

Community Assets in Husbands Bosworth

Turville Memorial Hall

The Turville Memorial Hall, opened in 1896, is a focal point for village activities. 90% of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire respondents considered the hall to be a facility of high importance to the community.

It is run as a charitable trust by a Board of Trustees drawn from the village. There is a web site <https://hbvillagehall.communitybookings.co.uk/> describing the facilities on offer, setting out a schedule of up and coming events, and providing contact details for those wishing to book the venue.

The facility is in frequent use and regular activities include community group meetings, dance, exercise, children's playgroups and dog training. The hall can be booked for public and private events. It is also the venue for Husbands Bosworth Parish Council meetings.

Medical Centre and Pharmacy

A new, purpose-built Medical Centre opened on Welford Road in June 2018, with staff moving from the previous building, which had become unsuitable for modern medical practice. Parishioners were keen to keep a Medical Centre within the village, and the Parish Council was a major influence in incorporating this new building within a new housing development proposed for the village and currently under construction. This was achieved as part of a Section 106 agreement.

The patient list is currently 3,600 as it is not a facility just for Bosworth, but also serves the surrounding area. Therefore, over two thirds of the patients live outside the Parish. The Centre has room to expand to 8,000 patients in this location, and the whole practice, which has Medical Centres in Bosworth and in Market Harborough, currently has 26,000 patients.

The results of the recent Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire indicated the value of the Medical Centre to the Parish, with 92.06% rating the GP surgery as of very high importance, and 88.68% rating Pharmacy facilities within the village as of very high importance.

Husbands Bosworth C Of E Primary School

Husbands Bosworth C of E Primary School is a half form entry school serving the catchment area of the village of Husbands Bosworth based on two sites. In 2014 the school was graded 'Good' by Ofsted. In September 2016 the school became an academy and joined the newly formed Learn Academies Trust (Learn-AT) working with other schools in the south Leicestershire area.

The building has existed as a school for over 150 years. The school has a maximum capacity of 105 children (7 cohorts x 15 children) and currently has 82 children on role (March 2018). A number of children attend the school who live in nearby towns, villages and hamlets but the vast majority of families live in Husbands Bosworth.

If there were a significant increase in children, taking the school beyond the set capacity, then the school would require funding to increase the building size, furnish the extensions and employ staff to teach the extra children. This would be the case whatever age the children were. There is no allowance in the school's current school budget to pay for any of the necessary requirements if housing increased. The size of the classrooms would make holding any more than the allocated number of children difficult, particularly in the older building.

Although variable, the numbers of children entering the school at age 4 has been steadily increasing with this year's allocation all having been taken (2017/18) and forecasts for the following year indicate that the limit will be reached for new starters. With the school based towards one end of the village possible new housing closer towards the school may mean that in future families at the far end of the village may not be allocated.

The school has a large field as part of one of the sites. Poor drainage renders this largely unusable during 7 or 8 months a year due to the levels of waterlogging. This is an area that could be developed to provide further sporting and activity facilities for the school and the growing community.

Those responding to the Questionnaire rated all educational assets as important overall. The school and access to it was clearly considered the most important.

The children at the school have been thinking about what they would like to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan for their future in the village. They speak highly about the ‘..green and healthy..’ nature of the village and that they are keen for these spaces to remain that way. One child spoke about parking and how important it was that they had ‘... places to park their cars when I am older...’ and how currently ‘... the cars park on the paths so we have to walk around them...’. One boy spoke about how the park is really good and that they hope that the park continues to have the great climbing frames that it does and to maintain the skate park that he and his friends ‘... enjoy using...’.

Pubs and Cafés

There are two public houses and three cafés within the Parish, comprising The Bell Inn and Catering Corner within the village, and The Wharf Inn and Totty Teas at the southernmost tip of the Parish, at the edge of Welford. The third café is at the Gliding Centre.

Over 90% of the questionnaire respondents considered the Post Office village shop and pubs were important to the community. The need to ensure support for these facilities was commented on.

The Catering Corner

The Catering Corner, a café, opened in 2014, situated on the corner of High Street and Mowsley Road. The café opens Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm and seats 25 customers, serving freshly prepared hot and cold food and offering outside catering.

Over two thirds of the respondents to the NP questionnaire considered the cafe to be an important asset to the community and that "another cafe would be nice"

Any increase in housing and the subsequent increase in residents would impact favourably on the business. However, although most customers walk to the café, the difficulties in parking would be further exacerbated.

