

King's Somborne Parish Council Neighbourhood Development Plan



Appendix 3.0



Parish Facilities & Infrastructure

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PARISH FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

1.0 BACKGROUND

In general, the Parish Council has a great track record, working with others to deliver improvements in the Parish's facilities and will continue to be responsible for delivering improvements to Parish facilities highlighted in this Plan where this affects and benefits the community as a whole as opposed to those items specific to any new development.

1.1 Policy

Policy F1 – Parish Facilities & Infrastructure

The Parish Council working collaboratively with Borough and County Councils along with Utility companies will take the lead in relation to delivering improvements in Parish facilities, The Parish Council will also continue to work closely with village organisations to help them delivery other solutions for the betterment of the community.

2.0 COMMUNITY ASSETS

2.1 Context

“.....To promote a strong rural economy neighbourhood plans should.... promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.” NPPF para 28

The Parish benefits from a wide range of assets and facilities. These include shops, churches, school, public houses, working men's club, allotments, village hall, church hall, scout hut and outdoor recreation areas which include children's playgrounds, football and cricket pitches and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

The community has generally expressed its satisfaction with the current assets, facilities and activities available within the Parish. Provision of Adult Education has been expressed as beneficial especially in terms of computer skills and cookery.

Outdoor sports facilities are available with a football pitch and cricket pitch which are managed by the Parish Council. They are located in the centre of King's Somborne adjacent to the Village Hall which is managed by the KS VH Management Committee. The Parish Council also owns the land occupied by the Scouts. A trim trail located in the area adjacent to the John O'Gaunt palace location and adjacent open spaces provides for exercise, increasing core strength and co-ordination.

The nearest medical facilities are at the surgery located in Stockbridge 2 ½ miles from King's Somborne centre and still further for the outlying areas of the Parish, Up-Somborne, Brook and Horsebridge. With public transport in practical terms unavailable to attend the surgery the community has expressed a strong desire to have some form of medical facility within the parish.

2.2 Plan objectives

- To maintain and support the existing facilities and assets listed in below

Key Community Facility / Asset	Location
Village Hall	King's Somborne village centre
MUGA	King's Somborne Playing Field
Children's Playground	King's Somborne Playing Field
Football Pitch	King's Somborne Playing Field
Cricket Pitch	King's Somborne Playing Field
Scout Hut	King's Somborne Playing Field
St Peter & Paul's Church	King's Somborne village centre
Cross Stores (Post Office)	The Cross
Methodist Church	Winchester Road
Epworth Hall	Winchester Road
Muss Lane Recreation Ground	Muss Lane
John O'Gaunt Palace Site	King's Somborne village centre
Martin's Shop	Winchester Road
Allotments	Furzedown Road
Crown Inn	King's Somborne village centre
John O'Gaunt Public House	Horsebridge
Up Somborne Recreation Ground	Up Somborne
King's Somborne C of E Primary School	King's Somborne village centre

- To promote sporting, cultural and educational activities.
- With the co-operation and support of Stockbridge Surgery, The Village Hall management committee and the Parish Council wish to improve the availability of medical services within the Parish. This could be physically accommodated within the Village Hall and is required primarily for the elderly, the infirm and young children. 'Flu vaccination sessions are better administered within King's Somborne thus negating the need for multiple journeys to the surgeries at either Stockbridge or Broughton. Better use of the internet for on-line consultation should be explored and maximised.
- To facilitate the development of a multi-purpose activity centre prioritising where feasible the upgrading or improvement of the existing assets listed above.

2.3 Policies

Policy F2 – Community Assets

To ensure the Village Hall and the Parish Council owned recreation areas and associated facilities remain the centres for community activity as a key integral part of safeguarding the future health and vitality of the community. Improving, adapting and upgrading the existing facilities or providing new facilities as appropriate to ensure the facilities provided meet the priorities of the community as a whole.

Policy F3 – Community Assets

This policy identifies above the key community facilities and assets. There will be a presumption in favour of safeguarding them from any adverse proposal which would result in their loss or reduce their viability.

- The Parish Council will liaise and work with the appropriate health authorities and the Village Hall Management Committee to maximise the provision of medical facilities for parishioners within the Village Hall.

3.0 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

3.1 Context

"Transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. Smarter use of technologies can reduce the need to travel. The transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes, giving people a real choice about how they travel." NPPF para 29

The availability of public transport to and from King's Somborne has reduced significantly over recent years. A limited bus service is provided only on school days by Stagecoach to Winchester and Salisbury. Wheelers operates between Stockbridge and Winchester on weekdays and a service Saturdays until lunch time. Returns from Winchester are not viable from four thirty in the afternoon. There is no longer a bus service to Andover or Romsey. necessitating travelling by car or taxi to link with rail services if travelling further afield

3.2 Plan Objectives

- To seek to improve public transport services to and from Stockbridge and Winchester in order to facilitate access to medical services and timely access to the rail network. This will reduce the reliance on the private car, contribute to maintaining a sustainable transport network to local facilities and the wider transport network together with reducing isolation for the elderly or infirm.

