

<b>Information and evidence for the Plan Document</b>	<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Services</b>
	<b>Subject:</b>	Sports and Leisure

### Neighbourhood Plan Vision:

For the next 20 years Higham Ferrers will be:

**A sustainable, vibrant, thriving community:**  
*Strongly based on its history with an emphasis on its individuality, which encourages growth that supports its market town heritage.*

**A community which encourages attractive, high quality development:**  
*Including new housing, commercial property and community facilities within a compact market town environment.*

**A community that is inclusive:**  
*With safe access to its town centre and excellent links to adjacent housing estates, the surrounding countryside and the regional transportation network.*

**An attractive town centre:**  
*With increased vitality and activity that attracts variety of new businesses to create a thriving High Street and encourage tourism.*

### Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

**SERVICES:** To enhance residents' quality of life by improving leisure, educational, health and environmental services

**DEVELOPMENT:** To promote some housing and commercial development to meet the needs of residents and to attract visitors, thereby providing a degree of growth and employment opportunity whilst retaining the historic character of the town

**DESIGN:** To conserve and enhance the town's heritage and environmental features and promote visually attractive and sustainable design in all new developments

**ACCESS:** To improve transport links within the town's boundary and to the surrounding countryside; provide better parking and safer access to the town centre for residents and visitors.

<b>NOTE</b>
The most relevant parts of the vision and objectives for the subject are shown in red above
The Plan aims to deliver the vision and objectives in partnership with residents, other stakeholders and all necessary statutory authorities
The Plan must be compatible with EU obligations, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), human rights, etc
Sustainable solutions are required for all the subjects in order to satisfy the Vision and Objectives

## 1. Brief background/history on the subject:

Describe briefly background and history of when things happened. Write the information/evidence here:

There is a wide range of sports and recreation facilities in Higham Ferrers. Cricket, adult and junior football, bowls, tennis, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), two play areas and schools facilities. The town also has a number of parks and open spaces.

However, the sports facilities are not always available or suitable for all members of the community. This is due in part to over subscription, poor or no disabled access, limitations in size, availability and the activities catered for.

In the local area there are two sports centres at Rushden and Irthlingborough (part of the once thriving Nene Park complex). A public swimming pool is situated in Rushden and the Stanwick Lakes complex offers opportunities for craftwork, wildlife viewing, exploring nature, canoeing, cycling, running and walking. There is a golf course and bowls green within easy reach.

Table 1 provide details of all facilities.

**Table 1: Higham Ferrers Sports and Leisure Facilities Register Jan14**

Facility	Area (sqm/ha)	Usage (Low,Med,High)	Notes
<b>HF EH Important Open Space</b>			
Saffron Rd Recreation Ground:  -HF Cricket Club: pitch, training wicket, pavilion -1 Football pitch -2 Tennis courts -1 Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) -Bowls clubhouse and outside green, -Skate park (proposed location)	45,409	med high med med med	Town centre location  For HF CC For FC Higham, Risdene Rovers and Ferrers FC for HF Tennis Club and public hire For public use For HF Bowls Club In planning stage
Castle Fields: -1 Children's slide -1 Youth shelter -1 Sports area	52,549 (incl Moat)	low	Town centre location
<b>HF Open Space</b>			
Riverside Pocket Park, Wharf Rd: -Angling facilities	28,328	med	0.6ml by footpath
Lancaster Park, Newton Rd (across A6): -6 Football pitches -1 Pavilion -1 Changing rooms	?	high?	2ml by road (A6 is barrier to cycling or walking). Higham Town Colts FC In poor condition In poor condition
<b>HF Other facilities</b>			
Ferrers Specialist Art College	NA	unavailable	Town centre location
HF Primary School	NA	unavailable	Town centre location
Henry Chichele Primary School	NA	unavailable	0.6ml by footpath
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,286 (12.629ha)</b>		

<b>Local Area Facilities</b>			
Rushden Golf Club, Chelveston Rd: 1 club house and course	NA	?	1.6ml by road
Rushden Bowls Club, Northampton Rd: 1 club house and greens	NA	?	1ml by road or footpath
Stanwick Lakes Leisure Centre, Stanwick: Adventure play area/ assault course Craft/resource centre Canoe and cycle hire Circular walking and running routes Wildlife reserve/ birdwatching	NA	high	2.2ml by road; 2ml by footpath
Splash Pool, Rushden: Swimming	NA	high	1.1ml by road or footpath
Nene Park, Irthlingborough Sports centre	NA	?	1.6ml by road or footpath
Pemberton Centre, Rushden Sports centre	NA	?	1.9ml by road; 1.6ml by footpath

## 2. Source evidence on the subject:

- National Planning Policy Framework view or Policy on the subject
- Local Plan Policy - Core Strategy view or comments on the subject
- Any available statistics that should be considered
- Any other authoritative source, view or comments on the subject i.e. best practice or leading practitioners view
- Sustainable solutions are required across all subjects and themes. Write the information/evidence here:

CLG National Planning Policy Framework Section 8

NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008 Policies 13 and 16

NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar 11: Sports

Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policies RL3 and RL4) July 2011

