



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Merthyr Tydfil Open Space Strategy

Action Plans

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

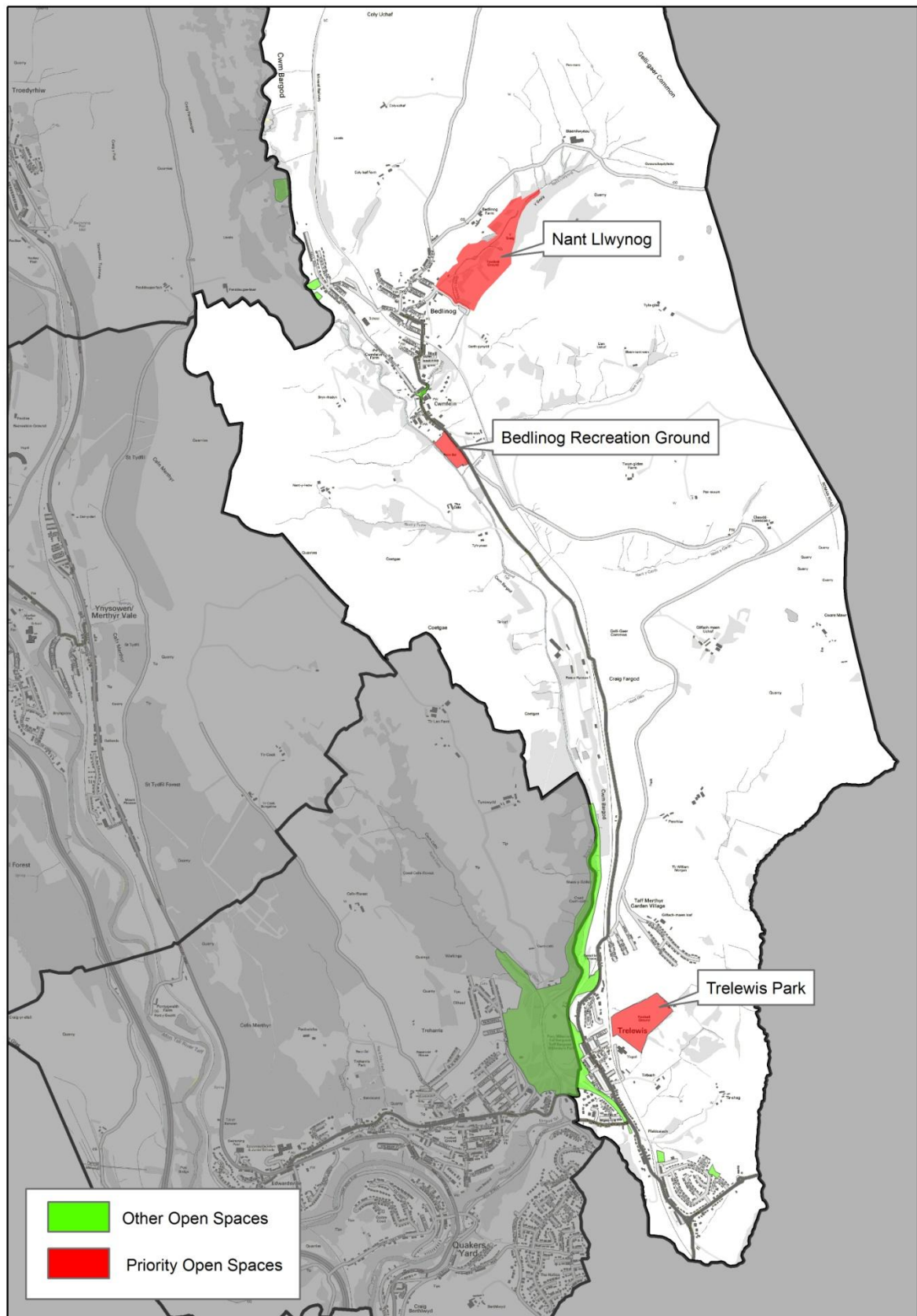
- 1.1 This document consists of eleven action plans which support the Open Space Strategy and should be read alongside the main document. The Strategy identifies locally important open spaces, sets the standards for different types of open space and establishes the need for further types of open space. Shortfalls in accessibility, quantity and quality have been established through the application of the standards which can be found in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy².
- 1.2 The Action Plans consider the three standards (Quantity, Quality and Accessibility) at Ward level and identify a series of priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space within existing provision, need might be fulfilled. These are often the larger spaces located within each community. As a means to improve shortfalls in accessibility and quantity, those spaces that offer the greatest potential or opportunities due to their size, scope, location or strategic importance have been identified as being of priority importance. Where there is insufficient capacity or there is no available site, it is recommended that the provision of a new site is sought if practical. Shortfall in a ward might also be met by introducing a new space into a neighbouring ward where opportunity exists.
- 1.3 Existing shortfalls in open space provision can also be improved through new development. When considering the type of open space to be secured as part of a new development within a particular ward, regard should be had to the identified shortfalls in accessibility and quantity of open spaces (see relevant graphs within each action plan).
- 1.4 The quality issues identified are the result of the failure of a given type of open space to meet the required standard. A summary of quality issues affecting each type of open space can be found within the background document “*Open Space Quality*” and should be consulted accordingly. Other spaces not selected as priority sites should be considered for quality improvements as appropriate when resources and conditions permit.
- 1.5 All three standards provide the necessary criteria to achieve a blueprint for the future management of open spaces and the development of selected priority spaces. Each priority space will be supported by a future Management Framework document that will set out in more detail how a re-configuration of resources through a change in management might bring about both cost savings to on-going maintenance and at the same time attract potential

² Further information on identified shortfalls in accessibility and quantity of open space through the application of adopted standards can be found in the background paper entitled “*Standards for Quality, Quantity and Accessibility*”

external funding while addressing the needs that have been identified within the Strategy.

- 1.6 Action plans together with their more detailed Management Frameworks may be implemented through or in conjunction with community groups, the voluntary sector, national organisations and charities. Sources of funding might be through Section 106 Agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy or grant aid from a number of relevant sources.
- 1.7 The Strategy and action plans will be reviewed and updated every four years.

2.0 BEDLINOG ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Bedlinog Ward

2.1 WARD PROFILE

Description

- 2.1.1 Bedlinog ward is rural in character and located to the east of the County Borough; it is the smallest ward by population (3277) and includes the communities of Bedlinog and Trelewis. The ward covers a total area of 1526 ha; 120 ha of which is built up.

Open Space Provision and Shortfall

- 2.1.2 Open spaces within the ward consist of **20 ha** and there is a shortfall of **18 ha** of open space.

Statistics

- 2.1.3 Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward³:

- The highest proportion of 60 – 64 years.
- One of the lowest levels of households with dependent children.
- The second highest level of people of working age registered as disabled.
- The number of households with a person with long term health problems or disability significantly higher than the national average.
- The second highest rate of people who are economically inactive.
- Second highest levels of car ownership within the County Borough.

Issues

- 2.1.4 The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- Open spaces are few in number, although relatively large and complex.
- Plentiful supply of multifunctional greenspace and public parks and gardens.
- Provision required for those with health issues and the elderly.

Opportunities

- 2.1.5 The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To expand recreational opportunity by redefining existing large sites to incorporate additional types of open space.

³ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

- To improve accessibility and linkages between sites particularly between the two principal settlements.
- To improve overall quality and management, particularly for larger sites.

2.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

2.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

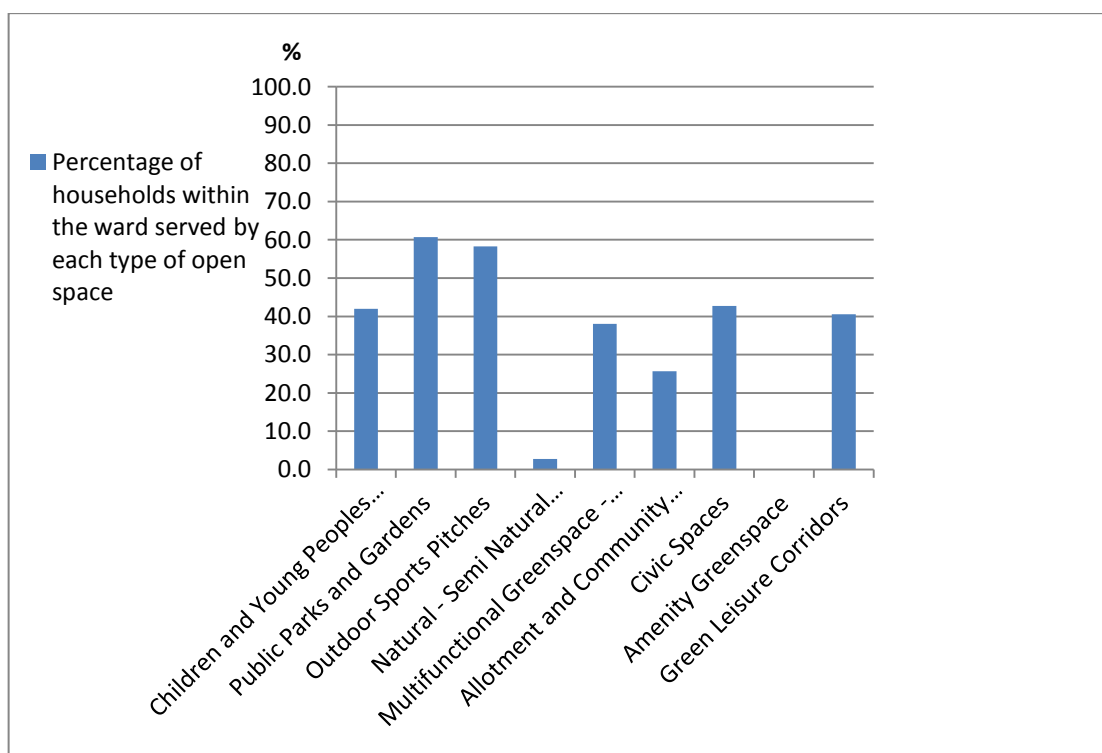


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

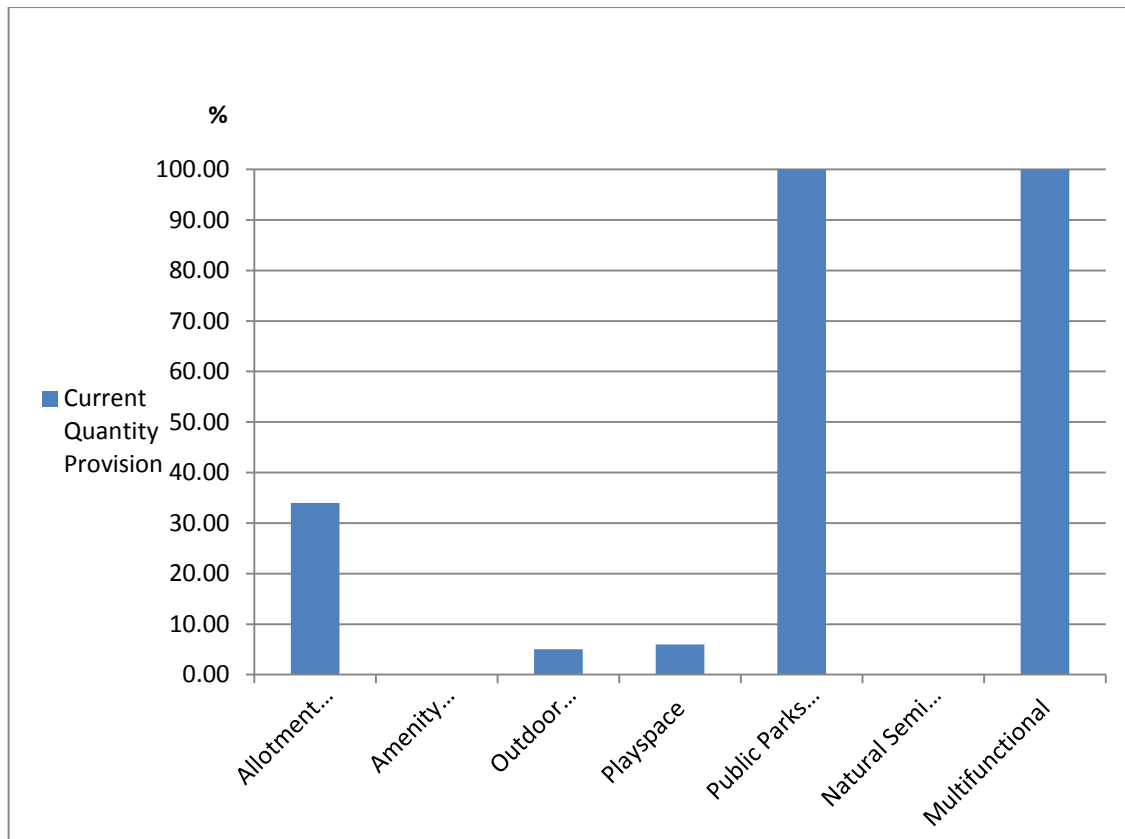


Figure 2: Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ⁴

⁴ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

2.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

2.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served		
	Trelewis	Bedlinog	Bedlinog (Cwmfelin)
Children and Young People's Play Space	Trelewis Park Park Taf Bargoed	Nant Llwynog	Recreational Ground
Public Parks and Gardens			
Outdoor Sports Pitches			
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	Parc Taf Bargoed		New Site Required
Multifunctional Greenspace			
Allotments and Community Growing Areas	Trelewis Park	New Site Required	
Civic Spaces			
Amenity Greenspace	Trelewis Park	Nant Llwynog	

2.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN BEDLINOG WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Trelewis Park (Public Parks and Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Sustainability • Conservation and Heritage • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Nant Llwynog (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Bedlinog Recreation Ground (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

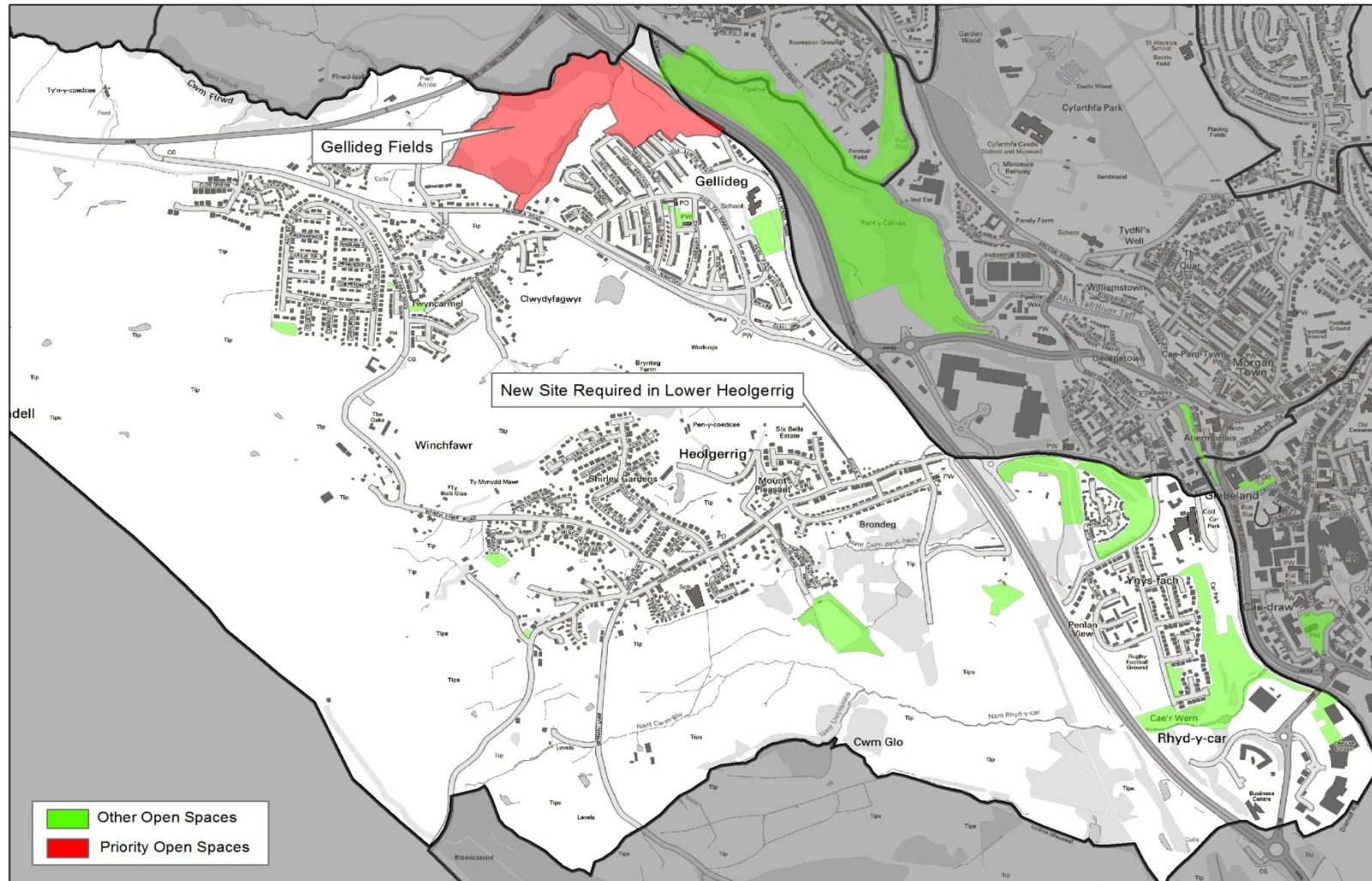
2.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN BEDLINOG WARD

Site Name	Observations
Hylton Terrace (Children and Young Persons Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard
Parc Hen Kickabout Trelewis (Outdoor Sports Area Pitches)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard
Shingrig Trelewis (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard
Trelewis Memorial (Civic Space)	Maintain existing standards

2.6 Conclusion

- 2.6.1 The open space issues affecting Bedlinog ward primarily relate to accessibility. The ward contains two major open spaces (Nant Llwynog and Trelewis Park); both of which have the capacity to fulfil shortages of accessibility and quantity if developed as recommended. A separate assessment which considers how strategic access might help in the providing open space through a network of footpath / cycle ways would help to place the importance of the priority open spaces in context. A third site, Bedlinog Recreation Ground, requires further consideration in its capacity to address shortfalls relating to the Cwmfelin area of Bedlinog. Two new sites are required in Bedlinog ward to accommodate allotments and community growing space and natural/semi natural greenspace.

