

## NDP Community Facility Report

Community facilities are important to Tavistock for a variety of reasons but particularly because Tavistock residents appreciate the sense of community, improvement in health and wellbeing, and enjoyment that these facilities foster.

One of the key comments from residents throughout consultation over the last three years is that 'infrastructure' needs to be improved as a result of increased development around the parish. This accords with the core planning principal that development plans take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Through consultation with the community, it has become clear that Tavistock's community facilities are often well-loved, but seen as needing assistance to adapt to increased numbers of residents seeking to use them.

It is intended that community facilities identified in CF1 and projects identified in CF2 will be given priority for any planning obligation sought to mitigate for the impact of new development on the community as described in DEV 4 of the Joint Local Plan.

### DEFINITION

For the purposes of this plan, a community facility includes: any building available to local people for community purposes. This can include community centres, meeting rooms, youth centres, churches and church halls. It does not include establishments solely providing education, healthcare or leisure services. The definition has been taken from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and adapted to reflect the local situation.

For Tavistock Local Plan Purposes, Community facilities also includes libraries, sports facilities, cultural facilities and other services which are essential for Tavistock to remain a sustainable community. This plan concentrates on facilities, as outlined in the definition above, that people and organisations can use or hire, for events, meetings, competitive sport or recreational activities that promote healthy living or well-being.

### METHOD

**Initial Consultation** (Spring 2022) – A paper and online survey made available to every household in Tavistock Parish asked what ideas for improving the parish that the Neighbourhood Development Plan should include.

Asked for ideas as to what the Neighbourhood Development Plan should be considering, respondents submitted the following which include;

- Spaces and activities for kids and young people
- Focus on live music, cinema and the Arts
- Recreation, sport and culture

*"More support for The Wharf - Tavistock's little jewel."*

*"Development of Tavistock as a centre for exercise and outdoor activities"*

*“Improving the local skate park”*

*“More of an evening ‘scene’ for visitors and people over 35 - an evolution of the street food markets which are very popular but extremely busy.”*

*“Help local sporting groups. We have some amazing facilities in the town and they should be supported.”*

**Vision, Aims, Objectives Consultation** (Spring 2023) – In-person events as well as specific consultation with harder to reach residents was undertaken on the Vision, Aims, and Objectives including those relating to community facilities.

For community facilities, direct consultation at Tavistock College, Tavistock Youth Café and Mount Kelly helped inform the facilities that were valued and wanted by young people in the community. More than 300 16-18 year old college students were able to provide input which was documented in writing following steering group led consultation events and then separate input was provided through a Tavi Skate ‘petition’ presented to the steering group.

To understand the needs of residents with disabilities, carers, and others with vulnerabilities, Tavistock Area Support Services (TASS) was approached to provide insight from their users and Tavistock Memory Café carers and trustees were specifically asked for their input.

Steering group members had conversations with a variety of organisations and their representatives about what the facilities offered within the community. These included conversations with Tavistock Town Council officers and the Town Hall, Pannier Market, and Guildhall, representatives from the Tavistock BID, Tavistock District Chamber of Commerce and from places of worship, sports clubs and Tavistock allotments. Nearby parishes were also approached through their parish clerk for indications of whether they had concerns or interests in Tavistock’s community facilities that serve the wider rural community.

The steering group has also consulted other specific sources of information about existing facilities to generate the initial list of facilities that would form the base of CF1, including databases held by Sport England, details found in reports regarding retail and leisure in West Devon and data from both West Devon Borough Council’s Playing Pitch Strategy and information prepared for the Joint Local Plan.

### **Community Facility Survey** (Summer 2023)

In order to better understand some of the comments made regarding improving facilities in the initial consultation and through the VAO consultation, a separate community facility survey was designed via survey monkey to gain more detailed insight into the most important facilities to local residents.

The questions asked on the community facility survey also provided residents with open ended questions about improvements they wished to see within existing facilities as well as what new facilities were wanted. Comments were sorted manually by topic and form part of the evidence base for the list of facilities in CF1 and the projects given priority in CF2.

*“I think The Wharf community centre could be used a lot more in the day time for creative groups/workshops. There is a really good upstairs space, great for exhibitions and small workshops. If they had more volunteers and help this could become a really thriving space in the daytime as well as at night when they have bands and films.”*

*“The skate park area for teenagers could also be modernised and improved.”*

All comments were made available alongside the plan during the Reg 14 Consultation in the Tavistock NDP Community Survey

### **Further Evidence Gathering and Clarification following Reg 14 Consultation (Spring 2024)**

Feedback during the Reg 14 consultation identified facilities that had not been added to the plan but were valued by the community with many of the same missing facilities being listed by respondents. In addition, comments indicated that residents were not certain how facilities were chosen for inclusion and what criteria was applied. This report has been written to address that concern.

The steering group, following the Reg 14 consultation gathered additional evidence regarding the pattern of use of facilities by community groups as well as details from the arts community about what type of community arts facility was intended where this had been raised in the community facility survey. That additional evidence has been added to the evidence base for the plan and will provide guidance for planning applications.