

CHAPTER 7

RECREATION

BACKGROUND

- 7.1 In recent years there has been considerable growth in leisure and recreation nationally. In Harrogate District there has been a significant increase in sport participation generally and a number of local sportsmen and women have reached levels of excellence in their individual disciplines. Traditionally, the Council has been an important provider of recreation and community facilities and this is likely to continue in the future. The Council is keen to ensure that there is a wide range of recreation facilities to cater for all residents' needs and that these facilities are accessible to everyone, both in terms of design and location. This includes the provision of facilities to meet the needs of the smaller rural communities, such as village halls, recreation grounds and play areas. In addition to provision made by the Council, many other facilities are provided by the voluntary and commercial sectors.
- 7.2 Harrogate District has a number of natural and man-made resources which offer a wide range of recreation opportunities. The rural parts of the District offer opportunities for activities such as horseriding, walking, cycling, canoeing, and fishing, and a number of villages have facilities for football, cricket and tennis. The main settlements within the District have a range of facilities including those for rugby, football, squash, hockey and tennis. Facilities within the town of Harrogate also include the Stray, Valley Gardens and the new Hydro Swimming Pool. A new leisure pool opened in Knaresborough in 1991 whilst Ripon offers more traditional types of provision in the form of the Spa Baths and Gardens. Ripon's new leisure centre opened at Camp Close in January 1996. In the smaller centres of Pateley Bridge and Boroughbridge there are joint use facilities in both High Schools.
- 7.3 The Council also acknowledges the importance of informal open space, including village greens, woodlands, common land, allotments, play space and parks for activities such as children's play, walking and relaxation. In addition, open spaces are also important in that they can enhance the character and appearance of an area as well as acting as a refuge for wild plants and animals. It is the Council's intention to protect these open spaces.

POLICY CONTEXT

- 7.4 Policies and proposals in this chapter reflect advice contained in PPG17 (Sport and Recreation); which acknowledges that sport and recreation have the same status and importance in land use planning terms as other forms of development. This guidance emphasises that it is the responsibility of the local planning authority to ensure through the preparation of development plans that adequate provision is made for both formal and informal recreation.
- 7.5 The Yorkshire and Humberside Council for Sport and Recreation have produced a strategy which is concerned with the promotion of sport and active recreation in the region. The Council approved a strategy for leisure and amenity services in the Harrogate area in 1994. This covered provision for arts, parks, sport and museums in the Harrogate area and was carefully considered when preparing policies for inclusion in the Local Plan. This strategy has been subject to a review process of which the following elements have been adopted: Museums Strategy (1997), Sport and Leisure (1998) and Parks and Open Spaces (1999).
- 7.6 Policies contained in the North Yorkshire Structure Plan seek the retention of existing recreation provision and encourage the provision of new facilities where they would not be detrimental to the countryside. Additionally, the Structure Plan seeks to maximise the use of existing facilities for recreation purposes.

OBJECTIVES

7.7 This Local Plan aims to promote recreational development throughout Harrogate District where it is acceptable in environmental terms, providing for the needs of residents and visitors alike. The main objectives of the recreation policies are:

- 1) **TO PROTECT EXISTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OPEN SPACE AND OTHER FACILITIES OF RECREATION AND AMENITY VALUE.**
- 2) **TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE SPORT AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.**
- 3) **TO ENCOURAGE THE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE THERE ARE NO OVERRIDING CONFLICTS WITH OTHER LAND USES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.8 The Recreation chapter aims to promote the development of new sport and recreational opportunities whilst also safeguarding open space which is of recreational value. Policies seek to meet the recreational needs of the community by encouraging the provision of a wide range of opportunities. The provision of new facilities is proposed in locations which reduce both the need to travel and reliance upon the private car. The retention and improvement of public access to open space in both urban and rural areas is encouraged, whilst policies also seek to protect the countryside from the growing recreational pressures which may conflict with other land uses and environmental considerations.

POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

EXISTING RECREATION OPEN SPACE

POLICY R1

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH INVOLVE THE LOSS OF EXISTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNLESS:

- A) **THERE IS A SURPLUS OF RECREATION OPEN SPACE IN THE AREA AND ITS LOSS WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION; OR**
- B) **A SATISFACTORY REPLACEMENT FACILITY IS PROVIDED IN THE CATCHMENT AREA WHICH IT SERVES; OR**
- C) **THE LAND BY VIRTUE OF ITS SIZE, LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS, IS INCAPABLE OF APPROPRIATE RECREATIONAL USE; OR**
- D) **IN THE CASE OF PLAYING FIELDS, WHERE SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES CAN BEST BE RETAINED AND ENHANCED THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL PART OF THE SITE.**

ANY LOSS OF RECREATION LAND WHICH MAY BE ACCEPTABLE UNDER THE ABOVE CRITERIA WILL NOT BE PERMITTED WHERE THIS INVOLVES THE LOSS OF OPEN SPACE OF AMENITY VALUE HARMFUL TO THE CHARACTER OF THE AREA (POLICY HD12).

Justification

- 7.9 *The recreational needs of the community up to 2006 will for the most part be met by existing recreational open space. However, provision of new open spaces may be required in connection with new housing developments in accordance with the Council's open space standards as set out in Policy R4. PPG17 indicates that it is part of planning authorities' responsibilities to take full account in their development control decisions of the community's need for recreational space, to have regard to current levels of provision and deficiencies; to resist pressures for the development of open space which conflict with the wider public interest and to take into account the long term impact of the loss of such space. This policy has been formulated to reflect this guidance and amplifies Policy R4 of the Structure Plan which seeks to retain existing recreational facilities and maximise their use.*
- 7.10 *Recreation open space protected by this policy includes public open space, allotments, and playing fields, courts, greens etc. in private ownership and in educational use. PPG17 makes references to the special significance of both school and other playing fields, for their recreational and amenity value. When not required for their original purpose, the PPG indicates that, they may be able to meet the growing need for recreational land in the wider community. In view of the identified shortage of sports pitches in Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon and Boroughbridge, the retention of playing fields is considered particularly important in these settlements. The District is facing the loss of some major defence, service and industrial employers, many of which provide extensive recreational facilities. The Council is actively seeking to retain these existing facilities and make them available for community use. Very occasionally the existing facilities may be best retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site. For instance, the use of monies generated from such a redevelopment may be used to improve existing pitch quality, drainage conditions or fund the provision of an all weather surface. However, this would only be acceptable where the loss of open space will not have any adverse effect on the recreational needs of the area.*
- 7.11 *Generally there is a deficiency of recreation open space throughout the District. However, there are some areas where the supply of certain types of open space is above the Council's standards. In these limited situations and where the open space cannot be used for other recreational needs (e.g. where a surplus of casual play space cannot be used for formal sports pitches) its loss to development may be acceptable and conform with Criterion A. In considering the acceptability of its loss, and whether the existing and potential needs of the local population are not adversely affected, any assessment would need to take account of the quality of the open space and its value to the local area.*
- 7.12 *Wherever appropriate, recreation open spaces have been shown on the Proposals Map. These represent open spaces where it is considered that the primary function of the land is to provide for the informal and formal recreational needs of the District's residents. Notwithstanding this, recreation open spaces often make a significant contribution to the character of an area, and therefore the provisions of Policy HD12 of this Local Plan will also apply to such recreation open spaces. For instance, the recreation open space comprising cricket and rugby pitches to the south of Studley Road, Ripon also contributes to the character of the area through its amenity value. Whilst golf courses and other sports facilities in the countryside will be covered by this policy they have not been shown on the Proposals Map. In showing school playing fields as recreational open space on the Proposals Map, many school buildings have been 'washed over'. Those areas which are already built on are not covered by the policy. The omission of such designation on the Proposals Map does not undermine the recreational value of open spaces and this policy will still apply to those areas when the subject of a planning application.*
- 7.13 *A number of open spaces marked on the Proposals Map refer to recreation land which forms part of housing developments granted planning permission but, at the time of publication, not yet laid out.*
- 7.14 *New residential development (i.e. dwelling curtilage) should not be located within 20 metres of existing children's play facilities to avoid nuisance and problems over the future of the play facility.*

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

POLICY R2

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH INVOLVE THE LOSS OF EXISTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES NOT COVERED BY POLICY R1 WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNLESS:

- A) THEIR LOSS WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION; OR
- B) A SATISFACTORY REPLACEMENT FACILITY IS PROVIDED IN THE CATCHMENT AREA WHICH IT SERVES; OR
- C) THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF CONTINUED RECREATIONAL USE.

