

Date: 30th April 2008

IS THERE ENOUGH OPEN SPACE IN LEEDS?

A project is underway to find out whether there is enough open space, sport and recreational facilities across the whole of Leeds.

The idea is to establish if the current level of open space is sufficient in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility to meet the needs of Leeds residents and visitors, now and in the future. The findings of this study will be used to prepare planning documents which set out the future growth of the city.

Parks, woodland, canals, outdoor and indoor sports facilities, recreation facilities for children and young people/teenagers, amenity green space within housing developments, allotments, civic spaces, bowling greens, cemeteries and churchyards will all be included and assessed.

The project includes 7,000 households being sent questionnaires. At the same time an on-street survey will be carried out at various locations across the city asking people what they think. The surveys will be carried out over the next three to four weeks. The results and analysis of the surveys will be available for use from August.

Leeds City Development Director Jean Dent said:

“We need to make sure that in the future there’s enough open space for the people of Leeds to enjoy, and through the planning process we want to be able to protect those facilities.

But, before we can set our policies, we need to find out whether our residents think the existing amount and quality of parks, recreational and leisure space is good enough and in the right places.

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For more news and information from Leeds City Council visit www.leeds.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

That's why we're carrying out this study. I'm very keen to hear from anyone who wants to comment. We need as many responses as possible to build up the fullest possible picture of what residents want now and in the future."

**For media enquiries please contact:
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ENDS**

Notes to Editors

Comments can be emailed to: leedsopenspace@pmpconsult.com or posted to:

Leeds Open Space, Sport and Recreation - Assessment of Local Needs

Response Service No: NWW8693A

PMP

FREEPOST

Century House

11 St Peters Square

MANCHESTER

M2 3DN

The open space, sport and recreation assessment is required as part of national planning guidance and will form a key piece of evidence in preparing planning documents which set out the future development of the city.

The household survey includes entry into a £250 prize draw for those who complete and submit their questionnaire on-time.

The study is being carried out by a company called PMP on the council's behalf. It is a specialist sport and leisure firm working extensively throughout the UK and internationally providing advice on sport and leisure.

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