

## **Initial Assessment Criteria**

1. The amenity needs of the public are to be considered as paramount and there is a presumption against disposal or release from an adoption agreement of Open Space
2. Amenity Areas - areas of amenity value to an estate and areas which have been planted with trees and shrubs will not be disposed of or released
3. Designated play area/mini parks - such areas which are of value to an estate as a whole will not be disposed of or released
4. Untidiness - untidiness alone will not be accepted as sufficient reason for a disposal or release
5. No areas will be disposed or released which adversely affect highway sight lines or which directly adjoin highway verge without an intervening footway
6. Maintenance - maintenance costs should not be adversely affected by a disposal or release and where possible should be reduced. Therefore, any proposal which would result in a staggered boundary and a less efficient maintenance regime will be refused
7. Utilities and sewers - no areas containing utility apparatus or sewers will be disposed of or released
8. Development - no land will be disposed or released until the necessary planning permission has been obtained
9. Size - the size of the area to be disposed or released of will be determined at the sole discretion of the appropriate officers.
10. A satisfactory response to public advertisements will be a prerequisite of disposal or release