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# **No Ball Games Here: The Hyde Sport Inquiry Report**

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# 1. Aims and Background

We were commissioned to assist Hyde's understanding of access and barriers to sport and play and in turn inform Hyde's response to the needs of its clients, by:

- Researching existing provision by auditing sporting opportunities that exist in a local area.
- To develop an understanding of the barriers which exist at a local level that prevent young people accessing and participating in sports or other physical activities.
- To understand the local needs in the context of national, regional and sub-regional strategy and provision.
- To better understand the dissonance between local need and sub-regional provision.
- To develop models of sports delivery which enable transference to new urban environments.
- To harness young people's thoughts and representation to increase participation, particularly from those who are not accessing currently available facilities.
- To provide the basis of further work to overcome these barriers.

This report is aimed at a range of audiences. It is primarily written for Hyde Charitable Trust to inform their future work with young people. But the lessons learnt, findings and outcomes relate to a far wider audience. First, we address parents, residents, agencies and young people and others who have a stake in the actual case study areas. We hope we have given voice to their diverse positions, illuminated their issues through the findings, and that the action plan and audit of the opportunities offer real possibilities of addressing these issues. Second, the report speaks to social landlords such as Hyde, who are faced with similar issues of facilities and activities for children and young people on their estates in comparable areas. The findings and the action research methodology (which we believe represents a model of good practice which could be used elsewhere), as well as the inter-agency solutions we developed, should resonate in other estates, especially smaller RSL-managed estates. Finally, the report addresses those (including academics and youth workers) with an interest in the issues of youth geographies, racialisation and urban youth cultures, as our research threw up some interesting data in these areas, using an innovative methodology.

## 2. Methodology

The research project used qualitative methods complemented with some quantitative data. We carried out research into the local sports facilities, projects and programmes, we also examined key policies at a local and national level and local funding opportunities. The inquiry was both participative and action-oriented. It used methods designed to break some of the very barriers examined in the research process. So, for example, in the process of participating in the research, young people who had previously not played together met and formed friendships, went to areas they would not normally go to and reflected on their locality. Similarly parents came together, often for the first time, and met with local representatives of agencies and organisations of which they were previously unaware. This methodology is an example of good practice that Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) may wish to adopt in future when examining local concerns.

The research methods drew on research projects that have used visual media to work with children and young people, including a substantial body of research

associated with the Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR).<sup>1</sup> It also draws on participatory action methodologies designed to involve residents in designing solutions to issues in neighbourhoods, such as the *Local Knowledge for Local Solutions* Toolkit developed by CUCR with GAP Research and Magpie, and the *Learning to be Local* Toolkit designed by Real Strategies and adopted by Hyde Plus. The methods included the following:

- **Walking the Patch**

Researchers met with local housing officers and community development officers and walked around each patch as a way of gaining some provisional knowledge of the local context and to identify very local facilities or potential facilities as well as 'official' and informal uses of the area – e.g. patches of concrete used to kick around balls, dens and camps built by young people.

- **Publicising the Project**

Researchers publicised the project in a variety of ways: by attending Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) meetings, by distributing leaflets about the project to every house on each estate (with the help of Hyde housing officers and principle Housing Officers), walking around estates, door-to-door recruitment, recruitment through active residents, and publicity posters.

- **Youth Photo Workshops**

In order to guarantee young people's participation in and engagement with the research it was agreed that the project should employ some innovative multi-media methods. In August 2004 photography workshops were held on two estates in Greenwich: Hawksmoor Close, Plumstead and Brookhill Estate, Woolwich. At Hawksmoor Close the workshops were held over two days. At Brookhill they ran over three days. The sessions included discussion with young people about their local area, their use of sport and play facilities locally and beyond. The workshops included introductory photography as a way of offering young people a way to express their opinions creatively. In each case some of the sessions were videoed and all of the discussion either tape recorded or written down. At Hawksmoor some of the young people engaged in art/painting rather than photography, as a way to express their opinions. At Hawksmoor, eleven young people did photography workshops. All of them were white, eight of them were boys, three of them were girls, all aged between 9 and 16 years old, and all live on Hawksmoor Close. At Brookhill, eight young people attended, all of either white or mixed ethnicity, two girls and six boys, between eight and fourteen years old, four from Brookhill estate (all boys and at the younger age range), one from Brookhill Rd and three from the Connaught Estate. The young people went out and about in the local area with the researchers to photograph their local geographies. Young people were also given the disposable cameras to take home for the evening. The photographs were developed and discussed in following sessions. Before the final exhibition we met with the young people who had participated again in order to edit and agree the visual and written content of the exhibition and its themes. Young people were all given copies of their photographs and a copy of the videoed session to keep.

- **Parent Focus Groups**

In addition to working with young people we also ran a focus group with parents from each estate in order to gain the parents' viewpoint. Most of the participants were parents of children we had worked with in the photo workshops, although, particularly on Hawksmoor, we recruited new parents. On Brookhill we recruited additional parents through the TRA, while on Hawksmoor we went door to door. Although we

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<sup>1</sup> See for example CUCR projects such as *Finding the Way Home* (Back, Cohen and Keith 1996) and *Routes of Racism* (Hewitt 1996), as well as the work of Laura Davidson at the Westminster Institute of Education or the work of Diane Reay and Helen Lucey on inner city children in London. See <http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/cucr/html/research.html> for more information.

offered to pay for childcare, some parents brought their children. We took the opportunity to run an art workshop with these children, supplementing the photographic material we already had. At the parent focus groups, we asked for a wishlist of sport and play activities, then asked parents to prioritise from this wishlist. With the priorities, we asked three questions: Where would you like it to be? What would it look like? What would make you feel happy about your children using it?

- **Audit of Opportunity**

The research included an audit of key policies and agencies. After reviewing relevant data already available from national and local sources, we used telephone interviews, interagency meetings and e-mail correspondence to find out about any local opportunities for funding, joint work and development. This included finding out:

- what work (if any) agencies were doing around young people, sport and play, in the borough in general and in the inquiry areas specifically,
- what individual agencies see as local need/priorities and how these organisations' priorities relate to the inquiry area
- what resources agencies can bring to the issues identified in the inquiry
- whether agencies would be interested in taking this work forward as stakeholders in the areas.

- **Action Research and Inter-Agency Dialogue**

As well as gaining the views of local parents and young people we conducted telephone interviews with interested parties such as police, and youth workers, faith organisations, sports development workers, housing staff, local community workers, tenants, sports and play providers, and local activists and gathered the appropriate local literature. Before bringing all parties together, we conducted an initial inter-agency meeting with a range of local agencies in the area. Finally, the research culminated in two exhibitions of the photographic and video work. These brought everybody involved in the research together in each area – some of the young people who took part in the photo sessions, parents, residents and a range of local organisations. At each of these two meetings we summarised the research findings, presented an exhibition and video of the young people's work, identified possibilities for a local action plan and handed over to a steering group led by Hyde Plus in each area.

### **Community cohesion and the research**

On one of the estates where we worked, Hawksmoor, there were big issues around community cohesion, as we will discuss below. As a result many residents were not willing to be involved in the research or subsequent actions for fear of attracting criticism for being '*busy-bodies*'. On the other estate, Brookhill, in contrast, intensive community development work by Changes in Common made our research easier, as there was a fresh, active, motivated TRA who bought into the work, seeing it as an opportunity to further their own goals. On both estates, though, our research contributed in a small way to building community cohesion by bringing different stakeholders together within the estates and across estate borders.

