

SECTION 1: VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS

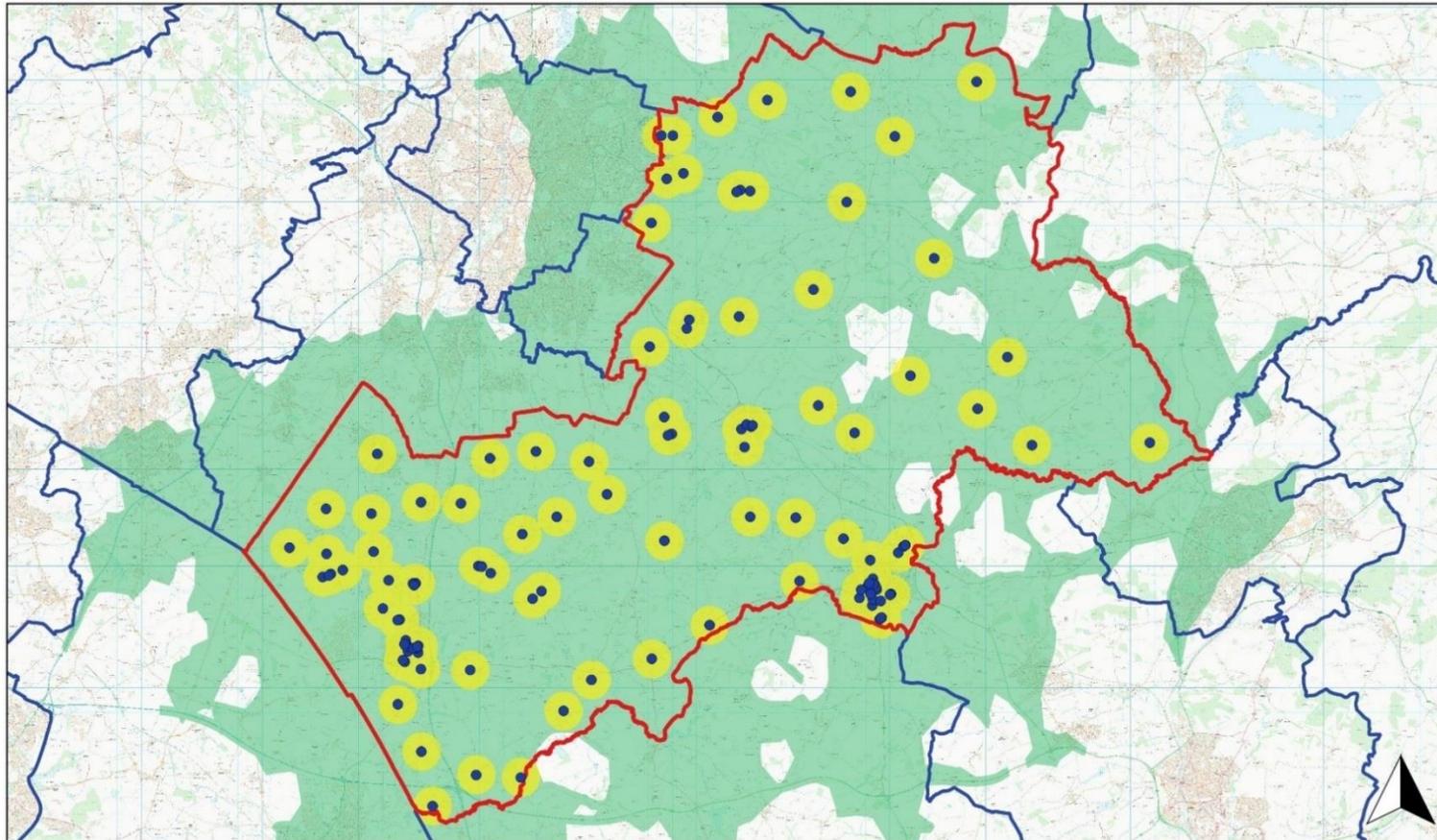
- 1.1 Village, church and community halls and similar venues provide essential space for many locally organised activities such as pilates, martial arts, short mat bowls and circuit training. This level of facility is particularly important for those people without a car or who do not wish to travel to a main sports centre to participate. They are also an important community resource for wider uses such as community celebrations, dance and drama, and consultation events. Larger halls of 3+ badminton court size are covered within the sports halls section of the Built Sports Facilities Strategy.
- 1.2 The value of such facilities in their local communities cannot be underestimated as they create an important hub for local people to gather, make friendships, and provide cohesion on estates and in villages where there may be limited other venues to meet. These facilities are particularly important where there is limited access to services generally, or where there are higher levels of deprivation.
- 1.3 In principle, existing village and community halls should therefore be protected and enhanced, or where they are not suitable for retention, replaced within the locality by improved facilities (Local Plan Policy HC2)..
- 1.4 The geographical spread of village halls and community centres together with their quality, accessibility and attractiveness is more important than quantitative rates of provision in the more established areas of the district, both in the rural areas and the towns.

