

Play Strategy



Cheshire West
and Chester

Locality Play Improvement Framework

2016 – 2030

Incorporating First Annual Review
(December 2017)

Rural Communities

Tier 2 (Part 2 of 2)



Ecology | Green Space | Community | GIS
Studio 12a | Greenway Farm | Wick | BS30 5RL

info@ethosep.co.uk | 0333 0112854

www.ethosep.co.uk



CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	4-12
1.1	Prioritisation Framework	
1.2	Geographical area	
1.3	Population	
1.4	Overview of area	
2.0	Existing provision of Play Space	13
3.0	Analysis of existing quantity of play space	14-20
4.0	Quality Assessment	21-36
4.1	Audit methodology	
4.2	Summary results from quality audit	
5.0	Consultation	37-41
6.0	Prioritisation of play space methodology	42-46
7.0	Results of prioritisation process	47-71
7.1	High priority sites	
7.2	Medium Priority sites	
7.3	Low Priority sites	
7.4	Sites with potential for alternative open space use	
7.5	Potential for new provision	
8.0	Requirements from new development	72
9.0	Key Issues, challenges and aspirations	73-74

Overview and key points of Locality Play Improvement Frameworks

Each of the four Locality Play Improvement Frameworks provide an evidence base that can be used by all partners/stakeholders with an interest in play and youth facilities. It is called a **framework** document rather than a plan because it does not aim to produce a prescriptive play area delivery plan that partners must follow; rather it provides evidence that partners can use in reviewing, developing and implementing their own individual delivery plans.

It is important to note that the frameworks are 'live' documents which will be the subject of continuing updates and review. There is need for the Play Strategy to be managed by a partnership/monitoring structure, and one of the key recommendations from the initial stakeholder workshop in December 2015 was to set up a 'Play Partnership', which is being pursued by Cheshire West and Chester Council as a priority.

The Play Strategy framework documents cover all publicly accessible outdoor children's play spaces and youth facilities (they do not cover outdoor/green gyms, which are included within the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study), and provide a strategic play profile for each Locality. They include recommendations for prioritising sites for improvements, sites with potential for alternative open space use, and areas where new provision would reduce gaps in accessing these facilities.

These recommendations (for improvements, alternative open space use, or areas for new provision) have been based on a clear process of prioritisation that has been consistently applied to all sites. The factors used in prioritisation of sites for improvement were agreed by the Play Strategy Steering Group following a number of stakeholder workshop sessions, and are based on: the current quality of sites and their potential for improvement; proximity to other play spaces and schools; child population; child health (excess weight); levels of child/youth deprivation and geographical barriers to services (i.e. rurality).

A number of play spaces have been recommended to have potential for alternative open space use (because they have poor play value/are of poor quality and their removal would **not** result in a gap in access). It is important to recognise that these spaces are only considered to have **potential** for alternative open space use – it is not the final recommendation of the report that alternative open space use is sought, but rather that further investigation and/or public consultation is required. It should also be noted that if any play spaces recommended for alternative open space use have funds secured for improvements e.g. S106 funds or parish council funding, then they would **not** be considered suitable for alternative open space use.

Scope for the provision of new play space has also been considered where this would reduce gaps in access (and shortfalls in provision). It should be emphasised that the decision to install a new children's or youth play space on a site will depend on the availability of funding (the council do not currently have funding for the installation and maintenance of

new play areas) and the needs of the local community. It is important to note that open spaces listed are those with **potential** for new provision – it is not the final recommendation of this framework that they are implemented, but that they could be pursued further if and when new funding becomes available.

It should be noted that any site assessments undertaken to formulate this framework take account of site conditions at that particular time and understandably sites may be subject to additional improvements/review taking account of site aspirations and the availability of funding.

Locality Framework and First Annual Review (December 2017)

This Locality Framework incorporates the first annual review of the Tier 2 Locality Play Improvement Framework for the Rural Locality for the period 2016/17. It provides updated quality audit information for play spaces that have had capital investment and includes newly mapped play spaces that have been identified since the previous report/audit.

Since the Draft Play Strategy was produced in 2016/17 there have also been changes to the Cheshire West and Chester parish boundaries. The new parish boundaries have been used for the updated analysis within the Rural Communities and Winsford and Northwich Play Improvement Frameworks, which use parish boundaries for the analysis. The population figures used in the analysis have also been updated to the 2015 mid-year population estimates¹.

Generally speaking, the contextual information remains largely unchanged (apart from where the updated parish information is used, along with the 2015 mid-year population estimates which may also result in changes to supply figures, or where maps have been updated). The main changes are to the quality tables of each framework document and also the results of the prioritisation process and recommendations where relevant.

¹ These population estimates were provided by CWAC. It should be noted that in some cases the Output Area boundaries do not fit neatly with parish boundaries, but these were the most accurate figures for the new parish boundaries at the time of writing.

Locality Play Improvement Framework: Rural Communities

1.0 Introduction

The Cheshire West and Chester Play Strategy is a two tier strategy and is presented in two parts. Tier 1 (part 1 of 2) sets out relevant policy, standards and good practice guidance around design, risk and challenge, inclusion and sustainability. Tier 2 (part 2 of 2) comprises 4 Locality Framework Plans which provide localised information, applying the tier 1 policy and strategy and identifying priorities, issues, challenges and aspirations.

Cheshire West and Chester Council provide many local community services within a Locality Area framework. The four Locality Areas are:

- Chester
- Ellesmere Port
- Northwich & Winsford
- Rural Communities

The Locality Frameworks should be read in conjunction with the main Play Strategy report (tier 1 - part 1 of 1). Each Locality Framework includes the following information:

- A description of the area
- Maps showing the provision of play areas and youth provision
- Quantitative analysis of current provision of play space (children and youth)
- Analysis of access to children's play areas and youth provision
- Summary of quality issues (Ethos Audit)
- Summary of consultation undertaken
- Prioritisation methodology
- Results of prioritisation process (play spaces with high, medium and low potential for improvement, those sites with potential for alternative open space use if appropriate, and open spaces with potential for new play space provision); and
- Key issues, challenges, aspirations and priorities.

The Locality Frameworks are intended to provide an evidence base that partners can use in reviewing, developing and implementing their own individual delivery plans. The Framework provides an overview of all sites in the locality area and applies objective needs based criteria to all those sites, to arrive at the strategically determined site categorisation classifications. The Play Strategy recognises that in terms of the different partners' own delivery plans there are key additional practical factors that need to be considered, most notably in relation to the availability of capital funding and management/maintenance sustainability. In practice this may mean that in certain circumstances the strategic priority classification will take second place to practical achievability.

1.1 Prioritisation Framework

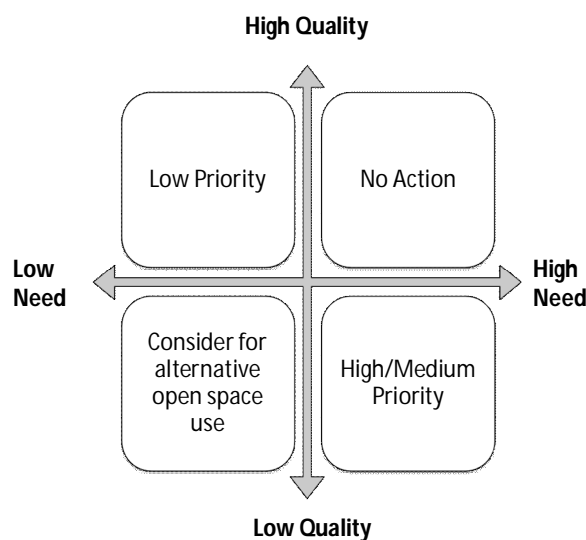
Planning for Play suggests that prioritisation for play space improvements should be based on an objective assessment to determine where improvements are most needed. The

strategy follows this guidance by applying needs criteria to all sites (the criteria were developed following consultation via four locality area play workshops)². The prioritisation of play space (child and youth) for improvement has been carried out using ward and lower super output area (LSOA) data (see section 6).

The criteria are based on:

- Current quality of sites and their potential for improvement
- Proximity/access to other play areas; and proximity to schools
- Demographics e.g. numbers of children and young people in the area/catchment
- Child health – excess weight/obesity
- Levels of child/youth deprivation
- Geographical barriers to play – rurality

The principal behind the prioritisation approach is illustrated by the diagram below:



As a result of this process the Framework categorises all sites in the locality under four broad headings:

- High priority for improvement
- Medium priority for improvement
- Low priority – no significant improvement action needed
- Consider alternative open space use

² Full details of the criteria and the rationale for their selection can be found in section 6 of this report.

It is important to understand that the latter option refers to the specific designation as a play area meaning that the space could be considered for other uses or be adapted as unequipped playable space where it may well provide useful 'doorstep' type provision.

Why a Framework?

It is called a **framework** document rather than a plan because it does not aim to produce a prescriptive play area delivery plan that partners must follow; rather it provides evidence that partners can use in reviewing, developing and implementing their own individual delivery plans.

The Framework simply provides an overview of all sites in the locality area and applies objective needs based criteria to all those sites - to arrive at the strategically determined site categorisation classifications.

How can it be used?

Some examples are provided below:

- As a reference in relation to developing or reviewing individual partners' delivery plans.
- Reference to the Framework can help partners to decide which of many potential improvement projects could be most effectively targeted in relation to need and external funding bids.
- Where sites are identified as priorities in the Framework this identification, along with providing details of the objective means by which they were highlighted, will add significant weight to any potential funding bids.
- It can help partners to decide which projects to focus resources on in terms of further investigation and in relation to providing advice and guidance to local community play space initiatives.
- If there are a high number of small poor quality sites in an urban area, say, the Framework's identification of potential sites for alternative open space use can help in deciding options for the future e.g. to consider the viability of some sites and consider the option of providing a smaller number of accessible higher quality sites.

The Play Strategy recognises that in terms of the different partners' own delivery plans there are key additional practical factors that need to be considered, most notably in relation to the availability of capital funding and management/maintenance sustainability³.

In practice this may mean that in certain circumstances the strategic priority classification

³ This relates primarily to the need to be able to show that there is sufficient capital funding to implement the scheme; and that there is also a clear and robust plan to demonstrate how the play area will be maintained in the future e.g. is there confirmed revenue funding sufficient to maintain the site long term; a long term commuted sum from a developer ongoing community commitment to manage the site etc.

will take second place to practical achievability. To illustrate by way of some examples:

- A site that is identified as a medium strategic priority may in practice have attracted capital or S106 funding and demonstrable sustainability that makes its improvement achievable. This project is therefore included in the partner's delivery plan.
- A strategically identified high priority site is able to secure capital/S106 funding but cannot demonstrate ongoing sustainability. This project is not included in the partner's delivery plan (until the sustainability issue is overcome).
- A site that is identified as a medium priority has strong active community support including a commitment to raise capital funds and to demonstrate long-term sustainability. This project is added to the partner's delivery plan.

1.2 Geographical area

The Rural Communities Locality Area consists of the wards of Chester Villages, Dodleston and Huntington, Elton, Farndon, Frodsham, Gowy, Helsby, Kingsley, Little Neston and Burton, Malpas, Neston, Parkgate, Saughall and Mollington, Tarporley, Tarvin and Kelsall, Tattenhall and Willaston and Thornton. The wards (and LSOA data) have been used as the basis for prioritising play areas.

Parishes have been used for analysing the provision of play space within rural areas, as these are generally smaller areas, therefore providing more meaningful information. However, there are three parts of the Locality that are unparished:

Willaston and Thornton Ward – this part of the Rural Communities Locality is unparished. The ward boundary fits neatly with the surrounding parishes/wards, and therefore analysis by ward has been undertaken.

Elton Ward – part of this ward is unparished, and part has parishes. Parishes within the ward have been used for provision analysis. The unparished area within this ward does not contain any play space and consists of industrial and agricultural land (no housing), and therefore, analysis within the unparished area is not required.

Little Neston and Burton Ward – part of this ward is unparished. Analysis has been carried out on the parishes that fall within the ward, and the unparished part of the ward has also been considered separately.

