



Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan

2017 to 2033

Reg 15 SUBMISSION

JUNE 2021

APPENDIX E : SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT



CUDDINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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Contents	Page
1 .Introduction	3
2 .Village amenities	4
3 .Social and recreational activities	7
4 .Planning context	10

1. INTRODUCTION

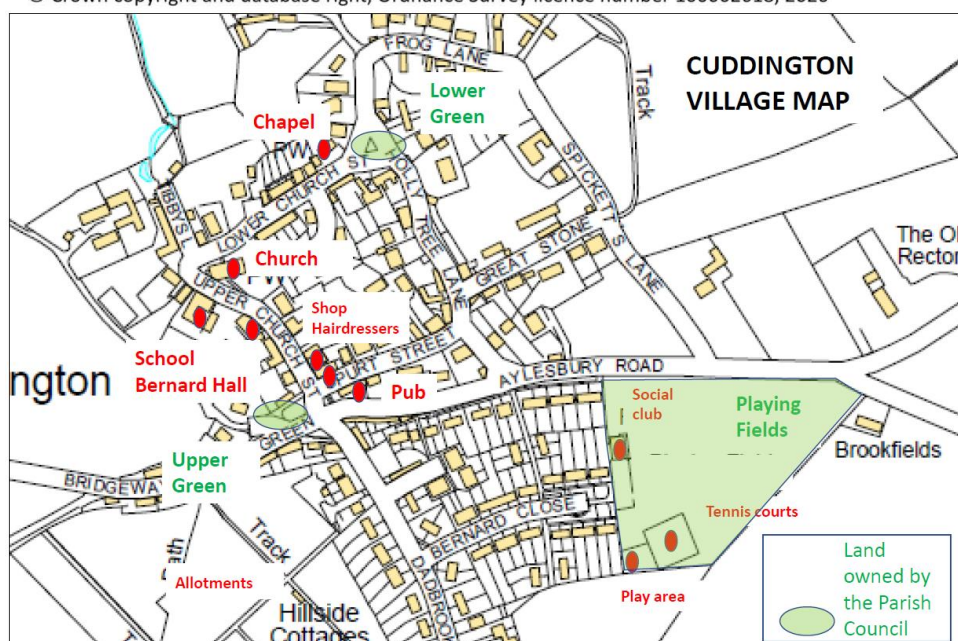
The Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) consists of a main document (The Plan), a Basic Conditions statement, a Consultation Statement, and the following appendices:

- Appendix A: Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan: General Evidence base
- Appendix B: Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan: Landscape
- Appendix C: Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan: Important Local Views
- Appendix D: Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan: Built Environment
- Appendix E: Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan: Social Infrastructure
- Appendix F: Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan: Traffic

Appendix E describes the socio-economic context of Cuddington.

The population of Cuddington is approximately 600 and has increased very slowly over time (555 residents in 1991); it has a number of societies and clubs serving residents and those of surrounding villages. The Social Infrastructure Group sought the views of the community to identify existing amenities and groups, and to define a plan for the future that will support the social infrastructure of the village, so that assets and facilities can be maintained, improved, and strengthened. Health and wellbeing should be central to plans for the community, and the amenities and activities available to the village are key to supporting this.

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2. VILLAGE AMENITIES

Cuddington has a village store with post office, a hairdresser, a picturesque public house and an infant school. It relies on the health and dental facilities available in Haddenham, about a mile away. Haddenham also has a library and a number of other local shops although there is no direct public transport from the village. Cuddington shares a local community radio station, Red Kite Radio , which is operated by volunteers and is financed by local advertising. The playing field provides facilities for a variety of groups to access the outdoors and participate in sports and other activities.

Churches in Cuddington

The parish church, St Nicholas, dates back to the 11th Century. As well as providing weekly services along with weddings, baptisms and funerals, the church, and church community, provides spiritual support for everyone in the parish. It has a thriving congregation from all sections of the community and beyond and is involved in a programme of events and activities. Money from voluntary contributions is needed to support the paid clergy, all church activities, and for the upkeep of the building and the churchyard.

The churchyard is nearly full to capacity. There is concern that the village needs to plan, in advance, where to provide a new burial ground when eventually needed.

Cuddington also has a Methodist Church with a good congregation which holds regular Sunday services.

Bernard Hall

The Bernard Hall, first constructed in the 1930s and situated in the centre of the village, is the venue for many social activities and private functions. It also acts as the venue for the Village Picture House screening a diverse range of films, from current blockbusters to classic movies. Bernard Hall has recently upgraded its audio-visual equipment with funding assistance from AVDC. It is funded on a day to day basis by room hire and small grants from local groups such as the fete.

Local Shops

Cuddington has a well-stocked village store with post office, a hairdresser, and a picturesque public house, The Crown, which also serves food. All these amenities are well used and supported.