Justification

7.15 Some recreational facilities, particularly those provided indoors and not otherwise involving recreational open space, are not protected by Policy R1 of this Local Plan. Such facilities, even where they are currently not in use, are a valuable resource and should be retained in recreational use so that the community has a wide range of recreational opportunities. Whilst the Council will normally resist proposals which would result in the loss of facilities, there will be occasions where their loss would be acceptable, for example where the continued use of a facility is not feasible, where the facility is to be replaced, or where its loss would not otherwise affect existing or future recreational needs.

ADDITIONAL RECREATION OPEN SPACE

PROPOSAL R3

THE FOLLOWING AREAS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP ARE PROPOSED FOR RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE:

Ref.	Site	Settlement	Proposals Map Inset No	ha	(acres)
a	East of Knaresborough Road	Bishop Monkton	12	3.3	(8.1)
b	Bachelor Road	Harrogate	1	1.9	(4.7)
c	Hookstone Beck	Harrogate	1	8.1	(20.0)
d	Kingsley Road	Harrogate	1	3.3	(8.1)
e	Stonefall Tip	Harrogate	1	3.4	(8.3)
f	Glebe Land	Killinghall	26	0.5	1.3
g	Halfpenny Lane	Knaresborough	1	0.9	(2.2)
h	Hay-a-Park Lane	Knaresborough	1	1.6	(4.0)
i	West of The Oaks	Masham	7	0.8	(2.0)
j	Melmerby Green Lane	Melmerby	34	0.5	(1.3)
k	South of Low Green	North Stainley	37	0.3	(0.7)
l	Millfield Street	Pateley Bridge	8	1.7	(4.1)
m	Berrygate Lane	Sharow	39	0.2	(0.5)
n	Berrygate Lane (north)	Sharow	39	1.2	(2.9)
o	East Park Road	Spofforth	42	1.8	(4.4)

IN CONJUNCTION WITH PARISH COUNCILS, OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE TAKEN AS AND WHEN THEY ARISE TO IDENTIFY SITES FOR NEW CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS, PLAYING FIELDS AND OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES.

Justification

7.16 PPG17 states that local plans provide the appropriate context in which to:

- assess local needs for recreational facilities;
- identify deficiencies in the provision of public open space; and
- encourage the development of suitable sites and type of site for additional sport, recreation and open space provision.

The Council has identified a number of areas deficient in recreation open space in the District's main settlements (see Appendix VI). The above proposals for the main settlements aim to improve or overcome some of these deficiencies. In addition areas of open space are proposed within six villages. In examining the type of deficiency, location and characteristics of the proposed open spaces it is envisaged that these open spaces would provide the following type of recreation:

Ref.	Site/ Settlement	Children's Play Area	Casual Play	Youth & Adult Play	Informal Recreation/
a	East of Knaresborough Road, Bishop Monkton	✓		✓	
b	Bachelor Road, Harrogate.	✓	✓	✓	✓
c	Hookstone Beck, Harrogate.				✓
d	Kingsley Road, Harrogate.	✓	✓	✓	✓
e	Stonefall Tip, Harrogate.		✓	✓*	✓
f	Glebe Land, Killinghall.	✓	✓		✓
g	Halfpenny Lane, Knaresborough.	✓	✓		✓
h	Hay-a-Park Lane, Knaresborough.			✓	
i	West of The Oaks, Masham.	✓	✓		✓
j	Melmerby Green Lane, Melmerby.	✓	✓		✓
k	South of Low Green, N. Stainley.	✓	✓		
l	Millfield Street, Pateley Bridge.		✓		✓
m	Berrygate Lane, Sharow.				✓
n	Berrygate Lane (north), Sharow.	✓	✓		✓
o	East Park Road, Spofforth.	✓		✓	✓

* (only available post 2004)

7.17 Additional recreational open space proposed on site (a) East of Knaresborough Road, Bishop Monkton; forms part of wider development proposals for housing and community facilities (see Proposal CF2a). At site (a), recreation proposals are for new sports facilities.

