Appendix 1 Playing Pitch Assessment Update (2003)

1.0 Introduction

The Merton Open Space Study undertaken in 2001/2 by planning consultants WS Atkins included a detailed assessment of the Borough's playing pitches (MOSS Volume 3 ~ Playing Pitch Assessment). The assessment reviewed the existing supply and future demand for playing pitches in Merton. The study included a survey of sports clubs and teams that play in the Borough.

The original assessment was conducted by WS Atkins using the Sport England methodology advised in *'Guide to assessing playing pitch requirements and developing local policy'* (April 1991). Since completion of MOSS Volume 3 Sport England have revised the playing pitch assessment methodology and have published the new Guide, *'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies'*

Playing pitch provision and quality were reassessed against the new guidance. This report outlines the rationale, methodology, results and key issues from the provision and quality assessments.

1.1 Rationale for carrying out Playing Pitch Assessment Update.

MOSS Vol 3 provided an assessment of the existing supply of playing pitches within Merton and the existing and future demand for those playing pitches on a Borough wide basis. The assessment also looked at the quality of existing provision, and provided some recommendations for further work and possible options for how the assessment could be used to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough.

It was considered that as some further work was required to enable a Playing Pitch Strategy to be developed, and the Sport England Methodology had been revised and provided a more detailed approach, an update of the MOSS Assessment would be carried out. It was also considered that a more detailed analysis on a local area basis (MOSS set out Borough wide figures) was required to enable policies and an action plan to be developed.

This Appendix should now be treated as Merton's assessment of playing pitch needs. Although a separate playing pitch strategy has not been developed, policy options and playing pitch action plan for dealing with the key playing pitch issues form an individual part of the Merton Open Space Strategy.

1.2 Methodology

The Sport England guide sets out an 8 stage Playing Pitch Model (PPM) which is a methodology for producing a playing pitch strategy (see Fig 1.1 below). The PPM has been used to carry out this assessment. Sport England have developed an electronic toolkit to assist with following their PPM this includes; various model questionnaires a Pitch Quality Assessment Spreadsheet, and a Playing Pitch Model Spreadsheet.

Figure 1.1 Sport England Playing Pitch Model

Stage	Description
1	Identifying Teams / Team equivalents
2	Calculating home games per team per week
3	Assessing total home games per week
4	Establishing Temporal demand for games
5	Defining pitches used / required on each day
6	Establishing pitches available
7	Assessing the findings
8	Identifying policy options and solutions

The information used to complete these stages has been collected from a variety of sources. These are set out below;

Figure 1.2 Application of the Playing Pitch Model

1	Identifying Teams	Teams were identified as part of MOSS Vol 3. Additional Teams were identified through internet research of local leagues and further checking of Council records
2	Calculating home games per team per week	MOSS Vol 3 team survey established information on this. However, the figures have been amended to take account of new teams identified (in stage 1)
3	Assessing total home games per week	As in Stage 2
4	Establishing temporal demand for games	As in Stage 2
5	Defining pitches used / required on each day	The MOSS team survey established what pitches are used by the teams and further research has refined this (see stage 1)
6	Establishing pitches available	Pitches in secure public use were identified as part of MOSS Vol 3. However, where it is known (local knowledge) that pitches have been removed or added (due to remarking) the figures have been updated. Information about the quality of the pitches was established through site surveys (Autumn 2003) carried out by Council Leisure Services Staff (and recorded in the Sports England Playing Pitch Assessment Spreadsheets) Information about perceptions of teams that use the pitches comes from the MOSS team survey, A Council Sports User Survey (2002) and contact with clubs.

1.3 Area Based Analysis

It is recognised that assessing playing pitches on a Borough wide basis although providing a picture of the Borough playing pitches resources, does not take account of the fact that the overall Borough statistics may mask deficiencies in certain parts of the Borough. In order that policy options, and the action plan can take account of this issue, the assessment has been based on an area analysis.

It was considered that sports teams are likely to travel to a pitch for a match, and therefore a ward level analysis is inappropriate. Therefore wards within Merton have been grouped together in sub areas. The sub areas have been developed to represent the distinct communities in the Borough, and the likely patterns of travel to pitches. The four sub areas are;

Table 1.3 Merton Sub Areas for Playing Pitch Assessment

Sub – area	Consisting of
Wimbledon	Abbey, Colliers Wood, Trinity, Village, Dundonald, Durnsford, Hillside
Mitcham	Lavender, Longthornton, Figges's Marsh, Graveney, Pollards Hill, Phipps Bridge.
Morden	Merton Park , Ravensbury, Lower Morden, St Helier
Raynes Park	Cannon Hill, Raynes Park, West Barnes.

It should be noted that the wards within this assessment are the wards that existed before the boundary changes in 2001. The reason that these wards have been used is that the Census information (population projections) that was available at the time of writing was only available based on the old ward boundaries.

< ADD IN MAP OF THESE SUB AREAS>

2.0 Supply of Pitches in Merton

Playing Pitch Assessments are based on pitches currently within 'secured public use'. WS Atkins identified those pitches that are in 'secured public use', and these are the pitches that were included in the calculations within the Playing Pitch Assessment (MOSS Volume 3, tab 2.2).

The fact that playing pitches are remarked year to year means that the actual number of pitches on the ground can change. Therefore Council Officers have checked the figures for pitches in 'secured public use' that were set out in Table 2.2 of MOSS Vol 3, and have amended the number of pitches to reflect the latest position. The results of this exercise are set out in the tables 2.1-2.5 below.

Table 2.1 Distribution of Pitches in secured public use.

Name	Size	Owner	Football	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey	Ward
Prince Georges Fields	16.6	Private	9	0	0	0	Cannon Hill
Morden Recreation Ground	10.4	LBM / Public	3	0	3	0	St Helier
Risley Sports Club	2.83	Private	2	0	0	0	St Helier
King Georges Field	8.1	LBM / Public	3	1	0	0	Lower Morden
Kings College Sports Ground	5.73	Private	6	0	0	2	West Barnes
Dundonald Recreation Ground	4.86	LBM / Public	3	2	0	0	Dundonald
Cottenham Park	3.21	LBM / Public	0	1	0	0	Raynes Park
The Old Rutlishians Sports Club	2.43	Private	1	1	1	0	Merton Park
Nursery Road Playing Fields	4.45	Private	3	1	1	0	Abbey
Abbey Recreation Ground	2.43	LBM / Public	2	1	0	0	Abbey
John Innes Recreation Ground	1.65	LBM / Public	0	1	0	0	Merton Park
Civil Service Sports Ground	5.26	Private	2	1	4	0	Raynes Park
Raynes Park Sports Ground	7.2	LBM / Public	3	1	2	0	Raynes Park
Emmanuel School Playing Fields	4.81	LBM / Public	0	1	3	0	West Barnes
Westminster Bank Sports Ground	8.5	Private	6	4	0	0	Longthornton
Cricket Green	1.89	LBM / Public	0	1	0	0	Phipps Bridge
Westminster City School Playing Fields	5.26	Private	3	0	0	0	Longthornton
Three Kings Piece Open Space	6.88	LBM / Public	2	0	0	0	Phipps Bridge
Wimbledon Park	26.95	LBM / Public	3	0	0	2	Village
London Road Playing Fields	4.86	LBM / Public	1	0	0	0	Phipps Bridge
Lavender Park	4.05	LBM / Public	2	0	0	0	Lavender Fields
Colliers Wood Recreation Grd	2.93	LBM / Public	1	0	0	0	Colliers Wood
Haydons Rd Rec Ground	3.74	LBM / Public	3	1	0	0	Trinity
Morden Park	73.06	LBM / Public	1	1	1	0	St Helier
Beverley Meads	6.75	LBM / Public	0	0	5	0	Village
Oberon Playing Fields	3.03	LBM / Public	2	1	0	0	Raynes Park
Drax Playing Fields	5.66	LBM / Public	2	1	0	0	Raynes Park
Archbishop Tenison's Sports Ground	2.83	Private	4	1	0	0	West Barnes
Raynes Park High School	3.5	LBM / Public	0	0	0	1	Raynes Park
Old Blues Football Rugby Ground	6.88	Private	1	0	5	0	West Barnes
Messines	8.1	Private	6	0	0	0	Cannon Hilll
West of Messines	0.26	Private	1	0	0	0	Cannon Hilll
Joseph Hood Recreation Grd	8.5	LBM / Public	3	2	0	0	Cannon Hilll
Raynes Park Playing Fields	8.1	Private	6	1	0	0	Cannon Hill
Morden Playing Fields		LBM/Public	8	0	0	0	St Helier

Name	Size	Owner	Football	Cricket	Rugby	Hockey	Ward
Wimbledon Common Extensions	0	LBM / Public	11	0	0	0	Village
Total			103	24	25	5	

(N.B correct at 01/09/03)

Table 2.2 Pitch Supply – Wimbledon

Open Space	Size	Ownership	**Football**	**Cricket**	**Rugby**	**Hockey**	**Ward**
Nursery Road Playing Fields	4.45	Private	3	1	1	0	Abbey
Abbey Recreation Ground	2.43	LBM / Public	2	1	0	0	Abbey
Colliers Wood Recreation Grd	2.93	LBM / Public	1	0	0	0	Colliers Wood
Dundonald Recreation Ground	4.86	LBM / Public	3	2	0	0	Dundonald
Haydons Rd Rec Ground	3.74	LBM / Public	3	1	0	0	Trinity
Beverley Meads	6.75	LBM / Public	0	0	5	0	Village
Wimbledon Common Extensions	0	LBM / Public	11	0	0	0	Village
Wimbledon Park	26.95	LBM / Public	3	0	0	2	Village
Total	**52.11**		**26**	**5**	**6**	**2**	
Percentage in Private Ownership			**12%**	**20%**	**17%**	**0%**	

Table 2.3 Pitch Supply – Mitcham

Open Space	**Size**	**Ownership**	**Football**	**Cricket**	**Rugby**	**Hockey**	**Ward**
Lavender Park	4.05	LBM / Public	2	0	0	0	Lavender Fields
Westminster Bank Sports Ground	8.5	Private	6	4	0	0	Longthornton
Westminster City School Playing Fields	5.26	Private	3	0	0	0	Longthornton
Cricket Green	1.89	LBM / Public	0	1	0	0	Phipps Bridge
Three Kings Piece Open Space	6.88	LBM / Public	2	0	0	0	Phipps Bridge
London Road Playing Fields	4.86	LBM / Public	1	0	0	0	Phipps Bridge
Total	**31.44**		**14**	**5**	**0**	**0**	
Percentage in Private Ownership			**64%**	**80%**	**0%**	**0%**	

Table 2.4 Pitch Supply - Morden

Open Space	**Size**	**Ownership**	**Football**	**Cricket**	**Rugby**	**Hockey**	**Ward**
King Georges Field	8.1	LBM / Public	3	1	0	0	Lower Morden
The Old Rutlishians Sports Club	2.43	Private	1	1	1	0	Merton Park
John Innes Recreation Ground	1.65	LBM / Public	0	1	0	0	Merton Park
Morden Park	73.06	LBM / Public	1	1	1	0	St Helier
Morden Playing Fields	32	LBM/Public	8	0	0	0	St Helier
Morden Recreation Ground	10.4	LBM / Public	3	0	3	0	St Helier
Risley Sports Club	2.83	Private	2	0	0	0	St Helier
Total	**130.47**		**18**	**4**	**5**	**0**	
Percentage in Private Ownership			**17%**	**25%**	**20%**	**0%**	

Table 2.5 Pitch Supply – Raynes Park

Open Space	**Size**	**Ownership**	**Football**	**Cricket**	**Rugby**	**Hockey**	**Ward**
Oberon Playing Fields	3.03	LBM / Public	2	1	0	0	Raynes Park
Drax Playing Fields	5.66	LBM / Public	2	1	0	0	Raynes Park
Raynes Park High School	3.5	LBM / Public	0	0	0	1	Raynes Park
Civil Service Sports Ground	5.26	Private	**2**	**1**	**4**	**0**	Raynes Park
Raynes Park Sports Ground	7.2	LBM / Public	3	1	2	0	Raynes Park
Cottenham Park	3.21	LBM / Public	0	1	0	0	Raynes Park
Prince Georges Fields	16.6	Private	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	Cannon Hill

Messines	8.1	Private	**6**	**0**	**0**	**0**	Cannon Hilll
West of Messines	0.26	Private	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	Cannon Hilll
Joseph Hood Recreation Grd	8.5	LBM / Public	3	2	0	0	Cannon Hilll
Raynes Park Playing Fields	8.1	Private	**6**	**1**	**0**	**0**	Cannon Hill
Emmanuel School Playing Fields	4.81	LBM / Public	0	1	3	0	West Barnes
Old Blues Football Rugby Ground	6.88	Private	**1**	**0**	**5**	**0**	West Barnes
Archbishop Tenison's Sports Ground	2.83	Private	**4**	**1**	**0**	**0**	West Barnes
Kings College Sports Ground	5.73	Private	**6**	**0**	**0**	**2**	West Barnes
Total	**89.67**		**45**	**10**	**14**	**3**	
Percentage in Private Ownership			**35%**	**30%**	**64%**	**67%**	

Key Issues with Existing Pitch Supply

The following key issues have been identified from the analysis above;

- Distribution of pitches is uneven, with highest concentration in the west of the Borough. Raynes park sub area has 72, Mitcham has the least with 19 (no rugby pitches).
- Access varies, some have unlimited access to the public (usually Council owned pitches), others may only be available to clubs at limited times during the week.
- MOSS Volume 3 identified there is a higher than average number of privately owned pitches in the Borough – this could have implications for pitch slots if their status in secure use changes in future.
- Level of private ownership varies by area. Raynes Park has the most pitches but has the highest proportion of pitches in private ownership (Football 77%, Rugby 64%, and Cricket 30%). Mitcham has the lowest number of pitches in secured public use, but of those available a high proportion are in private ownership compared to Wimbledon and Morden (football 64%, Cricket 80%).

3.0 Playing Pitch Model (PPM) Assessment Demand

MOSS Vol 3 assessed the existing and future demand for the pitch sports that are currently being played in the Borough, these are Football, Cricket and Rugby Union and Hockey. The MOSS Vol 3 assessment and analysis was Borough wide and based on the sports as a whole, there was no analysis based on the age and sex of the teams.

The PPM set out in Sport England Guidance can be used to model demand for junior and female sport, therefore the following analysis is a more refined analysis than that in MOSS Vol 3. The tables and charts below show the results of this analysis.

The PPM has been used to assess demand for Football, Cricket and Rugby Union. It is considered that the assessment of demand for Hockey pitches, and the need for Artificial Turf Pitches in MOSS is sufficient not to warrant a further assessment (see MOSS Vol 3, Page 4-7), however Team Generation Rates for Hockey (which have not been calculated in MOSS Vol 3) have been calculated below.

Stage Seven in the PPM calculations set out in the table 3.1 below show either a positive, or negative figure for the number of pitches available for each sport on that day and time. A negative figure means there is a shortfall in pitches, whereas a positive figure means that there is a surplus at that time. Where there is a dash this means that no matches are played at this time.

3.1 Borough wide Playing Pitch Assessment

Table 3.1 Playing Pitch Calculations for the Borough

Sport England PPM Stage		Football		Cricket		Rugby Union	
		Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Junior
Stage One Identifying Teams		119	21	48	13	30	24
Stage Two Calculate home games per week[1]		0.54	0.58	0.64	1	0.51	0.54
Stage Three (S1xS2) Assessing total home games per week		64.26	12.18	30.72	13	15.3	12.96
Stage Four Establishing temporal demand for pitches[2] (% of games played on each day)	Sat am	3%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Sat pm	43%	0%	49%	33%	96%	0%
	Sun am	52%	75%	7%	17%	0%	72%
	Sun pm	1%	5%	37%	17%	4%	0%
	Midweek	1%	0%	7%	33%	0%	28%
Stage Five (S3xS4) Defining Pitches used each day	Sat am	1.9	2.4	0	0	0	0
	Sat pm	27.6	0	15.1	4.3	14.7	0
	Sun am	33.4	9.1	2.2	2.2	0	9.3
	Sun pm	0.6	0.6	11.4	2.2	0.6	0
	Midweek	0.64	0	2.2	4.3	0	3.6
Stage Six Establishing pitches currently available[3]		103	0	24		25	0
Stage Seven (S6-S5) Identifying shortfall and surplus	Sat am	101.1	-2.4	-		-	-
	Sat pm	75.4	-	4.7		10.3	
	Sun am	69.6	-9.1	19.6		-	-9.3
	Sun pm	102.4	-1.2	10.4		24.4	-
	Midweek	102.4	-	17.6		-	-3.6

Notes

1. Homes games per week has been based on figures from survey responses from teams surveyed as part of MOSS (2002), and from Council records/research, based on a 26 week season for football and rugby and 22 week season for cricket.
2. Temporal demand is based on team responses from the MOSS survey, Council records and where necessary assumptions about likely time of play (e.g team in Sunday football league who didn't respond assumed to play on a Sunday).
3. Cricket games are all played on the same wickets (boundaries may be shortened for junior games) so its appropriate to show as one number, whereas Rugby and Football can have dedicated junior pitches. Although at present junior games are played on adult pitches.
4. The calculations in the table 3.1 assume a capacity of 2 games per week can be played on each pitch.

3.2 Key Issues arising from PPM Assessment - Borough wide Analysis

3.2.1 Football

- Football is the most popular adult pitch sport with 119 teams, 103 football pitches.
- There are no dedicated junior football pitches (N.B there are Mini-soccer pitches but these are counted separately).
- The peak time for playing football is Sunday am, although Saturday pm is also popular for adult teams.
- The analysis at a Borough level shows that there is an over supply of full size adult football pitches of 69.6 pitches at the peak time (Sunday am).
- As there are no dedicated junior pitches there is a shortfall of –9.1 pitches at the peak time (Sunday am). This could effect development of the junior game.
- The surplus of adult football pitches means that there may be some flexibility in what these pitches are used for. However MOSS argues (para 4.19) there could be some unidentified demand so have to be careful about stating whether pitches are under utilised (as some pitches marked out and showing signs of use but no teams found – since MOSS some teams have been identified on some of these pitches.

3.2.3 Cricket

- There are 48 adult cricket teams, and 13 junior cricket teams.
- The peak time for cricket varies between Adult and junior teams. For adult teams the peak is Saturday pm, and this is also a popular time for junior teams however times of play for cricket appear to be spread more evenly over the weekend and there are some junior matches midweek. Sun pm is also a popular time for adult cricket matches.
- Both adult and junior matches are played on the same pitches, this means at peak time Saturday PM there is a small oversupply of 4.7 pitches.
- There is limited scope for accommodating growth/development of the game, more pitches slots should be secured.

3.2.4 Rugby

- There are 30 adult teams, and 24 junior teams.
- The peak time for adult Rugby is very clearly Saturday pm, whereas for juniors the peak time is Sunday am. As with Football there are no dedicated junior Rugby pitches.
- At adult peak times there is a small oversupply of 10.3 pitches, and there is a shortfall of junior rugby pitches (-9.3) at junior peak times. There is some surplus for the adult teams however there are no dedicated junior pitches, therefore as with cricket there is limited scope for accommodating development of Rugby.

