

ISSUES PAPER RESPONSES: A CULTURALLY RICH BOROUGH

Question 20: Is there a shortage of leisure, cultural, recreation, tourism or sporting facilities in Charnwood? If so, what additional facilities are needed and where?

Contributor	Summary of Comments
RN03/18 Andrew Granger & Co.	More fishing facilities.
RN11/16 Anstey Parish Plan Group	New community sports facility, primarily for young people, possible location Mitchell's Field. Concern about lack of youth recreational facilities. Provide facilities for adults for activities such as badminton and bowls. Need to encourage tourism.
RN07/8 Mr & Mrs Hyde	There is no shortage of leisure, cultural or sporting facilities in Loughborough. The Council should not subsidise such activities.
RN19/20 Mr Porter	A council owned bowling alley.
RN24/18 Thorpe Acre 2000	More access to the countryside, including a District Level Country Park at Garendon. Garendon Park is one of the Borough's finest ancient parklands. It lies next to Thorpe Acre in Loughborough and the Millennium Cycleway NCR6 route passes by on its route between Shepshed and Loughborough. (A short history of Garendon Park is included).
RN26/1 Unknown	Re-instate Maypoles destroyed by Oliver Cromwell.
RN27/1 Unknown	Free Garendon Park – park for the people!
RN34/17 T Birkinshaw	Leisure pool in Loughborough and more swimming facilities elsewhere.
RN38/7 Syston Town Council	Need to expand facilities in Syston in line with the increase in population over recent decades.
RN40/2 National Forest Company	The role of The National Forest in adding to the biodiversity of Charnwood Forest, and in creating new woodlands that will help to ease the recreational pressures on heavily visited parts of Charnwood.
RN54/16 A Kay	Large fallen trees are a play resource for children, have wildlife value and should be left where they fall rather than being unnecessarily removed as at Pignut Spinney.
RN73/4 Storer & Ashby Area Residents Group	Take strong line with developers in terms of provision of child/youth/adult play/recreation space to make it in line with National Playing Fields Association guidelines. Present recreation space over-used particularly during term time. Intensive housing development at Loughborough Wharf defeats any tourism potential – there is no offer to tourists or residents in terms of visiting places of historic interest. Another planning disaster equalled by the Rushes white elephant across the road. Given the Environment Agency objection, Council and William Davis should create a more fitting facility to bring prosperity to Loughborough. Suggest recreation area for residents of Toothill Road, Canal Museum at the Wharf and pleasant green and leafy space etc, secure moorings for boaters, where office/shop workers could relax. Celebrate this historic site and provide a supplementary town park.
RN68/3 Sileby Parish Council	Sileby suffers from a shortage of recreational land and leisure facilities, which has become more acute with more development.

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RN17/10 S Mitchell	There has been an exodus of disgruntled long term residents from the blighted inner areas of the town – don't want a crumbling civic reputation, damaging to our cultural and tourist attractiveness.
RN78/6 TR Brown	Provide more facilities for young people in villages. Transport from Sileby to Soar Valley Centre would help.
RN79/1 Leicestershire & Rutland Bridleways Association	<p>Important to discuss delivery of aims set out in document and resolve potential conflicts eg. farm diversification should not increase traffic along rural lanes so that non-motorised users feel threatened and unable to reach rights of way network to enjoy healthy recreation.</p> <p>No mention of how the Framework will contribute to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan that the Government has instructed the County Council to prepare or the Rights of Way Act 2000 – aimed at making the network more connected and accessible, particularly in terms of improving the bridleway network.</p> <p>No reference to the County Council's Equestrian Strategy to support the horse industry.</p> <p>Policies promoting cycling and walking should include reference to horse riders.</p>
RN83/11 S Bradwell	<p>Protecting and supporting the historical and natural heritage needs more emphasis in this section.</p> <p>Recognise that we have a culturally diverse Borough and that we must include all parts of the Borough's community in future development.</p>
RN85/22 Leicestershire County Council	Give attention to shared use opportunities at schools and colleges to help provide facilities for sports, arts and other leisure activities – wider community role of school facilities. Consider contribution of education to culture, particularly role in supporting sports and the arts.
RN85/23 Leicestershire County Council	No reference to provision of general community facilities eg. village halls and community centres in urban areas. Such reference would complement and broaden statements about sport and recreation facilities. Also refer to role of voluntary sector and to examination of other means of implementation such as section 106 agreements (and their successors).
RN87/6 Charnwood CVS	Encourage small independently owned shops to boost tourism and local interest.
RN89/2 P Hubbard	Protect allotments – these are communal green facilities.
RN94/19 Countryside Agency	<p>Should promote urban parks as gateways with a network of linking greenways and public transport, with information accessible to all. Promote better use of existing country parks, public/private partnerships, and seek covenants to ensure publicly owned land which is sold off preserves access and recreation benefits for the community.</p> <p>Many people do not use parks because they feel unsafe. Re-use of unused buildings in parks should be explored. Improving parks could be a community effort using volunteers to make attractive and foster a sense of belonging.</p> <p>Support principles of encouraging tourism and leisure activities as part of wider diversification, but the expansion of tourism should be matched with full consideration of the environmental impact.</p>

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RN98/13 Charnwood & North Wes Leicestershire Primary Care Trust	Consider the issue of inequalities in access to these facilities. Helpful if the Framework can help to promote smoke free public places.
RN21/1 Loughborough Meeting Rooms Trust	Interest in overall strategy and vision covering countryside, design and conservation, environmental, community facilities and transport issues. No reference made to land needed for churches or faith schools in Issues Paper. Currently have one facility, want another due to increasing members, preferably west of Loughborough, Shepshed or Hathern areas.
RN52/1 Loughborough Archaeological and Historical Society	Support any further development of tourism.
RN40/2 National Forest Company	Community/educational involvement- The National Forest Company presents opportunities for local people to get involved in the Forests' creation.
RN108/8 Cllr Edwards	Only one green public open space in Birstall, west of A6, the Harrowgate Drive Playing Field. When the Ashton Green development is constructed there will be only one small historically interesting green field that will remain. It should be preserved for public access as amenity land.
RN102/13 A Newtown Linford Parish Councillor (anonymous)	Netwon Linford needs a new children's play area, the existing in Grey Crescent does not meet existing requirements and does not meet requirements under the Disabled Access Act. We shall be discussing this soon with CBC as we rent the land from them.
RN110/11 Hoton Parish Council	The needs of the Soar Valley villages will be improved when the leisure centre is opened. Would like to see more resources/finance directed towards rural areas rather than polarised on Loughborough.
RN112/11 Wymeswold Parish Council	Demise of Charnwood Arts has seen a lack of choice of entertainment at the Village Hall, and rural villages now lack cultural experiences. LDF may help to re-establish such a high quality facility.