

CHAPTER 8 : LEISURE AND TOURISM

PART 1 : CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

- 8.1.1 Sport and recreation are important components of civilised life. Participation can help improve individual's health and sense of well being; promotion of sporting excellence can help foster civic and national pride. During the 1980's there was a general decline in the school age population that has led to a fall in the 16-24 age group, while 24-44 and 45-59 age groups are growing. The consequence of this has been in the growth of health related activities such as jogging, running and sports such as bowls, badminton, swimming, etc. whilst team based sports have declined.
- 8.1.2 PPG17 published in 1992 stresses the importance of balancing the competing claims of different land users for leisure purposes. The Borough has adopted this approach throughout the 1990's and now offers a diverse and wide range of leisure and recreation facilities for its citizens, both in terms of outdoor and indoor leisure facilities.
- 8.1.3 The Government's objectives for sport and recreation as set out in PPG17 are:
- To meet the specific needs for both mainstream and specialist sports facilities.
 - To meet the recreational needs of the elderly, disabled and other disadvantaged groups.
 - To sustain and enhance the availability of public rights of way.
 - To ensure that playing fields are protected for their recreational and amenity value, except where no effective contribution is made by the site.
 - To improve access to open space which has recreational value.

Other Interested Bodies

- 8.1.4 The Sports Council identified a shortfall in the provision of indoor facilities in the Borough in its document, "A Strategy for Sport in the Northern Region 1994-1999". Financial assistance has been gained through the Sports Council for the development of indoor facilities in the Borough. The Park Leisure Centre has been a major example of commitment from the Sports Council. The policies contained in the Local Plan reflect as far as possible the priorities for sport contained in the document, by including policies on play areas, artificial pitches, indoor bowling centres and major sports facilities.

- 8.1.5 The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) advises on the standards to be adopted for open space and play space by local authorities. In particular they recommend between 0.6 hectares and 0.8 hectares of childrens' play space per 1,000 population. The policies contained within this section adopt the advice given by the NPFA on childrens' playgrounds in the context of the local area.

PART 2 : GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- 8.2.1 Outdoor sports facilities are provided by the Borough Council, the Education Department of Cumbria County Council and by private clubs and organisations. They consist of winter sports pitches, golf courses, driving ranges, bowling greens, tennis courts, cricket pitches and athletic tracks.
- 8.2.2 On the whole, Barrow is well provided for most outdoor sports but there are problems with the condition of winter sports pitches and tennis courts. The Park Leisure Centre provides full sized all weather pitches catering for football, hockey and other team sports for use by the whole community. This should not, however, rule out the possibility of more being provided, especially in Dalton if funding from the Sports Council becomes available.
- 8.2.3 At present the Borough is heavily reliant on Education Authority pitches. However, the increased threats to sports pitches due to cuts in Education Authorities' budgets has not affected the "dual role" of schools in meeting the demand for outdoor sports, as was feared in the 1991 Local Plan. In fact the opposite has occurred where schools have extended the use of their facilities to the community in order to supplement decreasing budgets, although the recession and lack of development interest may have forced this position. It is generally expected that schools will continue to provide for outdoor sport activity with the possibility of obtaining Lottery funding for the improvement of facilities.

Indoor Sports

- 8.2.4 The 1991 Local Plan identified a general sporting deficiency in indoor facilities, including swimming baths. The opening of the Park Leisure Centre and Park Vale Centre have reduced the overall deficit of indoor facilities to an acceptable level and it is the intention of the Authority to continue to upgrade and maintain existing facilities to a high standard, such as the new fitness studio at the Park Leisure Centre. Major improvements have also been taking place and are likely to continue to do so at local schools. Centres of Excellence have been developed for Table Tennis at Park View and for Netball at Chetwynde and there is now a Basketball Centre at Thorncliffe. A Tennis Centre of Excellence has also been mooted for land at Park View.
- 8.2.5 Dalton town centre has been identified as deficient in its sports hall provision. An area to the rear of Dalton Leisure Centre provides an opportunity for a new sports hall to be provided and planning permission has now been granted for this.

Playgrounds

8.2.6 There are now 34 childrens' playgrounds in the Borough, compared to 26 playgrounds identified in the 1991 Local Plan. There have been ten new playgrounds installed, notably at Barrow Park and the Dock Museum, with two closures at Kirkstone Crescent and Macadam Street for safety reasons. As predicted the playgrounds are larger with a wider range and number of equipment.

