

CHAPTER 9– RECREATION AND LEISURE

Introduction

- 9.1 The demand for recreational facilities is likely to grow over the Local Plan period as the changing lifestyles of the population lead to a greater awareness of the benefits of exercise and the constructive use of leisure time. The District Council supports the strategy of the Sports Council in encouraging greater participation amongst those groups where increased leisure time is, or will become, available. The District Council is concerned also to ensure that adequate community facilities are available for both the existing population and the residents of new housing developments.
- 9.2 The general issues considered in this section of the Local Plan are
- a. The provision of adequate facilities for formal sports, recreation, leisure and other community activities through direct provision, partnership schemes and by encouraging the private sector to contribute.
 - b. Maximising the use of existing facilities including the dual use of public and private sector provision, and by increasing public awareness of the available facilities.
 - c. Ensuring that at least the basic recreational and community facilities are available to the rural population.
 - d. Improving access to the countryside.
 - e. Achieving increased recreation, leisure and community provision without damaging the environment.
- 9.3 The District Council is directly involved in the provision of recreation facilities in the town of Daventry and assists in other parts of the District through grant aiding individual projects and taking part in joint schemes with the Northamptonshire County Council. The District Council also actively encourages enjoyment of and participation in the arts.

General

- 9.4 **The District Council will seek to ensure the adequate provision of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the district.**
- 9.5 A need has been identified for a Sports Hall in the rural parts of the District to compliment that found in Daventry.
- 9.6 Outdoor recreational provision in the form of Public Open Space is an important element in meeting a broad range of recreational requirements as it caters for all sections of the community and fulfils a variety of functions. Within Daventry, the District Council is responsible for the provision of playing fields but the Parish Councils provide these in the villages.
- 9.7 **The District Council will promote leisure and recreation opportunities through provision for entertainment and cultural facilities as these are considered to be an important aspect of leisure and recreation. They will thus seek to improve the facilities available throughout the District.**

- 9.8 The District Council will pursue opportunities for the joint provision and dual use of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities with the local education authority and with the private sector. The District Council have successfully co-operated with the Northamptonshire County Council in providing sports and leisure facilities at the former Daventry Leisure Centre on the site of The Daventry Tertiary College and at Moulton Comprehensive School. Opportunities for further joint facilities exist in other parts of the District, particularly at the Comprehensive School at Guilsborough. In addition, there are opportunities for the joint use of facilities provided by the private sector.