

DP24: Leisure and Cultural Facilities and Activities

The National Planning Policy Framework (section 8), recognises the important role that the planning system has in promoting healthy communities. A strategic objective of the Plan is to create places that encourage healthy lifestyles by the provision of first class cultural and sporting facilities, informal leisure space and the opportunity to walk, cycle or ride to common destinations. The District Council has adopted a Leisure and Cultural Strategy to increase participation in arts and culture, sport and physical activity of those living and working in the District.

The Mid Sussex Playing Pitch Strategy (2015) identifies that it is essential for existing facilities to be retained and improved in order to meet increasing demand as a result of additional housing and population growth.

This policy supports the provision of additional facilities as well as protecting existing facilities.

The activities and facilities referred to in this policy include:

- Allotments
- Artificial turf and grass playing pitches and ancillary facilities
- Cinemas, theatres and performance spaces
- Gyms, sports halls, swimming pools and fitness facilities
- Kickabout, skate parks, cycling and BMX tracks
- Leisure facilities such as bowling, ice rinks, outdoor activities
- Museums and galleries
- Open space, parks and nature conservation sites
- Play areas
- Public art
- Tennis, netball and multi-use courts

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Strategic Objectives: 6) To ensure that development is accompanied by the necessary infrastructure in the right place at the right time that supports development and sustainable communities. This includes the provision of efficient and sustainable transport networks; and 15) To create places that encourage a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle by the provision of first class cultural and sporting facilities, informal leisure space and the opportunity to walk, cycle or ride to common destinations.

Evidence Base: Leisure and Cultural Strategy for Mid Sussex; Assessment of Open Space, Sport and Recreation; Mid Sussex Playing Pitch Strategy.

Development that provides new and/or enhanced leisure and cultural activities and facilities, including allotments, in accordance with the strategic aims of the Leisure and Cultural Strategy for Mid Sussex will be supported.

The on-site provision of new leisure and cultural facilities, including the provision of play areas and equipment will be required for all new residential developments, where appropriate in scale and impact, including making land available for this purpose. Planning conditions and/or planning obligations will be used to secure such facilities. Details about the provision, including standards, of new leisure and cultural facilities will be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document.

Sites for appropriate leisure and cultural facilities to meet local needs will be identified through Neighbourhood Plans or a Site Allocations Development Plan Document produced by the District Council.

Proposals that involve the loss of cultural facilities, open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, will not be supported unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the cultural facility, open space, sports land or recreational building to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.