3.3 Sub Area Playing Pitch Assessment Analysis

The above analysis is useful as it shows the overall trends that occur in sports Borough wide, it can however mask any local area deficiencies that may exist. It is therefore recognised that to develop policies and an action plan a greater level of detail is required. Therefore an area based analysis is necessary. The tables and bar charts below set out the results of the Sub area analysis.

Table 3.2 shows any shortfall or surplus at the adult and junior peak times for each sport broken down by wards, and wards are grouped in sub areas.

Tables 3.2-3.4 below either show a positive, or negative figure for the number of pitches available for each sport at the peak time. A negative figure means there is a shortfall in pitches, whereas a positive figure means that there is a surplus at the peak time. Where there is a zero this means either supply is equal to demand or that there are currently no pitches within this area.

Table 3.2 Availability of Pitches at Peak Time in Merton sub areas

PPM Ward Summary 2003[1]	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby
Wimbledon Sub Area	13.64	-2.19	1.24	3.55	-1.94
Abbey	1.35	-0.44	0.12	1	0
Colliers Wood	0.44	0	0	0	0
Trinity	1.87	-0.44	0.06	0	0
Village	9.51	0	-0.31	2.55	-1.94
Dundonald	0.47	-1.31	1.37	0	0
Durnsford	0	0	0	0	0
Hillside	0	0	0	0	0
Mitcham Sub Area	9.51	0	2.78	0	0
Lavender	2	0	0	0	0
Longthornton	5.35	0	3.36	0	0
Figge's Marsh	0	0	0	0	0
Graveney	0	0	0	0	0
Pollards Hill	0	0	0	0	0
Phipps bridge	2.16	0	-0.58	0	0
Morden Sub Area	12.95	-3.48	-2.7	2.55	-2.33
Merton Park	0.16	0	-2.82	-0.47	-2.33
Ravensbury	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Morden	1.32	-1.74	1	0	0
St Helier	11.47	-1.74	-0.88	3.02	0
Raynes Park Sub Area	33.49	-3.48	3.35	4.2	-5.06
Cannon Hill	19.95	-2.61	2.69	0	0
Raynes Park	3.66	-0.87	-1.34	1.59	-4.28
West Barnes	9.88	0	2	2.61	-0.78
Total (Borough)	**69.6**	**-9.1**	**4.7**	**10.3**	**-9.3**

Note

1. These are based on the pre 2001 ward boundaries. As currently no population projections are available for the current ward boundaries.

3.4 Key Issues arising from PPM assessment – Sub Area Analysis

- Adult football is surplus at peak time in all sub areas, with the largest surplus in Raynes Park.
- Cricket has a small surplus at peak time in all areas apart from Morden which shows a deficit.
- Adult Rugby shows a small surplus at peak time in all areas except Mitcham which currently has a zero value (no teams play there at present).
- Junior football has a shortfall at peak time in all sub areas except Mitcham which currently has a zero value (no junior teams play there at present).

- Junior Rugby has a shortfall at peak time in all sub areas except Mitcham which currently has a zero value (no junior teams play there at present).

3.5 Future Demand for Playing Pitches

MOSS Volume 3, calculated the number of pitch slots likely to be needed in future based on likely teams generated by existing plans of teams within the Borough and the effect of forecast population changes plus a nominal 2% increase in number of individuals participating.

The Sport England PPM provides a method for assessing the level of demand for pitches in the future. This is based on the population projections for the Borough the Team Generation Rate (TGR) and the predicted growth rate for each sport. In our calculations we have used 2% growth rate for each sport, as this is the assumption in MOSS (Vol 3 para 6.24). It has been assumed that existing adult to junior team ratios will continue.

Using existing population projections for the wards it has been possible to look ahead to 2011 and 2016, to see what the likely demand for pitches will be. The results of the analysis of future demand are set out in Tables 3.2 – 3.3, and Figures 3.1- 3.5.

It should be noted that at present in some areas there are no teams playing (e.g Mitcham Sub-area no junior football teams). Because the PPM takes account of TGRs for the Borough as a whole, when the population figures for the wards and 2% increase in participation are applied the PPM will show teams for these areas. This means that the calculations of future teams are not taking account of any of the constraints on teams playing that mean that this demand is not being expressed at present. Despite this limitation the PPM calculations can provide a useful guide to where the areas of greatest demand are likely to be in future.

Table 3.3 Availability of Pitches at Peak Time in Merton sub areas 2011

PPM Ward Summary 2011[1]	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby
Wimbledon Sub Area	10.7	-5.9	-3	-2	-5.1
Abbey	2.48	-0.98	0.71	-0.3	-0.84
Colliers Wood	-1.91	-1.13	-1.5	-1.5	-0.96
Dundonald	1.03	-0.76	0.97	-1	-0.66
Durnsford	-1.63	-0.63	-0.8	-0.8	-0.54
Hillside	-2.25	-0.87	-1.2	-1.2	-0.75
Trinity	0.85	-0.83	-0.1	-1.1	-0.71
Village	12.1	-0.73	-1	4.04	-0.62
Mitcham Sub Area	-0.6	-5.7	-3	-7	-4.8
Figge's Marsh	-2.93	-1.14	-1.5	-1.5	-0.96
Graveney	-1.65	-0.64	-0.8	-0.9	-0.55
Lavender	-0.18	-0.84	-1.1	-1.1	-0.71
Longthornton	6.62	-0.92	2.77	-1.2	-0.79
Phipps Bridge	-0.02	-1.17	-0.6	-1.5	-1
Pollards Hill	-2.43	-0.94	-1.3	-1.2	-0.8
Morden Sub Area	10	-3	0	1.1	-2.5
Lower Morden	1.08	-0.75	0	-1	-0.64
Merton Park	-1.04	-0.79	0.93	-0	-0.68
Ravensbury	-1.97	-0.76	-1	-1	-0.66

St Helier	12.3	-0.66	0.13	3.15	-0.55
Raynes Park Sub Area	39	-2.4	6.8	11	-2.1
Raynes Park	6.78	-0.86	3.87	-0.9	-0.61
Cannon Hill	8.8	-0.85	2.06	4.87	-0.73
West Barnes	23.2	-0.7	0.87	6.87	-0.73
Total	**59.2**	**-16.9**	**1.4**	**2.7**	**-14.5**

Note

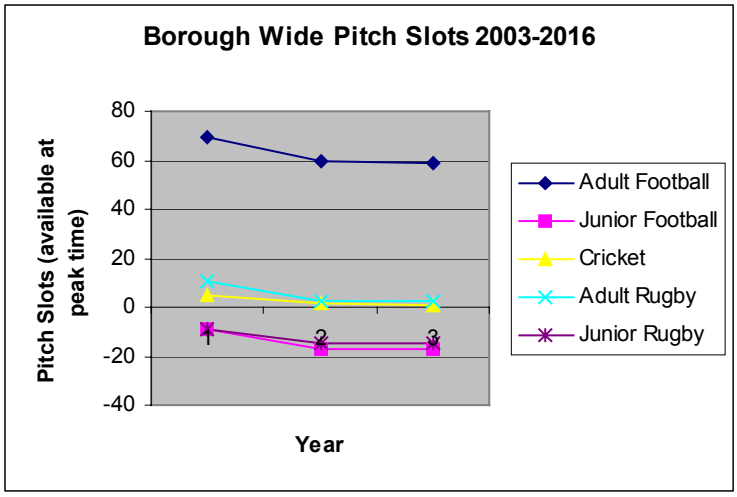
1. These are based on the pre 2001 ward boundaries. As currently no population projections are available for the current ward boundaries.

Table 3.4 Availability of Pitches at Peak Time in Merton sub areas 2016

PPM Ward Summary 2016	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby
Wimbledon Sub Area	11	-5.8	-2.8	-1.7	-5
Abbey	2.5	-0.97	0.71	-0.26	-0.82
Colliers Wood	-1.8	-1.09	-1.45	-1.46	-0.95
Dundonald	1.08	-0.75	1	-0.99	-0.64
Durnsford	-1.6	-0.62	-0.84	-0.82	-0.54
Hillside	-2.2	-0.83	-1.1	-1.1	-0.71
Trinity	0.87	-0.83	-0.1	-1.1	-0.71
Village	12.1	-0.73	-0.97	4.039	-0.62
Mitcham Sub Area	-1	-6	-2.9	-7.9	-5.1
Figge's Marsh	-3.1	-1.2	-1.58	-1.59	-1.04
Graveney	-1.6	-0.62	-0.84	-0.82	-0.54
Lavender	-0.3	-0.88	-1.16	-1.15	-0.75
Longthornton	6.59	-0.93	2.77	-1.24	-0.8
Phipps Bridge	-0.5	-1.36	-0.81	-1.79	-1.16
Pollards Hill	-2.5	-0.98	-1.29	-1.29	-0.84
Morden Sub Area	10	-3	0	0.99	-2.6
Lower Morden	1.1	-0.74	-0	-0.99	-0.64
Merton Park	-1.1	-0.81	0.93	-0.07	-0.7
Ravensbury	-2.1	-0.81	-1.07	-1.07	-0.7
St Helier	12.3	-0.67	0.09	3.121	-0.57
Raynes Park Sub Area	39	-2.4	6.7	10.8	-2.1
Raynes Park	6.75	-0.87	3.84	-0.93	-0.61
Cannon Hill	8.78	-0.86	2.06	4.846	-0.75
West Barnes	23.2	-0.71	0.84	6.874	-0.73
Total	**58.5**	**-17.2**	**1**	**2.2**	**-14.8**

Note
1. These are based on the pre 2001 ward boundaries. As currently no population projections are available for the current ward boundaries.

Figure 3.1 Borough Wide Pitch Slots Available at Peak 2003-2016



3.6 Key Issues from the Analysis of Future Demand

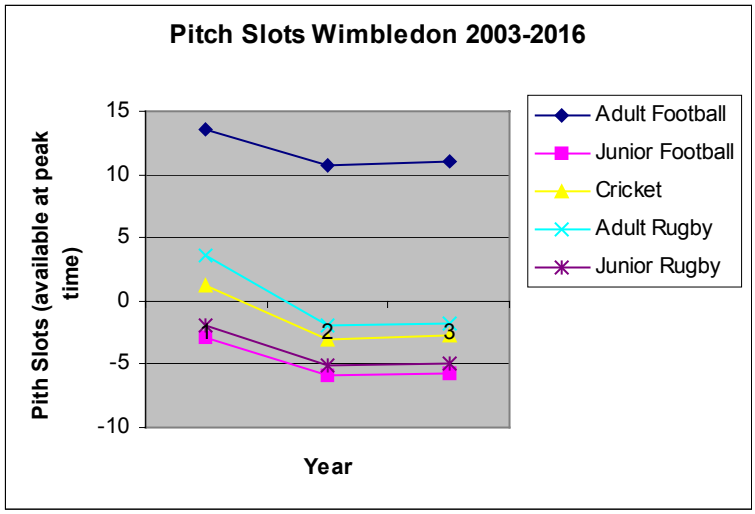
3.6.1 2003-2016 – Borough Wide

- Overall pitch slot availability will decrease for all sports between 2003 and 2011. As population grows and more teams are created and as participation in sport grows.
- This will mean that Cricket and Adult Rugby will have a very small surplus at peak times.
- The existing adult football surplus will decrease.
- The existing Junior Football and Rugby shortfall in pitch slots will increase.
- Between 2011 and 2016 the situation will stabilise with very little change in the number of pitch slots available (only slight decreases). This is mainly due to a stabilisation in the population.

Although there are variations in availability of pitch slots over the 2003 -2016 period with some areas showing increases in surplus, while others show availability decreasing, the overall trend is for a decrease in availability. This means that as teams are created in areas that currently have a lack of pitches at present, the teams will have to travel to other areas where pitches are available. This has implications for the development of policy and strategy options.

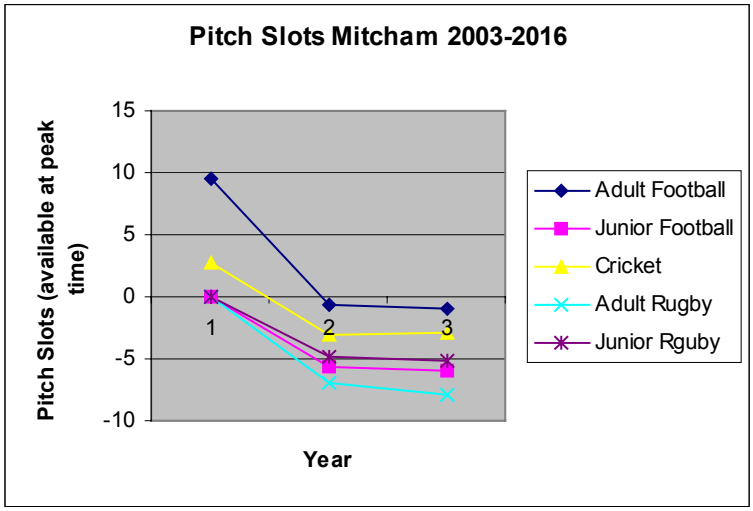
2003-2016 – Sub-areas

Figure 3.2 Pitch Slots Available in Wimbledon at Peak Times 2003-2016



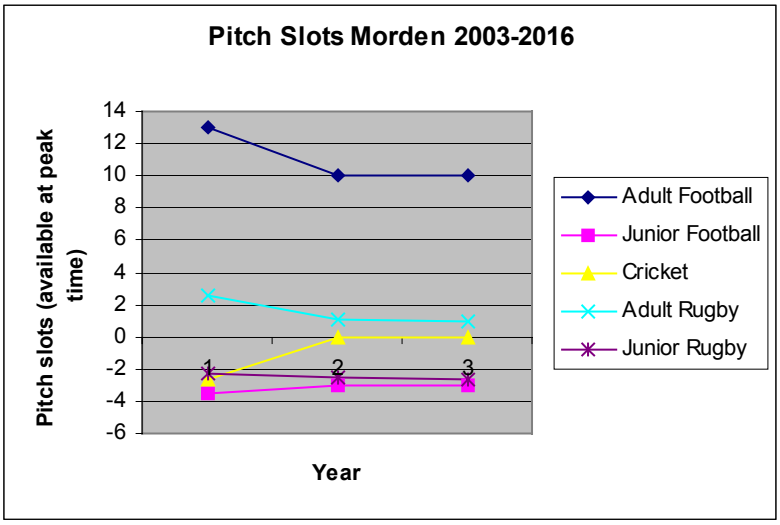
- Pitch slot availability in Wimbledon will decrease between 2003 and 2011.
- By 2016 Wimbledon will have a deficit of pitch slots for all sports (except adult football).

Figure 3.3 Pitch Slots Available Mitcham at Peak Times 2003-2016



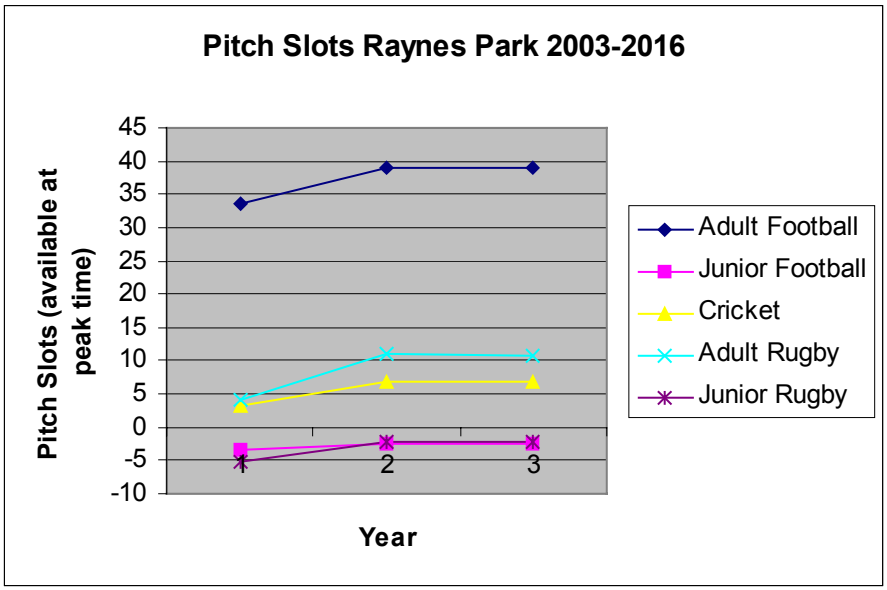
- Pitch slot availability in Mitcham will decrease between 2003 and 2011, all sports will have a deficit of pitch slots
- The deficit will remain between 2011 and 2016, but as with the Borough figures the situation will stabilise, with very little reduction in availability.

Figure 3.4 Pitch Slots Available Morden at Peak Times 2003-2016



- Between 2003 and 2011 in Morden there will be a decrease in availability in both adult football and rugby, the existing deficit in cricket pitches will reduce and become zero, meaning supply will equal demand at the peak time. The existing deficit in junior football and junior rugby will remain.
- There will be very little change in availability between 2011 and 2016.

Figure 3.5 Pitch Slots Available Raynes Park at Peak Times 2003-2016



- In Raynes Park between 2003 and 2011 the existing surplus in pitch slots for all sports will increase. The existing deficits for junior sports will remain but will decrease.
- Between 2011 and 2016 the situation will stabilise for all sports (with little or no change in availability).

3.7 Team Generation Rates (TGR)

Team generation rates show how many teams are created per 1000 of population. TGRs can be used to establish whether there is any latent demand for a sport. TGRs are calculated as follows;

TGR = population in age group ÷ number of teams in the age group

e.g. In Merton for all pitch sports there is a TGR of 1:488. So for every 488 Merton residents (of sport playing age) there will be a pitch sport team.

MOSS Vol 3 did not include a TGR, but an assessment of likely future teams was included. WS Atkins asked clubs about waiting lists or any intention to field additional teams. This was factored into the assessment of latent demand. They used participation rates based on figures from the 1996 General Household Survey (only a sample of 15,000 people, and it looks only at adult participation) and census projections to predict the likely number of teams in future.

Using TGRs allows a more detailed analysis of sports by age and sex, whereas with the MOSS the approach was to analyse the sport as a whole, this can mask specific trends.

Based on the teams that were identified in the MOSS survey and the additional research it has been possible to calculate TGRs for each sport, and a TGR for Junior and female sport. The results of the TGR calculations are set out in Table 3.4 below.

Using TGRs can provide a benchmark to compare participation levels with other borough's. There are at present no national figures but as boroughs carry out playing pitch assessments Sport England are compiling a database of TGRs. Some average TGRs, are available but these are not national averages (as not all boroughs have completed playing pitch assessments).

It should be noted that there are currently no London Boroughs within these figures, comparing with the national average should be treated with caution as the characteristics of these Boroughs are likely to be quite different. However to assess whether Merton's TGRs are high or low, the 'averages' provided by Sport England have been used.

