

Appendix 2: Extracts from Youth and Play Strategy

01 INTRODUCTION

In July 2010, the Cambridge Fringes Joint Development Control Committee granted outline planning permission (ref: 07/0003/OUT), subject to the signing of a Section 106 Agreement, for Darwin Green One, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.

Darwin Green One forms one half of the North West Cambridge Quadrant, with the University of Cambridge site forming the remaining half. The new mixed-use development consists of approximately 1,593 dwellings, mixed retail / service units, health centre, primary school with children's centre, urban park, cycleways and footpaths, allotments, outdoor sports facilities with sports pavilion, and play areas.

The Strategy for Youth Facilities and Children's Play Provision for Darwin Green One, referred to as 'The Strategy' hereon in, seeks to deliver, for all ages and abilities, year-round access to safe, stimulating and socially inclusive play facilities. The Strategy illustrates various types of facility that respond to the uniqueness of place along with identifying compliance with national guidelines to ensure that Darwin Green One is an appealing and stimulating place for children and young people. Play and youth facilities are strategically located for safe and easy access, as illustrated within Appendix B.

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

The purpose of The Strategy is to coordinate and secure the appropriate provision for youth facilities and children's play areas across Darwin Green One and provide details of the implementation, location and phasing of associated facilities.

This Strategy is a direct response to discharge Outline Planning Consent Condition No. 9, associated with Planning Application No. 07/0003/OUT by Cambridge City Council and is to be submitted and approved by Cambridge City Council concurrently with each submission of reserved matters for residential development or

proposed recreational use.

The strategy shall :

- accord with the principles set out in the Design and Access Statement;
- have sufficient details to demonstrate the implementation of the strategy including specification, location and phasing.



Indicative example of a play environment composed of naturalistic materials. Credits: Helle Nebelong.



Indicative example of stimulating, interactive play equipment. Credits: Kompan.



Indicative example of naturalistic, informal play. Credits Tim R Gill.



Indicative example of a formal play environment. Credits: Randall Thorp.

04 PROPOSED YOUTH FACILITIES & CHILDREN'S PLAY PROVISION

GENERAL

Outline consent and Section 106 Agreements for Darwin Green One require specific provision of children's play areas and youth facilities. This, together with the proposed public open space, is intended to serve the needs of new and existing local residents.

Opportunities for play and recreation for all ages and abilities is therefore a driving force for the design of public open space at Darwin Green One. Inclusive play, physical activity and social interaction will be promoted in children and youths of all ages and abilities through the provision of formal play equipment and facilities, and will be complemented by new sports facilities and other informal design elements distributed throughout the public open space. Naturalistic landscape elements - including rocks, logs and ground modelling - are used to enhance formal play provision.

This accords with Cambridge City Councils Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2011), draws on the Fields in Trust Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play (2008) guidance (which replaced the Six Acre Open Space Standard), builds on section 4.8 of the Design Code which sets the main principles to be considered as part of the development proposals, and references to the Darwin Green One Design and Access Statement.

FORMAL UNSUPERVISED PROVISION

At Darwin Green One the requirement for youth and play facilities is specifically embodied in the formal provision of:

- 1no. Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAP)

This area caters for children aged 4-8 years. Each LEAP will have an activity zone of min. 400m².

- 1no. Super Local Equipped Areas for Play (SLEAP)

This area caters for children aged 4-12 years. The SLEAP will have an

activity zone of min. 850m².

- 1no. Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)

These areas cater for predominantly older children. The NEAP will have an activity zone of min. 1000m² containing a range of playground equipment suitable for children in, and approaching, their teenage years.

- 1no. Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) type 1 or 2, catering predominantly for older children, and having a surface area of min. 465m².

- 1no. Teenage Trim Trail. This consists of a series of complementary outdoor exercise machines that allow users to develop their strength and stamina.

- several Local Areas for Play (LAPs)

These cater for children up to 6 years of age. Each LAP will have an activity zone of min. 100m². Most LAPs will be located incidentally along pedestrian routes, although some will be set within more formal play settings. The precise number and location is to be determined by each Reserve Matters application.

For technical requirements, refer to Appendix E Detailed Description and Specification of LAPs, LEAPs, SLEAPs and NEAP (including MUGA).

Play facilities are strategically located across the development, in accordance with CCC's Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2011)

- refer to Appendix B for map showing Proposed Locations of Youth Facilities and Children's Play Provision.

The proposed Public Open Space Strategy by The Landscape Agency (Appendix D) demonstrates that the majority of housing is within five minutes walk, or 240m, of a LEAP and 10 minutes walk or 850m walking distance of a SLEAP. This requirement is identified within Table 4: Types of Children's Play Areas within Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2011) and has been summarised in Appendix E

for clarity.

Designs are to be based on Cambridge City Council's requirements as detailed within the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (2011) and, where relevant, the principles of the National Playing Fields Association Standards.