Playing Field and Club House

The Cuddington Playing Fields is the property of the Cuddington Parish Council and leased to the Cuddington Playing Field Association (CPFA); the lease ends in 2023. The CPFA is a charitable organisation which manages the club house and playing fields, providing leisure and sports facilities for the village. This includes football, cricket, tennis, boules, and a social pavilion which supports changing rooms, a members' bar, pool table and darts. It also provides a venue for various social activities and clubs as well as private events. As a charitable organisation, the CPFA relies on grants and donations in addition to income from the hire of the club house and pitches. It also receives support from the members' bar which is a separate entity.

Both the CPFA and bar had been run by a dedicated team of volunteers for many years and they have recently stepped down. A new team is now in place who are keen to increase the use of the facilities. It is recognised that the Club House requires updating with consideration given to modernising the space and making it more flexible to allow a variety of uses. A refurbishment plan is being developed and various funding sources are under consideration. Longer term, the CPFA is looking at a wider plan to allow provision of up to date facilities.

Children's Play Area

There is also a children's play area on the playing field which is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Council has recently improved the play area with new swings and would like to enhance and update the play area with more play equipment, especially play equipment for older children. It has been suggested that outdoor keep fit equipment could be installed. This would be used by all generations.

Local Schools

Cuddington & Dinton Church of England School is a primary school spread across two village sites, the Infant site based in Cuddington and the Junior site in Dinton. As the population grows, there is a possibility that the school will outgrow its current site. Secondary education is provided outside the village with pupils travelling to Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Thame and Princes Risborough.

Allotments

The Cuddington Allotment Society was formed in 1921 by the purchase of land by the villagers. The intention was to allow them increased independence by growing their own vegetables and farming their own animals. It is well used by many people from the village and further afield. It is an important village asset not only providing land for allotment holders but also maintaining a valued green space.

Local Bus Service

A local bus serves the village and runs between Aylesbury, Thame, (and Brill and Oakley), from where one can catch other buses to Oxford, Tring, and Watford. Tesco also runs a free bus service to its Aylesbury store. There is no means of reaching the amenities in Haddenham by public transport. The infrequency of buses to Thame and Aylesbury and lack of service to Haddenham causes issues for the older and younger members of the community and increases the number of private car journeys.

Community bus

There is a community bus in Waddesdon which is available at a charge for use by local residents. It can be booked by groups for days out as well as running shopping trips.

Rights of way network

The village is served by a comprehensive network of footpaths and bridleways. They are well used by villages and visitors to access the local countryside on foot. The bridleways attract riders from a number of local stables.

Village Voice newsletter

The village newsletter is published by the Cuddington Parochial Church Council ten times a year as a service to the local community. It includes a variety of articles about the village, its people and activities.

Village website

The village has a comprehensive website which includes contact details for local amenities as well as information on upcoming events and local issues. This provides an initial point of contact for current and prospective residents.

Facebook page

A community Facebook page is also maintained for the village. This allows sharing of events as well as more time sensitive information and alerts.

Community assets

A number of assets have been listed as of community value. Full details can be found on the village website:

- The village shop
- The Crown Public house
- Allotments

3. RECREATION AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Cuddington hosts a number of regular village activities which are held in either Bernard Hall or the Playing Fields Club. The various groups detailed below contribute to the wellbeing of their members with a wide variety of opportunities for socialising and meeting other members of the community.

Bellringers

The church tower has eight bells that are rung every Sunday morning. The bellringers practice every Friday evening and usually adjourn to The Crown afterwards. They have good links with other bellringers in neighbouring villages. The Tower Captain is Caroline Stonham.

Boules Club

The playing field has a permanent boules pitch which is free for anyone to use. The Cuddington Boules Club holds competitions with members of the Chearsley Boules Club.

Bookworms

A book club, run by Wendy Sessions, was formed in 2017 and meets at 8pm on the first Wednesday of every month in the Playing Fields Clubhouse. The group is very informal with members discussing the books they have read. The Book Club also has guest speakers and a raffle is organised each month to raise money for the Club.

Tuesday Group

The Tuesday Group is a very social and friendly group which evolved from a branch of the Women's Institute, and run by Rosemary Bradbury. Though now independent, it has similar activities to that of the WI and attracts many people from within and outside the village.

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club had been inactive for a number of years. Following a friendly intra-village match in June 2019 a small group have been playing socially through the summer and hope to build on this in coming seasons. The installation of an all-weather wicket would help to maintain interest throughout the year.

Gardening Club

The Gardening Club is for people who enjoy gardening and visiting other gardens and areas of natural beauty. There are about 40 members who meet every second Monday in the month at the Sports and Social Club. They also have interesting guest speakers.