Table 3.5 Merton Team Generation Rates and the Sport England Average

	Age Group	Pop.n	Number of Teams	Teams per 1000 pop.n	MertonTGR	Sport England Ave[1]
Football						
Mini Soccer	6-9	9180				
Junior Football - boys	10-15	6843	17	2.5	**1:403**	**1:110**
Junior Football - girls	10-15	6385	4	0.6	**1:1596**	**1:1876**
Men's Football	16-45	45505	117	2.6	**1: 389**	**1:394**
Women's Football	16-45	46209	2	0.0	**1: 23105**	**1:15000**
Total for Football (excluding mini – soccer)			140	1.3	**1:750**	
Cricket						
Junior Cricket - boys	11-17	7895	13	1.6	**1:607**	**1:314**
Junior Cricket - girls	11-17	7269	0	N/A (no teams)	**N/A (no teams)**	**1:6772**
Men's Cricket	16-45	53969	48	0.9	**1:1124**	**1:1250**
Women's Cricket	16-45	561105	0	N/A (no teams)	**N/A (no teams)**	**1:41638**
Total for Cricket			61	0.5	**1:2053**	
Hockey						
Junior Hockey - boys	11-15	5677	4.5	0.8	**1:1262**	**1:2728**
Junior Hockey - girls	11-15	5292	4.5	0.9	**1:1176**	**1:3838**
Men's Hockey	16-45	45505	10	0.2	**1:4551**	**1:7599**
Women's Hockey	16-45	46209	6	0.1	**1:7702**	**1:8889**
Total for Hockey			25	0.2	**1:4107**	
Rugby Union						
Junior rugby - boys	13-17	5565	24	4.3	**1:232**	**1:849**
Junior rugby - girls	13-17	5134	0	N/A (no teams)	**N/A (no teams)**	**1:4456**
Men's rugby	18-45	43317	29	0.7	**1:1494**	**1:4661**
Women's rugby	18-45	44232	1	0.0	**1:44232**	**1:15790**
Total for Rugby Union			54	0.6	**1:1761**	
Total for All Sports		**136647**	**280**	**2.0**	**1:488**	

Note
1. National Average TGR figures are provided by Sport England (from their Oct 2003 database).

3.7.1 Key issues

- Low TGRs for all pitch sports. However by looking at the sports by age and sex, there are variations from this overall finding.
- For football in terms of men TGR is currently about average, junior girls are higher than average but for women's and the junior boys game there appears to be latent demand.
- For Cricket there are currently no identified teams for females at either adult or junior level. Men have a high TGR and therefore there is likely to be low latent demand but for junior boys cricket latent demand is high.

- For Rugby the boys and men's game shows high TGRs so low level of latent demand is likely, but for the female game TGRs are low so there is likely to be a high level of latent demand. There are currently no Junior girls teams.
- For Hockey both the adult and Junior game have relatively high TGRs so the latent demand is likely to be low.

3.8 Playing Pitch Capacity

The calculations in PPM analysis above have been based on the assumption that each pitch has the capacity to carry 2 matches per week. However it is recognised that the quality of the pitch and other factors can mean that in reality pitches may be unable to carry this amount of matches or may be able to carry more matches

Sport England guidance sets out that there is no particular method for calculating carrying capacity. Local knowledge and assessment of bookings and match cancellations can be used. Sport England Guidance sets out a an example of how this information can be factored into the PPM calculations, this involves using a multiplication factor depending on the assessed carrying capacity of pitches. This is shown in the table below.

Carrying Capacity	**Multiplication Factor**
3 (or more matches) per week	X 1.5
2 matches per week	X 1
1 match per week	X 0.5
1 match or less per fortnight	X 0.25

(Source: Towards a level playing field)

As part of this Playing Pitch Assessment Update the quality of pitches have been assessed using the Sport England Quality Spreadsheets. During the assessment the actual capacity of pitches to carry matches has been noted (through local knowledge, and assessment of cancellations). For the purposes of the strategy the multiplication factors set out in Sport England guidance have been used, to carry out an assessment of pitch supply at peak times based on the actual capacity of pitches. The results of this analysis are set out in table 3.5 below.

Table 3.6 Availability of Pitches at Peak Time in Merton sub areas based on 'actual capacity'.

PPM Ward Summary 2003 [1] Actual Capacity	Adult Football	Junior Football	Cricket	Adult Rugby	Junior Rugby
Wimbledon Sub Area	25.1	-2.19	3.24	4.05	-1.94
Abbey	3.85	-0.44	1.12	1.5	0
Colliers Wood	0.94	0	0	0	0
Trinity	1.88	-0.44	0.06	0	0
Village	16.5	0	-0.31	2.55	-1.94
Dundonald	1.97	-1.31	2.37	0	0
Durnsford	0	0	0	0	0
Hillside	0	0	0	0	0
Mitcham Sub Area	10.5	0	3.27	0	0
Lavender	2	0	0	0	0
Longthornton	5.35	0	3.36	0	0
Figge's Marsh	0	0	0	0	0
Graveney	0	0	0	0	0
Pollards Hill	0	0	0	0	0
Phipps bridge	3.16	0	-0.08	0	0
Morden Sub Area	16.4	-3.48	-1.2	4.55	-2.33
Merton Park	0.16	0	-2.32	-0.5	-2.33
Ravensbury	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Morden	2.82	-1.74	1.5	0	0
St Helier	13.5	-1.74	-0.38	5.02	0
Raynes Park Sub Area	36	-3.48	4.85	5.21	-5.06
Cannon Hill	19.95	-2.61	2.69	0	0
Raynes Park	6.16	-0.87	0.16	2.59	-4.28
West Barnes	9.88	0	2	2.61	-0.78
Total	88.1	-9.1	10.16	13.8	-9.3

Note 1. For those pitches where it was not clear what the actual capacity is (e.g those owned/managed privately) the assumption is that the pitch can carry 2 matches per week.

3.8.2 Key Issues from Capacity Assessment

- It has been observed that some pitches can carry more than the assumed two matches per week without significant deterioration in pitch quality. Therefore there has been some underestimation of pitch availability in the Borough.
- Taking into account actual capacity of pitches, there is a larger surplus of adult football pitches at peak times Borough wide. This surplus has increased from approximately 70 pitches to 88 pitches.
- The largest difference between the assumed and actual capacity of adult football pitches is in Wimbledon, there are small increases in surplus in Morden and RP, and slight increase in Mitcham.
- Taking into account actual capacity of pitches, the small surplus at peak time of Cricket pitches has increased from approx 5 pitches to 10 pitches, largest increase is in Wimbledon the deficit in Morden remains but has decreased.
- Rugby pitches shows the least difference between assumed capacity and actual capacity figures, the small surplus at peak time has increased from approximately 10 pitches to 14.
- There has been a small increase in surplus of adult Rugby pitches in all sub areas except Mitcham which currently has a zero value (no teams play there at present).
- For Junior football and Junior Rugby the deficit at peak time in all sub areas except Mitcham which currently has a zero value (no junior teams play

there at present), remains the same. Amending capacity of pitches has no effect, as there currently are no dedicated junior pitches.

The above analysis is useful as it allows some issues related to quality to be factored into the assessment of pitch availability. The above analysis suggests that capacity may be higher than expected, however it is important to assess what teams think of pitch quality because their perceptions can have an effect on the demand for pitches. Also it should be recognised that pitch quality can change and deteriorate over time, which will have an impact on the above capacity figures.

3.9 Recommended Playing Pitch Standard for Merton

An Important outcome of a playing pitch assessment is the development of a local standard for playing pitches. Including a standard can be useful for; underpinning negotiations with developers over contributions for new pitch provision; provide an overview of level of provision; assist in protecting playing fields; and assist in benchmarking with other areas.

MOSS Vol 3 (para 7.12) provided guidelines for the development of a playing pitch standard. The approach to developing playing pitch standards in MOSS is the same as the approach suggested in the Sport England Guidance. To calculate the standard the area of land required for playing pitch use at the end of the local plan period must be calculated. The actual playing area of each pitch should be calculated including any safety margins. Once the total area is calculated, it should be compared to the total future population of the study area to give hectares per 1000 population.

Table 3.6 below sets out the total area of open space used for playing pitches. It is based on the table 7.1 in MOSS Vol 3 but has been adjusted to take account of change in the number of pitches identified in this assessment update.

Table 3.7 Total Area of Outdoor Pitches

Pitch Type	Approximate Area (ha)	Total Pitches	Total area Secured public use (inc 20% allowance)
Football	0.86	79	81.37
Cricket (1 sq with 46m boundary	1.5	12	21.6
Cricket (1 sq + 2 Football Pitches	2.05	12	29.52
Rugby	1.26	25	37.75
Hockey	0.62	4	2.98
Lacrosse	0.65	1	0.78
Total			174.07

Based on Tab 7.1 in MOSS, adjusted to account for changes in pitch numbers

Based on the above figure the current situation in Merton is as follows; Population (approx) 189,000 = 0.92ha pitch sports per 1000 population.

By looking at the PPM calculations in Table 3.3 the additional pitches required by 2016 are;

17 Junior Football = 8.5 ha (based in 0.5ha pitch)
14 Junior Rugby = 11.2 ha (based on 0.8ha pitch)
Total required = 19.2 ha
Total Future Playing Pitch Area Required = 193 ha
Borough Population Projection 2016 (approx) = 202,500

Borough Standard = 0.95ha/1000 population

The above standard is for the Borough as a whole, however a standard has been calculated for each of the Borough sub areas following the above method. The results are set out below.

Table 3.8 Total Area of Outdoor Pitches in Wimbledon

Pitch Type	Approximate Area (ha)	Total Pitches	Total area Secured public use (inc 20% allowance)
Football	0.86	18	18.54
Cricket (1 sq with 46m boundary	1.5	1	1.8
Cricket (1 sq + 2 Football Pitches	2.05	4	9.84
Rugby	1.26	6	9.06
Total			39.24

Current sub-area Population 65,500 = 0.59ha/1000

Additional pitches required 2016
6 Junior Football = 3
3 Cricket = 5.4
2 Adult Rugby = 3.6
5 Junior Rugby = 4
Total = 16ha
Total Future Playing Pitch Area Required = 55.24ha
Future population (2016) = 68,000
Standard for Sub-area = 0.79ha/1000

Table 3.9 Total Area of Outdoor Pitches in Mitcham

Pitch Type	Approximate Area (ha)	Total Pitches	Total area Secured public use (inc 20% allowance)
Football	0.86	14	14.42
Cricket (1 sq with 46m boundary	1.5	5	9
Cricket (1 sq + 2 Football Pitches	2.05	0	0
Rugby	1.26	0	0
Total			23.42

Current population 59,5000 = 0.39ha/1000
Additional pitches required 2016
6 Junior Football = 3
1 Adult Football = 1
3 Cricket = 5.4
8 Adult Rugby = 12
5 Junior Rugby = 4
Total = 25.4ha
Total Future Playing Pitch Area Required = 48.82ha
Future Pop.n (2016) = 68,000
Standard for Sub-area 0.71ha/1000

Table 3.10 Total Area of Outdoor Pitches in Morden

Pitch Type	Approximate Area (ha)	Total Pitches	Total area Secured public use (inc 20% allowance)
Football	0.86	16	16.48
Cricket (1 sq with 46m boundary	1.5	3	5.4

Cricket (1 sq + 2 Football Pitches	2.05	1	2.46
Rugby	1.26	5	7.55
Total			31.89

Current Population 35,000 = 0.91ha/1000

Additional pitches required 2016
3 Junior Football = 1.5
3 Junior Rugby = 2.4
Total = 3.9 ha
Total Future Playing Pitch Area Required = 35.79
Future population = 36,500
Standard for Sub-area = 0.71ha/1000

Table 3.11 Total Area of Outdoor Pitches in Raynes Park

Pitch Type	Approximate Area (ha)	Total Pitches	Total area Secured public use (inc 20% allowance)
Football	0.86	31	31.93
Cricket (1 sq with 46m boundary	1.5	3	5.4
Cricket (1 sq + 2 Football Pitches	2.05	7	17.22
Rugby	1.26	14	21.14
Total			75.69

Current Population 28,500 = 2.65/1000 pop.n

Additional pitches required 2016

2 Junior Football = 1
2 Junior Rugby = 1.6
Total = 2.6 ha
Total Future Playing Pitch Area Required = 78.29ha
Future Pop.n (2016) = 29,500
Standard for Sub-area = 2.65ha/1000

4.0 Playing Pitch Quality Assessment

4.1 Introduction

This section of the Playing Pitch Assessment report describes the "State of the Resource" of Merton's playing pitches and pavilions. Undertaken during October to December 2004 the exercise assesses the quality of pavilions, sports pitches and equipment in the Borough.

The Sport England Non Technical Playing Pitch and Pavilion Assessment provided a thorough and easily replicable evaluation framework to highlight investment and maintenance requirements and inform the development of the wider Merton Open Space Strategy (MOSS).

This section describes the methodology for undertaking the assessments, presents the key findings relating to pavilions and pitches and discusses the implications of this study on the development and implementation of the MOSS.

4.2 Methodology

The Playing Pitch and Pavilion Quality Assessments were undertaken in November and December 2003. Each of Merton's playing pitch facilities were visited and their features evaluated against the Sport England Assessment work sheets (include an example?). Privately owned facilities were not covered in the assessment. However, with the MOSS emphasis on fostering partnerships, results from private facilities will be incorporated into future assessments.

Pavilions were inspected inside and outside and scored against such features as: Overall quality; evidence of vandalism; quality of showers and toilets; transport accessibility; and potential for segregated changing rooms.

Sports pitches were then evaluated against the pitch quality criteria including: The quality of the pitch surface; evidence of any problem areas; provision of training areas; and quality of the associated equipment.

The results of the surveys were then transferred into an individual Excel Workbook for each open space and each score linked to a central summary workbook. This summary workbook automatically updates when changes are made to the parks assessments.

The summary worksheet provides a wealth of information for assessing open space quality against other open spaces and within specific areas of the Borough. This system allows the data to be analysed in many ways and it is easily amended for future review.

4.3 Pavilion Results

The following tables have been compiled from the Pavilion and Pitch quality assessments. They are ranked by score from low to high. A discussion on the implications of the scores follows.

Pavilions The overall quality of the pavilion was based upon a visual assessment of the quality and state of repair of the building. Pavilions were ranked no changing or on a scale from poor to excellent. Merton's pavilions generally scored average to good. The excellent pavilions were, with the exception of Morden Park, those that are privately owned and managed.

4.3.1 Changing Rooms

Table 4.1 Number of changing rooms in Pavilion.

The table opposite gives an indication of the great variation in changing room provision across the borough.

Parks	Score
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	None
Dundonald Recreation Ground	
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	
John Innes Recreation Ground	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Lavender Park	
Morden Playing Fields	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Oberon Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	2
Lavender Park	
Beverley Meads	No Changing
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
Westminster City School Playing Fields	Poor
Cottenham Park	6
King Georges Field	
Wimbledon Park	
Nursery Road Sports Ground	Average 7
Morden Park	8
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	18
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	Good
Cottenham Park	
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
King Georges Field	
Wimbledon Park	
Beverley Meads	Excellent
Morden Park	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Oberon Playing Fields	
Westminster City School Playing Fields	

4.3.2 Overall Quality

Table 4.2 Overall Pavilion Quality Score

Perceived quality of the changing accommodation. Does it look well maintained, clean, safe etc.

The overall quality score takes account of the general upkeep of the building and its associated facilities. It is a subjective assessment but the scores generally reflect quality standards in relation to the other pavilions assessed in the survey.

4.3.3 Vandalism

Table 4.3 Pavilion Vandalism

Damage to Pavilion, graffiti, broken glass etc.

Vandalism including graffiti, broken windows and building damage etc is widespread amongst Merton's parks. (Table 1.3) Most parks surveyed had at least some evidence of vandalism including graffiti, broken windows, damage to buildings above normal wear and tear.

The chief concern about vandalism in Merton's parks is the circular nature of the problem. Facilities that are vandalised attract further vandalism and unsavoury behaviour. This in turn reduces peoples enjoyment of the park experience and creates an isolated environment where more antisocial behaviour will occur.

Parks	Score
Dundonald Recreation Ground	Yes Lots
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	
John Innes Recreation Ground	
Morden Playing Fields	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
Wimbledon Park	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	Yes Some
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	
Cottenham Park	
Drax Playing Fields	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Morden Park	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Beverley Meads	None
King Georges Field	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	

4.3.4 Showers

Table 4.4 Showers

Are there shower facilities, what is their quality (if known)?

Most Pavilions in Merton have shower facilities that were assessed as either OK or Good.

Aiming to increase the quality of all shower facilities to Good would be a worthwhile goal. However maintaining the facilities at this level of repair will be a significant challenge.

Parks	Score
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	No
Morden Playing Fields	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	Yes OK
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	
Cottenham Park	
Drax Playing Fields	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Wimbledon Park	
Beverley Meads	Yes Good
Dundonald Recreation Ground	
John Innes Recreation Ground	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
King Georges Field	
Morden Park	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	

4.3.5 Toilets

Table 4.5 Toilets

Are there toilets? What is there condition (if known)?

Toilet facilities were, with a couple of exceptions, available at each ground.

However, they are often located within the pavilion proper. This can create access issues, which are understandable for safety and security concerns.

General cleanliness and maintenance should be improved with only six facilities with a 'good' score.

Parks	Score
Morden Playing Fields	No
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
Dundonald Recreation Ground	Yes - Poor
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	Yes OK
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	
Cottenham Park	
Drax Playing Fields	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Wimbledon Park	
Beverley Meads	Yes Good
John Innes Recreation Ground	
King Georges Field	
Morden Park	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	

4.3.6 Car Parking

Table 4.6 Car Parking

Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc?

Car parking facilities are important for sporting facilities especially where a suitable public transport link is unavailable to the ground

Most of the Sporting Parks had parking areas but they were generally far from adequate for the usage they were subjected to.

Poor car parking facilities can also create issues of safety for cyclists, pedestrians and disabled park users. Any improvements in the provision and design of car parking facilities should take into account the needs and safety of these park users.

Parks	Score
Cottenham Park	Poor
Dundonald Recreation Ground	
John Innes Recreation Ground	
Morden Playing Fields	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Oberon Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	OK
Drax Playing Fields	
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	
King Georges Field	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	Good
Beverley Meads	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Morden Park	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Westminster City School Playing Fields	
Wimbledon Park	

4.3.7 Public Transport

Table 4.7 Public Transport Links

Guidance: *Is the site close to public transport links, proximity to bus stop, train station, hubs?*

Public transport links were generally good to most of Merton's parks.

Notable exceptions include Wimbledon Commons extension and a number of privately managed facilities in the borough.

Site Name	Public Transport Links
Dundonald Recreation Ground	Poor / None
Morden Playing Fields	
Oberon Playing Fields	
Prince Georges Fields	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	OK
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	
Beverley Meads	
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	
Dundonald Recreation Ground	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Morden Playing Fields	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Wimbledon Park	
Cottenham Park	
Morden Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	
Cottenham Park	
Beverley Meads	
King Georges Field	
Morden Park	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	
Wimbledon Park	

4.3.8 Security

Table 4.8 Security

Does the accommodation look secure – secure doors/ windows, evidence of break in

Generally Merton's pavilions were reasonably secure. However, due to systemic vandalism, the necessary security measures have decreased the attractiveness and functional flexibility of the pavilions.