3.0 CYFARTHFA ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Cyfarthfa Ward

3.1 WARD PROFILE

3.1.1 Description

Cyfarthfa ward is urban in character and is located in the north west of the County Borough; it is the second smallest ward, relatively densely populated (6,869) and contains the communities of Heolgerrig, Ynysfach, Cae Penderyn and Gellideg. The ward covers an area of 705 ha; 264 ha of which is built up.

3.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **28 ha** and there is a shortfall of **35 ha** of open space.

3.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward⁵:

- The third largest ward by population within the County Borough.
- The largest population group aged 45 – 59 years.
- Proportionally higher number of children between 0-4 years than most other wards.
- The third highest percentage of residents classifying themselves as being in 'very good health'.
- The lowest percentage of its population describing themselves in 'bad health' and 'very bad health'.
- The third highest levels of car ownership within the County Borough, with approximately 75% of households in the ward owning at least one car/van.

3.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- An absence of outdoor sports pitches, amenity green space, civic space, parks and gardens.
- Natural / semi natural greenspace not always accessible, particularly in Heolgerrig.
- A need for play space for 0-4 years.
- A need for employment opportunities, skills and training.
- Some areas have no access to a number of typologies.

⁵ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

3.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To expand opportunities for making use of land as play space.
- To increase usage of underutilised green spaces through more appropriate management.
- To make better provision for play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

3.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

3.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

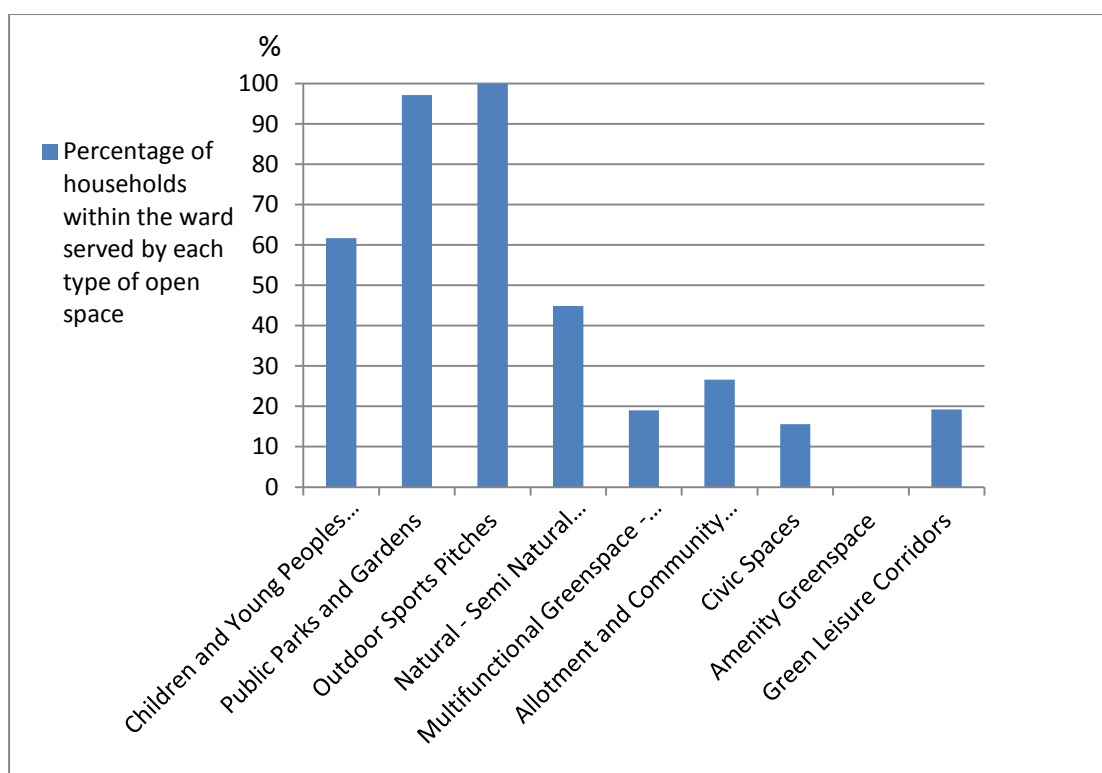


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

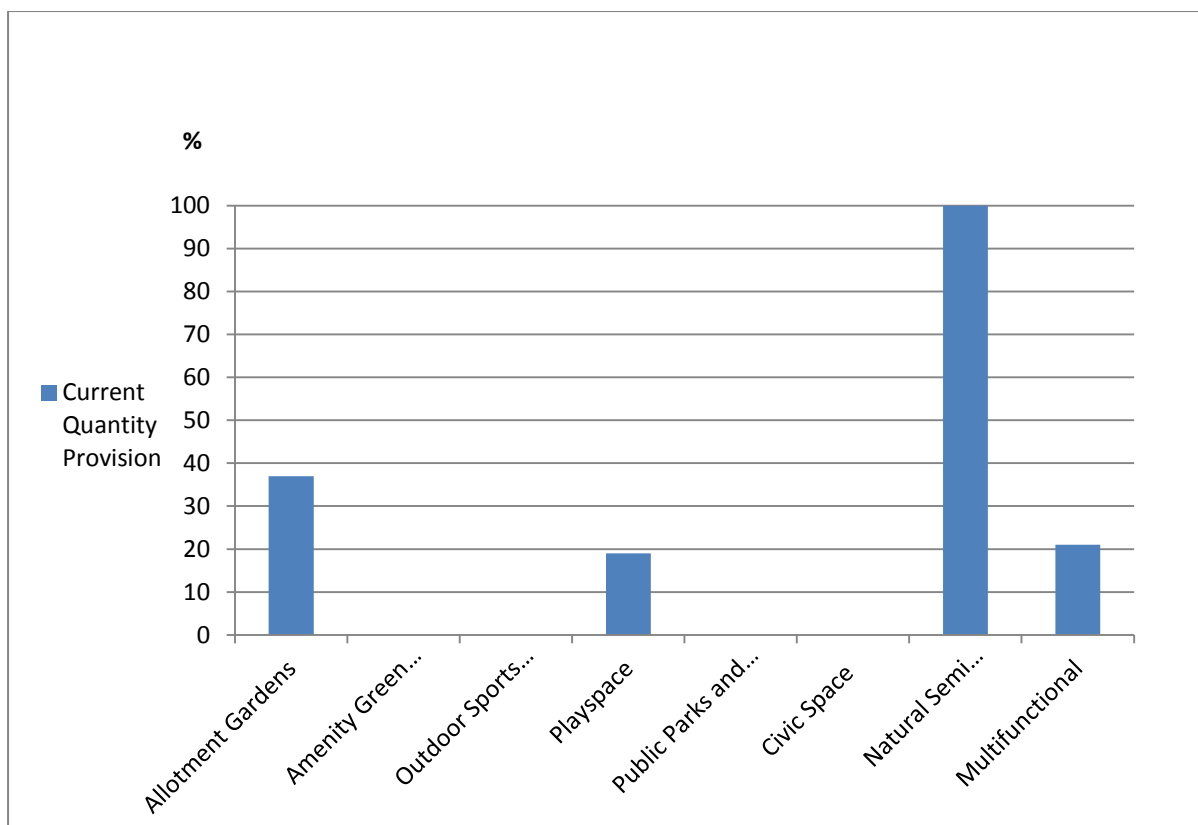


Figure 2. Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ⁶

⁶ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

3.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

3.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served		
	Heolgerrig	Gellideg	Ynysfach
Children and Young People's Play Space	New Site Required		
Public Parks and Gardens		New Site Required	
Outdoor Sports Pitches			
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	New Site Required		
Multifunctional Greenspace	New Site Required	Gellideg Fields	
Allotments and Community Growing Areas	New Site Required	Gellideg Fields	
Civic Spaces			
Amenity Greenspace	New Site Required	New Site Required	New Site Required

3.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN CYFARTHFA WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Gellideg Fields (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

3.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN CYFARTHFA WARD

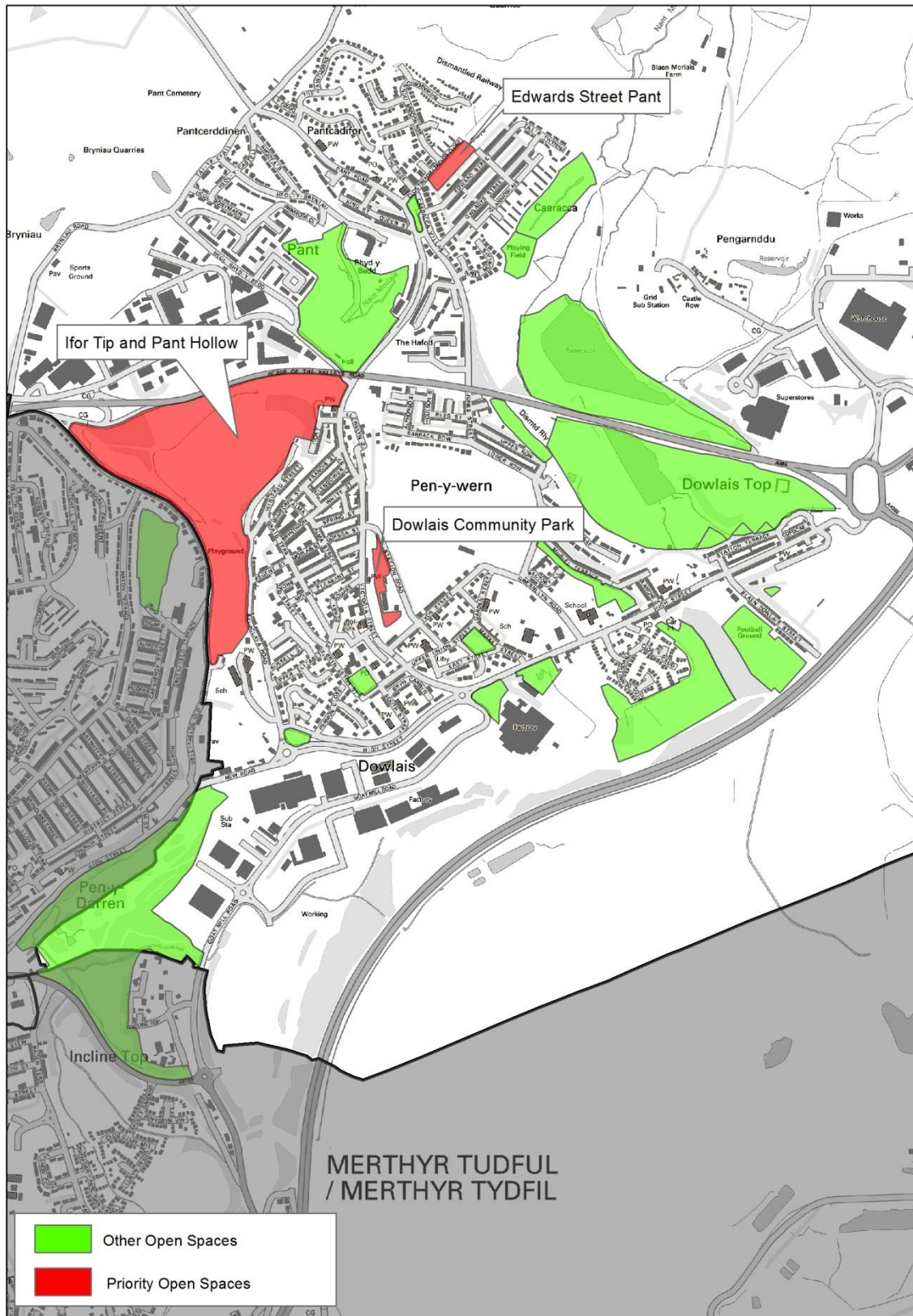
Site Name	Observations
Moodies Field (Outdoor Sports Area/Pitches)	Management plan, invasive species control, hedge banks to Cwm Glo Road and habitat restoration.
Castle Park Criccieth Grove (Children and Young Persons Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Gellideg (Outdoor Sports Area/Pitches)	Management plan and improve boundary treatment.
Gellideg Play Space / Kickabout (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Integrate within wider regeneration scheme and manage accordingly.
Heolgerrig Upper (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Invasive species control, improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Lower Georgetown Plateau (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Control extensive dog fouling, increase nature conservation value, improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.

Rhydycar and Riverside (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Management plan, access improvements to cascade area, hedgerow gapping up, control fly tipping and invasive species management.
Rhydycar Skate Park (Children and Young Persons Play Space)	Management plan.
Twyncarmel Kickabout (Outdoor Sports Area/Pitches)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Twyncarmel Playground (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Invasive species control, improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Upper Colliers Row (Allotment and Community Growing Space)	Invasive species control.
Upper Georgetown Plateau (Natural/semi Natural Greenspace)	Management plan.
Winchfawr Mayors Close (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Ynysfach (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.

3.6 CONCLUSION

- 3.6.1 Many of the problems surrounding the shortage of open space within the Cyfarthfa ward relate specifically to the community of Heolgerrig, which has expanded significantly in recent years with an increase in householder numbers. A single glance at a plan of Heolgerrig would suggest that the settlement is surrounded by open space, although much of this is inaccessible or privately owned. Access restrictions to adjacent wards are aggravated by the presence of a significant psychological and physical barrier in the form of the A470 trunk road. The evidence indicates that a new small park, offering a range of types of open space or recreational experiences would make a significant contribution to addressing existing shortages of open space.

4.0 DOWLAIS ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Dowlais Ward

4.1 WARD PROFILE

4.1.1 Description

Dowlais ward is located in the north east of the County Borough and comprises of the communities of Dowlais and Pant. The ward covers an area of 1,080 ha; 385 ha of which is built up. In terms of population, it is the second smallest ward in the County Borough with a population of 6,926.

4.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **79 ha** and there is a shortfall of **27 ha** of open space.

4.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward⁷:

- The ward has the highest percentage of residents in the age group 20-24 years and 30-44 years.
- There are relatively high levels of unemployment.
- The very elderly age groups of 75-84 and 85-89 years are among the lowest in the County Borough.

4.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- There is a significant shortage of access to children and young people's play space, allotments and community growing spaces, amenity green space and green leisure corridors.
- There is no civic space within the ward.
- There is plentiful supply of natural / semi natural green space.
- More community orientated spaces required.

