

SPORTS & RECREATION POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

TOPIC DESCRIPTION:

Liphook is a large and continually expanding village with several sports clubs and recreational facilities, all of which are supported by local people but there is a need for a strategy of provision, enhancement and protection for these in the future. This policy document highlights the existing facilities and also suggests future provision of other sports and recreational facilities.

Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health, wellbeing and social cohesion of the community.

These spaces also have wider environmental benefits. They support biodiversity, providing valuable habitat and links within the existing green space. As a rural area the open spaces can also contribute to the perception of an attractive place to live, work and play.

IMPLICATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

With the level of housing development that has occurred in the parish over the past 20 years and with so much more planned for the future it is essential that community is appropriately serviced and we ensure developers contribute to the growth of more sports and recreation facilities through financial and logistical aid, along with improvement and repair of existing facilities.

For all of the suggestions below, it was noted the importance for there being sufficient funds for ongoing maintenance. Where appropriate this should be incorporated into strategic long- term management plans for our community assets.

POLICY AIMS & OBJECTIONS = VISION:

'Improvement of existing facilities and planning for the future servicing of additional sports and recreational facilities for the community'

SPORTS AND RECREATION POLICIES & VISIONS



SR1 - Developing a sports strategy with Bohunt School

*Policy Aim –
To open up wider community access to sports facilities*

We have attempted to engage with Bohunt School and they have not been keen to proceed with discussions.



SR2 – Enhancing and expanding the sports and recreation offer

*Policy Aim –
To provide a wider range of sports and recreational facilities for different age groups.*

Currently, there are the following facilities:

- Tennis club with grass and hard courts (the latter of which are floodlit for year-round use)
- Cricket club currently located just outside Liphook
- Football club currently based at the Recreation ground
- Bowls club based next to the Recreation ground (with brick-built clubhouse)
- Basic skate park behind the library
- Badminton, squash and a basic gym are available at Bohunt School (limited availability)



Research:

- The tennis club, cricket club and bowling club are very happy with their current facilities.



- The football club have been looking for their own premises for a long time. When further development occurs within Liphook and Bramshott, it has been suggested that the football club is allocated some land in order to develop pitches for youth and adults as well as a clubhouse building with changing facilities. A potential site is Penally Farm which has been identified a multi-use land area. (Housing, recreation and light industrial)
- The boules club are currently using facilities in Petersfield and would ideally like to have facilities in Liphook. A suggestion is outside the community hall for outdoor boules.
- Skate park – there is a small skate park in the old rec behind the library. It was suggested that it would be ideal to further expand and enhance this area for the young people of Liphook. It is not suggested that it is floodlit due to potential late night disturbance.
- It is also felt that facilities for a table tennis club, badminton and an improved youth club would be highly desirable. Please see below regarding community facility.
- Outdoor adventure style playground – this has been suggested. The plan would be to install on the edge of the SDNP. The area identified is the land off Portsmouth Road by The Silent Garden. (See SR4 for further information)
- We have identified a building in the recreation ground that is a disused nursery facility and with existing funds held by the EHDC it is believed that it could be regenerated into another multiuse community facility. Suggestions included youth club, toddler groups and soft-play facilities, table tennis, martial arts classes, yoga and keep fit classes. However, the latest update from the Parish Council on 4th February 2019 was that it has been earmarked for refurbishment to a groundsman storage facility, storing tractors and equipment and the remaining space for office and workshop space.

SPORTS AND RECREATION POLICIES



SR3 - Design and implement a series of outdoor trails

Policy Aim –
To promote outdoor access and information on the footpaths and outdoor trails.

Current Recreation facilities

- Radford park which is freely available to the whole community
- Recreation ground with playground, also for community use
- Small Recreation ground, currently underused (behind the library)
- Several walks and trails outside of the village
- Woodland and common land in the SDNP near the village centre for people to use for walking, cycling and dog walking.

Research

Radford Park

- Radford Park Bridge is being replaced.
- Radford Park needs maintenance and there is potential for further habitat creation, play opportunities, access improvements, neighbourhood involvement and improving amenity value.
- The litter remains a problem. There are few general waste bins.
- It was also noted that signage to Radford Park can be improved along London Road making the entrance more appealing.
- It was also suggested that we could install outdoor trail exercise equipment on the grassed area between the London Road and Malthouse Meadows .