Boots & Bikes, Thrapston2Rushden Jun 13

Greenway to Islip Map Jun13

Environment Agency River Nene Waterway Plan Nov07

RNRP Nene Valley Strategic Plan Oct10

ENC Tourism Strategy Paper Mar10

ENC Open Space SPD Nov11

ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015 Feb09

ENC adopted Northamptonshire Sport Active Recreation Strategy 2010-2015

## 3. View of relevant authorities:

- Recommendations from any commissioned studies or reports
- Comments or responses received from relevant authorities in relation to recommended development option or if the authorities have a preference for an alternative option. Write the information/evidence here:

## 4. Community views about the subject:

- Original questionnaire view
- Community Plan action
- Feedback from latest questionnaire
- Any other comments, feedback or concerns received. Write the information/evidence here:

HFNP Issues Survey Results Oct 2012

HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013

HFNP - Options Survey Results Nov 2013

Community Clubs and Groups: Sports, Youth, Ramblers. [AWAITING COMMENTS](#)

5. **Draft Policies:** These should flow from the vision and relevant objectives to ensure that development will respond satisfactorily to them. They need to relate to both National and Local Planning Policy and take account of the latest views of relevant authorities and the views of the Community. Policies from other Neighbourhood Plans that have similar issues could be helpful. James Wilson will write the policies but it would be good to indicate the policy area that you think should come out of the information/evidence that you have found. Indicate the policy area here:

**Table 2: Proposals for sustainable sports and leisure facilities:**

Proposal	Area (ha/1000)	Evidence	Policy Area
<p><b>2.1 Synthetic Turf Pitches, Pavilion and Changing Rooms</b> Reason: To meet current and future demand. Proposed location: Greenfield site east of A6</p> <p>Accessibility criteria: within 15 mins drive (5mls)</p> <p>Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Provide two additional football pitches to meet current and future needs</li> <li>ii) Relocate all facilities and add two football pitches if Saffron Rd Recreation Ground is chosen as the location for a new community building</li> </ul>	1.69	<p>HFNP Issues Survey Results Oct 2012 HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013 ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015 Feb09 NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar 11: Sports NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008: Policies 13&amp;16 CLG National Planning Policy Framework : Section 8 NN Sports Facs. Framework May10 ENC adopted Northamptonshire Sport Active Recreation Strategy 2010-2015 ENC Open Space SPD Nov11</p>	<p>Services-Sports &amp; Leisure Development-Housing Access- Disabled Access, Roads, Footpaths, Cycle ways</p>
<p><b>2.2 Childrens' Play Area</b> Reason: To replace area allocated for youth skateboard park and possible new community building. Proposed location: Greenfield site east of A6. Accessibility criteria: within 10mins walk</p>	0.1	<p>HFNP Issues Survey Results Oct 2012 HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013 ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015 Feb09 Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policies) July 2011 Policy RL3 NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar 11: Sports NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008: Policies 13&amp;16 CLG National Planning Policy Framework : Section 8 ENC adopted Northamptonshire Sport Active Recreation Strategy 2010-2015 ENC Open Space SPD Nov11</p>	<p>Services-Sports &amp; Leisure, Development-Housing Access-Cycle ways ,Footpaths, Disabled Access</p>
<p><b>2.3 Childrens' Play Area</b> Reason: Population growth. Proposed location: Greenfield site east of A6. Accessibility criteria: within 10mins walk</p>	0.1	<p>ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015 Feb09 Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policies) July 2011 Policy RL3 NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar 11: Sports NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008: Policies 13&amp;16 CLG National Planning Policy Framework : Section 8 ENC adopted Northamptonshire Sport Active Recreation Strategy 2010-2015 ENC Open Space SPD Nov11</p>	<p>Development-Housing Services-Sports &amp; Leisure Access-Cycle ways, Footpaths, Disabled Access</p>
<p><b>2.4 Youth and Adult Activity Course, Nene Way</b></p>	NA	<p>Boots&amp;Bikes, Thrapston2Rushden Jun 13</p>	<p>Services-Sports &amp; Leisure Access –Footpaths, Disabled Access</p>

<p>Reason: To encourage active recreation.</p> <p>Proposal: Create a circular walking and running course with regularly spaced rustic style exercise stations:-</p> <p>i) Five Mile Option: town centre- Nene Way- A45 footbridge- HF Pits Nature Reserve-A45 footbridge-Nene Way-town centre.</p> <p>ii)Three Mile Option: town centre-Nene Way-Riverside Walk-Nene Way-town centre.</p>		<p>Greenway to Islip Map Jun13  Environment Agency River Nene Waterway Plan Nov07  RNRP Nene Valley Strategic Plan Oct10  NCC/RNRP Draft Nene Valley Catchment Plan Oct13  ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015 Feb09  Emerging Four Towns Plan (Saved Policies) July 2011 Policy RL4  NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar 11: Sports  NNJPU Core Spatial Strategy 2008: Policies 13&amp;16  CLG National Planning Policy Framework : Section 8.  ENC adopted Northamptonshire Sport Active Recreation Strategy 2010-2015  ENC Open Space SPD Nov11</p>	
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