### **Constraints to the Research**

We were commissioned to conduct this research in mid-July 2004 with a view to carrying out the fieldwork over the summer holiday when children were not at school. In this timeframe, to recruit young people we relied upon door-knocking and on parents we reached through the Tenants and Residents Association (TRA). In particular, the Changes in Common community worker introduced us to a number of key local residents. If we had had more preparation time, we would have made contact with a more diverse group of young people, e.g. by using schools. We asked local agencies and community workers for suggestions of BME community contacts, but we received no response. Consequently, although the work was widely publicised and engaged closely with some local young people, there were some groups we did not reach in this process. These included recent immigrant groups (such as Somali

and Vietnamese youth) and some of the 'hard to reach' older youth who are associated with 'anti-social behaviour'. We were also unable to ascertain the extent to which the young people and parents we worked with were representative of the wider population on each of the estates as Hyde were unable to give us any detailed demographic breakdown of the estate population.

### 3. The Local Geographical Context

The focus of this phase of the Youth Sports Inquiry was two Hyde estates located within the London Borough of Greenwich. These are both areas where Hyde has a concentration of family housing of mixed tenure and a density of children and young people. Both of these areas had taken up considerable management time for the association due to concerns and complaints associated with young people's activities.

The areas addressed in the Sport Inquiry are in Plumstead and Woolwich in the London Borough of Greenwich. This is a green area of the city, on the cusp between the inner and the outer city. Close to Plumstead and Woolwich is Plumstead Common which has sports pitches, fitness courses, basketball courts, tennis courts and an adventure playground. There are a wide range of sport and leisure facilities in the area. The Woolwich Waterfront Leisure Centre has a range of sport facilities such as swimming, squash courts, gym, indoor football pitches, a soft play area for small children and a wide range of fitness programmes. Close to the leisure centre there is a recently developed skate park. Further east in Plumstead Town Centre is Plumstead Leisure Centre which also hosts a range of activities such as roller-skating and trampolining. Charlton Athletic Football Association Club is located slightly further afield in Charlton. Maps in Appendix 2 show the locations, layouts and facilities of the two estates.



**Figure 1** View of part of Hawksmoor Close from an upstairs window.

#### **Hawksmoor Close**

The housing stock at Hawksmoor, in Plumstead, comprises of new build (completed 1997/1998) small houses and two low rise blocks of flats. The Close is situated in a slightly isolated position, partly because of the vagaries of a one-way traffic system and partly due to geography. Although near to Plumstead High Street, the Close feels remote (this impression was confirmed by residents from another nearby housing estate who described Hawksmoor as being 'tucked away'). The south of the Close backs on to Plumstead Common which is bounded by a high brick wall. Housing in the adjacent streets is very mixed: some other housing association stock, some council stock, some older privately owned and a new development of private flats currently under construction adjacent to Hawksmoor. The Close is near to local shops on Plumstead High Street, there is a doctor's surgery close by, and a few streets away, through a small estate, there is a small Community Hall (Invicta).

Hawksmoor Close itself was originally a private road which exists solely because of the housing construction by Hyde. The estate appears clean and well maintained both in the common areas and within the space that is the responsibility of the tenants.

### **Brookhill Close**

Brookhill is in Woolwich. Housing is mostly a mix of 1950s/1960s former council housing stock and former army accommodation. Hyde housing stock mostly looks fairly rundown and poorly maintained. The estate lies within a range of other estates which are mainly managed by the local council. To the south of Brookhill across Nightingale Vale lies Woolwich Common Estate, to the south is Connaught estate, and beyond this Lord Roberts. To the west of Brookhill and Connaught estates there is some green space (patches of wood and long grass which is owned by the Ministry of Defence). Further north on the Connaught estate, there are some designated, fenced-off spaces for ball games and a skate/bike park. The Brookhill Meeting Rooms stand at the edge of the Brookhill Estate. This prefabricated building is dilapidated. It will be demolished and replaced with a new Sure Start Family centre with new shared ownership housing above to be developed by Hyde. The estate suffers from 'enviro-crimes', such as tipping and abandoned vehicles.



**Figure 2 Brookhill Close Houses**

### **Key features of the case study areas**

The case studies were selected by Hyde Charitable Trust for a number of reasons.

Both estates are small, mainly made up of family homes, with a high density of children and young people. Both therefore had a history of issues around young people's behaviour. However, their problems had not previously been fully recognised, because they fall outside of the zones of priority of the key agencies and/or because their problems were obscured by the issues on neighbouring larger local authority estates. Indeed,



**Figure 3 Photograph of Tipping on Brookhill Estate taken by boy, 11: 'There's rubbish all over the**

during the course of identifying relevant professionals to interview, we found that there was a lack of awareness of the estates among key professionals. One person who was identified as covering the area insisted that there was no such place as Hawksmoor. If the areas are not in the consciousness of key professionals, is it possible that they occasionally get overlooked? Can work be done by Hyde on developing the identity and profile of the estates?

## 4. The Policy Context

The Hyde Charitable Trust brief for this research suggested that:

Over the last decade and beyond, there has been growing concern over the plight of young people living in our inner cities. The pace of life in inner cities and the advancement of technology and communication are putting immense pressure on young people. The failure of regeneration programmes to systematically tackle social exclusion and deprivation has added to these pressures, and exacerbated the problems. Within this context, local authorities have been under increasing budgetary controls resulting in significant reductions in youth facilities and youth provision. Alongside this, we have witnessed failing schools in inner cities, the loss of scarce public open space and a general lack of investment in local recreational and leisure facilities. As a result, the problems of youth related crime and anti-social behaviour have spiralled and although there has been a concerted effort to address the symptoms of these problems through initiatives such as Wardens, ASBOs and community policing, we continue to fail to address the root causes.

Hyde Charitable Trust has a long track record of working with young people and youth organisations. Cultural and sporting activities provide exposure to new experiences, develop interpersonal and social skills, build self-esteem, confidence and improve health and general well being. Most importantly, sport provides an opportunity for fun and enjoyment!

There are a host of policies at national, regional and local level that, together, provide a positive climate for developing sports and leisure provision for young people.

### **National Policy**

At a national level, 'Game Plan' sets out the government's current vision for the promotion of sports and physical activity. The document recognises that young white males are most likely to take part in sport and physical activity and the most disadvantaged groups are least likely to do so. Levels of participation in sport drop significantly after leaving school and continue to decline thereafter. A key reason for encouraging physical activity amongst young people, however, is that the more physically active in sport a person is at a young age, the more likely a person is to continue with sport later in life. The key themes addressed by government policy include grassroots participation, high performance sport, mega sporting events and delivery.

Also relevant is 'A Sporting Future for All' (April 2000), a government programme involving the rebuilding of sports school facilities, establishment of specialist Sports Colleges, provision of after school activities for all pupils; recruitment of school sports coordinators and access to coaching. Schools are potentially a growing resource for increasing interest and access to sports and leisure for young people who live on Hyde's estates.

Closely related to sport, health is a key area of policy concern nationally. As the Hyde Charitable Trust brief identified,

The growth of obesity, virtual leisure and the relationship between lack of exercise and reduced academic achievement have all been highlighted as issues by both government advisors and the press. At the same time sporting heroes are increasingly the cultural icons of the day. The everyday popularity of sport and the ubiquitous nature of its appreciation have led to sport being seen as an alternative way to bringing socially excluded young people into mainstream society.

Indirectly relevant government policies and initiatives that could be drawn upon to develop new local initiatives on sport for young people include health promotion

policies, Connexions, National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal and the Community Cohesion agenda.

