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Draft Green Space
Strategy
Consultation



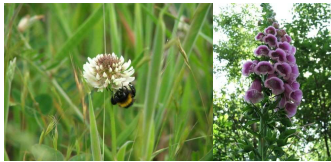
What I will be covering

- What is a greenspace strategy and why we have to produce one;
- What the greenspace strategy covers;
- Some of the most important elements in the strategy including the vision, aims, policies and indicators;
- The Greenspace Framework
- What this means for the Borough and the future of greenspace management.

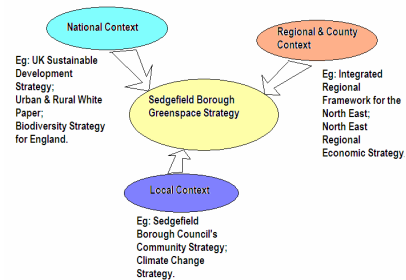


What is the Green Space Strategy?

“Green space strategies establish a **vision** for the use of green spaces within a given area. They establish the **goals** that a local authority or partnership would like to achieve through the management of green space, and identify the **resources and protocols** necessary to achieve these goals” (CABE Space)



Policy Context



Extensive consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken through the Open Space Needs Assessment, (published for the Borough in 2007) and forms the evidence base for the production of this strategy.



What types of Green Space have we looked at?

- Parks and public gardens
- Natural and semi-natural spaces
- Green / ecological corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Informal / amenity green space
- Allotments, community gardens and city farms / community supported agriculture
- Provision for children and young people
- Cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds
- Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas
- Publicly managed flower beds and tree belts
- Unmanaged spaces owned by the Borough Council

Most mapped through Open Space Needs Assessment, but some additional mapping for green space strategy



The Vision for Green Spaces

“Sedgefield Borough’s green spaces belong to the people of Sedgefield Borough. They are places where people can learn about and experience our **natural, cultural and historic heritage** and they are a central part of our vision for a **prosperous, attractive and healthy Borough with strong, safe communities**. They should contribute to the quality of life of everyone that lives, works or visits our Borough and will be **clean, safe, interesting, accessible and well-connected spaces** that are **sustainably managed** and maintained to respect the needs of people and wildlife.”



Existing Greenspace

- Sedgefield Borough Council currently owns around 536.81ha of greenspace.
- 8551.53ha owned by other organisations or private.



Gaps in Greenspace network

| Greenspace Typology/ Locality | Parks and Public Gardens | Semi-natural greenspace | Allotments |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bishop Middleham | | | |
| Conforth | | Eastern edge | |
| Fibburn | | East | |
| Trimdons | | | |
| Spennymoor | | North & South west | |
| Ferryhill | East & South | Centre & Dean Bank | |
| Sedgefield | | | |
| Shildon | West | North & South west | |
| Chilton | | South & West | |
| Newton Aycliffe | North west & South | Aycliffe Village, and the South. | North & East & School Aycliffe |



Draft Aims

- To improve the quality and provision of greenspace throughout Sedgefield Borough;
- To encourage a sense of community ‘ownership’ of greenspace;
- To enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity value of greenspace;
- To manage greenspace to take into account of a changing climate; and
- To ensure legislative compliance.



Policies & performance indicators

- In order to ensure the aims and standards of this strategy are achieved a series of policies have been developed to be adopted.
- The implementation of the policies will in turn be monitored through a series of performance indicators.



Policies – a taster

- All households should be within 300m walking distance of an accessible local semi-natural greenspace of at least 0.5ha in size.
- All households should be within 2000m/30min walking distance of an accessible semi-natural greenspace of at least 20ha in size.
- At least 0.5ha of publicly accessible parks and gardens should be provided per 1000 population across the Borough. These should be located within 1000m/15min walk time from households.
- The council will work in partnership with Town and Parish Council’s to safeguard allotment sites and seek opportunities for improved provision, having regard to the need to maintain provision in the Borough and the constraints on disposal.
- Work with schools and youth workers to ensure young people are consulted on the design and management of greenspaces, where appropriate.
- Devise protocols for management and identification of important ecological corridors with partners, and protect key ecological corridors in the LDF;
- Ensure greenspace sites meet the requirements of DDA where possible/appropriate;
- Produce publicity and guidance on exotic/invasive species found in the Borough and means of getting rid of them safely.



Indicators

- % of households within 300m of a semi-natural greenspace;
- Area (ha) of accessible LNR's per 1000 population across the Borough;
- Area (ha) of accessible public parks and gardens per 1000 population, across the Borough;
- Area (ha) of accessible informal greenspace per 1000 population across the Borough;
- No. of Green Flag Awards;
- Area (ha) of equipped play areas per 1000 population across the Borough;
- % of population within 1km (15min) walking distance of an allotment;
- Area (ha) of accessible outdoor sports space per 1000 population across the Borough.



Conclusion

- The opportunities identified through this strategy include proposals for the protection, enhancement and creation of multifunctional greenspaces within Sedgefield Borough.
- The responsibility for delivering these changes will lie not only with the Borough (Unitary Authority), but with statutory bodies, non-statutory organisations and developers operating within the Borough both now and in the future.



What's next?

- The draft document is now out to consultation for 6 weeks. After which time it will be amended, and the final sections added, including the action plan which is currently being drafted and will be consulted on separately. A Sustainability Appraisal of the Document will then be carried out to identify any further gaps. The document will then be published and hopefully adopted by the Borough Council before the 1st April 2009.
- The document will form the evidence base for the new Green Infrastructure Strategy as part of the requirements for the South and East Durham Growth Point, and the County Local Development Framework.

