

Policy Statement



Brownfield Sites & the Green Belt

Sept 2011

FIT's stance against the unjustified and large scale development of playing fields or other recreational sites used for sport and play is well documented. FIT remains particularly concerned with built development on sites at the heart of residential areas in our towns and cities. Local green spaces of all shapes and sizes are invaluable if the people of this country, particularly children, are to be able to enjoy healthy active recreation within walking distance of home.

Sites in residential areas are therefore a priority for protection, except in circumstances which allow for betterment. This means hard choices have to be made. It is clearly the case that brownfield sites should be first for development, but they are sometimes not available or may be considered to be commercially too costly to develop. FIT's position is therefore that if no brownfield sites are available for necessary development, the greenfield sites on the urban fringe, or even in the green belt, should be considered for development before planning authorities contemplate sanctioning the loss of playing fields or other recreational sites.

FIT recognises that not everyone will share its position. FIT also acknowledges the importance of consultation and consideration of environmental and amenity issues at the local level. But the importance of, and pressure on, land for sport and play in urban areas is such that they must be protected from development in the most robust manner possible.