Current provision and assessment

- 1.5 There are a large number of village and community halls and similar facilities in Harborough. These are mapped in Figure 1 with an 800m walking catchment and a 10 minute drive time catchment. It is clear from this map that almost all residents have access to at least one hall within 10 minutes' drive time, and that many people have access within 10 minutes walking time (the 800m catchment).
- 1.6 The nature of the village halls and community centres varies significantly, from relatively large multi-room complexes such as the Community Hub at Scraftoft (once fully constructed), to the smaller aging halls usually in the smaller villages. The size of a facility will usually reflect its location, with the smaller halls in the smaller villages, and the larger centres in the towns and larger villages. There are also often other facilities used by the community (not specifically listed or mapped) and these include a number of parish and church halls.
- 1.7 Also included in this section are the Fleckney Sports Centre and The Coplow Centre at Billesdon. Both of these have one court sports halls as part of a larger centre. The Fleckney Sports Centre's primary use is for football and it has a number of

grass pitches plus a small size 3G artificial grass pitch. The Coplow Centre has a multi use games area in addition to the facilities in the building.

Figure 1: Village/Community halls location



Harborough Sports Facilities Strategy

Village and Community Halls

- Village and Community Halls
- 10 minute walk time
- 10 minute drive time
- ▭ Harborough District boundary
- ▭ Surrounding authority boundary

- 1.8 Some facilities are purpose built and relatively modern, for example the Langton Community Hall, but some are converted Victorian buildings (for example the original Kibworth Grammar school) or were built in the period around the 1920-30s. The majority of the village halls and community centres are of at least a reasonable condition, but some require significant investment.
- 1.9 The ownership and management arrangements of the facilities are variable, with several being dedicated village hall charities, whilst others are church halls used by the community on a regular basis. However only those facilities which are used as a venue for active recreation have been included in this study i.e. the size of the rooms allows activities such as yoga or pilates, and the nature of the site encourages such bookings.
- 1.10 The 'made' Neighbourhood Plans have the following identified priorities in relation to their community centres and village halls:
- The Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan includes provision for 'meeting any growth in demand for recreational facilities from the population of the Parish by increasing the capacity of the Coplow Centre'. It notes that 'the Centre is constantly in use throughout the week and facilities require upgrading and expansion to accommodate a growing population'.
 - The Burton Overy Neighbourhood Plan mentions the village hall, 'which has its own kitchen, accommodates village and private functions and is well used by the clubs and societies of the village. In 2017, it was awarded a Lottery Grant of £10,000 to renovate the entrance to the Hall, to make it safer and more user friendly, with better access and more suitable parking for disabled users'.
 - The Foxton Neighbourhood Plan notes that the village hall is used for activities including fitness sessions.
 - The Great Bowden Neighbourhood Plan states that the 'Village Hall is the most used community venue which is used by 79% of respondents. The Church Hall is used by 47% of residents and the Community Pavilion is used by 28% of the community. Both the Village Hall and Church Hall provide a large range of classes, a meeting venue for village societies, open village events and a well-attended pre-school. They have little spare capacity. The Community Pavilion is home to Great Bowden Cricket Club and is less busy. Its availability is curtailed to the broader community during the evenings of the summer months. However, during the day it is under-utilised. The room available for community use in the Pavilion is smaller than those available in the Village Hall and Church Hall and this may restrict its broader appeal'. Plan policy supports the provision of additional facilities capacity but contains no specific proposals for achieving this.
 - The Great Easton Neighbourhood Plan notes that 'the village hall is an important asset for the village. Many groups, societies and clubs, as well as private users, use the facilities on a regular basis. 77 respondents to the community questionnaire

