

## **EXISTING AND PROPOSED ALLOTMENTS**

8.34 Allotments meet a specific but widespread recreational need and in some cases form significant open areas in the local environment. It is preferable for allotment sites to be easily accessible to the communities which they serve and in this respect well organised and well used sites, within or adjacent to the built-up areas are of particular importance. Where existing allotment sites are proving unpopular or long-standing commitments have not been taken up, it may be appropriate to consider alternative uses. The policy requires consideration of the contribution which the land in question makes to the local environment.

8.35 If the land is not needed for allotments, it is important to first consider the issue of its potential conversion to open space or playing fields, rather than a built use. The third clause of the policy covers this point.

8.36 In determining applications for planning permission for these sites, any replacement provision will be expected to be achieved either by the imposition of conditions or through a formal planning obligation entered into by the developer voluntarily.

8.37 This policy is designed to implement objective rc/c.

**RC10 Development on the existing and proposed public and private allotments shown on the Proposals Map and listed in Appendix 9 will not be permitted unless:**

- a) there is no demand for the use of the land as allotments, or, where there is such demand, an equivalent and equally accessible area is laid out and made available by the applicant for use as allotments; and**
- b) the land does not make an important contribution to the ecological value of the area, or to visual amenity, such as a break in a built-up frontage; and**
- c) if the proposed development is for other than open space or playing fields, there is no shortage of open space or playing field provision in the locality.**