7.18 In accordance with Policy R9 of the County Structure Plan, dual and joint use of education and sports and recreation facilities will be encouraged. The use of school playing fields by local sports clubs may offer potential for meeting the need for additional sports facilities, especially in some of the main settlements.

- 7.19 A consultation was undertaken with Parish Councils in 1992 on the future planning within their areas. Appendix VII shows the settlements which the Parish Councils indicated would benefit from additional recreation facilities.
- 7.20 The Council will investigate with the National Gypsy Council the possibility of providing a recreation open space in or adjacent to the gypsy sites at Thistle Hill, Knaresborough and Springs Lane, Bickerton.

OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

POLICY R4

~~PROPOSALS FOR NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR OPEN SPACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S ADOPTED STANDARDS AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX VIII.~~

~~WHERE DEVELOPMENTS ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS ON SITE, THE COUNCIL WILL ACCEPT IN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES, FINANCIAL PAYMENTS FROM DEVELOPERS FOR THE PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE ELSEWHERE.~~

~~DEVELOPERS WILL NORMALLY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF OPEN SPACE PROVIDED TO MEET NEEDS ARISING FROM THE NEW DEVELOPMENT.~~

Justification

- 7.21 ~~This policy applies to all proposals for housing developments in the District which result in a net housing gain, with the exception of rest homes, nursing homes and other institutional uses. (Due to the cost of handling commuted payments, the open space requirements will be waived where a development involves single bedroom units only and less than 10 dwellings are proposed).~~
- 7.22 ~~The provision of open space is based on the population of a development. This ensures that open space provision accords with PPG17 in that it is directly related to the development, it is necessary in planning terms to the grant of planning permission and it is fairly and reasonably related to the development in both scale and kind.~~
- 7.23 ~~Provision of open space should be made on-site wherever possible. However, if the various types of open space cannot be provided at functional and maintainable sizes and dimensions, then developers may offer a sum towards the new provision or upgrading of open space off-site by way of a commuted payment. Commuted sums will only be appropriate where the location of the open space to be provided is reasonably related to the development and is agreed in advance. This ensures that at least a contribution towards off-site open space provision is made by the developer, provided that it takes place within suitable walking and driving distances of the development. Where off-site open space provision is to be made by way of a commuted payment, relevant Parish Councils are to be consulted regarding priority sites for new open space provision or upgrading of existing open space. In determining levels of open space to be provided on-site and off-site, regard will be given to existing levels of provision in the locality of the development site. An assessment of open space has been undertaken in the District's main settlements and this has revealed a deficiency, particularly in youth and adult play provision. A list of those areas which are considered to be generally deficient in recreational open space is provided in Appendix VI. Provision is secured by agreement between the Council and the developer, often by way of entering into planning obligations under section 106 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Circular 1/97 indicates that obligations should only be sought where there is a direct relationship between the open space and the housing development. Therefore commuted sums will only be sought where the timescales of their development and the realism of the open space scheme provide this direct relationship. Commuted sums will normally be refunded if they are not spent by the Council within 5 years of completion of the development, unless the developer agrees to an extension of this period.~~

- 7.24 *A commuted sum should also be paid covering the future maintenance of open space for 5 years, provided that the open space is principally of benefit to the development itself rather than to the wider public (in accordance with Circular 1/97). A leaflet, explaining further details of these requirements and the costs involved is available from the Council's Planning Division.*
- 7.25 *Where there are site specific factors affecting open space provision in the proposed new housing developments (Proposal H4) of the Local Plan, these have been referred to in the relevant site briefs contained in the justification to this proposal. These may relate to open space provision on site or indicate how the sites' open space requirements should be provided on land which is allocated as recreation open space in Proposal R3 of the Local Plan.*

NEW SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

POLICY R5

PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL BE PERMITTED PROVIDED THAT:

- A) THE FACILITY IS LOCATED IN OR ADJACENT TO BUILT-UP AREAS WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND IS WELL SERVED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT.**
- B) THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT GIVE RISE TO SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND ROAD SAFETY PROBLEMS.**
- C) NEW BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES ARE WELL DESIGNED AND APPROPRIATELY LANDSCAPED.**
- D) THE PROPOSAL CONFORMS WITH POLICIES R2 AND R3 OF THE COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN.**