The National Playing Fields Association defines three types of playground:

1. A NEAP - Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play. An unsupervised site serving a substantial residential area, with a minimum of eight types of play equipment for children ages 8-14 and within 15 minutes walking distance.

There are currently seven in the Borough.

2. A LEAP - Local Equipped Area for Play. An unsupervised play area equipped for children of early school age, with at least five types of play equipment and within 5 minutes walking time of home.

There are currently 19 in the Borough.

3. A LAP - Local Area for Play. A small, unsupervised open space, specifically designated for young children for play activities close to where they live. A local area for play may not be equipped but seating for adults and space for childrens' games and play with toys is essential. They would typically be within 1 minute of home.

There are currently 8 in the Borough.

Despite improvements, however, the following areas have been identified as deficient in playground provision, four of which have been carried over from the last Plan period:

North Scale - Possible LEAP at Teasdale Road
North Walney - Possible LEAP at Severn Road*
Lower Ormsgill and surrounding area
Yarlside - Possible LEAP at Chestnut Walk
North Parkside
South Newbarns/Bridgegate
South Vickerstown*
Lower Hindpool*
Town Centre*

* Denotes those carried over from previous Plan.

8.2.7 Allotments

The number of allotments has declined considerably over the last 40 years, although the number of houses without gardens has remained almost the same. Whilst demand for allotments is steady and there would not appear to be any need to allocate land for this purpose, the further loss of allotments for development needs to be carefully monitored.

PART 3 : POLICY SUCCESS OF THE 1991 LOCAL PLAN

- 8.3.1 A stated aim of the 1991 Plan was “to provide play facilities for children in the areas of greatest need”. Policy G10 identified areas of greatest need as Hawcoat, Schneider Road, South Dalton and the Vulcan estate, which now have play facilities. Policy G11 also proved successful in providing new play equipment where housing development was taking place.
- 8.3.2 The 1991 Plan identified a lack of indoor sports facilities. There was no policy directly related to this but there have been two new indoor sports facilities, at the Park Leisure Centre and Park Vale Centre on Walney, as well as the improvements at schools cited above (Para 8.2.4). Indoor leisure facilities have also been built at the Hollywood Park complex at the corner of North Road and Walney Road.

PART 4 : STRUCTURE PLAN CONTEXT

- 8.4.1 Policy 53 of the Structure Plan recognises the importance of providing a framework that enables playing space to be provided to an appropriate standard. It also states that the Local Plan should identify shortfalls in play space and consider making good the deficiency, particularly where new development is to take place.

PART 5 : VISION FOR THE NEW PLAN PERIOD

- 8.5.1 Much activity is envisaged in leisure and recreation over the plan period, particularly within the built up areas of towns.
- 8.5.2 As indicated above an important development of recent years has been the edge of centre Hollywood Park scheme at the junction of North Road and Walney Road, incorporating a multi-screen cinema, bowling alley, bingo hall, fitness centre/swimming pool and three restaurants. This development aims to make Barrow Cumbria’s top entertainment centre, boosting the number of occasional visits to the Borough, particularly from tourists visiting the Lake District. It is hoped that Barrow can accommodate the needs of occasional tourist visitors through its modern shopping facilities and all day entertainment facilities as well as through existing tourist attractions.
- 8.5.3 Public indoor sports facilities such as the Park Leisure Centre will continue to be maintained to a high standard so that health benefits incurred from its use can grow.

- 8.5.4 By the end of the Plan period it is envisaged that Barrow will provide a childrens' play area for all resident Wards, both old and new and to acceptable standards, as set out in this Section below.
- 8.5.5 The various public rights of way including Cistercian Way, Haematite Trail and Cumbria Coastal Way will be protected for the enjoyment of walkers throughout the Plan period and beyond.

PART 6 : AIMS

- 8.6.1 The aims with regard to the Leisure section are to provide for the sporting and recreational needs of the residents of the Borough and in particular to:
- A) Provide for enhanced leisure activities to take place within built up areas in locations that are accessible by public transport.
 - B) Provide play facilities for children in the areas of greatest need and in new housing developments, by the use of Planning Obligations.
 - C) Protect existing sports and recreation facilities as far as possible from development that instead could preferably be accommodated on vacant, underused or other suitable land.
 - D) Promote the use of public rights of way and protect them from development.