The Bell Inn

Sited at the cross roads, the Bell Inn is a fine and largely unaltered Georgian coaching inn, retaining unaltered stabling and ancillary buildings. In 1964 there were three public houses on the High Street. Now only the Bell Inn survives and 85% of respondents to the consultation survey value having such a pub in the village.

The pub is open every day and serves a wide range of drinks and food for up to 40 covers, including a takeaway service and outside catering. Since February 2018, the current owners of the Bell Inn freehouse have developed a range of monthly and weekly themed nights, with live music and seasonal party nights. Local leagues of darts and Northamptonshire skittles play in the pub.

The Wharf Inn and Totty's Teas cafe, Welford

Just inside the parish boundary, the Wharf Inn at Welford is at the end of the Welford Arm of the Grand Union Canal and forms part of the Canal and Rivers Trust's Welford Wharf site. The Wharf Inn building dates to the early 1800s and is now owned by The Grainstore Brewery, based in Oakham. Inside are two bars, with an inglenook separating the drinking area from the restaurant area. Six hand pulls on the bar serve real ales and there is a range of food served at indoor and, when weather permits, outdoor tables. A beer festival is held at the Wharf annually. The pub was awarded Rural Pub of the Season in summer 2015.

Totty Teas is a traditional café in part of the Wharf at Welford. Hot drinks, homemade cakes and snacks are served every day and a range of seasonal events happen throughout the year. There is a service for home delivery of afternoon teas and facility for small corporate events. Local crafts and arts are sold from the characterful buildings and these are complemented by weekly craft workshops.

Springfields Shop

Over 98% of respondents to the consultation survey place importance on the village shop, which is part of a small chain. Springfields offers a range of groceries, fresh produce (including products from a local butcher) and newspapers and also accommodates the Post Office, upon

which the same level of importance is placed by respondents to the survey. The shop also offers an outside cash machine and is open from early morning until late night every day.

92% of the questionnaire respondents thought the Village shop was very important to the community.

Playing Field

The Parish Council owns and maintains the village's playing field, which is situated off Kilworth Road. There is space for a full-size football pitch at the lower end, towards the village, which also provides a cricket pitch in the summer. A smaller practice football pitch with permanent goals is at the top of the field.

In the past the village fielded a very successful series of football teams. Currently there is no football team and the Cricket Club plays at Welford. A very successful local league rounder's club does use the playing field during the summer months.

When the field was purchased an enclosed bowling green was established on the site, which for many years was very popular. However, due to lack of interest in later years this was sold off. Some years ago an area in the northwest of the field was identified as the possible site of a new bowling green, but this initiative lacked the necessary support.

An area near the village end of the playing field was set aside for a children's recreation area, with swings, slides and roundabouts. Over the years this facility has been maintained and upgraded by the Parish Council through grant initiatives and a precepted fund and is extremely popular. A storm shelter is also provided nearby.

Over half the respondents to the Questionnaire considered that the Playing Field was very important to the community. The children's play area was also of equal importance.

A fire beacon was erected at the highest point of the playing field site to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of HM The Queen in 2002 and is lit on special occasions.

Future plans may include the provision of more adult exercise equipment outside the children's area. 40% of the questionnaire respondents felt that it was needed. The Parish Council is

currently considering a major project to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the ending of The Great War by planting a shade belt of memorial trees along the southern fence-line of the recreation area, in remembrance of the men of the village who gave their lives.

In the 1970s, when BMX biking was 'all the rage' an earth track was laid out adjacent to the recreation area. This became overgrown and largely redundant as the craze for BMX subsided and following a vigorous campaign by a group of village children, supported by the Parish Council, local authority and other grants the area was transformed into a skateboarding park.

Skatepark

The skate park is still popular with village youngsters, and those from further afield, as the running surfaces are wood rather than the less forgiving concrete or metal of other facilities in the area. In the summer youngsters are often seen arriving by bus along with their skateboards just to use Bosworth's equipment. However, due to the construction of the park, maintenance and planned replacement of the equipment is very high and the Parish Council seeks funding opportunities to carry out the work.

Nearly two thirds of the questionnaire respondents did not feel it was of importance to the community.

Tennis Court

In 1974 a group of villagers approached the Parish Council with a view to forming a Tennis Club and creating a tennis court in the southwest corner of the playing field. This facility proved very popular and a second court was added soon afterwards. It remains popular and hosts regular children's training sessions during the summer. Flood lighting has recently been installed to extend the use of the courts. The Tennis Club pays a peppercorn land rent for the site.

Just over a third of the Questionnaire respondents thought the courts were of value to the community.