Heavy vandalism has resulted in the need for either indestructible basic facilities or a "Fort Knox" approach to security. The necessity for protecting the building and contents from vandals has diminished appreciation and enjoyment of this community asset and has contributed to its further decline.

Parks	Score
Dundonald Recreation Ground	Good Poor
Cottenham Park	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Morden Playing Fields	
Paydons Road Recreation Ground	
Morden Recreation Ground	
John Innes Recreation Ground	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
King Georges Field	
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	
Morden Park	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	
Wimbledon Park	

Park	Score
Beverley Meads	No OK
Cottenham Park	
Morden Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
Abbey Road Recreation Extensions	
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	
Cottenham Park	
Beverley Meads	Good
King Georges Field	
Morden Park	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
King Georges Field	Yes
Morden Park	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	
Wimbledon Park	

4.3.9 Segregated Changing

Table 4.9 Segregated Changing

Are there separate changing rooms for each team? Can accommodation be used by both male and female teams at the same time?

4.3.10 Overall Score

Table 4.10 Overall Score

Parks	Score	Grade
Dundonald Recreation Ground	36.59%	Poor
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	51.22%	Average
Morden Recreation Ground	51.22%	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	56.10%	
Cottenham Park	60.98%	Good
Drax Playing Fields	63.41%	
John Innes Recreation Ground	63.41%	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	65.85%	
Wimbledon Park	65.85%	
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	68.29%	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	68.29%	
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	70.73%	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	70.73%	
Oberon Playing Fields	70.73%	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	70.73%	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	80.49%	
Beverley Meads	92.68%	Excellent
King Georges Field	92.68%	
Morden Park	92.68%	

The overall score for pavilion facilities has been calculated from the scores outlined above. The Pavilion at Dundonald Rec scored lowest with poor rating of 36.59%. The Median score was 65.85 (Wimbledon Park). Morden Park, Beverly Meads and King Georges Field were assessed to have the best facilities scoring 92.68%. The majority of Merton's Pavilion facilities achieved a good rating. This suggests that while the buildings fulfil there functional requirements adequately, there is plenty of room for improvement in areas of quality, design and general maintenance and repair.

4.4 Playing Pitches

Playing Pitches were also assessed using the Sport England Playing Pitch assessment methodology. For purposes of analysis this has been divided into three sections:

- Pitch Surface Quality
- Problem Areas;
- Winter sports, goals pavilions and nets.

4.4.1 Pitch surface quality:

The quality of the playing pitch surface is determined by the Grass Cover, Length of Grass, Size, Adequate Safety Margins, Slope and Evenness. Table 4.11 describes the guidance notes for assessing individual pitches during the quality assessments.

Table 4.11 Guidance notes for Playing Surface Quality

Grass Cover – entire pitch / cricket field	Where, 90%+ grass cover should be given 'Excellent@, less than 60% should be considered 'very poor'.
Length of grass	The ideal length of grass will vary between sports
Size of Pitch / cricket field	Does it meet the NGB standard?

Adequate safety margins	Does it meet the NGB standard?
Slope of pitch / cricket outfield	Cricket wickets should be flat
Evenness of pitch	Where field is completely level = excellent

Assessments were completed in good weather conditions before substantial seasonal rainfall and pressure from sports sessions caused deterioration of the surface quality. The table below represents the range of scores for each criteria.

Table 4.12 Playing Surface Quality

Parks	Grass cover	Length of grass	Size	safety margin	Slope	Evenness
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	>94%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Ex
Beverley Meads	85-94%	Ex	yes	Yes	Slight	Good
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	70-84%	Poor	yes	Yes	Flat	V poor
Cottenham Park	70-84%	Poor	yes	Yes	Flat	v.poor
Drax Playing Fields	>94	Good	yes	No	slight	Good
Dundonald Recreation Ground	>94	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Good
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	70-84%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Ex
John Innes Recreation Ground	85-94%	Ex	yes	Yes	Flat	Ex
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	70-84%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	v.poor
King Georges Field	85-94%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Good
Morden Park	85-94%	Good	Yes	Yes	Slight	Ex
Morden Recreation Ground	70-84%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	v.poor
Nursery Road Playing Fields	>94	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Ex
Oberon Playing Fields	85-94%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Poor
Raynes Park Playing Fields	>94	Ex	yes	Yes	Flat	v.poor
Raynes Park Sports Ground	>94	v.poor	yes	Yes	Flat	v.poor
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	<60%	v.poor	yes	Yes	Flat	Ex
Three Kings Piece Open Space	70-84%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Good
Westminister City School Playing Fields	>94	Ex	yes	Yes	Flat	Ex
Wimbledon Common Extensions	60-69%	Good	yes	Yes	Flat	Ex
Wimbledon Park	85-94%	Ex	yes	Yes	Flat	Good

Table 4.13 Playing Pitch Surface Results Summary

Grass Cover – entire pitch / cricket field	Grass cover is generally very good with most pitches scoring greater than 85% grass cover. This figure expected to decrease during the season.
Length of grass	Generally good to excellent. Some grounds were identified as being very poor. Work needed to bring pitch up to standard
Size of Pitch / cricket field	All pitches were judged adequate
Adequate safety margins	All pitches (with the exception of Drax) had adequate safety margins.
Slope of pitch / cricket outfield	Generally flat. A few pitches with a slight slope.

Evenness of pitch	A wide variation in evenness of pitch especially on football and rugby pitches.

Merton's pitches are of a reasonably high quality indicating a good level of maintenance, subject to funding, to ensure they remain playable. However, due to this exercise being undertaken prior to winter and heavy winter usage these scores are likely to fluctuate downward throughout the season.

4.4.2 Pitch Problem Areas

Merton's playing pitches were assessed for any evidence of problems caused by park visitors. The general standard of grounds management was good. The survey targeted the following four areas:

Evidence of dog fouling	If no evidence, assume none.
Evidence of glass / stones / litter	If no evidence, assume none
Evidence of unofficial use	Informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. If no evidence, assume none.
Evidence of damage to surface	e.g. golf divots, car-parking on field etc. If no evidence, assume none.

Table 4.14 Merton Playing Pitches ~ Problem Areas

Parks	Evidence dog fouling	Evidence of glass/ stones/ litter	Evidence of unofficial use	Evidence of damage to surface
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	None	None	Some	Some
Beverley Meads	Some	Some	Some	Some
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	Some	None	None	Some
Cottenham Park	Some	None	None	Some
Drax Playing Fields	Some/Lots	Some	Some	Some
Dundonald Recreation Ground	None	None	Some	None
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	Some	Some	Some	Some
John Innes Recreation Ground	Some	Lots	Lots	Lots
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	Lots	Lots	Lots	Lots
King Georges Field	Some	Some	Some	Some
Lavender Park	Lots	Lots	Lots	Lots
Morden Park	None	None	None	None
Morden Playing Fields	Lots	Lots	Lots	Lots
Morden Recreation Ground	Some	Some	Lots	Lots
Nursery Road Playing Fields	None	None	None	None
Oberon Playing Fields	None	None	None	Some
Raynes Park Playing Fields	None	None	None	None
Raynes Park Sports Ground	None	None	None	None
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	None	None	None	None
Three Kings Piece Open Space	Some	Lots	Lots	Lots
Westminister City School Playing Fields	None	Lots	Some	Some
Wimbledon Common Extensions	Some	Some	Lots	Lots
Wimbledon Park	None	None	None	Some

Evidence of dog fouling - varies
Evidence of glass, stones or litter – varies
Evidence of unofficial use – not a lot.
Evidence of damage to surface - varies

Table 4.15 Training hours per week on the pitch

Training hours on pitches add more pressure to the playing pitches and associated facilities.

The table opposite indicates that most playing pitches in the Borough have from 1 – 4+ hours worth of training per week.

Parks	Hours
Beverley Meads	4+
Dundonald Recreation Ground	
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	
Lavender Park	
Morden Park	
Morden Playing Fields	
Morden Recreation Ground	
Oberon Playing Fields	
Raynes Park Sports Ground	
Three Kings Piece Open Space	
Westminister City School Playing Fields	
Nursery Road Playing Fields	2-4
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	
Wimbledon Common Extensions	
Drax Playing Fields	1-2
Raynes Park Playing Fields	
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	Zero
Cottenham Park	
John Innes Recreation Ground	
King Georges Field	
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	
Wimbledon Park	

4.4.3 Winter sports, goals pavilions and nets.

Table 4.16 Winter sports – goals, pavilions and nets

Parks	Winter Sports Goals, corner flags, nets	Cricket Wicket protected	Line markings	Training areas
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	Good	Yes	Excellent	No
Beverley Meads	Good	No	Poor	Yes
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	Poor	No	Good	Yes
Cottenham Park	Poor	No	Good	Yes
Drax Playing Fields	Good	No	Good	Yes
Dundonald Recreation Ground	Excellent	Yes	Excellent	Yes
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	Good	Yes	Excellent	Yes
John Innes Recreation Ground	Poor	No	Good	No
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	Poor	No	Excellent	Yes
King Georges Field	Poor	Yes	Good	No
Lavender Park	Poor	No	Poor	No
Morden Park	Excellent	No	Good	No
Morden Playing Fields	Poor	No	Poor	No
Morden Recreation Ground	Good	No	Good	Yes
Nursery Road Playing Fields	Good	Yes	Good	No
Oberon Playing Fields	Excellent	No	Poor	No
Raynes Park Playing Fields	Poor	No	Good	Yes
Raynes Park Sports Ground	Poor	No	Good	Yes
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	Excellent	Yes	Excellent	No
Three Kings Piece Open Space	Good	No	Excellent	No

Westminister City School Playing Fields	Excellent	No	Good	Yes
Wimbledon Common Extensions	Poor	No	Good	No
Wimbledon Park	Good	No	Excellent	Yes

Cricket wickets are generally protected with a few exceptions about the borough.

Line markings are generally good to excellent quality.

Training areas are supplied in about 50% of parks. This is sometimes a reaction to pitch damage and ensures that the pitches are allowed to recover before the weekend.

4.5 Key Quality Issues

The Pavilion and Playing Pitch quality assessments results raised a number of key issues to be addressed through the Merton Open Space Strategy. This assessment has identified specific sites for investment where quality is below acceptable standards. Investment allocation should however, also consider the location of particular open spaces and the wider outcomes sought in the Strategy.

Pavilions

Changing room provision is varied in number and quality. Changing room allocation should be improved according to: Volume of use of the grounds; potential female users; allocation of similar facilities in the area

Most pavilions in Merton suffer from vandalism of varying degrees. Any service level agreement for responding to vandalism should incorporate other MOSS objectives including: Improving security and surveillance; community programmes; education and the overall design and layout of open spaces.

Shower and toilet provision are essential to the enjoyment of teams and supporters using a particular park or facility. Most pavilions included showers and toilets of at least OK quality. The few parks without these facilities should be assessed on their requirement for them based on existing or potential park patronage.

Car parking facilities were generally ranked as OK or good. However seven parks were rated as poor. When compared to public transport accessibility and the volume of people using the ground it is possible to make sensible investment decisions regarding the provision and ongoing maintenance of car parks.

Links from Merton's playing pitches to public transport are generally OK to good. Exceptions include Wimbledon Commons Extension and a number of privately owned and managed facilities.

Security at Merton's pavilion is reasonable. However, vandalism and the resultant security measures have made the facilities unattractive to visitors. To

The overall scores for Pavilions point to Dundonald Rec, Haydons Road Rec and Morden Rec urgently requiring work to bring them up to a good standard. The better quality pavilions are generally privately owned. However, selective

improvements to the appearance and facilities of Merton's pavilions would greatly increase user satisfaction.

Sports Pitches

The overall quality of sports pitches varies across the borough. Playing pitch surface is generally good but seems to be deteriorating with several irregular potholed pitches appearing.

Dog fouling, litter, unofficial use and surface damage appear prevalent across the borough and it varies according to location.

The quality of sports equipment also varies greatly across the borough. Winter sports equipment such as goals, corner flags and nets range from poor to excellent. Investment in these facilities where there is an identified need will be very useful.

According to the Sport England Playing Pitch Assessment methodology an excellent pitch is one scoring over 90%. None of Merton's pitches meets this standard. Most pitches are rated "good" scoring between 64-90% The poorest pitches in the Borough are located at Joseph Hood Rec, The best quality pitches owned by Merton include Wimbledon Park, Dundonald Rec and Haydons Road Rec.

Table 4.17 Playing Pitch Overall Quality Score

Pitch Location	%
Wimbledon Park	89.55%
Dundonald Recreation Ground	85.97%
Haydons Road Recreation Ground	85.07%
Westminister City School Playing Fields	85.07%
Raynes Park Playing Fields	80.17%
Raynes Park Sports Ground	79.35%
Abbey Road Recreation Ground	78.61%
Oberon Playing Fields	78.11%
Morden Park	77.11%
Beverley Meads	76.72%
King Georges Field	74.25%
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground	73.13%
Cottenham Park	73.13%
John Innes Recreation Ground	71.64%
Three Kings Piece Open Space	70.90%
Wimbledon Common Extensions	65.67%
Drax Playing Fields	63.68%
The Old Rutishians Sports Club	62.69%
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground	50.75%

5.0 Adequacy of Provision

To assess whether existing provision is adequate information has been collected from sports teams that play within the Borough. As part of the MOSS Assessment WS Atkins conducted a Team survey this provided some useful information about the teams perceptions of existing provision. Further information has been collected through the Sports User Questionnaire 2002, and further contact with teams in 2003.

In terms of adequacy of facilities there are two key questions that are important. To assess the adequacy of existing playing pitch provision these are;

1. Are pitches in the right location?

2. Is the quality of pitches and facilities adequate?

Table 5.1 below shows results of WS Atkins Team Survey, and sets out teams that wanted to relocate from the pitch they use at present and the reasons for this.

Table 5.1 Teams wanting to relocate and reason.

Team	Relocate Team?	Site	Reason
Mitcham Strollers FC (1 team)	Possibly	Abbey Rec	Drainage
Southside FC (1 team)	Yes	Colliers Wood Rec Ground	Poor facilities and not value for money
Merton Predators FC (1 team)	Possibly	Haydons Rd Rec	Inadequate changing facilities
Raynes Park Former Pupils (3 Rugby teams)	Yes	Oberon Playing Fields	Have site in mind for relocation (sun alliance)
Rosedene FC (1 team)	Possibly	Raynes Park Sports Ground	Pitch Quality
Rosedene Rovers FC (1 team)	Possibly	Raynes Park Sports Ground	Not guaranteed same pitch every week, due to adult teams getting priority, and pitch too big
Sutton Orient FC (1 team)	Possibly	Raynes Park Sports Ground	Drainage
Chase Lodge Athletic FC (2 teams)	Yes	Raynes Park Sports Ground	no reason given
Old Amplefordians RFC (1 team)	Yes	Raynes Park Sports Ground	Want own home ground
Merton Boys Sports Club CC (1 team)	Yes	Raynes Park Sports Ground	Transport, Ground not local, no markings on pitch, poor maintenance of pitch
Risley Athletic Rec Association (7 teams)	Possibly	Risley Sports Club	Lease runs out
Mitcham Cricketers FC (1 team)	Yes	Three Kings Piece	Cost too high
Westside FC (4 teams)	Yes	Wimbledon Common Exten	looking to own their own ground
Stoneleigh Park FC (1 team)	Yes	Wimbledon Common Exten	no reason given
Spartak Morden FC (1 team)	Yes	Wimbledon Common Exten	Pitch quality

- Of a total of 280 sports teams in the Borough only 27 stated they wanted (or possibly) wanted to relocate. There are varying reasons for this, which range from the lease running out on the pitch (Risley Sports Club – owned by LB Sutton) to drainage and pitch quality.
- Football teams are the most likely to want to relocate, followed by rugby teams. There was only 1 Cricket team that wanted to relocate.
- With regards to the Rugby teams one club wanted their own ground, the other club (running 3 teams had a new home ground in mind). Not management issues to do with quality of facilities or pitches.
- Transport/location was only mentioned once as a reason for teams wanting to relocate (Merton Boys Sports Club CC). This would seem to suggest that most teams were satisfied with the location of the pitch they used, or at least did not feel this was a major issue that mean they were seeking a new pitch closer to their 'base'.
- Raynes Park Sports Ground had the most teams that wanted to relocate –

- As well as the teams identified above that wanted to relocate the following teams had comments about the pitches they use;
- Morden Girls league run 4 girls football teams at King George's Field complained about pitch quality and drainage, and the fact that pitches are used informally (as nets are left up) causing damage to the pitch.
- Merton FC who run 13 teams at Joseph Hood Recreation ground commented on the poor pitch quality (games cancelled) and the changing facilities/showers.
- Merton Park Rangers FC (1 teams) play at Morden Recreation Ground commented on high cost of hire.
- Merton Cricket Club run 5 teams at the Cricket Green, they commented that the pitch quality is poor and is not suitable for the league they wished to play in.
- All the sites are publicly owned except Risley Sports Club, which is owned by LB Sutton.

5.1 Sports User Questionnaire 2002

As part of the Best Value Review (of Leisure Services Department) a survey of Sports Clubs was conducted. The sports club questionnaire was sent to 180 clubs and groups that using the Council's grass pitches. These included football, cricket, rugby and bowls with a few other groups who use the facilities for running, etc. Although the survey was not developed directly for the purpose of this strategy, it has provided useful additional information.

Key issues from this survey were:

The large majority of sports participants are male aged 18-35 and from a white ethnic background. Considering the Borough's make up and the national statistics in terms of activities by ethnic groups this would fit the normal profile.

- Football accounted for 52% of the returns. 22% cricket, 10% bowls, 10% rugby and 2% others. 4% did not specify.

- On pricing, 72% were in the mid-quartile in terms of whether they considered the price of the pitch as being good or not good (so neither good or bad)

However,

- Changing facilities showed an opposite trend with the majority thinking they were poor.
- The location of the pitch and the condition of the pitch attracted some favourable returns with 76% considering the location to be very good or good and 72% finding the condition of the pitch to be good or very good.
- Staff on site overall were found to be acceptable. The booking staff and the booking procedures were found to be very good and easy to follow respectively.
- The question of value for money gave an approximate 50-50 split. Compared with other sports pitches used, Merton's overall position in terms of cost were found to be reasonable with 48%.
- 78% The location of the pitch was important. The reasons it was important were local to majority of members, parking, quality of pitch, and near to public transport.
- Three main ways of hearing about the facilities were word of mouth, contacting the council, or having previously used the facilities.
- Three ways of booking, most popular is through the post, some use phone, a few come into the Civic Centre.
- Finally, 92% would consider using Merton's pitches again.

A whole range of other questions were raised where respondents could provide free-text answers. Overall, these responses showed that the majority of people found the pitches to be of reasonable value, in the right place, correctly marked out, easy to book and in some cases, particular emphasis on individual grounds maintenance staff.

The majority of significant complaints received were to do with the physical condition of the changing rooms, showers and toilets.

5.2 Location Query

In addition to the above survey further information was required on the location of the majority of players within sports teams. Further contact was made with Football, Cricket and Rugby clubs. 96 surveys were sent out to teams, with 43 returned (response rate of 45%). Teams were asked;

- Where the majority of their players lived (the results are shown in Figure 5.1 below)
- If the majority of the players in a team came from Merton, the team was asked to identify which areas in Merton that the Players came from (the results are shown in Figure 5.2 below).

