



1. Why green space is important

Planning for green spaces can help to achieve social, economic and environmental benefits in a neighbourhood. Some of the community and environmental benefits of green spaces are:

- Being part of the public realm, where informal social interaction can take place
- Providing pitches and facilities for sports and supporting physical activity
- Forming part of a network of paths and spaces, enabling movement through an area
- Providing habitats for wildlife and a natural corridors and spaces through urban areas
- Providing flexible space for recreation, local cultural events and performance
- Adding to local amenity, providing an attractive setting and outlook for surrounding residential and commercial properties
- Forming part of the character or setting of historic areas, buildings and townscape
- Forming part of flood mitigation, such as SUDS
- Providing areas and opportunities for growing local food.

Green spaces contribute to quality of place, together with buildings, urban spaces and the wider public realm. Quality of place is a key factor in attracting investment, jobs and growth to an area. It is also important in making an area an attractive place to live, work and spend leisure time. So green spaces have real economic value to the surrounding area, in addition to creating community-wellbeing.

Achieving sustainable development

One of the basic conditions for neighbourhood plans is achieving sustainable development. The social, community, economic and environmental benefits of green spaces help to make local places sustainable.

The impact of new development on green spaces, and the provision of new green spaces as part of new development will often be significant factors in considering whether development is sustainable. Planning for green spaces needs to be considered as an integral part of the wider planning for the area.

