

## **NEW FOREST AREA**

### **PPG17 Assessment: Open Space, Sport and Recreation**

#### **Parish Profile:**

#### **HORDLE**

**Sub Area: Coastal**

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## **1 DESCRIPTION OF PARISH**

<b>Population</b>	5095	<b>Hectares</b>	1066	<b>Population density</b>	4.77
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Hordle is a scattered, predominantly residential parish, a short distance east of New Milton. It borders the New Forest to the north and east and is closely surrounded by and lies partly within the Green Belt.

The village of Hordle is interspersed with fields and woodland which divide it into two parts. The small settlement of Tiptoe lies to the north, and comprises 2 churches, a primary and pre-school and just under 100 residents; virtually all areas of open space are on the edge of the settlement. The village of Everton to the south east is also surrounded by the Green Belt and contains some open space facilities that contribute to meeting the needs of the parish as a whole. Hordle parish as a whole is deficient in open space partly because of land contamination at the Dudley Avenue Sports Ground.

## **2 SUMMARY OF EXISTING PROVISION**

### **2.1 Informal Open Space (Amenity open space, natural greenspace, parks and gardens and routeways)**

- The principal area of open space in Hordle Parish is The principal open space area in the parish is the Recreation Ground at Hordle and its extension which together comprise 3.7ha. Everton Recreation Ground is around four and a quarter hectares in size. Both these sites are categorised as an Outdoor Sports Facility (see below).
- The next largest area is Dudley Recreation Ground (3.74ha.), which is categorised within the Study as informal open space. This lies towards the south of Hordle; and contained at the time of the site visit 2 kickabout junior goal posts, grazing land (grazing appears to be only current use of site), a car park and an enclosed, wooden fenced play area.
- There are various other small pockets of informal open space including land adjacent to War Memorial with 2 benches (0.08ha.) There is a very well defined footpath and cycleway network through woodland adjacent to Acacia Road which forms an alternative route linking two halves of village that avoids main road (0.71ha).

- Golden Hill Common (1.79ha.) is an informal recreational wooded area on the edge of village with a number of pedestrian entrances, although access to it at the time of the site visits appeared quite difficult.
- There is also a public open space area at 'The Hawthorns' (this has not been included on the database).

## 2.2 Space for Children and Young People

- There are 3 play areas (totaling 0.21ha.); one at Everton Recreation Ground with 2 benches, a new play tower, a small roundabout, 1x2 swings, 3 spring toys; Dudley Avenue (enclosed, wooden fenced play area containing banked slide and a play tunnel and fort) and Hordle Recreation Ground Play area is older style, enclosed CPA with swings, slide, seesaw, 2 metal frames.

## 2.3 Outdoor Sport

- **Hordle Recreation Ground:** Together with the extension to the ground, this comprises 1 adult and 2 junior football pitches, a cricket square with artificial strip, tarmac, floodlit MUGA and 1 mini soccer pitch. The north west of the site has tufted grass and would need further work to convert to formal, sport use; it is understood that work is now in hand to upgrade this area. There is a first class pavilion on site with a hall, kitchen, showers, toilets, storage and referee facilities.
- **Everton Recreation Ground:** 2 junior/small adult football pitches, over marked for mini soccer. Nice changing facility. Also enclosed play area.

## 2.4 Allotments

- There are no allotments.

## 2.5 Landscape Features

- 7 landscape features are identified, mostly tree screens and grass verges and splays.