PART 7 : GENERAL POLICIES FOR LEISURE USES

- 8.7.1 Most indoor leisure takes place within town centres, as they are easily accessible by public transport and private car, and where noise disturbance to neighbours is minimal. In certain circumstances, however, it may be appropriate to locate in an edge of centre area where the development is of a larger size and cannot be accommodated in a town centre. Such applications will be best placed on the edge of the town centre, where land is accessible by public transport and preferably vacant or underused. If no site within the built up area of town is suitable, then an out of town centre location will become appropriate. Such development will not be favoured where an alternative site could be found within a built up area. Development will not normally be permitted in the open countryside. This policy is in line with the guidance contained within PPG6 and PPG13 on retail and transport, which states that the sequential test should be applied to all developments. It includes indoor leisure uses such as bowling alleys, bingo halls, multiplex cinemas, fun pools, sport halls and standard pools.

8.7.2 In some circumstances it might be necessary to develop a parcel of land adjoining an existing housing development. Where the parcel of land is used for sports or recreation purposes it should normally be protected except where the facilities can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site, or where alternative provision of equivalent community benefit is made available.

8.7.3 The Local Playing Field Users Association have advised as follows:

- “1. The level of provision in Barrow-in-Furness is possibly in 1997 adequate for the number of participating teams. There is no provision at all in Dalton-in-Furness and this puts extra strain on the facilities provided in Barrow-in-Furness. This is an area that needs urgent attention. If an increase in interest in amateur football was to take place there is no adequate room for expansion, in other words no extra areas to play on!
2. As stated in the above answer, Dalton-in-Furness needs at least two football pitches plus changing accommodation.
3. There may be need in the future, if the area picks up again regarding work. At one time during the 80's there was need for 18 playing surfaces, whereas only 15 are available at the present time. Extra money means that people's interest in leisure activities increases. The loss of Croft Park, Rating Lane and the Abbey areas have not been replaced.
4. No possible areas that could accommodate leisure facilities should be sold. If the sale of such areas was to go ahead, it should only be for leisure facilities. The biggest example of this, is the former Risedale School Fields, which could be brought back into use as playing pitches and the all weather changing facilities could be utilised for this or alternatively changing facilities could be provided. The land to the rear of Victoria School, Oxford Street, should also be retained and possible extensions to the Thorncliffe changing accommodation be done or again changing facilities provided.”

The Authority, in association with the English Sports Council North, will continue to monitor and survey the local situation and this work will feed into future reviews of this plan.

8.7.4 The vacant land between the Dock Museum and Furness College, along the Channelside has now emerged as a sustainable and suitable site for a mixed leisure/public house/restaurant development. this would be compatible with the surrounding land uses and would enhance the area's attractiveness to visitors.

POLICY G1

The vacant land along the Walney Channel frontage between the Dock Museum and Furness College is allocated as an area for mixed use leisure development, encompassing uses within Classes A3 and D2.

POLICY G2

Applications for the development of stand alone (i.e. not related to a particular school) indoor leisure facilities will be permitted in the following order of priority, whereby permission will only be granted for a site in a lower category if the Authority are satisfied that there is no site available in a higher category;

- a) *In a redundant or vacant unit in a town centre location accessible by public transport;*
- b) *Where another suitable location exists in a town centre and is accessible by public transport;*
- c) *In an edge of centre location where a town centre location is inappropriate or unavailable; or*
- d) *Where it has been demonstrated that no appropriate town centre or edge of centre location exists to accommodate the development and where served by public transport and in conjunction with other Plan policy criteria contained in the Plan.*

POLICY G3

Development proposals involving the loss of existing or former public or private recreation and community facilities such as parks, play areas, sports fields, school playing fields, allotments, sports halls and village halls will be permitted provided it can be demonstrated that either;

- a) *There is no shortfall of provision in the area for all existing and likely future users of that lost facility; or*
- b) *An alternative site is to be provided, at the developer's expense, of comparable size and quality, with any necessary associated changing facilities, and at a comparable location with the lost facility.*

PART 8 : ENTERTAINMENT

8.8.1 The Authority believes that it is appropriate to concentrate late night activities such as clubs, dance halls, discotheques, etc. in areas which will cause least disturbance to town centre residents, away from the most important retail outlets and avoiding the possibility of vandalism taking place. For the purposes of this policy a late night activity is one closing after 11.00 p.m.