4.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To address the needs of those with ages or disability related access issues.
- To provide land as food growing space.
- To enhance civic pride.
- To broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

⁷ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

4.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

4.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

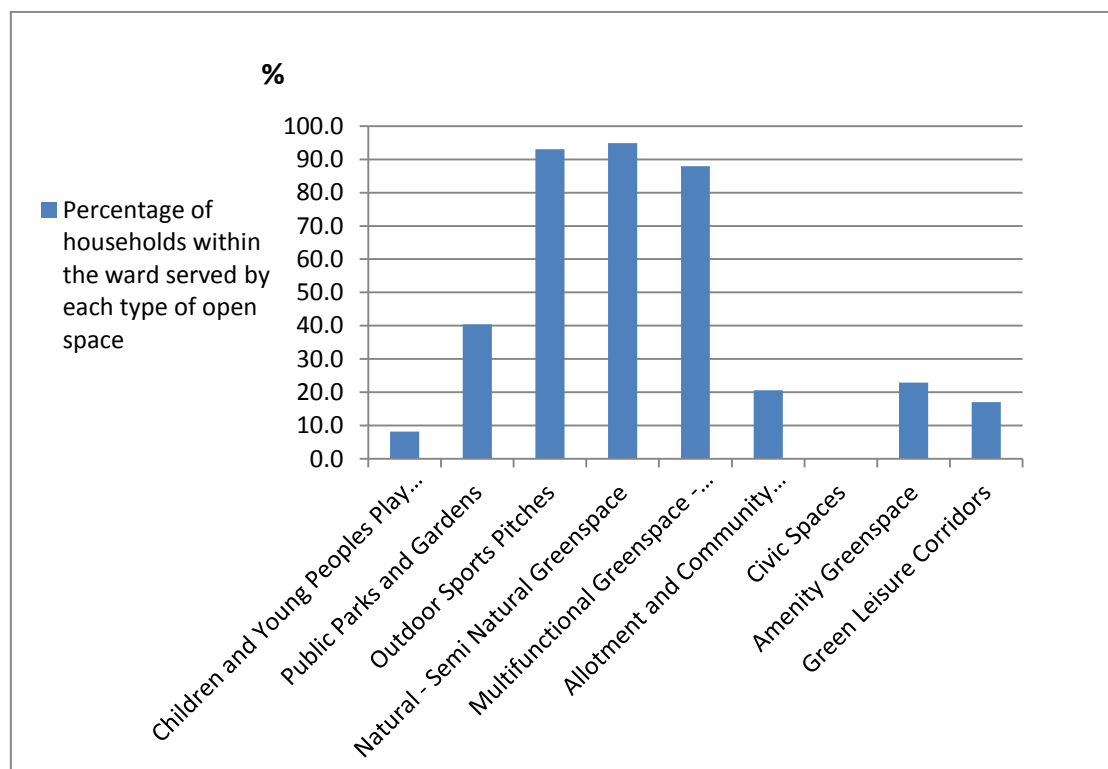


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

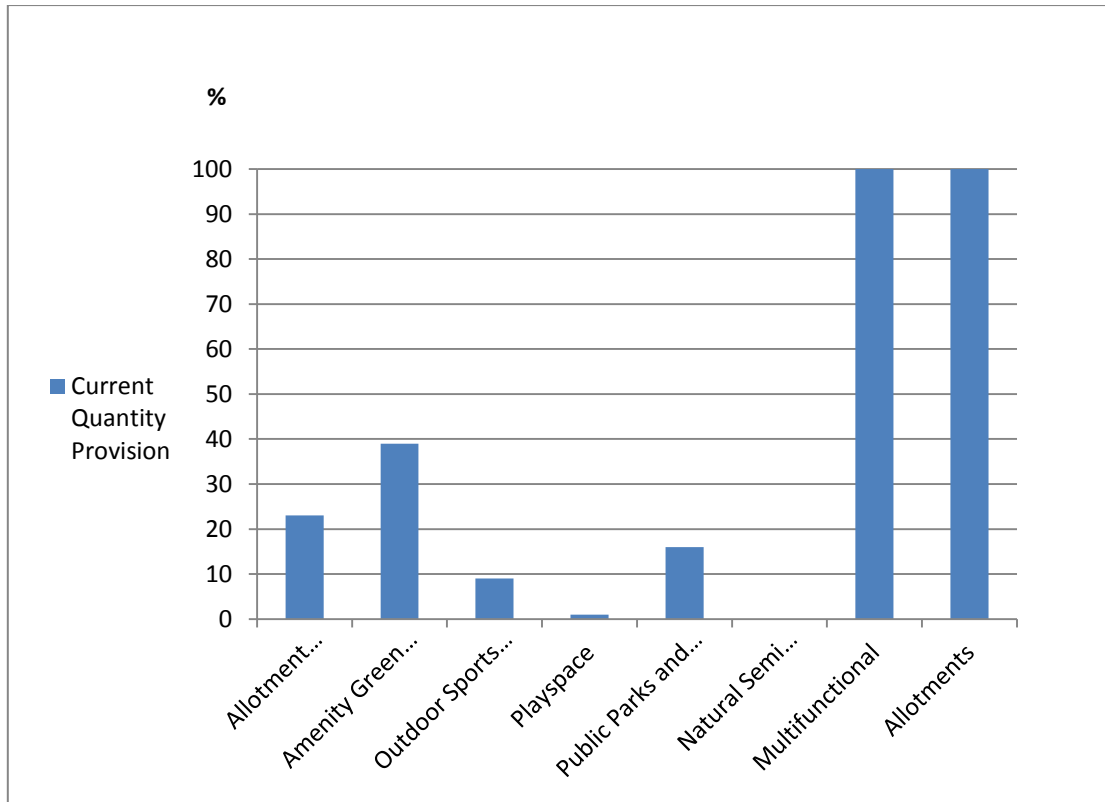


Figure 2: . Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ⁸

⁸ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

4.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

4.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served	
	Dowlais	Pant
Children and Young People's Play Space	Dowlais Park	
Public Parks and Gardens		Ifor Tip and Pant Hollow
Outdoor Sports Pitches		
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace		
Multifunctional Greenspace		
Allotments and Community Growing Areas	Land off Brynseion Street	Edwards Street Pant
Civic Spaces		
Amenity Greenspace		Pant Green

4.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN DOWLAIS WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Dowlais Park (Amenity Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Engagement with the Community
Edwards Street Pant (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Ifor Tip and Pant Hollow (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Engagement with the Community • Marketing

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

4.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN DOWLAIS WARD

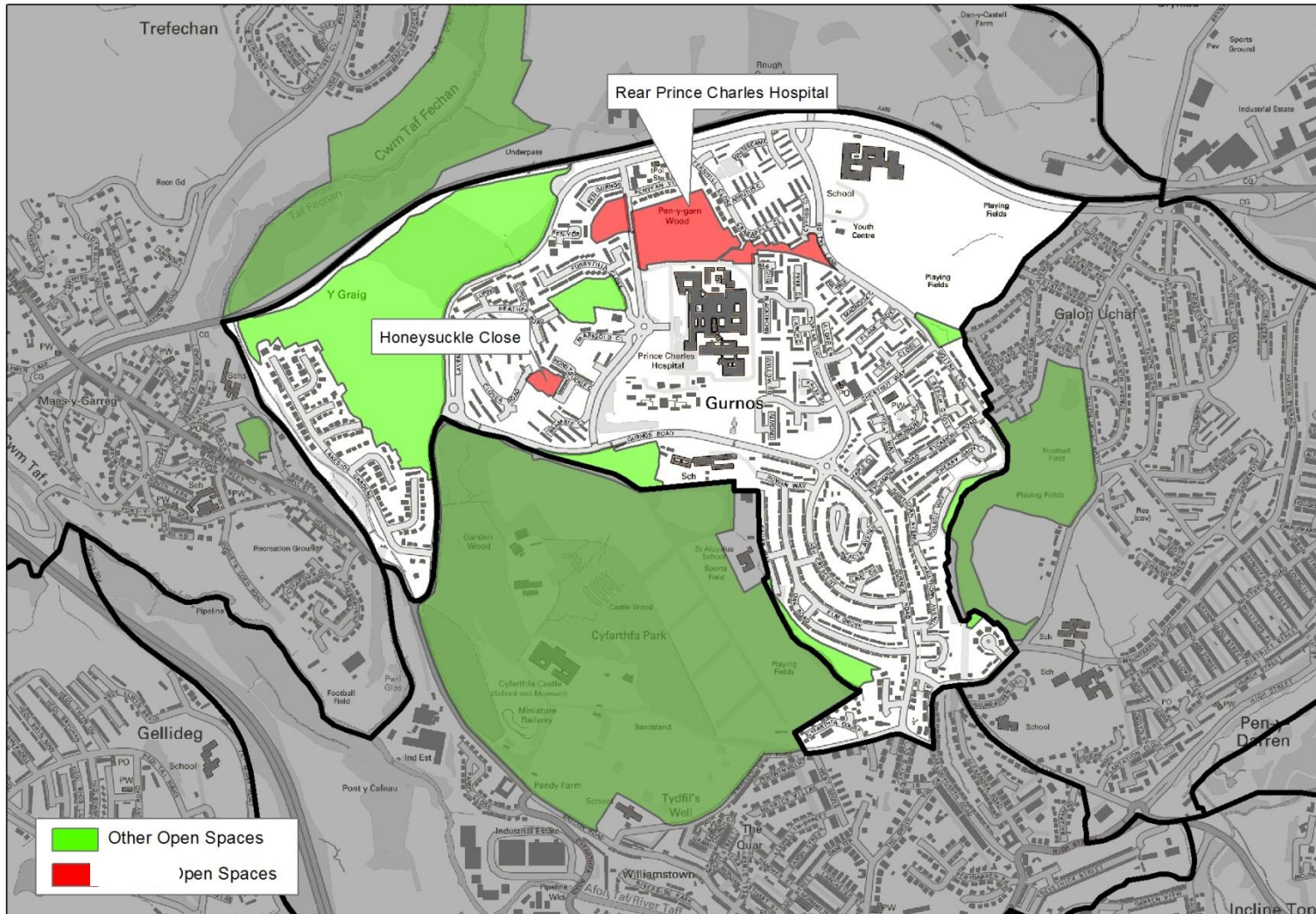
Site Name	Observations
Blaen Dowlais (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Large areas of cut grass verges / banks not used for sports and improve soft landscape setting.
Caeracca (Outdoor Sports Area / Pitches)	Create a more welcoming space, info etc; and engage with community on facilities.
Caracca Nantmorlais Valley (Natural/semi natural Greenspace)	Management plan required and control Japanese Knotweed, rubbish, fly tipping horses grazing on site.
Dowlais Engine House Community Garden (Public Parks and Gardens)	Management plan and litter control required. Address site management through quality assessment recommendations.

Dowlais High Street (Amenity Greenspace)	Manage in accordance with quality assessment recommendations.
Dowlais Market Square (Amenity Greenspace)	Manage in accordance with quality assessment recommendations; potential site for new civic space.
Dowlais Top Station Terrace Playground (Children and Young Peoples Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Engine House Fields (Amenity Greenspace)	Art heritage; maintain existing sculpture investment; and introduce management plan.
Incline Top / Newlands Parks (Natural/semi natural Greenspace)	Management plan required; facilities limited to seating but also fishing and car park; fires / burnt out litter bins / trail bikes off road scrambling; improve community engagement over the manner in which the space is managed; invasive species control required; extensive litter control required and further information on the site on what it can be used for.
Land off Brynseion Street (Amenity Greenspace)	Disused space; empty space / empty raised beds / poor quality space generally in a poor condition; maintenance minimum / low quality; scope for change in management to community growing space.
Muriel Terrace (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Pant Green (Amenity Greenspace)	Manage in accordance with quality assessment recommendations.
Penywern Ponds former Railway (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard expand play opportunities.
Penywern Ponds North (Natural/semi natural Greenspace)	Improve pedestrian access.
Penywern Ponds South (Natural/semi natural Greenspace)	Control extensive overgrazing; management plan and soft landscape improvements needed.
Rear of Dennithorn Close (Natural/semi natural Greenspace)	Control invasive species and manage for biodiversity interest.
Station Terrace Dowlais (Allotment Gardens and Community Growing Space)	Sites would benefit from strong comprehensive management as prescribed for allotments within quality assessment.

4.6 CONCLUSION

- 4.6.1 Dowlais ward faces several challenges with regards to open space provision. The community in Pant requires greater access to children and young people's play space and outdoor sports pitch provision; these types of open can be potentially met through greater provision within Ifor Tip and Pant Hollow multifunctional greenspace. Opportunity also exists to expand the range of play experience through good design and environmental improvements at the other two priority sites.

5.0 GURNOS ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Gurnos Ward

5.1 WARD PROFILE

5.1.1 Description

Gurnos ward is urban in character and located just north of Merthyr Tydfil town centre. The ward consists of Lakeside and the Gurnos Estate. It is the second smallest ward in the County Borough by area (153 ha); however, it is densely populated with 5,280 residents.

5.1.2 Open Space Provision and Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **28 ha** and there is a shortfall of **27 ha** of open space.

5.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward⁹:

- The highest percentage of 0-4 years, 5-7 years and 8-9 years age groups.
- A low percentage of 60-64 years, 85-89 years and 90+ years age groups.
- The highest percentage of people who are economically inactive.
- The lowest level of car ownership.

5.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- An absence of allotments, amenity green space, civic space and parks and gardens.
- Opportunities for play required for 0-9 years.
- Need for employment opportunities, skills and training.

⁹ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

5.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To expand opportunities for making use of land as growing space.
- To increase usage of underutilised green spaces through more appropriate management.
- To make better use of existing green space as a vehicle to deliver skills and training.
- To broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

5.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

5.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

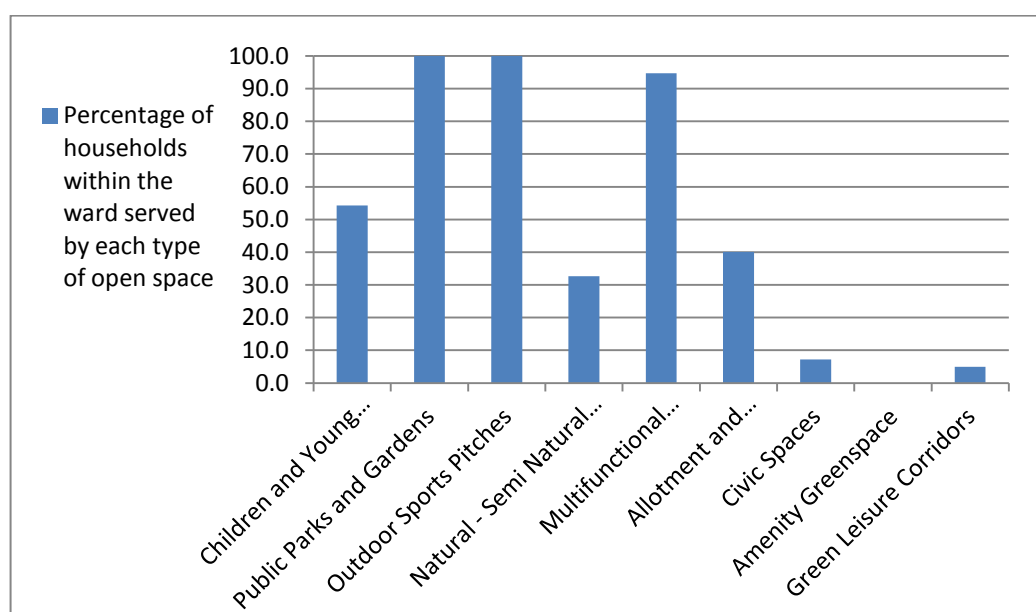


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

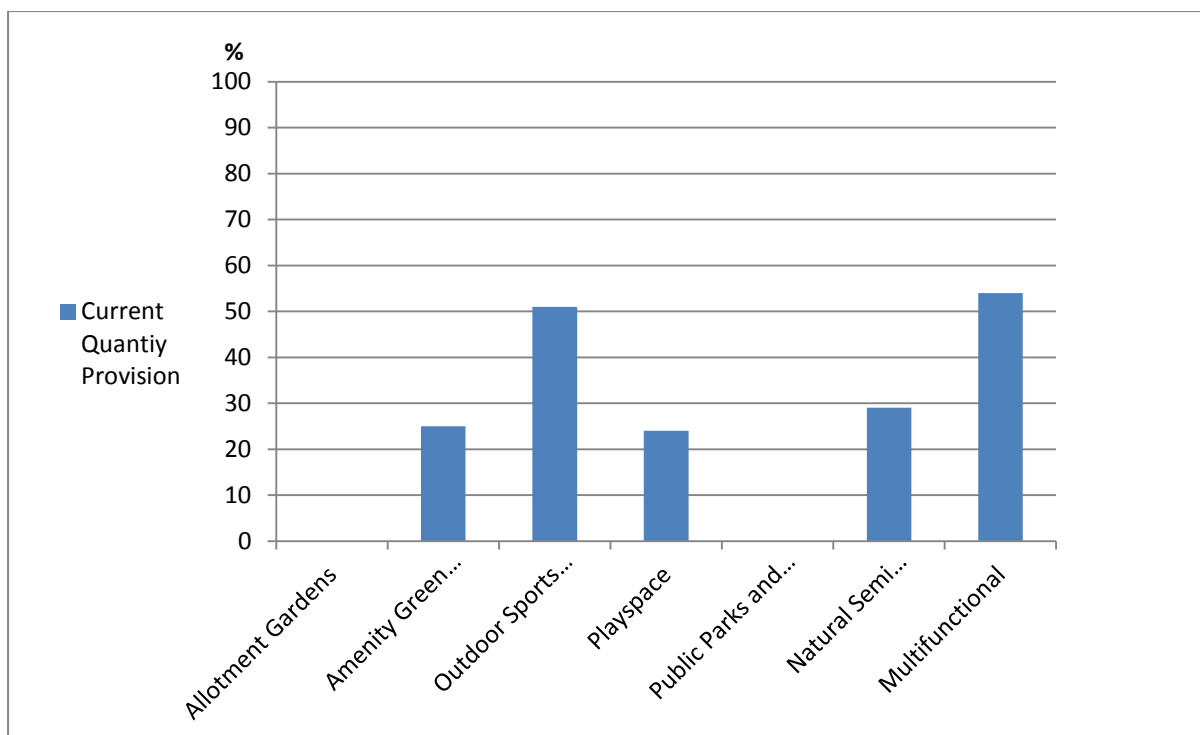


Figure 2: Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ¹⁰

¹⁰ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

5.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

- 5.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served
	Gurnos
Children and Young People's Play Space	Honeysuckle Close
	Rear of Prince Charles Hospital
Public Parks and Gardens	
Outdoor Sports Pitches	
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	Rear of Prince Charles Hospital
Multifunctional Greenspace	
Allotments and Community Growing	New Site Required
Civic Spaces	
Amenity Greenspace	Rear of Prince Charles Hospital

5.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN GURNOS WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Rear Prince Charles Hospital (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Honeysuckle Close (Children and Young Peoples Play Space)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