Justification

- 7.26 *This policy reflects PPG17 and amplifies the County Structure Plan Policy R1 which indicates that provision will be made for the development of recreational, leisure and cultural facilities in locations accessible to both public and private transport where this is not detrimental to local interests. It may be appropriate to allow sport and recreational facilities in the Green Belt, provided that proposals accord with Policy GB2 (see paragraph 5.15 of the Local Plan).*
- 7.27 *Where the provision of new/relocated sports and recreation facilities is to be met on specific sites, land has been allocated in the Local Plan for such purposes. There are a number of other sporting and recreational facilities for which a need has been identified or which would enhance recreational provision in the District. However, the lack of certainty of their implementation and feasibility means that the Local Plan cannot allocate land specifically for these purposes. If these proposals come forward during the plan period, they will be assessed against this policy and any other relevant policies in the Local Plan.*
- 7.28 *A number of these facilities could, with benefit, be combined on one site. These facilities include:*
- A Regional Centre of Excellence incorporating facilities for coaching, sports science and treatment of sports injuries. (A regional need has been identified for such a facility).*
 - A District athletics facility. (A joint use site linked to education premises would maximise the use of such a facility).*
 - A cycle track/facility for road racing, recreational and off road cycling as well as road safety purposes. (There is currently no such facility in North Yorkshire and the Director of Leisure and Amenity Services has identified a need for this type of facility in the region).*
 - A District table tennis centre. (There is a demand for a specialist table tennis facility in the District).*
 - Harrogate Cricket Club is in urgent need of extended facilities at a single location with a secure tenure which is probably best provided in conjunction with other sports body or bodies to share year round use. The Club through its long history is a centre of excellence of district-wide importance and is a venue for both national and regional cricket fixtures which increase visitors to the area.*

- *Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club is seeking, as a matter of urgency, to relocate to a single location with a secure tenure. This would enable the Club to expand and modernise its facilities. The Club has a long history and provides an important community leisure facility in the town attracting visitors from around the country.*
- 7.29 *The Local Plan previously identified the Army Foundation College site, Penny Pot Lane, Harrogate as having potential for a number of alternative uses, including, for example, a cycle track and Centre of Excellence. As the Army Foundation College is now firmly established this is now unlikely to be the case.*
- 7.30 *The Council has sought to make provision for swimming throughout the whole of the District. Given that the nearest swimming facility accessible to the public within the Pateley Bridge area is at Ripon or Grassington, there is a need for a facility to serve this rural area. The identified location for such a facility would be the Upper Nidderdale High School/ Nidderdale Recreation Centre as a joint provision in a similar way to existing arrangements. In addition, there is an opportunity for grant aid, particularly in relation to the EC as part of the Objective 2 status given to this area.*
- 7.31 *The Council will seek to encourage the provision of child/ parent parking and facilities for the disabled within new sports and recreational facilities.*
- 7.32 *An increased demand for new enhanced community facilities, especially village halls and community centres, will provide further opportunities for the provision of additional sports and recreational facilities. The main reason for this increase in demand is the opportunity offered by National Lottery funds, as well as other grant aid sources. Proposal CF2 allocates a number of sites across the District for community centre/village hall provision.*

~~POLICIES R6 and R7 deleted~~

GOLF COURSES AND DRIVING RANGES

POLICY R8

~~THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GOLF COURSES OR DRIVING RANGES AND EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING COURSES WILL BE PERMITTED PROVIDED THAT:~~

- ~~A) IT WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE.~~
- ~~B) WHERE APPROPRIATE THE PROPOSAL MAKES A CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESTORATION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL INTEREST.~~
- ~~C) ANY NEW BUILDINGS AND HARDSTANDINGS ARE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM SIZE NECESSARY FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GOLF COURSE AND ARE OF A HIGH STANDARD OF DESIGN.~~
- ~~D) IT COMPLIES WITH OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLAN POLICIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON COUNTRYSIDE, GREEN BELT AND NATURE CONSERVATION.~~