(47%) use the village hall. The village hall has an active management committee. Ongoing refurbishment is required to maintain the level of quality required for public use’.

- The Great Glen Neighbourhood Plan states that there is a good range of community facilities in Great Glen. These include a Youth Club, Scout Hut and Village Hall. These are well used and especially important to the vitality and well-being of the community.
- The Houghton-on-the-Hill Neighbourhood Plan notes that ‘the Village Hall was built in 1922 and has benefitted from significant investment and improvement in the last five years. It comprises a main hall which can seat 140, a committee room, a modern kitchen and storage inside and in outbuildings. It still bears a legacy from piecemeal development over nearly 100 years and has particular deficits in energy efficiency and space for the present, let alone increasing, village population. It is used for a very diverse range of activities, including indoor bowls, exercise group, circuit training, karate and yoga’.
- The Hungarton Neighbourhood Plan states that ‘the Village Hall, opened in 1928, is an independent village charity run by a village hall committee on which all the major organisations in the village have representation. It is a well-used local resource which offers a main hall, meeting room, kitchen and storage area’.
- The Kibworths Neighbourhood Plan supports the need for a ‘multi-functional community centre’ in addition to the existing four-badminton court sports hall at Kibworth School and the village hall. It indicates that developer contributions will be sought to fund new and improved facilities provision.
- The Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan notes that the village hall is an important community asset and that it accommodates pilates classes. It states that ‘the village hall is in need of substantial renovation, in particular internal decoration, re-wiring and removal of the suspended ceiling. The committee has ambitious plans to refurbish and extend the building to include a new kitchen, toilets and meeting rooms.
- The Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan states that ‘Scraftoft Village Hall is very small and has limited facilities. We are currently looking to provide a new multi-use community hall close the Strawberry Fields development off Beeby Road. We already have outline planning permission and we are looking to secure funding. The new facility will provide more community space, opportunities for multi-faith worship, indoor recreation and activities for young people. The new Community Hall will be planned so that it can provide a branch GP surgery. A new community hall is also essential for the future of the village and is supported by over two-thirds of local households’. [Facility now largely complete and opened as the Community Hub].

- The Shearsby Neighbourhood Plan notes that ‘the village hall forms a focal point for village life by providing a modern venue for private and public meetings and functions. The Hall is now equipped to the highest standards and suits a wide range of uses’.
- The South Kilworth Neighbourhood Plan states that ‘the Village Hall is well used by a range of community groups and hired by individuals. In the community consultation, the Village Hall was one of the most valued community facilities, 73% of those responding believing that it was either important or very important. The village hall was originally the village Reading Room, but in 2000 with the help of a lottery funded grant it was moved to larger purpose-built premises on Parish Council land. The hall is in need of some refurbishment and upgrading. There is a covenant on the land which precludes the extension of the hall. This covenant has already been changed once so it is unlikely to be amended again within the lifetime of the plan’.
- The Swinford Neighbourhood Plan notes that the ‘village hall is a well-used local resource which offers a main hall, a meeting area, large store cupboard, kitchen/catering facilities and toilet facilities for all abilities.