1.3 Population

Table 1 Ward population statistics (2015 mid year estimates)

Ward	Child population (Age 0-19)	Total population
Chester Villages	2,002	8,542
Dodleston and Huntington	1,098	4,532
Elton	1,009	4,567
Farndon	907	4,092

Frodsham	1,929	9,305
Gowy	865	3,973
Helsby	1,039	4,981
Kingsley	792	4,207
Little Neston and Burton	1,539	8,391
Malpas	812	4,085
Neston	1,012	4,394
Parkgate	642	3,743
Saughall and Mollington	896	4,516
Tarporley	1,005	4,608
Tarvin and Kelsall	1,864	8,572
Tattenhall	923	4,473
Willaston and Thornton	643	3,791

Table 2 Parish population statistics (2015 mid year estimates) ⁴

2015 Parishes	Population
Acton Bridge	601
Agden	99
Aldersey	130
Aldford and Saughton	468
Allstock	812
Alvanley	457
Anderton with Marbury	606
Antrobus	776
Ashton Hayes and Horton-Cum-Peel	882
Aston	112
Bache	258
Backford	247
Barnton	5541
Barrow	962
Barton	149
Beeston	193
Bostock	225
Broxton	441
Burwardsley	200
Byley	212
Capenhurst	380
Carden	99
Chester Castle	99
Chester unparished area	63698
Chidlow	99
Chorlton	120

⁴ Where a Parish population is below 100 or if there are less than 40 households, ONS are not publishing results. In order to analyse the data, a population of 99 has been used.

2015 Parishes	Population
Chowley	99
Christleton	2469
Churton	338
Clotton Hoofield	391
Clutton	343
Coddington	99
Comberbach	892
Croughton	99
Crowton	440
Cuddington (Malpas)	187
Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington)	5424
Darnhall	219
Davenham	2803
Delamere and Oakmere	1453
Dodleston	975
Duckington	99
Duddon	606
Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	667
Dutton	448
Eaton and Eccleston	229
Ellesmere Port unparished area	64741
Elton	3643
Farndon	1711
Frodsham	9444
Golborne David	99
Great Boughton	8243
Great Budworth	328
Guilden Sutton	1430
Handley	328
Hargrave and Huxley	397
Hartford	5542
Harthill	99
Helsby	4981
Huntington	2766
Ince	207
Kelsall	2686
Kingsley	1866
Kingsmead	4847
Lach Dennis	575
Lea-by-Backford	187
Ledsham	99
Little Budworth	628
Little Leigh	541

2015 Parishes	Population
Little Stanney	181
Littleton	678
Lostock Gralam	2132
Malpas	1648
Manley	654
Marston	520
Mickle Trafford and District	2339
Mollington	650
Moston	687
Mouldsworth	351
Moulton	2318
Neston	15382
Nether Peover	411
No Man's Heath and District	1191
Norley	1146
Northwich	20451
Poulton and Pulford	562
Puddington	450
Rowton	446
Rudheath	3749
Rushton	500
Saughall and Shotwick Park	3052
Shocklach Oviatt and District	313
Sproston	223
Stanthorne and Wimboldsley	295
Stoak	154
Stretton	99
Sutton Weaver	504
Tarporley	2726
Tarvin	3183
Tattenhall and District	2437
Thornton-le-Moors	254
Threapwood	396
Tilston	640
Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall	477
Tushingam-cum-Grindley, Macefen and Bradley	338
Upton-by-Chester	8256
Utkinton and Cotebrook	754
Waverton	1507
Weaverham	6350
Wervin	128
Whitegate and Marton	1143
Whitley	503

2015 Parishes	Population
Wigland	205
Willington	253
Wincham	2160
Winsford	30775

1.4 Overview of the area

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies sets out the profile of the Rural area as follows:

A third of the borough's residents live in the rural area that runs from Neston in the north, which borders Wirral, to the boundary with Shropshire in the south. The rural area in the south is more sparsely populated and many of the settlements, especially in the north, are effectively dormitory settlements that are dependent on larger towns for employment opportunities. Car use is generally very high and isolation and access to services is an issue for some rural residents. The rural area is generally affluent with higher than average household incomes and higher levels of academic qualifications.

Although agriculture employs few people, it makes a very significant contribution to the character of the borough, habitats and the environment. The character of the rural area is also defined by the network of settlements that provide rural residents with services and facilities. The population in the rural area is generally older than other parts of Cheshire West and house prices are higher.

Within the rural area there are ten key service centres which provide a good range of facilities and services for surrounding areas:

- Cuddington (Weaver and Cuddington);
- Farndon;
- Frodsham;
- Helsby;
- Kelsall;
- Malpas;
- Neston and Parkgate;
- Tarvin;
- Tattenhall;
- Tarporley.

These all fall within the Rural Communities Locality area, with the exception of Cuddington, which falls within the Northwich and Winsford Locality Area.

2.0 Existing provision of play space

There are a total of 70 children’s play areas and 26 youth facilities (excluding teen shelters) within the Locality Area.

The breakdown for youth facilities is as follows:

Type of youth facility	Number
MUGA	14
BMX	1
Basketball	8
Skate park	3
Total	26

The section below provides an analysis of the existing quantity of play space within the Rural Communities Locality Area.

3.0 Analysis of existing quantity/access of play space

Table 3 shows the existing provision of play space across the Rural Communities Locality. The second column 'Existing Provision Ha' shows the total amount of play space for each typology in hectares. The third column 'Existing Provision Ha/1000' shows hectares of play space per 1000 of the population (using 2015 mid year population estimates).

Table 3 Existing provision of play space across the Rural Communities Locality Area

Typology	Existing (Ha)	Existing (Ha/1000)
Play Space (Children)	4.83	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.96	0.01

For the urban/part urban parishes within the other three Locality Play Improvement Frameworks, the quantity standards for play space from the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study (summarised in table 4) have been applied (with the exception of the Northwich and Winsford Locality which includes a number of rural parishes). For the Rural Communities Locality, the standards in table 4 are applicable for only new provision of play space as part of new development within this Locality (see section 8), but are not used for analysis of existing provision.

In terms of analysing existing provision (quantity and access) of play space within the Rural Communities Locality, the recommended provision levels set out in table 5 below should be used, reflecting the need for rural parishes to be treated differently (as explained below). It is important to note that these are **not** spatial planning standards, but a means of identifying how provision could be prioritised.

Small rural parishes need a different approach as many simply do not have the required population for the application of standards in table 4 that would meet children and young people's need for local play space. However, children and young people within these areas still need access to play spaces.

Table 4 Quantity standards for play space (from Cheshire west and Chester Open Space Study)

Typology	Quantity standards (ha/1000 population)
Play Space (Children)	0.05
Play Space (Youth)	0.03

Table 5 Recommended levels of provision for play space in rural parishes

Rural parish population	Rural play quantity/access standard
Over 500 people and 10 key service centres	There should be at least 1 play space plus an outdoor youth facility (excluding teen shelters).
250-500 people	There should be at least 1 appropriately scaled down multi-use space for play to accommodate use by accompanied toddlers, children and teenagers. This may be sited on a single community green space area e.g. Village Green.

Less than 250 people	There should be access (at least) to some "playable" space i.e. public open space with potential for play.
----------------------	--

It is also recommended that all rural service centres (see section 1.4) provide play space for both children and youth.

Analysis of quantity/access by wards (for those areas that are unparished)

The following table shows the number of play areas within the wards which have been analysed separately due to these areas being unparished/partly unparished (as explained under section 1.2).

Table 6 Supply (ha) of play space by ward

WARD	Children's play area?	Youth facility?	Number of Children's Play Areas	Number of Youth Facilities
Little Neston and Burton Ward	YES	YES	1	1
Willaston and Thornton Ward	YES	NO	3	0

There is one Children's play area and one youth facility (basketball) within Little Neston and Burton Ward (the unparished area of the ward), and therefore no further provision is required against the recommended minimum levels of provision outlined in table 5. CWAC are currently (April 2016) working with Burton to enhance the play area.

There are three Children's play areas and no youth facilities within Willaston and Thornton Ward. In order to meet the recommended level of provision set out in table 5, youth provision is required within the ward. Johnson's Recreation Ground may have potential to accommodate new youth provision.

Analysis of quantity/access by parishes

Table 7 below shows the quantity of play areas by parish against the parish population, for analysis against the recommended levels of provision set out in table 5.

Table 7 Quantity of play areas by parish

Parish	Population (2015)	Service Centre?	No of Children's Play Areas	No of Youth Facilities	Total (Children's and Youth)
Agden	99	NO	0	0	0
Aldersey	130	NO	0	0	0
Aldford and Saighton	468	NO	1	0	1
Alvanley	457	NO	0	0	0
Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel	882	NO	1	0	1
Aston	112	NO	0	0	0

Parish	Population (2015)	Service Centre?	No of Children's Play Areas	No of Youth Facilities	Total (Children's and Youth)
Backford	247	NO	0	0	0
Barrow	962	NO	1	0	1
Barton	149	NO	0	0	0
Beeston	193	NO	0	0	0
Broxton	441	NO	0	0	0
Burwardsley	200	NO	0	0	0
Capenhurst	380	NO	0	0	0
Carden	99	NO	0	0	0
Chidlow	99	NO	0	0	0
Chorlton	120	NO	0	0	0
Chowley	99	NO	0	0	0
Christleton	2469	NO	2	1	3
Churton	338	NO	0	0	0
Clotton Hoofield	391	NO	0	0	0
Clutton	343	NO	1	0	1
Coddington	99	NO	0	0	0
Croughton	99	NO	0	0	0
Crowton	440	NO	0	0	0
Cuddington (Malpas)	187	YES	0	0	0
Delamere and Oakmere	1453	NO	1	0	1
Dodleston	975	NO	2	1	3
Duckington	99	NO	0	0	0
Duddon and Burton	606	NO	1	0	1
Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	667	NO	1	1	2
Eaton and Eccleston	229	NO	0	0	0
Elton	3643	NO	3	1	4
Farndon	1711	YES	2	1	3
Frodsham	9444	YES	6	2	8
Golborne David	99	NO	0	0	0
Guilden Sutton	1430	NO	1	0	1
Handley	328	NO	0	0	0
Hargrave and Huxley	397	NO	0	0	0
Harthill	99	NO	0	0	0
Helsby	4981	YES	2	2	4
Huntington	2766	NO	8	1	9
Ince	207	NO	1	0	1
Kelsall	2686	YES	1	1	2
Kingsley	1866	NO	1	0	1
Lea-by-Backford	187	NO	0	0	0
Ledsham	99	NO	0	0	0
Little Budworth	628	NO	1	1	2
Littleton	678	NO	0	0	0

Parish	Population (2015)	Service Centre?	No of Children's Play Areas	No of Youth Facilities	Total (Children's and Youth)
Malpas	1648	YES	1	1	2
Manley	654	NO	0	0	0
Mickle Trafford and District	2339	NO	2	1	3
Mollington	650	NO	0	0	0
Mouldsworth	351	NO	0	0	0
Neston	15382	YES	10	4	14
No Man's Heath and District	1191	NO	1	0	1
Norley	1146	NO	1	1	2
Poulton and Pulford	562	NO	1	0	1
Puddington	450	NO	0	0	0
Rowton	446	NO	0	0	0
Rushton	500	NO	0	0	0
Saughall and Shotwick Park	3052	NO	2	2	4
Shocklach Oviatt and District	313	NO	0	0	0
Stoak	154	NO	1	0	1
Stretton	99	NO	0	0	0
Sutton Weaver	504	NO	1	0	1
Tarporley	2726	YES	1	0	1
Tarvin	3183	YES	3	1	4
Tattenhall and District	2437	YES	2	1	3
Thornton-le-Moors	254	NO	0	0	0
Threapwood	396	NO	0	0	0
Tilston	640	NO	2	1	3
Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall	477	NO	0	0	0
Tushingam-cum-Grindley, Macefen and Bradley	338	NO	0	0	0
Utkinton and Cotebrook	754	NO	0	0	0
Waverton	1507	NO	1	1	2
Wervin	128	NO	0	0	0
Wigland	205	NO	0	0	0
Willington	253	NO	0	0	0

Rural parishes with over 500 people

There are 34 parishes with over 500 people. The tables below show which parishes meet the recommended levels of provision set out in table 5, and which do not.

Table 8 Parishes with over 500 people – children’s play space

Parishes with over 500 residents and at least one children’s play space:		Parishes with over 500 residents and no children’s play space:
Sutton Weaver	Farndon	Rushton
Poulton and Pulford	Kingsley	Mollington
Duddon and Burton	Mickle Trafford and District	Manley
Little Budworth	Tattenhall and District	Littleton
Tilston	Christleton	Utkinton and Cotebrook
Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	Kelsall	
Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel	Tarporley	
Barrow	Huntington	
Dodleston	Saughall and Shotwick Park	
Norley	Tarvin	
No Man’s Heath and District	Elton	
Guilden Sutton	Helsby	
Delamere and Oakmere	Frodsham	
Waverton	Neston	
Malpas		

Table 9 Parishes with over 500 people – youth play space

Parishes with over 500 residents and at least one youth play space:	Parishes with over 500 residents and no youth play space:
Christleton	Rushton
Dodleston	Sutton Weaver
Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	Poulton and Pulford
Elton	Duddon and Burton
Farndon	Mollington
Frodsham	Manley
Helsby	Littleton
Huntington	Utkinton and Cotebrook
Kelsall	Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel
Little Budworth	Barrow
Malpas	No Man’s Heath and District
Mickle Trafford and District	Guilden Sutton
Neston	Delamere and Oakmere

Norley	Kingsley
Saughall and Shotwick Park	Tarporley
Tarvin	
Tattenhall and District	
Tilston	
Waverton	

Although Tarporley provides a teen shelter, it is a service centre with a population of 2614, and therefore should be providing a dedicated facility for youth such as a MUGA, skate park or BMX.