3.3 Policies

The Plan supports and encourages the maintenance and development of public transport in order to meet the Plan's objectives by promoting the use of existing services and seeking ways to provide sustainable transport

4.0 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

4.1 Context

“Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods and people. Therefore, developments should be located and designed where practical to: -

- accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies;*
 - give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities;*
 - create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones;*
 - incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles; and*
 - consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport.”*
- NPPF para 35.

This Plan promotes the policy of applying shared space principles to improve road safety. Shared space is a term applied to a set of principles that help to reconcile the often conflicting demands of people, places and transport.

The A3057 is a major road that runs through the centre of King’s Somborne village narrowing through a set of bends at each end. The road is increasingly used by heavy good vehicles and is extremely busy during rush hours.

Strong resident feedback through the village questionnaire indicated that there is a desire for traffic calming in and around King’s Somborne village centre (School, Crown Inn, Post Office).

Leading off the A3057 within the Parish are a number of minor roads to Winchester, Horsebridge, Braishfield and Marsh Court these are narrow, especially in the centre of the village. Narrow lanes from the Winchester Road lead to Up Somborne and Ashley.

There are numerous footpaths within the Parish and the countryside around provides popular walks for residents and non-residents alike.

Due to the rural nature of the Parish and the lack of regular public transport which is limited to bus services to Winchester only in the morning and evening timed around school hours, the residents are reliant primarily on private cars to facilitate journeys to facilities outside the village including the surgery at Stockbridge or Broughton.

The reduction in public transport and the increase of car ownership has resulted in parking issues in and around the area of Scott Close.

4.2 Plan objectives

- The Plan seeks to advance those shared space principles recognised by the National Planning Policy Framework in order to improve road safety and to give local people a real choice about how they travel. The Plan applies measures that are considered to be best suited for this community and challenges the traditional assumptions over road safety and road design which have tended to dominate both national and local transport policy.

- To have an integrated transport policy and to apply shared space principles throughout the NP area.
- To reduce vehicle speed thus promoting safety.
- To reduce vehicle noise with the introduction of “quiet tarmac” when resurfacing roads thus reducing noise pollution.
- To minimise road signage and street clutter thus improving the street scene and improving clarity.
- To improve the safety of residents crossing the A3057 in and around the centre of King’s Somborne, seeking Highways Agency recognition in the consideration of traffic calming and re-considering the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the school.
- To increase available car parking in and around Scott Close which the residents currently find unacceptable

4.3 Policies

Policy F4 – Roads, Traffic & Parking

To ensure that all developments incorporate the latest smart technology to reduce travel need and hence traffic.

Policy F5 – Roads, Traffic & Parking

To ensure that any new development or dwellings provide adequate off-road parking sympathetic to the proposed development and its surroundings.

The Plan supports and encourages the following actions which fall under the responsibility and will need to be performed by Hampshire County Council:

- Prepare a long-term management plan for traffic on the A3057 including traffic calming.
- Draw up a corrective action list and an on-going maintenance schedule.
- Seek advice on practical and cost-effective means for of elimination of danger spots, including a one-way system by the Cross Stores/Post Office.
- Install an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing across A3057 at the school.
- Use low noise road surface materials within village boundaries and provide adequate drainage.

The Plan confirms the following:

- The continued and extended use of ‘painted pavements’ on road surfaces to allow pedestrians to walk in increased safety on roads without pavements.
- The reduction or elimination of road signage and associated street clutter as and when the principles of shared space are implemented.
- The continuous maintenance or improvement of the network of pathways, public footpaths and bridleways throughout the Parish.

5.0 SCHOOLING

5.1 Context

"The Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should -

- *give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools; and*
- *work with school promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted. "* - NPPF para 72

2 ½ - 4 Year Olds – King's Somborne Pre-School rents the main part of Village Hall and offers day care for children aged between 2½ and 5 years (currently up to 20 children for 4 days a week). The Pre-School requires its own dedicated working space to allow opening of 5 days a week and therefore access to Government funds.

4-11 Year Olds - King's Somborne Primary School which was in the 19th century probably the best known elementary School in the country and widely regarded as a model of its kind. The remarkable educational pioneer, Rev. Richard Dawes founded the School alongside his role as vicar in the village.

Today, the School is at the centre of the community but with a global outlook. The beautiful peaceful and spiritual eco gardens, which were whole community projects, and a vibrant music programme, school band, a creative enrichment programme and sports teams significantly enhance the children's learning experience.

11 – 16 Year Olds – Schooling is provided with a free bus to Test Valley School in Stockbridge. Alternative schooling at Winchester can be accessed utilising the limited and dedicated scheduled bus services.

5.2 Plan Objectives

- To facilitate the development of a dedicated facility for the Pre-School meeting current legislative and Government funding criteria.
- To support and encourage the continued viability of both the Pre-School and Primary School

5.3 Policies

Policy F6 – Roads, Traffic & Parking

That any development contributes to the sustainability of and provides good pedestrian access to the Village School and Pre-School

6.0 SPORT AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

See Community Assets above

7.0 VILLAGE HALL

7.1 Context

The King's Somborne Village Hall is a charitable trust. The trustees are drawn mainly from the organisation or societies utilising the Hall together with a representative from the Parish Council. It is used for a variety of communal, sporting and cultural events. The Hall has recently benefited from upgrading organised and fund raised by a separate development committee with the aim of broadening the appeal and utilisation for the whole community. The recent upgrading should increase the rental income and ensure greater financial viability.

