

Local Green Spaces in Balcombe

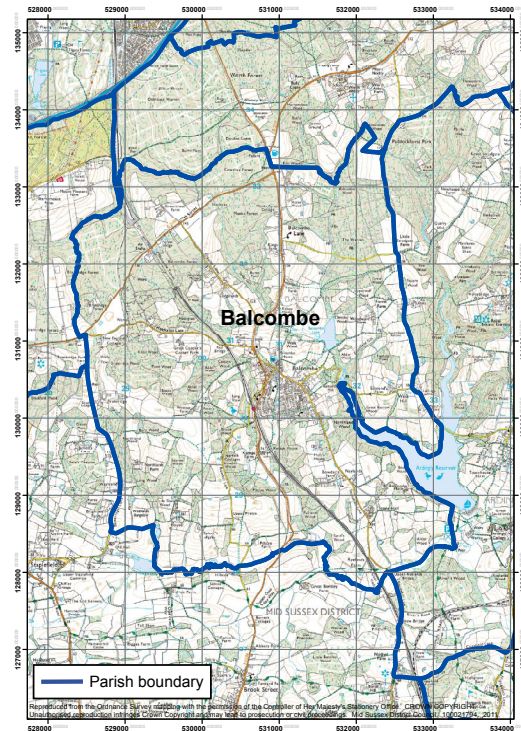
Local Green Spaces as defined in Paragraph 77 of the NPPF

The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field),
- tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Balcombe is a rural parish set in the heart of Mid Sussex and within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It covers an area of 8.31 square miles stretching from the famous Ouse Viaduct in the south to Balcombe Forest in the north. The population is 1,800 (2011 Census) within 755 households.

A number of sites within the village are considered valuable Green Space assets for the community.



1. The Recreation Ground



2. The Cricket Field



3. School Green

1. Recreation Ground

The recreation ground is located in the heart of the village and is used as a children's playground, adult fitness space, the home of Balcombe FC during the winter as well as the venue for the annual village fete and May Superstars competition. The recreation ground is owned and maintained by Mid Sussex District Council. The Pavilion is owned and maintained by Balcombe Parish Council.

2. Cricket Field

The cricket ground is idyllically located with glorious views across the AONB. The village fields 3 Saturday and Sunday teams as well as junior teams and coaching. There is an annual cricket week culminating in the famed cricket club BBQ. It has also been used to other events such as an Opera Brava performance in aid of the Church and for private hire eg for wedding receptions. The main cricket field is owned by the Balcombe Estate, the 2nd cricket field is owned by a multi-ownership family trust and comprises part of Bagpiths Field (see 6.)



4. Bowling Green



5. Alley Green



6. Bagpiths Field



7. Barn Meadow Play Area



8. Scout Hut Amenity Space



9. School Playing Field

3. **School Green**

The green space at the northern entrance to the village with village flagpole, sign, benches, commemorative trees and a newly planted poppy field in tribute to those who died in WW1. This is common land maintained by Balcombe Parish Council.

4. **Bowling Green**

The well-used bowling club is located close to the recreation ground. It is particularly well used by the older members of the community. The site is owned by the Balcombe Estate and maintained by Bowls Club.

5. **Alley Green**

Alley Green is a tranquil green area to the south east of the village centre which provides a small open space for all residents as well as access for residents of houses located on Alley Green. The Green is owned and maintained by Mid Sussex District Council.

6. **Bagpiths Field**

Whilst the field has no community green space use, it provides the opening to the beautiful vista from the Haywards Heath Road footway over the open countryside to the east. Pedestrians and walkers can see beyond Worth and Wakehurst Place. The field is owned and maintained by the same multi-ownership family trust as the 2nd cricket field (see 2.)

7. **Barn Meadow Play Area**

This playground was built as part of the Barn Meadow affordable housing development in the 1990's. It is mainly used by children living at Barn Meadow but can be used by all village children. It is particularly appreciated by parents of children living on the east of the Haywards Heath Rd as children have no need to cross what has become an very busy main road to the main recreation ground. The play area is owned and maintained by Affinity Sutton.

8. **Scout Hut Amenity Space**

This area is owned by the Balcombe Estate and has a public footpath running through it. It is used by the Scout group for outdoor activities, games, wild cooking and the annual Scouts Bonfire Night on the Thursday closest to 5th November. It is proposed that this area will be cleared and improved for use by the Scouts. It is further proposed that this would be site for a skateboard park for the use of local children.

9. **School Playing Field**

The school benefits from a good sized playing field which comprises open space and a drained area which is used for football, running, sports day and PE lessons. There is also a gazebo which is used for outdoor lessons for small groups.