

# Active Environments in Essex



Basildon Council



Colchester  
City Council

# Active Environments

- One of Sport England's five 'big issues' within the 'Uniting the Movement' strategy
- Sport England categorise Active Environments as:
  1. Dedicated sport and physical activity facilities: i.e. pitches, courts, pools and leisure centres.
  2. Other community spaces: i.e. parks and open spaces, village halls, community centres and schools.
  3. The wider built environment: i.e. streets, housing estates, squares and tow paths.
- Initially both on 2 year fixed term posts



# Policy and Guidance

## THEME 1

### Supporting active travel



Walkable communities



Providing connected active travel routes



Mixing uses and co-locating facilities

- Colchester Active Travel SPD has recently finished public consultation to be adopted next year
- Colchester AE and HIA Guidance Note in progress
- Basildon adopted an Active Environments Strategy March 23
- Design Policy Guidance Notice

...is about developing stronger, happier, healthy communities and better places to live, by ensuring our built (residential & non-residential) and natural (open spaces, parks, sports & recreation and green/blue infrastructure) environments and the connections (active travel) in between are designed or adapted around people, creating the opportunities for all to inclusively increase their physical activity levels and mental wellbeing.



# Inclusive Spaces

**THEME 2**  
Active, high-quality places and spaces

The Principles



Network of multi-functional open spaces



High-quality streets & spaces



Providing activity infrastructure



Active buildings, inside & out



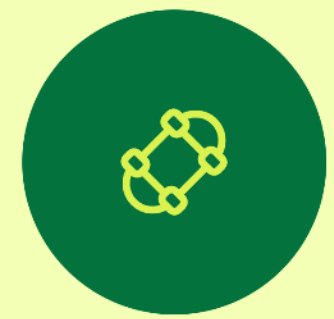
**ParkWatch**

**“Most parks have more facilities for dog waste than for teenage girls”**

Parkwatch Report  
September 2023



**92%**  
of teenagers using MUGAs were boys or young men.



**84%**  
of those active on skate parks or BMX tracks were male.



**94%**  
of the facilities counted were either skate parks, MUGAs or BMX tracks.

“It’s mostly boys that are there. If you go up, they’ll just start shouting at you.” But girls don’t have anywhere else to go.



# Cycle Parking/Provisions

## THEME 2 Active, high-quality places and spaces

### The Principles



Network of multi-functional open spaces



High-quality streets & spaces



Providing activity infrastructure



Active buildings, inside & out

- Major barrier to cycling is cycle theft
- Cycle parking is often hidden and out of the way
- Can fall between the lines of responsibility
- Different styles and types suit different purposes



# Parks & Open Space Accessibility and Colchester Orbital

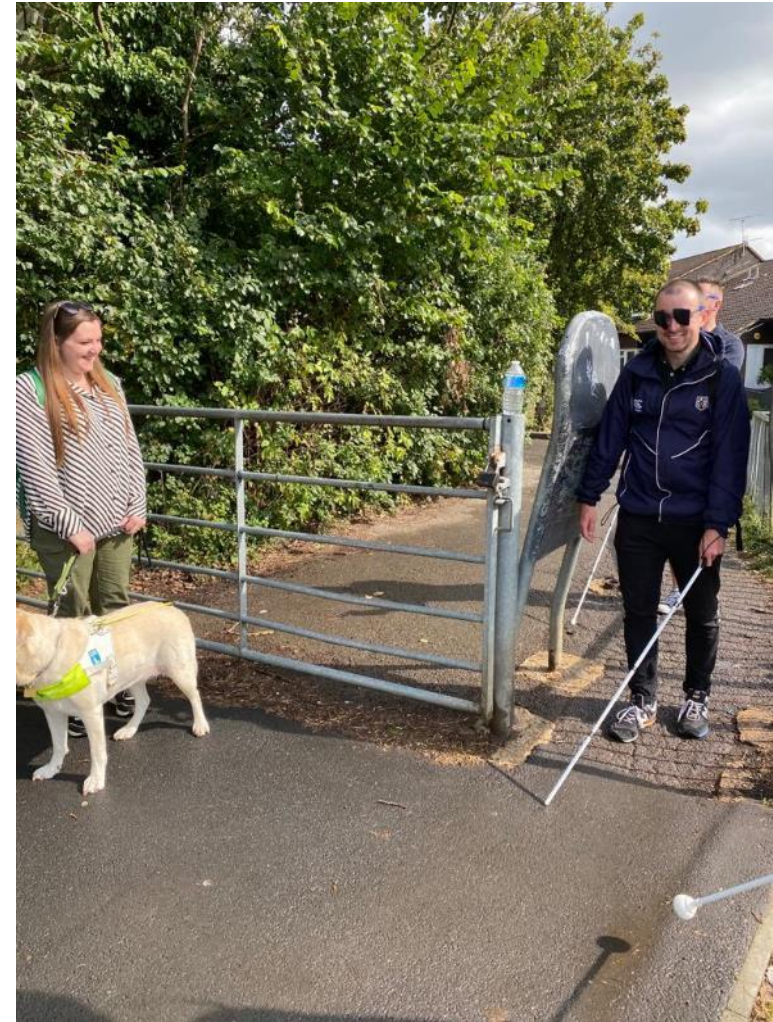
THEME 3  
Creating and maintaining activity



