

Neighbourhood Plan Briefing Notes For Health And Wellbeing

1. NPPF Para 73:

Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required

2. Cornwall Council Guidance for Health and Wellbeing:

Health and planning issues that may be considered when developing a NDP could include the provision of health facilities and/or the promotion of healthy lifestyles. You may wish to look at new ways to provide local health facilities, for example through the shared use of community buildings; and improving access to health facilities. Or the focus may be on the promotion of healthy lifestyles and wellbeing through the provision of:

- a. Leisure facilities, play areas, sports pitches;*
- b. Opportunities for physical activity and active travel, walking and cycling paths and routes.*
- c. Areas for growing local food such as the provision of allotments.*

3. Fields in Trust is the only reasonable guide to what open space and sports facilities a Community should have, a link follows and pdf attached:

<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/PAD/FINAL%20ONLINE%20Planning%20Guidance%20for%20Outdoor%20Sport%20and%20Play%20Provision%20Oct%202015.pdf>

4. Loggerheads Survey: Attached.

5. Over the past 30+ years there has been a massive growth of the number of houses within the Loggerheads Parish along with an associated population increase. Throughout this period there has remained one constant; Ashley Medical Health Centre which has not increased its footprint. As a consequence many Loggerheads residents are forced to register with Market Drayton Primary Care Trust, most patients have to wait in excess of 2 weeks for non-urgent Doctor Appointments. Indeed, where conditions deteriorate patients are forced to consider using A and E which puts unnecessary strain on hospital services. Additionally, because patients are being treated by Shropshire Health they are required to travel excessive distances for Hospital appointment i.e. Oswestry for Orthopedic care. All of this is compounded by poor public transport links. For the future, additional capacity is urgently required in the area, either by increasing the Ashley capacity or with an additional facility to service the Loggerheads community.

6. With regard to the local community wellbeing, it is interesting to note that National Government have recently released a new policy called: Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation. Within this document the role of local government is referred to as follows:

“Local authorities have, and will continue to have, an absolutely crucial role to play in delivering sport and physical activity opportunities”.

The document goes on to add:

“Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies have highlighted physical inactivity as an issue that needs to be tackled and agreed approaches to tackling it. Local authorities also have responsibility for wider policy areas which can have a significant impact on the physical activity of the local population”.

Within the Strategy Sport England's remit has been broadened so that it becomes responsible for sport outside school from the age 5 rather than 14.

The Government says, "creating a more active society **is not a choice, it is a necessity** when we face an aging population and a range of health challenges across the life course, including rising obesity amongst children and adults, and the increase in a range of long-term conditions such as diabetes".

6. How does all this affect Loggerheads?

Loggerheads currently has one football pitch, located in Burntwood, and no other sporting facilities available outside school hours. According to NULBC Playing Pitch Strategy(PPS) this pitch is, "standard quality adult pitch with minimal spare capacity. Pitch is minimum size and is not serviced by changing rooms". This statement is wrong. The pitch measures 93 yards by 60 yards. The FA dictates that a pitch must be between 100 and 120 yards long, for this reason the local team has to play home matches at Eccelshall football club. Hardly encouraging an active community. In addition, parents are reticent to allow children to play on the pitch as it is remote, in local woods. Because of this remoteness there have been instances where used syringes have been found around the pitch. With regard to comments in PPS to spare capacity a minimum sized FA standard pitch needs 6100sq yds to be viable or 1.26 acres. The total space available in the Burntwood site is 7211sq yards or 1.49 acres, this hardly constitutes spare capacity.

Loggerheads needs a clear and coherent policy for future health and wellbeing. NPPF refers to Open Space Policy guidance, this policy is expressed by Fields In Trust or FIT. They refer to the **6 Acre Standard**, which basically says there should be 6 acres of open space per 1000 people. This is then further refined to say, that within the 6 acres, there should be 3 acres of sports fields per 1000 people. For Loggerheads with a population of over 2800 that is in excess of 8 acres of sport pitches not the current 1.49. Indeed, we should be looking to future and anticipate population growth, which is inevitable, and not react over 30 years too late. Indeed, another bullet point from the new policy says, "Government want health, leisure and sport to continue working closely together to fight inactivity across the country".

As a priority Local Government needs to address the dire facilities available to the Loggerheads Parish residents. Land needs to set aside that is fit for the Governments new strategy; this should take priority over housing development. Along with open space and sports facilities it should include a community facility that includes Medical Health Care.