## 2.6 Summary of Other Provision

<b>Schools</b>	Hordle Church Of England Primary School	1 junior football
	Tiptoe Primary School	1 junior football
<b>Community halls</b>	Hordle Recreation Ground Pavilion	
	Everton Sports and Community Pavilion	

	Baptist Church Hall, Tiptoe	
	New Memorial Hall, adjacent to church in Hordle Lane.	
	Young Farmers Club building in Tiptoe	
	Scout Hall in Vaggs Lane, Hordle	
	WI Hall in Vaggs Lane/Ashley Lane, Hordle	

## 2.7 Education Sites

- Hordle and Tiptoe Primary Schools both have grass areas of around three quarters of a hectare.
- Tiptoe Primary - 1 Junior Football Pitch. 1 Grass Field, Pitch Needs Levelling Planned Improvements To Adventure Play Area New Markings Needed. Hordle Primary - Possibly 1 football jnr; no further details

## 3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM LOCAL CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH

### 3.1 Use of Open Space Areas

- From the Citizen's Panel survey, it appears that people from Hordle are likely to travel to the New Forest and the coast for their local areas of open space, but within the settlements, the two recreation grounds are very important. We believe that improvements here as suggested under Section 5 below may lead to more people walking within the villages to use these facilities.

### 3.2 Playing Pitch Assessment

- The one senior pitch in Hordle at Hordle Recreation Ground is home to Hordle Spurs FC and accommodates 3 adult teams. The ground also has 2 junior football pitches, which accommodate the 8 junior teams of Hordle Spurs FC.
- The cricket pitch at Hordle Recreation Ground is home to Hordle Village CC and is well used during the season, with 2 Saturday teams here, and occasional friendly matches on Sundays and weekday evenings; no issues have been identified. The Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI has been promoted several times in recent years.
- Everton Recreation Ground has 2 junior/small adult football pitches, confusingly over marked for mini soccer. This is the home of Everton Youth FC, with around 9 youth teams playing here.
- The existing pitches are used to capacity by 20 adult and junior football teams and the two cricket teams. Demand can only be met by the football club playing some home matches elsewhere.

### 3.3 Other Issues

- However, somewhat poor quality of provision was very apparent at the time of the site visits. Although there is wooden play equipment and a banked slide at Dudley Avenue, it is felt that this area could be improved; the Hordle village play area had poor quality equipment and the equipment at the Everton play area was sparse (although a new play tower has since been provided.)
- Both playing fields have new changing accommodation but only average playing surfaces; it is understood that these are currently undergoing an extensive improvement process. Consultation identified a high demand for youth and junior football, but less apparent demand exists for senior football. Both the MUGA and cricket at Hordle appear to sustain little use. The two other large areas of public open space (Golden Hill and Dudley Road) require considerable investment to serve their designated purpose, with a higher degree of maintenance.
- The Parish Council has identified the following:
  - Existing halls too small – new community hall required
  - Insufficient play areas in Tiptoe Village due to lack of suitable land
  - Needs of teenagers and elderly not being met within the parish
  - Scope for providing recreation facilities at schools sites providing costs are reasonable
  - The parish council is responsible for maintenance of all areas. It employs one part-time maintenance person and contractors for grass-cutting etc.
  - The Parish Council feel that the amount of money collected through developer contributions should be available for improvements, but it is currently only available for new play equipment.

## 4 APPLICATION OF DRAFT STANDARDS

### 4.1 Summary of Open Space Provision

	No. of sites	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Hectares/000		
			Existing Parish	Existing District	Proposed Standard
Informal Open Space	4	63114	1.24	2.12	2.30
Space for Children	3	2060	0.04	0.05	0.20
Space for Young People	0	0	0	0.01	
Outdoor Sports Facilities	3	78663	1.54	1.01	c1.25
Allotments	0	0	0	0.13	0.30
<b>Total of Open Space in Standards</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14.38ha</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>3.31</b>	

*The table above summarises the provision of open space within the parish, according to sites mapped on the New Forest Area Database. It shows levels of provision in area (ha.) per thousand of the population, and the current New Forest District Council level for comparative purposes (although there is so much variation throughout the District that this can only be a very general guide).*

*The proposed standards have been arrived at through research and examination of existing provision, areas of deficiency, latent and future demand (contained within the full Report); **they are draft figures for discussion and agreement.***

*According to government guidance, proposed standards of provision should have 3 elements: a quantitative standard (ha/000), a qualitative standard and an accessibility component. The main Report emphasises that whilst the quantitative standard is required to set a baseline for provision and for securing developer contributions, improving the quality of existing provision and the ease with which people can access them are of equal, and in many areas, of higher priority.*

