**Community Facilities**

**Context**

Community facilities make a significant contribution to the well-being and community spirit of a place.

Your Place Plan can include information about the current picture of facilities in your community, as well as highlighting gaps. This evidence can help to protect existing facilitates and can be used to set out local needs and aspirations for the provision of new facilities, especially if there is a notable gap in provision. Sites for new facilities could also be indicated (though not allocated) in a Place Plan.

Community facilities are provided by a range of organisations (public, private and voluntary). They provide for the health, welfare, social, educational, spiritual, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community, and play an important role in providing opportunities for people to meet and interact socially.

Community facilities could include:

* Schools and other places of learning
* Health and social care facilities, including doctors’ and dentists’ surgeries, NHS walk-in centres and local care centres, even hospitals.
* Leisure and sports facilities, private as well as voluntary/community.
* Public parks, gardens, woodlands, playing fields, allotments, cemeteries, etc.
* Play facilities.
* Youth facilities.
* Library and information services, including noticeboards etc.
* Community centres or meeting halls.
* Cultural facilities (cinema, theatre, arts centre, museum etc.).
* Places of worship.
* Public houses, cafes and restaurants.
* Shops\*.
* Post offices.
* Visitor attractions (e.g. mini golf course or historic building).

\* For a small community it can be appropriate to list all local shops separately. For a larger town it is best to outline the general mix and balance of town centre shops but also to note any shops in out-of-centre neighbourhoods.

To address any or all of this, the first step is to produce an evidence base of what is there now and, to some extent, how well or not any facility is used. The next stage of work is to establish what local authority evidence there is about any gaps in provision, for example a lack of playing fields. The final stage is production of an evidence report to accompany the plan.

**How?**

**Step 1: Listing and Mapping**

This first step simply involves producing a list of facilities and locating these on a map (or 2/3 maps if there are a lot of facilities).

There is no final answer to what any list might include. A relatively standard list is on the previous page. Pick and mix from this as appropriate and add any facilities in your area not included in our list. Use or adapt the mock-up chart in Appendix 1.

For facilities such as community centres, halls and churches, it can be very useful to find out and note the various groups and organisations who meet there.

Mapping at his stage is very simple and can be hand-drawn, based on a google map – proper mapping is only needed at plan drafting stage.

*There is a simple mock-up form overleaf that you could use.*

**Step 2: Gap Assessment**

Your local authority will have produced, for its Local Development Plan, various of its own evidence reports that might cover, for example, parks and open spaces, recreation provision or play areas. What they cover varies, as does the degree of detail. Your local authority should be able to establish for you what reports need to be reviewed (and then these should be referenced in the final plan).

Such reports often highlight where there are gaps in provision, for example a lack of playing fields as compared to a general standard. Without this, it can be difficult to establish gaps at the level of a town, village or small neighbourhood. If there is a general sense of a gap in certain provision, note it down even if there are no apparent standards to relate it to.

**Step 3: Final Report**

The final (short!) report will need four elements:

* The final version of the list of facilities.
* A final map of facilities.
* Any outcomes from the gap analysis of local and authority evidence.
* Conclusions in terms of proposals of what may now be needed, either to retain, perhaps improve, perhaps add.

**Further information**

The Welsh Government Community Facilities Programme is a capital grant scheme and can be used to improve community facilities which are useful to, and well used by, people in the community.

Grants are available at two levels; small grants of under **£25,000** and larger grants of up to **£250,000**. Note – these grants are available to community or voluntary sector organisations and are not available to Town and Community Councils.

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/community-facilities-programme/?lang=en>

**Appendix 1: Facilities list mock-up**

Only include what is already known or found easily. Any further details can follow later, if known to be needed.

* **Name**: Very simple: school, King’s Arms pub etc.
* **Basic Description**: Primary school, 120 pupils, football club, 3 teams etc. – keep it simple
* **Owner of facility**: Local authority, Tennis Club, Church etc.
* **Owner of land**: Only if known or appropriate or thought to be different, e.g. some sports groups own their clubhouse but it is on public land etc.
* **Usage**: Basic terms such as over-subscribed, full, very heavily used, not fully used etc.
* **Others can use**: Note if any spaces are available for others to hire, e.g, a school hall, room over a pub, village hall.

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| **Name** | **Basic description** | **Owner of facility** | **Owner of land** | **Usage** | **Others can use?** |
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