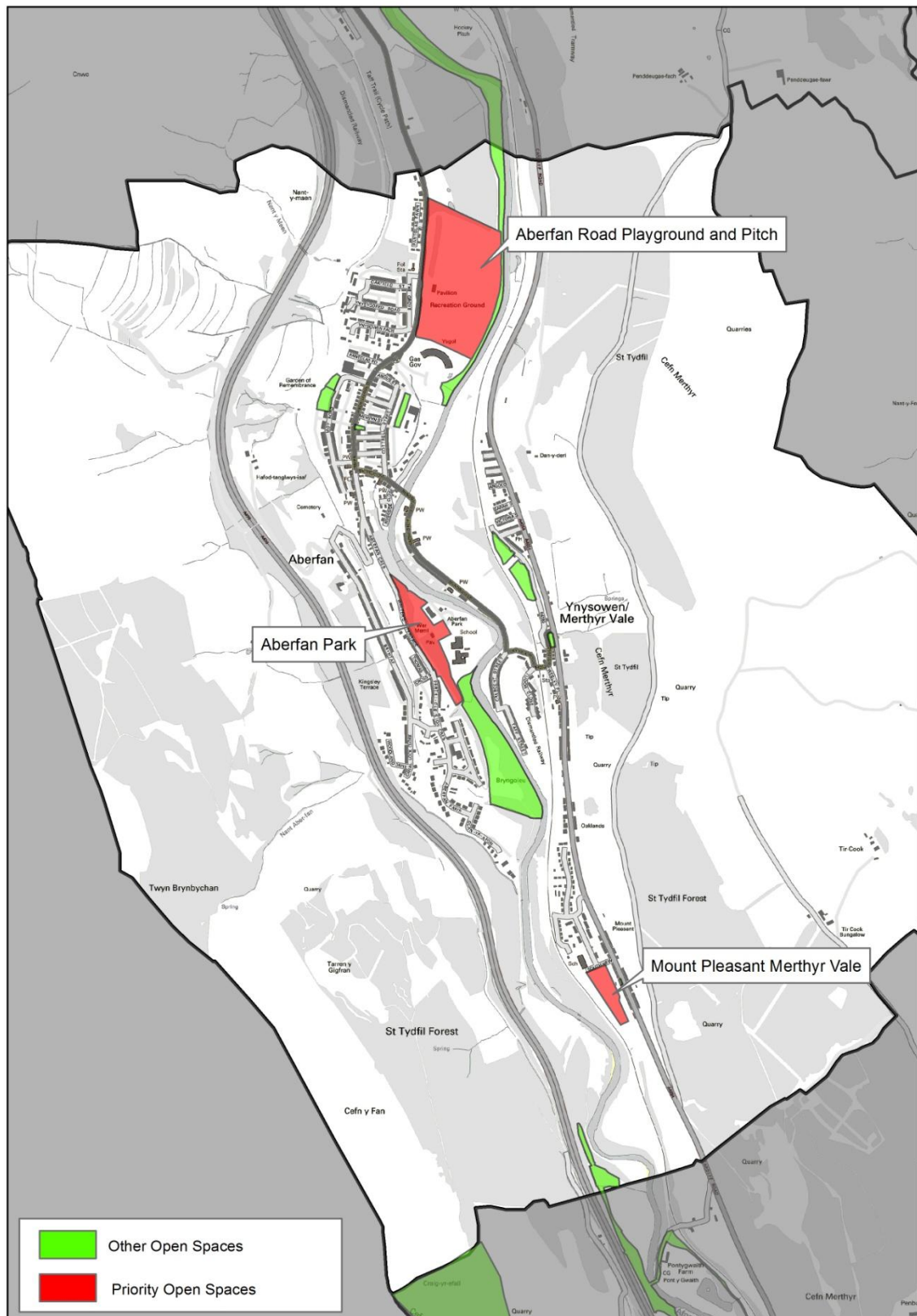
5.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN GURNOS WARD

Site Name	Observations
Cherry Grove (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Goitre Lane (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Improve setting through quality soft landscape treatment, expand opportunities for play and raise overall quality to FIT Standard
Gurnos Road/Goetre Primary (Outdoor Sports Area Pitches)	Improve boundary treatment, plant steep slopes, control invasive species and consider habitat creation potential on wet areas.
Y Graig Gurnos (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Bracken management, reduce fires, manage waterbody and improve pedestrian access.
Forsythia Close (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Positive site management required to address the issues of bracken, broken glass, fires, rubbish and fly tipping. Potential for urban woodland as the site already has regenerating native woodland species, such as oak, birch etc.

5.6 CONCLUSION

- 5.6.1 The open space issues affecting Gurnos ward revolve principally around accessibility to and, provision of, sufficient children and young people's play space and allotments and community growing space. While the ward contains a major site (Y Graig), this site, owing to its location, topography and typology cannot fulfil these shortfalls. The two priority sites selected are, however, centrally located and have the capacity for change and further expand. A separate assessment which considers how strategic access might further assist in the provision of open space through the connectivity of footpath/cycle ways will help to put the importance of the selected sites in context.

6.0 MERTHYR VALE ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Merthyr Vale Ward

6.1 WARD PROFILE

6.1.1 Description

The Merthyr Vale ward is located centrally within the County Borough, consisting principally of the settlements of Aberfan and Merthyr Vale. The ward covers a total area of 828 ha; 116 ha of which is built up. The population of the ward is 3,831.

6.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **36 ha.** and there is a shortfall of **18 ha.** of open space.

6.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward²:

- One of the highest percentages of 16-24 year olds.
- The highest percentage of unemployed (16%).
- The second highest percentage of those that are economically inactive due to being on long term sick or a disability.
- The second highest number of households that do not have access to a vehicle.

6.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- Low levels of play space.
- Plentiful supply of allotments and multifunctional greenspace
- Need for greater provision for 16-24 year olds.
- Need for employment opportunities, skills and training.

¹⁰ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

6.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To expand opportunities for making use of land as growing space.
- To increase usage of underutilised green spaces through more appropriate management.
- To make better use of existing green space as a vehicle to deliver skills and training.
- To broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

6.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

6.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

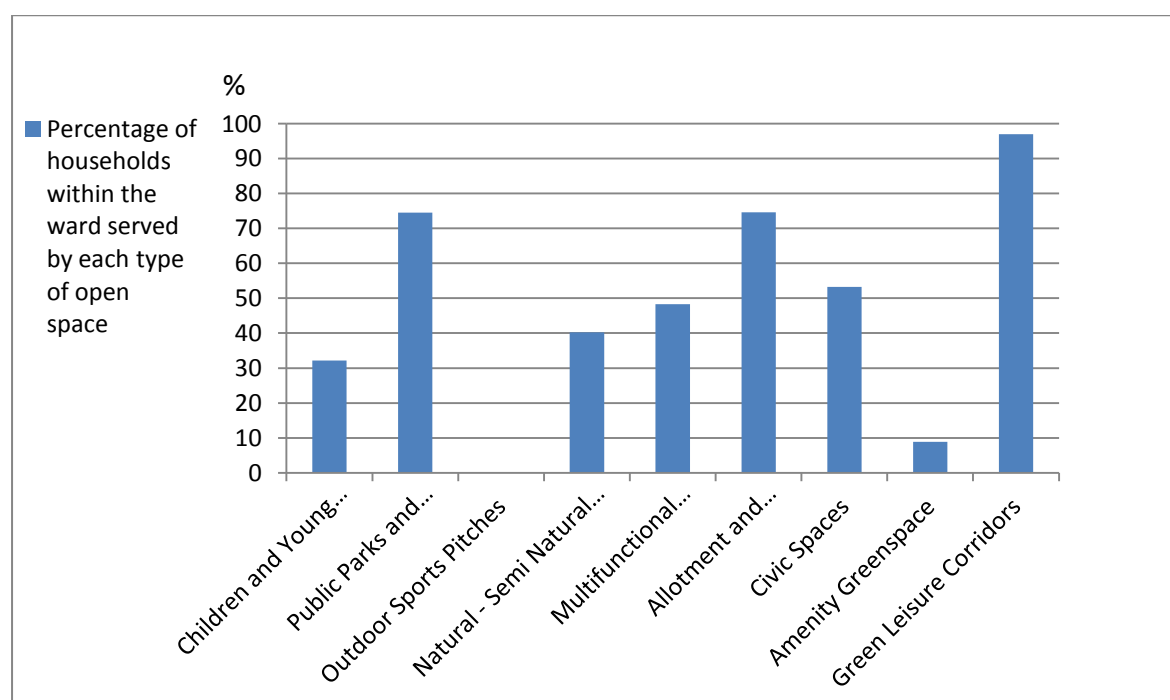


Figure 1. Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

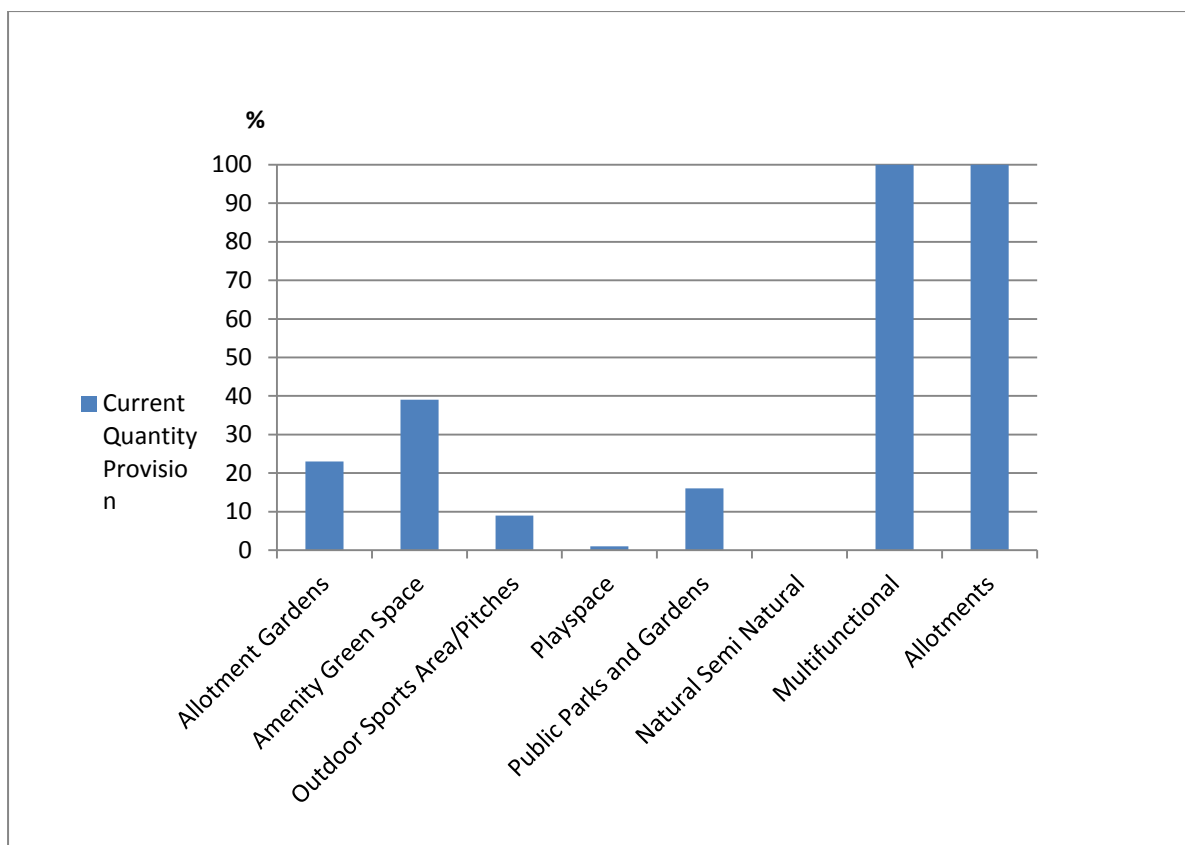


Figure 2: Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ¹¹

¹¹ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

6.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

6.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served	
	Aberfan	Merthyr Vale
Children and Young People's Play Space	Aberfan Park	Mount Pleasant Merthyr Vale
Public Parks and Gardens		
Outdoor Sports Pitches		
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	Aberfan Road Playground & Sport Pitch	
	Aberfan Park	
Multifunctional Greenspace		
Allotments and Community Growing Areas		
Civic Spaces		
Amenity Greenspace	Aberfan Road Playground & Sport Pitch	Mount Pleasant Merthyr Vale
	Aberfan Park	

6.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN MERTHYR VALE WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Aberfan Rd. Playground & Sport Pitch (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Aberfan Park (Public Parks and Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Conservation and Heritage • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Mount Pleasant Merthyr Vale (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

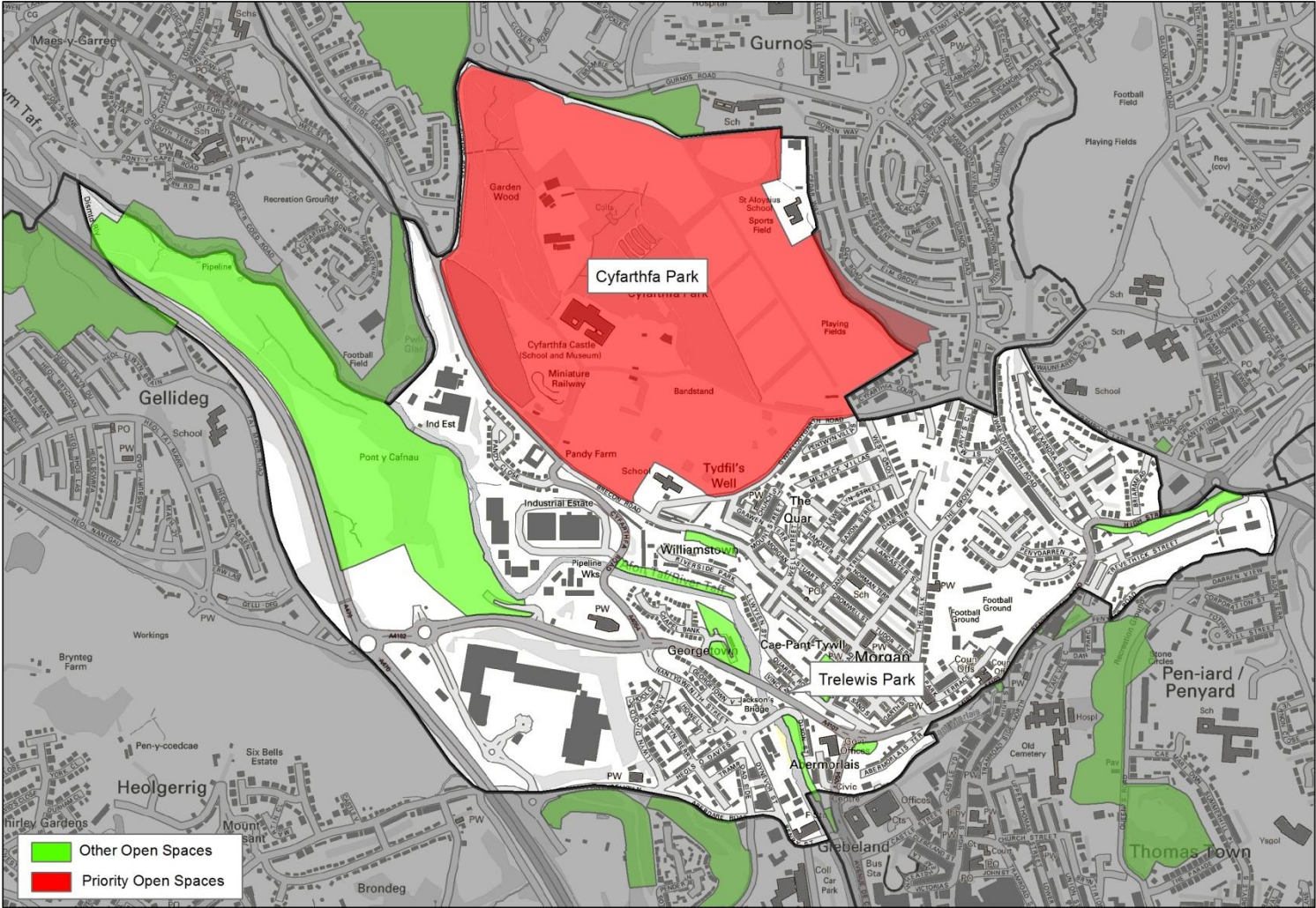
6.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN MERTHYR VALE WARD

Site Name	Observations
Bellevue Terrace, Black Lion (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Cardiff Road (Civic Space)	Maintain standard and introduce more soft planting interest.
Grays Place Merthyr Vale (Amenity Greenspace)	Maintain as per existing.
Mackintosh / Mervyn Street Aberfan (Civic Space)	Maintain as per existing.
Merthyr Vale Allotments (Allotment Gardens and Community Growing Space)	Control invasive species.
Moy Road Aberfan (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Pantglas School Memorial Garden (Civic Space)	Maintain as per existing.
Riverside Aberfan Bryngoleu (Natural – Semi Natural Greenspace)	Expand for play opportunities where appropriate; control invasive species (Himalayan Balsam); expand potential for biodiversity management; control fly tipping in stream leading to Taff at northern end of site.

6.6 CONCLUSION

- 6.6.1 The open space issues affecting Merthyr Vale ward revolve principally around accessibility and the linear nature of the settlements. The incorporation of additional typologies to existing sites through added investment and a change of management practice offer some of the best opportunities to redress shortfalls. The ward contains three major sites which offer the potential to fulfil shortfalls of specific types of open space if developed along the lines suggested above.

7.0 PARK ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Park Ward

7.1 WARD PROFILE

7.1.1 Description

Park ward is an urban ward located centrally within the County Borough, comprising principally of dense urban housing along with Cyfarthfa Castle and Park. The ward includes the communities of Quar and Park, and has a population of 4,326. The total area of the ward is 206 ha.

7.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **88 ha** and there is a shortfall of **22 ha** of open space.

7.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward¹²:

- The age structure of Park ward is generally older than other Wards within Merthyr Tydfil and Wales as a whole, with a notably higher proportion of people 75 years and older.
- Overall the highest proportion of people who consider themselves to be of 'average health'.
- The health of the ward is generally better than that of Merthyr Tydfil as a whole.
- 32.8% of the population do not have access to a van or car, which is higher than both the Wales and the County Borough average.

7.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- Absence of allotments, civic space, multifunctional greenspace, outdoor sports pitches and play space.
- Heavy reliance on the proximity to Cyfarthfa Park to fulfil most greenspace functions.
- Limited opportunities within the built up area to make additional provision.