*The following observations are based on a review of the parish's existing levels of provision against those proposed; the accessibility analysis is based on the catchment area maps which show main areas of open space with catchment radii established following public consultation of:*

*5 minutes around areas of informal open space greater than 0.25ha in size  
10 minutes around areas of informal open space greater than 0.5ha in size  
10 minutes around children's play areas  
15 minutes around spaces for young people.*

## **4.2 Standards of Provision**

### **Quantity**

Hordle parish overall has 2.82ha./000 of open space. Although this compares well with the District overall, it has a relatively low level of provision for informal open space, some of which is met by the recreation grounds. There is no specific provision for teenagers (although the floodlit muga may cater for some of their needs). No allotments have been identified.

### **Quality**

The quality of play areas and the recreation grounds are generally poor and would benefit from improvements.

### **Accessibility**

Accessibility generally to sports grounds is good. The three play areas in accessibility terms cover most of the parish, apart from the residential area to the south east of Hordle village.

The Recreation Grounds serve also as informal open space but even allowing for this there are several areas which are outside of the ideal 5 minute catchment, including south west Everton.

## **5 POINTS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

- Hordle Recreation Ground and Dudley Recreation Ground are potentially very valuable open spaces, if their quality could be improved. However, Dudley Recreation Ground in particular (and the play area) needs considerable investment

just to serve its intended purpose. It is currently grazed because infilling of the old dump area is needed before play equipment etc could be considered.

- Everton typifies the issues for assessing open space provision in smaller settlements. The Recreation Ground is the only area of open space and has to meet needs for both informal and formal recreation and children's play. The existing pitches are well used and we believe there is enough demand from the thriving youth sides to justify new provision. It is recommended that a further one adult and 2 junior pitches should be provided.
- As with all the larger town and parish council areas in the New Forest Area, it is recommended that a hierarchy of provision of children's play opportunities is developed:
  - *Toddler provision*: small low key games area preferably with play features & 3 items of 'small scale' items of play equipment. Seating for accompanying adults.
  - *For other children up to teenage years (6-12 years)*: About 5 items of play equipment and a small flat ball games area with kick walls and 'low level' hoops and 'very low key wheel play facility (undulating riding surface with features). Seating for accompanying adults.
  - *For young people/teenagers*: about 5 items of equipment: various options to be considered including Ball Play and Wheeled Play opportunities, and covered seating for teenagers to use as a meeting place. It is understood that there is currently discussion regarding the provision of a skate park at Dudley Avenue.
  - Consideration of how to maximise informal and adventure play opportunities in the parish by using existing open space areas
  - Programme of improvements to maintenance and new equipment at the existing children's play areas.
- It is recognised that the cost of new provision is difficult to meet, particularly since developer contributions cannot currently be used for extra new equipment on existing play area sites. Improvements to existing play equipment are now in budget.
- Improvements in access to Golden Hill Common to encourage more people to use this area; this may help in deflecting demand for short trips/outings/picnics away from the New Forest National Park.
- Investigate potential for community use of junior pitch at Tiptoe Primary School – the school has indicated that its pitch is available for use by the community. Is there any opportunity here for development of a community play area?
- The multi use games area at Hordle appears to sustain little use. Consideration should be given to make it more appealing to its target market.
- Community hall: the Study has not identified any particular need, other than that identified by the Parish Council. The main Report recommends a hierarchy of indoor provision and a parish of this size would be expected to support a small

indoor sports facility, for short mat bowls, table tennis, health and fitness and possibly badminton.

- There are no allotments, due to the unavailability of land, but the Parish Council note that allotments are required and the size of the parish certainly suggests that this might be a valuable addition to facilities.
- Wherever possible, improvements to the network of footpaths and cycleways linking open space and recreation facilities, particularly to improve access for those without a car and the young.
- Ensure that the needs of disabled people are taken into account in the design, accessibility and management of all open spaces and indoor and outdoor sport and recreation sites in the parish.