



## Community Facilities Sub Group

### Introduction

The Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) Vision Note issued in early August 2017 recorded an rCOH recommendation that in order to progress the DNP the Steering Group should set up a small number of Task Sub Groups to concentrate on specific areas. These Sub Groups should undertake further analysis and assemble evidence that is in the public domain and in the emerging Local Plan evidence base (<http://www.hart.gov.uk/Evidence-base>). The suggested scope of work for the Community Facilities Sub Group is reproduced below:

#### Community facilities Sub Group

- Identify all those facilities (buildings and any operational land) that justify protection from unnecessary loss and/or may have the potential/need to expand to serve the Parish and/or to remain viable facilities
- Identify any facilities that require potential relocation to grow their size (and where they should go and what use their existing sites should be put to) as well as any surplus land that could be put to better use (including any Parish Council, public or charitable trust land)
- Summarise all work in a short report with summary analysis, site proposals and plans

This report summarises the work of the Community Facilities Sub Group.

### Background

The Vision workshop feedback from December 2016 identified that community spirit was felt to be strong and reflected in much Parish activity. Also identified was a strong community support from the residents of Dogmersfield for the safeguarding of important village assets.

Community events are held throughout the year primarily hosted by a voluntary group, Friends of All Saints Church, (FOASD) who raise funds to support the upkeep and restoration of the local church, and a non profit residents' organisation called Dogmersfield Events.

## **Community and Recreational Facilities**

A community facility can be defined as a building or space where community led activities for community benefit are the primary use and the facility is managed, occupied or used primarily by the voluntary and community sector. Community facilities can be located in a wide range of venues. These can include purpose-built structures such as community centres and village halls, as well as adapted venues, including: historic listed buildings, converted houses, flats, shops, scout huts and rooms or halls attached to faith buildings.

A wider definition of community facilities sometimes referred to as part of a place's infrastructure, could include those which provide a service to local residents:

- Health and community care: hospitals, outpatient services, nursing homes, dentists and general practice services.
- Non-residential institutions with a specific purpose: educational establishments, libraries, emergency services, and places of worship.
- Open space is also a very important community facility.

The parish contains a good range of community facilities/assets despite its population. These include:

- Dogmersfield C of E Primary School, which has a published admission number (PAN) for 2017 of 20 and a total attendance in 2016 of 127, although very few children living in the village attend. The school site is small and lacks a playing field and car park. Historically there has been a favourable arrangement to use part of SHL356 (an adjacent field leased on an annual tenancy from the owners under a short term arrangement) as a playing field.
- All Saints Church, which has regular services and hosts weddings and funerals.
- The Parish contains an excellent footpath network, and several established rambling routes.
- The Cricket Club and Pavilion are actively used, but mainly by people from outside the Parish, nonetheless the club is recognised as a valuable asset.
- The Queen's Head public house is vibrant and attracts both residents of the parish and visitors from elsewhere.
- The traditional telephone box situated on Pilcot Green South.
- Pilcot Green North and South – both identified and detailed under Local Green Space in the Environment sub group report but also recognised as Community & Recreational Facilities.
- The rural surroundings are an important leisure asset and Dogmersfield's rural location provides many opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding and other outdoor pursuits.
- The Basingstoke Canal runs through the parish and provides opportunities for canoeists and narrow boats. The towpath is a pleasant and peaceful space used widely for walkers and fishing.

The assets above are considered to comprise some of the buildings and open spaces that are valued by the community and with which local people have a strong affinity.

## **Assets of Community Value**

The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012, issued under section 235(6) and (7)(h) of the Localism Act 2011, empower local authorities to register appropriate properties or land. A building is an asset of Community Value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future. The Localism Act 2011 states that "social interests" include cultural, recreational and sporting interests.

Once designated, the inclusion of a site on the register of Assets of Community Value will provide the Parish Council or other community organisations within the parish with a six-month opportunity to bid to acquire on behalf of the local community the asset once placed for sale on the open market. In addition, the inclusion will enable the asset to benefit from the protection of planning policy.

Development proposals that would result in either the loss of, or significant harm to, an Asset of Community Value will be resisted, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the operation of the asset, or the on-going delivery of the community value of the asset, is no longer financially viable.

In order to designate assets under the above regulation, Dogmersfield Parish Council would need to consider which facilities/assets identified in this paper (and any others as appropriate) meet the criteria for Assets of Community Value for subsequent submission to Hart District Council for formal designation.

## **Recommendations**

Consideration, agreement and inclusion of a policy to protect designated Assets of Community Value from unnecessary loss within the DNDP is proposed. This policy would aim to prevent the loss or detriment of these facilities and any resulting adverse impact on the community.

The Steering Group to request Dogmersfield Parish Council to consider submission of a request(s) for the designation and registration of specified Assets of Community Value to Hart District Council.