**Strategy for Parks & Open Spaces in Winsham Parish**

**Introduction**

This Strategy aims to provide a framework and the commitment of the Parish Council, to encourage and inspire groups and individuals to engage further in the development of Winsham Parish into becoming a more relaxed place to live, work, and get around. This strategy and especially the detailed needs (below) will be regularly revisited.

We must consider the following interest groups and issues in our strategy:

* Biodiversity
* Dogs
* Children 0-4
* Children 4-11
* Young People 11-16
* Adults
* Health
* Informal recreation (cycling, walking etc.)
* Sports

Combined with the conclusions of our [Parish Plan](http://www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Winsham%20Parish%20Council%20Draft%20Plan3-8-%202014%20Final%20Approved.pdf)

**Our Principles**

**Physical Environment**

In order to make Winsham Parish a more relaxed place to live, work and get around, we will:

* Identify and protect important open spaces in or close to the parish
* Ensure quality maintenance throughout the spaces managed by the parish
* Explore whether our open spaces respond to the needs of the whole community, especially in relation to the findings on the [Parish Plan](http://www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Winsham%20Parish%20Council%20Draft%20Plan3-8-%202014%20Final%20Approved.pdf)
* Use natural materials where possible, e.g. for seating
* Ensure a critical mass of bins (including for dog waste) are provided
* Develop further spaces if possible
* Develop ‘corridors of biodiversity’

**Vibrant Community Participation**

Local communities know what needs to be done. And to be vibrant, they need to meet the needs of everyone. We will:

* Ensure that wherever appropriate, spaces meet the needs of everyone: older people in order to rest; parents who need to supervise children; all people who want space to relax and re-charge their batteries and for young people who want to meet;
* Encourage people to engage actively in the day to day decision making and management of spaces.
* Supply and promote appropriate fitness opportunities on open spaces
* Encourage donation of seating.

**Process steps to the strategy**

The Parish Council will:

* Prioritise the areas that require work based on the table in below Open Spaces Profile.
* Work with owners and local residents to develop detailed action plans for specific areas.
* Identify how to deliver what is needed including sources of funding.
* Seek to find the best way of dealing with persistent dog fouling

The parks and open spaces are identified in the table below. It also includes a short description of the functions each of these ought and can provide.

