

Dursley Outdoor Play Space Survey

Introduction

This document follows on from the outdoor play survey conducted by Stroud District Council (SDC) in 2013. This document is called *Outdoor Playing Space: A Survey of Local Provision and Needs (September 2013)* and was prepared by the Planning Strategy Team. This document must be referred to when reading through the following report.

The purpose of this survey is to understand the provision of the different types of play space available in Dursley and to ascertain any needs and shortcomings compared with the recognised standard used by SDC. The standard used is that determined by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) which has been rebranded as Fields In Trust (FIT).

Scope

This survey has accounted for all areas recognised by Dursley Town Council as an area for recreation. There areas are defined as being open spaces maintained and used for the purposes of sport, recreation and children's play. The land can be privately or publicly owned.

Areas not included in this study are given in Table 1 below, with reasons for their exclusion.

Excluded Areas	Reasons
Dursley Golf Course	The whole of the open space is outside of the Dursley Parish. Ground within the Parish line on the golf course is restricted to private dwellings and gardens.
Fields bordering the woods	This land is considered as agricultural land.
Grounds at Dursley Academy, Highfields	The field is within the school boundary and not currently used by any sports groups or clubs for use outside of school hours. The land is also no longer owned by the LEA.
Land south of Acacia Drive	This land is subject to planning permission to build flats.
Land at bottom of Long Street	Land subject to Village Green status. Final form and size currently unknown.
Play areas on the Crest-Nicholson Estate	These areas are not yet defined as play areas. They are managed by the estate management company.
Areas on the Littlecombe development	This development is incomplete. The master plan is in the process of being changed. Such areas are not defined nor in existence.

Table 1: Areas excluded from the survey.

Explanatory Notes

The standard to which SDC are benchmarking the district on, is the Six Acre Standard as defined by the NPFA. All figures given in the results section are measured in hectares where 6 acres is approximately 2.4 hectares. To ascertain Dursley's needs the population estimation for Dursley given in the 2011 census of 6,697 is used.

The outdoor play spaces listed are those recognised by Dursley Town Council as those built for the purpose of sports, recreation and/or children’s play by member of the public whether owned or maintained by DTC or other party (public body or privately owned).

The Rednock School facilities cover an all-weather 3G pitch, a grass football pitch, a field with a running track and 2 small multi-use games courts.

Measurements of Outdoor Play Spaces

All measurements have been obtained using Parish Online; an online Geographical Information System (GIS). This has been done as a desktop exercise and no measurements were taken in the field.

The information given under the different headings i.e. youth/adult, playing pitch, and equipped children’s play area (CPA) are all defined in the SDC document.

Results

Dursley Outdoor Space	Size (ha)
War Memorial Recreation Ground	4.80
Existing CPA	0.10
New CPA	0.27
Football Pitch & tennis court	0.91
Kingshill House Play Park	0.42
Acacia Drive Play Park	0.02
Maple Close Play Area	0.01
Listers Bowling Green	0.11
Cambridge Avenue Play Area	0.32
Equipped CPA	0.01
Highfields Play Park & field	1.20
Equipped CPA	0.18
Union Street Green	1.00
The Millponds, Riversmill	0.17
Rednock School Facilities	2.48

Table 2: Spaces included in the assessment. Colour coding is as depicted in Table 3.

Dursley Population (2011 census) = 6697	Needs per 1000 population	Dursley Needs	Current Provision	Shortfall	Percentage Shortfall
Outdoor Space Category	Size (ha)	Size (ha)	Size (ha)	Size (ha)	%
FIT Overall	1.95	13.06	8.05	-5.01	-38%
Youth/Adult	1.7	11.38	7.05	-4.34	-38%
Playing Pitch	1.21	8.10	3.39	-4.71	-58%
Equipped CPA	0.25	1.67	1.00	-0.67	-40%

Table 3: The total area sizes of each category of open space.

Cluster Data

This data is taken from the SDC document. It is the data for the cluster containing Dursley (page 20 of the document). The percentage shortfall has been calculated to allow for a comparison with Dursley.

Cluster Population = 17,638	Requirements	Provision	Shortfall/Surplus	Percentage Shortfall
Outdoor Space Category	Size (Ha)	Size (Ha)	Size (Ha)	%
FIT Overall	34.39	22.12	-12.27	-36%
Youth/adult	29.98	18.97	-11.01	-37%
Playing pitch	21.34	11.27	-10.07	-47%
Equipped CPA	04.40	3.15	-01.25	-28%

Table 4: Cluster data for that which included Dursley in the SDC play space survey.

Stroud District Overall Data

This data is taken from the SDC document. It is the data for the cluster containing Dursley (page 14 of the document). The percentage shortfall has been calculated to allow for a comparison with Dursley.

Area population: 112,779	Requirements	Provision	Shortfall/Surplus	Percentage Shortfall
Outdoor Space Category	Size (Ha)	Size (Ha)	Size (Ha)	Size (Ha)
FIT Overall	219.92	187.99	-31.93	-15%
Youth/adult	191.72	168.73	-22.99	-12%
Playing pitch	136.46	96.63	-39.83	-29%
Equipped CPA	28.19	19.26	-08.93	-32%

Table 5: SDC overall play space data

Comparison

On reviewing the data collected against the data accumulated by SDC in tables 4 and 5, Dursley has a shortfall which is more than twice that of the district shortfall and also that of the cluster shortfall. This shows that Dursley is in great need of additional play space which can accommodate playing pitches and other sports with the addition of children's play and other youth/adult recreation.