

Neighbourhood Area Infrastructure Audit – Acomb Neighbourhood Plan

Our current community facilities and infrastructure in the area

1. What is the name or piece of infrastructure you are recording?

Acomb Recreation Ground (Playing Fields)

2. Is the facility or infrastructure you are recording indoors or outdoors?

- Indoors
 Outdoors
 Both

3. What is the primary use of the facility/infrastructure?

- Community
 Education
 Health
 Emergency Service
 Sport and Recreation
 Social
 Cultural
 Worship
 Retail
 Local Service
 Environmental
Other (please specify)

4. Are there community activities provided in the facility?

- Yes
 No

5. If yes - please list the community activities within the facility.

- Well maintained and refurbished children's play area within last 7 years
- Tennis Courts – not used and upkeep poor
- Pavilion building on site
- Hexham Youth Football team currently using facility for access to toilets whilst playing football on playing fields
- Acomb Youth Club in Spring and Summer months, on a weekly basis term time and during the summer holidays for the summer youth activities, used in conjunction with the playing fields
- Dog walking despite sign on gate saying dogs not permitted
- Occasional picnic, family and group gathering

6. Approximately, when is the facility available for use?

- Weekdays only
- Weekdays evenings only
- Weekends only
- Weekends evenings only
- 7 days a week (including evenings)
- 24 hours
- Other (please specify)

7. Approximately how many people use the facility?

Per week?

Estimate

- dog walkers: 70
- children playing in park: 35
- tennis courts: 0- 2
- football field:22
- youth club: 10 – 20 in spring/summer
- family/groups: 0 - 10

Per year?

Estimate

- dog walkers: 3640
 - children playing in park: 1820
 - tennis courts: 20
 - football field:880 seasonal
 - youth club: 120 – 300 in spring/summer based on 4 mths plus 3 sessions in summer holidays
 - family/groups: 0 – 50, predominately spring/summer
- approx. total: 6480 - 6640**

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Questions about the building

8. Who owns the facility?

Charitable Trust - Registered:1003160
Parish Council are custodians of land on behalf of Acomb Parish residents with sole Trustee, Bill Grigg, Clerk to Acomb Parish Council.

9. What is the type of ownership?

- Freehold
- Leasehold

10. If the building is Leasehold, what is the length of the lease?

No applicable

11. What is the approximate size of the facility in square metres?

???

12. How many spaces, rooms or halls are available for community use?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 or more
- Other (please specify)

No applicable

13. Please record the spaces and facilities available to use?

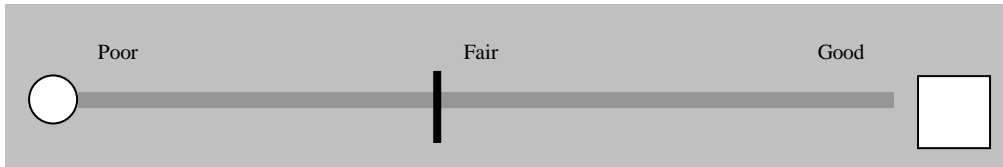
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower/changing rooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Hall | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child friendly facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting room | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stage | <input type="checkbox"/> Social facilities (e.g. licensed bar) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilets | <input type="checkbox"/> Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Toilets | <input type="checkbox"/> Secure cycle parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) | |

See as above, at 5.

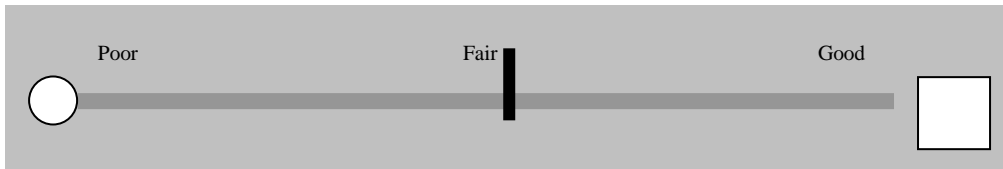
14. Do you have any comments about the condition of any of the facilities available currently?

Poor grass cutting and clearing of loose grass making it not good for football.
No lines marked out – team require to undertake.
Tennis courts in poor condition.
Access by car poor.
No designated parking.
Physical disabled and pram access limited.
Dog fouling due to dogs being allowed to run freely and children being fearful of dogs.

15. How would you rate the energy efficiency of the building? **Not applicable.**



16. How would you describe the general repair of the building/facility?



17. What is the number of total car parking spaces?

None – though limited grassed area where possible to park approx. 4/5

18. How many disabled parking spaces?

None

19. How many secure cycle parking spaces are there?

None

20. How is the cost of running and maintaining the building and facilities met?

- Fees and charges
- Funds
- Donations
- Grants
- Funding
- Other (Please specify)

Parish Council – financial year end 2016 and previous 5 years, no income or spending according to records held at Charity Commission.

21. What is the catchment area for the use of your facility?

- Northumberland wide
- Acomb and beyond
- Acomb only
- Other (Please specify)

Empty rectangular box for specifying the catchment area.

The future of the facilities and infrastructure

22. Do you think there will be a greater demand for use of the facility or infrastructure in the future?

Yes. The next steps within the endorsed (by the PC) CLP in response to what residents said in the Parish questionnaire (Nov 2014) are to *'improve the meeting and social facilities in the village'* – see also actions pp 20 within the CLP and also what Acomb residents wanted pp 13 of CLP e.g. *'residents want more village-based activities*'.

A survey conducted and delivered to all Acomb Parish households with a response rate of 15%.

- A total of 39% of those who responded thought that a new village hall should be built incorporating the pavilion on the playing fields with suitable access and parking.

- The next highest category at 23% was households who thought that the village hall should be renovated and a new pavilion built.

- A total of 20% of households agreed that both the village hall and the pavilion should be renovated.

- Only one household thought that the village hall should be left as it is and the pavilion renovated and one other household thought that nothing should be done to either building.

Potential to:

- create a community hub for multi purpose use, perhaps locating the village hall and pavilion together on the playing field, with improved access and renewable/sustainable energy options, for all age groups within the village. As an example, a café has been suggested by several residents as a meeting place.
- a new building could increase income generation to benefit the village.
- Acomb Parish residents having the opportunity to influence the decision making about the future of Acomb facilities/venues through community engagement.

Agreement was made at the June 2017 PC meeting to set up a working group to explore future options for all the facilities within the village.

23. Are there any other issues relating to this community facility or piece of infrastructure that you wish to record?

No income generated.