

# West Alvington Parish Open Space, sport and Recreation Plan

## 1. Purpose and aim

West Alvington Parish stands boldly on top of a hill with commanding views towards Kingsbridge and the sea. It is bordered by the Parishes of Kingsbridge, Churchstow, Malborough and South Milton.

The Parish covers some 2,736 acres and has a population of 561.

The purpose of this document is to gather into a Parish Open Space, Sport and Recreation plan proposed projects within the Parish for Open Space, Sport and Recreation. The plan will identify existing areas, and identify future projects and requirements which may result from increased housing development. The Plan will be developed from existing evidence and consultation with local groups and the community.

## 2. Introduction

South Hams District Council request contributions from new housing developments towards new and improved Open Space Sport and Recreation facilities where it is considered that a development will have significant impact on the Local area. These contributions are secured through section 106 legal agreements between Local Planning Authorities and developers and linked to planning permissions, and are based on policy requirements set out within the SHDC Cores strategy (policy CS8) and the associated SHDC Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD (2006)

The collection and use of Section 106 funds are directed by the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations 2012. The purpose to which the funds are applied must be:-

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- Directly related to the development. And
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development

The Parish Open Space , Sport and Recreation Plan is a clear method of reflecting evidence of need and community aspirations by pulling together into one place the project/facility requirements of the community.

The Plan is based upon the gathering of existing evidence and community consultation with local community groups, the Cricket Club, Primary School, Village Hall Committee the Parish Council and the Parish residents. This ensures the Plan is robust and compliant with legal requirements. Two meetings between these groups have been held, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### 3. Existing open space, sport and recreation facilities

There is a Parish playing field in the centre of the village adjacent to the Primary School and the village hall. This area can be used at all times by any member of the Parish. The field contains a hard surface play area to one side with the remaining field as grass. The field is owned by the Parish Council with a licence “to use” issued by the Parish Council to the Primary school. The Kingsbridge Cricket Club is sited to the west of the village. This club and its facilities are privately owned by its Membership. Kingsbridge Community College Academy is situated just beyond the Parish to the east of the village.

### 4. Current Open Space, sport and recreation provisions.

Type of open space and policy standard	Existing provision within the Parish	Quantity shortfalls	Quality shortfalls	Access shortfalls
Accessible play space	Parish Playing field		Poor fencing	Poor guarded access
Accessible natural spaces	West Alvington copse and quarry and		Privately owned	Poor access
	West Alvington Wood		Improvements to footpath and signage	Privately owned but has footpath access

Greenways	The Parish has 11 footpaths well managed			
Outdoor sports facilities	Parish Playing field and Kingsbridge Cricket club  Play area adjacent to the Church		Requires works to be brought up to an acceptable safe surface standard and updated fencing	Kingsbridge Cricket Club is privately owned by the Membership and has no safe pedestrian access  Safe crossing of the main road
Indoor Sports facilities	Village Hall		Improvements required with safe lighting Access from Hall into playing field and village centre	Much Improved access into the playing field and into the main area of the village

## 5. Existing organised activities/teams

Existing organised activities include:-

- Primary School play activities
- Cricket Club
- Keep fit in the village hall
- Youth Dance classes in the village hall

**6. Improved and or new Facilities needed to meet existing quality/ quantity/ accessibility shortfalls and anticipated future demand.**

Facilities for all

Any new development should enable community participation ensuring the needs of older and younger people are considered. Maintaining access to open spaces and playing fields is an important provision which promotes active lifestyle. Maintaining current footpaths and access to West Alvington Woods should be sustained and promoted. Within the Parish activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding, dog walking all promote health and wellbeing. However activities such as these require safe access to roads, footpaths and open spaces.

It has been demonstrated that access to safe open spaces which encourages play is an important requirement for children’s development and a way of promoting an active lifestyle from an early age. This is an important consideration when studies predict that our children face an obesity epidemic.

Playing Pitches

The Parish have a recognised shortfall in pitches to meet the local demand.

There is Kingsbridge Football Club based in Malborough but very poor bus provision to gain access. Kingsbridge Cricket Club to the west of the village is a private Members owned facility with poor access. To the east of the village just outside the Parish we have the Kingsbridge Community College with a number of outside facilities. These facilities are hired to various local clubs during the out of school periods.

**Improved and/ or new facilities needed to meet existing quality/quality/ accessibility shortfalls**

Shortfall issue	location	Project description	Evidence of need	Site owner	Perceived obstacles	cost
Parish Playing field	Village centre	Replace fencing and make dog proof	Poor state	Parish Council	None	

		<p>Improve access from the village hall keeping both the village hall and playing field secure.</p> <p>Provision for goal posts</p> <p>Additional play equipment to cover a wider age group</p>	<p>Present poor access</p> <p>Proposal to start a youth football team</p> <p>Shortfall in equipment</p>	<p>Parish Council and the Hall Committee</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>	
Village Hall	Village Centre	<p>Replace lighting to allow more indoor sports</p> <p>Improve access onto playing field</p>	<p>Old strip lights are a danger</p> <p>Only existing access via car park</p>	<p>Hall Committee</p> <p>Hall committee and Parish Council</p>	<p>None</p> <p>none</p>	
Cricket Club	West of the Village	Provide pedestrian access	No safe provision	Kingsbridge Cricket Club	Landowners agreement	
Play area adjacent to church		Make good play surface and improve fencing and create a tennis Club	Poor condition	Exeter diocese	Landowners agreement	
West Alvington Woods	North of Parish	Improve public access	Poor condition	Bowensleigh Estate	Permission only	

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### **7. Projects priority List**

Based on objective assessment of relative need and reflecting the priorities of the community as a whole the following are priority projects.-

- Playing field fencing and provision of new equipment and goal posts
- Village Hall lighting improvements and improved access to and from the playing field
- Improved access to and through West Alvington Woods

### **8. Review of West Alvington Parish Open Space , Sport and Recreation Plan**

The plan will be reviewed by West Alvington Parish Council every five years to ensure it is up to date and continues to reflect the status of projects and Parish priorities.