Figure 5.1 Origin Sports Players using Merton's Pitches

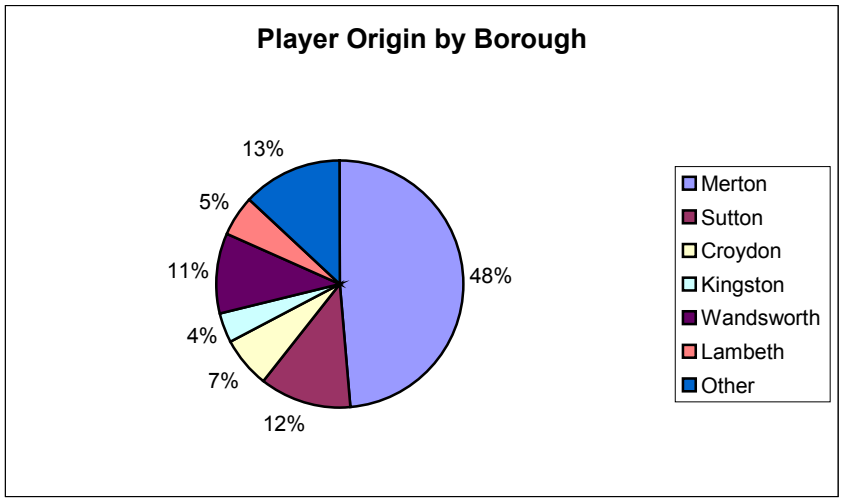
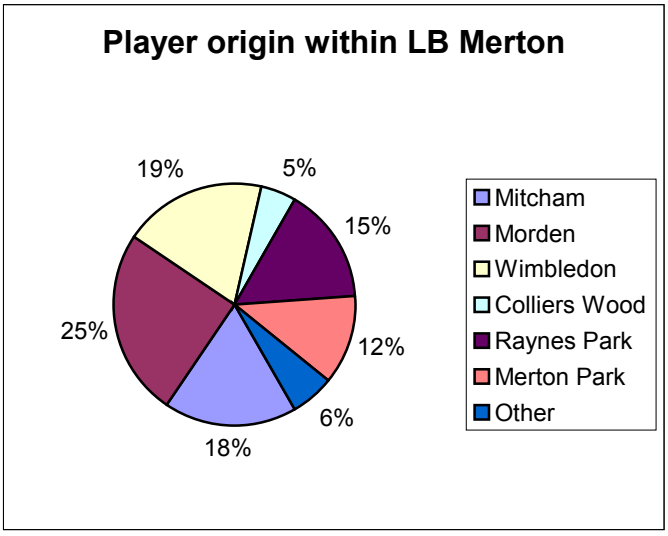


Figure 5.2 Origin of Merton Sports Players



Its clear that a large proportion of players in teams that play in Merton come from Merton, but that some players do come from surrounding Boroughs. Largest proportion of non Merton residents are coming from the Boroughs of Sutton and Wandsworth

The results showed that a large majority of teams include at least some players from Merton, with the remainder of the players coming from surrounding Boroughs, or in some cases further a field. A very small number of teams were made up of only players from outside the Borough.

Rugby teams are more likely to be made up of only players from Merton, there are also a fairly large number of football teams made up of only players from Merton, but this is much less likely with cricket.

Those football teams that are not made up solely from players from Merton have players from the surrounding Borough's of Sutton, Croydon, Kingston and Wandsworth

Cricket teams tend to be made up of players from both Merton and surrounding Boroughs, and in some cases further out.

In terms of where those players that live in Merton are coming from, If these areas are grouped according to the sub area that they are in. 37% of players are from Morden (includes Merton Park), 24% are from Wimbledon (includes Colliers Wood), 18% from Mitcham, and 15% are from Raynes Park.

5.3 Adequacy of Provision - Key issues

Based on the perceptions of teams there a number of issues about the adequacy of existing provision that have been identified;

- Pitch quality in particular drainage issues are a problem at some sites;
- Quality of changing facilities/toilets can be a problem at some sites;
- The Sports User Questionnaire identified that Merton's pitches were generally seen as neither good value for money or bad value for money. The MOSS team survey identified some concerns about the cost of hire. It therefore would appear that although not a major issue there are some concerns regarding value for money. Further investigation with teams about specific concerns may help to raise the level of satisfaction.
- Football teams are the least happy with their existing pitches, there may be a need to investigate ways of better meeting their needs.
- Rugby teams seem to be satisfied with there current pitches. However there may be a need to assist rugby teams in finding own grounds, possibly in partnership with the Council.
- Location of pitches is important to teams, however it does not appear to be a major concern for existing teams. Some teams want to relocate but the reasons for this are related to quality of pitches or changing facilities, not due to concerns about the location of the pitch.
- Location could be a factor in latent demand, as if there are few pitches in an area it might mean demand is not expressed. However the location query shows a good mix of residents from across the Borough participating in sports teams.
- There seems to be a lack of marketing of the facilities as most teams that use the facilities had heard about them either through word of mouth, contacting the council or because they had used them before. Lack of marketing could be a reason for latent demand that has been identified.
- There may be potential for Internet booking as at present people use the post, telephone or book in person.

6.0 Conclusion

The Playing Pitch assessment provides detailed information; on the existing supply of playing pitches in Merton, the present demand for playing pitches, where that demand is, how demand is predicted to change over time, the quality of existing playing pitches (assessed by the Council), and the perceptions of sport teams playing within the Borough to assess the adequacy of existing provision. This information can be used for;

- Evidence for capital funding;
- Basis to respond to new pitch requirements arising from new housing developments;
- Protect sports pitches and facilities;
- Improving asset management;
- Highlight where quality improvements are needed;
- Promote sports development.

Various key issues related to playing pitch provision and quality have been identified as part of the WS Atkins Playing Pitch Assessment (2002) and this Playing Pitch Assessment Update. These key issues are detailed in Table 6.1 below, and some possible solutions for addressing these issues have been identified.

The MOSS aims to address these key issues that have been identified through this assessment and a specific action plan has been developed for Playing pitches, this is set out in Section 5 of MOSS.

Quantity and Quality Issues

Issue	Possible Solutions
Quantitative Issues	
Adult Football; Currently a peak time surplus of pitch slots borough wide. There is a surplus in all areas, with Raynes Park showing the largest surplus. The surplus will decrease 2003-2011 (59.2) but the decrease will begin to stabilise by 2016 (only slight decrease to 58.5). The decrease in surplus over this time will occur in all areas except Raynes park, where availability will increase.	• An element of surplus is required to meet future demand (particularly if we are seeking to increase participation in junior and female football) and to account for any latent demand. • Improving quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (currently perceived as poor). Is likely to increase the demand for these pitches. • Improved marketing of pitches available. • Investigate price structure (bench mark against other authorities). • Investigate the opportunity to mark out some adult football pitches for junior football. Potentially this should be in Raynes park where the surplus of adult football pitches is expected to increase.
Junior Football Currently peak time deficit (-9.1) borough wide. There is a deficit in each area except Mitcham (currently has no junior teams so zero value). The deficit will increase 2003-2011 (-16.9) but the increase in deficit will begin to stabilise by 2016 (only slight decrease to –17.2). the increase in deficit will occur in Wimbledon and Mitcham, whereas the deficit will decrease in Raynes Park and Morden.	• Secure dedicated junior football pitches to enable the future growth of the game, this could include changes to adult football pitches. • Work with schools – seek potential dual use of school facilities
Cricket; Currently small peak time surplus (4.7) borough wide. Each area has a small surplus except Morden which currently has a deficit. Pitch slots availability will decrease 2003-2011 (1.4) but the decrease will begin to stabilise by 2016 (only slight decrease to 1). The decrease in availability of pitch slots will occur in Mitcham and Wimbledon, whereas existing small surplus in Raynes Park will increase slightly, and existing deficit in Morden will decrease to zero.	• Protect sites with existing cricket pitches • Enhance existing facilities and pitches to raise capacity • Review site layout of existing sites to see if more pitches are possible (this would have an effect on supporting facilities, and other users) • Secure new pitch slots through access to sites not currently in 'secured use'.
Adult Rugby; Currently small peak time surplus (10.3) borough wide. Each area has a small surplus except Mitcham (currently has no teams or pitches so zero vaue). Pitch slot availability will decrease 2003-2011 (2.7) but the decrease will begin to stabilise by 2016 (only slight decrease to 2.2) Pitch slots availability will decrease in all areas except Raynes Park (where availability will increase). Mitcham will go into deficit.	• Protect sites with existing Rugby pitches • Enhance existing facilities and pitches to raise capacity • Review site layout of existing sites to see if more pitches are possible (this would have an effect on supporting facilities, and other users) • Secure new pitch slots through access to sites not currently in 'secured use'

Junior Rugby; Currently a peak time deficit (-9.3) borough wide. All areas have a deficit except Mitcham (currently zero value as no teams playing in the area). Between 2003-2011 the deficit will increase (-14.5) but the decrease will begin to stabilise by 2016 (only slight decrease to –14.8). The decrease in availability will occur in all areas except Raynes Park where the existing deficit will decrease slightly.	• Secure dedicated junior rugby pitches to enable the future growth of the game, this could include changes to adult football pitches. • Work with schools – seek potential dual use of school facilities
Hockey There is almost no scope for further league games Hockey is generally played on ATPs and there is demand for ATPs**,** particularly in the East of the Borough.	• Need for new ATPs to assist with development of the game. • 2 proposed in Mitcham, need to be implemented
Distribution of pitches is uneven. Patterns of demand vary throughout the Borough. Although there are variations in availability of pitch slots over the 2003 -2016 period with some areas showing increasing surplus, while others show availability decreasing, the overall trend is for a decrease in availability.	• Protect pitches that are currently part of secured public use • Seek new pitch slots where opportunities arise in areas that show a deficit, or growing demand. This could be dual use of school sites, or access to privately owned sites. • Implement EMOSS in Mitcham to improve pitch provision. • Investigate potential for Floodlighting or all weather pitches to increase capacity (where other environmental considerations would allow).
Cross Borough boundary demand Some evidence of migration of players from other boroughs. Surrounding boroughs' open space and playing pitch policies could increase this the demand on Merton's open spaces..	• Take into account while planning (participation in their processes) • Partnerships with adjacent boroughs to plan effectively for facilities sharing. We have met with other Boroughs at present their appears to be a lack of interest.
Level of private ownership, and access to pitches varies There is a higher than average number of privately owned pitches, which could have implications for pitch slots if their status in secure use changes in future. Some have unlimited access, others may only be available to clubs at limited times during the week. Raynes park has the highest proportion of pitches in private ownership. Mitcham has the lowest number of pitches in secured public use but of those available a high proportion are in private ownership.	• Investigate existing arrangements at private sites for public use. • Where possible formalise agreements for community use. • Upgrade local authority pitches to ensure capacity is high as possible on sites that can be guaranteed for public access. • Focus of this action should be on areas with high proportion of private pitches in particular Raynes Park and Mitcham.

Loss of Private Facilities Recent pressure to develop non open space uses on playing pitches could continue.	• Use the findings of the MOSS to protect pitches that are required to meet playing pitch needs. • Keep under review pitch supply and demand for pitches. • Use the PPM model to assess the effect of planning applications
Latent Demand/Barriers to Participation	
Team Generation Rates Merton has Low TGRs for all pitch sports. However if you look at the sports by age and sex, there are variations from this overall finding. These are as follows; For football in terms of men currently TGR is about average, junior girls are higher than average but for women's and the junior boys game there appears to be latent demand. For Cricket there are currently no identified teams for females either adult or junior. Men have a high TGR and therefore there is likely to be low latent demand but for junior boys cricket latent demand is high. For Rugby the boys and men's game shows high TGRs so low level of latent demand is likely, but for the female game TGRs are low so there is likely to be a high level of latent demand. There are currently no Junior girls teams. For Hockey both the adult and Junior game have relatively high TGRs so the latent demand is likely to be low.	Increase participation in under represented groups through; • Sports development initiatives to increase participation. • Continue to develop and promote junior coaching and junior pitches. • Support the development of female participation e.g. provide separate facilities where they don't exist, and improve existing changing facilities. • Ensure attention to security and surveillance concerns when designing open spaces. • Research the needs of under represented groups. • Recognise increased female sport participation (walking, swimming, keep fit / yoga, cycling, golf and tennis) by providing for their needs. • Take account of likely latent demand by setting a strategic reserve so that as latent demand becomes expressed demand pitches are available to cope with increased demand.
Ethnic minorities under represented Lower levels of participation in pitch sports amongst ethnic minority groups	• Take into account the sport and recreation preferences when planning open spaces and sports pitches • Carry out research into reasons for low level of ethnic participation in pitch sports. • Seek views on this through consultation on draft
Latent demand caused by a variety of factors including: Closure of grounds in adjacent boroughs, increased popularity of individual sports, changing population structure, reduced access to private facilities.	• Investigate the provision of a strategic playing pitch reserve in more detail. • Provide a strategic reserve of playing pitches
Qualitative Issues	
Playing Surface Quality While most grounds are of high quality, some need work to bring them up to standard	• Increased maintenance budget. • Direct games away from pitches with drainage problems (effect of climate change – drier summers and wetter winters should be reflected in strategy)

Condition of certain types of pitches strongly influenced by intensity of use as well as drainage. So although private pitches were assessed as having better drainage, overall the condition was worse. Some pitches are below standard grounds for the Surrey Championship League. Creates a migration of matches to outside the borough	• Look at intensity of use – do we have more pitches so used less frequently (therefore retain quality) or spend a lot more money on upgrading quality. • Promote higher pitch standards
Unofficial Usage Damage to pitches Undermining of fee structure	• Greater security of grounds and enforcement. • Provision of official practice and kick about areas. • Take down goals after matches, use portable goals. • Justify the costs of pitches
Litter and dog fouling.	• Ensure maintenance standards are achieved • Reduce conflict of different users through education/engagement.
Vandalism This mainly graffiti but occasional damage at some facilities, at most parks. This results in a meaningless cycle of damage to community facilities. Design and location are responsible for some of the more persistent cases of vandalism	• Increased security • Improve design – i.e overlooking etc • Partnerships with Police, Schools and communities, friends groups etc. • Increased quality of facilities (Pavilion, changing rooms, toilets) will attract and retain teams with the borough and promote a sense of ownership amongst teams. • Clean up graffiti • Mend and maintain damaged facilities. • Set standards – best value performance indicators
Changing/other Supporting Facilities Many pitches lack adequate changing facilities Often the facilities available at public pitches are not suitable for the number of pitches, and are in a poor state of repair.	• Provide new changing facilities at priority sites.
Needs of particular teams: • Advertising hoardings • Quality and availability of the facilities. • Some team have expressed a desire to relocate • Desire of Clubs to secure own grounds (A key indicator of dissatisfaction with the Boroughs playing pitches)	• A detailed customer expectation survey could highlight what they desire out of facilities and how much they are willing to pay for these facilities. • Explore team relocations to better match pitches with team requirements. • Dialogue with the sports club to establish their vision for pitches. • Service level agreements with clubs • Potential for partnership agreements with clubs to assist with the management and

Quality of facilities: • Usually good but is on their presentation and maintenance that users and the public form opinions on quality.	maintenance of the grounds. • Partnerships with clubs to manage and maintain facilities (could work for certain sports) • Increased security and surveillance
Value for money: A perception amongst teams that they are getting poor value for money compared to other boroughs and private sports facilities Quality of pitches and associated facilities are key determinants of customer satisfaction.	• Review charging strategy • Develop service level agreement with clubs. • Set standards for playing pitches
Youth Concerns Youth need a place to congregate lawfully. Structured sports may not fulfil these needs for all.	• Promote sports to youth • Provide adequate facilities • Partnerships with Police, schools and community
Integration into context. Playing pitches are often the focus of an open space resulting in a poor Landscape setting. By ensuring the park is attractive to all users a greater benefit to the wider community can be attained. Care must be taken to achieve an appropriate balance between active and passive recreation.	• Design considerations • Location and Demand considerations (i.e do other non pitch sport users have somewhere else to go in the area)
Sporting Heritage. Merton is a borough with a proud sporting heritage. Erosion of the quantity and quality of playing pitches and facilities is counterproductive to the sense of culture and community in the borough	• Improve standards • Promote sports • Promote community ownership and pride in Merton borough • Seek extra funding that recognises Merton's role in providing pitches in SW London
Funding concerns Teams and public	• Greater transparency of funding policy and annual spending on sports pitches. This could be on the website.
Parking at grounds: Some have adequate parking Others have little but are well served with public transport.	• Take into account transport options before developing more car parking capacity at grounds • Promoting an even distribution of pitches good quality will help to reduce the need to travel far to pitches.
Inaccessibility of Grounds Some grounds are not accessible by public transport, cycle or walking	• Dialogue with public transport operators is needed to determine flexibility of routes for matches and practice • Improvements too entrances, signposting and pedestrian access • Cycling facilities (racks, ramps etc)