POLICY G4

Late night entertainment activities will be considered on their merits within the areas identified on the Proposals Map as Other Barrow Town Centre Shopping Areas (Policy

C6) and Mixed Areas around Barrow Town Centre (Policy C7), excluding the Shopping Core (Policy C5). Outside these areas applications for late night activities will have to demonstrate;

- a) A special requirement to be located inside the area; and*
- b) Minimum disturbance to nearby properties.*

Late night activity will not be allowed in the same building as or directly adjoining a dwelling where noise might be transmitted directly.

PART 9 : TOWN CENTRE AMENITY OPEN SPACE - RAMSDEN SQUARE

8.9.1 Although this space is not ideal, it represents a scarce commodity in central Barrow. Opportunities for replacement may arise as part of development proposals for large sites.

POLICY G5

Applications for development on open space at Ramsden Square will be refused unless the building is of a scale and design which complements the other buildings facing the Square and provides a similar degree of enclosure. Any development must be considered by the Authority to preserve and enhance the character of the Central Barrow Conservation Area.

PART 10 : OUTDOOR SPORTS

8.10.1 The Borough Council is keen to encourage clubs and organisations to provide their own facilities to supplement those provided by Local Authorities. Proposals will be considered against the criteria shown to ensure that they do not detract from residential amenities and, where possible, make use of under-used land.

8.10.2 Kick-about areas and multi-use games areas provide useful recreational areas for all ages, particularly with floodlighting. Ideally, each neighbourhood should have a kick-about area.

8.10.3 Proposals for golf courses on special landscape areas, parks, green wedges, nature conservation areas, open space, playing fields and sites of historic and archaeological importance will be permitted when they are compatible with any other policies and related designations contained in other sections of the Plan.

POLICY G6

Proposals for the provision of outdoor sports facilities with their related buildings and structures, or for the replacement of existing facilities, including those facilities whose location requirements cannot be accommodated within existing built-up areas, will be permitted provided that;

- a) The proposal would not result in visual harm to the character and appearance of the surroundings, the countryside or the coast;*
- b) Residents' living conditions would not be harmed;*
- c) Site access and parking arrangements would not harm the interests of traffic flow or road safety;*
- d) The proposal would not result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and*
- e) The proposal would not harm any site of identified nature conservation interest.*

POLICY G7

Proposals for multi-use games areas or all-weather kick-about areas with floodlighting will be approved where they are situated in the built up areas of towns and villages and residential amenities would not be adversely affected.

POLICY G8

New golf courses, or extensions to existing courses, or driving ranges that form part of a golf course will be permitted where;

- They will not adversely affect the character and appearance of the surrounding area;*
- They make provision for the retention of important landscape features and appropriate landscaping is provided as part of the course construction, matching the species in its immediate surroundings;*
- They will not adversely affect sites of nature conservation value or archaeological or historic importance or the best and most versatile agricultural land;*
- Any new buildings essential to the function of the course are of a high standard of design;*
- They maintain the public footpath network in the area;*

- *They will not adversely affect the amenity of residents in the vicinity; and*
- *Satisfactory access and car parking arrangements are made to adopted standards.*

Proposals for free-standing driving ranges, not related to another recreation use on the land, will not be accepted in the open countryside or in Green Wedge.

PART 11 : PLAY AREAS

- 8.11.1 Where all of a new housing development above 50 units is within 400 metres safe walking distance of an existing play area with at least five types of play equipment, only a play area without equipment should be provided of the first type described below. A safe walk is one that does not cross a busy road. A housing scheme designed mainly for households without children would not normally be appropriate for a play area.
- 8.11.2 There are areas that currently have no playgrounds within 500 metres safe walking distance and limited prospects of new development. The cumulative effect of small residential developments can increase the demand for formal sport pitches within an area over time. There is a need for smaller development sites to contribute towards the provision of formal playing pitches.
- 8.11.3 Recreation space will be required on the Holbeck housing estate in accordance with the provisions of Policy G9.