Justification

- 7.33 *PPG17 indicates that golf courses can open up the countryside for recreation but can also have a significant impact. It states that they should be located and designed to ensure harmony with the surrounding countryside and to conserve the natural environment. The District has a good supply of existing golf courses and a number of other courses have planning permission.*
- 7.34 *This policy sets out the criteria against which proposals for golf courses and driving ranges will be assessed. Proposals for such development within the Nidderdale AONB will be required to comply with Policy C1 of the Local Plan.*
- 7.35 *All proposals should normally be accompanied by the following details:*
- *a course layout showing the location of buildings, accesses and parking areas and also the effect on public rights of way.*

- *a landscape scheme showing existing and proposed features and species.*
- *a wildlife plan showing existing and proposed habitats.*
- *an earthwork plan showing existing and proposed topography and the extent of earth moving.*
- *a drainage and irrigation plan showing existing and proposed drainage and reservoirs.*
- *in the case of driving ranges, a lighting scheme showing number and intensity of floodlights.*

Prospective developers need to consult the Environment Agency at an early stage of design brief preparation.

- 7.36 *When considering some proposals for golf courses, the potential impact on public rights of way is of particular importance. It is necessary to ensure that proposals do not adversely affect the enjoyment of the general public using rights of way as pedestrians, cyclists or horse riders. When considering proposals for golf driving ranges, it is necessary to have regard to the impact of floodlighting on visual amenity.*
- 7.37 *English Heritage has prepared guidance on golf course proposals in historic landscapes and the former Countryside Commission (now Countryside Agency) has published a document on golf course developments containing guidance on these proposals in the countryside.*

GOLF CLUB EXTENSION

PROPOSAL R9

LAND TO THE NORTH OF FOLLIFOOT ROAD, PANNAL, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, IS ALLOCATED FOR RECREATIONAL USE TO ENABLE THE EXTENSION OF THE ADJOINING GOLF COURSE.

Justification

- 7.38 *Land to the north of Follifoot Road, Pannal, is allocated for the extension of the adjoining golf course. This will allow rotational use of the course and enable the Club to attract national and regional golf tournaments. The Club intends to provide additional golf holes and improved practice facilities on the allocation site.*
- 7.39 *Given the prominent nature of this area of land and its location within the Crimple Valley Special Landscape Area and green belt it is important that proposals for the site are of a high quality and that the layout and design of any development minimises environmental impact. Proposals should also comply with the criteria set out in Policy R8.*

RIVER URE AND OUSE NAVIGATION

POLICY R10

ALONG THE RIVER URE NAVIGATION FROM THE RIPON CANAL DOWNSTREAM TOWARDS YORK, EXISTING RECREATIONAL USES WILL BE SAFEGUARDED AND NEW RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTED, EXCEPT IN AREAS OF CONCENTRATION, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, TO THAT CONNECTED WITH QUIET INFORMAL USES.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE USE OF THE RIVER FOR RECREATION WILL BE ALLOWED IN AREAS OF CONCENTRATION ON THE RIVER URE AND OUSE, AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, PROVIDED THAT PROPOSALS MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- A) IT IS OF A SCALE AND NATURE APPROPRIATE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE SITE AND THE ABILITY OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT TO ABSORB THE DEVELOPMENT.**
- B) IT WILL NOT SERIOUSLY CONFLICT WITH OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.**
- C) IT WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CHARACTER AND LANDSCAPE OF THE RIVER CORRIDOR.**

- D) IT WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION VALUE OR OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC IMPORTANCE.
- E) IT WILL NOT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE AMENITY OF PEOPLE LIVING NEARBY.
- F) IT ONLY INCLUDES BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES WHICH ARE OF A GOOD STANDARD OF DESIGN AND SATISFACTORILY BLEND INTO THE LANDSCAPE IN TERMS OF THEIR SITING, DESIGN AND MATERIALS.
- G) IT WILL NOT CREATE UNACCEPTABLE HIGHWAY PROBLEMS.

Justification

7.40 Under the old development plan regulations North Yorkshire County Council produced the River Ure and Ouse Recreation Subject Plan which was adopted in 1989. This provided a recreation strategy for both the river and canal navigation itself and land based recreational facilities associated with it. Its strategy is still valid, particularly now the restoration of the last 700 metres of the Ripon Canal has been secured through derelict land grant. Therefore, this policy incorporates the broader policies of the strategy by allowing the promotion of appropriate recreational use of the waterways to continue. Within Areas of Concentration, as defined on the Proposals Map, there is scope to accommodate additional recreational development, whether it be water-based or land-based. However, outside these areas, established recreational interests and uses are to be safeguarded and new development restricted to that connected with quiet informal uses.