Appendix 2 Issues Summary

No	Issue	Category	Possible Solution	Action Type
1	Equality of distribution of open space across the borough. Amount of open space Merton has a lot of open space it is clear from MOSS assessment is that the distribution of POS is not even. The NPFA standard is met Borough wide but some wards have large amount of open space such as Village whereas others have none.	Regeneration, Environment, Equity, Healthy Lifestyle, access	Take account of these standards in prioritisation of investment. But LPAC hierarchy Is more appropriate as it takes account of accessibility.	Pol, Mang.t
2	Identified areas of the borough are deficient in open space and access to open space Open Space deficiencies Areas of the Borough beyond the pedestrian catchment of small local parks (400m & 280m) have been identified. Areas of the Borough beyond the pedestrian catchment (400m & 280m) of local parks have been identified. Parts of the Borough have been identified as being deficient in any public open space provision. Some parts of the Borough (the east in particular) have been identified as being deficient in District park provision.	Access, equity	Continue to use hierarchy of provision, Protect Public open space Identified opportunities for meeting deficiency areas through the planning process (public access to open spaces not currently accessible, new open spaces through planning gain). Take account of deficiencies in the prioritisation of investment opportunities (see MOSS Tab 4.5 and fig 4.1 to 4.5) Improve quality of parks near to deficient areas. Support the development of the Proposed District Park in the UDP. In boundary areas can look at meeting deficiencies across border.	Pol Pol Pol Pol, mang.t Mang.t, Pol Pol Pol
3	Design of open space and adjacent roads creates a barrier to access for pedestrians, cyclists, children and the disabled. Barriers to access/extending catchments in areas of deficiency Busy roads and railways act as barriers to parks Limited access points to parks	Access	Make access routes safer – could be road calming around parks Provide new access points where possible, if there is a barrier to use Better signposting, to take people through quieter safer routes to parks.	Mang.t Mang.t Mang.t
4	The open space hierarchy catchments do not take account of Quality. Quality as we have seen from needs survey is having an effect on catchment of certain parks. Currently no	Environment	Set park quality standards – in progress	Pol, Man.gt

	quality standards for open space.			
5	We don't have quantity standards for each of the different types of open space (e.g allotments, cemeteries etc.). Also lack information as to the needs for these open spaces.		Study the needs for these type of open space Set quantity standards	 Pol
6	Nature Conservation There are quantity standards for Local Nature Reserves. English Nature suggest a ratio of 1ha per 1000 population. Merton currently has 0.3ha per 1000 population, but this will decrease to 0.26ha by 2016 (as population increases). This doesn't account for distribution (LEU handbook has some ideas on this) LEU handbook identifies deficiency areas where there are no notified sites of metropolitan or Borough Importance accessible within 1km. One in east and one in the west There are currently 10 LNRs (is this still the case now) Moss Identified areas that are beyond 1km from an LNR (fig 3.1 vol 2) However many of these areas are served by other sites of nature conservation importance. Also there are 11 sites which have currently being looked at as potential LNRs Areas deficient in some nature conservation are shown on figure 3.2. But of these those wards with a significant area deficient , Graveney and Longthornton are the two key areas for priority (see para 3.19)	Education, Environment	Management of parks in these areas should take account of deficiencies in Metropolitan and Borough Importance. They could be managed in a way to create areas of conservation value. This can be used in the standards for wards. N.B since this issue was identified in MOSS Cranmer green, Pyl brook, Lower Wandle, Part of Ravensbury have all been designated as LNRs. So now prioritise the remaining 7 proposed LNR sites. To assist in meeting LNR deficiencies. Investigate potential to create a green corridor in the east including sites at Streatham park cemetery, long bolstead rec, rowan road rec, Westminster school, and rowan and Brenley.	 Mang.t Pol
7	Pressure for development on open spaces; In particular Urban Green Spaces currently not being used are likely to be under pressure.		Protect all existing public open space.(good one, we need solid presentable facts on hand to ensure good evidence I planning processes) Protect urban green space currently meeting recreational needs (see playing pitch assessment with regards to which these sties are). Urban green spaces and sites not publicly accessible that no longer required for their existing purpose, should be assessed on an individual basis to see if	Pol Pol Pol

			needed to meet open space deficiency, meet sports pitch requirements or other open space uses (cemetery, allotment, nature conservation etc).	
8	Cross Boundary –Issues Pressure from across borough boundaries for open space experiences. Merton residents will be affected by any change in open space provision in adjacent boroughs.		Establish closer links at officer level with surrounding Boroughs to ensure that planning for open space takes account of cross boundary issues. Object to loss of open space in surrounding Boroughs where this would lead to increased pressure on open spaces in Merton.	Part Pol
9	Variation in facilities available – meaning some areas are deficient in certain facilities The facilities within the different type of parks varies, and facilities available varies in different parts of the Borough. (MOSS Tab 5.5)	Access, equity, healthy lifestyle	Set standards for range and quality of facilities for each park type. Set standard for range of facility by ward. Identify areas for priority A variety of facilities available for use by the entire borough community.	Mang.t, Pol Mang.t, Pol Mang.t pol Mang.t, Pol
10	Quality deficiencies exist – facilities/landscape An area may not be deficient in open space but may leave certain open space needs unmet. Merton residents needs are see below – add in all important bits from needs survey.		Set standards for the quality of open space – so that Quality of facilities and condition of open space is taken into account when prioritising investment. To ensure that Merton residents needs are met.	Mang.t, Pol
11	Condition of open space varies – Three parks were assessed as poor and some were assessed as fair.		Assess what primary purpose is and set appropriate standard for each park type. Appropriate solutions and actions can then be identified to upgrade parks to a standard reasonable for their characteristics. The prioritisation will set out which parks receive funding for the action first. (in progress)	Mang.t, pol
12	Landscape and Visual quality (Amenity) This varies, the majority of local parks are characterised by recreational grassland, often not considered as stimulating as other landscapes. (needs show informal rec important and often people like it because its an open space – natural features are popular – so importance of natural features and scenery for these users is likely to be a key attraction see below).		Ensure that the landscape of open spaces appeals to a broad range of uses, whilst maintaining primary function of the open space, and respecting unique features. Open Spaces have been identified for landscape improvements in MOSS (see figure 5.2). this can be fed into the action plan or standard for parks. (could we use this figure in the standards)	Mang.t Mang.t

13	Open spaces also have Non-Recreational Roles these include; Structural Amenity Ecology Educational Cultural Social These roles need to be recognised and appropriate protection and enhancement of these roles/values should be given. (MOSS tab 4.4 shows roles by park type) A key point that we should put upfront in the issues discussion.		MOL policy in place which recognises structural role of open spaces and seeks to protect it. Those with recognised amenity should have that amenity value protected and enhanced Sites with ecological value are identified and protected. See vol 2 ch 3 about protecting and enhancing). Some schools may make use of open space for curricular requirements, this should be promoted to ensure that all schools are able to do this. These roles should be taken into account when deciding the future of open spaces (i.e in an proposed planning applications) Maybe a score on non-recreational roles.	Pol Pol, mang.t Pol Part Pol
14	The Green Network Designated Green Corridors in UDP they enable the movement of some fauna and flora. Designated green chains in UDP to provide linkages between, around and through open spaces, providing informal recreational opportunities for walking an cycling. There is scope for providing additional green chains and green corridors Number of cycle routes exist and number of walking routes exist (designated in UDP) and there is scope to provide new ones the UDP has proposed some new cycle routes and MOSS has proposed some new ones (MOSS Vol 2, Fig 4.8) River Corridors and floodplains provide an important natural resource, they provide an opportunity for the creation of habitat.	Environment, healthy lifestyle,	Protect and seek to extend the existing green network through the following measures; Investigate potential of creating green corridor proposed in MOSS. Green current routes to open spaces this should be prioritised in areas deficient in open space. Provide new riverside walks as part of development proposals where opportunities arise. UDP site proposals provide an opportunity to seek improvements to walking and cycling routes and green corridors as part of new developments. Investigate the potential new cycle and footpath proposed in MOSS vol 2. Investigate with the Environment Agency (see EA Doc on river restoration) the potential of habitat creation along river corridors, and potential for river restoration.	Pol Mang.t, Pol Pol Pol Pol Part

			Provide linkages (create an accessible open space network)	
15	Community Involvement; Consultation has shown there is a desire for greater community involvement in parks issues. (the desire is there but how many existing groups are there)	Community, regeneration	Assist people in establishing friends groups for their local park Establish an annual forum for those interested in parks and friends groups, to discuss issues and offer assistance Community input to design of new parks or actions proposed in their local park (planning for real etc) Establish partnerships to enable the running of parks/open space with full community involvement Organise litter picks/clean up of parks (involving local schools, youth groups and general public) Involving schools a good one – which parks have adjacent schools? Need for informal youth facilites	Part Part Part Part Part Part Part
16	Youth involvement There are concerns that the views of the young have not been sought and this has been partly responsible for problems, such as anti-social behaviour in parks.		Involve in the above activities but would need to target youth specifically to seek their views.	Part
17	Improving quality of parks and open space and providing new facilities where appropriate – moss consultations showed this most important thing to consultees. (see below for what people expect to see improved)		Set quality standards Aim to achieve the quality standard in all open spaces over the period of the strategy. Maintain quality open spaces where they already exist. Prioritise quality improvements as key action.	Mang.t, Pol Mang.t Mang.t Mang.t, Pol
18	Ethnic Differences Levels of park use are high in Merton. Use is higher amongst the white population, however use amongst ethnic minorities is also reasonably high	Healthy Lifestyle, Equity	May be simple like language translations on signs and booking information etc. Work more with ethnic groups Promote the benefits of park use to the ethnic community to increase participation levels (how do you promote specifically to them) Highlight the facilities available and the events that	Mang.t Part Part Mang.t

			are held in the parks	
19	Level of Park use As well as there being a high level of park use, park use is frequent. Predictably use is higher in the summer months with 70% of users visiting at least weekly but some 2-3 times a week and some daily.	Healthy Lifestyle	Promote greater year round use through; Make more welcoming in winter lighting, cafes (places to sit in warm)	Mang.t
20	Frequency of use varies with age with those over 60 the most frequent users. Frequency of visit increases with age.	Education, healthy lifestyle		
21	Mode of transport Most people walk to open spaces, some use a car to get to open spaces. Bus use is more likely in Mitcham or Morden. Those between 30 -74 are more likely to drive than other ages. The further down the hierarchy the less likely travel by car becomes, and the more likely walking becomes.	Access, Equity	Provide a range of facilities and open spaces within reasonable walking distance of all residents – by applying standards of provision and meeting any deficiencies that might arise. Remove obstacles to foot traffic improve park design, signposting and paths and gates.	Pol, mang.t
22	Park users tend to visit only one park (the average number of parks used is 1.6).	Access Equity	Provide a minimum of facilities in all parks.	Pol, mang.t
23	Reasons for use These vary with age, sex and ethnic group. However across all age and ethnic groups, and for both sexes, use of parks generally is for informal activities. With exercise (walking, jogging, cycling) being the most common use. It will therefore be important to ensure people have the opportunity to do this in safe and pleasant environment.	Healthy Lifestyle	Appropriate surfacing Landscaping Seating Lighting Signage.	Mang.t
24	Gender differences Most people do use parks for informal use but males are more likely to engage in formal or informal sports activity. There will be a need to cater for the differing needs of the different sexes.	Healthy Lifestyle	The playing pitch action plan sets out specific actions for increasing female participation in sports. Ensure that provision in all areas cater for the needs	Mang.t, Pol
25	Taking children to parks is a popular activity Females are more likely to do this than males.	Community	This may require additional play areas, although some will take just for a walk or kick about Relates to provision standards for pavilion (make these facilities more available. Letting them sit idle a waste)	Mang.t, Pol
26	Mitcham has lower levels of park use than the rest of the Borough.	Regeneration, Environment,	Take account of low levels of use when prioritising where actions are implemented. Improve quality to	Pol, Mang.t

		Equity, Access	increase use?	
27	Patterns of use are generally localised with more residents in an area using parks within or close to their area unless travelling to a Metropolitan park, or a large District park out of their area. However the pattern of use for Mitcham residents is quite different.	Equity	What are the most popular parks in Merton? That would be interesting information.	Mang.t
28	Mitcham residents are travelling to open spaces further away from home than other residents in the Borough, and are more likely to travel out of Mitcham to a local park.	Regeneration, Environment, Equity, Access	Investigate what the reasons for this are. Do they have all the facilities they require or are events drawing them out?	Mang.t
29	Wimbledon Common attracts residents from throughout out the Borough, whereas Mitcham Common tends to attract residents from the local area.	Environment Amenity	Type of attractions and events.	Mang.t, Part
30	District Parks tend to attract more people from the area they are within, however they do attract a significant amount from other areas of the Borough. Morden Hall Park with its central location attracts significant amounts of people from throughout the Borough.	Environment		
31	Small Local Parks generally attract much fewer residents than the Metropolitan and District parks, however there are some examples of Small Local parks are attracting a relatively high number of residents from that area e.g. Holland Gardens in West Merton area.	Regeneration, Environment	We want all parks to be well used and valued by the community, so they can contribute to quality of life, regeneration etc. Set standards for each type of local park to ensure that all parts of the Borough have access to a range of good quality open spaces.	Mang.t, Pol
32	Initial assessment is that generally those parks showing high levels of use are mostly of 'good' overall quality with some of 'fair' quality (as assessed by WS Atkins).	Environment		
33	Levels of enjoyment of open space are reasonably high. However there is some variation with age and depending on the type of open space visited with less enjoyment as you move down the hierarchy. There are also slight differences in level of enjoyment depending on where you come from in the Borough (with those in Wimbledon and West Merton more are happy with the open space they use than in Mitcham and Morden)	Environment, Equity	Park standard across the borough…	Mang.t, Pol
34	People like open space simply because they are open spaces. This is the most likely thing people mention when	Environment		

	asked to state what they like most about the park they use. In terms of facilities the facility that was mentioned more than other as a 'like' was children's play facilities.			
35	1/3 of park users couldn't think of anything they disliked. Those that do dislike something mention dogs causing a nuisance, vandalism, litter, lack of facilities. People are more likely to mention vandalism and lack of facilities if they use those parks lower down the open space hierarchy.	Regeneration, Environment		
36	Most users do not feel that there is another type pf open space that they are currently not using but would like to. For those that do feel there is another type of open space they would like to use, generally it is a park with a playground, a large open space, open space with nature features or a park with tennis/sports facilities. It varies by area with those in Wimbledon or West Merton more likely to want to use a park with a playground. Those in Mitcham are seeking large open spaces or spaces with natural features, and those in West Merton are also seeking large open spaces.	Environment, Equity	A variety of open spaces in all wards accessible for all members of the community	Pol, Mang.t
37	The reasons given by users for not being able to use the open space they like include; that there is no public transport, there is no green space nearby, there is no parking, fear of crime, poor maintenance, and youths hanging around.	Community, Education, Equity	Access to all parks Safe and secure parks Parking Quality amenity, facilities and experiences.	Mang.t, Pol, Part
38	In terms of improvements existing users feel that improving cleanliness and controlling vandalism, providing more seating, better play areas, better maintenance, more bins and providing refreshments.		Develop with community a management plan for parks	Mang.t, Part
39	The main way to encourage greater use amongst existing users is includes the following Café/restaurant, improved security, improved seating, toilet improvements/provision and new/improved play areas. This varies by area and by ethnic group.		Customer desires Café, seating, toilets, play areas, security.	Mang.t
40	For all ages Café, and improved security would encourage use. 12-15 year olds would also be encouraged by skate area, sports facilities and play facilities. 16-19 year olds		Need for informal youth facilities skate, sport / security / seating…	Part, Mang.t

	would also be encouraged by sports facilities. For 20-29 year olds Sports facilities and play facilities would encourage greater use and 30-44 year olds would be encouraged by play facilities. For the over 45s Café, security, seating and toilets would encourage use.			
41	Non-use Mitcham has the highest level of non-use. The Non white population is less likely to use parks.	Access, Equity		
42	Of the non-users those from the black and Chinese population are more likely to have never used Merton's parks.	Equity Health lifestyle	Encouraging use.	
43	Reasons for non-use Many people cite 'lifestyle reasons' for not using parks (not having enough time the most frequent reason given)	Healthy Lifestyle	Don't know if we can address this, but this lack of time does create additional demand for care groups, social functions etc.	
44	Those not using open spaces who give reasons that are not lifestyle reasons include not having a park nearby, youths hanging around, and poor quality facilities. Those in Mitcham and West Merton are more likely to cite not having a green space nearby.	Environment, Equity	Again security, youth facilities, accessibilities, quality.	
45	Some issues are resolvable (no green space near, poor quality facilities, problem with dogs etc). Users in Mitcham were more likely to state issues that are resolvable Of those non-users that stated issues that the Council could potentially resolve 16% say its very likely they would use a green space and 38% say its quite likely that if the issue is resolved they would use a green space.	Environment, Equity	Improving issues will result in increased patronage.	
46	The improvements that non-users would like to see are keeping clean, making them more secure and controlling vandalism, better maintenance, provide refreshments. These issues are similar to existing park users except non-users are more concerned about security than existing users.	Environment, Regeneration		
47	Controlling vandalism was cited by higher proportion of non-users in Morden, controlling vandalism was cited by higher proportion of non-users in West Merton, keeping	Environment		

	clean was cited by higher proportion of non-users in Wimbledon.			
48	As with users the majority (91%) of non-users didn't feel that they would like to use or currently were prevented from using a certain type of open space. Those that do want to use a certain type of park are looking for a large open space (38%), park with children's playground (19%) or a open space with pond/water features (10%).	Equity		
49	The main reasons non-users give for not using the park they would like to are they are too old/infirm, youths hanging around, problems with dogs, fear of crime, put off by litter.	Environment, Community, Equity		

Appendix 3 Summary of Merton Open Space Study Consultation Responses

1.0 Introduction

Consultation on the results of the Merton Open Space Study was carried out in October 2002.

The aim of the consultation exercise was twofold:

1. to inform Merton residents and local stakeholder groups of the findings of MOSS Volumes 1-3
2. to obtain comment on possible aims and objectives for the Merton Open Space Strategy.

A summary document of the MOSS findings and a questionnaire were distributed to 360 local groups. The documents were also promoted to the general public and were available for viewing in Merton Libraries and on the Council's website.

The questionnaire set out 5 of the key issues identified in the MOSS study and respondents were asked to say how important they felt each issue is. The results of the responses to this question are set out below in Table 1.

2.0 Summary of Results

Of the 360 groups invited to respond the Council received 64 submissions. Of these 64 submissions 14 were from individuals and 50 from a variety of organisations. Table 3 lists the respondents below.

The results of the consultation exercise have been used to refine the open space vision and outcomes set out in Section 5 of MOSS.

Respondents generally agreed on the importance of the key issues but stressed the need to improve the quality of open space and the provision of more facilities.

The issues are ranked in order of importance (as chosen by respondents) as follows:

1. Improve the quality of parks/open spaces and provide more facilities (where appropriate);
2. Seek opportunities for more sports pitches (Rugby, Hockey, cricket.);
3. Involve local people in the running of parks/open spaces;
4. Seek opportunities for more open space in particular in the East of the Borough;
5. Improve the links between open spaces to improve the 'green network' in particular in areas deficient in open space and nature conservation.

Table 1: Consultation Responses

Issue	Very Important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not Important	Not Important at all
Seek opportunities for more sports pitches	(20) 36%	(19) 34%	(12) 21%	(4) 7%	(1) 2%
Improve quality of OS and provide more facilities	(34) 61%	(18) 32%	(3) 5%	(0) 0%	(1) 2%
Seek opportunities for more OS	(18) 32%	(17) 30%	(18) 32%	(2) 4%	(1) 2%
Involve local people in running parks	(19) 34%	(19) 34%	(15) 27%	(2) 3%	(1) 2%
Improve links between open spaces in particular in areas deficient in OS	(17) 30%	(18) 32%	(17) 30 %	(3) 6%	(1) 2%

N.B Of the 64 respondents, 8 filled in Q1 incorrectly and therefore these responses have been discounted.

Stakeholders were also asked if they would like to be involved in the planning, management and design of open spaces, 67% of respondents wanted to become more involved in open spaces; the expression of interest for the options given (some people were interested in being involved in more than one type of activity) was as follows;

- Friends group for your local park – 23 respondents
- Involvement in planning and designing of open space – 31 respondents
- Organised litter pick/clean up of open space – 18 respondents

Some respondents also set out 'other' activities that they would like to be involved in. These activities included:

- Carrying out wildlife surveys & conservation;
- Management of open space for biodiversity and wildlife values;
- Working with the Council and other on joint projects;
- Help Publicise & generate debate & put groups in touch with each other & LBM;
- Devise scheme for all schools/college students to regularly pick/clean open space;
- Input re sports facilities;
- Deliver an area of formal open space at the Alliance Sport Ground in conjunction with the development of an area of the site for housing;
- Be consulted on new footpaths or off road routes for cycles/pedestrians;
- Provision of information through society newsletter;
- Run nature club for the education of children and adults.

3.0 Strategic Objectives

WS Atkins recommended a number of strategic objectives that the Council might like to include as part of an open space strategy. In order to be consistent with the Council's Corporate vision, seven broad aims were developed encompassing:

- Community;
- Regeneration;
- Education;
- Environment;
- Equity;
- Healthy Lifestyle;
- Heritage & Culture.

