

## **Culture and Leisure Policy (4 July) V2**

This policy

### **1. Formal Open Space**

This policy

- Safeguards the existing formal open spaces
- Promotes the use of the existing facilities
- Notes the value of such facilities to the local community
- Encourages the use of the existing and future facilities.

#### *Context and reasoned justification*

- There are a number of such facilities within the town boundary including the Priory Grounds owned by the Town Council and King George Playing Field owned by East Herts DC.
- These facilities promote the good health (physical and mental) for all ages, sexes, races and creeds.
- The community recognises the benefit of such facilities
- The community is actively involved in the continued existence of such facilities through such organisations such as The Friends of the Priory, LoveWareLiveWare and Ware in Bloom.

#### *Intent*

- To promote the activities and events that are being held on such facilities e.g. LoveWareLiveWare, Ware Festival etc.
- To encourage the owners of such facilities to retain and upgrade them to meet the needs of the community
- To encourage developers to make further suitable spaces or facilities available for the local community to use.

### **2. Informal Open space**

This policy

- Safeguards the existing informal open spaces
- Promotes the use of the existing facilities
- Notes the value of such facilities to the local community
- Encourages the use of the existing and future facilities.

#### *Context and reasoned justification*

- There are a number of such facilities within the town boundary including the “Cowfield”
- These facilities promote the good health (physical and mental) for all ages, sexes, races and creeds.
- The community recognises the benefit of such facilities
- The community is actively involved in the continued existence of such facilities

### *Intent*

- To promote the activities and events that are being held on such facilities e.g. Ware Fireworks.
  - To encourage the owners of such facilities to retain and upgrade them to meet the needs of the community
  - To encourage developers to make further suitable spaces or facilities available for the local community to use.
  - Owing to the short fall of such spaces within the town boundary development proposals that involve the loss of such areas will not be supported unless the developer / applicant can demonstrate that there is a surplus of similar facilities in the area and that its loss would not adversely affect the existing;
- or

A satisfactory replacement facility is provided in a suitable location, accessible to current users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality.

### **3. Playing Fields & sports facilities**

#### *This policy*

- Safeguards the existing playing fields and sports facilities
- Promotes the use of existing facilities
- Notes the value of such facilities to the local community
- Encourages the use of the existing and future facilities.

#### *Context and reasoned justification*

- There are a number of such facilities within the town boundary including a swimming pool and a lido; a sports centre and several football fields.
- These facilities promote good health (physical and mental) for all ages, sexes, races and creeds.
- The community recognises the benefit of such facilities
- The community is actively involved in the continued existence of such facilities.

### *Intent*

- To promote the activities and events that are being held in or on such facilities
- To encourage the owners of such facilities to retain and upgrade them to meet the needs of the community
- To encourage developers to make further suitable spaces or facilities available for the local community to use.
- Owing to the shortfalls in sporting provision and oversubscription in Ware, development proposals that involve the loss of existing outdoor public and private sport and recreational facilities will not be supported unless:
  - the applicant can demonstrate that there is a surplus of similar facilities in the area and that its loss would not adversely affect the existing; or

- a satisfactory replacement facility is provided in a suitable location, accessible to current users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality;
- or
- 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, the benefits of which should clearly outweigh the loss of this land.

#### **4. Community space. – activities and entertainment. Club and society use.**

This policy

- Safeguards the existing buildings and areas that are being used as a community space for activities and entertainment by clubs and societies.
- Promotes the use of existing premises for both current and future activities and events.
- Notes the value of such space to local organisations, societies and clubs.
- Recognises there is a short fall in available suitable premises.
- Promotes the use of suitable spaces
- Encourages the use of suitable vacant properties as community space whilst on the market for renting or purchase

*Context and reasoned justification*

- There are approximately 120 organisations, clubs and societies in the SG12 area.
- These organisations, clubs and societies promote good health (physical and mental) and education to all ages, sexes, races and creeds.
- The community recognises the value of community space
- The community positively requires and promotes the need for additional community space.

*Intent*

- To promote the activities and events that are being held in the SG12 area.
- To encourage developers to make suitable space available for the local community to use.
- Encourage owners of existing buildings to consider making unused space available for hire by organisations, clubs and societies
- Owing to the shortfalls in community space the loss of such provision and oversubscription in Ware, development proposals that involve the loss of existing community space will not be supported unless:
  - the applicant can demonstrate that there is a surplus of similar facilities in the area and that its loss would not adversely affect the existing;
  - or
  - a satisfactory replacement facility is provided in a suitable location, accessible to current users, and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness and quality

## **5. Thriving community - Meeting the expected needs of the community.**

### **This Policy**

- Endeavours to influence the utilisation of funds secured through planning agreements made in association with new developments to make appropriate improvements to community and recreational amenities, services and facilities
- Endeavours to promote available facilities through all forms of media to advertise and promote the community and leisure offering.

### *Context and reasoned justification*

- The community positively requires and promotes the need for additional community space.
- Lack of knowledge of activities available and where held can lead to frustration about “lack of facilities”

### *Intent*

- The desire to use all forms of media to advertise and promote the community and leisure offering
- To encourage both Town and District Councils to promote community activities with publicity or grants.