### **Regional Policy**

At a regional level, the Mayor, Ken Livingstone, has a Cultural Strategy that identifies sport as key to delivering a new cultural vision for London and cites East London as key to this development. Central to that vision is the 2012 London Olympic bid. This will provide an opportunity through the investment of new national sporting facilities in East London, as well as transport infrastructure. It is still unclear how much this will provide an opportunity very locally, but the bid provides impetus to engage and harness the talents of young people, particularly when some of the potential Olympians of 2012 are at school today.

### **Greenwich**

Locally, London Borough of Greenwich has a host of strategies and policies that directly and indirectly support the development of sports and leisure provision for the borough's residents. The most directly relevant is 'Fit for Sport: draft sports strategy 2005-2009', a document that was being consulted on at the point of our research. Fit for Sport provides an excellent statement for supporting the new developments in relation to sport, leisure and play in the run up to the Olympic bid. The draft strategy is broad, recognising the importance of sport for young people and excluded communities. Although it is not supported by additional resources at this stage, it does encourage the development of partnerships to mobilise existing resources for the benefit of local residents. The council has a Sports Strategy officer who has been introduced to Hyde Charitable Trust through this research project.

Another relevant document, 'The Greenwich Strategy', seeks to

- Provide opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and leisure pursuits
- Increase the uptake of leisure pursuits by local people
- Improve the provision of community sporting and leisure provision
- Improve facilities for walking and other types of recreation
- Encourage use of the river front for leisure and recreation

London Borough of Greenwich's Cultural Strategy identifies sport and leisure as contributing to increasing levels of motivation in young people. The Cultural Strategy also seeks to improve links between the Council, private and voluntary sector as part of a movement towards making the best use of the facilities in each sector. In developing provision on the two estates, then, we anticipate that these sectors would be willing responsive to invitations to work together.

Locally, some of the national concerns around health mentioned above are reflected in the policies of the Primary Care Trust. The local PCT has programmes that Hyde might be interested in developing on the estates. They can deliver work in any area that has been identified as a regeneration priority in the borough, which would include both case studies. There is a Healthy Living Centre very close to Brookhill, which also has programmes and activities that might be relevant, as physical activity is part of their brief.

The other local strategies that are relevant to developing new initiatives include:

- Connexions
- Transforming Youth Work
- Children and Young People's Strategic Plan
- Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy
- Social Inclusion and Justice Strategy
- Integrated Regeneration Strategy
- Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy

## Findings

### 5. Youth Geographies

Access to sport and leisure provision is circumscribed by the young people's everyday experience of the space of the local area. We found that the geographies of the young people we worked with were affected by several factors.

- **Territories of Fear**

Young people told us of not going out at particular times or to particular areas due to fears of encountering violence, intimidation and theft. These are both real fears due to past experience and imagined fears based on reputation and local rumour. As a result, the young people we worked with have very local geographies: the areas where they play and socialise are often just in front of or very close to home. Young people seemed to experience three types of space. The home itself is a space of safety and this safety extends to the edge of the estate for Hawksmoor and Brookhill residents, due to friends and family or neighbours near by. Then there are areas of negotiable risk. For Connaught young people, their estate is not seen as safe,

We don't really feel threatened because we're used to it. We know the people; you know how to arm yourself. Say just now if someone was walking up the street, you wouldn't know if they had a gun or a weapon or if they're psycho or something, but where you know the place at least you know how they fight, you know how to defend yourselves, you get to know them and you know that they'll go back and get people. So when you know all of those things, how they operate, you feel a lot more confidence going into that space' (Girl, 14 from Connaught Estate).

but as an area where the dangers could be navigated. Here they know people, know who was likely to be threatening, what they were likely to do, and how they could best defend themselves. For Brookhill young people though, Connaught was a space of danger. One young boy described the area as 'thugged up'. Children as young as nine spoke of 'knives, guns, baseball bats and large groups of youths.' For all of the young people, a number of estates further afield were also seen as areas of danger.



Brookhill do not use the facilities on Connaught Estate unaccompanied even though they are very close by.

- **Turf**

On the Brookhill Estate, more so than Hawksmoor, inter-estate rivalries prevent young people from participating in youth activities (such as the youth club) and facilities (such as the skate park) which are relatively close to home. For example, some young people from Brookhill Estate had begun to go to Woolwich Common Youth Club but young people from Connaught had not. Similarly youth from

**Figure 4** "My name is Anna, I am 14 and have brought my bears in today to represent the different estates and I want the barriers to be broken."

- **Age Group**

We found there were broadly three age groups, each shading into each other: at one end children who play only under adult supervision, at the other end older teens whose main activity is socialising in local public space. Our key group is the age group in between who are beginning to play without adult supervision; their parents are very concerned about their safety as they stand at the fork in the path between getting involved in positive or more negative youth activities.

- **Mobility**

Mobility is dependent on age group, gender, the cost of facilities and the cost of travel. Many of the parents we spoke to do not have a car. On Hawksmoor girls go further afield than boys while older the young people are the further afield they go. The extent to which young people are willing to travel is dependent on factors such as how much they know about an area, whether their parents have taken them places in the past (such as Greenwich Town Centre) and whether they have relatives in another local area. In other words, families have different levels of 'cultural capital' – the different sorts of cultural awareness, cultural references and knowledge, experiences and horizons – and this makes a difference to the level of mobility.<sup>2</sup>

- **Formal and Informal spaces**

In both of the areas there are clearly designated play spaces and areas where play is not allowed. On Brookhill, a young person told us 'Before, there was a sign saying "Dogs [Can't] Play On The Children's Play Area" and now it's "No Ball [Game]s".' On Hawksmoor, children play in shadow of 'No Ball Games' signs and the fear of complaints from neighbours. In both Hawksmoor and Brookhill formal youth provision is often underused, due to a combination of the factors discussed here, but informal spaces are popular and used regularly. For example, young people on Brookhill have created their own dens with dumped tyres, old furniture and bits of wood in in-between spaces on the estate (alleys) and made a small camp on nearby wood and grassland. These spaces are popular as they are felt to be semi-private, created and owned by young people. However, young people stated clearly that they use such spaces due to a lack of alternatives. 'If there were football pitches, cages and stuff then of course we wouldn't waste our time making this... We just made it because there's nothing else to do.' Sometimes the use of these spaces can cause problems for housing management and tensions between young people and others.



**Figure 5 In the Den**

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<sup>2</sup> It would be interesting to find out how many of the young people have bikes and how they use them. Work could be done around encouraging both physical activity and mobility through bicycles.

- **Gender**

Geographies are heavily gendered: boys are more aware of the dangers of physical violence and theft, while girls have more fears of sexual dangers. Girls on Brookhill spoke of certain streets being particularly bad for girls, *'All the boys stare and ask questions and the girls there are bitchy...the boys want stuff, sexual things, and if you don't give it people say they make you, like rape, they force you into doing it...rape, sex, oral...getting mugged...really intimidating'*.

- **Dress codes**

Young people are very aware of the ways that their clothes and accessories were read in public particularly by other young people and this too affects their use of space. Young people are skilled at reading and interpreting other people's dress codes. They are usually keen to blend: dressing 'too top' is felt to bring the risk of attracting unwanted attention and possible danger. Young people spoke of the possibility of being classed as a thug because of what they wear – typically track suit bottoms, trainers, wearing trousers low, hoodies. Wearing this kind of clothes can attract intimidation. As one girl said, 'the gang boys think you're top if you dress like that'. Furthermore certain places such as the skate park in Woolwich Centre and Plumstead Corner were marked by particular dress codes ('grungy') and were therefore off limits for some young people.

- **Race and Racism**

Some perceptions of 'danger' were racialised and particular places were marked through race. There were some instances of racism based on skin colour – one young person did not go to Woolwich Waterfront partly because it was perceived as used by black people. More frequently, we heard prejudice against newer migrant groups (Vietnamese, Somali, Kosovan) and against travellers.