A series of objectives (based on Atkin's recommendations) were developed for each aim. Consultation assessed how strongly Merton residents/groups agreed or disagreed with the proposed Aims and Objectives. Responses are set out below in Table 2.

Key findings from the consultation included:

- Most objectives had a reasonably high level of support;
- The objective with the highest level of support is 'Safeguarding public open space from inappropriate development' (the other objective under Environment about protecting open space was also well supported);
- 'Recognising the contribution that good quality open spaces make to the quality of life of the community' also gained strong agreement amongst respondents;
- The least well supported was the objective to relate investment decisions to other council initiatives;
- Generally the objectives under aims 1 (Community), 3 (Education), 6 (Healthy lifestyle) and 7 (Heritage and Culture) received a reasonably high level of support;
- Generally those objectives under aim 5 (Equity) received the least support;
- Objectives under the aim 2 (Regeneration) were also less well supported than others;
- Objectives that raise detailed ideas such creating a SW London Green Network Partnership, and supporting the Local Bio-diversity action plan, and developing the provision of Local Nature Reserves did not get high levels of support.

4.0 Use of the Consultation Responses

The Strategy objectives, vision outcomes and action plans have been developed and refined based on the findings from the consultation exercises. .

In order to translate the findings of the Merton Open Space Study into a programme of work to address specific issues, the original seven "aims" have evolved into the Strategy Outcomes sought, including an additional outcome for accessibility. The Outcomes provide further clarity to the aims and objectives detailed in the consultation exercise but are suitably broad providing an holistic framework for improving open space

Table 2.0- Response to Proposed Aims and Objectives

Aim	Obj	Objective	Strongly Agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	1	Encourage closer working with residents on management and maintenance of OS.	30 (47%)	25 (39%)	9 (14%)		
	2	Encourage active participation of young people in planning OS.	23 (36%)	27 (42%)	11 (17%)	3 (5%)	
2	1	Combat disadvantage by providing access to high quality green spaces in particular in the east of the borough.	23 (36%)	22 (34%)	16 (25%)	2 (3%)	1 (2%)
	2	Establish a South West London Green Network Partnership.	14 (22%)	24 (38%)	20 (31%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)
3	1	Provide opportunities for schools to use green space to teach lessons about nature/ecology/wildlife.	37 (58%)	19 (30%)	8 (12%)		
	2	Support the use of green space for physical recreation for schools that may lack adequate facilities.	34 (53%)	24 (38%)	5 (8%)		1 (2%)
	3	Provide opportunities for 'life long learning' experiences (involve community in designing planning and management of open space) teaching new skills.	20 (31%)	29 (45%)	14 (22%)	1 (2%)	
4	1	Safeguard public open space and urban green space from inappropriate development.	61 (95%)	2 (3%)		1 (2%)	
	2	Protect and enhance the existing green network.	37 (59%)	21 (33%)	5 (8%)		
	3	Support the development of the local Bio Diversity Action Plan.	21(33%)	23 (36%)	19 (30%)	1 (1%)	
	4	Develop the provision and distribution of local Nature Reserves (LNRs).	19 (30%)	29 (45%)	16 (25%)		
5	1	Relate investment decisions to other Council initiatives.	8 13%)	18 (28%)	31 (48%)	5 (8%)	2 (3%)
	2	Improve accessibility to public open space within the wards of Graveney, Hillside, West Barnes, Village, Dundonald and Wimbledon Park (Durnsford).	12 (19%)	28 (44%)	21 (33%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)
	3	Support the development of the proposed new district park	21 (33%)	23 (36%)	19 (30%)	1 (2%)	
	4	Support improved access to a wider range if open space facilities for areas that are not within walking distance of an existing or proposed district park	15 (23%)	26 (41%)	20 (31%)	3 (5%)	
	5	Meet deficiencies in nature conservation	19 (30%)	23 (36%)	19 (30%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)
	6	Ensure that all the areas of the borough are within 280m of an area of nature conservation interest.	15 (23%)	21 (33%)	20 (31%)	5 (8%)	3 (5%)
6	1	Recognise the contribution that good quality open spaces make to the quality of life of the community.	48 (75%)	16 (25%)			
	2	Develop a Playing Pitch Strategy to ensure that residents needs for sport are met.	30 47%)	23 (36%)	10 (16%)	1 (1%)	
7	1	Seek to ensure that all flagship parks provide a range of good quality facilities and appropriate landscaping which takes account of the unique character of open space.	32 (50%)	26 (41%)	6 (9%)		
	2	Develop a management strategy for local and small local parks which takes account of unique character of open space (to improve the quality of landscaping and facilities).	22 (34%)	31 (48%)	11 (17%)		

Table 3.0 List of Respondents

Residents Associations	Friends Groups	Sports and Recreational clubs & organisations	Environmental Organisations	Disability Groups	Ethnic Minority Groups	Business	Other
• Lauriston Rd & Wilberforce Way Residents Association • Durrington Ave & Park Rd Residents Association • Raynes Park & West Barnes Residents Association (responded twice) • Residents Association of West Wimbledon • Wimbledon House Residents Association • Wimbledon Union of Residents Associations • Prince Kings & Dudley Residents Association • Wilton Crescent Residents Association • Hatfield Mead Resident Association • Merton Park East Residents Association	• Mitcham Common Conservators • Friends of Cannon Hill Common • Wimbledon & Putney Conservators • Mitcham Common Preservation Society • Friends of South Park Gardens	• Morden Cricket Club • Battersea Ironside Cricket Club • Springfield FC • Merton Dynamos FC • Sutton Celtic FC • Sportman's Senior Sunday Football League • Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens • Pelhamians RFC • Balham & Tooting Sports & Social Club • Sutton/Wandle Valley Group - Ramblers Association • Merton Town Trails Association	• Merton Group London Wildlife Trust • National Trust • Environment Agency • Merton Friends of the Earth	• Merton Association for Disabled People	• London Oriel Cultural & social club • Pakistan Welfare Association • Asian Elderly Group of Merton	• Merton Chamber of Commerce • Bryant Homes Ltd	• Cannon Hill Ward Community Safety Panel • Wimbledon Civic Forum • The Wandle Group • Wimbledon Town Centre Co-ordinating Group, • Wimbledon Association • RENUE • Met Police Merton

• North West Wimbledon Residents Association • Apostles Residents Association • Wimbledon Park Residents Association • Wimbledon Society • John Innes Society							

Parks Evaluation, Standards, Prioritisation and Monitoring Matrix

1.0 Introduction

The London Borough of Merton is one of the greenest in Greater London. Sixty seven parks cover 677 hectares representing 18% of Merton's total land area. This significant community resource is also extremely varied in the size, function, availability and quality of facilities and variety of natural and cultural heritage features of individual parks.

The Merton Open Space Strategy (MOSS) outlines the vision, outcomes sought and principles for the developing and improving the Merton Open Space Network to meet community expectations. Prioritised Action Plans outline the steps required to implement the strategy. The varied character and distribution of parks across the borough represents a significant challenge when assessing parks for future investment in facilities and maintenance.

This report outlines the development and rationale behind an essential tool for ensuring the Strategy's effective implementation. The objectives of this exercise were to;

- Define a new parks **typology** to allow evaluation of open spaces against spaces with similar facilities, qualities and utility to the community;
- **Evaluate** the provision and quality of the open spaces of the borough against an agreed / transparent set of criteria;
- **Evaluate** the borough's wards against criteria that indicate the variation of investment in open spaces across Merton.
- Develop key **indicators** for the provision and quality of open spaces.
- Provide a tool for **prioritising** investment and maintenance and for **monitoring** the progress of the implementation phase of the Merton Open Space Strategy.

The **Evaluation, Standards, Prioritisation and Monitoring Matrix** has been developed to evaluate the present quality of parks and the provision of open spaces and facilities across the borough. The Matrix is essentially a distillation or summary of the plethora of information from various studies, assessments, surveys, and statistical data relating to Merton's open spaces.

During November and December 2003, Merton's Parks and Wards were scored against criteria representing outcomes sought from the MOSS. The matrix allows any user to query this information to evaluate the standard of particular parks against individual or groups of criteria. A separate matrix also evaluates wards using the same principle. The system's ease of use, consistency of information and scoring and transparency of methodology ensure its value as an implementation tool.

This report describes:

- New Parks Typology;
- Parks and Ward Criteria and Data sources;
- The Evaluation Matrix;
- Query and Analysis functions;
- Value for implementing the MOSS;
- Future functionality.

2.0 New Open Space Typology

It was recognised early in the MOSS development process that the existing open space hierarchy (Metropolitan Park, District Park, Local Park and Small Local Park) was not appropriate for evaluating and monitoring the current standard of open space provision in the Borough. Given the diversity of parks within each of the existing categories, a refined open space typology was needed to accurately reflect the different function of parks. Table 2.1 below outlines the proposed new Merton Open Space Typology and the characteristics of each type of park. The new typology ensures that parks are evaluated against parks with a similar size, range of facilities and natural and cultural heritage features when prioritising investment or monitoring strategy implementation.

Table 2.1 New Merton Open Space Typology

Parks Type	Area	Characteristics
Metropolitan Park	60ha	Either: i. natural heathland, downland, commons, woodland, or ii. formal park providing for both active and passive recreation. May contain playing fields, but at least 40ha for other pursuits. Adequate parking.
District Park	20-60ha	Landscape setting with a variety of natural features and a range of facilities including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits. Some car parking. Accessible by foot, cycle, car and public transport
Local Sports Facility	2-20ha	Provision for pitch and court sports. Playing fields and pavilions Accessible by foot, cycle, car and public transport. Limited car parking
Local Multi Use	2 -20ha	Provision for pitch sports, court sports, children's play, sitting out areas, landscaped environment, nature conservation.
Local Passive Recreation	2 -20ha	Nature conservation, landscaping, sitting out areas etc
Local Open Space	2 -20ha	Informal grassland and paths providing opportunities for informal activities
Small Multi-use	Less than 2ha	Provision for pitch sports, court sports, children's play, sitting out areas. nature conservation
Small Passive Recreation	Less than 2ha	Nature conservation, landscaping, sitting out areas etc
Small Children's Play	Less than 2ha	Provides children's play areas and informal grassland
Small Informal Open Space	Less than 2ha	Informal grassland and paths providing opportunities for informal activities

3.0 Evaluation Criteria

Development of the Evaluation Matrix is a significant step toward integrating diverse parks information sources. By applying information from the Merton Open Space Study (Volumes 1-3) and Playing Pitch Quality Assessments (see Appendix 1) and other sources such as census and deprivation statistics, individual parks are evaluated against weighted criteria and given an overall score. Wards are evaluated against different criteria and given a score.

The new standards evaluation process highlights 'Areas of Deficiency' to assist in the identification and prioritisation of Action Plan projects. Given that the data sets that the evaluation is based upon are robust and complete this evaluation will provide a useful benchmark for monitoring the strategy.

3.1 Existing Assessment Criteria

There are a number of existing standards that provide a useful starting point for the development of the Evaluation Matrix. The table below outlines these standards. The final column indicates whether they are Open Space or Ward standards.

Table 3.1: Existing Parks Assessment Criteria

Standard	Explanation	OS or Ward
NPFA Open Space Standard	Requires 2.43 ha per 1000 population, borough wide we meet this but some areas when compared to this standard are very under provided for (see tab 4.3 in MOSS Volume 1)	Ward
Open Space Deficiency	Pedestrian catchment all areas to be 400m from public open space 280m (where barriers exist), all areas to be 1.2 km from a District or Metropolitan park	Ward
Access by Car	All areas to be 3.5 km and 5.2 km from District and Metropolitan Parks (this standard is met throughout the Borough).	Ward
Playground Access	Access to play areas 800m from every home.	Ward
Nature Conservation Access.	LEU handbook identifies deficiency areas where there are no notified sites of metropolitan or Borough Importance accessible within 1km. MOSS Volume 3 Identified areas that are beyond 1km from an LNR. However may of these areas are served by other sites of nature conservation importance.	Ward

3.2 New Parks Evaluation Criteria

The aim of the evaluation is to investigate the standard of a variety of open space and ward attributes ultimately ranking each park and ward according to the quality and equality of open space investment across the Borough.

Open spaces are assessed against the facilities and experiences they provide the community rather than simply their size and location. The table below provides an explanation of the new Criteria. It sets out the standard being measured, their relevant MOSS outcome areas, scoring and the weighting that was applied in the evaluation.

Table 3.2. Parks Assessment Criteria

Standard	Outcome	Scoring	Weight
Accessibility	Accessibility Equity	1 Connectivity	Variable
		1 Quantity	
		1 Quality	
		1 Disabled	
		1 Signage	
All open spaces evaluated in this matrix are accessible to the general public through either open access or arrangements with the private owner. Accessibility is a key determinant in the use and enjoyment of the parks. (Data source: MOSS Survey)			
Area	Environment Regeneration	1= less than 1 ha	Variable
		2= 1 to 2 ha	
		3= 2 to 10 ha	
		4= 10 to 50 ha	
		5= greater than 50 ha	
The size of a park indicates future potential for increasing facilities . A large park can potentially support more facilities than a small one.			
Community	Community Education	5 = Friends group	Variable
An existing community group involved in an open space is an important consideration when assessing the standard of a park. The vision and outcomes of the strategy encourage more community involvement in the planning, design and management of open space.			
Heritage / Uniqueness	Heritage and culture	1 Cultural events	Variable
		1 Open Space within conservation area	
		1 Listed Landscape	
		1 Listed Building within	
Not all of the parks in the Merton open space network have a distinct natural historic, cultural, or heritage features. However, all parks are unique in their own way. This standard aims to identify those areas that contribute specifically to the historical and cultural identity of the Borough (Various Data sources including MOSS Survey)			
Amenity	Access Regeneration Environment	Is it visible from parts of the surrounding area?	Variable
		Is it visually attractive?	
		Does it have a clearly definable townscape value?	
		Does it provide relief from the built up area?	
		Is there potential for enhancement and would this contribute to the regeneration of the area?	
Parks provide relief from built up areas and the provision (1 point for each). (Data Source: MOSS Survey)			

Nature Conservation	Environment Education Heritage	1= LEU local importance, or LNR (LNR only)	Variable
		2= LEU Borough importance (Grade 2)	
		3= LEU Borough Importance (Grade 1)	
		4= LEU Metropolitan Importance	
		5 = SSSI	
: Does any part of the open space have a significant ecological value? (Data Source: Q.16 MOSS Survey)			
Overall Quality	All outcomes	1 = poor	Variable
		3 = fair	
		5 = good	
Assesses the condition of built structures, railings, drives and paths, rubbish bins, seats and the overall condition of the park. (Q27 of the MOSS Survey)			
Pavilion	Community Education Healthy lifestyle	1 = very poor (<30%)	Variable
		2 = poor (30-39%)	
		3 = average (40-59%)	
		4 = good (60-89%)	
		5 = excellent (>90%)	
An important community resource and an asset for sports clubs. A pavilion on site provides more potential for development of partnerships with the local community or sports teams. (Data Source: Sport England Pavilion quality assessments)			
Pitch Quality	Healthy lifestyle Equity	1 = poor (<30%)	Variable
		2 = below average (30-54%)	
		3 = average (55-64%)	
		4 = good (64-90%)	
		5 = excellent (>90%)	
The quality of pitches was evaluated through the Sports England Quality Assessments. The assessments included: Quality of playing surface, problems with dogs, litter, damage and unofficial use.			
Range of Facilities	All outcomes	Nature = 0.25 each	Variable
		Sports 0 = 0, 1-14 = 0.5, 15+ = 1	
		Children 0.25 each	
		Informal use 0=0, 1-4 = 0.25, >5 = 0.5, 10+ = 1	
		Ancillary Facilities (e.g. toilets) 0=0, 1-3 = 0.25, 4-6 = 0.5, 7-10 = 0.75, 11= 1.	
The greater the range of facilities on a particular site the more valuable the open space to its adjacent community. Facilities with a wide range of facilities are usually popular with the wider borough community. A score is allocated for each of the categories including: nature conservation, sports provisions, facilities for children, other attractions and premier attractions. (Data Source: MOSS Survey).			
Safety and Security	Environment Regeneration Healthy Lifestyle	1 = threatening	Variable
		2 = unsettling	
		3 = safe	
		4 = comfortable	
A major factor in a visitors perception of a park. (Data Source: Q33 MOSS Survey)			
Vandalism	Community Environment	1 = both	Variable
		3 = vandalism or graffiti	
		5 = no	
Are graffiti and vandalism obvious problems? Graffiti and vandalism significantly reduce peoples enjoyment and use of a park. (Data Source: MOSS Survey)			
Floodplain	Environment	0 = no	Variable
		5 = yes	

Does the park provide flood mitigation? A key intrinsic feature of a park. (Data Source: Environment Agency, Floodplain Maps)

3.3 The Ward Evaluation Criteria

The following are criteria developed to compare open space provision and quality across the wards of Merton. The criteria examine the amount of open space and specific facilities available to ward residents, the socio economic status, and the accessibility of spaces.

The table below details the criteria, outcome area, scoring and weighting for the final analysis.

