LEISURE & COMMUNITY

Leisure and community provision in the CR3 area has been assessed using data from a variety of sources (refer to the full report on the web site) to help draw up a series of policies which it believes will contribute to the health and well-being of residents and will help to retain CR3 as an attractive place to live.

This section of the plan has been influenced by the following considerations:

1. Ease of access to facilities including the availability of public transport.
2. The need for good quality design and for community buildings to have a ‘civic presence’.
3. Sustainability, having a regard to maintenance and economic viability of facilities.
4. The need to protect and improve our open spaces increasing the biodiversity of the area where possible.
5. The range of leisure facilities must be diverse, catering for all ages and abilities in order to increase and broaden participation.

The desire to protect and enhance our environment features very strongly. The CR3 area has a substantial green network and several of our policies are concerned with improving public access and increasing enjoyment (and in the case of allotments, productivity) of the open spaces. Although there is a considerable range of activities on offer they are unevenly distributed, with residents of Caterham Hill being well provided for whilst residents of Whyteleafe
tend to have to travel further for leisure activities. The plan therefore states that a new purpose-built sports facility should be a part of any large future developments in Whyteleafe.

It was noted that schools and churches were generally very good at providing sporting and cultural opportunities and often shared their facilities with other organisations. This example of good practice should be extended.

Community buildings that are viewed by residents as a focus for village/town events and activities are vital ingredients in the overall structure of living spaces. Chaldon has its village hall, Caterham Hill has the Community Centre, the Douglas Brunton Centre and the Arc. The Leisure Plan strongly supports the re-development of the Soper Hall as a community hub for Caterham Valley. A similar development for Whyteleafe should be included in future building plans.

Public Houses and Libraries in both Caterham Hill and Caterham Valley are also very important community resources and are supported in the Plan.

One issue that has been highlighted in the course of our work (and indeed nationally) is the lack of burying space in the CR3 area. Land should be made available for this as a matter of priority. We have identified a suitable site which has been proposed by the owner in Caterham Valley.

The predicted increase in population in the south east region will put the CR3 area under continual pressure to provide more housing. We are concerned that the physical, cultural and social needs of existing and future populations must be met in order to build successful communities and to safeguard the health and well-being of succeeding generations. Our policies aim to redress that imbalance.

**Leisure & Community Policies**
*(For further information see L and C Appendices 1 to 7)*

**1 - Allotments**

Intent: To provide allotments in areas in CR3 where they are needed with the option of using green belt, common land or agricultural sites. To retain existing sites in Caterham on the Hill and Whyteleafe.

Justification: There is no provision of allotment in Caterham Valley and a demand for increased provision in Whyteleafe. There is a predicted increase in the number of flats especially in these two areas. Public demand in the UK and locally. Local Green Space NPPF Para 77. See LC Appendix 3.
**Policy LC 1 - Allotments**

The NP supports the retention of allotment land in the CR3 area and will encourage the provision of allotments using land currently owned by TDC or in the form of community allotments within future development sites in excess of 0.4 ha. This would be with agreement on future ownership and management to ensure proper supervision and administration in the future.

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**2 - Burial Grounds**

**Intent:**
To provide a new burial ground with the option of using green belt, common land, agricultural sites or AONB sites.

**Justification:**
There is no burial space available to the general public in the CR3 area and the wider Tandridge area Ref. Local Green Space. NPPF Para. 77. See LC Appendix 2.

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**Policy LC 2 - Burial Grounds**

The NP will support applications for the provision of both traditional consecrated and green/woodland burial sites by either the local authority or private providers.

This would be subject to the provision of adequate off-street parking and no serious loss of amenity to neighbouring areas.

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**3 - Maintain and Improve Churches**

**Intent:**
To maintain and improve existing churches and their associated buildings to enhance their value to the community.

**Justification:**
There has been a loss of church buildings in this area. These buildings are on large, central sites which could add value to the community. See LC Appendix 3.