- **Reputation**

Certain areas have bad reputations, such as the Skate Park in Woolwich and Woolwich Common. However, these vary between those children who actually go to the places discussed and those who don't. As noted already, some of these are racialised. For example, some young people from both estates discussed Somali boys as a danger and one did not want to go to the Woolwich Waterfront due to the presence of black people. The reputation of places is also contingent on time of day. The play park on Plumstead Common close to the Hawksmoor Estate is felt to be safe during the day in the school holidays, as mothers and their children would be there, but at other times it is seen as dangerous and frequented by 'nutters'.

**'Race' in Woolwich**

We feel that this report has not fully addressed issues which came up in the research around racism and ethnicity and this appendix attempts to flag these issues up. In particular, a number of participants referred to Somali youth in a range of contexts. For example, Hawksmoor parents and a worker from Respond both described the Woolwich Common Youth Club as being, or having been, dominated by Somali youth. Respond, he said, were attempting to 'destroy that culture'. Given the furore around the Darcus Howe documentary 'Who You Callin' A Nigger?'<sup>1</sup>, highlighting tensions between Somali and other BME young people in Woolwich and the public meetings which followed, this is be a sensitive area which needs to be investigated further. There is an informal Somali detached youth work project in the town centre, which has contact with the CARE Partnership, and it would be important for the project to connect with this, to ensure that Somali youth are not excluded from any future provision that emerges from the Sport Inquiry, which is a particular risk in the context of the high media profile given to these tensions.

## 6. Perceptions

- **Gender**

We found that there are clear issues about boys and girls being interested in different activities. Football is by and large the most popular sport with boys (and some girls) but most girls are more interested in street dance and trampolining. Girls expressed anxieties about not wanting to do sport in front of boys. As one girl stated, *'I won't do it in the same room, I don't want boys seeing my fat wobbling'*. In the course of the research girls often watched the boys play rather than participate themselves. There is also a perception from girls that sport activities are aimed at boys and that mixed activities are quickly dominated by boys. As one teenage girl stated when discussing how she used the Skate park on Connaught Estate, *'You sit there and talk and stuff. We sometimes stay there until 9 or 10.'*

- **Affordability**

There is a perception from young people and some of their parents that mainstream leisure facilities are not affordable. Calculating the cost of going to sport activities includes the cost of the activity and often the cost of travel. To give just one example, junior swimming at the Woolwich Waterfront ranges from £1 to £3.30 during peak periods. However, during the summer holidays the Waterfront was offering free swimming to children. Although this led to it being quite crowded at times, which was mentioned as off-putting by one child, this is one example of good practice in making physical activity accessible.

- **Parental Support and Awareness**

Often young people's access to sport activities and facilities other than those very local (on the doorstep) is dependent on parents either taking them and bringing them home again, or on parents giving young people permission to go alone. At Hawksmoor it was noticeable that the places the young people prefer are outside walking distance, while those within walking distance are perceived as inadequate or unsafe.

Many parents who work full-time feel they do not have the time or the energy to take their children to sport facilities in the evening. However, on Brookhill parents had recently begun to actively accompany their children to the Woolwich Common Youth Club in an attempt to increase their confidence about using the facilities there. Where this sort of parental support was not present there was less use of local facilities.

- **Anti-social behaviour and bad neighbours**

We found that in Hawksmoor Close we encountered some tensions between residents rooted in or realised through disagreements over children playing ball in front of people's homes. This was in contrast to Brookhill, where most residents seemed keen to identify places to play. There, concerns around anti-social behaviour were directed at young people from off the estate who were causing trouble.

- **Security and safety**

**Figure 6 Winn's Common play area**

A sense of security and safety was crucial for young people deciding whether to use facilities. For example, on Hawksmoor, young people's use of the ball court (the 'cage') had been prohibited in the past due to it being dominated by gangs of young people from off the estate. Young people had considerable concerns about unknown youth, adults groups of youths, youths who may be taking and /or dealing drugs, people



who were seen to be 'mad'. These issues were more pronounced on Brookhill Estate but were also an issue at Hawksmoor. So for example, at Hawksmoor, the basketball court nearby on Plumstead Common was not used as it was felt to be dominated by unknown youth. The skate park at Woolwich was felt to be a place where there was drug dealing. These risks were issues for parents too. We found that parents in Hawksmoor Close in particular prefer their children to play near by, where they can be seen and are within 'calling-in' distance due to perceived risks and design issues.

- **Transport**

Young people on the Brookhill Estate were close to the centre of Woolwich and were within walking distance of a range of facilities (such as the Woolwich Waterfront, the Riverside Skate Park, the adventure playground and sports pitches on Plumstead Common). However, for younger people in particular, accessing these facilities depended on an older sibling or adult accompanying them. Young people on Hawksmoor were more dependent on either buses or their parent's cars when accessing more central Woolwich facilities.

- **Healthy Lifestyles**

There seemed to be a strong culture of unhealthy food among the young people. Young people discussed going to cafes/eating places such as MacDonald's, Fish 'n' Grill next to Iceland, Pichos, '*the Vietnamese noodle place*', burger shops, and fried chicken places as both somewhere to socialise close by and somewhere to get cheap food. These might be used less if there were alternative places to socialise.

- **Knowledge**

There appeared to be knowledge of available spaces, but often not of the many activities within those spaces. For example young people on Hawksmoor were not aware of some youth clubs that were run locally. There was little awareness of many of the activities at the Woolwich Waterfront and Plumstead Leisure Centre. Parents varied in their knowledge of local facilities and activities.

## 7. Physical and Design Issues

### Hawksmoor

There are a number of obvious design issues when addressing play and sport on the estates. The Hawksmoor Estate is a series of cul-de-sacs surrounded by small modern houses. There are also two low-rise blocks of flats at the side of the estate which backs onto the edge of Plumstead Common. This area is bounded by a high brick wall. Between the blocks of flats are two parking areas and a small area which was ostensibly designed for play: This 'cage' consists of a small patch of grass surrounded by a 3 meter mesh fence which is broken and somewhat dangerous effectively restricts the playing of ball games both physically and also creates a slightly forbidding impression. The surface of the play area is grassed and is used for dog fouling.



Figure 7 Participants in the 'cage'.

Behind the blocks of flats there is a narrow alleyway which serves little purpose other than to give maintenance access to the rear of the flats. Either end of the alleyway is currently sealed by two mesh gates; these do not appear overly secure. Previous to the gates being in place the alleyway was an opportunistic hidey-hole whose use by youths had disturbed and caused concern to tenants living in the flats. The entrance to the flats consists of a covered shelter accessible by non-residents.



Figure 8 Hawksmoor 'cage'

## Brookhill

The Houses on Brookhill Estate are ex-army houses which Hyde inherited through stock transfer. Much of the estate is terraced with paths linking small courtyards. There are no designated play areas on the estate but there are several small patches of green. Some of these have 'No Ball Games' signs. One of these had some play facilities such as swings for small children. This was in need of repair and was removed when the properties were taken on by Hyde. These have not been replaced. Young people play on some of these small green spaces and, as is the case at Hawksmoor, this is often the cause of friction between young people, neighbours and parents.



**Figure 9** After play facilities were removed. "There used to be six parks but the others were demolished. They weren't safe."

## 8. RSL and Agency Practice: Working on Estates



**Figure 10 Brookhill Close Sign**

Clearly, addressing play and sport provision on an estate level provides specific challenges for RSLs. Firstly, working on estates means dealing with residents' expectations. This often means addressing resident's jaded pessimism about the Association's commitment to bringing about change. This is often the case when past experience with agencies has been negative.

