

## Stroud District Local Plan – Proposed Changes (June 2001)

PRO Ref.	Policy Proposal Para. No.	Revised Deposit Local Plan	Proposed Changes	Reason for Change
RECREATION AND LEISURE				
PRO218	10.3.1	Central Government advice concerning provision for sport and recreation is largely contained within PPG17: Sport and Recreation 1991. This provides a national land use planning framework for the development of sport and recreation. It emphasises the need to safeguard and enhance existing recreational opportunities in recognition of their important role in the social well-being of local communities. It states that Local Plans provide the appropriate context in which to assess a community's needs for recreational facilities by identifying deficiencies in the provision of public open space. It further states that Local Plans should include policies which protect existing recreational facilities and encourage a new and wider provision of facilities which are co-ordinated with other land use policies. In the case of new residential developments, both PPG17 and Circular 1/97 suggest that the use of planning obligations may be an appropriate method of securing these facilities.	Central Government advice concerning provision for sport and recreation is largely contained within <b>the consultation draft of PPG17: Sport, Open Space and Recreation 1994-2001</b> . This provides a national land use planning framework for the development of sport and recreation. It emphasises the need to safeguard and enhance existing recreational opportunities in recognition of their important role in the social well-being of local communities. It states that Local Plans provide the appropriate context in which to assess a community's needs for recreational facilities by identifying deficiencies in the provision of public open space. It further states that Local Plans should include policies which protect existing recreational facilities and encourage a new and wider provision of facilities which are co-ordinated with other land use policies. In the case of new residential developments, both PPG17 and Circular 1/97 suggest that the use of planning obligations may be an appropriate method of securing these facilities.	To update factual references.
PRO219	10.3.3	There are no statutory national standards for the provision of open space. PPG17 uses the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) 'Six Acre Standard' as an illustrative guide. This standard recommends a minimum level of outdoor playing space of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) per 1,000 population and this standard has now become widely adopted as a suitable assessment for outdoor play space provision. The standard is composed of formal facilities, both publicly and privately owned, for children's and youth and adult use. Whilst this standard was devised principally for urban areas it has been applied to indicate the general level of recreational provision within the whole of Stroud District. The provision of outdoor play space in accordance with precise national standards may be considered less	There are no statutory national standards for the provision of open space. PPG17 <b>suggests that Local Planning Authorities should have regard to standards recommended by sports' governing bodies, uses</b> the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) <b>'Six Acre Standard' as an illustrative guide and similar recreational interest groups. With regard to the NPFA, their This 'Six Acre Standard'</b> recommends a minimum level of outdoor playing space of 2.4 hectares (6 acres) per 1,000 population and this standard has now become widely adopted as a suitable assessment for outdoor play space provision. The standard is composed of formal facilities, both publicly and privately owned, for children's and youth and adult use. Whilst this standard was devised principally for urban areas it has been applied to indicate the general	To update factual references.

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		critical in more rural areas because of the opportunities for access to the countryside for casual play. On the basis of the 'Six Acre Standard' local assessments of provision can be made by the Local Planning Authority and policies can be developed to reflect the level of adequacy of provision of the outdoor recreational facilities.	level of recreational provision within the whole of Stroud District. The provision of outdoor play space in accordance with precise national standards may be considered less critical in more rural areas because of the opportunities for access to the countryside for casual play. On the basis of the 'Six Acre Standard' local assessments of provision can be made by the Local Planning Authority and policies can be developed to reflect the level of adequacy of provision of the outdoor recreational facilities.	
PRO220	10.4.11	In addition to open space for formal outdoor play provision, open space for passive recreation and amenity use is considered particularly valuable in providing wider social and environmental benefits to those living, working and playing within urban areas. Open space of this nature does not fall within the NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' categories and no other generally accepted standard has been derived which can be applied. Policy R4 affords protection to amenity space (including 'Pocket Parks') and private undeveloped land with existing or potential recreational value in areas where the provision of more formal recreational facilities is deficient, or where the site contributes to the visual quality or character of the area.	In addition to open space for formal outdoor play provision, open space for passive recreation and amenity use is considered particularly valuable in providing wider social and environmental benefits to those living, working and playing within urban areas. <b>These areas can also act as havens and habitats for flora and fauna and can thus encourage biodiversity.</b> Open space of this nature does not fall within the NPFA 'Six Acre Standard' categories and no other generally accepted standard has been derived which can be applied. Policy R4 affords protection to amenity space (including 'Pocket Parks') and private undeveloped land with existing or potential recreational value in areas where the provision of more formal recreational facilities is deficient, or where the site contributes to the visual quality or character of the area.	To provide additional guidance.
PRO221	10.4.18	Golf courses are acknowledged in PPG17 as an acceptable use of the countryside. They can provide leisure facilities for local residents, increase opportunities for public access to the countryside and help stimulate the local economy by generating jobs and encouraging tourism. Local authorities are being encouraged to recognise this and make provision, where appropriate, to accommodate these demands. This view is supported by Sport England (previously known as the English Sports Council) for the South West which recommends the provision of an additional nine hole golf course (preferably on a 'pay-as-you-play' basis) for the Stroud	Golf courses are acknowledged <del>in PPG17</del> as an acceptable use of the countryside. They can provide leisure facilities for local residents, increase opportunities for public access to the countryside and help stimulate the local economy by generating jobs and encouraging tourism. Local authorities are being encouraged to recognise this and make provision, where appropriate, to accommodate these demands. This view is supported by Sport England (previously known as the English Sports Council) for the South West which recommends the provision of an additional nine hole golf course (preferably on a 'pay-as-you-play' basis) for the Stroud area in its 1993 publication	To update factual references.