¹² Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

7.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- Creative use of land as growing space.
- Reconsider the role of existing open spaces within the ward and increase usage of underutilised green spaces through more appropriate and consistent management to raise quality.
- To broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

7.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

7.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

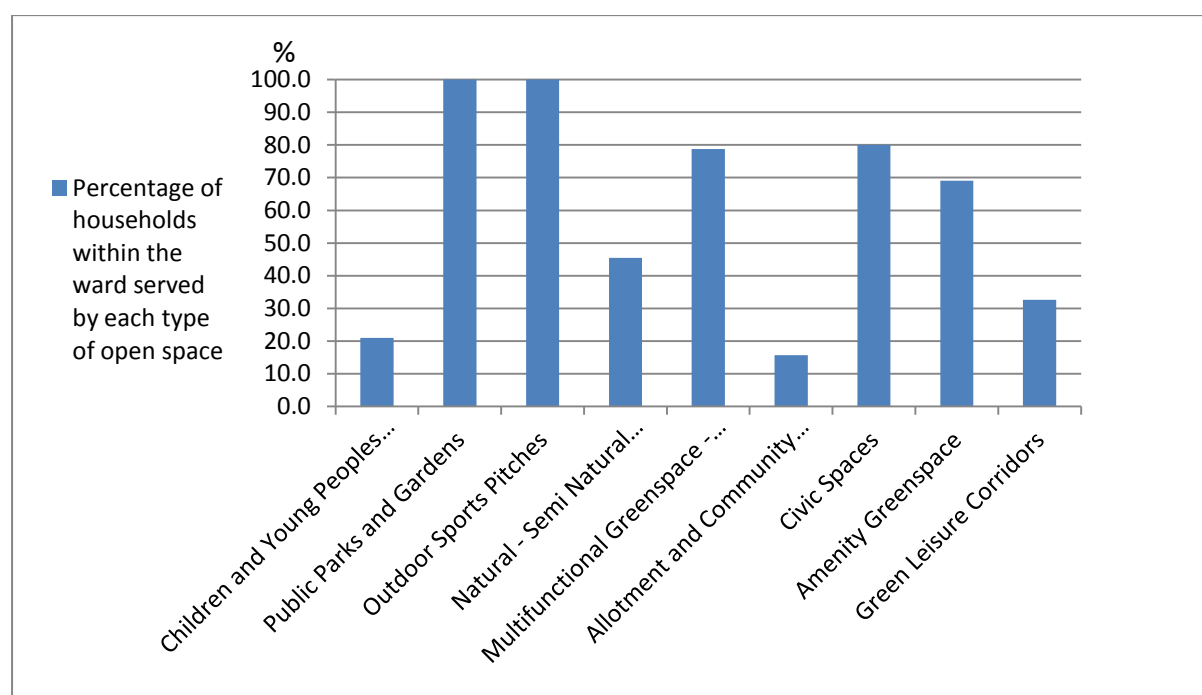


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

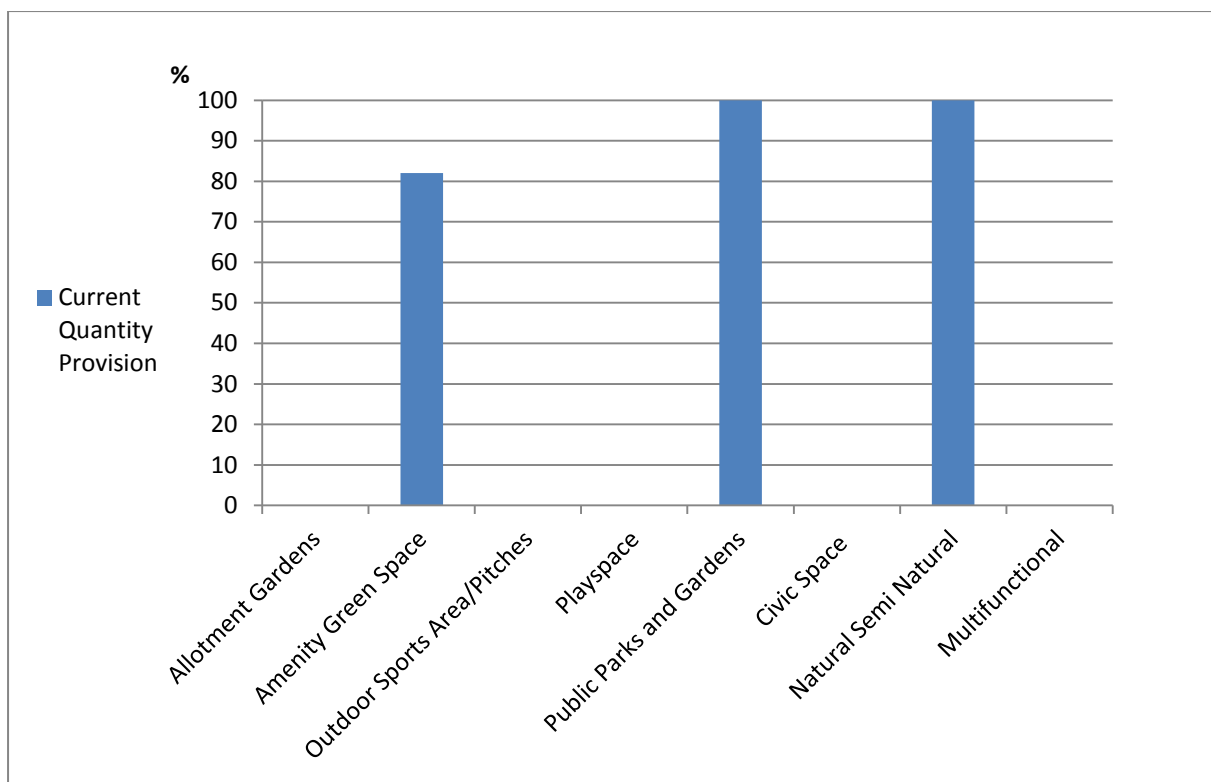


Figure 2. Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ¹³

¹³ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

7.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

7.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served	
	Quar	Park
Children and Young People's Play Space	Cyfarthfa Park	Cyfarthfa Park
Public Parks and Gardens		
Outdoor Sports Pitches		
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	Cyfarthfa Park	Cyfarthfa Park
Multifunctional Greenspace	Cyfarthfa Park	Cyfarthfa Park
Allotments and Community Growing Areas	Cyfarthfa Park	Cyfarthfa Park
Civic Spaces		
Amenity Greenspace	Cyfarthfa Park	Cyfarthfa Park

7.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN PARK WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Cyfarthfa Park (Public Parks and Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Sustainability • Conservation and Heritage • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

7.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN PARK WARD

Site Name	Observations
Abermorlais Pocket Park (Amenity Greenspace)	Maintain high horticultural standard in keeping with established planting.
Joseph Parry's Cottage (Amenity Greenspace)	Improve presentation as a heritage destination.
Pontycafnu and Cyfarthfa Furnaces (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Address the issues of damaged seating, arson and off road vehicles. Engagement with the community.
Quarry Row/Vulcan Road Junction (Amenity Greenspace)	Management plan to introduce wildflower areas and reduce cutting regime.
Riverside Jackson Bridge (Amenity Greenspace)	Maintain to a high standard in keeping with established planting.
Sunnybank Vulcan Road (Amenity Greenspace)	Encourage development of soft landscape setting.
Trevithick Street Embankment (Amenity Greenspace)	Control invasive species, litter and graffiti.
Williamstown 1 (Amenity Greenspace)	Management plan to introduce wildflower areas and reduce cutting regime.
Williamstown/Riverside 1 (Amenity Greenspace)	Control invasive species, litter and graffiti.

7.6 CONCLUSION

- 7..6.1 The open space issues affecting Park ward revolve principally around the nature of the ward, being very densely built up and with shortages across a number of typologies. The ward contains one major site (Cyfarthfa Park), which is relied upon for the provision of a number of types of open space that cannot be found anywhere else within the ward. While this satisfies need to a certain extent, additional improvements can be made by making the best use of other sites within the ward that could, if managed appropriately, also contribute to the shortfall.

8.0 PENYDARREN ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Penydarren Ward

8.1 WARD PROFILE

8.1.1 Description

Penydarren ward is urban in character and is located to the north of the town centre. The ward includes the Galon Uchaf Estate down to the area around the Penydarren Club and covers a total area of 113 ha, which is predominantly built up. The ward has a population of 5,419.

8.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **14.5 ha** and there is a shortfall of **33.4 ha** of open space.

8.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward¹⁴:

- A high percentage of 0-15 years with many children within families of three or more children.
- An average level of the population in employment; those that are not in employment are likely to either be on 'long term sick or disabled' or 'looking after the home or family'.
- A low percentage of 60+ years.
- A high percentage of peoples day to day activities limited.
- A high percentage of persons with long term health problems.
- Low levels of car ownership and a high reliance on public transport.

8.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- The ward is predominantly urban with only 3% of the play space standard provided, and there exists little opportunity to make available additional new spaces.
- Significant shortfalls also include natural / semi natural greenspace, sports pitches, public parks and gardens and amenity greenspace.
- Full complement of allotments and multifunctional greenspace.
- High levels of immobility / disability.
- Lack of investment in management and appearance.

¹⁴ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

8.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To change the management of existing space in order to broaden the definition of play thereby actively encouraging use of the outdoors.
- To form closer community engagement and involvement in decision making over management.
- To address the needs of those with ages or disability related access issues.

8.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

8.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

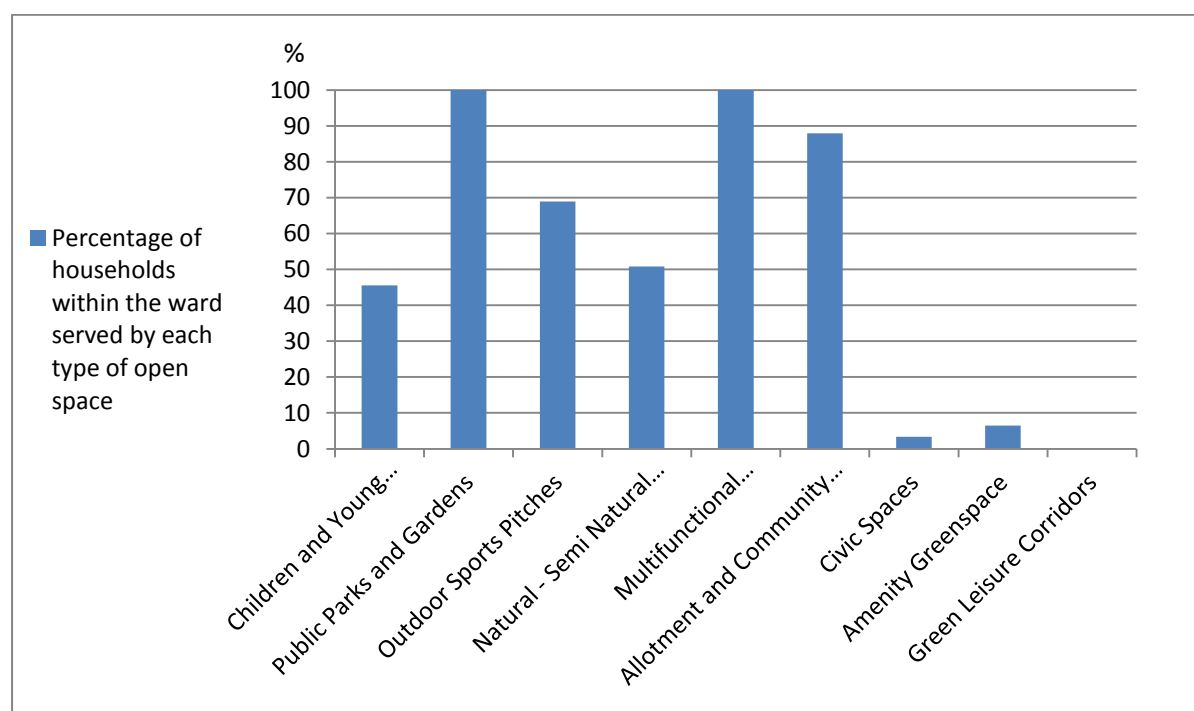


Figure 1. Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

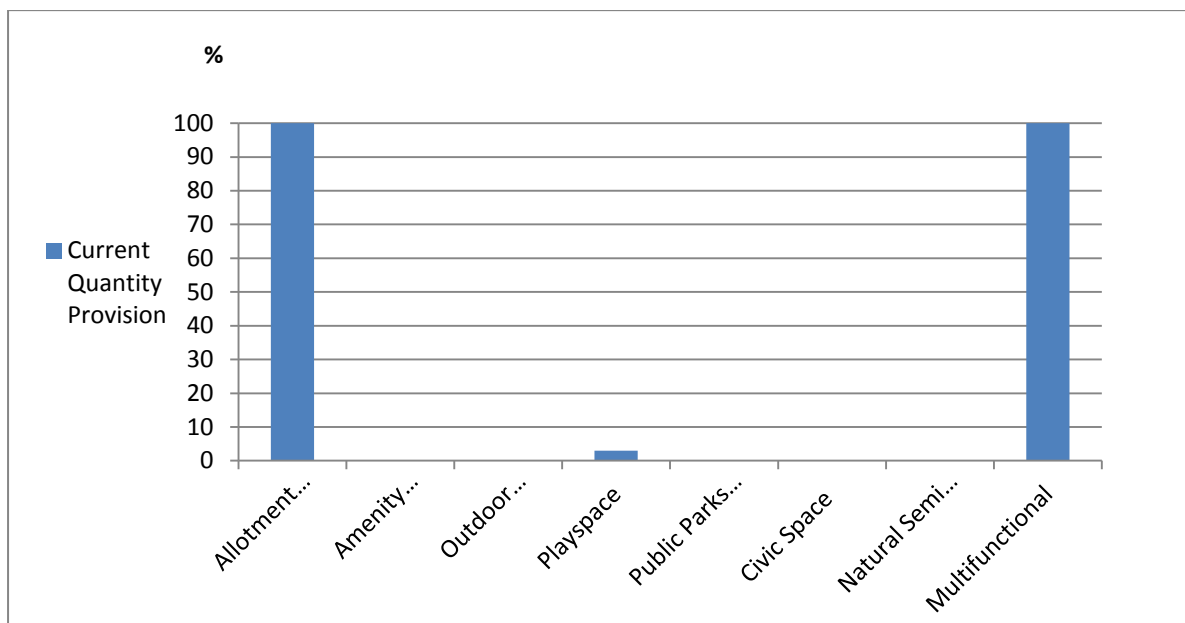


Figure 2: Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ¹⁵

¹⁵ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

8.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

8.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served	
	Galon Uchaf	Penydarren
Children and Young People's Play Space	Haydyn Terrace	Haydyn Terrace
Public Parks and Gardens		
Outdoor Sports Pitches	Greenie Galon Uchaf Road	Greenie Galon Uchaf Road
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	Ifor Tip Pant Hollow Multifunctional	Ifor Tip Pant Hollow Multifunctional
Multifunctional Greenspace	Greenie Galon Uchaf Road	Greenie Galon Uchaf Road
Allotments and Community Growing Areas		
Civic Spaces		
Amenity Greenspace	Greenie Galon Uchaf Road	Greenie Galon Uchaf Road

8.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN PENYDARREN WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Greenie Galon Uchaf Road (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Haydyn Terrace (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

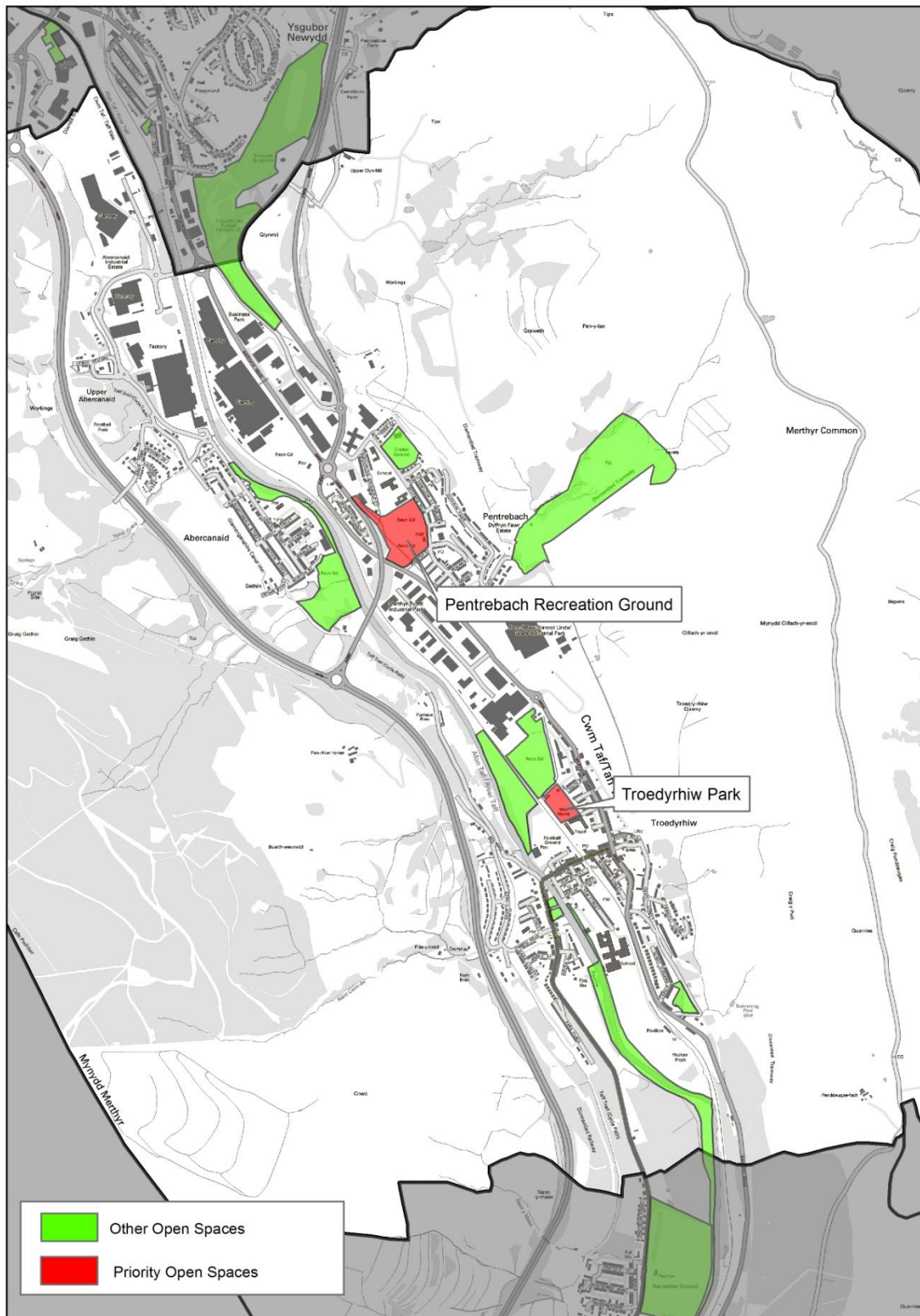
8.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN PENYDARREN WARD

Site Name	Observations
Plantation Close (Children and Young Peoples Play Space)	Improve access through crossing point on busy highway. Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Royal Crescent Penydarren (Allotment Gardens and Community Growing Space)	Control Invasive species.
St. John's Grove Penydarren (Children and Young People's Playspace)	Poor quality space; litter on site. Improve setting through quality soft landscape treatment and expand opportunities for play. Raise overall quality to FIT Standard.