Rural parishes with 250-500 people

There are 19 parishes with between 250-500 people. Table 10 below shows which parishes meet the recommended levels of provision for children’s play space, and which do not. None of these parishes provide youth facilities (e.g. as part of a multi-functional site) and therefore none of them meet the recommended levels of provision for youth.

Table 10 Parishes with 250-500 people – Children’s play space

Parishes with 250-500 people that meet the recommended levels of provision for children’s play space i.e. have at least 1 play space	Parishes with 250-500 people that <u>do not</u> meet the recommended levels of provision for children’s play space i.e. have no play space	
Aldford and Saughton	Alvanley	Puddington
Clutton	Broxton	Rowton
	Capenhurst	Shocklach Oviatt and District
	Churton	Thornton-le-Moors
	Clotton Hoofield	Threapwood
	Crowton	Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall
	Handley	Tushingham-cum-Grindley, Macefen and Bradley
	Hargrave and Huxley	Willington
	Mouldsworth	

Parishes with less than 250 people

The table below shows which parishes with under 250 people have some form of public open space (mapped as part of the CWAC Open Space Study) which could be used for informal play (i.e. ‘playable’ space). As can be seen, the majority of parishes do not meet the recommended levels of provision for parishes with less than 250 people.

Table 11 Parishes with less than 250 people

Parish	Population	Children's play area?	Youth facility?	Public open 'Playable' space? (mapped as part of CWAC Open Space Study)
Agden	99	0	0	None
Carden	99	0	0	None
Chidlow	99	0	0	None
Chowley	99	0	0	None
Coddington	99	0	0	None
Croughton	99	0	0	None
Duckington	99	0	0	National Trust site Bickerton Hill
Golborne David	99	0	0	None
Harthill	99	0	0	Small amenity green space and accessible natural green space
Ledsham	99	0	0	None
Stretton	99	0	0	None
Aston	112	0	0	None
Chorlton	120	0	0	None
Wervin	128	0	0	None
Aldersey	130	0	0	None
Barton	149	4	2	Variety of open space including play areas, parks and amenity green space.
Stoak	154	1	0	Accessible natural green space and amenity green space
Cuddington (Malpas)	187	0	0	None
Lea-by-Backford	187	0	0	Station Road amenity space
Beeston	193	0	0	Beeston castle picnic area
Burwardsley	200	0	0	None
Wigland	205	0	0	None
Ince	207	1	0	Ince playing fields
Eaton and Eccleston	229	0	0	Jubilee Wood
Backford	247	0	0	Church lane amenity green space

4.0 Quality Assessment

This section provides a summary of the quality audit for play areas that was undertaken as part of the Open Space Study/Play Strategy. The audits were undertaken in September/October 2015. It also includes updated quality audits undertaken in October 2017 in order to inform this annual review.

The audits were undertaken using a standardised methodology and consistent approach. However, audits of this nature can only ever be a snap-shot in time and their main purpose is to provide a consistent and objective assessment of a site's existing and potential quality rather than a full asset audit.

4.1 Audit methodology

Sites were visited and a photographic record made of key features, along with a description of the site and recommendations for improvements. An assessment of the quality of the site was undertaken using the following criteria:

- Play Value
- Management and maintenance
- Accessibility
- Safety

For each of the criteria a score of 1 -5 is given, where 1 is very poor and 5 is very good. These scores are added together to provide an overall existing score for the site. Using these scores, each site is then ranked for its existing quality and its potential to improve, as follows:

Existing score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average existing total score as follows:

- The existing quality score of the site is totalled;
- This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average total score;
- The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank 'A' are within the top 25% of quality, and sites with rank 'D' are in the bottom 25% of quality – **i.e. sites with rank 'A' have the best existing quality, and sites with rank 'D' have the poorest quality.**
- The breakdown of scoring into the different rank scores for the existing quality is as follows:
 - A: 16-20
 - B: 12-15
 - C: 8-11
 - D: 4-7

Potential score/rank

A rank from A – D has been given for the average gap/potential score as follows:

- The potential quality score of the site is totalled;
- This is divided by the number of criteria for which a score was given to give an average potential score;
- The scores are ranked from A – D, where sites with rank 'A' are within the top 25% of potential improvement and sites with rank 'D' are in the bottom 25% of potential improvement – **i.e. sites with rank 'A' have the most potential to be improved, and sites with rank 'D' have the poorest potential to improve.**
- The breakdown of scoring into the different rank scores for the potential quality is as follows:
 - A: 10-14
 - B: 7-9
 - C: 4-6
 - D: 0-3

4.2 Summary of results from quality audit

The details of the quality audit are held within the quality database provided to the council as part of the Open Space Study. A summary of the play areas included within the quality audit for the Rural Communities Locality Area is shown in Table 12 and 13 below. Audits were undertaken in September/October 2015 and in October 2017 as part of this annual review. The year the audit was undertaken is provided within the table below.

Table 12 Ethos quality audit of children's play spaces within Rural Communities Locality

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1608	Aldford Park Play Area	Aldford and Saighton	Children's play area with climbing/balancing equipment, fenced. One of the balancing beams is broken.	B	D	Repair broken equipment.	2015
891	Ashton and Mouldsworth Village Hall Play Area	Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel	Poor play space in village amenity.	C	C	Impact flooring, more equipment	2015
1590	Barrow Playing Fields	Barrow	Park with climbing frame, benches, swings, slide, seesaw and basketball hoop, seems maintained and in use.	A	D		2015
2029	Boshaw Centre Play Area	Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	Small trim trail behind centre. Easily over looked.	C	C	Site could be enhanced with additional equipment.	2017

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1648	Broomheath Lane Play Area	Tarvin	Small play space within new housing estate. Good soft scraping with flowering plants and climbers on the wall. Play equipment basic and targeted towards young play. Climbing frame and picnic bench recently treated. Play space restricted by size.	C	D	Needs signage and bins at entrance	2017
1675	Burton Recreation Ground Play Area	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Play space containing climbing frame, swings and rocking horses, benches, bins, perimeter, one of the benches has been flipped over, play space could do with updating, hard to find.	C	D	play space could be updated, also better signage ⁵	2015
1862	Caldy Nature Park Play Area	Huntington	Small natural play area with wooden climber	C	C	Play area could be extended	2015
887	Callender Gardens Play area	Helsby	Average site with good MUGA and average play space. Bins on site are full and litter is around site.	C	D	Better maintenance of site and bins. no impact flooring around play space.	2015
1605	Capesthorpe Close (Christleton) Play Area	Christleton	Play space containing only a slide, contained more equipment previously and appears to be having refurbishments done, signs of there being a fire within the play space, also damage to fence panels, skip,	D	B	Looks like works have started and been finished	2015

⁵ CWAC notes that the Gladstone Centre Group are looking at potential options for site improvements.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			sandbags and restriction fencing around the fire.				
1760	Castle Park Play Area	Frodsham	Really well managed flag ship play space set in a nice park. Equipment is all modern and engaging for all ages. Good ancillaries within and seating located throughout site.	A	D	No issues ⁶	2017
895	Castlefields - Tattenhall Play Area	Tattenhall and District	Small basic play with half muga. Equipment targeted for infants play. Swings recently painted.	B	D	Replace open bin with ones which can close.	2017
1685	Churchfield Play Area	Frodsham	Play space included swings and a slide, there was also litter bins and benches, all equipment seemed in decent condition with no issues.	B	D	Site in average condition, could have a fenced perimeter	2015
1650	Clutton Community Play Area	Clutton	Small play area within school grounds but available to the community.	C	D	Good play space. No bins present on site	2015
1645	Dodleston Village Play Space	Dodleston	Junior play area suitable for teenagers, unfenced with zip wire, rubber tyre swing, roundabout, swings and assault course/ climbing equipment. Good range of play equipment and well maintained.	A	D	No issues	2015
1603	Dodleston Village Playing Field Play Area	Dodleston	Fenced toddler play space with swings, slide and	B	D	Good site no recommendations	2015

⁶ CWAC notes that some small scale site improvement and surfacing works are to be undertaken in 2017/18.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
	2		climbing, roundabout and springs, picnic benches.				
1610	Duddon Close Play Area	Duddon and Burton	Play space includes slide, climbing frame, seesaw, swings and roundabout, benches, litter bins and fencing are also included.	B	D	Replace older equipment and install impact flooring.	2015
1598	Elton Community Park Play Area	Elton	Fenced play space including, swings, climbing frames for toddler and junior, zip line, assault course, benches and bins, improvements: surface quality could be improved, some equipment is outdated.	B	D	Slightly outdated, but not priority	2015
1683	Fountain Lane Play Area	Frodsham	Small play space with swings and a climbing frame.	B	D	Equipment somewhat outdated, could be updated	2015
2047	Highlander Road Play Area	Huntington	Large play space with a MUGA also included, site is currently fenced off, prior to full completion and opening.	A	D	No issues, brand new equipment.	2017
2044	Highlander Road Play Area 3	Huntington	High quality wooden play space, brand new equipment. Fenced off with herris fencing.	A	D	Brand new site, no issues.	2017
2043	Highlander Road Play Area 4	Huntington	Large play space with brand new, modern equipment more suited to older children. Not open to the public yet.	A	D	None, brand new equipment.	2017
2033	Hilltop Road Play Area	Guilden Sutton	Small play space with lots of good quality equipment, site is very well used	A	D	No recommendations needed.	2017

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			with lots of children using it during the audit. Couldn't find any problems with the site.				
1589	Holly Close Play Area	Mickle Trafford and District	Play space with swings, rocking horse and Wendy house, bins, benches, perimeter, in decent condition, just small play space.	C	D	No issues	2015
1776	Hooton Green Play Area	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Small rural play space in Hooton. Play space had variety of equipment.	B	D	Better maintenance of impact flooring.	2015
1779	Ince Play Area	Ince	Play space with wooden climbing frames, junior and toddler swings, benches and bins, no fence however.	B	D	Wooden play space in decent condition, could be fenced	2015
1677	Johnson's Recreation Ground Play Area (Willaston)	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Large play area with modern, wooden equipment in basically new condition. Good signage is also present on site with good bins and benches additionally. Site provides excellent play value.	A	D	None ⁷ .	2017
1960	Jubilee Field (Meadows Lane) Play Area	Huntington	Well managed and modern play space with a great variety of apparatus.	A	D	No issues	2015
1601	Jubilee Field Play Area	Saughall and Shotwick Park	Small play space within small park and rec. play space basic and has dated apparatus which could easily be replaced. Most	C	C	Update some of the equipment	2015

⁷ Although CWAC note that some additional equipment is to be installed in 2018

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			modern equipment is on its own the other side of the MUGA.				
1783	Kelsall Green recreation area	Kelsall	Large play space with good range of equipment for all ages. Combination of new and old timber frame equipment. Well managed with good bins and seating.	A	D	No issues	2017
1788	King George Playing Field (Tarvin)	Tarvin	Play space includes two climbing frames, slide, benches, roundabout, swings, bins and a perimeter fence	A	D	Decent play space no real issues	2015
1789	King George V Field Play Area 2	Tarvin	Play space with zip line, swings, other equipment, part of a park and recreation ground, no perimeter	A	D	Play space good but needs hard surface, also a perimeter fence	2015
1746	Kingsley Park Play Area	Kingsley	Good play space in Kingsley playing field. Good range of equipment fairly modern.	B	D	No issues	2017
2048	Kohima Crescent Play Area	Huntington	Small play space but with good mixture of toddler and junior equipment, good signage also. The play space isn't open to the public yet.	A	D	None, brand new site.	2017
1795	Little Heath Road Play Area	Christleton	Play space includes rocking horses, climbing frame, slide, swings, tunnel and basket swing, bins and benches, wooden sculpture, in decent condition but all wet due to rain	B	D	Good condition, no issues	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1799	Little Woods	Delamere and Oakmere	Play space with climbing frame, wooden structure, seems in good condition	B	D	Surface could be improved and a fenced perimeter ⁸	2015
1773	Lower Robin Hood Lane Play Area	Helsby	Play space included climbing frames, swings, slide and a zip line, in the park there was also benches, litter bins and a metal fencing perimeter, the park was in good condition with no damaged equipment or any signs of neglect, teen shelter on site	B	D	No issues	2015
1651	Maddocks Close Play Area	Farndon	Small fenced toddler play space managed by Trinity Estates Ltd surrounded by paths, grass and shrub planting. Good condition.	A	D	No issue	2015
1635	Malpas Recreation Ground Play area	Malpas	Unfenced play area with zip wire, swings, seesaw, slides into a sandpit area, youth shelter, litter bins, benches and gravel paths	B	D	No recommendations	2015
1800	Marshlands Play area	Neston	Two sets of swings damaged with no seats ⁹	D	B	New equipment required	2015
1644	Mickle Trafford Park	Mickle Trafford and District	Junior play space includes roundabout, climbing frame, seesaw and swings, bins and benches, in good condition apart from the seesaw	B	D	Could replace seesaw but not priority	2015