Table 3.3 Ward Assessment Criteria

Standard	Outcome Area	Score	Weight
Range of Facilities	All outcomes	1= 0.1 to 2 (total)	5
		2= 2 to 4	
		3= 4 to 6	
		4= 6 to 8	
		5= 8+	
This standard examines the range of facilities in the open spaces across the ward. This score will reflect areas where specific facilities are lacking. Sum of range of facilities scores for all the parks in a ward (Use tab 5.5 in MOSS).			
Population per hectare of open space	Equity Accessibility	1= no open space	1
		2= 0.1 to 1ha per 1000 pop.n	
		3= 1.1 to 2ha per 1000 pop.n	
		4= 2.1 to 3ha per 1000 pop.n	
		5= over 3ha per 1000 pop.n	
NPFA standard for open space per 1000 people is 2.43 ha. The pressure on open spaces in a ward, especially smaller local parks, is linked to population pressure from the adjacent resident population. (Data Source: Tab 4.3 MOSS)			
Deprivation	Equity	1= 28+	5
		2= 21 to 28	
		3= 14 to 21	
		4= 7 to 14	
		5= 0 to 7	
The deprivation score is derived from Indices of Deprivation 2000 (Multiple Deprivation Index)			
Accessibility Q22-26b	Accessibility Equity	1= 0.1 to 2	4
		2= 2 to 4	
		3= 5 to 9	
		4= 9 to 15	
		5= 15+	
Sum of accessibility scores for all the parks in a ward.			
Ethnicity	Equity	1= over 36% of population non-white	3
		2= 28 to 36%	
		3= 19 to 27%	
		4= 10 to 18%	
		5= 1% to 9%	
The Needs survey found that people from ethnic minorities were less likely to use open space than the white population. Those wards with a high proportion of ethnic minorities will require action to increase ethnic minority use (Data Source: 1991 census)			

Pedestrian catchment	Accessibility	1= Large POS deficiency & Large District Park deficiency, or Large POS deficiency & medium District Park deficiency.	4
		2= Medium POS deficiency & Large District Park deficiency.	
		3= Small POS deficiency & Medium District Park deficiency, or Medium POS deficiency & Medium District Park deficiency.	
		4= Medium POS deficiency & Small District Park deficiency or Small POS deficiency & Medium District Park deficiency.	
		5= Small POS deficiency & Small District Park deficiency.	
The GLA Hierarchy sets out standards of pedestrian access to various types of open space. Those wards that are identified as having deficiencies therefore need investment in open space (Data Source MOSS Vol 1 figure 4.3 and figure 4.4)			
Children's facilities	Equity Healthy Lifestyle	Number of children's play areas in the ward.	3
Children's facilities are highly desirable facilities in any ward and they are very popular with females taking children to the park. The standard for provision is related to pedestrian access to these facilities within a ward.			
Nature conservation access	Environment	1= Large Nat con deficiency & Large LNR deficiency, or Large Nat Con deficiency & medium LNR deficiency.	2
		2= Medium Nat con deficiency & Large LNR deficiency, or Large Nat Con deficiency & Small LNR deficiency.	
		3= Medium Nat con deficiency & Medium LNR deficiency, or Small Nat Con deficiency & Large LNR deficiency.	
		4= Medium Nat con deficiency & Small LNR deficiency, or Small Nat Con deficiency & Medium LNR deficiency.	
		5= Small POS deficiency & Small District Park deficiency.	
Those wards that are identified as having deficiencies in open spaces with nature conservation score highly (Data Source MOSS Vol 2 Figure 3.1 and 3.2). N.B West Barnes & Figges Marsh also have a areas that are 1km from Accessible Metropolitan or Borough Importance (LEU Handbook).			
Health Deprivation	Healthy Lifestyle	1= 0 to 0.39	X2
		2= -0.4 to 0	
		3= -0.8 to –0.4	
		4= -1.2 to –0.8	
		5= -1.6 to –1.2	
Open Space can play an important part in promoting healthy lifestyles, through active and passive recreational activities. Health deprivation in a particular ward is an important consideration for investment in open spaces and their facilities. Wards with a high health deprivation score are a high priority for investment (a score of five denotes a healthy ward – a score of one indicates a less health / more heatlh deprived ward) (Data Source: Indices of Deprivation 2000, Health Deprivation Score)			

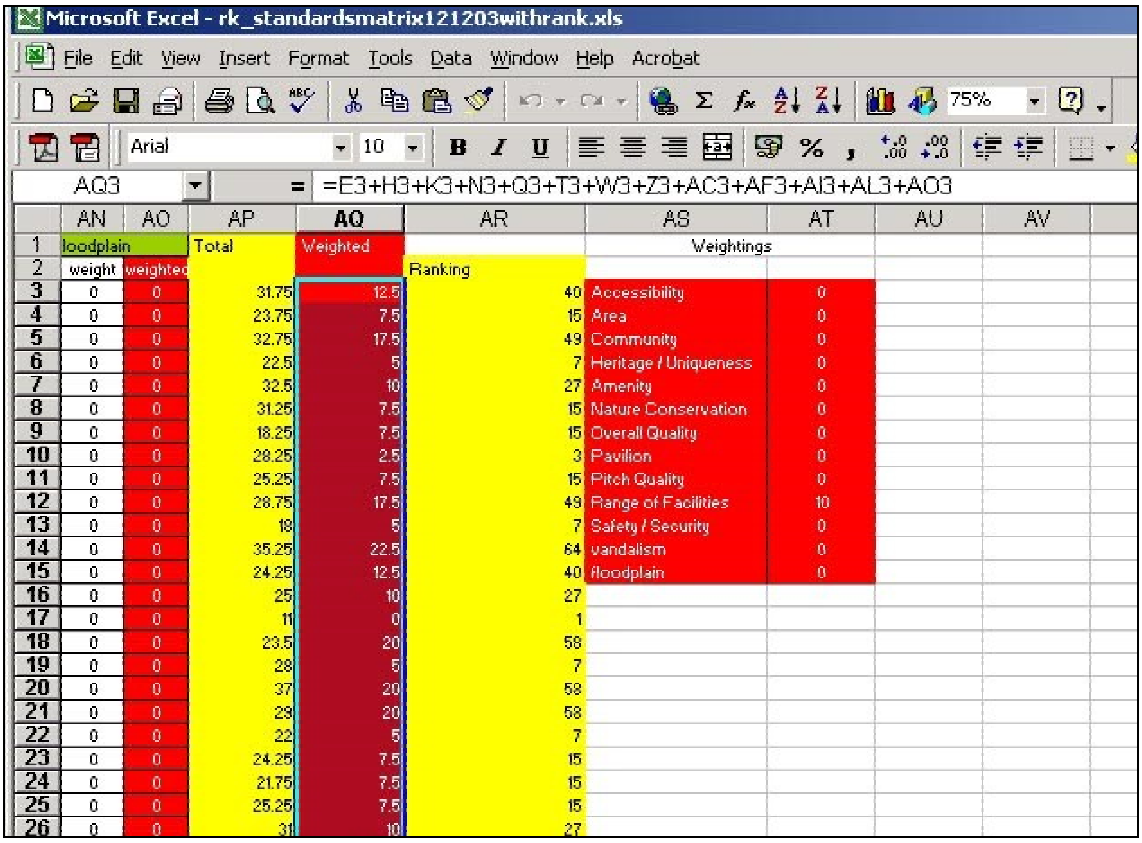
Community Potential	Community	Total # of parks friends groups in the ward	2
Community potential is the total of established parks friends groups in the ward. Engaging the community in all aspects of parks planning and management is a key outcome of the strategy. A high score indicates higher existing potential for direct involvement of the community in open spaces. Data Source Leisure Services records.			

4.0 Functionality

The Evaluation Matrix have been developed using Excel spreadsheets. Parks scores are inputted under each of the criteria and the spreadsheet calculates each park's score. Weighting for a particular criteria may be applied in the weightings table and the scores immediately reflect the weighting or any combination of weightings. By using different weightings for each criteria its possible to see how a particular park scores against particular factors Examples of this process are set out in Table 4.1 and Charts 1 to 7.

Weightings are automatically calculated by typing into a multiplication factor to a table on the Evaluation Matrix. Weightings can range from zero up and can be any combination of numbers. It is intended this function be at the front end of a graphic user interface in a future version of the Evaluation Matrix (see Merton Open Space Strategy section 6.3 Action Plan 6).

Figure 4.1 Evaluation Matrix



	AN	AO	AP	AQ	AR	AS	AT
1	loodplain		Total	Weighted		Weightings	
2	weight	weighted			Ranking		
3	0	0	31.75	12.5	40	Accessibility	0
4	0	0	23.75	7.5	15	Area	0
5	0	0	32.75	17.5	49	Community	0
6	0	0	22.5	5	7	Heritage / Uniqueness	0
7	0	0	32.5	10	27	Amenity	0
8	0	0	31.25	7.5	15	Nature Conservation	0
9	0	0	18.25	7.5	15	Overall Quality	0
10	0	0	28.25	2.5	3	Pavilion	0
11	0	0	25.25	7.5	15	Pitch Quality	0
12	0	0	28.75	17.5	49	Range of Facilities	10
13	0	0	18	5	7	Safety / Security	0
14	0	0	35.25	22.5	64	vandalism	0
15	0	0	24.25	12.5	40	floodplain	0
16	0	0	25	10	27		
17	0	0	11	0	1		
18	0	0	23.5	20	58		
19	0	0	28	5	7		
20	0	0	37	20	58		
21	0	0	29	20	58		
22	0	0	22	5	7		
23	0	0	24.25	7.5	15		
24	0	0	21.75	7.5	15		
25	0	0	25.25	7.5	15		
26	0	0	31	10	27		

The results can then be displayed graphically in bar charts. Parks are displayed within their typology to allow ease of analysis between similar parks and the entire network.

5.0 Results

Analysis of the results followed the input of scores into the standards matrix. The criteria scores were weighted according to the area under investigation. The table below describes the separate queries performed.

Table 4.1 Parks Assessment Charts

Chart #	Title	Weightings
1	Merton Parks	Unweighted
2	Merton Parks ~ Range of facilities	Range of Facilities.
3	Merton Parks ~ Quality	Overall quality *5 Amenity*10 Vandalism*10 Safety*10 Other *1
4	Merton Parks ~ Accessibility	Accessibility*10
5	Merton Parks ~ Intrinsic Value	Heritage / Culture *10 Nature conservation *10 Floodplain *5
6	Merton Parks ~ Sports Emphasis	Pitch Quality *10 Pavilion Quality *10 Range of facilities *5
7	Merton Parks ~ Community Potential	Community *5 Other *0
8	Merton Parks ~ Ward Assessment	Weights in Section 3.3
9	Merton Parks ~ Ward Total Scores	Weightings in Section 3.3

The Matrix makes it possible to perform any number of queries against the dataset.

6.0 Next Steps

The integration, and scoring of parks against, criteria developed from the MOSS databases makes the Evaluation Matrix an important tool for:

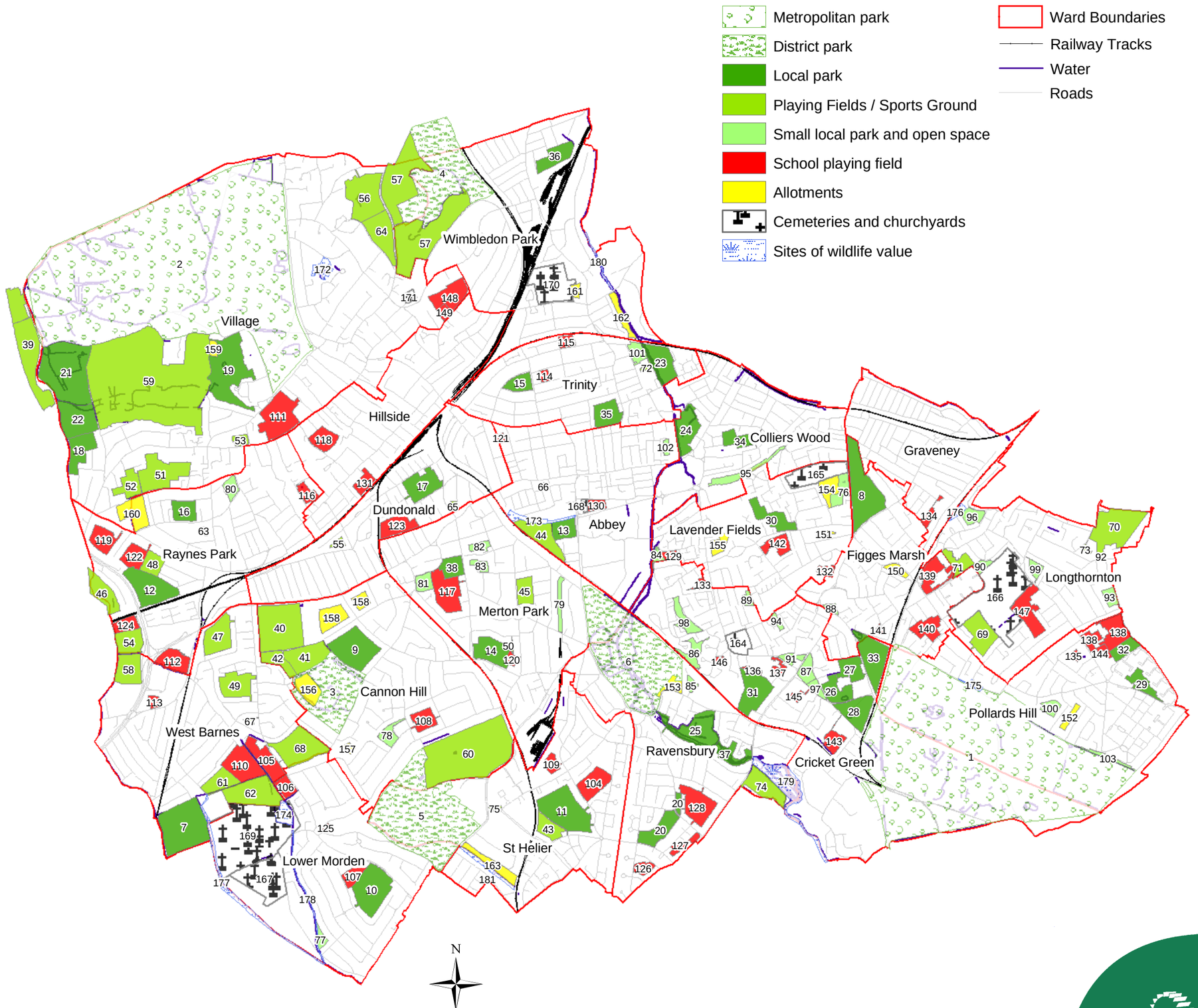
- Evaluating park standards;
- Prioritising Investment;
- Prioritising Maintenance;
- Setting Performance Indicators and;
- Monitoring Implementation of the Strategy.

Investment in further developing the functionality of the Evaluation Matrix should focus on:

- Building a graphic user interface to ensure ease of use by any member of staff;
- Integration with place based GIS database to identify spatial trends;
- Enhance query functions to include statistical analysis, trends over time etc;
- Develop a data management plan;
- Develop procedure to update the scoring based on the review of data sources.

London Borough of Merton - Open Spaces 2005

No.	Open Space Name
1	Mitcham Common
2	Wimbledon Common
3	Cannon Hill Common
4	Wimbledon Park
5	Morden Park
6	Morden Hall Park
7	Sir Joseph Hood Memorial PF
8	Figges Marsh
9	Joseph Hood Recreation Ground
10	King Georges Field
11	Morden Recreation Ground
12	Raynes Park Sports Ground
13	Abbey Recreation Ground
14	Mostyn Gardens
15	South Park Gardens
16	Cottenham Park
17	Dundonald Recreation Ground
18	Drax Playing Fields
19	Cannizaro Park
20	Moreton Green
21	Fish Ponds Wood
22	Beverley Meads
23	Wandle Meadow Nature Park
24	Wandle Park
25	Ravensbury Park
26	The Canons
27	Mitcham Sports Ground
28	Cranmer Green
29	Donnelly Green o/s
30	Lavender Park
31	London Road Playing Fields
32	Pollards Hill O/S
33	Three Kings Piece Open Space
34	Colliers Wood Rec Grd
35	Haydons Rd Rec Grd
36	Durnsford Road Rec Grd
37	Water meads o/s
38	John Innes Park
39	Wimbledon Common Extension
40	Prince Georges Fields
41	Messines
42	West of Messines
43	Risley Sports Club
44	Nursery Road Playing Fields
45	The Old Rutlishians Sports Club
46	Malden Golf Course
47	Sun Alliance Sports Ground
48	Civil Service Sports Ground
49	LESSA
50	Cranleigh Lawn Tennis Club
51	Atkinson Morley's Hospital Sports Ground and Playing Fields
52	Oberon Playing Fields
53	West Side Lawn Tennis Club
54	Beverley Park Golf Range
55	Southey Bowling Club
56	Aorangi Park
57	Wimbledon Park Golf Course
58	Emmanuel School Playing Fields
59	Royal Wimbledon Golf Club
60	Morden Playing Fields
61	Archbishop Tenison's SG
62	Old Blues Football Rugby Ground
63	West Wimbledon Bowling Club
64	All England Lawn Tennis Club
65	Wilton Grove Tennis Club
66	Merton Hall Bowling Green
67	Raynes Park, Lawn Tennis Club
68	Raynes Park Playing Fields
69	Westminster City School PF
70	Westminster Bank Sports Ground
71	Lonesome F/S
72	Garfield School
73	Stanford Middle School
74	Imperial club sports ground
75	Morden Primary School
76	Tamworth Farm Rec
77	Lynmouth Gardens
78	Cherrywood Open Space
79	Kendor Gardens
80	Holland Gardens Open Space
81	John Innes Recreation Ground
82	Church Lane Playing Fields
83	St Mary Gleblands
84	Brangwyn Crescent Open Space
85	Deer Park Gardens
86	Cherry Tree Estate Open Space.
87	Cricket Green
88	Fair Green Open Space
89	Lewis Road Rec. Ground
90	Long Bolstead Rec. Gnd.
91	Lower Green O/S
92	National Westminster SG
93	Lyndhurst Rec. Gd.
94	Miles Road Open Space
95	Myrna Close Open Space
96	Oakleigh way Reacreation Ground
97	Police Green Cricket Green
98	Rock Terrace Rec Grd
99	Rowan Road Rec
100	Sherwood Park Road o/s
101	Garfield Road Rec Grd
102	All Saints Rec Grd
103	Commonside East Open Space
104	Merton College Playing Fields
105	St Catherines School
106	St John Fisher School
107	Morden Farm Middle School
108	Hillcross Middle School
109	Abbotsbury School
110	Kings Collge Sports Ground
111	Kings College School PF
112	Raynes Park High School
113	Sacred Heart High School
114	Holy Trinity Primary School
115	Priory C.E.
116	Ursuline High School
117	Rutlish High School
118	Wimbledon College Playing Fields
119	Wimbledon College Playing Fields
120	Poplar School
121	St Marys Catholic Primary School
122	Wimbledon College SG
123	Wimbledon Chase Middle School
124	Bushy Playing Fields
125	Hatfield Primary School
126	Malmesbury School
127	St Teresas Primary School
128	Bishopsford Community School
129	Harland Primary School
130	Merton Abbey School
131	Wimbledon High School SG
132	Bond Primary School
133	Haslemere School
134	Beechholme Sch.
135	Alfred Mizen School
136	Melrose School
137	Cricket Green School
138	Tamworth Manor School
139	Eastfields School
140	Brenley Playing Fields
141	St Thomas of Canterbury School
142	Liberty M/School
143	Cranmer School
144	William Morris School
145	St Peter & St Paul School
146	Benedict School
147	Rowans School
148	Ricards Lodge School
149	Bishop Gilpin School
150	Eastfields Road Allotments
151	Eveline Road Allotments
152	New Barnes Avenue Allotments
153	Phipps Bridge Allotments
154	Tamworth Farm Allotments
155	Western Road Allotments
156	Canon Hill Common Allotments
157	Thurleston Avenue Allotments
158	Martin WayAllotments
159	Cannizaro Park Allotments
160	Cottenham Park Allotments
161	Durnsford Road "B" Allotments
162	Havelock Road Allotments
163	Georges Hill Allotments
164	Mitcham Parish Church
165	London / Victoria Road Cemetery
166	Streatham Park Cemetery
167	Merton & Sutton Joint Cemetery
168	St Mary's Church
169	Morden Cemetery
170	Wimbledon Cemetery
171	St Mary's Chuch, Wimbledon
172	Buddhapadipa Temple Grounds
173	Merton Park Green Walk
174	Derwent Road
175	Downe Place
176	Oakleigh Nature Reserve
177	Worcester Park Green Lanes
178	Lower Pyl Brook
179	Bennetts Hole
180	Lower Wandle
181	George Hill O/S and Pyl Brook Nature Reserve



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Creating safe, clean and green open spaces for everyone to enjoy.

MERTON OPEN SPACE STRATEGY ~ IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2005 - 2010

Project details
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Project Name
Implementation I.D.

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- Year I Priority Project
- Consultation Target
- Key Project Group
- Non MOSS Project
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