8.6 CONCLUSION

8.6.1 While Penydarren ward is very compact it does contain two significant spaces which have the capacity to provide for shortfalls of both access and quantity. Investment in good management planning and allocation of space that appropriately reflects the needs of the community have the potential to be found within the priority sites selected above.

9.0 PLYMOUTH ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Plymouth Ward

9.1 WARD PROFILE

9.1.1 Description

Plymouth is a rural ward located centrally within the County Borough, consisting principally of Pentrebach, Abercanaid and Troedyrhiw. Plymouth ward is the second largest ward in the County Borough by area (2,110 ha); but has the fifth lowest ward population (5,296) and a built area of just 288 ha, indicating that the ward is not densely populated.

9.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **32 ha** and there is a shortfall of **21 ha** of open space.

9.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward¹⁶:

- Among the lowest percentages of 5-9 years, 15 years, 20-24 years and 30-44 years age groups.
- The highest concentration of elderly residents; 75 – 90 + years age groups.
- A high percentage of persons with health limiting factors.
- A high percentage of economically active residents relative to Merthyr and Wales as a whole.
- High levels of access to a car/van.

9.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- No allotment or civic space provision and very low levels of amenity green space and play space.
- Plentiful supply of natural / semi natural greenspace although spaces are unattractive or unsuitable to an aging population.

¹⁶ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

9.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To expand opportunities for making land available as growing space.
- To increase usage of underutilised green spaces through more appropriate management suited to the age demographics of the ward.
- To broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

9.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

9.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

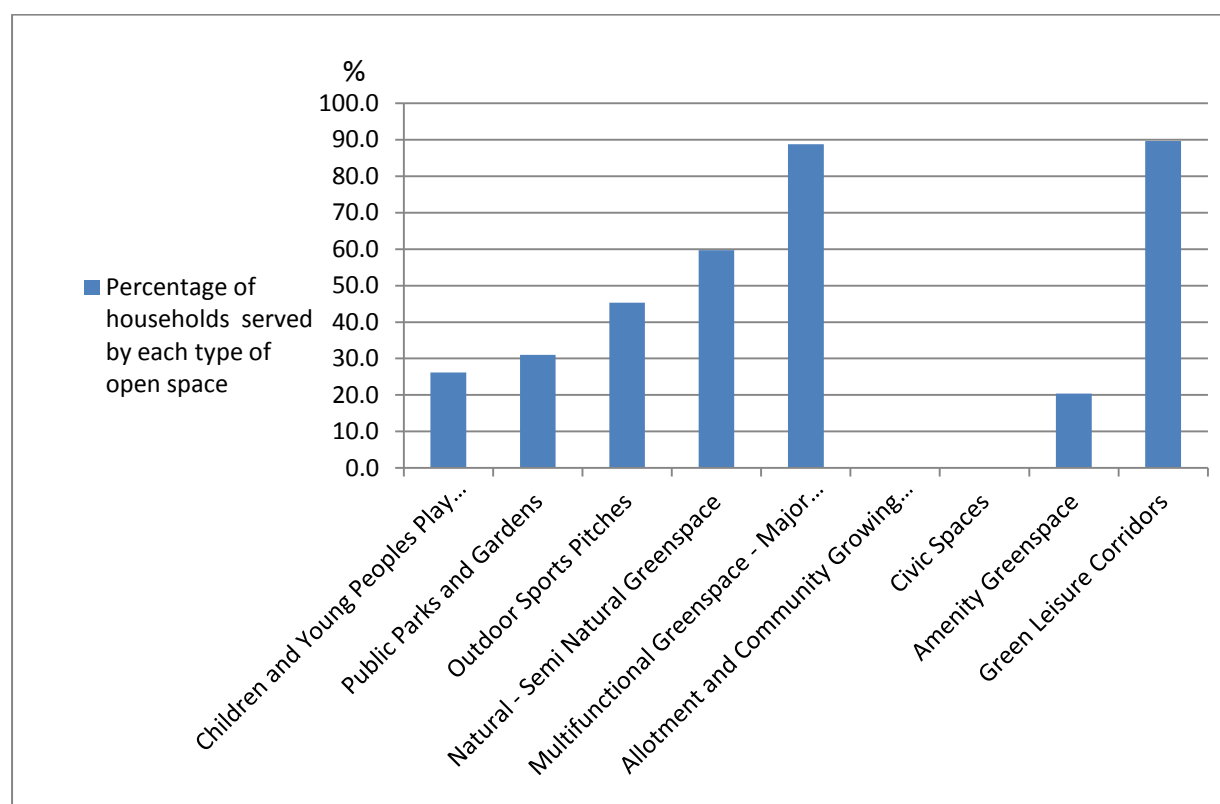


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

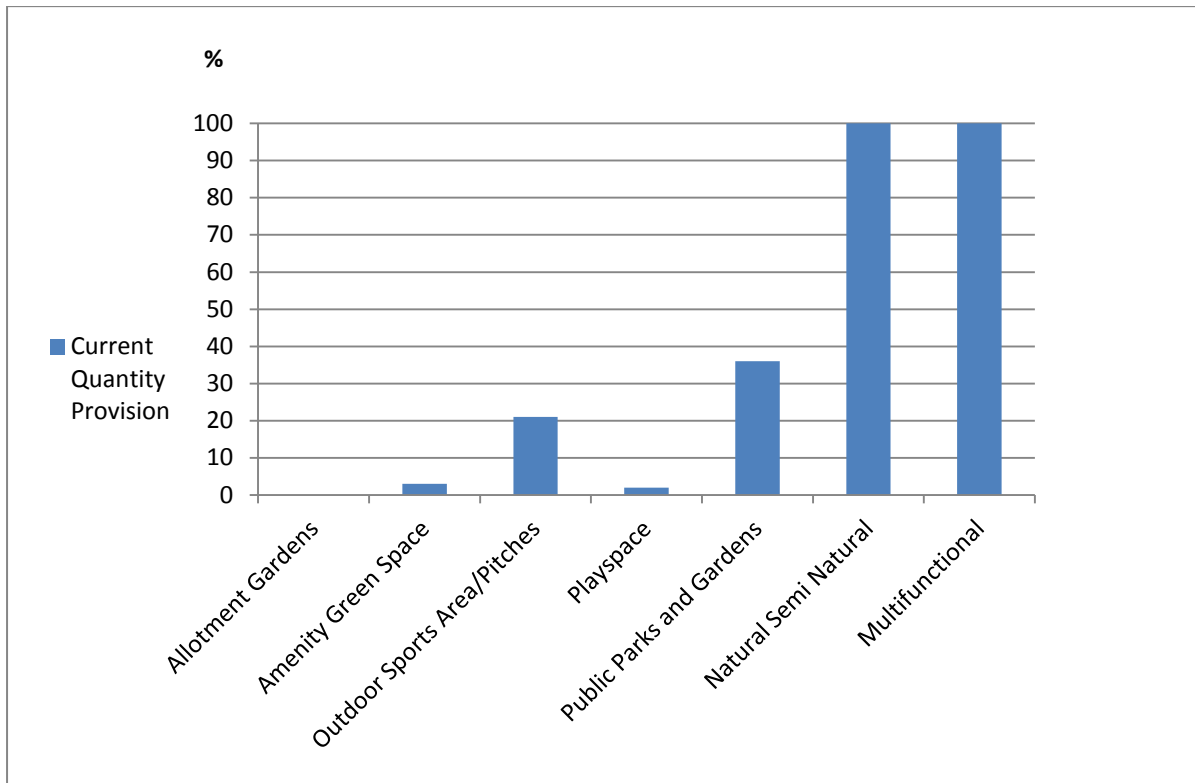


Figure 2. Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space¹⁷

¹⁷ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

9.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

9.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served		
	Abercanaid	Pentrebach	Troedyrhiw
Children and Young People's Play Space		Pentrebach Recreation Ground	Troedyrhiw Park
Public Parks and Gardens			
Outdoor Sports Pitches		Pentrebach Recreation Ground	Troedyrhiw Park
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	Abercanaid Riverside	Pentrebach Recreation Ground	
Multifunctional Greenspace			
Allotments and Community Growing Areas		Pentrebach Recreation Ground	Troedyrhiw Park
	New Site Required	New Site Required	New Site Required
Civic Spaces			
Amenity Greenspace		Pentrebach Recreation Ground	Troedyrhiw Park

9.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN PLYMOUTH WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Troedyrhiw Park (Public Parks and Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Conservation and Heritage • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community •
Pentrebach Recreation Ground (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

9.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN PLYMOUTH WARD

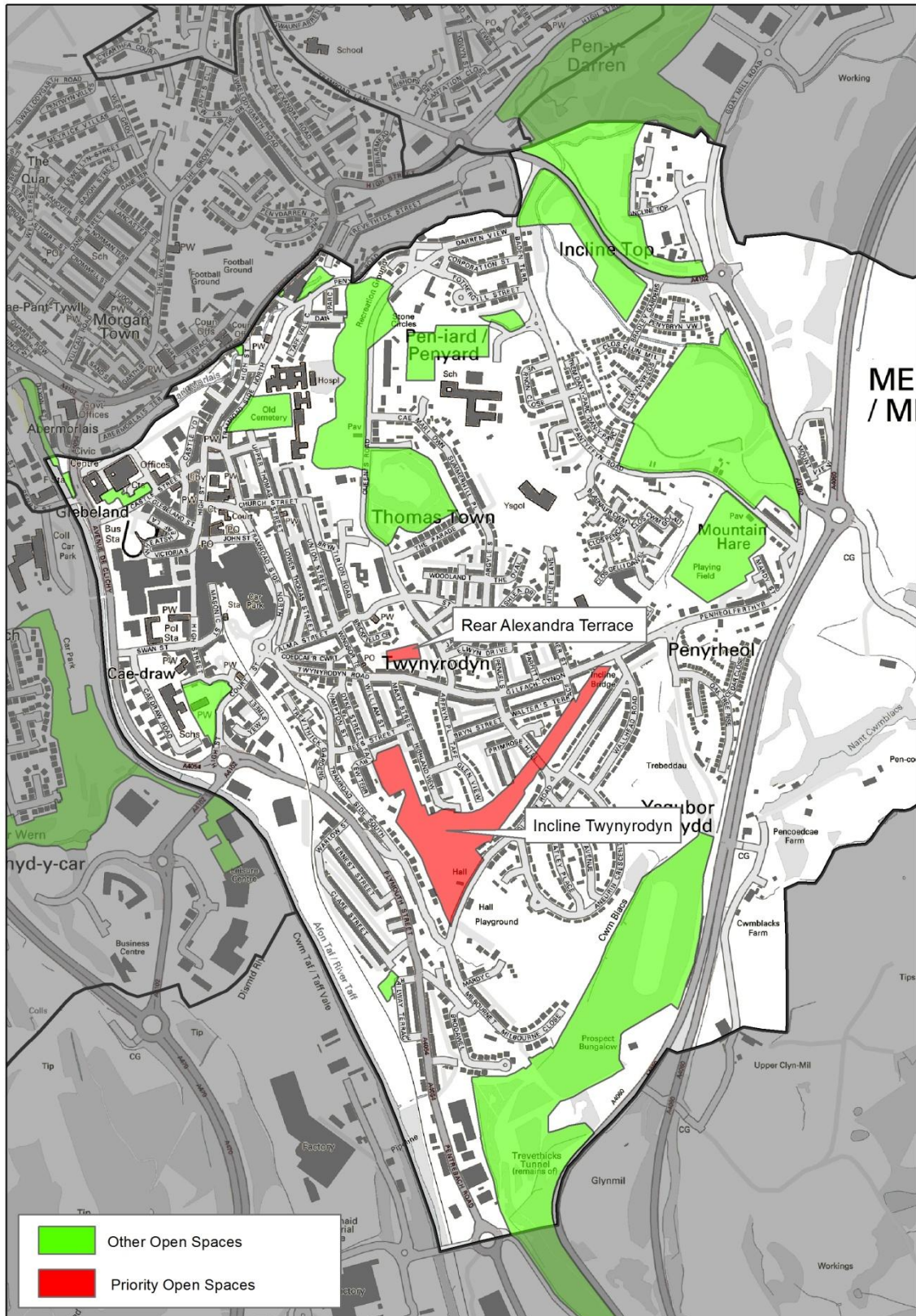
Site Name	Observations
Abercanaid Riverside (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Control invasive species Japanese Knotweed, access to river, biodiversity interest and potential scrambling bikes.
Bedlinog Pond (Natural – Semi Natural Greenspace)	Improve access.
Duffryn / Nant yr Odin (Natural – Semi Natural Greenspace)	Improve access, litter / broken gates / graffiti / fires / stolen gates and control ragwort. Management plan required; capitalise on good view, access arrangements etc.
Glantaff Road Playground (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve setting through quality soft landscape treatment and expand opportunities for play. Raise overall quality to FIT Standard.

Henry Richards Street (Natural – Semi Natural Greenspace)	Develop further as informal play space, control of road vehicles and introduce management plan.
Hills Plymouth Cricket Club (Outdoor Sports Area Pitches)	Encourage adoption of a landscape management plan.
Riverside Troedyrhiw (Natural – Semi Natural Greenspace)	Control invasive species Japanese Knotweed and develop management plan to broaden biodiversity interest.
Troedyrhiw OAP gardens (Amenity Greenspace)	Improve crossing access. If retained as open space, introduce colour and interest on site and undertake community consultation on uses.
Troedyrhiw Playing fields (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Incorporate management of marshy area into management plan.

9.6 CONCLUSION

- 9.6.1 Both size and location of the selected priority sites offer the opportunity to address some of the needs of the communities living within Plymouth ward. However, there remains a need for the provision of allotments and community growing space and this can only be realistically achieved through the introduction of a new space.

10.0 TOWN ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Town Ward

10.1 WARD PROFILE

10.1.1 Description

Town ward stretches from the centre of Merthyr Tydfil to the east of the County Borough, and includes the communities of Town, Penyard, Thomastown and Twynyrodyn. The population is the highest in the County Borough (7671) and is concentrated exclusively in the western half of the ward creating a relatively dense concentration. The ward covers a total area of 765 ha; 261ha of which is built up.

10.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **45 ha** and there is a shortfall of **18 ha** of open space.

10.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward¹⁸:

- The highest proportion of 0 – 4 years and 30 - 44 years.
- Lower than Merthyr Tydfil average for health and disability.
- Lowest percentage of people in bad health.
- Younger population and a higher than average level of employment.
- Highest level of households owning one car/van.

10.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- Town ward has no allotments and small amounts of amenity green space and play space.
- Plentiful supply of natural / semi natural greenspace.
- Need for play space for 0-4 years.

¹⁸ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

10.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To expand opportunities for making use of land available as growing space
- To increase availability of play opportunities and to broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.
- To make better use of existing green space in terms of positive management to reflect the needs of the local community.