⁸ CWAC note that small scale surfacing work is to take place in 2018

⁹ CWAC note that the swings have been removed from the site (currently informal open space) and there are no plans for additional equipment to be installed in the short term.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			which is outdated				
1680	Millfield Play Area	Neston	Play space with climbing frame, junior and toddler swings and rocking horse, bins, benches, perimeter, decent condition except for a piece of equipment which has been removed, but exposed bolts are left	C	D	Exposed bolts need to be dealt with for safety	2015
1686	Ness Playing Fields Play Area	Neston	Slide and swings. Old apparatus not encouraging play.	C	B	Potential to update and replace equipment	2015
1661	Neston Recreation Ground Play Area	Neston	Play space with junior and toddler swings, slide, climbing frame, basket swing and seesaw, benches and bins, good condition and quite well maintained apart from the grass needing cutting	B	D	Cut grass, improve surfacing, otherwise no issues	2015
1656	New Road Play Area	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Play space with slide and swings, seemed abandoned, not maintained, equipment dated, perimeter, bins and bench	C	D	Needs maintenance or replacing	2015
1634	Nomansheath - Littlers Croft Play Area	No Man's Heath and District	Good rural park with modern equipment and informal football. One gate is locked though with laminated signage. Climbing frame recently painted and swings only 6months old. New gate being installed at time of audit.	C	C	No issues	2017

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1774	Norley Park play area	Norley	Small play space with metal equipment. Good range of equipment for younger children.	B	D	No issues	2017
1665	Ropewalk Parkgate Play Area	Neston	Good sized play space with decent signage and a mixture of modern and older equipment. Good boundary fencing also.	B	D	Update equipment so it's of a similar standard.	2017
2036	Pulford Play Area	Poulton and Pulford	Excellent play area with modern and diverse equipment and excellent access. Good quality bins and benches along with excellent footpaths make this a very pleasant site.	A	D	Could add more engaging welcome signage.	2017
1612	Quarry Hill Play Area	Farndon	Children's play area with swings, climb and slide, seesaw and springs. Fenced with bench and litter bin. Quite a bit of litter.	B	D	Bins around site.	2015
1606	Queens Field (Waverton Village Hall) Play Area	Waverton	Play space with good quality, new equipment. Site is well used with pleasant surroundings. No bins or benches present, or signage.	A	D	Add bins, benches and signage.	2017
1637	Redwood Drive / Mimosa Close Play Area	Elton	Toddler play space with single toddler swing and wooden balancing beams, fenced play space with bins and benches	C	D	Small play space but in decent condition	2015
2037	Saignton Camp Housing Development 1	Huntington	Small play space with limited toddler equipment. Play value is only	A	D	None, brand new equipment.	2017

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			limited by the size of the site however.				
2038	Saighton Camp Housing Development 2	Huntington	Small play space with toddler equipment. Play value is limited due to the site size, also add signage.	A	D	None, brand new equipment.	2017
1801	Saltworks Farm Play Area	Frodsham	Play space includes a climbing frame and a swing, both appear new and in good condition, there are also logs which people can climb on or sit on	B	D	No issues	2015
1597	Sorbus Close - Elton Play Area	Elton	Toddler play space with markings and rocking equipment, fenced play	C	D	Decent condition, no issues	2015
1842	Stanney Fields Park Junior Play	Neston	Decent quality equipment suitable for older children. site was in use at time of audit, so photos weren't possible.	A	D	No need for improvements.	2015
1679	Stanney Fields Park Play Area	Neston	Play space including climbing frames, slide, swings, roundabout and seesaw, bins, benches and fenced perimeter	B	D	Good play spaces, no issues	2015
1600	Stoak Play Area	Stoak	Play space with climbing frame, seesaw, swings and a bench, no fence improvements: needs a path, better surface	C	B	Poor surface for play space, would benefit from path and there is space for more equipment	2015
1718	Sutton Weaver Children's Play Area	Sutton Weaver	Small play space with informal football. New trim trail and a variety of old climbing frames and swings. Old	C	D	Maintenance to old equipment	2017

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			equipment is beginning to look a bit tired.				
1666	Sytchcroft Play Area	Neston	Small, play space with dated apparatus. Site is part of wider amenity space with a play space and basketball hoop.	C	C	Equipment needs updating ¹⁰	2015
855	Tarporley Playing Fields Play Area	Tarporley	Play space with swings, slide, climbing frame, perimeter, gates, benches and litter bins	A	D	No issues	2015
1609	Tattenhall Village Park	Tattenhall and District	Large modern, open play space with a wide range of new play equipment Ed targeted for a range of ages. Good hard scape with multiple benches, bins and ornamental rocks.	A	D	Install permanent signage.	2017
1636	Tilston Play Area	Tilston	Fenced play area with swings, slide, climbing net, seesaws, roundabout and balance equipment with bench and bin.	B	D	No priorities	2015
1829	Tilston Play Area 2	Tilston	Unfenced play area with zip wire, rubber tyre swings, slide and climbing equipment with stone dust paths, recycling bin and benches. Spoke to groundsman - informed that where there was wood chip, this is being replaced with soil and rubber matting-	B	D	Replace wood chips with rubber impact flooring.	2015

¹⁰ CWAC note that there are plans to improve the site in 2018/19.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			not ye				
1684	Top Road Play Area	Frodsham	Poor play space. Isolated on an ANGS. Site is dis used and dated	C	B	Footpath leading to play space. Better equipment.	2015
1682	Townfield Lane Play Area	Frodsham	Small rural play space with dated equipment and facilities. Swings are missing seats and climbing frames are dated with rust.	C	D	Site needs new play equipment	2017
1916	Vicarage Lane Play Area	Little Budworth	Park and recreation ground with play space which includes walking planks and climbing frame	C	D	Needs newer and more equipment, current equipment dated	2015
1647	Village Hall Play Area	Saughall and Shotwick Park	Play space contains old outdated equipment, not in use, need renovating, poor play space	D	A	Needs replacing, poor play space	2015
1669	West Vale Play Area	Neston	Good modern play space with a variety of apparatus. Site over looked by houses and is a common through route to local shops.	B	D	Good site no issues	2015
1671	Woodfall Lane Play Area	Neston	Small play space within amenity green space. Apparatus old.	C	D	Update/replace equipment	2015

Table 13 Ethos quality audit of youth play spaces/facilities within Rural Communities Locality

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
2028	Boshaw Centre Basketball	Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	Hard standing with portable basketball hoop, ground in even with moss on playing surface.	D	C	Site is hidden behind centre. Easily missed.	2017

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1720	Burton Recreation Ground Basketball Ring	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Basketball Hoop in private grounds, in decent condition, separated from other equipment.	B	D	No recommendations.	2015
886	Callender Gardens MUGA	Helsby	Average site with good MUGA and average play space. Bins on site are full and litter is around site.	C	D	No markings on the floor	2015
1715	Castle Park MUGA	Frodsham	Large, decent MUGA with high fencing, in a large park, good access.	A	D	No recommendations.	2015
894	Castlefields - Tattenhall MUGA	Tattenhall and District	Poorly maintained MUGA.	C	B	No impact flooring around apparatus, apparatus poor	2015
1639	Doddleston Village Playing Field MUGA	Doddleston	Unfenced MUGA with two goal mouths and basketball nets.	B	C	Outdated and has potential for improvements soon.	2015
1694	Elton Community Park Basketball	Elton	Basketball court in poor condition, weeds growing through surface, hoops damaged, no markings, poor surface, improvements: resurface, new hoops.	D	B	Very poor MUGA, needs replacing or removing.	2015
1691	Farndon: Farndon Rec Gnd-skate pk	Farndon	Skate area at Farndon Social Club, small area but could be improved.	B	D	Expand the area, better security.	2015
1782	Jubilee Field MUGA	Saughall and Shotwick Park	Half MUGA in a large park.	B	D	Somewhat outdated, could be improved in the future.	2015
1958	Jubilee Field MUGA	Huntington	MUGA in a park with wooden side panels and basketball hoops.	B	D	Could be updated, but fine for now.	2015
2051	Jubilee Field MUGA	Saughall and Shotwick Park	High quality MUGA with excellent fencing, goals and basketball hoops. Excellent markings. Site of high play value with no need for	A	D	Could add signage and bins at entrances.	2015

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
			improvements.				
1784	Kelsall MUGA	Kelsall	Half MUGA in decent condition.	A	D	No recommendations.	2015
1730	King George V Field Basketball	Tarvin	Half MUGA in a park.	C	C	In decent condition, could have more surface space to increase usage.	2015
1939	Little Heath Road BMX	Christleton	BMX track, hard surface.	B	D	No issues, seems quite new.	2015
1719	Lower Robin Hood Lane Teen Shelter and Basketball	Helsby	Basketball hoop on a hard-standing surface and a teen shelter.	B	D	Could be upgraded to a MUGA to improve usage.	2015
1833	Malpas Recreation Ground MUGA	Malpas	MUGA in decent condition, seems quite modern.	B	D	No recommendations.	2015
1713	Millfield MUGA	Neston	MUGA in good condition, low barrier, benches, bins, good play	B	D	No issues	2015
1638	MT: Mickle Trafford Park, Springfields MUGA	Mickle Trafford and District	MUGA in good condition, no issues	A	D	No issues	2015
1721	Norley Park MUGA	Norley	Modern muga.	A	D	No issues	2017
1716	Saltworks Farm Skateboard and BMX	Frodsham	Large skate park with variety of equipment in decent condition	B	D	Better surveillance needed?	2015
1711	Stanney Fields Park MUGA	Neston	MUGA with fencing and teen shelter.	B	D	In good condition but potential for future improvements.	2015
1712	Stanney Fields Park Skate Park	Neston	Skate area and teen shelter.	B	D	Ramps in good condition, some graffiti, potential for more equipment.	2015
1708	Sytchcroft Basketball Hoop	Neston	Single basketball hoop. good condition no floor markings	C	C	Equipment needs updating ¹¹	2015

¹¹ CWAC note that this site is to be improved in 2018/19.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Description	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Recommendations for improvement	Year of audit
1830	Tilston Basketball	Tilston	Modern half Muga	B	D	Good Muga with mild surface damage around the penalty spot.	2015
788	Vicarage Lane Basketball	Little Budworth	Single Basketball hoop with hardstanding concrete.	C	D	Poor site but limited with ways to improve without drastically altering site. Could possibly enhance site with Half Muga.	2015
1689	Waverton Village Hall MUGA	Waverton	Outdated MUGA with rusted goals, need renewing, weeds growing around the MUGA fence, vast area of water gathering in one corner	C	D	Goals need replacing, drainage needs improving	2015

As can be seen from tables 13 and 14, there is a large variation in the quality of play space within the Rural Communities Locality. Sites with the lowest existing quality scores (scoring C or D), and with the most potential to be improved (scoring A or B) are:

- Capesthorne Close Play Area (Christleton)
- Top Road Play Area (Frodsham)
- Marshlands Play Area (Neston)
- Ness Playing Fields Play Area (Neston)
- Village Hall Play Area (Saughall and Shotwick Park)
- Stoak Play Area (Stoak)
- Castlefields – Tattenhall MUGA (Tattenhall and District)
- Elton Community Park Basketball (Elton)

5.0 Consultation

As part of the Cheshire West and Chester Open Space Study, consultation was undertaken during 2015 which included surveys of households, local groups and organisations (including play and youth organisations) and town and parish councils.

