhance the centre, and improvement to the Bay Tree Hill area)
Connecting Cornwall 2030 – Implementation Plan 2013-2019 CC 2013 – linked to Liskeard transport strategy	(Lead agency is CC - £1.5million – for implementing town-wide walking and cycling network, to encourage modal shift & healthy active lifestyles)
Liskeard Town Council open space audit and policy – January 2014	
Liskeard Town Framework CC (draft) 2011/12	(one of the primary aims in this document is to 'improve local walking and cycling links at Morrisons roundabout and throughout the town'. In addition the Green Infrastructure Strategy advises protection and enhancement of green corridors such as Lake Lane and disused Caradon Hill railway line)
Planning Future Cornwall – growth factors Liskeard & Looe CNA CC 2013	('studies are required on the Liskeard & Looe town streetscape, links to World Heritage site, conservation areas, historic landscape character reviews, highway heritage assets and Cornish character')
Liskeard and Looe Historic Environment data sheets CC 2011	(comments on Liskeard's setting 'on its hilltop overlooking wide tranches of landscape as an important characteristic' – document mentions missing evidence, threats and proposed projects e.g. 'threats to landscape setting and development on skyline around the outer limits'; historic

	landscape characterisation required)	
Liskeard Community Strategic Plan 2008	(highlighted issues around safe cycling and walking, protection and enhancement of green spaces, desire to connect town to World Heritage site and promote this as part of Liskeard's identity to enhance economic prosperity. Also, similarly to current Liskeard Consultation the community had a strong wish for better family entertainment and leisure activities)	Strengths Weaknesses
Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan Community Consultation and Engagement 2014	close to countryside / rural setting easy access to countryside Walkers are welcome status World Heritage Site nearby designated heritage trail - "Caradon Trail"	lack of play equipment (swings) or safe areas for natural play lack of family entertainment and leisure activities – responses summarized by University of Plymouth report Dec 2014 wet weather play areas
Liskeard Neighbourhood Plan Open Space and Leisure Working Group – Spring 2015	plinth circular walks from town between moor and coast AGLY on doorstep interesting topography / good vistas Looe Valley line + main rail line + national buses sports clubs and leisure centre cultural facilities e.g. museum / Liskerrett Centre Stuart house / library	lack of teenage facilities family entertainment e.g. restaurant, cinema litter / dogs / seagulls stakeholder consultation event on enhancing green spaces and sixth form consultation at Liskeard School; lux park leisure centre interviews and feedback Assessment of performance venues in Liskeard
CRCC policy assessment document – January 2015	sense of community (highlights need to safeguard Caradon Local Plan policy ALT 15, land for open recreational use – St Cleer Rd)	
	Opportunities	Threats
	<p>Improve connectivity</p> <p>transport plan for new developments</p> <p>cycle-ways</p> <p>community bus</p> <p>s 106 / CIL funding</p> <p>new developments to enhance / fund green spaces</p> <p>innovative play equipment</p> <p>outdoor / green gym</p> <p>cattle market site – culture / leisure</p> <p>market our culture and leisure facilities better</p> <p>more allotments/community gardens/street trees</p> <p>quiet lane status</p> <p>living streets</p>	<p>unfettered development</p> <p>housing on edge of town affecting skyline views and landscape</p> <p>housing taking green space / quality farmland or allotments</p> <p>lack of S106 funding from developments</p> <p>complacency about what we have</p>

### Other guidance

- CPRE's Guide to Quiet Lanes, 2003
- Open space strategies: best practice guidance, CABE 2009
- Sports facility need assessment, Sport England, 2014

## Analysis and audit

Having carried out both a desktop analysis of the evidence and a site audit, it was clear that there are some fundamental weaknesses in both quantity of provision of open space and quality and diversity of open space. There are also low provision of play for all ages and no natural play provision.

Consultation results from community surveys also showed key areas of concern about provision of play for young children, activity or entertainment facilities for teenagers, and provision of sports pitches.

### SWOT analysis

## Site audit results

### Key issues we want to address

**Park quality:** our audit found many of our parks lacking in the area of cultural resonance, provision of facilities for all ages such as places to sit and relax, imaginative planting or natural habitats that encourage wildlife. Parks are generally well kept with grass cut and litter usually collected. This is the minimum we would expect of public services where funds are tight, though at times the lack of attention to development of our parks means little investment when situations change.

Informal open space quality and usability

Access to and links to open space

Play quality and provision

Sport and leisure facilities quality

Leisure and cultural facilities provision and quality

Better civic spaces

## Opportunities

### *Pedestrian and cycle network*

Establish an enhanced network of paths and cycleways (& crossings) to improve connectivity between neighbourhoods and facilities around the town & its hinterland, as a central part of a sustainable transport policy which values health, safety & leisure.

Protect the official waymarked Caradon Trail as a physical link between Liskeard and the World Heritage mining site, by establishing quiet lane or similar status, enhancing both the safety & tranquility of this popular green corridor. Build on this & other new and planned cycling/walking routes, along with the town's 'walkers are welcome' status to boost footfall & the leisure economy.

Provide for a new round Liskeard trail that utilises the quiet lanes, the WHS Looe Caradon Rail track and public footpath network.

Connect the Caradon Trail and new Round Liskeard Trail to a new Looe Canal cycle trail,

### *Play*

Set standards for play equipment in parks and green spaces in order to retain and enhance the facilities provided for young people of all ages, through developer contributions and fully funded management agreements, or where feasible, appropriate grant funding. (Castle park, Westbourne & Sungirt potential priority for improvement)

### *Orchards and allotments*

Promote health & well being through community gardens/orchards/allotments – protecting what we have and extending this provision, especially in close proximity to houses with little or no garden space.

### *Countryside landscapes*

Build on our designated historic landscape character to the north/west of the town by extending the Area of Great Landscape Value to encompass the World Heritage Liskeard & Caradon railway track-bed and Ladye valley with its associated Ducal deer park.

### *Public space /Civic spaces*

**Bay Tree Hill:** Carry forward the Caradon saved policy (Lisk 5) on enhancing Bay Tree hill with improved traffic flow & extended pedestrian space, plus further greening of our streets with trees, and consideration of shared space on the Parade/Barras Street.

### *Sports & leisure*

**Roundbury:** Protect Caradon policy ALT15/106 agreement - land for recreation use off St Cleer Rd "playing fields, play areas, public open space & ancillary buildings." Potential project to create new circular cycle/walking route from this hub around the town.

Protect our Leisure centre at Lux Park & allow further development of built facilities, such as cinema, bowling alley, soft-play area, multi use space, providing they are both viable and sustainable. E.g shared community space in cattle market for leisure & cultural activities.

### *Lighting*

**Lighting:** Recognise our rural hinterland and close proximity to Bodmin moor develop a policy for sustainable street lights & low impact sports floodlighting to enhance our "dark skies".

## Opportunity sites

### *Open and civic space*

Castle Park

Westbourne Park

Sungirt woodlands

Bay Tree Hill

Windsor Place/Dean St/ Barras St junction

//more...

### *Leisure*

Cattle Shed

## Opportunity links and corridors

Quiet lanes

Round Liskeard trail

Crossings

## Draft Strategies

Park enhancements

New park

Play strategy

Richer natural green space

Cemeteries and green burial

Sport provision

A network of green links – quiet lanes and round Liskeard cycle route

Civic space challenge – Bay Tree and Windsor Place/Dean St/ Barras St

Arts and leisure 'shed' – Cattle Market hub