POLICY G9

New housing development will be required to include, as a minimum, childrens' play space in accordance with the standards set out below, which are hereby adopted by the Authority and based on the recommendations of the National Playing Field Association:

- *Development sites over 15 units or 0.4 hectares in size should provide a play area of no less than 100 metres², within 100 metres or 1 minutes safe walking distance of the new dwellings.*
- *Development sites over 50 units or 0.8 hectares in size should provide a play area of no less than 400 metres², with at least five types of play equipment within 500 metres or 5 minutes safe walking distance of the new dwellings.*
- *Development sites over 100 units should also provide a kick-about space for older children of no less than 400 metres².*

POLICY G10

The following areas are identified for new childrens' play areas:

<i>North Scale</i>	<i>North Walney</i>
<i>Lower Ormsgill</i>	<i>South Yarlside</i>
<i>North Parkside</i>	<i>South Newbarns</i>
<i>South Vickerstown</i>	<i>Lower Hindpool</i>
<i>Town Centre</i>	

POLICY G11

The developer will be required to provide children's play areas in accordance with the criteria of Policy G9 on the allocated land at Site H9 or on the vacant land behind 26-50 Holbeck Park Avenue.

PART 12 : ALLOTMENTS

8.12.1 The need for new allotment land is not sufficient to warrant land being allocated for this purpose in the Local Plan. However, private provision would be encouraged and this policy is included to ensure any future allotments are well located.

POLICY G12

Proposals for new allotments will be approved where they are within or adjacent to housing areas and their development is not likely to detract from the visual amenities of nearby housing. Proposals for allotments/leisure plots will not be approved where they are considered to represent an unacceptable visual intrusion into the countryside.

PART 13 : OTHER AMENITIES

8.13.1 The Council wishes to see community centres throughout the Borough. At present there is no provision in Central Barrow.

PART 14 : RECREATION

8.14.1 The Borough Council has been actively involved with the enhancement of long distance footpaths such as the Cumbria Coastal Way and Cistercian Way where they pass through the Borough (see proposals map) and will continue to improve access to these and other routes.

8.14.2 Through involvement by Cumbria County Council, Parish Councils and voluntary organisations it is hoped that there can be scope for improvements to the rights of way network through possible additions via old railway tracks and farmland depending on negotiations with landowners and resources permitting. The Council will encourage voluntary organisations to be actively involved in creating new routes, as they may obtain resources through Lottery funding.

8.14.3 There is an increasing demand for countryside recreation. This can best be met by improving existing footpath provision from the urban areas to the wider countryside and the creation of permissive rights.

POLICY G13

For the quiet enjoyment of recreation activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding the Borough Council will protect the following designated routes from development taking place on; or in the immediate surroundings where an interesting or visually pleasing view would be adversely affected:-

The Cistercian Way

Haematite Trail

Cumbria Coastal Way

Public Footpaths

Any existing right of way joining the rights of way network

POLICY G14

The Borough Council will seek to protect and enhance all public footpaths where new development is to take place and will encourage the linking of footpaths into housing development to provide easy access to the countryside.

PART 15 : HORSE RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

8.15.1 Horse riding is a popular activity but one which can have a considerable impact on the landscape. This policy is designed to ensure proposals cause minimal intrusion. Permission will not be given for additional residential accommodation in association with stables. Where continuous supervision is required for riding schools these will need to be located in association with existing residential accommodation.

POLICY G15

Change of use from agriculture to leisure related horse grazing and other horse related development such as riding schools and stabling will only be permitted where it can be shown that proposals would not;

a) *Be visually intrusive or detrimental to the character of the area;*

- b) *Use non-traditional or otherwise visually unacceptable buildings or fencing materials or other semi-permanent equipment;*
- c) *Be likely to lead to unacceptable erosion of bridleways, woodlands, commons or any other ecologically sensitive area; and*
- d) *Involve an unacceptable loss of productive farmland, nuisance to residents, pollution of sub soil or water courses, or conflict with vehicular or pedestrian traffic.*

In order to assess fully the impact of proposals for riding schools, the Council will require, as part of the planning application, details of the areas and routes that are intended to be used for horse riding activities.