10.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

10.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

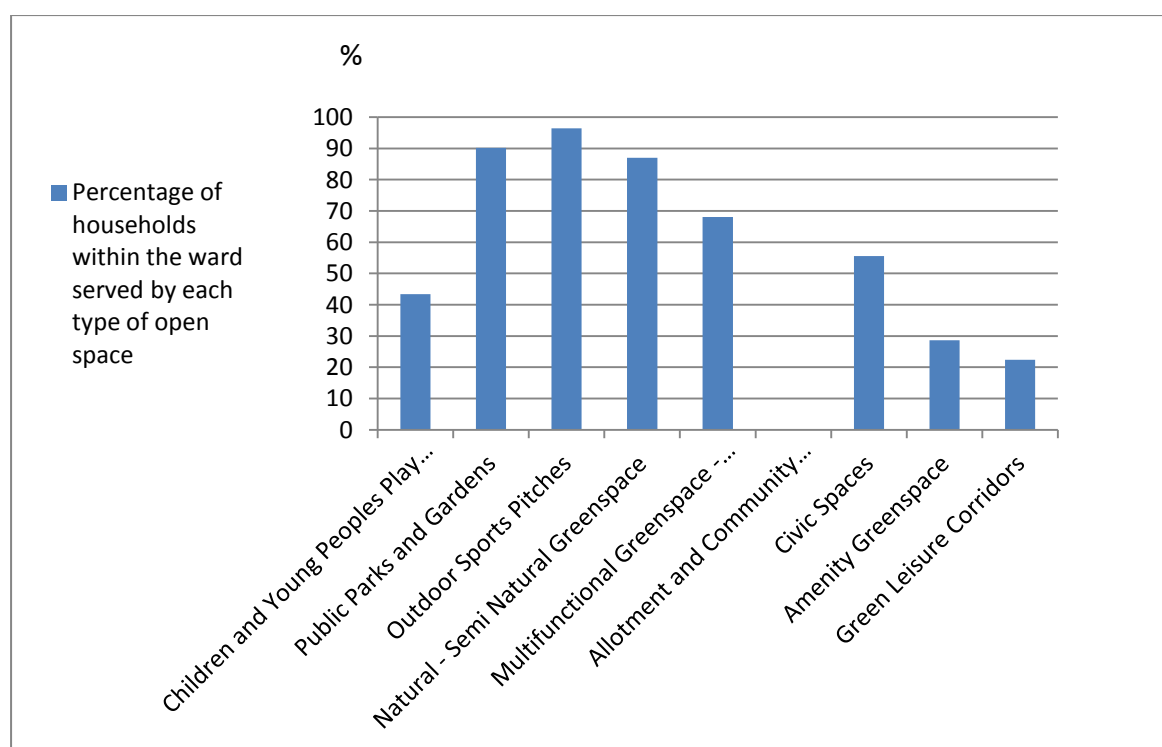


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

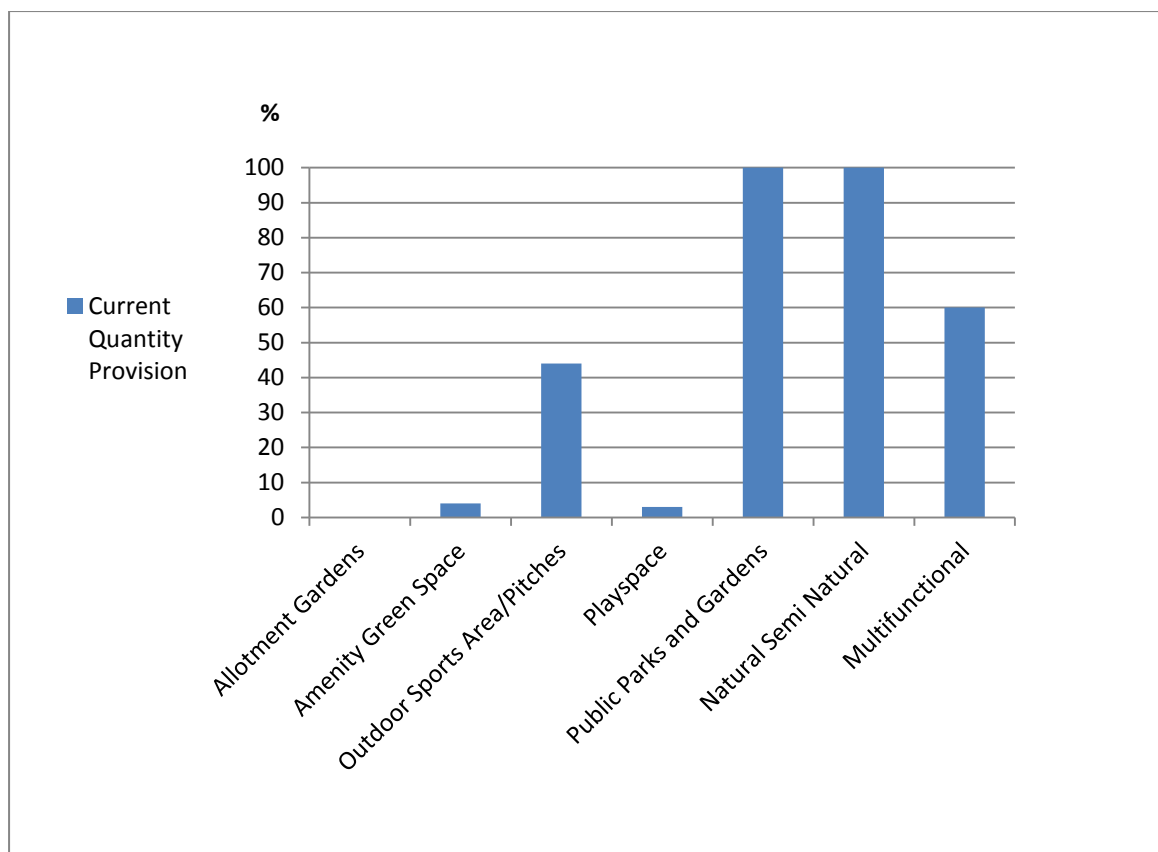


Figure 2: Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ¹⁹

¹⁹ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

10.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

10.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served		
	Penyard	Twynyrodyn	Town
Children and Young People's Play Space		Rear Alexandra Terrace	
		The Incline Twynyrodyn	
Public Parks and Gardens			
Outdoor Sports Pitches			
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace			
Multifunctional Greenspace			
Allotments and Community Growing Areas	The Incline Twynyrodyn	The Incline Twynyrodyn	The Incline Twynyrodyn
Civic Spaces			
Amenity Greenspace		The Incline Twynyrodyn	

10.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN TOWN WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
The Incline Twynyrodyn (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Sustainability • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Rear Alexandra Terrace Twynyrodyn (Amenity Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

10.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN TOWN WARD

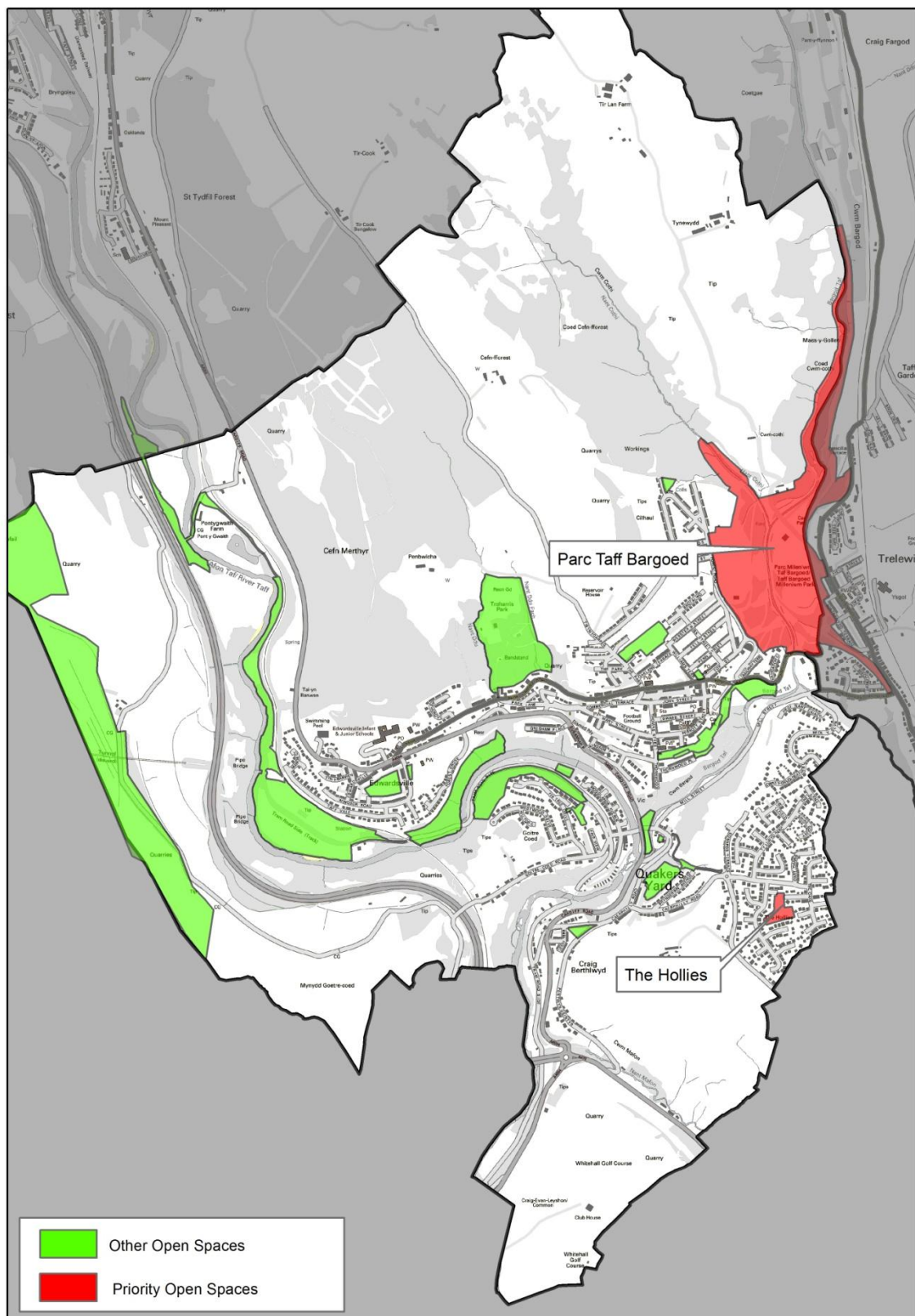
Site Name	Observations
Bradley Gardens (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Management plan and aim to improve profile and biodiversity value.
Civic Centre (Civic Space)	Well maintained but sterile environment following clearance of vegetation and replacement with turf. Look for more sustainable management practices.
Clare Street (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Cwm Blacs (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Management plan required, improve access and signage, eradicate fly tipping, control invasive species and continue to improve biodiversity.
Legion Field (Outdoor Sports Area Pitches)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Legion Penyard (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Mountain Hare (Outdoor Sports Area)	Plant steep slopes as woodland.

Pitches)	
Nant Morlais Penyard Road (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Control Japanese Knotweed, reference site with sign and improve historic link to Trevithick Trail.
Panttyffin Road (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Control Japanese Knotweed, improve facilities, management objectives should reduce grass cutting to increase biodiversity.
Pontmorlais Pocket Park (Amenity Greenspace)	Maintain horticultural standards and cleanliness of site.
St. Tydfils Church & Fountain (Civic Space)	Maintain recent investment and repairs.
St. Tydfils Hospital Park (Cholera Cemetery)	Control Japanese Knotweed and improve heritage interpretation.
Thomastown Park (Public Parks and Gardens)	Control Japanese Knotweed and improve landscape cohesiveness between both halves of the park.
Trevithick Monument (Civic Space)	Maintain recent investment and repairs.

10.6 CONCLUSION

Open space shortages within Town ward relate to the absence of allotment gardens and community growing areas and the absence of connectivity to the green leisure corridor network. This is further exacerbated by areas of the ward that do not have access to children and young people's play space. However, within the ward there are two sites that offer opportunity to both address some of these problems while making better use of existing underutilised space. The two sites selected as priority sites have this potential and are geographically well placed to address shortfalls of accessibility and quantity.

11.0 TREHARRIS ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Treharris Ward

11.1 WARD PROFILE

11.1.1 Description

Treharris ward is urban in character and located to the south of the County Borough. The ward's population is 6,356 and primarily consists of the communities of Treharris, Edwardsville and Quakers Yard. The ward covers a total area of 807 ha; 184 ha of which is built up.

11.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **87 ha** and there is a shortfall of **31 ha** of open space.

11.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward²⁰:

- The joint second lowest concentration of 5-7 years.
- The highest concentration of 45-59 years.
- The joint lowest concentration of people in part time employment and the second highest concentration of people in full time employment.
- The second lowest concentration of unemployment in the County Borough.
- The highest proportion of households with access to 2,3 or 4 cars/vans.

11.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- Low provision of multifunctional greenspace, outdoor sports pitches and play space.
- Plentiful supply of natural / semi natural greenspace and public parks and gardens.

²⁰ Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

11.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To increase usage of underutilised green spaces through more appropriate management.
- To make better use of existing green space as a vehicle to deliver skills and training.
- To broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

11.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

11.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

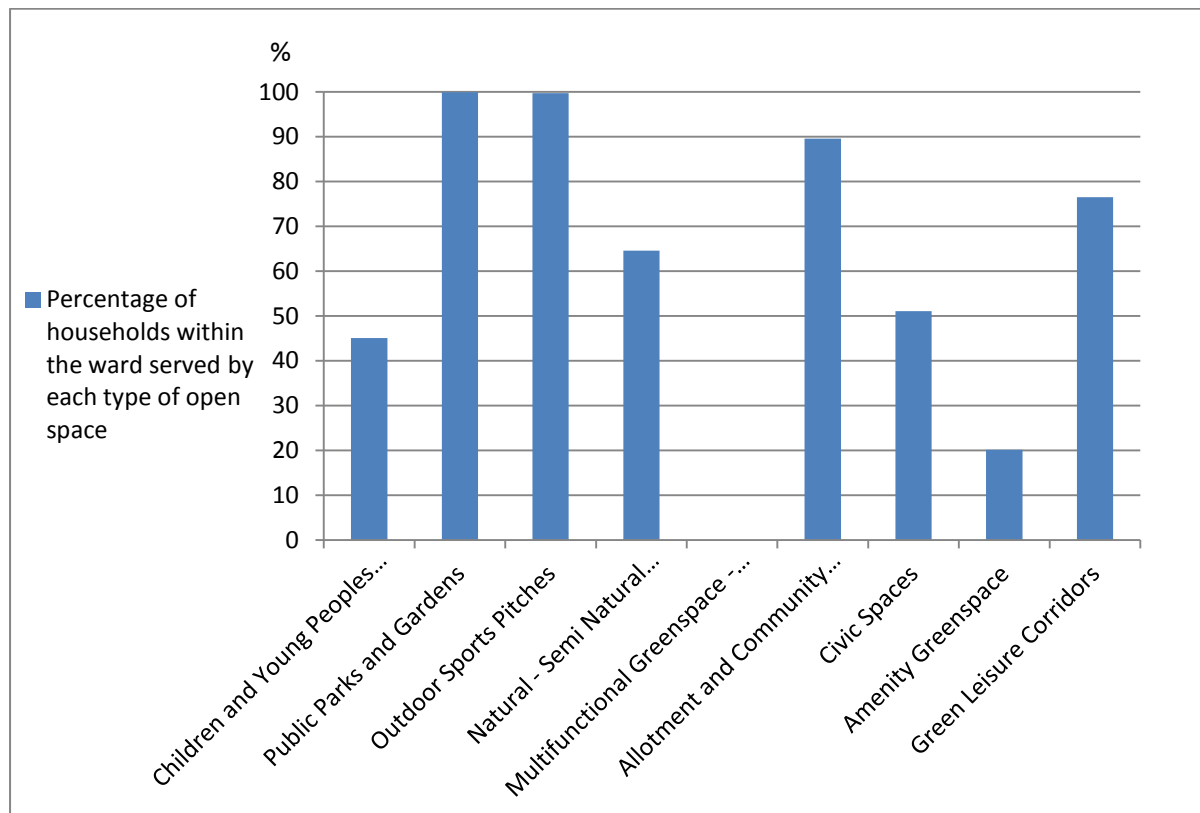


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

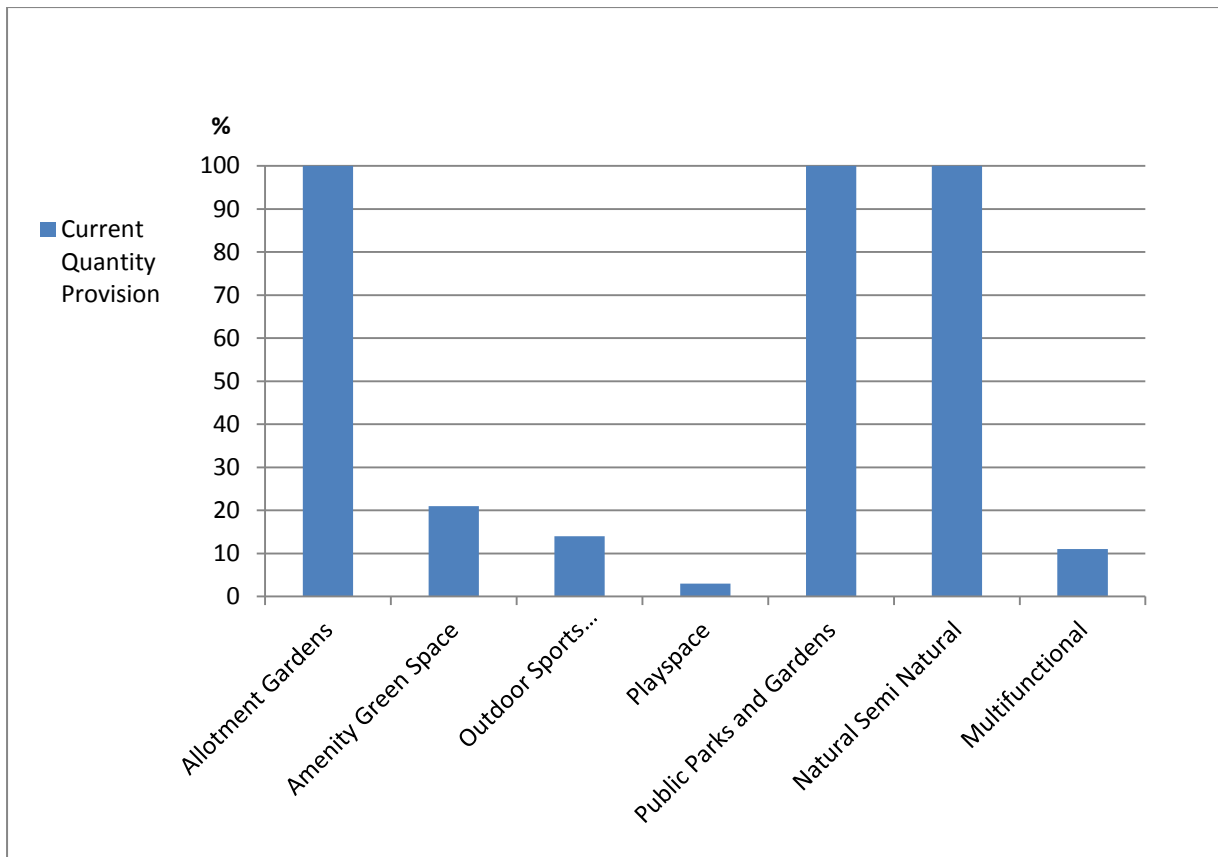


Figure 2: Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ²¹

²¹ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

11.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

11.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served	
	Treharris	Quakers Yard
Children and Young People's Play Space	Parc Taff Bargoed	Hollies
		Graig Caerphilly Road
Public Parks and Gardens		
Outdoor Sports Pitches		
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace	Treharris Park	Hollies
Multifunctional Greenspace	Treharris Park	
	Parc Taff Bargoed	
Allotments and Community Growing Areas		
Civic Spaces		
Amenity Greenspace	Treharris Park	
	Parc Taff Bargoed	