Consultation findings

- 1.11 A survey of town and parish councils was undertaken to confirm site information and project proposals relating to their village or community halls. 77 returns were received, representing 72% (of parishes) and 77% of these types of local facility.
- 1.12 The table in Figure 2 summarises the feedback in relation to projects with estimated costs of £10,000 and above. The survey responses also identified a large number of projects which are expected to cost less than £10,000. These smaller projects are likely to be completed relatively quickly.

Figure 2: Village and community hall projects

| Parish | Name of Village Hall or Community Facility | Project/proposal |
|------------------|--|---|
| Ashby Magna | Ashby Magna Village Hall | Floor refurbishment Roof works Exterior works |
| Billesdon | Coplow Centre | Building Extension |
| Bruntingthorpe | Bruntingthorpe Village Hall | Roof replacement |
| Burton Overy | Burton Overy Village Hall | Hall roof repair |
| Church Langton | Church Langton Village Hall | Upgrade heating and lighting to be energy efficient Kitchen upgrade Additional storage |
| Claybrooke Magna | Claybrooke Magna Village Hall | New kitchen |
| Dunton Bassett | Dunton Bassett Village Hall | Modernise toilets to include a disabled access toilet. |
| Fleckney | Fleckney Village Hall | New toilet block |
| Gilmorton | Gilmorton Playing Fields Pavilion | Replace boilers Extend hall Car park improvements. |
| Glooston | Glooston Village Hall | Car park improvements |
| Great Glen | Great Glen Methodist Church | New kitchen and Toilets upgrade Roof replacement |
| Great Glen | Village Hall | Demolish and rebuild |
| Great Glen | Youth Centre | Demolish and rebuild |
| Great Glen | Bowman of Glen Club House | Demolish current clubhouse and build a modern facility with an integrated indoor archery range. |
| Gumley | Gumley Village Hall | Roof replacement |
| Hallaton | The Pavilion | Replace roof Insulate and replace ceiling Disabled facilities and access needed throughout New kitchen required. |
| Hallaton | The Hallaton and Isabella Stenning Trust | Storage extension |

| Parish | Name of Village Hall or Community Facility | Project/proposal |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Houghton | Houghton Village Hall | Additional entrance to hall with porch & disabled access Extension to rear of building to provide more storage space Re-development of northern range of building to enlarge committee room, provide separate toilets, and utility kitchen, provide youth/café area. Add additional bar and seating area to main hall. |
| Houghton on the Hill | Houghton on the Hill School Hall | Increase size of hall |
| Houghton on the Hill | Houghton on the Hill Field Association | Replace clubhouse |
| Husbands Bosworth | Husbands Bosworth Village Hall | Convert garage to a parish office |
| Kibworth Beauchamp | Kibworth Beauchamp Grammar School | Kitchen update and Toilets upgrade |
| Kibworth Beauchamp | Kibworth Community Library | Replacement of existing library to a community library including a community meeting space. |
| Lutterworth | Town Council Building | Refurbishment of main room to create a stand alone meeting room to hire to community groups including refurbishment of interior and frontage |
| Lutterworth | Lutterworth Town FC | New changing rooms |
| Lutterworth | Lutterworth Town Hall | New lift needed Upgrading toilets Exterior repairs to make the building appealing to new users |
| Market Harborough | Harborough Town FC | Creation of meeting rooms and access to clubhouse roof |
| Market Harborough | Market Harborough Congregational Church | Hall roof replacement Lift replacement |
| Market Harborough | Market Harborough Squash Club | New build club house and community centre |
| Market Harborough | The Cube | Extension to The Cube Youth centre Additional storage space Installation of log cabin to provide an outdoor classroom Operating front door for disability access |
| Medbourne | Medbourne Village Hall | Complete renovation |