Sports Pavilion

A temporary sports pavilion had been installed for the use of the Cricket Club from early days but proved to be inadequate for local league games. Led by the Parish Council, the Tennis Club, Rounders Club, Cricket Club and the Football Club at the time, decided to build a new pavilion as part of the community's Millennium celebrations. Funds were raised by public subscription, landfill tax credits and local business sponsorship and a sub-committee, reporting to the Parish Council, was set up to oversee the building and subsequent management of the building. Recently the Parish Council has taken over full control of the management of the Sports Pavilion.

The Sports Pavilion has modern toilet, changing and shower facilities, a referee changing room, externally accessible disabled-access toilet and garaging and storage space. It also has a small conference/meeting room for up to 40 people, with kitchen and food prep area. It is used by local community groups, business users and private parties, and hired on an hourly, half day or daily basis. The meeting room was purposely limited in area so as not to compete with the existing community halls at the time in the village and to give flexibility to the availability of meeting rooms within the village. Plans for the future include the possibility of relocating the Parish Office to the Sports Pavilion garage.

Nearly 60% of Questionnaire respondents valued the sports and recreational facilities. 80% thought the Pavilion an important asset to the community.

Clubs, activities and interest groups are important to individuals and highly valued community assets as indicated by nearly 60% of questionnaire respondents. 75% felt that more facilities for younger people were still needed.

Scout Headquarters

In 1990 1st Kilworth Scouts approached the Parish Council seeking permission to establish a permanent headquarters building adjacent to the children's recreation area. The Council agreed to allocate a site and charge a ground rent. The headquarters, with a meeting room and facilities is fully maintained by the Scout Association and 1st Kilworth Scouts.

Millennium Wood

The Millennium Wood was created with the support of community grants as a millennium project for the village. Located at the junction of Kilworth Road and Mill Lane, on the site of a former village clay pit and brickyard, the Millennium Wood is rapidly becoming established as a haven for wildlife. It is managed by the Husbands Bosworth Millennium Woodland Trust for the benefit of the community.

With the help of volunteers from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers a path has been created through the woods, wending its way down to the pond, where kingfishers, coot, mallard and heron have all been spotted. There are number of bird boxes sited throughout the woods, as well as natural habitats. The southern end of the site is ancient ridge and furrow pastureland, which has been planted with numerous specimen native trees. There is also a set-down point for less able visitors, accessed off Mill Lane.

Work continues on the site, with the pond area recently enlarged and a shelved wetland area created. Future projects include the provision of a boardwalked area over the pond. Improved wheelchair access to the pond area is also planned.

This community facility was rated of significant importance by nearly 90% of the Questionnaire respondents.

Paths and Bridleways

The parish is fortunate in having over 7 miles of permissive path and over 2¼ miles of bridle track in the parish suitable for walking and horse riding – however there are only 220m of public footpaths in the whole of the parish. There are a great many dog-walkers and horse riders often to be seen around the village and Parish generally, making good use of the amenity and enjoying the green spaces and wildlife habitats in the area.

Some favourite walks or rides are:

Bridleway from Butt Lane past the quarry, straight up through fields and across the permissive path on the airfield, then the possibility of road/verge/path access to Sibbertoft, Welford and

beyond. This is a very open walk with many pleasant views. The bridleway can be very muddy after persistent rain.

From Broad Lane (quiet road for all traffic). At the canal bridge turn right for pedestrian access to the Canal Tow Path to Theddingworth and beyond to Foxton.

From Broad Lane and pedestrians should turn right through the canal bridge gate. Turn left down the steps to access the Canal Tow Path (left) which becomes a track over Bosworth Tunnel. Cross over A5199, up Boaty Hill opposite, and along to North Kilworth (a pleasant shady walk on a hot day). Can return via A4304 (a busy road), diverting through the Millennium Wood or carry along the canal towpath to Welford.

From Broad Lane and carry straight on along the Mowsley bridleway to come out on the Mowsley/Theddingworth Road. This is a mostly flat track and could accommodate robust pushchairs also. Another attraction of this track for dog-walkers is that just past the Canal Bridge is a short fenced dog walk provided by local farmers.

Additionally a 'Historic Village Trail and Towpath Walk' leaflet is available at the Village Notice Board on The Green. This contains a wealth of information about many historical points of interest in the village, together with a numbered sketch plan. The majority of this walk is on flat, paved walkways, making it very suitable for those in wheelchairs. With a large Care Home in the village (expanded considerably in 2016) provision of facilities for disabled people is even more important.

