

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Community facilities</b>
<b>Vision 2030 objectives:</b>	<p>To encourage the development of increased facilities including education, health, leisure, cultural and community services where these bring benefits to our community in line with this devolved Plan.</p> <p>To have excellent leisure, cultural and sporting opportunities, which are accessible to all.</p> <p>To protect and develop key services and facilities in sustainable rural areas.</p>
<b>What the Local Plan says</b>	<p>The 'Strategic Approach' for this priority in the Local Plan states:</p> <p>Community facilities that help promote social interaction as well as minimise the need to travel by car should be provided within local communities. Where possible and practicable (for example on larger developments), new local community facilities will be provided as part of the development, creating attractive and vibrant places to live. Existing local facilities will be protected through a flexible approach which recognises the changing needs in society. Providing a safe transport route network for all types of travel, and providing choices for "greener" travel options where practicable, are also a key part of the strategy. Some community facilities or infrastructure play a much wider, strategic role in our communities, such as flood defences, the strategic road and rail network and communications technologies. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be used to plan for these, with development contributing towards their delivery through either planning obligations or the Community Infrastructure Levy.</p> <p>In general, community facilities are supported within or adjoining an existing settlement, through the re-use of rural buildings or otherwise well-located to be accessible to their main catchment population (COM2/4/6). Town centre uses should be in the town centre, unless they are small scale rural developments or community facilities (ECON4)</p> <p>The loss of local community buildings and public recreational / open space is resisted (COM3/5).</p> <p>The proposals for Vearse Farm (BRID1) include local community facilities (including land for a two-form entry primary school) and improved access and recreational use within a network of spaces. The supporting text also recognises that there is also the potential to include a community farm on the site and a replacement facility for Sydney Gale House residential care home run by Dorset County Council.</p>
<b>Working group members:</b>	Phyllida Culpin, Sal Robinson

## Evidence gathering and research – what we found:

<p><b>Issue:</b></p>	<p>Protection and provision of community facilities in and around Bridport</p>
<p><b>Research:</b></p>	<p>We reviewed the Bridport Local Area Partnership Space Needs Report 2013 and noted that it identifies a consistent need for storage space for local groups, which could be on a shared basis.</p> <p>We also reviewed the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2014-2031 which identifies priorities for Bridport, some of which have since completed or are on their way to completion (update appendix A). This Plan is currently under review alongside the Local Plan review, which could provide an opportunity to identify new projects.</p> <p>We contacted local organisations including the youth centre, schools, and community, cultural and health groups and also invited them to a drop-in session to give views about existing facilities, whether they are enough to meet local needs, what additional facilities might be required and where they would best be placed within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Take up of this was not high.</p> <p>In addition, we had a meeting with officers at Dorset County Council regarding emerging plans for a ‘community hub’ in Bridport to consolidate existing services into one place. This project is for a new care home to replace Sidney Gale House, and for a community hub facility which incorporates the functions undertaken from the current local day centres as well as other social care activities. A planning application for the site is expected in May 2017.</p> <p>A questionnaire was distributed through the summer and autumn of 2016. Although this questionnaire wasn’t limited to the community facilities theme, the form encouraged open responses on any land-based topic for the area.</p> <p>A Youth Survey was undertaken in the winter of 2016/17 and again invited open responses on any issues important to younger people in the area.</p> <p>The reports for both consultations can be viewed at <a href="http://www.vision-2030.co.uk/questionnaires-results/">http://www.vision-2030.co.uk/questionnaires-results/</a> (former to be added when complete)</p> <p>Maps of existing and ‘under threat’ facilities were displayed at the 2017 Community Fair in Bridport and members of the public were asked for feedback on whether there were gaps in provision, issues around accessibility to facilities, or any that were at risk of closure.</p>
<p><b>Findings:</b></p>	<p>There has not been a strong response regarding community facilities in and around Bridport during the consultations, which suggests that this could be one area that is well provided for – and the mapping of the many facilities certainly suggests this. However, the consultation did identify a potential issue of increased pressure on existing services with the number of new houses proposed by West Dorset District Council, and this needs to be a consideration with any significant new developments. In addition, the Trick Factory, which was an indoor skate park, lost its privately leased venue in the town in 2016 and the issue of more leisure facilities for younger people was raised through the Youth Survey.</p> <p>The Leisure Centre was voted as the second highest used facility in the area by younger people (used regularly by 50% of respondents) and suggestions such as a facility with a climbing wall, trampolines and ‘more sporty things’, with better visibility and publicity for those opportunities were also raised in the Youth Survey.</p> <p>Regarding DCC’s community hub project, this is planned for the site of the former Fisherman’s Arms and depot in South Street and is yet to proceed through planning.</p> <p>The need for storage space has been ongoing (identified as well in early space</p>

	<p>need surveys) and has yet to be addressed.</p> <p>There is a local desire to protect community play/recreation areas and the Town Council is developing plans for investment in the sites it owns, to bring others in line with the West Bay play area, which is accessible for users of all abilities.</p>
<p><b>Evidence sources:</b></p>	<p>Bridport Local Area Partnership Space Needs Report 2013          West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2014-2031 (Bridport progress update Appendix A)          Youth Survey 2016          Neighbourhood Plan Survey 2016</p>
<p><b>Potential policies / options to take forward:</b></p>	<p>The Local Plan Community Needs and Infrastructure policies (COM1-COM6) do provide broad protection for existing community facilities and provision for community infrastructure as part of new development. However there are clear local priorities which merit inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Leisure Centre needs to be protected and if appropriate, support should be given for its expansion to provide a wider range of sport and leisure facilities.</li> <li>2. Protect and enhance outdoor public sports and play areas</li> <li>3. Support to be given for the provision of an indoor youth facility in an accessible location near to the town centre.</li> <li>4. (Project) Support to be given for a storage facility which is accessible for community and voluntary groups in the Bridport area. This could be incorporated into a larger development, or an existing building/facility could be adapted for the purpose.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Maps / locations</b></p>	<p>All of the community facilities have been mapped (separate documents)</p>