The key headline findings regarding children’s play space and youth play space are as follows:

- Significant numbers of stakeholders highlighted facilities for teenagers including multi-use games areas as being of poor quality.
- The majority of respondents would not expect to travel more than 10 minutes on foot to access children’s play areas. Respondents would be prepared to travel further if safe access to sites was improved, and the facilities were more interesting/varied.
- A majority of respondents suggest a need for more facilities for teenagers, however for children’s play areas, the majority of respondents suggest that that are enough play areas, and the priority is for improvements to existing play areas.

Further consultation was also undertaken to inform the Play Strategy including a stakeholder workshop, 4 locality area workshops and further consultation with town and parish councils (details are included in section 6).

Comments were received from a number of parishes within the Rural Communities Locality area as set out in the table below (verbatim).

Table 14 Parish council comments (with some additional commentary in 2017)

Parish	Comment
Ashton Hayes & Horton-cum-Peel	MUGA/youth facilities: New facilities required. There is a lack of facilities for teenagers. However, their needs have yet to be established e.g. MUGA
Christleton	An outside gym at King George’s Fields would be ideal
Delamere and Oakmere	At this present time the Parish Council are no longer interested in taking a lease for the play area at Little Wood as the way the Special Expenses Levy is calculated may be amended by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
Dunham-on-the-Hill	Play Spaces: Improvements needed. MUGA/youth facilities: Tennis/MUGAs needed.
Farndon	Play spaces: Recent requests from young people – 200+ new homes built or to be completed shortly with many new families into the village. Older children’s play area needed. Youth facilities: Older children are not catered for – good quality rustic play equipment is desired. The Parish Council is at the beginning of a partnership project to take ownership of Farndon Sports and Social Club for the benefit of the village. A major renovation of the building and facilities is planned along with a new model for managing and running the club.

Parish	Comment
Frodsham	Play spaces: Planned improvements just been carried out at Churchfields. Similar improvements planned for Townfield but dependent on funding. See Frodsham Play Strategy. Neighbourhood Planning underway which is establishing a Leisure, green spaces and the environment Working Group – early days.
Guilden Sutton	MUGA/Tennis: School has some facilities which could be improved but not available for public use. Neighbourhood Plan has aspirations for facilities for all age groups e.g. bowling green/tennis courts. Not yet got to the stage of locations
Helsby	MUGA/tennis: one was planned for the new Helsby Community Sports Club (HCSC) but budget constraints saw it withdrawn from the scheme Youth facilities: Parish Council is looking at possibilities e.g. outdoor gym
Kelsall	MUGA/tennis: in hand. Youth facilities: currently none; this may not be possible to accommodate at current green. Older children are not well served by current playground. Many have commented that they would like a skate / bike park. Some have started organising to make this happen but this is in the early stages. Adults of all ages would benefit from fitness trail / equipment. Teenagers in Kelsall have started discussing and getting organised to look into the feasibility of a skate park. Location unknown at present.
Kingsley	MUGA/tennis: We have a small one but it is in a remote area of the field and not particularly well used. . Play spaces: Need for more play equipment such as a zip wire and some resurfacing where there is wear and tear. Play spaces: we are hoping to explore the need for additional play equipment at the playing field. Youth facilities: Some support for a skate park and BMX track. Parks/recreation grounds: We are currently looking to lease the Middle Lane playing field from CW&C. Discussions are currently taking place between CW&C and the parish council. We carried out a playing field survey in 2014 to make a case for grant funding for a perimeter path and outdoor gym. 79% supported the gym project. We're happy to share the results of both surveys with you if required. We had lots of other interesting ideas such as a separate dog walking area, a zip wire and a climbing wall.
Malpas	MUGA/tennis: Improvements at existing sites. Play spaces: enhance and improve existing play area. Youth facilities: skate park/bike park at Malpas Recreation Ground.
Neston	General: See Neighbourhood Plan.
No Mans Heath and District	Play spaces: The Borough Council manages the play area at Littlers Croft The play area needs to be updated with new equipment ¹² . The greater play area needs to be graded to make it suitable for a junior football pitch. The formal boundary has sections with barbed wire that need removing and some low level fencing that needs replacing with something higher to protect against wayward footballs.
Rushton Parish	MUGA/tennis: Currently working on project to provide this.

¹² It is noted that this play space has been the subject of small scale improvements in 2017/2018.

Parish	Comment
Council	<p>Play spaces: No play area for children. Currently working on project to provide this .</p> <p>Youth facilities: Some facilities will be provided within the play area.</p> <p>Parks/recreation grounds: Currently working on picnic area project. Projects were set out in the Rushton Parish Plan.</p>
Saughall and Shotwick Park	<p>Play Spaces: The Parish Council owns a MUGA, an Aerial Runway, a Junior Multi-Play Unit, Swings, a Sputnik Roundabout, a Gullwing Seesaw, a Spring Rocker, Basketball/Goal Combination End and a Spacenet.</p> <p>Play Spaces and Youth Facilities: There are well developed plans for improvements to play spaces and youth facilities. Documents provided.</p>
Tarporley Parish Council	<p>Play Spaces and Youth provision: Currently the Parish Council is in the process of setting up a new recreation field on Brook Road in Tarporley including play and youth provision. Outline planning has been approved the full application should be submitted before summer. Documents provided. The Parish Council also manages a play area next to the Community Centre playing field. The field itself is managed by the Community Centre Committee.</p>
Tarvin Parish Council	<p>MUGA/tennis: A new Multi-use Games area is needed, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Full size football pitch, which can be adapted for the various formats detailed by the FA • A half size, floodlit all weather multi use pitch suitable for football training, 5 a side and other team games • Changing rooms, including showers and disabled facilities, for both sexes. <p>Facilities of this type would make it possible to provide open air sport activities for the disabled, something which is not possible in the village at the present time.</p> <p>Youth facilities: There are currently very limited facilities suitable for teenagers and there is a need for a BMX park. This has been clearly demonstrated because on more than one occasion the young people have constructed their own BMX trails in the Community Woodland. Due to concerns over liability in the case of a serious accident the Trust has had to remove these trails. A custom made facility is urgently needed. The building of new homes in Tarvin is expected to lead to an influx of young families into the village Proposals are being developed as part of the Tarvin Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
Thornton le Moors	<p>Play spaces: require complete refurbishment and updating of play areas</p> <p>Youth facilities: limited planning for skate parks due to demands on land available</p> <p>Restricted usage by all groups of people due to facilities offered. We are trying with limited budget to upgrade our open spaces and recreation.</p>
Tilston	<p>Play Spaces: Tilston Parish Council does not run the playing field in Tilston. It is run by the Tilston Playing field Association. The Association have plans to further improve the facilities.</p>
Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish	<p>Play spaces: There are no children's play areas in either of the main villages in the Parish, although there is a primary school. This also has minimal play equipment.</p> <p>We would like to provide proper play equipment for young people in Utkinton Village.</p>

Parish	Comment
	The Parish Council hopes to use some land owned by Utkinton School to provide some basic play equipment. The lack of any play areas for children was mentioned in our Parish plan.
Waverton	Play Spaces: New play area needed. Youth Facilities: New BMX track needed. We have a Parish Council sub group that has an aspiration to build a new play area for all age groups. A full parish consultation has been undertaken. Plans have been submitted for planning permission with CWaC. There is a £120k budget for the full plan. Fund raising is the major challenge and is underway; assistance with this project from CWaC would be appreciated.

Locality managers were also contacted to provide input on known play and youth facility issues. The Rural Communities Locality Manager comments (verbatim) are included in table 15 below.

Table 15 Locality Managers' comments regarding Rural Communities Locality –Some additional commentary obtained in 2017)

Facility/Aspect	Issues/comment/observations
Children's play areas	Pulford Playing Fields – currently applying for funding to deliver a children's play area ¹³ . Stoak –seeking funding for additional/replacement play equipment - they currently only have one slide and this has been identified as needing repair work. Thornton le Moors – TLM Parish Council would like to develop the land adjacent to the Village Hall to provide a children's play area. Norley – The Norley Hill Top group would like to make some renovations to their play area and install some equipment for older children (table tennis etc) Johnson's Recreation (Willaston) –Planned phase 2 of the children's play area ¹⁴ Sutton Weaver Play Area – currently seeking funding to secure the children's play area as there has been ASB issues. Frodsham – Frodsham Town Council are currently assessing play areas and have plans to renovate/provide new equipment to some of their existing provision.
Teenage facilities (e.g. skateparks)	Elton – Elton Parish Council are exploring the option of having a skate park at the rear of the community centre, as there is little provision for the older children/youth.
Multi-Use Games Areas	Saughall – plans to build a sports pavilion (subject to funding) to have a multi-purpose building to host and encourage sport within the area. Elton – assessing provision for older children, currently they have 1

¹³ Since the consultation was carried out, it has been confirmed that this funding application was successful.

¹⁴ CWAC note that small scale works are planned in 2018.

	<p>basketball hoop, but the Parish Council have aspirations to install a MUGA or something similar. The Elton area has lots of children so this is an area which requires more play equipment especially for the 10+ age group.</p> <p>Helsby – currently working on plans for an outdoor gym near to the Library.</p> <p>Stanneyfields Park (Neston) – Currently investigating proposals for an outdoor gym.</p>
--	---

6.0 Prioritisation of play space methodology

6.1 Priority Factors/Criteria

Following a series of four Locality Area Workshops with key stakeholders, eight criteria for prioritising play areas were agreed by the steering group. These are set out within table 16 below.

Table 16 Priority factors and how they have been measured

Priority Factor	Statistics used/ how measured
1. Demographics (% of 0-19 year olds within each ward)	Office for National Statistics (ONS) Population of 0-19 year olds at ward level (mid-year 2015 estimates)
2. Child excess weight (overweight and obese combined)	Excess weight in reception and year six children - 2013/14 to 2014/15 pooled by ward and compared to England levels (Cheshire West and Chester JSNA)
3. Proximity to schools	Mapping
4. Proximity to other play areas	Mapping
5. Child/youth deprivation	Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) – Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) (2015)
6. Rural deprivation to services	Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - Geographical Barriers (subset of the Barriers to Services domain) by LSOA (2015)
7. Existing Quality	Ethos quality audit rank scores (from Open Space Study/Play Strategy)
8. Potential Quality	Ethos quality audit rank scores (from Open Space Study/Play Strategy)

6.1.2 Demographics

Table 17 below shows the child population within each ward compared to the total ward population, and for the locality area as a whole. The last column shows the percentage of the population within each ward (and the total for the Rural Communities Locality Area) that is between age 0-19 (i.e. the child population).

The child population within the Rural Communities Locality is 18,977 which is 20.91% of the total population of 90,772. Play space within wards with the highest percentages of child population (25-30%) have scored more highly compared to play space in other wards, as there is likely to be more demand for play space in these areas (see table 18 for detailed scoring and weighting).

Table 17 Population of 0-19 year olds at ward level (mid-year 2015 estimates)

Ward	0-19	Total population	% Population Under 19
Chester Villages	2,002	8,542	23.44
Dodleston and Huntington	1,098	4,532	24.23
Elton	1,009	4,567	22.09
Farndon	907	4,092	22.17
Frodsham	1,929	9,305	20.73
Gowy	865	3,973	21.77
Helsby	1,039	4,981	20.86
Kingsley	792	4,207	18.83
Little Neston and Burton	1,539	8,391	18.34
Malpas	812	4,085	19.88
Neston	1,012	4,394	23.03
Parkgate	642	3,743	17.15
Saughall and Mollington	896	4,516	19.84
Tarporley	1,005	4,608	21.81
Tarvin and Kelsall	1,864	8,572	21.75
Tattenhall	923	4,473	20.63
Willaston and Thornton	643	3,791	16.96
Total for Rural Communities Locality Area	18,977	90,772	20.91

6.1.3 Excess Weight in reception and year 6 children

Play areas that are within wards with significantly higher levels of excess weight in reception and year six children (compared to England) score highly, as good quality and engaging play facilities that meet local needs within these areas will be important in encouraging children to play outdoors, leading more active and healthy lifestyles. Reducing childhood obesity is a key target for public health in Cheshire West and Chester.

The Rural Communities Locality Area has no significant difference to England of excess weight rates in reception children and is significantly lower compared to England in year 6 children. It also shows the breakdown by ward. None of the wards are significantly higher in child excess weight compared to England, with the exception of Elton Ward. Farndon Ward (year six children only). Saughall and Mollington Ward and Willaston and Thornton Ward (reception children only) have significantly lower child excess weight compared to England.

