

GP.79 In dealing with applications for sporting and recreational proposals likely to generate noise, the Council will protect from unreasonable disturbance noise-sensitive uses and their occupiers, and avoid any effect on the public enjoyment of areas of landscape, wildlife and historic value.

Conditions will be imposed on planning permissions, or planning obligations sought, in order to safeguard amenities and mitigate the impact of noisy activities.

CANALSIDE DEVELOPMENT

4.206. The Council recognises the amenity potential of the Grand Union Canal, particularly in quiet places in the open countryside. The Aylesbury Arm is open to canal users and its enhancement creates a significant opportunity for further recreation in the area. The Wendover Arm, although closed to navigation along much of its length, constitutes an important amenity resource, and considerable leisure and amenity benefits can result from the restoration of this arm of the canal. The Council supports the principle of the re-opening of the Wendover Arm as a navigable waterway and the provision of facilities necessary for its use as such and appropriate to its location and setting. Opportunities exist for angling, boating, casual walking and nature conservation. There is also potential for tourism and canal-related activities, such as establishment of launching facilities, car parking and boat-based businesses, provided that the essential open and quiet nature of the canal in the countryside is protected.

GP.80 Development that would prejudice the future restoration of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal to a navigable waterway will not be permitted.

4.207. The Council will seek to take advantage of opportunities to enhance the environment along the Aylesbury Arm of the canal.

4.208. The Council recognises that there may be a need for some canal-based development adjacent to the canal.

- GP.81** Proposals for the development of canal-related facilities should respect the character and appearance of the canal, its setting and the surroundings.

In dealing with applications for such development the Council will seek to avoid adverse impacts on:

- a) landscape, ecological interests and the countryside;
- b) townscape and the historic environment; and
- c) residential amenities

PICNIC AREAS

- 4.209.** Picnic sites can be provided on small areas of land in open countryside or woods. Sites are often located at a viewpoint or recreational facility and should also take advantage of the rights of way network and cycle routes. In addition, sites can also be formed to improve an eyesore or waste land close to a main road.
- 4.210.** There is scope for more picnic areas in the District and the Council will encourage appropriate further provision where necessary.

- GP.82** The Council supports the further provision of picnic areas, provided that they would not significantly detract from the character or appearance of the countryside or harm sites of ecological, biological or historical importance.

- GP.83** Facilities and buildings associated with picnic areas should be constructed from materials and be of a scale appropriate to the locality and should be landscaped effectively to minimise any visual impact.

FOOTPATHS

- 4.211.** Walking in the countryside is one activity enjoyed by a wide spectrum of the population. Footpaths are used not only by the casual user but also by organised walking clubs. Surveys by the Countryside Agency confirm that this activity is still one of the most popular of all informal recreational activities. The countryside is particularly important around the main growth areas of Aylesbury and Buckingham. Footpaths provide public access to some of the most attractive countryside, including the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Areas of Attractive Landscape and Local Landscape Areas.