11.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN TREHARRIS WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
The Hollies (The Hollies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Sustainability • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Parc Taff Bargoed (Public Parks and Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Clean and Well Maintained • Sustainability • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

11.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN TREHARRIS WARD

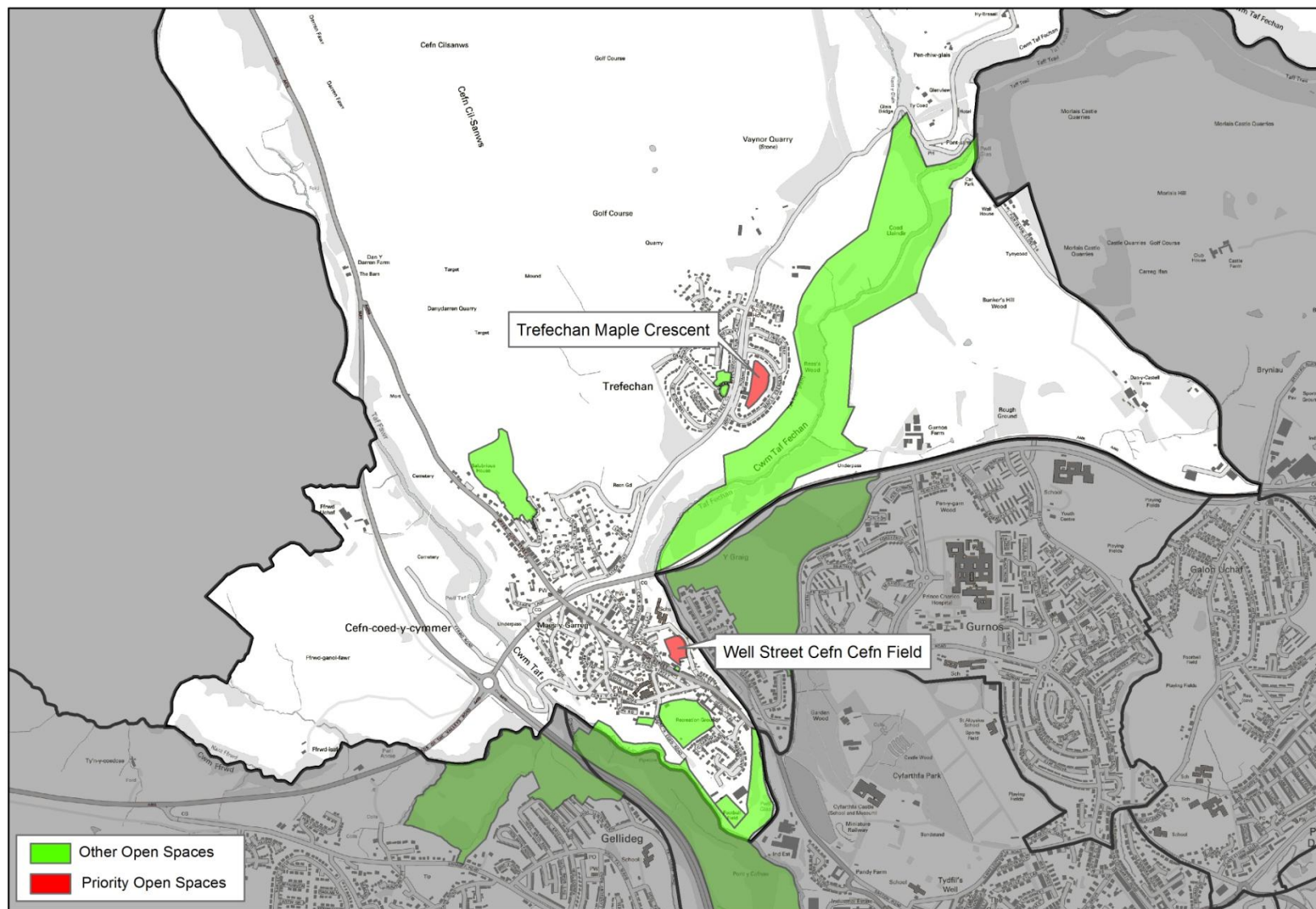
Site Name	Observations
Beechgrove Playground Edwardsville (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Cefn Glas (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Control use of 4x4 and scramblers to reduce erosion; management plan required.
Cilhaul Treharris (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Edwardsville 2 (Allotments and Community Growing Space)	Improve approach and make site entrance more welcoming to the public.

Fir Tree Drive Treharris (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard.
Graig Caerphilly Road (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Improve soft landscape setting and raise overall quality to meet FIT Standard by expanding quality and quantity of play provision.
Oakland Street Treharris (Allotments and Community Growing Space)	Review use and bring allotments into more sustainable and efficient use – management plan a priority.
Opposite Quakers Yard Inn (Amenity Greenspace)	Interpretation and quality of site require review and action plan.
Pontygwaith (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Improve signage on historical context.
Quakers Yard Caerphilly Road (Outdoor sports area/pitches)	Management plan.
Quakers Yard Cardiff Road (Amenity Greenspace)	Improve seating.
Royal Hotel Treharris (Children and Young People's Play Space)	Improve setting through quality soft landscape treatment and expand opportunities for play; raise overall quality to FIT Standard control invasive species (knotweed).
Tramroadside (Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace)	Management plan.
Treharris Park (Public Parks and Gardens)	Tree and rare shrub asset register and management plan required.

11.6 CONCLUSION

- 11.6.1 The open space issues affecting Treharris ward relate to the need to make better use of spaces that, due to their strategic location, have the potential to serve a large number of households. Both priority sites (Parc Taff Bargoed and The Hollies) have been selected as much for their geographic location as for their ability to fulfil local need.

12.0 VAYNOR ACTION PLAN



Open Spaces in Vaynor Ward

12.1 WARD PROFILE

12.1.1 Description

Vaynor is a predominantly rural ward located the north of the County Borough. It is the largest ward by area (2,800 ha) with much of the land falling within the Brecon Beacons National Park (2,400 ha). In contrast, the ward has the second lowest population (3,551) which is centred around the built up area (covering 89 ha) located to the south of the ward. The principal communities are Trefechan and Cefn Coed.

12.1.2 Open Space Provision and Identified Shortfall

Open spaces within the ward consist of **51 ha** and there is a shortfall of **22 ha** of open space.

12.1.3 Statistics

Statistics provided by the 2011 Census have identified the following key characteristics for the ward²²:

- A high percentage of 60+ years.
- A low percentage of 0-15 years.
- A high percentage of people whose day to day activities are limited.
- An above average car ownership.
- High level of car ownership.

12.1.4 Issues

The following key issues for the ward have been identified:

- A significant shortage of play space, parks, multifunctional greenspace, amenity greenspace and allotments/growing space.
- A plentiful supply of natural / semi natural green space.
- More community orientated spaces required.
- High levels of immobility / disability.

²² Please note that the relative position of the ward for a given statistic is based on a comparison with other wards within the County Borough unless otherwise stated.

12.1.5 Opportunities

The following opportunities have been identified which would help address open space shortfalls within the ward:

- To address the needs of those with age or disability related access issues.
- To provide land as food growing space.
- To enhance civic pride.
- To engage with elderly age groups.
- To broaden the definition of play to actively encourage use of the outdoors.

12.2 EXISTING ACCESSIBILITY AND QUANTITY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

12.2.1 The following graphs highlight the percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space (Figure 1) and the percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space (Figure 2). The existing provision of each type of open space, in both accessibility and quantity terms, has been calculated through the application of the standards set out in Section 2 of the Open Space Strategy.

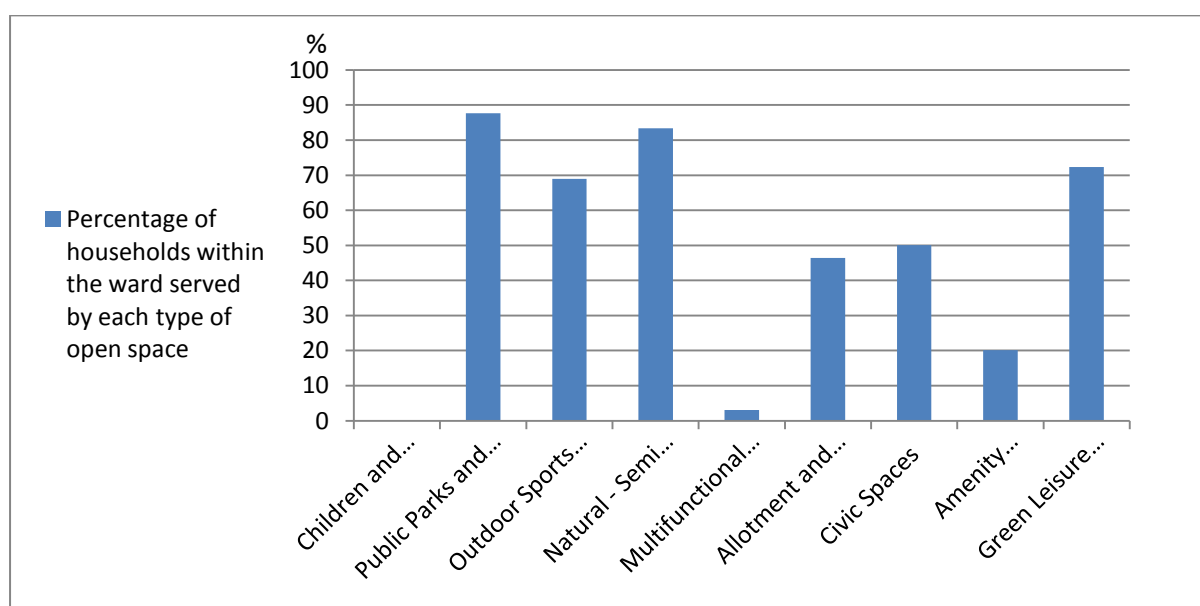


Figure 1: Existing percentage of households with appropriate access to each type of open space

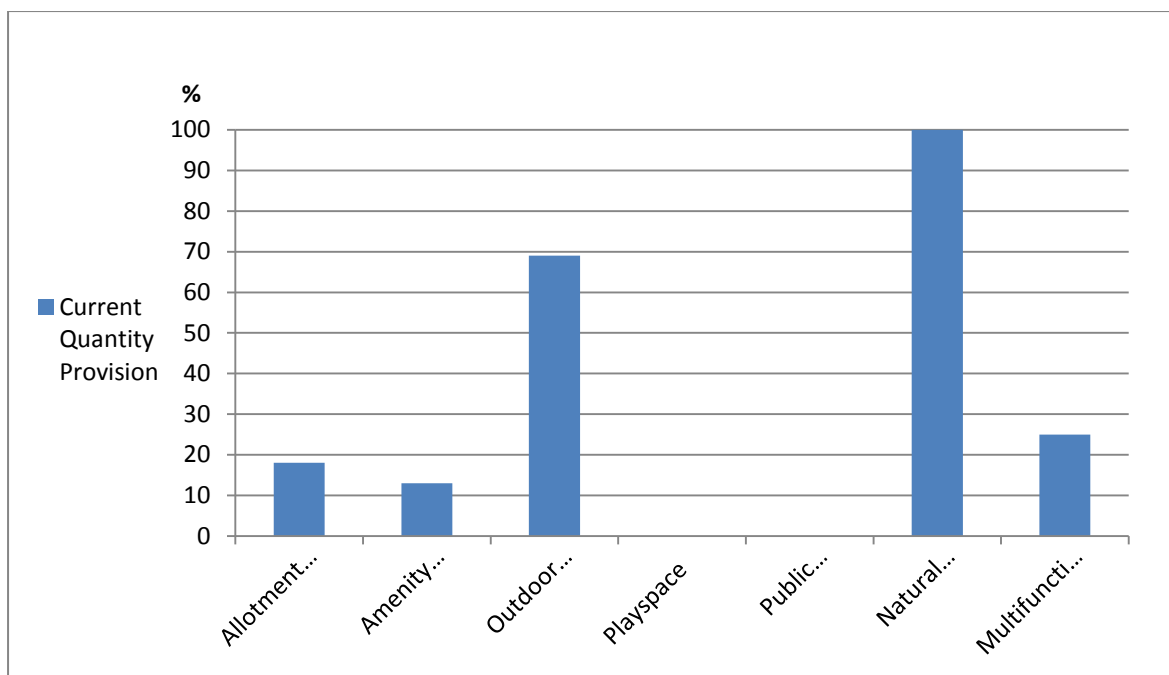


Figure 2: Existing percentage of the required quantity of each type of open space ²³

²³ Types of spaces that are in short supply or do not appear to be present in the ward may be found as a component of multifunctional greenspace; therefore it is essential to consider in more detail each multifunctional greenspace, as well as the accessibility standards for such spaces. Civic spaces and green leisure corridors do not have a standard for quantity provision for practical reasons.

12.3 HOW A SHORTAGE OF OPEN SPACE PROVISION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED USING OPEN SPACES

12.3.1 The following table identifies priority sites where, with the inclusion of additional types of open space, need might be fulfilled. The need for a new site is also identified where there is insufficient capacity to accommodate further types of open space within existing sites.

Types of Open Space to be Provided	Communities Served	
	Cefn Coed	Trefechan
Children and Young People's Play Space	Well Street Cefn Field	Trefechan Maple Crescent
Public Parks and Gardens		
Outdoor Sports Pitches		
Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace		
Multifunctional Greenspace	Well Street Cefn Field	Trefechan Maple Crescent
Allotments and Community Growing Areas	Well Street Cefn Field	Trefechan Maple Crescent
Civic Spaces		
Amenity Greenspace	New Site Required	

12.4 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO PRIORITY OPEN SPACES IN VAYNOR WARD

Priority Open Spaces	Quality Aspect in Need of Improvement*
Trefechan Maple Crescent (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community
Well Street Cefn Field (Multifunctional Greenspace)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Welcoming Place • Healthy Safe and Secure • Management and Achievements • Engagement with the Community

*A more detailed explanation of the improvements required to the quality of a priority open space can be found within the background paper entitled 'Open Space Quality'. Each priority open space is supported by a Management Framework. (Quality aspects are taken from the Green Flag Award® Assessment Criteria)

12.5 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED TO OTHER OPEN SPACES IN VAYNOR WARD

Site Name	Observations
Cefn War Memorial (Civic Space)	Invest in creating a more welcoming site, improve appearance and engage with the community over management and use.
Cilsanws (Natural – Semi Natural Greenspace)	Improve access arrangements, especially vegetation; control invasive species (bracken and cotoneaster) and improve signage and information.
Penygarn Pontsticill (Multifunctional Greenspace)	Management plan in accordance with local community.
Playing Field Pont Y Cefn (Outdoor Sports Area / Pitches)	Control unauthorised fires, and improve access and unkempt appearance.

Taf Fechan Nature Reserve (Natural – Semi Natural Greenspace)	Continue to manage as existing, especially clearance after fires and camping. Control invasive species (Bracken / Rhododendron).
Teddingtons (Outdoor Sports Area / Pitches)	Control invasive species (Japanese Knotweed).
Trefechan Centre (Amenity Greenspace)	Liaise with Merthyr Valleys Homes to improve management.
Wern Road Cefn Coed (Allotments and Community Growing Space)	Improve general appearance and introduce management regime.

12.6 CONCLUSION

12.6.1 Vaynor ward has a relatively good range and number of open spaces for most households. However, it does exhibit problems over a shortage of allotments and community growing space. While children and young people's play space is present within the ward it is insufficient in quantity to meet the required standard; therefore, expansion and reinforcement of the priority sites is considered to be the best course of action.