6.1.4 Proximity to schools

This was measured using ArcView GIS, using the education sites data collected as part of the CWAC Open Space Study. The closer a play area is to a school, the higher it scores.

6.1.5 Proximity to other play areas

This was measured using ArcView GIS. The further away a play area is from another play area, the higher it scores.

6.1.6 Child/youth deprivation (IDACI)

The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) is an index of deprivation used in the United Kingdom. It measures in a local area (called a lower super output area (LSOA), which is a small fixed geographic area encompassing a population of approximately 1,000 people) the proportion of children under the age of 16 that live in families that are income deprived i.e. in receipt of income support, income based jobseeker's allowance or pension credit, or those not in receipt of these benefits but in receipt of Child Tax Credit with an equivalised income (excluding housing benefits) below 60% of the national median before housing costs. The LSOA with a rank of 1 is the most deprived.

The area generally has low levels of child deprivation, although Neston and Elton wards have high levels.

6.1.7 Rural deprivation to services - Geographical Barriers

Geographical Barriers to Services is a sub-domain of the Barriers to Housing and Services domain, which is one of the domains that make up the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). It measures physical proximity to essential services and assigns each local area (LSOA) a deprivation score based on the road distance to a GP, shop, primary school and post office. The LSOA with a rank of 1 is the most deprived.

The majority of the Locality has high levels of geographical barriers to services, reflecting the rurality of the area.

6.1.8 Existing quality and potential quality

The methodology for the Ethos quality audit which ranks play spaces for their existing quality and potential to improve is explained under section 5. A summary of the play areas included within the Rural Communities Locality quality audit, with their rank scores is provided in tables 13 and 14.

6.2 Scoring play areas

For each of these criteria/priority factors listed in table 16, a scoring and weighted rank has been applied as set out in table 18 below, in order to prioritise each play area for improvements.

Table 18 Desktop assessment criteria for prioritising sites

Priority Factor	Scoring	Weighted Ranking
1. Demographics	14-20% of ward population is between 0-19 years old: score 1 20-25% of ward population is between 0-19 years old: score 2 25-30% of ward population is between 0-19 years old: score 3	4
2. Child weight excess	Significantly higher than England: score 2 No significant difference to England: score 1 Significantly lower than England: score 0	1
3. Proximity to schools	<100 metres: score 3 100-300 metres: score 2 300-500 metres: score 1 >500 metres: score 0	3
4. Proximity to other play areas	Children's play space: <80 metres: score 0 80-280 metres: score 1 280-480 metres: score 2 >480 metres: score 3 Youth play space <200 metres: score 0 200-400 metres: score 1 400-600 metres: score 2 >600 metres: score 3	3
5. Child/youth deprivation (Rank 1 = most deprived 10% and Rank 10 = least deprived)	Ranked between 1-3: score 3 Ranked between 4-6: score 2 Ranked between 7-9: score 1 Ranked 10: score 0	2
6. Rural Deprivation to services (Rank 1= highest barriers/most)	Ranked between 1-3: score 3 Ranked between 4-6: score 2 Ranked between 7-9: score 1 Ranked 10: score 0	2

deprived and Rank 10= least deprived)		
7. Existing Quality	Rank A (excellent quality site): score 0 Rank B: score 1 Rank C: score 2 Rank D (Poor quality site): score 3	5
8. Potential Quality	Rank A (high potential to improve): score 3 Rank B: score 2 Rank C: score 1 Rank D (no/limited potential to improve): score 0	5

6.2.1 Priority scores

The total score for each play area is calculated by multiplying the score by the weighted ranking and then adding the weighted rankings for each of the criteria/priority factors to give an overall score. The range of total scores (from 15 to 62) for each site has been used to group the play areas into 3 priority categories, as follows:

- **Total score between 15 and 30: Low priority for improvement**
- **Total score between 31 and 46: Medium priority for improvement**
- **Total score between 57 and 62: High priority for improvement.**

Sites have also been considered for alternative open space use where their removal would not result in any gaps in access (i.e. there is a cluster of sites in close proximity).

7.0 Results of prioritisation process

This section sets out the results of the prioritisation process explained in section 6.

The tables below show the priority for improvement (high, medium and low) for each play space in the Rural Communities Locality Area.

The tables are intended to be used for indicative purposes and large scale maps and a GIS database of sites have been provided as an electronic database to the council, and can be made available on request.

7.1 High priority sites

There are five play spaces that have been identified as a high priority for improvement within the Rural Communities Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 47 and 62) – three are children’s play spaces and two youth facilities. These high priority play areas are shown in table 19 below.

The ‘Ethos recommendations’ column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis (columns 5 to 10) and recommends if sites should be retained, retained and improved, or if they have potential for alternative open space use (which feeds into section 7.4).

Table 19 Play areas that are a high priority for improvement

ID	SITE_NAME	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Final Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Ethos recommendations
894	Castlefields - Tattenhall MUGA	Tattenhall and District	Play Space (Youth)	C	B	47	0.01	115.29	C	B	Average quality half MUGA with potential to improve. Its removal would result in a large gap in access. On this basis, it is recommended that the site is retained and improved.
1600	Stoak Play Area	Stoak	Play Space (Children)	C	B	47	0.01	74.52	C	B	Average play area with potential to improve play value. The removal of the site would also result in a large gap in access. Therefore, It is recommended that the site is retained and improved.
1605	Capesthorpe Close (Christleton) Play Area	Christleton	Play Space (Children)	D	B	49	0.08	33.21	D	B	Poor quality play space, although it was noted during the 2015 audit that works were being undertaken, however an update audit in 2017 was not undertaken. The gap in access resulting from the loss of this play space would only be very small, as the majority of the gap would fall over open space. Therefore, this play space may have potential for alternative open space use, although if recent improvement works have been undertaken then it is considered that it should be retained. Needs update quality audit in 2018 review.

ID	SITE_NAME	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Final Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in access if removed (ha)	Existing Rank	Potential Rank	Ethos recommendations
1647	Village Hall Play Area	Saughall and Shotwick Park	Play Space (Children)	D	A	52	0.04	69.91	D	A	Basic toddler play area behind village hall. The removal of the site would also result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended that the site is retained and improved.
1694	Elton Community Park Basketball	Elton	Play Space (Youth)	D	B	55	0.03	117.14	D	B	Very poor quality basketball area - hard standing area with hoop. This is the only youth provision within the parish (its loss would result in a large gap in access), and it is in a high area of need/high priority for improvement. Therefore, it should be retained and improved (could be upgraded to a full MUGA).

7.2 Medium priority sites

There are 43 play spaces that have been identified as a medium priority for improvement within the Rural Communities Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 35 and 50) – 30 children’s play spaces and 13 youth facilities, as shown in table 20 below.

The ‘Ethos recommendations’ column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis (columns 5 to 10) and recommends if sites should be retained, retained and improved, or if they have potential for alternative open space use (which feeds into section 7.4).

Due to the range of scoring criteria used, some play areas have come out of the framework as a medium priority for improvement, even where there are no specific issues or recommendations from the quality audit. However, although the quality audit may not have made recommendations for improvements to the quality of the play space, there are likely to be local aspirations and needs identified e.g. by the Locality Manager or Parish Councils.

Table 20 Play areas that are a medium priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1608	Aldford Park Play Area	Aldford and Saughton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	0.03	75.43	Good quality play space, its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the parish). Therefore, it should be retained.
891	Ashton and Mouldsworth Village Hall Play Area	Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel	Play Space (Children)	C	C	41	0	73.74	Average- poor quality play space with potential to improve and in an area of need (medium priority for improvement). Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the parish) and therefore it is recommended it is retained and improved.
2028	Boshaw Centre Basketball	Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	Play Space (Youth)	D	C	46	0.03	117.22	Poor quality basketball area (single portable hoop) on hard standing area. Its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained and improved - potential to upgrade to a half or full MUGA.
2029	Boshaw Centre Play Area	Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford	Play Space (Children)	C	C	41	0.02	74.99	Good quality trim trail/wooden equipment, with potential to improve play value with additional equipment. Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the parish) and therefore it is recommended that it retained and improved.
1648	Broomheath Lane Play Area	Tarvin	Play Space (Children)	C	D	38	0.03	56.98	The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access, therefore It is recommended that the site is retained.
1675	Burton Recreation Ground Play Area	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Play Space (Children)	C	D	32	0.1	78.79	Good/average quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and therefore it should be retained. It is noted that Gladstone Community Group are considering play improvement options.
1862	Caldy Nature Park Play Area	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	C	C	42	0	23.83	Good quality play space with potential to improve. Its loss would result in a gap in access and therefore it is recommended it is retained and improved.
886	Callender Gardens MUGA	Helsby	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	31	0.01	50.9	Good quality half MUGA. Its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1685	Churchfield Play Area	Frodsham	Play Space (Children)	B	D	32	0.02	33.53	Good quality play space, its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1650	Clutton Community Play Area	Clutton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	39	0.03	75.65	Good quality play space within school grounds but available for community use. Its loss would result in a gap in access and would result in the parish failing to meet the rural parish recommended level of provision (this is the only play space within the parish). Therefore, it should be retained.
1639	Doddleston Village Playing Field MUGA	Doddleston	Play Space (Youth)	B	C	36	0.05	118.45	Good quality MUGA, its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1610	Duddon Close Play Area	Duddon and Burton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	33	0.04	76.22	Good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the parish) and therefore it should be retained.
1598	Elton Community Park Play Area	Elton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	35	0.22	47.61	Good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1589	Holly Close Play Area	Mickle Trafford and District	Play Space (Children)	C	D	37	0.05	50.29	Loss of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
1779	Ince Play Area	Ince	Play Space (Children)	B	D	32	0.06	70.35	Good quality wooden play space, the gap in access resulting its removal would be substantial. It therefore considered that the site does not have potential for alternative open space use.
1958	Jubilee Field MUGA	Huntington	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	34	0.17	123.72	Good quality MUGA, its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only youth provision within the parish). Therefore, it is recommended that it is retained.
1601	Jubilee Field	Saughall and	Play Space	C	C	39	0.1	71.93	Average quality play area with potential to improve. The

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
	Play Area	Shotwick Park	(Children)						removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. On this basis, it is recommended that the site is retained and improved.
1730	King George V Field Basketball	Tarvin	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	42	0.01	115.3	The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. It is recommended that the site is retained and improved.
1800	Marshlands Play area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	D	B	45	0.01	37.64	CWAC have confirmed that the swing sets were removed in 2017 and there are currently no plans for additional equipment to be installed at the site. The removal of the site results in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that play equipment is re-instated, or at the very least retained as informal playable space.
1644	Mickle Trafford Park	Mickle Trafford and District	Play Space (Children)	B	D	33	0.11	52.89	The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
1713	Millfield MUGA	Neston	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	32	0.03	61.78	The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1680	Millfield Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	C	D	37	0.06	10.54	The site is in generally poor condition with dated equipment. The railway line does act as a barrier to access in the area, the only access to the other side being via Liverpool Road (and therefore the nearest play space for residents on this side of the railway line is Sytchcroft Play Area). Therefore, the gap in access resulting from the loss of this play space would be negligible. On this basis, it is considered that the site may have potential for alternative open space use.
1686	Ness Playing Fields Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	C	B	41	0.02	48.66	Average play area with potential to improve play value. The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained and improved.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1661	Neston Recreation Ground Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	32	0.08	34.7	Loss of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1634	Nomansheath - Littlers Croft Play Area	No Man's Heath and District	Play Space (Children)	C	C	37	0.08	78.31	The loss of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site has recently benefited from funding for surface and fencing improvements. On this basis, it is recommended that the site is retained.
1637	Redwood Drive / Mimosa Close Play Area	Elton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	35	0.02	9.21	Good quality toddler play space. May have potential for alternative open space use (see comments for Sorbus Close ID 1597).
1801	Saltworks Farm Play Area	Frodsham	Play Space (Children)	B	D	34	0.04	75.33	Good quality play area with good play value. Its loss would also result in a large gap in access and therefore it should be retained.
1716	Saltworks Farm Skateboard and BMX	Frodsham	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	34	0.06	118.96	Very good quality Skate/BMX area, its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1597	Sorbus Close - Elton Play Area	Elton	Play Space (Children)	C	D	35	0.02	12.85	Good quality toddler play space. However, the parish would still meet the rural standard if it were to be removed, and the gap in access created would be negligible. However, this would need to be considered along with Redwood Drive/Mimosa Close Play area which is near and may also have potential for alternative open space use i.e. only one of these spaces would have potential for alternative open space use, as if both equipped areas were lost, there would be a large gap in access. Due to the good quality of both spaces (and assuming low maintenance costs), it may not be effective use of resources to consider alternative open space use for either play space.
1711	Stanney	Neston	Play Space	B	D	32	0.05	3.43	It is notable that the gap in access created as a result of the