Tennis Club

The Tennis Club was founded in 1990 by a group of village families with two tennis courts constructed on the playing fields. The courts were resurfaced 10 years ago and at present appear in good order. The club has 40 members currently with 20 active members. Members of the club have access to a professional tennis coach for one-to-one training. The Club meets every Thursday evening and Wednesday morning. Membership of the club is not required to use the courts. Individual games can be paid for at the village post office.

Tic Toc

Tic Toc provides an opportunity for parents and their pre-school children and/or babies to socialize and play together. The group meets every Friday after school at the Sports and Social Club. There are a range of toys available and usually a snack at story time. It is run on a co-operative basis where everyone helps with the organisation and running of the group.

Sing in the Vale – Cuddington Choir

The Choir of Cuddington meets on Mondays at 7.45pm in term-time at Cuddington & Dinton Primary School. The Choir sings at local events and festivals.

Sunshine Club

This society was founded in about 1960 and supports the older members of the village and wider community. Its members may be house bound or lonely at home and the club provides various activities that allow them to get out and meet others and enjoy themselves. It has 50 members and about 45 helpers. Club events are mainly held at the Sports and Social Club House. Every month the Village Picture House puts on a matinee film and regular outings are arranged.

Youth Drama

The Youth Drama Group, run by Elaine English, meets every Saturday for three hours of drama, improvisation and singing. Each year they put on a number of productions which are performed at the Bernard Hall.

Other local activities

There are also a number of activities available locally

- Chearsley and Dinton cricket clubs run training for children in the summer
- Beavers and Scouts have active groups in both Haddenham and Dinton
- Brownies and Guides have active groups in both Haddenham and Dinton
- Sports clubs /swimming pools in Thame and Aylesbury

Events

The village comes together to organise a variety of annual events either as part of wider groups or by forming specific committees. These include:

- The annual Fete organised by a fete committee with the support of local groups.
- Entering the Best Kept Village competition.
- An annual firework display organised by the CPFA and funded by the fete.
- An annual Easter panto produced by St Nicholas Church.
- A Christmas tree on village green which is often accompanied by carol singing.
- An annual village meeting in April to allow all villagers to hear what is going on and have an input in future developments.

Community safety

The community work together to ensure the safety of the community. They are actively supported by the local community police. Village Voice, the village website and the Facebook page are all used to keep the village informed of incidents and longer-term issues.

4. PLANNING CONTEXT

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Section 8 of the NPPF deals with promoting healthy and safe communities.

The main objectives are to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which: -

- promote social interaction
- are safe and accessible
- enable and support healthy lifestyles

The main ways of achieving these objectives are described in para 92 of the NPPF and include positively planning for community facilities and recreation, supporting established facilities, and guarding against their loss.

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) as modified

VALP includes Policy I3 for Community facilities, infrastructure and assets of community value: -

I3 Community facilities, infrastructure and assets of community value

The council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need, unless the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location. In considering applications for alternative development or uses, the council will consider the viability of the existing use, that the site/use has been marketed for a minimum period of 12 months at a price commensurate with its use together with proof there has been no viable interest, marketing of the building or facility at a price commensurate with its use, the presence of alternative local facilities and the community benefits of the proposed use. Where permission includes converting the use of a building, conditions will be imposed to ensure later resumption of a community use is not excluded.

In considering applications for residential development, the council will consider the need for new community facilities and community infrastructure arising from the proposal. Conditions will be imposed on permissions, or planning obligations sought in order to secure appropriate community facilities, or financial contributions towards community facilities, reasonably related to the scale and kind of development proposed.

A financial contribution will be required subject to compliance with the CIL Regulations to provide or enhance community facilities or community infrastructure on developments of more than 10 homes and which have maximum combined gross floorspace of more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

VALP Policy I3 is supported by the proposed CNP policy for Local Green Spaces and the registration of Community assets.

Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan (CNP)

The residents of Cuddington are passionate about their village and are keen to support the upkeep and improvement of its facilities and community assets. The various facilities and activities contribute to the health and wellbeing of the population and make the village an attractive place to live.

Cuddington seeks to achieve the national and local planning policies for healthy and safe communities by:-

- Protecting community facilities through the registration of community assets
- Supporting local shops and other facilities through managed and incremental growth, subject to the protection of historic assets and environmental constraints
- The identification and protection of Local Green Spaces and footpaths (see separate reports / policies)
- Supporting the Cuddington Playing Fields Association (CPFA) in the preparation of a long-term strategy for the sports and recreation facilities at the Playing Fields
- Reducing the effects of traffic – see Appendix F
- Supporting local groups in maintaining the wide variety of community activities and events.

The VALP (as modified) policies adequately cover the community facilities planning requirements. A CNP policy is not proposed.