PART 16 : INFORMAL RECREATIONAL USE OF DESPOILED LANDSCAPES

8.16.1 The Authority is aware that it has several areas which have lain derelict as a result of previous, now abandoned industrial activity and which have become popular informal recreation areas, particularly for motorised uses. Concern has been expressed to the Council by those involved in the countryside that reclamation and redevelopment of these sites can throw pressure from those displaced from them onto more fragile habitats and areas such as beaches and dunes. The Authority agrees, therefore, that this is a consideration that must be taken into account when considering relevant schemes.

POLICY G16

Proposals for the reclamation, restoration, enhancement or development of despoiled landscapes will be permitted provided that they would not result in the harmful loss of any informal recreation value of the land.

PART 17 : TOURISM - CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICY

8.17.1 Tourism makes a major contribution to the national economy and to the prosperity of towns and rural areas. A healthy growth in tourism related development can generate new economic activity and provide new job opportunities, both temporary and permanent. The Government's policy which is emphasised in PPG21 is that the tourism industry should flourish in response to the market, whilst respecting the environment. The central objective is to achieve "sustainable development" that serves the interests of both economic growth and conservation of the environment.

PART 18 : TOURISM - GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- 8.18.1 Since economic forecasts predicted a loss of some 7,000 jobs from Barrow's traditional shipbuilding industries over a three year period, tourism development is now considered an important part of the local economy of the Borough. The number of jobs directly and indirectly sustained by tourism in the Borough is approximately 1,500, which represents a significant proportion of the estimated 4,000 plus jobs in the Furness and Cartmel Peninsulas.
- 8.18.2 Tourism in Barrow has traditionally depended on the business market and visits to friends and relatives. However, with the continued improvements and developments to the shopping centre, visitor attractions such as the Dock Museum and the recently built Hollywood leisure park incorporating a multiplex, Barrow is likely to become an increasingly important day visitor destination.
- 8.18.3 A number of new visitor attractions opened during the last Plan period including the Dock Museum, Colony Country Store and Park House Animal Farm. These attractions have arisen through the Borough being part of the Furness and Cartmel Objective 2 Programme and designation as a tourist priority area.

PART 19 : TOURISM - STRUCTURE PLAN CONTEXT

- 8.19.1 There are two policies in the Joint Structure Plan of relevance to the tourism sector.
- 8.19.2 Policy 10 supports tourism development proposals based on visitors' enjoyment and understanding of the County's distinctive scenic, cultural and historic character, that would help meet a particular economic need, providing the County's environmental quality would not be affected. The policies contained in this section and links with the environment, retail and recreation sections reflect this.
- 8.19.3 Policy 52 stresses the importance, in order to diversify the local economy, of favouring tourism development which is sensitive in design to the character of townscapes and landscapes; development that will not have an impact on existing amenities and does not create nuisance through increases in traffic congestion, noise, etc. Policy G19 specifically addresses the new tourism development in relation to standards expected for new accommodation.

PART 20 : TOURISM - VISION FOR THE NEW PLAN PERIOD

- 8.20.1 Improvements that have been made to retail provision in Barrow town centre will increasingly make the Borough more attractive to holiday makers visiting the Lake District. With the likelihood of a new major leisure and entertainment facility occurring, the prospects for Barrow to become a "wet weather" centre for the Lake District is becoming more a reality than a vision.

8.20.2 Expected increases in visitor numbers during the Summer months will boost existing attractions and increase the demand for further tourist facilities. It is increasingly likely that there will be pressure for the provision of caravan and camping facilities to cater for over night stays. There may also be an increase in the number of guest houses and bed and breakfast required for overnight purposes, as well as farm based holiday accommodation.

8.20.3 Through grant funding for the Objective 2 Programme priority will be given to the following:

- Wildlife and the coast
- Retail and cultural facilities
- Recreation from the railway
- Environmental improvements

PART 21 : TOURISM - FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOURIST RELATED DEVELOPMENT

8.21.1 The Furness and Cartmel area falls within the Objective 2 area and qualifies for European Union funding support. Grants and loans are available for tourism related development under the “Heart of Barrow” Challenge Fund Programme. Grants of up to £2,000 are available for the creation of permanent jobs for tourism related development. Arts Lottery funding has been awarded to the Dock Museum and there is further scope for Heritage Lottery funding. Grant money received has also been spent on marketing, promotion and visitor management, which are of key importance in developing the tourism potential of the Borough. Tourism initiatives locally are promoted through the Furness Tourism partnership, which is jointly funded by a number of bodies, including the Council.

