

## G. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### POLICY 17: Green/Open Space

Development shall protect and improve, where appropriate, existing green/open space. Development that increases the demand for recreation or amenity shall provide for new green/open space. This shall be achieved by, where appropriate:

- i. The protection of existing green/open space - from significant damage, or loss, through development.
- ii. The appropriate provision (relative to the size of the development) of new green/open space, or contributing towards addressing the open space deficiencies in the Area as identified in the development plan.
- iii. Appropriate contributions to the maintenance and enhancement of existing and new green/open space, where applicable.
- iv. The offsetting of any loss of green/open space, ideally within the Area.
- v. The protection and appropriate provision of green corridors through existing and new streetscapes.
- vi. The appropriate provision of new small green/open space - such as pocket parks and active green spaces (eg green walls and green roofs) - and their maintenance.
- vii. The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all development, unless there are practical or viability reasons for not doing so.
- viii. The appropriate provision of outdoor leisure facilities - such as playgrounds, gyms and recreational spaces - and their maintenance, where applicable.
- ix. Development that has a positive impact on the relationship between urban and natural features.

**G3. The London Plan** (Policy 7.18) says “the Mayor supports the creation of new open space in London to ensure satisfactory levels of local provision to address areas of deficiency”. The CCS (Policy CS15) says “the council will protect and improve Camden’s parks and open spaces” and will “tackle deficiencies and under-provision and meet increased demand for open space...securing additional on-site public open space in the growth areas”, including the West Hampstead Interchange. It also states that the Council will work on “securing other opportunities for additional public open space”.

The West Hampstead area has been identified by Camden Council (CCS 15.9) as an area deficient in public open space. Research by the NDF found a strong desire for more green areas and open space, as well as improvements to existing spaces.

**G4.** The CCS says (15.3) “sites of **nature conservation** in Camden are generally small and undervalued, with pressure from adjoining sites and limited opportunity for expansion”. It adds (Policy CS15) “the council will protect and improve sites of nature conservation and biodiversity” and will “seek to improve opportunities to experience nature, in particular in South and West Hampstead...where such opportunities are lacking”. Development shall protect existing nature conservation sites and provide new sites appropriate to their size.

**G5.** The existing ‘green corridors’ alongside **railway lines** are an important habitat for plants and animals, and include a number of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). These areas of biodiversity are highly valued and need to be protected from development or loss.

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- G6.** Space for **green corridors** should also be found in new development and streetscapes, particularly in and around the West Hampstead Growth Area. These can be used to link sites, as well as providing new views and open space.
- G7.** There is scope for the development of **pocket parks** in the Area on small areas of land. Examples of such sites are: the junction of Maygrove/Iverson Roads; Sarre Road/Gondar Gardens path; and on a number of sites in the West Hampstead Growth Area.
- G8.** There is also ample scope for the development of **active green spaces** in the Area. These include green roofs, green walls, planting around street trees, and small scale allotments.
- G9.** The London Plan (Policy 5.13) promotes the use of **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)**. These contribute to the creation of green spaces and have benefits for drainage, water quality, biodiversity and amenity. As the Area has been identified as an area likely to be affected by surface water flood risk, the use of SuDs is strongly supported in all development in the Area.
- G10.** To meet the needs of the growing population, especially young people, there is a need for more outdoor leisure facilities - including: outdoor gyms and exercise areas for all ages; outdoor play areas for young children; and sports facilities.
- G11.** Any new green/open space should provide **public access** for the benefit and enjoyment of those living and working in the Area. Nature conservation sites may provide more limited access, depending on conditions.

### RECOMMENDATION J: in support of Policy 16 and 17 the following actions are recommended:

- i. Local residents should be involved in the management of existing and new green/open spaces.
- ii. Existing green/open spaces should provide varying levels of public access.
- iii. New green/open space should provide public access.