It is envisaged that under the auspices of the Village hall a new Community Building will be built on Parish owned land near the MUGA. This new building will be designed as a multi-purpose asset but will primarily provide facilities which will enable KS preschool to grow and flourish and meet the latest government requirements and standards.

The new building will allow preschool to:

- Access suitable facilities to run a high quality preschool service for the community without suffering the constraints of the village hall in respect to facilities and shared space
- Work even more closely with the Primary School to create a seamless transition from preschool to primary school education.
Provide an attractive location and rural village setting for children together with very much improved external play areas.

An added benefit of the newbuilding will be that it will free up significant space within the existing village hall allowing further community activity to be realised

7.2 Plan Objectives

- The Plan foresees the Village Hall as the hub of the Parish educational, cultural, social and sporting activity. This will ensure its continuation as a central meeting venue for a wide range of activities and its regular use will provide the funds required for its operating and maintenance costs.

7.3 Policies

The Plan supports and encourages the public funding of the Village Hall and its related infrastructure in the form of local and national grants and possibly an increase in Precept to ensure the long-term provision of up to date infrastructure to facilitate community activity including that of the Pre-School.

8.0 EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING FROM HOME

8.1 Context

“...Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. To promote a strong rural economy, local and neighbourhood plans should.....support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings”.
NPPF para 28.

8.2 Plan Objectives

To facilitate and sustain local business in order to maximise employment opportunities.

8.3 Policy

The Plan supports and encourages the following by the relevant stakeholders:

- The Introduction of high speed broadband. This will benefit business allowing connectivity to the national and global economy negating many of the disadvantages of being located in a rural community.
- The conversion of unused agricultural buildings into tourist accommodation offices or workshops thus increasing potential employment opportunities without the need for developing green field sites
- Development of tourism and leisure infrastructure that benefit local businesses and create employment. The area is ideally placed for walking with both the Test Way and Clarendon Way lying within the Parish as well as other numerous footpaths. The Parish lies centrally between the historic towns of Salisbury and Winchester. The River Test provides excellent high quality angling. Game shooting is widely carried out in Winter and clay pigeon shooting all the year round. Deer stalking is also carried out. With such a variety of activities and pursuits, King’s Somborne is ideally placed as a tourist hub.
- The addition of rentable office space within the Village Hall which, in addition to providing business opportunities, will provide the Village Hall with an extra income stream.

Policy F7 – Employment & Working from Home

Redevelopment of unused commercial and/or agricultural buildings to provide high quality tourist accommodation, offices or artisan workshops is positively supported especially where low key redevelopment of a site will revitalise it and make it a positive and attractive contribution to the Parish.

9.0 UTILITIES

9.1 Context

"In preparing Local Plans, local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high-speed broadband." NPPF para 43

The electricity supply is currently fed via overhead cables and is subject to above average power outages. Improvement in the security of supply and the visual aspect is desirable.

Recent upgrading of the broadband has been affected within parts of the Parish by BT. However, this upgrading needs to be extended to cover the whole Parish. Virgin Media has also instigated a plan to bring high speed FTTH broadband to the Parish.

There is insufficient capacity in the existing foul sewage system to support future development. Additional sewer and improvements to the existing network will be required.

Due to the relatively high-water table, ingress of ground water into the foul sewage network has the potential to overload the existing network.

9.2 Plan Objectives

- To improve, employ and adopt the latest technologies in respect to services. This is expected to bring the improvements that new technologies possess are expected to bring in reducing the environmental impact of village life. For example, in the reduction of the carbon footprint with better lighting, heating and communication facilities.
- To minimise the ingress of ground water into the foul sewage network. This is of primary concern as the existing system is at capacity. The ingress of ground water into the system has the potential to overload it resulting in the system backing up, the lifting of inspection covers and the consequent health hazards.

9.3 Policy

The plan supports the following activities currently being pursued by various stakeholders:

- The upgrading of the power supply including the provision of new cabling, switchgear and feed from Sparsholt by SSE. This will result in a more sustainable supply benefiting both domestic and business users. The outages experienced in recent years are at an unacceptable level for the twenty first century.
- Burying cables in the playing field and adjacent community spaces by SSE. This will not only improve reliability but will enhance the landscape as well as improve safety
- Extending of the improved broadband speed by BT. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks will play a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

- Installation of a new broadband network by Virgin Media. The introduction of a second provider will not only give people choice but will ensure competitive rates.

Policy F8 – Utilities

That services to all new developments shall be routed underground to improve the visual street scene and reliability

All new developments shall incorporate the latest technologies in respect to services (See Design Guidance in [Appendix 2.2](#) for further detail)

10.0 ONGOING MANAGEMENT

The Parish council is liaising with Aster Housing Group for the provision of additional car parking in Scott Close.

A community speed watch programme operates conjunction with Hampshire Constabulary.