The Questionnaire showed that 93% of respondents felt that paths and bridleways were Favoured or Most Favoured aspects of living in Husbands Bosworth.

68% were concerned about the condition of paths and bridleways. Seven specific comments were made about the condition of the Canal towpath. Parts of the towpath are very flat and make for easy walking, especially the section from North Kilworth Marina to Welford (all in Bosworth Parish). Other parts, however, are eroded and can be very slippery to walk on in winter. If funding and agreements were in place to address this issue, then the Canal Tow Path could be more accessible to all, including those with pushchairs. A very substantial amount of

work and funding would be required to enable use of stretches of the Tow Path by wheelchair-users or mobility scooters.

93% of respondents felt that footpaths, permissive paths and bridleways were important to the parish. Eleven additional comments were made regarding the importance of wildlife habitats and footpaths for walking, of which four referred to the importance of facilities for dog-walkers. 86% were concerned with dog fouling as an issue despite provision of 7 dog waste bins by the Parish Council, which has tried hard to address this problem.

Canal Towpath Adoption Scheme

The Leicester Section of the Grand Union Canal was constructed between 1812 -1815 to connect the Soar Navigation at Leicester to the Grand Union Canal at Norton Junction near Daventry. The canal passes through the parish of Husbands Bosworth, in part through a tunnel of 1160 yards length. Almost 5 miles of towpath, including the whole of the Welford Arm, lie within Husbands Bosworth Parish. The towpath is much used as a facility by visitors, villagers, walkers and dog walkers and in parts the condition of the path is very poor.

The Parish Council has identified the importance of the towpath as a community asset and is seeking permission from Canal and River Trust, the charity that administers the waterway, to formally 'adopt' a section in order to improve the maintenance and upkeep. Better surfacing that would enable year-round use would benefit the community, promote a healthier lifestyle through walking and encourage more people to appreciate the facility. Under the terms of the adoption scheme, the Parish Council must be the lead body and has undertaken to support the project and any grant funding and materials raising that might be involved

The adoption scheme will be a voluntary undertaking, with a group of villagers and interested parties agreeing to give time to carry out the work, under the supervision and guidance of Canal and River Trust. Similar schemes across the country have been seen as community cohesion projects, fostering wellbeing amongst those involved.

93% of the questionnaire respondents rated the towpath of high value to the community and comments emphasise the need for its improvement.

The Allotments

The Welford Road site has 32 allotments, which are let on an annual basis. Parishioners have priority over non-parishioners on the allotment waiting list. The site has been in use for many years and was originally of vital importance to feed the family. Nowadays, allotment growing of fruit, vegetables and flowers is more of a leisure activity with very important health and social benefits and personal control over use or non-use of insecticides and other chemicals. Sometimes, an allotment is a welcome addition to a thriving garden, but for some it is the only green space they have, and so is especially welcome.

77% of respondents to the Questionnaire felt that the Welford Road Allotments were of importance or of very high importance to the Parish.

At a meeting of allotment-holders, an area of hard-standing for car parking in wetter weather was felt to be a desirable next step in the amenities provided here. In the past, there has usually been a waiting list for an allotment. However, currently, it is often possible to rent one with little or no delay.

All Saints Parish Church

The Parish Church of Husbands Bosworth is believed to stand on the site of an earlier Saxon church. The earliest parts of the present Church date from the late 12th or early 13th Century. In the early days it came under the patronage of the abbots of Leicester Abbey. Now Husbands Bosworth's southern boundary marks the boundary of the Diocese and County of Leicestershire, and the Parish of Husbands Bosworth is now part of the Hexagon Benefice of Husbands Bosworth, Mowsley, Knaptoft, Theddingworth, Shearsby, Bruntingthorpe and Arnesby.

The Church itself is built in the Early English and Decorated styles. It was used as the village school from 1707 to 1820. The clock is mediaeval and was restored in 1983 by the late Geoff Armitage, a local resident and church member and an additional bell was installed to mark the millennium in 2000. Currently there is a monthly pattern of services for the Benefice, which sees a service take place in Husbands Bosworth church most Sundays. There is an annual Christmas Tree Festival and the building is a venue for concerts from time to time. The school

comes to Church at least termly for services. Regular independent community activities include a monthly Village Lunch, and the Causeway Coffee Morning for those who live on their own.