8.21.2 Planning has an important part to play in encouraging the provision of high quality accommodation of all types. The impact of tourism has to be carefully managed. Many of the areas with potential for developing as tourist attractions, such as Furness Abbey are sensitive environments. Infrastructure problems are also evident. The increasing numbers of visitors to Roa Island are creating car parking difficulties for local residents.

Main Aims

- a) To increase the range and type of visitor and business accommodation in the Borough.
- b) To encourage high quality in the provision of tourist accommodation and facilities.
- c) To ensure that the infrastructure is available to meet the needs of visitors, particularly in respect of parking facilities.

- d) To strike a balance between the impact of tourism on the environment and the benefits to the local economy.

PART 22 : TOURISM - POLICIES AND PROPOSALS

Accommodation

- 8.22.1 The Borough has very few sites that can accommodate touring caravans and campers. In general, they have less impact on the landscape than static holiday caravans but proposals should be of a scale and in locations that allow the landscape to absorb them without detracting from the appearance of the area. Planning applications should normally include landscape assessments and a proposed landscaping scheme.
- 8.22.2 There are few sites in the Borough that would be likely to be able to accommodate this form of development.
- 8.22.3 The Council will use Policy G19 to strike a balance between the need to encourage the provision of self catering accommodation and the need to avoid sporadic development in the open countryside. It is vital to the economy of the area that its tourism facilities are boosted and that existing resources are only lost as a last resort.

POLICY G17

Touring caravan and camping sites will be permitted provided that;

- a) *Suitable access is available from primary or district distributor roads and the proposal would not result in harmful additional traffic generation;*
- b) *The landscape can absorb the proposal without detracting from its overall character;*
- c) *The proposal would not result in unacceptable problems or nuisance to neighbouring uses; and*
- d) *No acceptable harm would be caused to areas of importance for nature conservation.*

POLICY G18

Proposals for permanent caravan sites will be permitted provided that;

- a) *Suitable access is available from primary or district distributor roads and the proposal would not result in harmful additional traffic generation;*

- b) *The landscape can absorb the proposal without detracting from its overall character;*
- c) *The proposal would not result in unacceptable problems or nuisance to neighbouring uses;*
- d) *No unacceptable access from a main road to the site; and*
- e) *A permanent on-site building supplies clean water, a sanitary disposal unit and other essential facilities.*

POLICY G19

Proposals for self catering holiday accommodation will be approved within the urban area of Barrow and Dalton and within the village cordons provided the design, siting, layout and access are satisfactory.

In urban fringe and rural areas proposals for the conversion of existing rural buildings to self catering accommodation will be judged against the following criteria;

- a) *The building is structurally sound and capable of conversion without major rebuilding, extensions or modifications to the existing structure;*
- b) *The building is served by a satisfactory access;*
- c) *Services are readily available on site; and*
- d) *The number of units proposed is appropriate to the surroundings.*

New development in rural areas will be refused if it is unrelated to existing buildings or uses on the site.

Applications for the change of use of properties providing self-catering accommodation must include evidence that that use is no longer viable. This would include the premises being advertised on the open market, at a realistic price, for a minimum of 12 months, that no reasonable offer has been refused and that evidence is provided to show the property has been advertised at least four times at roughly equal periods over the year in relevant media.

Tourism Promotion and Infrastructure

8.22.4 Whilst the Council is keen to encourage sustainable tourism facilities throughout the Borough, due to the sensitive nature of much of the Borough's environment, great care is needed in assessing proposals.

8.22.5 Adequate hotel space of a good standard for business and tourist use is seen as important for the prosperity of the town.

8.22.6 Other aspects which the Council would encourage are:

- a) Bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms.
- b) Other facilities attractive to visitors.
- c) Work which helps to preserve a Listed Building.

POLICY G20

Applications to provide improved or additional good quality hotel/visitor accommodation or new visitor attractions will be approved where;

- a) The landscape can absorb the proposal without detracting from its overall character;***
- b) They would be unlikely to cause serious disturbance to nearby residents;***
- c) They meet the Authority's adopted Parking Guidelines and are served by roads of adequate capacity, will not generate significant, unacceptable additional traffic and are capable of being served by public transport; and***
- d) They meet all the other Policy criteria of this Plan.***