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		area in its 1993 publication 'Golf - Subject Report'.	'Golf - Subject Report'.	
PRO222	10.5.3	Walking and rambling are popular recreational pursuits within the District and proposals to facilitate these activities will be supported, in co-operation with landowners and other relevant user groups. Initiatives such as access and management agreements which aim to open up, promote and maintain rights of way networks for community use are welcomed and, where possible, will be supported. In the Cotswolds AONB the demand for recreation and access can be met providing this is consistent with the conservation objectives of the AONB designation.	Walking and rambling are popular recreational pursuits within the District and proposals to facilitate these activities will be supported, in co-operation with landowners and other relevant user groups. <b>Recent legislation in the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 has reinforced this aim by encouraging the 'opening-up' of some previously inaccessible areas and the modernisation of the rights of way system.</b> Initiatives such as access and management agreements which aim to open up, promote and maintain rights of way networks for community use are welcomed and, where possible, will be supported. In the Cotswolds AONB the demand for recreation and access can be met providing this is consistent with the conservation objectives of the AONB designation.	To make reference to recent legislation in the CROW Act.
PRO223	10.5.11	A study carried out by British Waterways in 1996 (Cotswold Canals Corridor Study) identified the valuable social, economic and environmental potential associated with the re-opening of the Stroudwater and the Thames and Severn Canals in Stroud District. The study concluded that, in their current condition, these canals represented a major unrealised asset in the area. The District Council, similarly, has recognised the potential of these waterways and will liaise closely with the Cotswold Canals Trust and British Waterways with the aim of promoting, where appropriate, the use of the canals as resources for recreational and economic activity. Proposals for development along the canal corridors will be assessed against the relevant Local Plan policies. With regard to the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, it is important to note that this waterway acts as a resource for drinking water, as well as a commercial waterway, and is in close proximity to areas of major conservation interest along the Severn Estuary. British Waterways, in conjunction with the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal	A study carried out by British Waterways in 1996 (Cotswold Canals Corridor Study) identified the valuable social, economic and environmental potential associated with the re-opening of the Stroudwater and the Thames and Severn Canals in Stroud District. The study concluded that, in their current condition, these canals represented a major unrealised asset in the area. The District Council, similarly, has recognised the potential of these waterways and will liaise closely with the Cotswold Canals Trust and British Waterways with the aim of promoting, where appropriate, the use of the canals as resources for recreational and economic activity. Proposals for development along the canal corridors will be assessed against the relevant Local Plan policies. With regard to the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, it is important to note that this waterway acts as a resource for drinking water, as well as a commercial waterway, and is in close proximity to areas of major conservation interest along the Severn Estuary. British Waterways, in conjunction with the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal User Forum, <del>is in the process of</del>	To update factual references.