| Parish | Name of Village Hall or Community Facility | Project/proposal |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Newton Harcourt | The Reading Room | Roof replacement |
| North Kilworth | Sports Club | Change to lounge area to diversify use and improve security Access to the facility to allow hall availability without being staffed increasing usage Disabled toilet facilities |
| Scraptoft | Scraptoft Community Hub | New build extension |
| Scraptoft | Scraptoft Village Hall | New Fire door and front door Disabled access route Replace roofing Store room roof replacement |
| Shawell | Shawell Memorial Hall | Car park and entrance resurfacing Exterior work New flooring in main hall and entrance porch |
| Slawston | Slawston Village Hall | Upgrade or rebuild village hall – feasibility study will determine outcome |
| Smeeton Westerby | Smeaton Westerby Village Hall | Upgrade hall lighting suitable for functions Installation of sound reduction acoustic boards Renovation of hall floor Garden re-slabbing |
| South Kilworth | South Kilworth Village Hall | Upgrade of main hall Disabled access throughout Kitchen and bar refurbishment Improved flooring for sports Upgrade of two multi use changing facilities |
| Thurnby | Wadkins Centre | Building replacement |
| Tugby and Keythorpe | Tugby and Keythorpe Village Hall | Lowering of hall ceiling to improve heating and acoustics Disabled parking bays |
| Tur Langton | Tur Langton Village Hall | Total renovation |
| Willoughby Waterleys | Willoughby Waterleys Village Hall | Replace roof |
| Walton | Walton Village Hall | Renew car park surface |

- 1.13 The consultation also identified issues with the design, particularly in relation to more recent buildings. The feedback has been used to review the policies of Harborough District Council in relation to design matters.

Clubs and national governing bodies of sport

- 1.14 Sports clubs and national governing bodies of sport views are not usually particularly relevant to village and community halls, where the large majority of active recreation use is for activities such as pilates and zumba. However, the feedback from the AFB Dance Academy is relevant to this section.

Ballet and dance

- 1.15 The AFB Dance Academy is based at Great Bowden Church Hall. It has 90 members, of which about 70% are minis, with around 15% of both juniors and veterans. Almost 90% of the club come from within the district, with most of the remainder from Kettering. The size of the Academy has increased over the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow. There are waiting lists for the minis and also for the pre-school age, the equivalent to a full dance class for this age group.
- 1.16 The Academy uses the hall at Great Bowden 3-6 times a week on weekday evenings and weekends daytime, and the hall is the preferred location. The existing hall floor is “not in the best condition”, with splinters being of concern. The storage is described as being “below average” and there is no car park.
- 1.17 The main restriction on the growth of the Academy is a lack of access to facilities, as the hall is used Monday-Thursday all day and Friday mornings with a pre-school. There are therefore limited opportunities to provide additional classes.

National governing bodies

- 1.18 No comments were received from national governing bodies about village and community hall facilities.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

- 1.19 Adjacent authority strategies are not particularly relevant to the provision of community centres and village halls because of their small catchments.

Modelling and assessment of future needs

- 1.20 The current network of village halls and community centres means that almost everyone has access to at least one hall within 10 minutes’ drive and many people living in villages and the towns are also within 800m walk. The feedback from the parishes shows that almost every hall is used for some activity, but it is unlikely that every hall will be fully booked, even in the evenings and weekends.

- 1.21 Across the rural areas of the district, the priority will therefore be to maintain and retain a network of halls and to ensure that they meet the requirements of their communities, for example some buildings may require extensions or extra storage to enable them to host activities such as short mat bowls or gymnastics.
- 1.22 There is however a need to provide for new community halls in association with some of the major housing developments in the district.

Community halls and new housing

- 1.23 Planning permission has already been granted for the Strategic Development Area at North West Market Harborough. The proposal includes the provision of a community hall, either on a dual use basis at the new primary school, or adjacent to the proposed playing field area so that the hall can also be built with changing facilities.

