



# **Sports Pitches, Allotments and Bowling Greens Options for Change**

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There are many publications available on how to improve income generation from Parks and Open Spaces, sports facilities and even allotments

CabeSpace

Heritage Lottery Fund

Urban Task Force



Why don't these facilities make loads of money?





I will offer two reasons

They were never meant to

Few people running them within a local authority framework have a commercial perspective on running the facility/club



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# The Havering picture



# Facilities found in Havering

- Sports Pitches – Cricket Football and Rugby approximately 90
- Allotments – 28
- Bowling Greens - 8



# Who are the users?

Sports pitches - Clubs and schools

Allotments - Local Community/Allotment Associations

Bowling Greens – Clubs and individuals.  
Generally older members of the local community



The level of subsidy on any sport is a political decision.

The reasons for the level of subsidy are often due to:

- social cohesion
- health
- strategic objectives
- funding opportunities





# Methods of Involvement

Sports pitches - Clubs and schools

Sports Council

School Council

Football Forum

Parks Forum

Parks Friends Meetings

Sports Club Meetings



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## External Funding Sources

- Football Association
- Football Foundation
- Sport England
- Grants – Veolia
- Private Ventures – Goals, Play Football



# A different approach to the issue

King George's Playing Fields - Romford



- Site Popular with footballers
- Low income and management issues
- Percentage of the site was leased
- Technically a disposal
- Tender was awarded to Play Football
- 11 3G pitches were constructed – Their investment
- 5 a-side and 7 a-side and a social area/bar
- Council receives rent in excess of £90k per year
- Site is popular with footballers
- Football played all year round and until 10pm



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# Broxhill Sports park





High quality facility rented at a premium price

Catering concession - income

Indoor training facilities

Social facilities

Medical/Physio facilities

Events

Community activities





# Methods of Involvement

## Allotments - Local Community

Allotment Forum

Site Meetings

Parks Forum



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## **What are you waiting for? Get composting today!**

London Borough of Havering Council has teamed up with [getcomposting.com](http://getcomposting.com) to provide reduced priced environmental products such as home compost bins, water butts and more.

Composting at home turns most kitchen and garden waste into a rich compost to keep your garden blooming year after year.





# Lots of Legislation

- Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908
- Land Settlement Facilities Act 1919
- Allotments Act 1922
- Allotments Act 1925
- Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1926
- Agricultural Land (Utilisation) Act 1931
- Town and Country Planning Act 1947
- Allotments Act 1950



# Reducing the subsidies

- Sale of produce
- Cooperative approach – Allotment Associations
- Vertical integration
- Increasing the value of the product



# A different approach to the problem

Bedfords Park Walled Garden



Grant aided (several – Big Food, Big Lottery, Veolia)

External company (Clear Village) developed an old walled garden into an organic educational growing area.

Community volunteers

Income from events and sale of produce

Training in growing and plant husbandry techniques

Low production costs – volunteers

Low running costs - eco technology

Site to be handed over to the public in the next 5 years



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For more information please see

<http://bedfordswalledgarden.org/>





# Methods of Involvement

Bowling Greens - Generally older members of the local community

6 monthly meetings with the Bowling Clubs

Parks Friends Meetings

Over 50's Forum

Parks Forum

Site Meetings



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Attendance at Bowls Clubs in Havering is steadily declining

Aging membership – lack of young players

Cliques

Continuation of current trends will result in Greens being closed as clubs cannot pay charges.



Commercial/Private Greens can work but they diversify their income with other functions.

Dinners

Parties

Functions

Meetings

Entertainment – Club

Licensed



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Funding to expand the social side of the bowls clubs through grants.

Social side will widen the community contact with the club and should expand the membership.



# Managing the transition effectively

Effective planning and project control

Setting realistic targets

Selecting the correct project team

Getting political buy in if needed

Risk Log

Monitoring and Reviewing

Corrective actions where required or possible



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**Thank you for your attention**