
Local Open Spaces

In Barnham and Eastergate Parishes there are several areas of open green spaces. These offer a range of opportunities for recreation and enjoyment, providing places to meet and relax. Access to them has a clearly beneficial effect on physical and mental health and encourages social contact and integration, providing space for physical activity and play. The trees improve air quality, and provide shade in summer.

Open spaces are good areas for all forms of wildlife, both flora and fauna.

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1. The School Playing Fields

There are school playing fields at Barnham Primary School and Eastergate Primary School and at St Philip Howard School. These are primarily for school usage as part of its sporting and health awareness and activity programmes. Nationally there has been a decline in the amount of area allocated to schools for sporting, health related and recreational activities. With great pressure on the local school system due to development it is felt that the playing fields should be maintained at the current level and therefore should have Local Open Space protection to ensure this.

2. Nursery Close Open Space, Saxby Close Open Space, Stempswood Way Open Space, Market Close Open Space, Hedge End Open Space

- Hedge End Open Space

An open area of grassland adjoining Hedge End wood, well used by local residents for playing and relaxation.

- Stempswood Way Open Space

This is an open area of grassland with mature Oak trees and a Copper Beech. This area is well used by local children.

- Nursery Close Open Space

A large area of grassland with mature Oaks and a London Plane tree.

- Market Close Open Space

An area of communal grassland surrounded by houses.

- Saxby Close Open Space

A small private area of grassland alongside the children's play area.

The open aspect of these spaces enhances the ambience of the area and contributes to a pleasant street scene. They contribute significantly to the overall appearance of the area and are used for recreation, dog walking and exercise as well as providing wildlife links to the wider Green Infrastructure Networks and should be designated as Local Open Space.

3. **Farnhurst Road Playground, The Cedars Playground, Saxby Close Playground, Marshall Close Playground, Holmdale Playground, Garden Crescent Playground**

These open spaces are children's playgrounds as well as places that contribute to the open and pleasant ambience of the area and are used by residents for exercise and children's play but also contribute to wildlife biodiversity and habitat. They should be designated as Local Open Space.

4. **St George's churchyard, Eastergate, St Mary the Virgin churchyard, Barnham**



St George's churchyard, Eastergate

To get to the church and churchyard you walk through the conservation area farmyard of Manor farm passing the 17th century half timbered granary. The church dates back to Saxon times. The churchyard, with mature Yew trees growing in it, is a very peaceful place supporting a range of flora and fauna, overlooking farmland.

St Mary the Virgin churchyard, Barnham

The 11th century church is next to the manor house, Barnham Court. Several trees grow in this peaceful churchyard supporting a range of flora and fauna, overlooking farmland.