The community hall will also be expected to be opened as early as practicable. The facility will be for multi-purpose and designed to encourage a wide range of potential activities from parent and toddler groups to a place of worship (ecumenical and not reserved for just one religious group).

(Harborough District Council , 2019)

- 1.24 The community facility building at North West Market Harborough should be a minimum of 540sqm of floor space (gross external) as outlined in the relevant section 106 agreements.
- 1.25 The other main housing sites in Market Harborough are not specifically required to have their own community hall: Overstone Park, East of Blackberry Grange and Burnmill Farm. (Harborough District Council, 2019)
- 1.26 The new adopted Local Plan (Harborough District Council, 2019) however does include a requirement for community facilities to be provided in association with the SDAs:

SC1 Scraftoft North Strategic Development Area

3. The masterplan will guide the creation of a sustainable and high quality living environment within a network of green infrastructure which maintains and enhances the existing areas of highest ecological value, creates new habitats of local Biodiversity Action Plan priorities, provides recreational opportunities and maintains the distinct identity of Scraftoft village and will provide for:

.....

g. a neighbourhood centre as a social and retail hub for the new community to be provided in accordance with a phasing plan to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority to include some or all of the following:

- iv. a community hall; and*
- v. other community facilities or upgrade of existing facilities;*

L1 East of Lutterworth Strategic Development Area

3. The masterplan will guide the creation of a high quality sustainable urban extension to Lutterworth and an attractive environment for living, working and recreation. It will address and overcome the issue of community severance resulting from the presence of the M1, to create a sustainable urban extension which is permeable and well-connected to Lutterworth via legible walking and cycling routes with good natural surveillance. It will provide for:

i. a neighbourhood centre as a social and retail hub for the new community to be provided in accordance with a phasing plan to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority, to include some or all of the following:

- iv. a community hall; and*
- v. other community facilities or upgrade of existing facilities;*

Local plan policies and identified need

- 1.27 The East of Lutterworth SDA and the North West of Market Harborough SDA are both outside the 800m walking catchment of an existing community centre or village hall. New provision will therefore be needed in these housing developments. The design requirements of these facilities should take into account the feedback from the consultation with the village halls and community centre owners/managers (para 1.35 on).
- 1.28 By contrast, almost all of the Scraftoft SDA is within an 800m walking catchment of either or both the new Scraftoft Community Hub and Scraftoft Village Hall. These two facilities are complementary in nature so have a different “offer” for the community. Both currently have spare capacity. The Community Hub is not yet fully constructed and will have provided a meeting room and kitchen. As this is a new facility, it is good quality. The Village Hall is an old building requiring major refurbishment including improved disabled access and kitchen. It is therefore recommended that off-site contributions towards the existing facilities should be sought, rather than providing a new community centre within the SDA, which would be in direct competition with the Community Hub and Village Hall.