Secondly, working at an estate level reveals the micro scale of residents' geographies. This is particularly the case when working with young residents, as this Inquiry has demonstrated. Any solutions identified need to resonate with this sort of scale if they are to have any local backing. In general, providing very local, micro play facilities needs to be weighed up against other factors such as surrounding provision. In both cases there were play areas close by (Plumstead Common at Hawksmoor and the Connaught games area close to Brookhill). However, these were not used for the reasons outlined above. These very local play spaces, while relieving some pressures in terms of housing management, can provide others unless issues of siting, and the need to develop a sense of local ownership of any facilities, are addressed sensitively. Finally the costs of maintaining such of on-estate facilities needs to be weighed up against possible repair costs due to vandalism and accidental damage etc.

### **Planning Future Housing Development**

While the demand for social housing continues and the land available for development has become scarcer, RSLs have been increasingly faced with the dilemma of building on inner city open space or sports grounds and therefore reducing the sport and leisure facilities that urban residents require. Some associations have taken an approach of replacing such sites with smaller, more focused amenities and/or alternative economic and community development initiatives. Housing which is designed with young couples and young families in mind

should give attention to the design and provision of play space and play activities considering the extensive housing management issues that can arise from having young people on the estate with nowhere appropriate to play or socialise. Similarly, national guidance stipulates that RSLs should provide sufficient parking spaces for residents when designing new build. While this does address the problems associated with on street parking etc it does result in large amounts of space being dedicated to cars. On Hawksmoor, the majority of the open space in the Close is designed for car parking, while adjacent to Brookhill was the Lord Roberts car park, used more for abandoning vehicles than for parking.

Unless play facilities are considered as an integral aspect of design in the way that car parking is, tensions between residents will inevitably arise. This costs the Association time in management costs due to repairs, dealing with neighbour disputes and possible issues of community cohesion.

### **Neighbours in Conflict, Housing Team Roles and Community Development**

We found that in Hawksmoor Close we encountered some tensions between residents rooted in or realised through disagreements over children playing ball. As fears and design issues have led to children and young people playing in the cul-de-sacs and small squares in front of neighbours' homes or not playing out at all, there are disagreements between those parents who want their children close by and those who do not want other people's children playing in front of their houses. Again on Brookhill estate children and young people playing in informal play spaces has given rise to tensions amongst neighbours. On this estate there are many small patches of green space, which were popular with residents consulted in the course of research as possible sites for a swings or ball games area. This, though, might also create tensions between young people/parents and residents living right by such spaces. All these sorts of tensions require careful housing management practice.

However, we found that the relationship between tenants and RSLs were not always conducive to managing these conflicts. Where there is no existing TRA, tenants most often come into personal contact with the Association through their housing officer. We found in some cases that tenants see the housing officer in a policing role, clamping down on play. As one resident stated when she realised the research was funded by Hyde but that the researcher who had approached her was not a

Hyde employee, *'I thought it was a bit weird. You don't normally get anyone from Hyde knocking on your door round here unless it is to tell you off about something'*.

'The people who don't go out are the ones whose mums look out of their window at the kids who do play ball and then tell Hyde.'

'We don't play ball games any more since the signs, and we don't go anywhere out of the house except to school and friends' houses.'

'There are signs everywhere saying 'No ball games'. The balls hit people's doors and go in their gardens. My mum gets a lot of the ball banging. She starts off polite but then she [gets angry] because its' constant. But from another point of view, we've got nowhere else to play and you can't expect kids not to play.'

Addressing the tensions that arise on estates over the uses (and abuses) of public space and finding community-generated solutions requires skilled community development work. These are not necessarily the skills of those workers doing the front line estate work with residents. Furthermore due to residents' perceptions of RSLs, their officers are often entering into a relationship with residents which are already marked as antagonistic. Dedicated community development and resident involvement work has clear benefits for housing associations addressing issues of play and sport. They provide a point for consultation and communication, a forum where residents can express their concerns and a point where resident involvement and engagement can begin, moving from a culture of complaint to one of collective action.

The energy and commitment of Brookhill residents is a testament to the benefit of community development work. A recently formed and active TRA which was in part focussing on the issue of children's and young people's play, safety and well-being. It was easier to do the research in this area with community activity. Furthermore, children's play was less a point of contention between residents, and more an opportunity for focussed community activity.

### **Neighbourhood Management**

Hyde selected the Brookhill area partly because it falls within a Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder area (Changes in Common). This brought both advantages and disadvantages. The Changes in Common Pathfinder provided a pre-existing hub for agencies and organisations working in the pathfinder area. The Pathfinder's community development work in the Brookhill area (specifically the establishment and support of the Brookhill TRA) meant that it was easier to engage with residents. Residents were already aware of local structures and how to voice their concerns productively and, most importantly, they had already seen local change. This was most evident in the establishment of the games area on Connaught Estate. (This was in contrast to Hawksmoor where local dissatisfaction and disillusionment was expressed in terms of local personalities and a lack of belief in the possibility of change). However, there were also disadvantages associated with working in a Pathfinder area. Getting a clear picture of local issues and possible solutions was difficult due to their being enmeshed within a complex local history with its own players and politics. However, the inter-agency, action-oriented work we have conducted is very much, we believe, in the spirit of Neighbourhood Management as the policy is nationally understood.

### **Developing Interagency Strategies To Address Solutions**

This work has focussed on issues of sport and play in specific neighbourhood and has employed participative action research methods to bring together a range of local agencies and residents to find solutions together. This is one example of how RSLs can develop interagency strategies to tackle local concerns. Clearly RSLs cannot resolve all estate based issues through on-the ground housing management (e.g. putting up 'No Ball Games' signs, or through the vigilance and attentiveness of Housing Officers). RSLs are in a position to lead on developing small local interagency partnerships with the input of residents as a way of building local cohesion and reducing management costs in the longer term.

## 9. Wish Lists

As described in the Methodology above, the research project attempted to gather a wish list from young people and their parents in both areas.

### Hawksmoor

The main wishes that came through from the young people and parents who participated in the Hawksmoor study were:

- A regular local youth club. It was suggested that this could take place at Invicta Community Centre. Invicta Community centre is run By Greenwich Community Centres and is a short walk from Hawksmoor Close. It is currently vacant two evenings a week. This would offer opportunities for more cohesion amongst local youth across age groups.
- The existing games area (the Cage) to be improved. The main suggestions were to extend it into the unused parking areas on either side, to renew the fencing and to replace the grass with a sports surface with some sports games markings. These measures would also end the current dog fouling and increase use (see figure 11).



**Figure 11 Car parking space adjacent to the cage**

### Brookhill

The main points that came through from the young people and parents who participated in the Hawksmoor study were:

- Developing a maintained area of grass for football
- Providing a cage for multi-ball game markings with sheltered spectator area
- Providing a swings area for smaller children
- Providing activities for girls.

# 10. Agency Practice and Opportunities

## Agency Practice: Youth Work

### Statutory sector provision

The inquiry has shown that there is a need for youth activity. On Hawksmoor in particular, young people wanted to be part of a youth club and were unaware of any provision in the area. Detached youth workers would help in drawing young people into existing activities and bringing local youth together. Clearly, detached work and outreach are important in bringing young people to existing facilities and in diverting them from less positive recreational activities. However, this research finds that in LBGreenwich the statutory youth work service is overstretched and there is a shortage of detached youth workers. Furthermore, within current practice, those workers available tend to focus on an area of where negative youth activity is a local concern for a short period (e.g. for several months) and then move on to the next patch. This 'hot patch' approach, while necessary, does not encourage long term development of youth activity with a community led focus.