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
	Fields Park MUGA		(Youth)						site's removal is relatively small. However, there isn't a facility with the same subtypology in the area, and it is good quality. On this basis, it is considered that the site should be retained.
1679	Stanney Fields Park Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	0.06	1.77	Although its loss would not result in a gap in access or a shortfall, this is a good quality play space with good play value and therefore it is recommended that it is retained.
1712	Stanney Fields Park Skate Park	Neston	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	32	0.05	5.15	Good quality skate park. The gap in access as result of the site's removal is relatively small. However, there isn't a facility with the same subtypology in the area. On this basis, it is considered that the site should be retained.
1708	Sytchcroft Basketball Hoop	Neston	Play Space (Youth)	C	C	42	0.01	20.47	Although the parish exceeds the 'rural parish recommended level of provision', the removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in decent condition, although it could be upgraded to improve play value. It is recommended that the site is retained and improved. It is noted that plans to improve this facility will take place from 2018-19.
1666	Sytchcroft Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	C	C	41	0.04	13.69	The site is in generally poor condition with dated equipment. Although there are a total of 10 children's play areas in the parish, its loss would result in a gap in access as the railway line does not act as a barrier (there is access via Liverpool Road and Raby Road). On this basis, it is recommended that the play space is retained and improved. It is noted that plans to improve this play space will take place from 2018/19 as part of a play and open space project.
1830	Tilston Basketball	Tilston	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	34	0.01	115.66	The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. The site is in good condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1636	Tilston Play Area	Tilston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	0.04	3.06	The gap in access as result of the site's removal is relatively small (due to the other play area on site). Both play areas

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
									are in good condition. Due to the quality and play value of the sites together, it is recommended they are both retained.
1829	Tilston Play Area 2	Tilston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	31	0.05	4.16	See above comments for Tilston Play Area (ID 1636).
1684	Top Road Play Area	Frodsham	Play Space (Children)	C	B	44	0.02	74.71	Average quality play space with potential to improve. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and therefore it is recommended it is retained and improved.
1682	Townfield Lane Play Area	Frodsham	Play Space (Children)	C	D	34	0.11	66.6	Average play space with dated equipment and low play value. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and therefore it should be retained and improved.
788	Vicarage Lane Basketball	Little Budworth	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	36	0.01	114.96	The removal of the site would result in a considerable gap in access and further impact the shortfall in rural parish supply. Therefore, it is considered that the site does not have potential for alternative open space use. It should be retained, and could be improved e.g. by upgrading to a MUGA.
1916	Vicarage Lane Play Area	Little Budworth	Play Space (Children)	C	D	36	0	73.6	The removal of the site would result in a considerable gap in access and further impact the shortfall in rural parish supply. Therefore, it is considered that the site does not have potential for alternative open space use – it should be retained and improved.
1689	Waverton Village Hall MUGA	Waverton	Play Space (Youth)	C	D	37	0.07	119.92	The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. The site is in poor condition. It is recommended that the site is retained and improved in line with the quality audit.
1671	Woodfall Lane Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	C	D	33	0.08	51.17	Although the parish exceeds the 'rural parish recommended level of provision' the removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in decent condition,

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
									although its play value could be improved. It is recommended that the site is retained.

7.3 Low priority sites

There are 48 play spaces that have been identified as a low priority for improvement within the Rural Communities Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 15 and 30) – 37 children’s play spaces and 11 youth facilities, as shown in table 21 below.

The ‘Ethos recommendations’ column considers the quality audit, the priority for improvement and the quantity and access analysis (columns 5 to 10) and recommends if sites should be retained, retained and improved, or if they have potential for alternative open space use (which feeds into section 8.4).

Even though these play areas have come out of the framework as being low priority for improvement, local consultation will be needed to identify local issues and priorities.

The majority of these sites are good quality and providing facilities in an area where there would otherwise be a gap in access.

Table 21 Play areas that are a low priority for improvement

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1590	Barrow Playing Fields	Barrow	Play Space (Children)	A	D	29	0.28	82.92	Good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the parish) and therefore it should be retained.
1720	Burton Recreation Ground Basketball Ring	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	27	0.01	115.04	Its loss would result in a large gap in access, therefore it should be retained. It is noted that Gladstone Community Centre are currently considering options to improve the site.
887	Callender Gardens Play area	Helsby	Play Space (Children)	C	D	30	0.05	46.98	Average play space. Its loss would result in a gap in access, Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
1715	Castle Park MUGA	Frodsham	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	24	0.08	120.21	Very good quality MUGA. If the site was removed it would create a considerable gap in access. On this basis, it is recommended that the site is retained.
1760	Castle Park Play Area	Frodsham	Play Space (Children)	A	D	21	0.12	10	Excellent quality play space with good play value, recent improvement works include new surfacing. It is therefore recommended that this play space is retained.
895	Castlefields - Tattenhall Play Area	Tattenhall and District	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.01	41.18	The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. Good quality site with recent works undertaken which include painting and resurfacing of the site. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1645	Dodleston Village Play Space	Dodleston	Play Space (Children)	A	D	23	0.15	7.87	Excellent quality play space, should be retained (see below ID 1603)).
1603	Dodleston Village Playing Field Play Area 2	Dodleston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	28	0.08	2.91	Good quality play space with good play value. The playing field has provision for both toddlers and juniors (and also teens), and therefore there would be a gap in access created if either children's play space were removed, as each play space provides different facilities for different age groups. Therefore, all play spaces on the site should be retained.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1691	Farndon: Farndon Rec Gnd-skate pk	Farndon	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	29	0.03	117.47	Good quality skate park. Its loss would result in a large gap in access, therefore it should be retained.
1683	Fountain Lane Play Area	Frodsham	Play Space (Children)	B	D	28	0.09	6.04	Although this site was ranked B in the quality audit, it is a very basic toddler play area with low play value, and the area of equipped provision is very small. The gap in access resulting from its loss would be negligible, and it would still meet the rural recommended levels of provision (although it is noted that when assessed against the quantity standards there is an undersupply within the parish). Considering the proximity of Castle Park Play Area, which is an excellent quality facility with good play value and also catering for toddlers, it is considered that this play space may have potential for alternative open space use.
2047	Highlander Road Play Area	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	0.27	10.84	Large, good quality new play space with good play value (there is a MUGA and teen shelter within this site which needs including in 2018 review). Due to the quality/play value, and the fact that the loss of this space would result in a gap in access, it is recommended that it does not have potential for alternative open space use.
2044	Highlander Road Play Area 3	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	A	D	23	0.02	0.42	See comments for Highlander Road Play Area 4 (ID 2043).
2043	Highlander Road Play Area 4	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	A	D	23	0	1.04	Excellent quality new play space with variety of modern wooden equipment/good play value. Highlander Road Play Area 3 is essentially part of the same site. When considered together, the loss of these sites would result in a gap in access. Therefore they should be retained.
2033	Hilltop Road Play Area	Guilden Sutton	Play Space (Children)	A	D	27	0.01	74.91	Although small, it is a good quality play space with a variety of equipment/good play value. Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the parish). Therefore, it is recommended that it is retained.

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
1776	Hooton Green Play Area	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Play Space (Children)	B	D	26	0.07	77.26	Good quality play space. There is sufficient supply within the ward, however, its loss would result in a gap in access. Therefore, it is recommended it is retained.
1677	Johnson's Recreation Ground Play Area (Willaston)	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Play Space (Children)	A	D	18	0.13	79.67	Very good quality play space, recent improvement works include a new perimeter footpath. There is sufficient supply within the ward, however, its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained. It is noted that additional equipment is to be installed in 2018.
1960	Jubilee Field (Meadows Lane) Play Area	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	A	D	27	0.57	40.28	Excellent quality play space with good play value. Its loss would result in a gap in access. It is therefore recommended that this play space is retained.
1782	Jubilee Field MUGA	Saughall and Shotwick Park	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	26	0.01	1.7	Good quality MUGA, should be retained.
2051	Jubilee Field MUGA	Saughall and Shotwick Park	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	21	0.07	5.6	Good quality MUGA, should be retained.
1783	Kelsall Green recreation area	Kelsall	Play Space (Children)	A	D	26	0.04	79.52	The gap in access as a result of the site's removal would be substantial. Also the site has recently benefited from improvement works. It is therefore considered that the site does not have potential for alternative open space use. It should be retained.
1784	Kelsall MUGA	Kelsall	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	26	0.04	117.69	The parish meets the 'rural parish recommended level of provision', however, the gap in access as a result of the site's removal would be substantial. The site is also in good condition. It is therefore considered that the site does not have potential for alternative open space use. It should be retained.
1788	King George Playing Field	Tarvin	Play Space (Children)	A	D	25	0.07	4.05	There are two play spaces on the same site and both are in good condition. Due to the quality and play value of the

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
	(Tarvin)								sites together, it is recommended that both should be retained.
1789	King George V Field Play Area 2	Tarvin	Play Space (Children)	A	D	25	0.06	12.56	As above (see ID 1788).
1746	Kingsley Park Play Area	Kingsley	Play Space (Children)	B	D	27	0.07	77.44	The removal of the site would result in a considerable gap in access. It is a good quality site, and recent improvements have also been undertaken. Therefore, it is considered that the site does not have potential for alternative open space use, and it should be retained.
2048	Kohima Crescent Play Area	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	A	D	24	0.03	0	Small play area with new, good quality equipment. Whilst the removal of the site would not create a gap in access, and the parish exceeds the 'rural parish recommended level of provision', the equipment is new and therefore it is unlikely to be considered as having potential for alternative open space use.
1939	Little Heath Road BMX	Christleton	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	30	0.03	117.66	Good quality BMX with potential to improve. Its loss would result in a large gap in access and would result in the parish not meeting the 'rural parish recommended level of provision'. Therefore, it should be retained.
1795	Little Heath Road Play Area	Christleton	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.15	79.67	Good quality play space, its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1799	Little Woods	Delamere and Oakmere	Play Space (Children)	B	D	29	0.03	75.62	Good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access (it is the only play space within the parish) and therefore it should be retained.
1773	Lower Robin Hood Lane Play Area	Helsby	Play Space (Children)	B	D	27	0.05	47.56	Good quality play area. Its loss would result in a gap in access and therefore it is recommended it is retained.
1719	Lower Robin Hood Lane Teen Shelter	Helsby	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	28	0.01	51.09	Average quality basketball hoop and teen shelter with potential to improve. Its loss would result in a gap in access, therefore it is recommended that it is retained and

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
	and Basketball								improved e.g. could be upgraded to a MUGA.
1651	Maddocks Close Play Area	Farndon	Play Space (Children)	A	D	26	0.01	65.03	Very good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1833	Malpas Recreation Ground MUGA	Malpas	Play Space (Youth)	B	D	28	0.05	118.55	Good quality MUGA, this is the only youth provision within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
1635	Malpas Recreation Ground Play area	Malpas	Play Space (Children)	B	D	28	0.06	77.13	Good quality play space (the only children's play area in the parish), the removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
1638	MT: Mickle Trafford Park, Springfields MUGA	Mickle Trafford and District	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	28	0.03	117.24	This is the only play provision within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition. It is therefore recommended that the site is retained.
1656	New Road Play Area	Ellesmere Port unparished area	Play Space (Children)	C	D	30	0.08	42.04	Average quality play space with potential to improve play value. There is sufficient supply within the ward, however, its loss would result in a gap in access and therefore it is recommended it is retained and improved.
1721	Norley Park MUGA	Norley	Play Space (Youth)	A	D	21	0.02	116.46	This is the only youth provision within the parish and its loss would result in a large gap in access. Works have also recently been undertaken on site and it is excellent quality. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1774	Norley Park play area	Norley	Play Space (Children)	B	D	26	0.05	76.67	The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access (it is the only children's play area within the parish). Improvement works have also recently been undertaken on site. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1665	Parkgate Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.07	77.36	The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition and would not need improvements in the near future. It is recommended