Fleckney Sports Centre

- 1.29 Fleckney Sports Centre is addressed under Village and Community Halls because it is a small facility with a one badminton court hall, plus a small size 3G artificial pitch with football turf (3G AGP), a number of grass football pitches, and some play provision. The Sports Centre was the subject to a Stage 1 feasibility study commissioned by the Parish Council with support from Harborough District Council. The report is dated June 2018.
- 1.30 The 2018 report notes that the site is currently not financially sustainable. It recommends a new building with 2 court hall, 25 station gym, multi-functional room, café, 2 x changing rooms, kitchen, office, storage for a cost of around £1,525,500. The recommendations include a full size 3G AGP, though it is not clear if this is in addition to the existing 3G small size pitch (47 x 34m) or would be an extension thereof. Possible funding opportunities proposed include S106 and Football Foundation.
- 1.31 The Stage 1 feasibility study recommendations would appear to need further review because the findings of the Built Sports Facility Strategy are:
- The highest priorities for new provision of full size 3G AGP's with football turf are Market Harborough, Northampton Road and Broughton Astley.
 - Kibworth School is 3.8 miles away (10 mins) and it has a good quality small size 3G pitch, good quality sports hall, and potential plans for a small fitness gym converting an existing redundant building. This site has well established community use. The report recommends 2 changing rooms. However, the existing changing seems rarely used, and only used for the grass pitches.
 - The manager commented that the Kibworth School 3G AGP seemed to be taking many of their anticipated 3G AGP bookings, and the pitch was not therefore being used as intensively as originally forecast.
 - The Football Foundation funded both the 3G at Kibworth School and the Fleckney one, so is unlikely to fund any more in the area.
 - The site is difficult to access by car, a single track road approx 0.2 mile. Housing is going in adjacent, but it is understood that the access track will not be widened. It is not floodlit.
 - A tuck-shop / football club /team managed small kitchen might be viable, but the current large kitchen is almost unused.
 - The only users requiring the height in the hall are badminton (2 hours per week). The table tennis and other activities could use a space with a lower ceiling.
 - There are high levels of sports hall provision in the district, though many facilities are not available during the daytime.
 - There may be too little throughput to justify a café.
 - There is also a village hall in Fleckney which is likely to be in competition for meetings and fitness type activities.
 - The Fleckney Sports Centre will be around 15 minutes to the proposed location for the replacement Harborough Leisure Centre and also to the existing relatively new

Langton Community Hall, both of which are/will be available during daytimes and have high ceilings.

- 1.32 Clearly, there is a need to urgently address the current issues at Fleckney Sports Centre and to consider alternative options for a replacement building, if required. It would however seem that the Stage 1 report recommendations need to be revisited.
- 1.33 An alternative might be to focus on the main use of the site which is football, and to move to a position where the clubs become more directly responsible for the site's management and maintenance. A clubhouse with suitable and sufficient changing provision for both the AGP and grass pitches with small kitchen, clubroom (possibly also suitable for table tennis), storage, and a small office should be considered. However, the capital cost of a replacement building may still be potentially up to £1m, inclusive of demolition costs.
- 1.34 The development of future options at Fleckney Sports Centre needs to directly involve the user clubs, in particular the football clubs, in addition to the site owners and managers. To this end, Harborough District Council have asked that the future football use and investment priorities are specifically considered as part of the forthcoming Local Football Partnership Programme report, funded by the Football Foundation.

Size and design of new community buildings

- 1.35 The Harborough District Council adopted Local Plan including the Community Infrastructure Assessment 2017 and the Built Facilities Strategy, will help to guide the priorities for investment and the delivery of high quality community facility infrastructure to the strategic development areas.
- 1.36 Improvements to (or occasionally replacement of) existing village and community hall facilities will be encouraged and supported where this will improve their attractiveness and 'offer', their usability, their accessibility to all of their local community, and/or the proposal will help to make the facility more sustainable. The facilities should generally be within 800m of the majority of the community that they will serve and be possible to access via safe walking routes.
- 1.37 Space requirements for a settlement area are dependent on the size of the development. The current gross floor area standard is 0.3 sq m per person, as set out in the Refresh of Harborough District Community Infrastructure Assessment (May 2017). This standard is similar to that adopted in Daventry and South Northamptonshire, and is considered deliverable in Harborough.