RIGHTS OF WAY**POLICY R11**

WHEN CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH AFFECT EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY, THESE RIGHTS OF WAY AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY AFFORD FOR INFORMAL RECREATION SHOULD BE RETAINED.

DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN HARM TO THE CHARACTER OR RECREATIONAL AND AMENITY VALUE OF EXISTING RIGHTS OF WAY AND WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE THE SATISFACTORY DIVERSION OF THE ROUTE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

Justification

- 7.41 *The existing rights of way system provides an important part of the recreational opportunities in the District. When affected by development, these rights of way should be safeguarded or diverted along an appropriate route to retain their character; recreational and amenity value.*
- 7.42 *The rights of way network provides opportunities for many recreational activities - such as walking, cycling and horse riding - and can provide access for fishing. The Council will ensure that these rights of way are retained, wherever possible.*
- 7.43 *The public rights of way network is the responsibility of the County Council, who regularly reviews its targets to retain and improve the existing network via the publication of 'Milestone Statements', in line with advice from the Countryside Agency. As agent, the Council will work in conjunction with the County Council to retain and improve the existing network in its own agency area.*
- 7.44 *The Council's Leisure and Countryside Strategies promote access to and enjoyment of the rights of way network. The Council will support the Highway Authority in the creation of new public or permissible rights of way in accordance with the priorities adopted in these strategies.*

- 7.45 The Council's priorities are:
- The urban fringe, particularly around Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon.
 - The Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
 - Cycleways along former railway lines as identified under Policy T22A.
 - A long distance footpath along the River Ure/Ouse.

SPORT AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

POLICY R12

PROPOSALS FOR SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OF AN OPEN NATURE WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE PROVIDED THEY:

- A) CONFORM WITH POLICIES R2 AND R3 OF THE COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN.**
- B) CANNOT BE LOCATED WITHIN A BUILT-UP AREA.**
- C) WHEREVER POSSIBLE ARE ACCESSIBLE BY FOOT OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT.**
- D) DO NOT INVOLVE A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OR SIZE OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES.**
- E) WOULD NOT CAUSE EXCESSIVE NOISE DISTURBANCE TO OTHER USERS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, LAND USES OR RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.**
- F) WOULD NOT CAUSE SIGNIFICANT HARM TO THE SAFETY AND FREE FLOW OF TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY NETWORK.**

Justification

- 7.46 *Sports and recreational developments often require sites outside built-up areas, e.g. football; cricket grounds. If they cannot be accommodated within built-up areas this policy along with Structure Plan Policies R2 and R3 seeks to control such uses in the countryside and prevent harmful impact on sensitive environments and agricultural land. In particular, it is important that inappropriate levels of activity do not result from new sport and recreation development in the countryside.*
- 7.47 *Noise from sports such as motor sports, war games, aerial sports, gun sports and powered water sports may cause harm in some locations. When planning permission is required for such activities or associated access, buildings and car parks, the noise impact of the activity on the environment will be a major determinant in considering the acceptability of a proposal. In addition to the likely level of noise, other factors such as the impact on wildlife habitats will need to be considered.*
- 7.48 *The area has a wealth of opportunities for informal and formal recreation in the countryside. This includes water and aerial sports, war games and gun sports, as well as a whole range of informal activities such as walking, cycling, riding and angling. There has been a rapid expansion of this type of recreation and it is likely that pressure for further development will continue. There are opportunities for water recreation at Fewston, Gouthwaite, Grimwith and Thruscross reservoirs; Farnham Quarry; Ripon Racecourse; Glasshouses Dam; Sleningford Mill and along the Rivers Ure, Ouse and Washburn. Below Thruscross reservoir the River Washburn is of national significance for canoe slalom and wild water racing. The provision of a long distance footpath along the Rivers Ure and Ouse for canoe and kayak touring is also encouraged. Aerial recreation opportunities are provided at Dishforth airfield.*