### Voluntary sector provision

In Plumstead, the Inquiry found faith based youth clubs who were interested in working in partnership with Hyde to engage Hawksmoor young people. The Salvation Army in Plumstead, through their youth ministries could allocate a youth worker to the area although this would need to be time limited and project specific. The Salvation Army were interested in working with Hyde and Parents to raise funds for a youth ministry youth worker. The Salvation Army also has a Community Grant for small items of equipment. This could be complemented with funds from Hyde. There is also a well-equipped Community Youth Club at the East Plumstead Baptist Church on Griffin Road, Plumstead which has been funded by LBG. Hawksmoor youth were not aware of this youth club and there are clear benefits in working to build links between Hyde parents, children and the EPBC Youth Club.

At Brookhill Close young people were aware of the youth club at Woolwich Common, however use of the youth club by Brookhill youth was limited. WCYC is now managed by an organisation called Respond Community Matters who have managed the youth club since January 2004. Since then Respond have worked to improve the building and facilities to Charities Commission and acceptable health and safety standards. They are now ready to open it up to young people on the basis of need. However, the centre is not able to function to full capacity as they need funding for a centre manager and two outreach workers. In spite of local residents being interested in volunteering to run youth sessions, the centre management is unwilling to use local volunteer outreach workers informally and prefer to pay and manage them professionally. Respond have made many funding applications for the workers needed. In spite of having potential users (such as Brookhill and Connaught youth/residents) they have not received funds from Neighbourhood Renewal Funds as WCYC lies just outside of the Neighbourhood Renewal catchment area. At the time of the inquiry various groups were applying to use WCYC and these applications are being considered. Brookhill TRA now has use of office space at the club and is one of the groups being considered.

There are also larger voluntary sector youth providers operating in Greenwich, such as NACRO, which has done similar work at the Deptford end of the borough, the YMCA, based in Woolwich Riverside, and the community arm of Charlton Athletic, all of whom expressed an interest in supporting the outcomes of the Sport Inquiry.

## **Agency Practice: Community Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing**

In the process of the research we repeatedly heard about anti-social behaviour. Young people spoke of youth from other estates coming into an area such as Brookhill or Hawkmoor to engage in anti-social behaviour (street drinking, drug taking, intimidation of local youth and residents, dominating designated play spaces). Their presence severely affected young people's geographies and parent's confidence in allowing their children to wonder far from home. On Hawkmoor this activity had recently ceased due to the diligence of the Hyde Housing team together with the support of the local police. However, on Brookhill resident's confidence in the local police was low. This was in part due to the length of response times (residents spoke of waiting hours for the police to arrive). However, the police have committed themselves to acting on this. In the course of the research they attended a Brookhill TRA meeting where they indicated that they are now prioritising the estate as they unfold a 'reassurance strategy', which includes increasing the number of community officers doing visible foot patrolling.

## **Opportunities**

This research found a range of opportunities for addressing the resident's concerns/wishes in these two immediate areas. These opportunities need to be considered as part of a strategic approach to sport. In the longer term the Greenwich Draft Sport Strategy and the London wide Olympic bid provide a cultural context where the value of sport is recognised. However, the specifics of what this will mean locally are still unclear.

**CABE, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment** (<http://www.cabe.org.uk/>), are an organisation who have considerable expertise in participative design, specifically enabling young people to design and care for urban spaces. This organisation offers some useful resources that could feed into Hyde's future development plans.

**Charlton Athletic FC** is located in the borough and has an extensive programme of community activities, mostly delivered through their Football in the Community wing and the Charlton Athletic Race Equality (CARE) Partnership. CARE can fund training residents as football coaches and can help to provide sporting activities. Some possible locations are the ball games court on Connaught or the Meridian Football Club.

**Changes in Common:** Discussions have also taken place with the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder in whose area Brookhill lies, Changes in Common. It has expressed broad support for the Sport Inquiry's work and interest in funding detached youth work. They are also producing a play strategy. Hyde Plus will approach Changes in Common to clarify what they will commit to.

**Brookhill Meeting Rooms** At the time of the inquiry there was also some use of the Brookhill Meeting rooms at the edge of the Brookhill estate however, this building will be demolished and replaced with a new Sure Start centre (for children 0-4), (date) In the process of this development some existing users will be displaced. However, as Hyde are the developers there may be opportunities here for developing some of the space around the centre as play spaces for children (as per young people's and parents' wish list)

The **Ministry of Defence** (MoD) own a considerable amount of Land close to the Brookhill Estate. They have announced plans to move out of the Woolwich area by 2008. In the short term Hyde could consider approaching the MOD for official temporary use of the green space at the back of Brookhill Estate. This is currently

used on an informal basis by local children and youth. In the longer term it is expected that much of the green space in the area will be sold for development which would be a considerable loss to the young people and the local residents generally. Any increase in the local population will put further pressure on the recreation facilities and spaces already available. It may be the case that Hyde together with LB Greenwich may be able to find opportunities to secure some recreational space under section 106 opportunities alongside future development opportunities. (Greenwich Draft Sports Strategy specifically mentions maximising the use of section 106 to provide sport facilities).



**Figure 12 The MOD Land**

There is also a range of **funding opportunities** worth examining, including both larger and smaller pots of money for different kinds of work.

# 11. Recommendations

Here we present our recommendations relating to each estate. Some of these recommendations, we believe, might be looked at by RSLs in developing good practice on other estates. Below these recommendations, we set out an action plan, showing how different stakeholders might realise them.

## Hawksmoor

The main issues that arose in the course of this research on Hawksmoor are those of community cohesion, design and local provision of youth work. We are suggesting a three-pronged approach to be coordinated by Hyde Plus and delivered by several stakeholders. Our recommendations are as follows.

### Community Development

At the heart of the issue on Hawksmoor was a lack of community cohesion, which has been expressed through conflicts over young people's play. In the past, the policing role Hyde Housing has taken has dealt with problems around anti-social behaviour. Now the problems have been addressed, the focus needs to be on healing the tensions caused by the tension. Hyde Plus will take lead in establishing a local steering group to consist of local stakeholders, Hyde Housing and residents (including young people). This will be a way of:

- bringing together local agencies
- bringing residents together and building the beginnings of increasing community cohesion
- consulting with residents on the improvement and possible expansion of the 'cage' and access to play and sport facilities

This could form the groundwork for a longer term task of re-energizing the TRA or creating a new forum for tenant/parent /young people's participation. It will need the support of community development workers within Hyde or Hyde Plus.

### Design

In the short term, some of the design issues can be easily addressed. Hyde can consider relaxing the 'No Ball Games' policy in certain areas of the estate until the cage is renovated, as well as repairing the fence surrounding the cage, providing a lock for the gate and liaising with residents about locking and unlocking the gate at agreed times. In the longer term, following consultation and full feasibility study, we recommend the cage be extended, replacing the existing grass surface with an extended all-weather surface which includes multi-ball markings.

### Youth Work.

We recommend that work be done to help Hawksmoor young residents access existing provision, while also developing new activities targeted at them. This is clearly best done through the voluntary sector. East Plumstead Community Youth Club (based at the Baptist Church) will do some outreach in Hawksmoor Close (and another nearby Hyde estate, Clothmakers). This is to be followed by a visit by young people and their parents to the club co-ordinated by Hyde Plus and the Club. The Salvation Army (Plumstead) will meet with residents and young people on Hawksmoor Close to discuss access to Salvation Army facilities, use of Invicta Hall and funding. Following on from this, the Salvation Army might bid for a youth worker and facilities via a Salvation Army community grant. In the long term this could lead to the development of a local youth club at Invicta Hall. In the even longer term, we hope that such voluntary sector provision might start to be delivered in a more joined up way, and it is possible that an umbrella forum for voluntary sector youth providers might emerge through this work.

