

Information and evidence for the Plan Document	Theme:	Services
	Subject:	Community Facilities

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.

NOTE
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:

The town has a number of community facilities which include parks and open spaces, two play areas, community halls, tennis courts, school facilities and a library. However, these 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.

There are eight important open spaces within the historic town centre which can be enjoyed by members of the public, the main ones being Saffron Road Recreation Ground and Castle Fields. Riverside Park is a pocket park situated at the lower end of Wharf Road and has the back channel for the River Nene passing through it, the river having been diverted by the construction of the A45. The park is managed by the Council with a band of volunteers –Friends of Riverside Park'. A pedestrian access link has been negotiated, which will link to Kings Meadow Lane estates once the open space behind the houses built by David Wilson Homes has been adopted by the Town Council. Kings Meadow Estate phase one is separated from phase two by The Ride, a walking route leading to the ancient Kings Meadow Lane and on to the River Nene Valley. There is a play area off Fitzwilliam Leys which is maintained by the Council and another off Villa Rise which is yet to be transferred from the developer. Other open spaces owned and maintained by the Council include Tollbar, William Steele Way, Bede Close, Bates Close and Bailey Court. The Council also cuts urban grass verges on an agency basis for Northamptonshire County Council.

Table1 below provides full details of community facilities.

Table 1: Higham Ferrers Community Facilities Register Jan 14

Facility	Function	Usage (Low,Med,High)	Notes
HF Town Indoor Facility			
Town Hall 1 st floor	Events Meetings		EH Listed Building restricted access
Library	Library& Internet Sure Start Meetings (1 st floor)		restricted access
St Mary's Church	Events		EH Listed Building
Chichele College	Exhibitions		EH Monument
Chantry Chapel	Events		EH Listed Building
Bede House	Events		EH Listed Building
Hensman Hall	Events		
Adult School	Meetings		
Duchy Suite, HF Junior School	Events Meetings		space under threat from school use
Lancaster Suite, Ferrers School	Events Meetings		
Cemetery Chapel	Storage		
Bowls Club House	Events Meetings		
Recreation Ground Cricket Pavilion	Meetings Storage		small
The Carriage House	Events Meetings		
Little Steps Playschool	Play area		
Band Club, Wharf Rd 1 st floor	Events		restricted access
Working Men's Club, Westfields Terrace	Events		
Green Dragon Inn 1 st floor	Events		restricted access
Sport & Social Club, Linnets Lane	Events		small
Local Area Indoor Facility			
Stanwick Lakes	Events Meeting room	high	Restricted winter opening hours
Splash Pool, Rushden	Events Meeting room	high	

HF Town Open Space Facility	Area (sqm)	
English Heritage Important Open Space		
Saffron Rd Recreation Ground	45,409	
Castle Fields	52,549	Contains EH listed monument
Chichele College	143	Part EH listed monument-Restricted access
Churchyard	4,710	
Dovecote	424	Private ownership
Market Square	166	Used for vehicle parking
John White Close	116	
Bede Close	?	
Other Open Space		
KML Phase 1	9,211	
KML Phase 2	3,926	
KML Phase 3	373	To be adopted- Includes Play Area
KML Phase 4	1622	Management Company -Includes Play Area
KML Phase 5	2711	To be adopted in 12 months' time
KML The Ride	8,340	
Parker Way	5,777	
School Lane	758	
Common Land	1430	
Riverside Park	3,000	
Walnut Tree Amenity Area	315	
Tollbar	8,253	
William Steele Way	2,174	
Queensway	580	
Bates Close/Bailey Court	1,266	
Rear of Henry Chichele School	7,110	
Cemetery	15,343	4-5 yrs remaining
Total	175,706 (17.571ha)	

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

NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar11

NN Sports Facs. Framework May 10

ENC Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015 Jan 2009

ENC Open Space SPD Nov11

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

HF Community Clubs and Groups: Sports, Business, Cultural, Heritage, Faith Based, Friends, Youth. **AWAITING COMMENT**

- 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 community facilities:

Proposal	Area (ha/1000)	Evidence	Policy Area
<p>2.1 Provide a community building.</p> <p>Reason: a central recreation facility to attract all age groups and foster wellbeing and community cohesion.</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage centre • Function room • Meeting/classrooms • Visitor Information Point • Three court sports hall • Fifty station fitness room • Cinema room (HS Broadband Service) • Wifi café (HS Broadband Service) • Outdoor community/art space • Visitor motor vehicle and cycle parking space <p>Location Options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methodist Chapel site 2. Ferrers Art College 3. Saffron Rd Recreation Ground 	Formula?	<p>HFNP Issues Survey Results Oct 2012</p> <p>HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013</p> <p>ENC Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015</p> <p>NCC Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance Mar11. Policy 13 & page 30</p> <p>NN Sports Facs. Framework May 10</p> <p>CLG National Planning Policy Framework Section 8</p>	<p>Services: Community Facilities, Sports & Leisure, Health & Well Being</p> <p>Development-Housing</p> <p>Access-Infrastructure, Disabled access</p> <p>Town Centre-Parking, Tourism</p>
<p>2.2 Provide additional cemetery capacity</p> <p>Reason: Population growth (current facility will be full in 4-5yrs)</p> <p>Within 15mins walk</p> <p>Proposal: Greenfield land east of the A6 bypass</p>	No formula. Talk to LA.	<p>HFNP Issues Survey Results Oct 2012</p> <p>HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013</p> <p>ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015</p> <p>ENC Open Space SPD Nov11</p>	<p>Services-Community Facilities</p> <p>Development-Housing</p> <p>Access- All subjects</p>
<p>2.3 Provide allotments.</p> <p>Reason: To replace facility lost to housing development (Wharf Rd)</p> <p>Within 15mins walk</p> <p>Proposal: Greenfield land east of the A6 bypass</p>	0.34	<p>HFNP Issues Survey Results Oct 2012</p> <p>HFNP - Community Plan Aug 2013</p> <p>ENC Enable Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2015</p> <p>ENC Open Space SPD Nov11</p>	<p>Services-Community Facilities, Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Development-Housing</p> <p>Access- All subjects</p>