Maintaining high-quality flexible spaces



Activating spaces



Basildon Council

# Increasing Opportunity

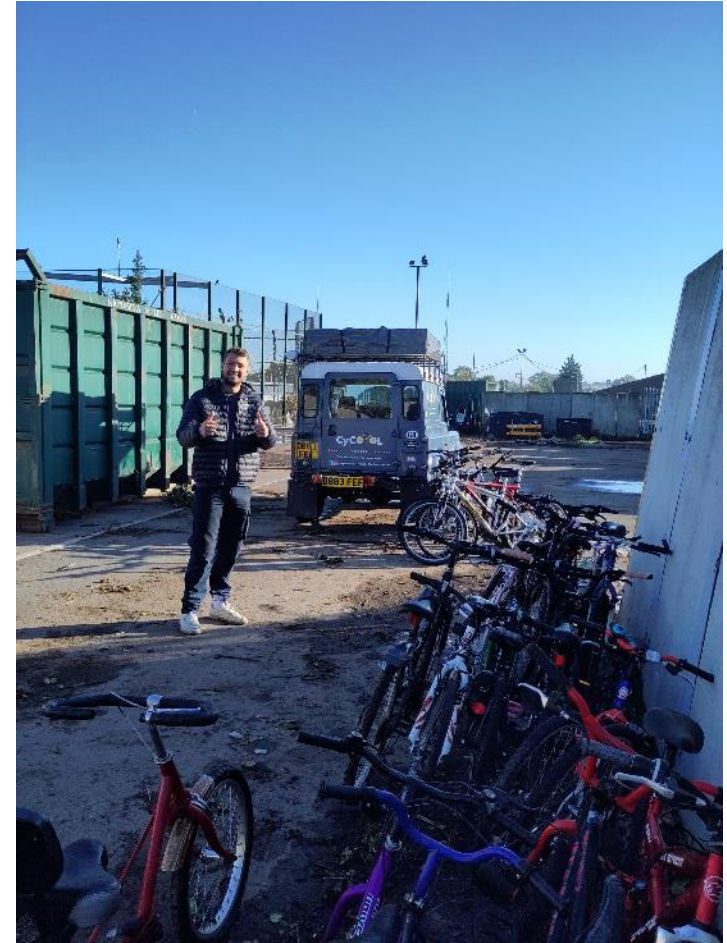
THEME 3  
Creating and maintaining activity



Maintaining high-quality flexible spaces



Activating spaces



Any Questions?

# Thanks!

Aaron Ashwood – [Aaron.Ashwood@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:Aaron.Ashwood@colchester.gov.uk)

Tom Oliver – [Thomas.Oliver@basildon.gov.uk](mailto:Thomas.Oliver@basildon.gov.uk)



BasildonCouncil