## **Brookhill**

At Brookhill Close the main issues that arose in the course of this research were of design, safety, reducing inter-estate tensions, provision of very local micro play areas, co-ordinating activities and increasing young people's confidence in public space. This work is to be taken forward by a steering group which has already emerged through the course of this research. Our recommendations are as follows.

### **Estate design and maintenance**

We recommend that Hyde Housing subscribe to Greenwich's 'Cleansweep' programme in order to reduce levels of tipping on and around the Brookhill Estate. We recommend that Hyde Housing commit to improve the maintenance of greens. We recommend that Hyde Housing consider relaxing 'no ball games policy' in certain areas of estate.

### **Play Facilities**

We recommend that Hyde Housing explore siting of basic play facilities (basket ball hoops, swings), leading to a resident consultation and feasibility study for new facilities on the estate, perhaps as part of the Hyde new build. We recommend that Hyde approach the Ministry of Defence about allowing short-term use of wood/grass land and (together with LB Greenwich) explore possibilities arising from section 106 due to MOD's departure from Woolwich. The funding opportunities listed in Appendix 2 of the report to funders might also be approached to fund such work. We recommend that the Sport Inquiry findings are integrated into Changes in Common's local sport and play strategy, as well as the borough's Sports Strategy.

### **Youth Work**

Alongside the delivery of play facilities very locally, work needs to be done to help young people access existing provision. We recommend that youth agencies (LBG, YMCA, Connexions) develop detached outreach work on the estate and promote existing activities, encouraging more cross-estate use of existing provision. Hyde Housing might be able to fund voluntary sector provision, while Changes in Common might be able to bring in statutory sector provision. An idea that arose during the research included estate-based football training leading to inter-estate tournament; CARE might be able to provide this.

### **Community Development and Safety**

Changes in Common, as part of the development of this strategy, should lead on developing resident-led safety initiatives, such as volunteer key-keeping for the cage or a warden scheme. This would complement the police's unfolding of a reassurance strategy and higher profile patrolling (as part of the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative), to deal with the anti-social behaviour problems. We also recommend that Changes in Common lead on capacity building with residents on the steering group, leading to funding applications and long-term sustainability.

## ACTION PLAN

In each area, at the exhibition that concluded our research, a group of stakeholders agreed to take forward the actions recommended through the research and Hyde Plus agreed to co-ordinate them into steering groups. On Hawksmoor, where there are fewer agencies involved and less tenant participation, Hyde Plus will take a more active role in the co-ordination, while on Brookhill, a potentially sustainable steering group has already emerged.

Action	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
All	Steering groups formed to take recommendations forward for both areas	Formalize Youth Activity Partnership  Look into development opportunities in line with local and national strategies	Funding secured to deliver estate based sustainable sport programme locally
Hyde (Overall)	Establish strategic links with LBG Sport strategy	Explore funding opportunities for future children and youth sport and recreational activity in both areas  Consider implications for housing management procedures (e.g. approach to ball games and maintain play areas).  Review development approaches to new build and specifically play and sports provision.	Working with residents, review other Hyde 'priority' estates.
Hyde (Hawksmoor)	Residents and young people to work in partnership with Hyde and Development workers on consultation re sport/play facilities.  Consider relaxing 'no ball games policy' in certain areas of estate until ball games area renovated	Re-energize TRA or new forum for parents/tenant participation  Ownership of partnership's work at estate level  Promote Sports Inquiry solutions to residents  Continue to feed in resident viewpoint	Increased community cohesion  Reduction of housing management time dealing with tensions between residents that arise over young people playing in informal spaces
Hyde (Brookhill)	Commitment to maintaining greens	Promote Sports Inquiry solutions to residents	Explore section 106 opportunities due to MOD's departure

	<p>Explore siting of basic play facilities (basket ball hoops, swings)</p> <p>Consider relaxing 'no ball games policy' in certain areas of estate</p> <p>Focused consultations about identified spaces</p>	<p>Feasibility study on new play/sport facilities on BH estate in consultation with residents</p> <p>Secure Funding from Housing/family Centre development towards new play/sports facility.</p> <p>Approach MOD about allowing short-term use of wood/grass land.</p>	from Woolwich.
Brookhill TRA	Work in partnership with Hyde and C in C on consultation with residents re sport/play facilities	<p>Ownership of partnership's work at estate level</p> <p>Promote Sports Inquiry solutions to residents</p> <p>Continue to feed in resident viewpoint</p>	
Changes in Common	Integrate Sports Inquiry findings and recommendations into future play/sport strategy	<p>Lead on developing resident-led safety initiatives e.g. volunteer key keeping or warden scheme</p> <p>Capacity building with residents on steering group, leading to sustainability funding</p>	
Youth agencies (LBG, YMCA, Connexions...)	<p>Detached outreach work on BH estate</p> <p>Promote existing activities, encouraging more cross-estate use of existing provision</p>	Ongoing youth engagement work locally	
East Plumstead Community Youth Club	Outreach on Hawksmoor Close	Build links with other voluntary sector providers	
Salvation Army	Meet with residents and young people access to the existing youth facilities	Bid for youth worker and facilities via SA community grant developing a youth club	Developing a youth club at Invicta Hall

Police	Unfolding reassurance strategy, patrolling, etc to deal with ASB problems		
Woolwich Common Youth Club	Continue to work with Brookhill parents		
Charlton Football in the Community	Take lead in organizing estate-based football training leading to inter-estate tournament		
LBG	Integrate Sports Inquiry findings into borough Sport Strategy		

## Appendix 1

This research was carried out by researcher at the Centre for Urban and Community research, Goldsmiths College, New Cross. The research team were Alison Rooke, Ben Gidley, Kalbir Shukra, Debbie Humphry and Martin Myers. The research team would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their help with the research.

- The young people and their parents from Brookhill and Hawksmoor estate who took part in this research
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- Jonathan Dixon, LGB Sport Strategy Manager
- Ian Duke, Changes in Common
- Greenwich Community Centres team
- Micah Gold, Changes in Common
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- Rhiannon Herbert Greenwich PCT
- Invicta After-School Club
- Rudi James, NACRO
- Garnet Johnson, Greenwich YMCA
- Seb Jordan, East Plumstead Baptist Church Youth Club
- Ade Joseph, Changes in Common
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- Gary Redding, Respond Community Matters
- Blackheath Rugby Club
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- Ali Steele, Woolwich Tramshed
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## **Appendix 2 Maps**

