

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?

Village Hall

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)

Collection point for recycling bins
Designated Refuge Centre at time of flooding

4. Are there community activities provided in the facility?

- Yes
 No

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

- Monday group (older residents' meet for refreshments and opportunity to meet with bingo and other activities).
- Youth Club in autumn and winter one evening a week, term time
- Carpet bowls in winter months weekly, during day
- Yoga weekly, in evening
- Morris Dancers, weekly
- Youth Judo, weekly
- Singing babies/Squeaky Feet on Thursday mornings
- Monthly Parish Council meetings
- Monthly A4A (Community Group) meetings
- Leek Club's Spring Fair (some years) Autumn Fair in September, annually.
- Little Oaks Nursery Autumn Fair, annually
- Christmas Carol event, annually
- Booked events, e.g. birthday parties, occasionally

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)

Exception would be if the hall as the designated refuge centre was required in times of extreme flooding

7. Approximately how many people use the facility?

Per week?

Per year?

Monday group – 40 weeks -280
Youth club approx. 22 weeks autumn and winter weekly approx.- 250
Carpet Bowls approx 20 weeks – 160
Yoga – 32 weeks – 320
Morris Dancers 40 weeks - 400
Youth Judo, - 40 weeks - 400
Singing babies/Squeaky Feet on Thursday mornings Autumn 2017 - 160
Monthly Parish Council meetings -88
Monthly A4A (Community Group) meetings - 70
Leek Club's Spring Fair (some years) Autumn Fair September, annually - 150.
Little Oaks Nursery Autumn Fair, annually - 100
Christmas Carol event, annually - 70
Booked events, e.g. birthday parties, occasionally – approx 200

Approx: 3048

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Questions about the building

8. Who owns the facility?

Charitable Trust – Registered 522019 -
ACOMB VILLAGE HALL
Trustees, Bill Grigg, Clerk to Acomb Parish Council, Charles Enderby and Jane
Wriggley (since no longer on the PC) on behalf of the Parish Council

9. What is the type of ownership?

- Freehold
 Leasehold

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

32 years as of 2017 – (86 years as of 1963 up to 2049)

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

835 square metres

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

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

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Main Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower/changing rooms |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secondary Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Child friendly facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting room | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storage |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stage | <input type="checkbox"/> Social facilities (e.g. licensed bar) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toilets x 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Toilets | <input type="checkbox"/> Secure cycle parking |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) | |

Collection point for recycling bins
Notice Board
Defibrillator
Both Halls double up as a meeting room
Designated refuge centre in times of extreme flooding

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

The fabric of the building is poor with a large amount of repairs required to bring it up to standard. Damp found in parts perhaps made worse by guttering not being cleared. Toilet areas are particularly poor. Interior décor is needed to update. Limited sockets. WiFi problems requiring to be resolved. Lack of storage space.

15. How would you rate the energy efficiency of the building?



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



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

Approx 5, not designated places for parking

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)

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

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

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 and feel that there are no suitable buildings'*.

A survey conducted and delivered to all Acomb Parish households by Action4Acomb 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 reached at the June 2017 PC meeting to set up a working group to explore future options for all the community facilities within the village.

Progressing this is supported by evidence provided within the findings from the Parish Questionnaire (Nov 2014) and which informed Acomb's 5-Year - 2015 -2020 - Community Led Plan (CLP). The CLP, compiled by A4A, a constituted community group in partnership with a large number of partners, accountable to the parish residents, endorsed by Acomb Parish Council, sets out the objectives and actions to achieve. Many of these objectives have been met or are in working progress, to date.

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

It is questionable whether the building is fit for purpose anymore. The 2 meeting rooms/event rooms are adjacent to each other making it difficult to access the kitchen from the smaller of the two.

As consequence, income generated not meeting potential.

Kitchen facilities are reached via a sloped access making it difficult to meet Health and Safety requirements if catering for events. Though there is a small area with sink in the smaller of the 2 meeting rooms, this is limited and in poor condition. There is a requirement to go through the bigger of the 2 halls to reach the smaller meeting room which is impractical if another event is in place.

The building is not child friendly with no changing facilities and no means of keeping children from escaping from the building plus the added difficulties as highlighted in regard to access to the kitchen.

The land that the village hall stands on is not owned by the Parish Council who pay a peppercorn rent annually.

See also 10 and 14, as above.