Designers of the LAPs, LEAPs, SLEAP, NEAP (including MUGA) are encouraged to explore bespoke options for interactive play equipment, making use of naturalistic materials where possible.



Indicative example of naturalistic play provision. Credits: Tim R Gill.



Indicative example of a MUGA, forming part of the NEAP provision. Credits: NewVic.

05 PROPOSED WIDER CONTEXT FOR YOUTH FACILITIES & CHILDREN'S PLAY PROVISION

WIDER SITE CONTEXT

Developers should explore opportunities to connect and integrate Darwin Green One's play strategy with existing public open space provision in the surrounding area. One such example is the play space at Blanford way which could be improved and enhanced by better connections with open space and play provision within Darwin Green One.

CENTRAL PARK

Proposals for Darwin Green One include a central public park of 0.6ha, consisting of; youth facilities and children's play areas; three tennis courts (controlled public access); two football pitches (publicly accessible); a cricket pitch with up to four wickets (publicly accessible); teenage trim trail; footpaths; cycleways; drainage swales; a pond with waterside access and opportunities for exploration.

The concept for Central Park is to develop and promote a multi-functional and adaptable space suitable for all ages and abilities. The space will allow individuals, young and old, to customise play activities to their specific needs. The northern half of Central Park is designed to promote informal gathering within a traditional parkland setting. Small copses, feature trees, boulders and natural logs encourage more intimate spaces to develop within the broader context of Central Park. These smaller spaces provide opportunities for personalised play and relaxation without prescribing the type of activity. Opportunities to access, explore, play and socialise at the margins of the pond will be encouraged by creating a safe, informal, naturalistic environment, that includes suitable seating, surface materials and arrangements for inclusive access and play.

The larger open areas of Central Park are broken by informal copses and feature trees, but allow sufficient space for larger informal activities such as kite flying and kick-about. A teenage trim trail, consisting of a

suite of complementary outdoor exercise equipment - including static items such as balance beams, stepping stones, plyometric boxes, pull-up and monkey bars, together with kinetic items such as exercise bikes, cross trainers, leg and chest presses - suited to teenage abilities, is to be located in this area. This will extend and enhance the teenage provision - including NEAP and MUGA - found in the southern half of Central Park and, in addition, will be supplemented by informal play provision in the natural area south of the pond by climbing boulders, logs and earth mounds, all of a size and scale suited to teenage play.

Within the southern half of Central park the children's play areas and youth facilities are complemented by formal outdoor sports facilities (football pitches, cricket pitch and tennis courts). These facilities provide additional structured play, helping to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage social interaction for young and old alike. Public open spaces are supported by a simple network of peripheral footpaths connected to residential areas, sports facilities, formal play provision and green corridors. These areas contain further opportunities for play activities and will, therefore, be furnished at key locations with exercise equipment and informal play features, as noted above.

GREEN CORRIDORS

In contrast to the formal play provision found elsewhere on the site, the North West Green Corridor and Transverse Green Corridors are to contain less formal and unstructured play opportunities for children and young people. This will be promoted specifically through the creation of a number of LAPs, designed with naturalistic elements that encourage play and physical activity such as logs, boulders, landform, rope bridges, timber decks and balance beams. Such environments should, where appropriate, include features with a Cambridge / Cambridgeshire theme in order to reinforce the Sense of Place. These informal play spaces will be designed to stimulate imagination and to encourage exploration and adventure. By not prescribing off-the-

shelf play products, natural features can be arranged and designed to stimulate social play, climbing, agility, balancing, jumping and running.

Areas that embody the unique characteristics of place and respond to the natural setting will be of particular importance to older children who require less structured play and more opportunities for gathering and socialising. The green corridors are to be promoted as exciting local destinations, adaptable for play and activity across a broad range of ages, interests and abilities. All facilities are to be linked to the broader network of open space, providing an accessible resource that encourages community-wide interaction. Footpaths must facilitate year-round access in all weather conditions whilst planting must provide shade, enclosure and a variety of spaces without reducing levels of natural surveillance or encouraging opportunities for anti-social behaviour. Lighting, street furniture and signage will be used to create legible spaces that are simple to use and create opportunities to relax, congregate and socialise.

Soft landscape must be robust and capable of withstanding high levels of use. Excess topsoil (excavated during development) is to be utilised to create playful, interactive landform where mounding is appropriate for the design.

ACCESS

In order to reduce vehicle reliance and encourage safe, sustainable modes of travel, pedestrian and cycle routes are to be promoted, particularly the connections to and between sports and play facilities. Car parking that serves sports facilities is to be located to the south west of Central Park in close proximity to the urban centre, thus providing a flexible parking option. Future car parking facilities should not dominate the landscape and will therefore be visually mitigated through low level evergreen hedges, landform, and tree planting.

APPENDIX B - INDICATIVE LOCATION OF YOUTH FACILITIES & CHILDREN'S PLAY PROVISION



Refer to TLA drawing 628-01 for full scale masterplan