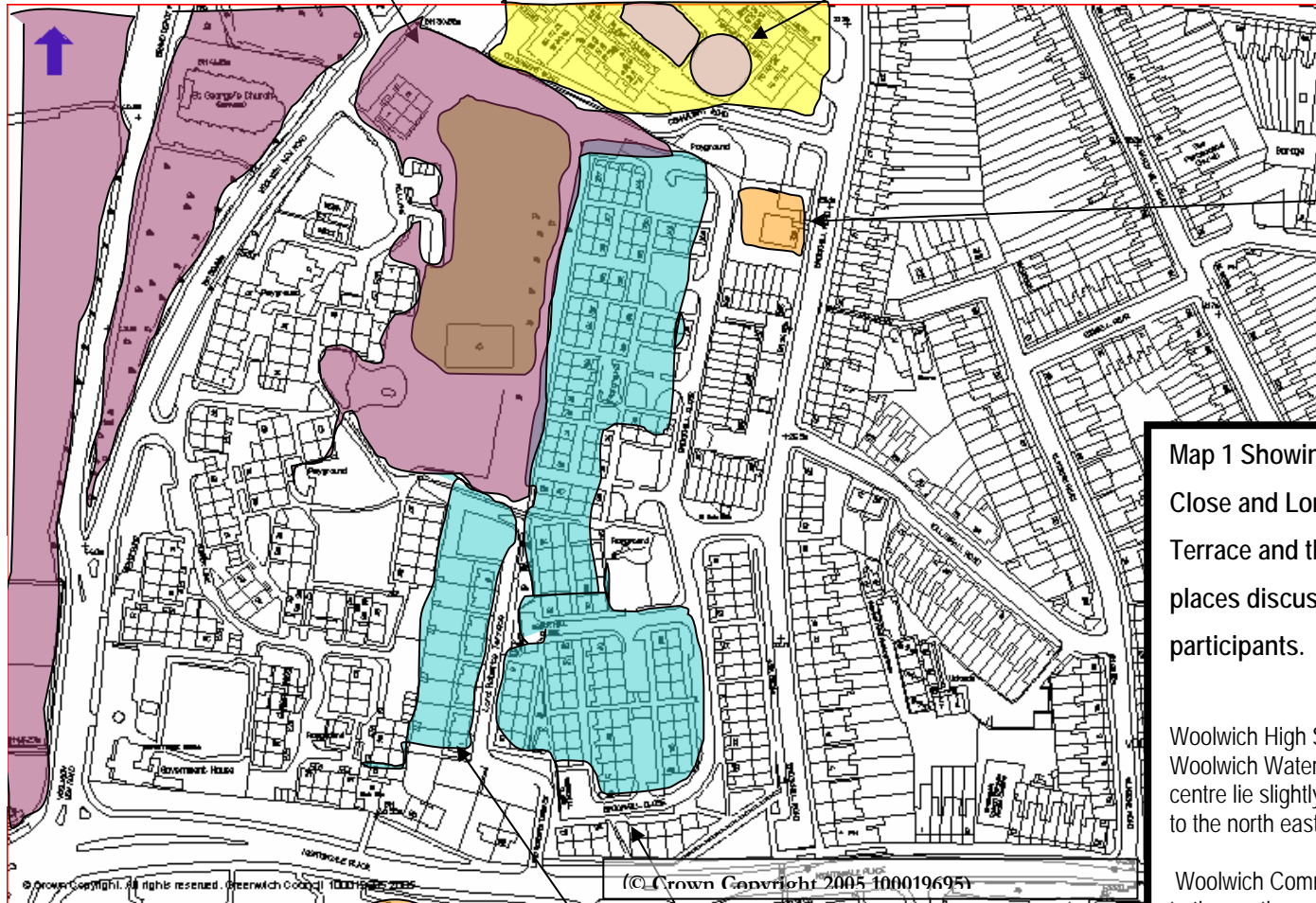
**Map 1: Brookhill area**  
**Map 2: Hawksmoor area**

MOD Land used for play

Connaught Estate

Skate Park and Ball Games Areas

Brookhill Meeting Rooms



Woolwich Common Youth Club

Brookhill Close and Lord Roberts Terrace

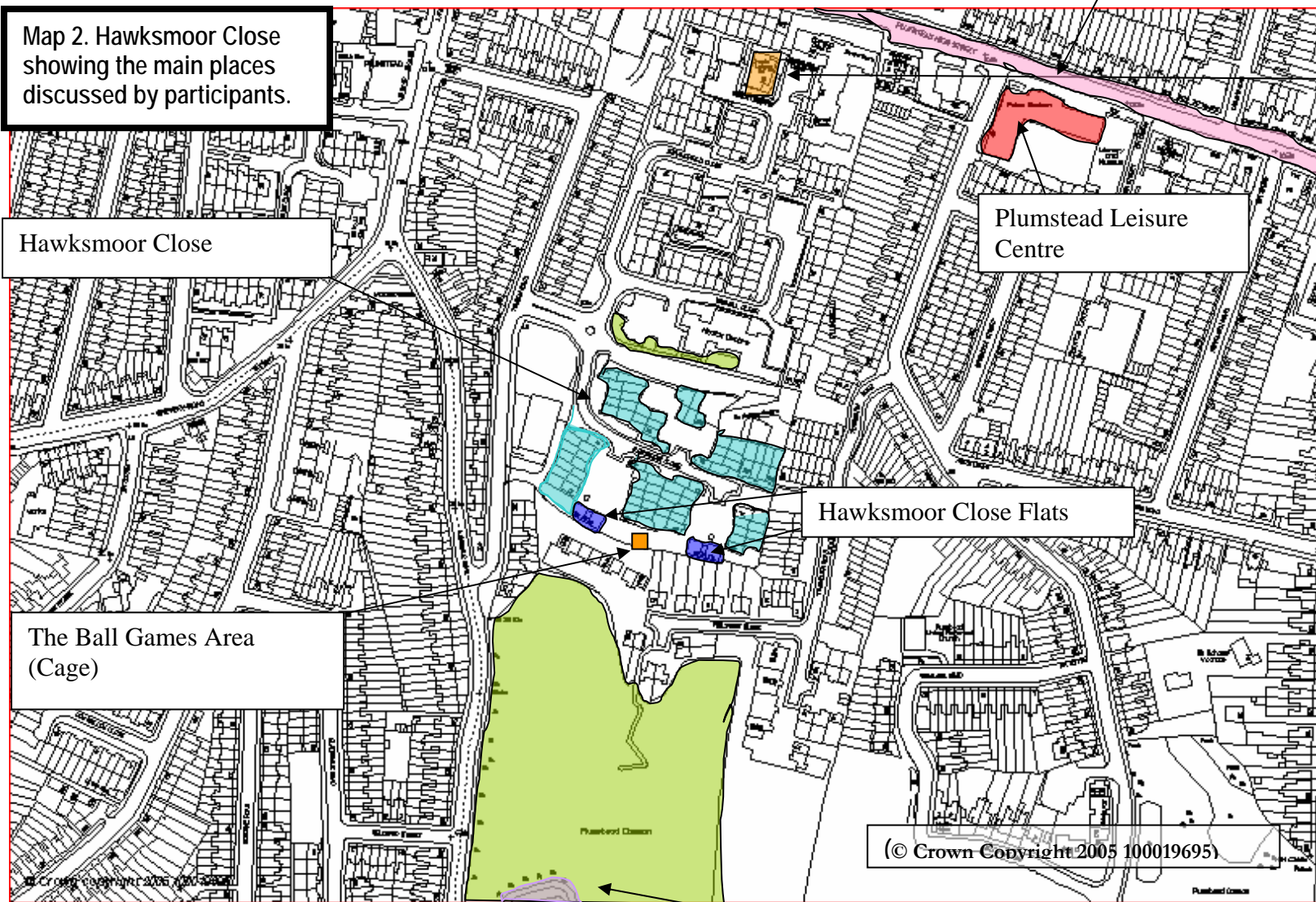
Map 1 Showing Brookhill Close and Lord Robert Terrace and the main places discussed by participants.

Woolwich High Street and Woolwich Waterfront Leisure centre lie slightly out of this map to the north east.

Woolwich Common Estate lies to the south, across Nightingale Place.

Woolwich Common open space lies to the south west.

Map 2. Hawksmoor Close showing the main places discussed by participants.



Plumstead High Street

Invicta Community Centre

Hawksmoor Close

Plumstead Leisure Centre

Hawksmoor Close Flats

The Ball Games Area (Cage)

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Winns Common (part of Plumstead Common) with games area marked