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**Policy LC 3 - Maintain and Improve Churches**

The NP will resist the demolition of churches and there will be a presumption against conversion for residential use. Proposals for conversion for other community purposes shall be supported.
4 - Community Hubs

Definition of Community Hub

The preferred features sought in a ‘Community Hub’ are indicated in the Table below at two levels: for an Area Hub and for a Local Hub - in all cases there should be included the essential facilities of Digital Access; Kitchen; Toilets and storage space.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred Features of Community Hubs</th>
<th>For an Area Hub</th>
<th>For a Local Hub</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A large multi functional room for at least 200 people</td>
<td>A multi functional room for 100 people or more.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A committee room</td>
<td>A committee room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilets</td>
<td>Toilets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>Storage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled access and facilities</td>
<td>Disabled access and facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafe and meeting place open into the evening and at weekends.</td>
<td>.....................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A digital cinema.</td>
<td>.....................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A sports facility.</td>
<td>.....................</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to public transport.</td>
<td>Access to public transport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to the centre of town.</td>
<td>Proximity to the centre of town.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A sense of civic presence.</td>
<td>A sense of civic presence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a Map to show the distribution of community hubs in the four parishes in the Main Report.

Intent: To ensure the provision of one Community Hub in each parish which caters for all age groups across the current and future population.

Justification: The population in all four Parishes is predicted to increase. There is a lack of adequate rooms for various community uses in Caterham Valley and Whyteleafe. Public questionnaires support this need.

See NPPF section 8. See LC Appendix 3.

Policy LC 4 - Community Hubs

Change of use of existing Community Hubs away from D1 (Non-residential institutions), D2 (Assembly and leisure) and sui generis (Unclassified) uses, shall be resisted. The retention and development of Community Hubs in each of the four Parishes will be supported. Proposals to establish a Community Hub in Whyteleafe and a community facility within Chaldon village (e.g. Farm shop) will be supported.
5 - Libraries

Intent: To maximise the use of both the Hill and Valley libraries as social and educational venues. To keep both libraries in the SCC network.

To reinforce the TDC Policy DP18.

Justification: Museum, Libraries and Archives (MLA) recommends a standard of 30 sq.m. library space per 1000 population. On this basis it has been agreed that Caterham Hill library needs to be extended to meet the current and future needs of the population. Libraries throughout the UK have been under threat of closure in recent times. This is less likely to happen when they are also used for educational and social activities. See LC Appendix 3.

Policy LC 5 - Libraries

The NP will support the development of both libraries to meet various social and educational needs of the current and future population. It will encourage and support the diversification and flexible use of the buildings, the extension of and shared use of such buildings e.g the introduction of a small cafe.

Development of existing library sites to residential use should be prohibited unless suitable alternative arrangements of equal number and convenience can be provided on an alternative site prior to the start of any redevelopment.

6 - Tourism

Intent: To encourage tourism by increasing access to the surrounding open spaces and countryside by providing more cycle routes, bridleways and signed footpaths and improved information of these facilities.

Justification: This would provide local employment opportunities JSNA 2013 Sport England Olympic Legacy DC Media Studies Expanding population.

See also Urban Design Policies and Transport Policies. See LC Appendix 3.

Policy LC 6 - Tourism

The NP will support and encourage increased access to the countryside by improved information on routes around the area. The NP will support and encourage the maintenance of existing and the development of new cross-country cycle routes, bridleways and footpaths.
7 - Public Houses

Intent: To increase the viability of all public houses within the CR3 area by encouraging them to diversify.

Justification: Pubs which diversify perform an important role in the community providing social hubs. They can contribute to the general security of an area by increasing footfall and employment opportunities. See LC Appendix 3.

Policy LC 7 - Public Houses

The NP supports and encourages opportunities for the existing public houses to develop community based activities eg a restaurant, and will support applications for enlargement for such purposes, subject to constraints of other policies within the plan.

8 - All Purpose Sports Facility

Intent: To provide full access to sports facilities.


Policy LC 8 - All Purpose Sports Facility

Applications to build a purpose built sports facility will be supported subject to it fulfilling the needs of an expanding population, providing access to all users and located in the area of greatest need; proposed locations are Caterham Valley or Whyteleafe. It should ensure that it is available to be used for as wide a range of sports as possible.

Leisure & Community Aspiration

Aspiration LCA 1 - Provision of Burial Facilities

Intent: To create a Neighbourhood Development Order to provide a variety of burial facilities in the CR3 area.

Justification: There is no burial space available in the CR3 Area. Public consultation has requested this. See LC Appendix 2.

Aspiration: To find a partner with relevant financial and professional expertise in order to advance this project. A possible site has been identified which has access from the Caterham by-pass and is class 3B/4 land, suitable only for grazing.