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
									that the site is retained.
2036	Pulford Play Area	Poulton and Pulford	Play Space (Children)	A	D	26	0.06	76.57	The loss of the site would result in a large gap in access and a further shortfall in the rural parish supply. The site is good quality and has recently benefited from new play equipment. On this basis, it is recommended that the site is retained.
1612	Quarry Hill Play Area	Farndon	Play Space (Children)	B	D	30	0.05	67.33	Good quality play space. Its loss would result in a large gap in access. Therefore, it should be retained.
1606	Queens Field (Waverton Village Hall) Play Area	Waverton	Play Space (Children)	A	D	25	0.03	29.58	If the site were to be removed it would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in excellent condition and has benefited from new toddler play equipment. It is therefore recommended that the site retained.
2037	Saighton Camp Housing Development 1	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	A	D	23	0.02	0.29	Good quality new toddler play space, although play value is average. The parish exceeds the recommended level of provision (and there is also sufficient supply against the quantity standard), and its loss would not result in a gap in access. However, the quality of the equipment means that it is unlikely to have potential for alternative open space use.
2038	Saighton Camp Housing Development 2	Huntington	Play Space (Children)	A	D	23	0.02	0	As above (see ID 2037)
1842	Stanney Fields Park Junior Play	Neston	Play Space (Children)	A	D	26	0.02	2.38	Although the parish exceed the recommended level of provision and its loss would not result in a significant gap in access, due to the high quality of the site, it is recommended that it is retained.
1718	Sutton Weaver Children's Play Area	Sutton Weaver	Play Space (Children)	C	D	30	0.25	85.22	This is the only play space within the parish and its loss would create a large gap in access. Works have also been undertaken to add new fencing to separate the toddler play from the rest of the site. It is therefore recommended

ID	Site Name	Parish	Typology	Existing Quality Rank	Potential Quality Rank	Priority for Improvement Score	Area of Site (ha)	Gap in Access if removed (ha)	Ethos recommendations
									that the site is retained.
855	Tarporley Playing Fields Play Area	Tarporley	Play Space (Children)	A	D	26	0.04	76.56	Good quality play space. The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. On this basis, it is recommended that the site is retained.
1609	Tattenhall Village Park	Tattenhall and District	Play Space (Children)	A	D	27	0.03	42.25	The removal of the site would create a large gap in access. Major play improvement works have been undertaken on site and the equipment is in excellent condition. It is recommended that the site is retained.
1669	West Vale Play Area	Neston	Play Space (Children)	B	D	24	0.04	34.26	The removal of the site would result in a large gap in access. The site is also in good condition and would not need improvements in the near future. It is recommended that the site is retained.

7.4 Play space with potential for alternative open space use

Some play spaces are limited in the play value that they can offer due to their size/location and/or may be of average/poor quality. Where these sites are overlapping in access (i.e. if they were removed, would not result in a gap in access), **and do not have funds secured for improvements/replacement**, they may be suitable for alternative open space use (e.g. informal play space), especially where other existing high quality play areas or high potential play areas are located in close proximity. This is irrespective of a sites priority for improvement.

Options to improve the sites visual amenity and biodiversity value could also be sought e.g. by native hedge/tree planting.

The decision if a site is suitable for alternative open space use will of course depend on the needs of the local community (who will be consulted before such a decision is made), and it is important to note that sites below are those with **potential** for alternative open space use – it is not the final recommendation of this framework that they are secured for alternative open space use, but rather that further investigation is needed.

The following sites may have potential for alternative open space use (the decision making for each of these sites is included within the ‘Ethos recommendations’ column of tables 21 to 23):

- Fountain Lane Play Area (Low Priority), Frodsham
- Millfield Play Area (Medium Priority), Neston
- Redwood Drive / Mimosa Close Play Area (Medium Priority), Elton OR Sorbus Close - Elton Play Area (Medium Priority), Elton

7.5 Potential for new provision

Open spaces in parishes (with over 250 people) where there is currently no provision of children’s or youth play space have been considered for new provision, in order to meet the recommended levels of provision set out in table 5. This is based on the pre-2015 parish boundaries. Open spaces with **potential** for new provision are highlighted **bold** in table 21.

Parishes with less than 250 people should have some form of ‘playable’ space, and this has been considered within section 3 (table 11).

The decision to install a new children’s or youth play space on a site **will depend on the availability of funding** (Cheshire West and Chester Council is not currently committing to new play provision in the Borough, just consolidating existing provision) and the needs of the local community. It is important to note that sites below are those with potential for new provision – it is not the final recommendation of this framework that they are implemented, but that they could be pursued further if and when new funding becomes available.

Table 22 Parishes with over 250 people with no current provision of both children's and youth play space

Parish	Children's play area?	Youth facility?	Number of Children's Play Areas	Number of Youth facilities	Parish Council Comments/ Priorities	Open Space with potential to accommodate new provision of play space
Aldford and Saighton	YES	NO	1	0		Potential to accommodate youth provision at Aldford Park .
Alvanley	NO	NO	0	0		Limited potential for youth provision. Potential for natural play at Wheeldon Copse .
Ashton Hayes and Horton-cum-Peel	YES	NO	1	0	There is a lack of facilities for teenagers. However, their needs have yet to be established e.g. MUGA	Limited potential for youth provision – space is limited, but Ashton and Mouldsworth Village Hall may have some potential.
Barrow	YES	NO	1	0		Great Barrow Field may have potential to accommodate youth provision.
Broxton	NO	NO	0	0		No open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Capenhurst	NO	NO	0	0		Potential for natural play at Farm Manor Crescent amenity green space or Penfold Close amenity green space .
Clotton Hoofield	NO	NO	0	0		No open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Clutton	YES	NO	1	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Crowton	NO	NO	0	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study)

Parish	Children's play area?	Youth facility?	Number of Children's Play Areas	Number of Youth facilities	Parish Council Comments/ Priorities	Open Space with potential to accommodate new provision of play space
						within parish.
Delamere and Oakmere	YES	NO	1	0		Potential for natural play e.g. in Delamere Forest Park
Duddon and Burton	YES	NO	1	0		Duddon Close Playing Field may have potential to accommodate youth provision.
Guilden Sutton	YES	NO	1	0	<i>MUGA/Tennis:</i> School has some facilities which could be improved but not available for public use. <i>Neighbourhood Plan</i> has aspirations for facilities for all age groups e.g. bowling green/tennis courts. Not yet got to the stage of locations	There are a number of relatively small amenity spaces in the parish that may have potential to accommodate children's and youth provision e.g. School Lane amenity green space (where there is an existing football pitch).
Handley	NO	NO	0	0		No open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Hargrave and Huxley	NO	NO	0	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Kingsley	YES	NO	1	0	<i>MUGA/tennis:</i> We have a small one but it is in a remote area of the field and not particularly well used. <i>Play spaces:</i> Need for more play equipment such as a zip wire and some resurfacing where there is wear and tear. We are hoping to explore the need for additional play equipment at the playing field. <i>Youth facilities:</i> Some support for a skate park	Potential for youth provision at Kingsley Park/Westbrook Road Playing Field.

Parish	Children's play area?	Youth facility?	Number of Children's Play Areas	Number of Youth facilities	Parish Council Comments/ Priorities	Open Space with potential to accommodate new provision of play space
					and BMX track.	
Littleton	NO	NO	0	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Manley	NO	NO	0	0		Potential for children's play area at Manley Village Playing Field or natural play at Delamere Forest .
Mollington	NO	NO	0	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Mouldsworth	NO	NO	0	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
No Man's Heath and District	YES	NO	1	0	Littlers Croft play area needs to be updated with new equipment. The greater play area needs to be graded to make it suitable for a junior football pitch. The formal boundary has sections with barbed wire that need removing and some low level fencing that needs replacing with something higher to protect against wayward footballs.	No Mans Heath may have potential to accommodate youth provision.
Puddington	NO	NO	0	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Poulton and Pulford	YES	NO	1	0		Old Lane amenity green space may have potential to accommodate youth provision.

Parish	Children's play area?	Youth facility?	Number of Children's Play Areas	Number of Youth facilities	Parish Council Comments/ Priorities	Open Space with potential to accommodate new provision of play space
Rowton	NO	NO	0	0		No open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Rushton	NO	NO	0	0	<i>MUGA/tennis:</i> Currently working on project to provide this. <i>Play spaces:</i> No play area for children. Currently working on project to provide this <i>Youth facilities:</i> Some facilities will be provided within the play area.	Oulton Mill Pool Recreation and Picnic Area may have potential to accommodate new play facilities.
Shocklach Oviatt and District	NO	NO	0	0		No open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Sutton Weaver	YES	NO	1	0		No suitable open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish for youth provision.
Tarporley	YES	YES (but only teen shelter)	1	1	Currently the Parish Council is in the process of setting up a new recreation field on Brook Road including play and youth provision. Outline planning has been approved the full application should be submitted before summer.	Youth provision required and being delivered by Parish Council.
Thornton-le-Moors	NO	NO	0	0	<i>Play spaces:</i> require complete refurbishment and updating of play areas <i>Youth facilities:</i> limited planning for skate parks due to demands on land available. Restricted usage by all groups of people due to facilities offered. We are trying with limited budget to	The children's play area at Thornton-le-Moors Playing Field was removed due to safety issues. A replacement play area should be installed in order to meet the recommended level of provision for

Parish	Children's play area?	Youth facility?	Number of Children's Play Areas	Number of Youth facilities	Parish Council Comments/Priorities	Open Space with potential to accommodate new provision of play space
					upgrade our open spaces and recreation.	children. There is limited potential for youth provision.
Threapwood	NO	NO	0	0		No open space mapped (as part of CWAC Open Space Study) within parish.
Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall	NO	NO	0	0		Very limited potential for new provision.
Utkinton and Cotebrook	NO	NO	0	0	<i>Play spaces:</i> There are no children's play areas in either of the main villages in the Parish, although there is a primary school. This also has minimal play equipment. We would like to provide proper play equipment for young people in Utkinton Village. The Parish Council hopes to use some land owned by Utkinton School to provide some basic play equipment. The lack of any play areas for children was mentioned in our Parish plan.	Some potential for children's play equipment at Cotebrook Village Hall amenity green space , although this is a small area of land (0.11ha).

Willaston and Thornton Ward (unparished) was also assessed as requiring some form of youth provision (see section 3), with **Johnson's Recreation Ground** having potential to accommodate new provision.

8.0 Requirements from new development

STRAT 8 of The Local Plan (Part One) outlines the projected housing growth for the Rural Area as follows:

Within the rural area the Council will support development that serves local needs in the most accessible and sustainable locations to sustain vibrant rural communities.

Within the rural area provision will be made for at least 4,200 new dwellings

This would result in the following requirements for new play space based on the quantity standards in table 4, and assuming a population increase of 9,660 people (4,200 x 2.3):

Play Space (Children): **0.48ha**

Play Space (Youth): **0.29ha**

If development occurs in parishes where there is no play space, or where there are gaps in access, it would be expected that this provision be provided on site.

9.0 Key issues, challenges and aspirations for the Rural Communities Locality Area

9.1 Quantity/access

- There are a total of 70 children's play areas and 26 youth facilities (excluding teen shelters) within the Locality Area.
- There are a number of parishes which do not meet the recommended provision levels for play space (children's and youth) in rural areas set out in table 5. Tables 8, 9, 10 and 11 list the parishes that meet and do not meet the recommended provision levels.
- Only a small minority of parishes meet the recommended provision levels for youth – there is a need for new youth facilities across the Locality.
- A number of parishes highlight the need/aspiration for new provision of play space (see section 5).

9.2 Quality

- There is a large variation in the quality of play space within the Rural Communities Locality, ranging from good quality sites offering excellent play value e.g. Dodleston Playing Field children's play area to poor sites e.g. Marshlands Play Area (Neston). A summary of results from the quality audit are in table 12 and 13.

9.3 Priorities for the area

- There are five play spaces that have been identified as a high priority for improvement within the Rural Communities Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 47 and 62) – three are children's play spaces and two are youth facilities. These high priority play areas are shown in table 19.
- There are 43 play spaces that have been identified as a medium priority for improvement within the Rural Communities Locality Area (i.e. those sites which scored between 31 and 46) – 30 children's play spaces and 13 youth facilities, as shown in table 20.

9.4 Sites with potential for alternative open space use

The following sites may have potential for alternative open space use (the decision making for each of these sites is included within the 'Ethos recommendations' column of tables 21 to 23):

- Fountain Lane Play Area (Low Priority), Frodsham
- Millfield Play Area (Medium Priority), Neston
- Redwood Drive / Mimosa Close Play Area (Medium Priority), Elton OR Sorbus Close - Elton Play Area (Medium Priority), Elton

9.5 Potential sites for new play provision

A number of open spaces have been identified as having **potential** to accommodate new provision of play space (where none currently exists), in order to meet the recommended levels of provision for children's and youth play space set out in table 5. These are set out in table 22.

9.6 Requirements from new development

The projected housing growth for the rural area is at least 4,200 new dwellings which would result in a requirement of 0.48ha of new children's play space and 0.29ha of youth play space within the Locality.