The Church Hall

The church hall, which was built at the end of the 1960's has now become beyond economic repair and while it has been a useful building in the past is now likely to be sold. The longer-term plan is to use money from the sale of the church hall to re-order the church in the hope that it may become a building suitable for a wider range of community use as well as its worshipping life. The congregation is on friendly terms with the Methodist and Roman Catholic Church communities, sharing in worship at various points in the year.

Husbands Bosworth Methodist Church

Husbands Bosworth Methodist Church ('the chapel') has been a place of worship in the village for over a hundred years. Currently, the Methodists meet fortnightly.

The chapel is part of the Market Harborough Methodist Circuit, and as such has a supportive network to keep the work of the church and the services, going from month-to-month. The Methodists have good relations with the Anglican and Catholic churches in the village, and occasionally take part in worship at the Parish Church, or in ecumenical services joining all three congregations. There are good links between the chapel and the village school over the road.

Catholic Church of St Mary's

The church was built in 1872 and remains largely unaltered from that time. It incorporates stained glass from Whitley Abbey near Coventry. This was owned by Edward Petre, whose son Oswald Turville-Petre inherited Bosworth Hall from his cousin Frances Fortescue-Turville. The statues at the back of the altar depict the four doctors of the Church – Saints Jerome, Ambrose, Gregory and Augustine. Particularly noteworthy are the wall paintings on either side of the altar, by Romaine Walker. These depict the Annunciation and Coronation of the Virgin and incorporate in Latin the words of the Magnificat. Services take place weekly.

Answers to the questionnaire however showed that places of worship were not considered of significant importance to the community. *(Maybe here something ought to be added about the national dwindling attendance to services that does not necessarily reflect the importance of the buildings)*

Welford Road Cemetery

The Parish Council is the Burial Board for the village's cemetery and administers the site. The cemetery was opened in 1858, originally with a Chapel of Rest for the spiritual provision of conformists and non-conformists in separate side chapels. Burials continued in the churchyard of the parish church of All Saints until 1904, since when all burials (except some burial of ashes within the church's designated Memorial Garden), have taken place in the cemetery.

The Chapel of Rest was partly demolished in the 1960s and all that remains is the loggia which linked the two chapels, the arches of which have been bricked up to provide a dry store which is currently used by the village's Historical Society as a store for their large artifacts. At the rear is an arbour, which has been created from the former verger's store by the Parish Council as a refuge for visitors to the cemetery.

A number of benches have been provided in the cemetery by the Parish Council and by local families for rest and for quiet contemplation. The NP Questionnaire indicated that 78% of respondents considered the cemetery to be of importance or of high importance to the parish.

It is considered that there is ample space available in the cemetery until well beyond the end of this Neighbourhood Plan.

Defibrillator

A defibrillator was purchased and installed by the Parish Council in 2015, assisted by fundraising from the Village School. It is housed in the disused yellow BT telephone box on the Village Green and may be used by any member of the community. 88% of those completing the Questionnaire felt that a defibrillator was of high or very high importance to the community. Although it has only been used once, it is felt that this level of support reflects the reassurance

that this facility gives, when logged ambulance response times can be variable in times of emergency.

Causeway Charities

This Bosworth village charity is formally known as The Causeway Land Fund and Other Charities and is registered with the Charities Commission. Its main aim is providing help or support for the prevention or relief of poverty, particularly for children/young people and elderly people.

Its main function currently is to provide a free coffee morning once per month for elderly, single people from Bosworth for them to meet and socialise. It is supported by trustees and volunteers who collect participants, encourage attendance and provide refreshments.

A recent addition to activities is the game of New Age Kurling, which was provided by means of a Shire Community Grant from Leicestershire County Council and encourages physical activity. Other activities include reminiscing over old photographs and newspaper articles, a Christmas lunch and a summer outing. The participants have often been very helpful to the village Historical Society, by providing names, background and other information on old photographs and artifacts donated to the Society.

The Gliding Centre

After the 2nd World War the Air Ministry was disposing of a number of former wartime airfields and in 1964 they gave notice for the sale of Husbands Bosworth Airfield. At that time, Coventry Gliding Club was seeking a new location and members successfully secured part of the site. They further negotiated a private deal with a neighbouring farmer to purchase additional areas to form what is now The Airfield.

Although the site is now known as The Gliding Centre and enjoys a national and international reputation for services to the gliding movement, the business and administration is still within the remit of Coventry Gliding Club Limited.

Parish Council Office

The Parish Council has taken on a short-term lease of a small premises in the village centre to function as a Parish Office and workplace of the Parish Clerk, which opened in June 2018. This is intended to be a temporary measure until the aspiration of a permanent Parish Council facility can be achieved.