Accessibility

- 1.38 The overall objective is to have a good quality local village or community hall which is easily accessible both on foot and by car. There is no current accessibility standard for Harborough, but the Harborough District Community Infrastructure Assessment (May 2017) suggests that a 1000m walking catchment is appropriate. This recommendation has now been reviewed.
- 1.39 It is useful to draw on relevant research undertaken by Milton Keynes Council in 2013 which covered both the rural area and city area of the borough. It is likely that similar patterns of use will apply to Harborough, both in relation to the towns and rural areas. The Milton Keynes survey showed that most people walked to such a facility (43%) but that a similar percentage drove (40%). This compared to about 15% using a bicycle, and about 2% using either public transport or a taxi. The survey also showed that about 72% travelled up to 10 minutes by either car or on foot. The recently adopted standard for village and community halls in Milton Keynes is therefore 800m for the urban area and large towns, equivalent to 10 minutes' walk. The drive time catchment is also 10 minutes.
- 1.40 In the rural county of Rutland, with its two Market Towns and seven Local Service Centres, the research showed a similar pattern of use for this type of facility as in Milton Keynes. Rutland is adjacent to Harborough district and has similar characteristics, so the pattern of use of village and community halls is likely to be similar.
- 1.41 Daventry, South Northamptonshire and Northampton have recently adopted an 800m walking catchment for village and community halls, which equates to a 10 minute walk.
- 1.42 Figure 1 shows the application of the walking and drive time catchments to the network of village and community halls across the district. From this map it is clear that almost all residents can reach a facility within 10 minutes drive time and many people in the villages can reach a facility within 800m walk.
- 1.43 It is therefore proposed that the accessibility standards for village and community halls is changed from that proposed in the 2017 Infrastructure report and should be:
- 800 m catchment in Market Harborough, Lutterworth, Broughton Astley, and the Rural Centres (Billesdon, Fleckney, Great Glen, Houghton on the Hill, Husbands Bosworth, The Kibworths, Ullesthorpe)
 - 10 minutes' drive time catchment elsewhere

Quality

- 1.44 The community centres, village halls and similar facilities should be able to offer a wide range of activities as well as meet modern standards for health and safety, the

requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, energy efficiency etc. It is important that the design of any new facilities should be highly flexible, to enable the local management of the sites to both provide a community facility, and also generate income where possible to ensure the viability of their provision.

- 1.45 Where an existing community centre/village hall lacks storage space, parking, or does not meet modern requirements including in relation to the kitchen and disability access, these should be improved as a priority. New facilities and improvements should reflect the current best practice guidance from the relevant agencies.
- 1.46 If a new community centre is proposed as part of a major housing development area, then this should be a stand-alone facility i.e. not part of a school. If possible, new centres should also be located adjacent to the playing fields (if provided) and the changing facilities for the pitches be provided and managed as part of the community centre. This helps both in terms of the economy of scale and the long term efficient management of the building.
- 1.47 The centres should be fully accessible for those people using mobility scooters and with pushchairs.

Recommendations for village and community halls

- 1.48 Existing village halls and community centres are protected and improved.
- 1.49 Replacement facilities are required at Great Glen, Kibworth, Houghton on the Hill Market Harborough and Thurnby.
- 1.50 Improvements are required at Ashby Magna, Billesdon, Bruntingthorpe, Burton Overy, Church Langton , Claybrooke Magna, Dunton Bassett, Fleckney, Gilmorton, Glooston, Great Glen, Gumley, Hallaton, Houghton on the Hill, Husbands Bosworth, Kibworth Beauchamp, Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Medbourne, Newton Harcourt, North Kilworth, Scraftoft, Shawell, Slawston, Smeeton Westerby, South Kilworth, Tugby and Keythorpe, Thurnby, Tur Langton, Willoughby Waterleys and Walton
- 1.51 The other delivery priorities are:
 - New community centres are delivered in accordance with the Local Plan policies at North West Market Harborough and Lutterworth SDAs.
 - Improvements/enhancements of the Scraftoft Village Hall and Scraftoft Community Hub to meet the needs of Scraftoft SDA.

1.52 The existing planning standards are updated:

- Quantity:
 - 300 sq m per 1000 population (0.3 sq m per person)
- Accessibility
 - 800m walk in the towns and larger villages
 - 10 minute drive elsewhere
- Quality
 - The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice from relevant agencies. New community centres should enable at least two separate groups to independently use the centres at the same time, without contact between the groups, e.g. for pre-school and for an adult social or activity group.