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		User Forum, is in the process of producing the 'Gloucester and Sharpness Canal Corridor Study'. The main objectives of this study are to identify commercial, tourist and recreation development initiatives and to encourage these initiatives in a manner that is consistent with the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, landscape character and natural resources. The District Council will refer to this document when considering development proposals along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal corridor.	<del>producing</del> <b>has produced</b> the 'Gloucester and Sharpness Canal Corridor Study'. The main objectives of this study are to identify commercial, tourist and recreation development initiatives and to encourage these initiatives in a manner that is consistent with the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, landscape character and natural resources. The District Council will refer to this document when considering development proposals along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal corridor.	
PRO224	10.5.12	The Stroudwater Canal and the Thames and Severn Canal have not operated as commercial waterways for many years and some sections have fallen into disuse or become obstructed by highway development or infilling. In the most serious cases it is not possible to identify, on the ground, the original route of some parts of these canals. However, the identification of these 'missing links' is of great importance if the objective of through navigation is to be realised. The District Council will, therefore, liaise with British Waterways, the Cotswolds Canal Trust and relevant landowners with the aim of identifying and protecting these 'missing links'. Nevertheless, there are long stretches of the canal corridors, rather than the canals themselves, which serve recreational purposes such as traffic-free towpath walking and cycling. The long term potential of the canals is recognised by the District Council, not only for their recreational, aesthetic and commercial value but also as a resource of interest to industrial archaeology and nature conservation. The Cotswold Canals Corridor Study has identified a number of priority restoration projects for the canals in Stroud District and, together with the Cotswold Canals Trust and British Waterways, the District Council will support these restoration objectives with the aim of re-opening the canals in their entirety. Development proposals that hinder the realisation of these objectives and prevent the canals	The Stroudwater Canal and the Thames and Severn Canal have not operated as commercial waterways for many years and some sections have fallen into disuse or become obstructed by highway development or infilling. In the most serious cases it is not possible to identify, on the ground, the original route of some parts of these canals. However, the identification of <del>these</del> <b>both these original and replacement</b> 'missing links' is of great importance if the objective of through navigation is to be realised. The District Council will, therefore, liaise with British Waterways, the Cotswolds Canal Trust and relevant landowners with the aim of identifying and protecting these 'missing links'. Nevertheless, there are long stretches of the canal corridors, rather than the canals themselves, which serve recreational purposes such as traffic-free towpath walking and cycling. The long term potential of the canals is recognised by the District Council, not only for their recreational, aesthetic and commercial value but also as a resource of interest to industrial archaeology and nature conservation. The Cotswold Canals Corridor Study has identified a number of priority restoration projects for the canals in Stroud District and, together with the Cotswold Canals Trust and British Waterways, the District Council will support these restoration objectives with the aim of re-opening the canals in their entirety. Development proposals that hinder the realisation of these objectives and prevent the canals from reaching their full potential will, therefore,	To improve clarity.

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		<p>from reaching their full potential will, therefore, be resisted. At the same time, development proposals which assist the restoration of the canals will be encouraged, providing other relevant Local Plan policies are complied with. These will include having regard to the role canals can play in maintaining the supply of water resources. Any development adjacent to a canal should also respect its setting. Development proposals will be required to incorporate a high standard of design and, in many cases, this will include appropriate canal-frontage design.</p>	<p>be resisted. At the same time, development proposals which assist the restoration of the canals will be encouraged, providing other relevant Local Plan policies are complied with. These will include having regard to the role canals can play in maintaining the supply of water resources. Any development adjacent to a canal should also respect its setting. Development proposals will be required to incorporate a high standard of design and, in many cases, this will include appropriate canal-frontage design.</p>	
PRO225	10.6.1	<p>Arts, cultural and entertainment facilities can provide an important source of leisure for the local community and can be widely defined to include a number of diverse activities. The District Council recognises the important contribution these facilities make to the social and economic welfare of the community. The encouragement of creative cultural activities, through the provision of appropriate infrastructure, can help town centre regeneration objectives by promoting community involvement, vitality, distinctiveness and local identity. In an attempt to address this issue the District Council has formulated its own Cultural Development Strategy to direct resources to particular gaps in provision. Despite a high level of interest in various forms of leisure activities, the actual level of infrastructure within the District is low. For example, the District has no purpose built theatre, no concert hall and no art gallery. Although the town of Wotton-under-Edge has a 179 seat cinema to serve the South Vale area, the District's main town of Stroud lacks such a facility. However, there are some other notable entertainment facilities in Stroud such as the Subscription Rooms which hosts concerts, exhibitions and events. Similarly, the Prema Arts Centre in Uley has a national reputation for both its exhibition and performing arts programme.</p>	<p>Arts, cultural and entertainment facilities can provide an important source of leisure for the local community and can be widely defined to include a number of diverse activities. The District Council recognises the important contribution these facilities make to the social and economic welfare of the community. <b>This is particularly the case in smaller communities with town and village halls.</b> The encouragement of creative cultural activities, through the provision of appropriate infrastructure, can help town centre regeneration objectives by promoting community involvement, vitality, distinctiveness and local identity. In an attempt to address this issue the District Council has formulated its own Cultural Development Strategy to direct resources to particular gaps in provision. Despite a high level of interest in various forms of leisure activities, the actual level of infrastructure within the District is low. For example, the District has no purpose built theatre, no concert hall and no art gallery. Although the town of Wotton-under-Edge has a 179 seat cinema to serve the South Vale area, the District's main town of Stroud lacks such a facility. However, there are some other notable entertainment facilities in Stroud such as the Subscription Rooms which hosts concerts, exhibitions and events. Similarly, the Prema Arts Centre in Uley has a national reputation for both its exhibition and performing arts programme.</p>	To improve clarity.

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