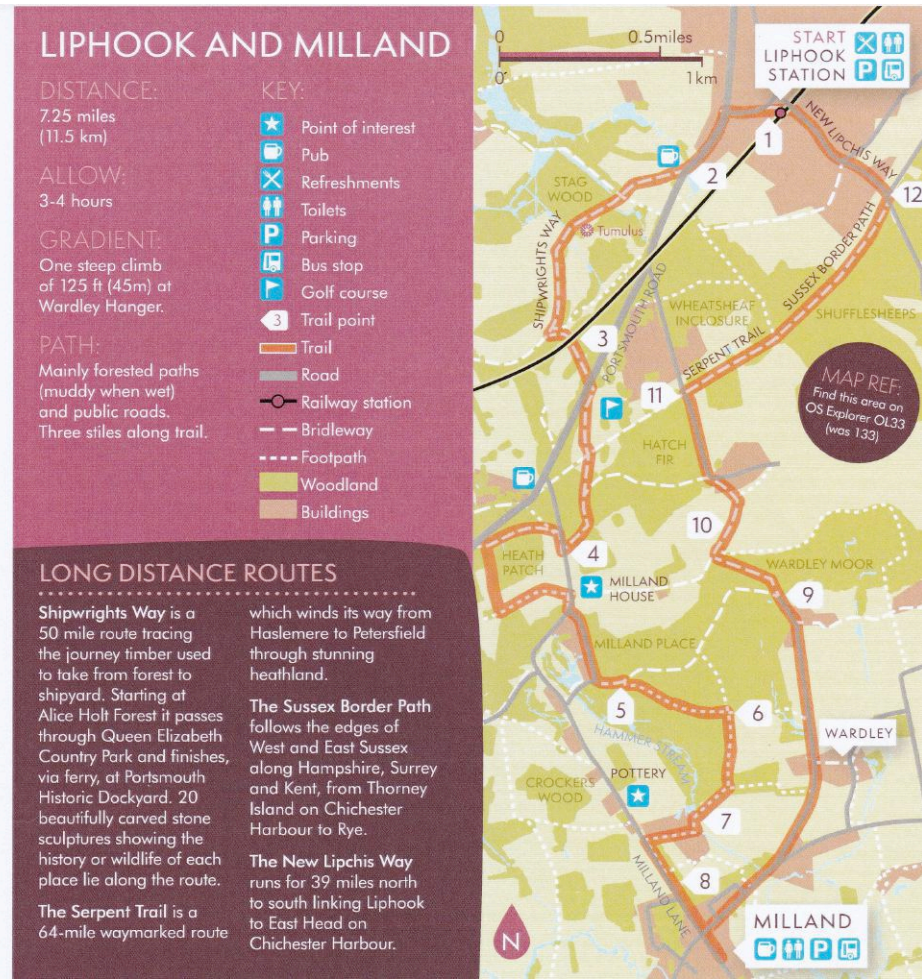
Footpaths

- There are many footpaths that are easily accessible in and around the village, some of which lead into the SDNP.
- These are not clearly signposted. It was suggested that we design a large poster detailing the local area and the footpaths and parking facilities. Potential 'walking routes' are also a possibility to provide a suggested

- Some of the current footpaths are:
- The Serpent Trail
- The Shipwrights Way
- The Sussex Border Path
- The New Lipchis Way

The poster could be displayed in prominent location such as the Train station car park, Library, pubs, Midhurst Road car park.

Funding contributions towards the short-term restoration, ongoing maintenance and future enhancements of sports and recreation assets will be available from developers' contributions. Grant funding may also be available from sources providing support specific to Community Assets, sports facilities or open space environments.



SR4 – The South Downs National Park

Policy Aim –
To capitalise on the opportunity to gateway to SDNP

Because the area in the SDNP is privately owned, there is limited scope to maximise opportunities.

- However, the area mentioned previously, adjacent to Silent Gardens and off Portsmouth Road would lend itself as an ideal location for an adventure trail / reserve. This was mooted by the NDP steering group and residents of Liphook.
- It was also suggested that there could be suitable areas for off-road mountain biking which are signposted and gently and sympathetically landscaped for this purpose.
- In addition, it was stated the importance of signposting the paths and trails within SDNP to highlight the fact that Liphook is the gateway to the national park.

