

## Objective A: Improving amenities and facilities

*Sustainability considerations require improved leisure, medical and recreational facilities within 800 metres of the village centre to reduce the need for car-borne travel outside the village and encourage walking within the village.*

### Projects

Six projects have been selected as the means to meet the priorities.

- *Medical Centre, bringing together GPs, X-ray, other medical facilities and social services*
- *Multi-purpose Village Hall (for Out-of-School Club, Day Centre etc.) and Nursery*
- *Additional land for sport, including a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)*
- *Additional Equipped Play Spaces on Brenda Gautrey Way and Tenison Manor*
- *Safe off-road links between key village locations*
- *Accessible waterway walks*

### Medical Centre

The village has two NHS GP practices, a dentist and a pharmacy to cater for primary care and some provision of residential care for the elderly. An ageing and expanding population stretches the capabilities of these practices.

More significant health interventions require road travel, usually to the Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge.

The Mobile Warden and CareCar schemes, while limited in scale, both help mitigate the challenge of living in a dispersed village with limited health amenities.

### Multi-purpose Village Hall including Nursery

The Village Hall is now dated and no longer fit for purpose.

The hall is not compliant with the Disability Discrimination act, is energy-inefficient and costly to maintain. Various renovation options considered during 2015 led to the conclusion that demolition and replacement was the best option with the added advantage of better views over the Recreation Ground landscape.

There are facilities for pre-school and out-of-school groups, although demand exceeds supply in these age ranges, especially for all-day all-year-round care.

The known shortage of early-years provision and need for more indoor community space led to the outline design of a larger building on the site, adjacent to both the Ladybird Pre-school and Cottenham Primary School.

### Additional Land for sport, including a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

For some years, the Recreation Ground, on which outdoor sport is focused, has been progressively extended from its origins as a King George Playing field dedicated in 1938, mostly to provide more cricket or football pitches. The Ground is still small for a village with more than 6,000 residents.

The Recreation Ground also hosts a Bowling Green and two grass Tennis Courts.

The football and cricket clubs have plans to expand participation following the construction of a new Sports Pavilion in 2015. For some time Cottenham Parish Council has had an ambition to broaden sport beyond traditionally male-dominated sports such as football and cricket. These ambitions are constrained by the current shortage of accessible space for sports pitches.

A multi-court hard surface Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) has the potential to diversify the appeal of sport considerably by providing all-weather facilities for basketball, netball and tennis, especially if floodlit.

### Play Areas

The Recreation ground is well-equipped with Play Areas and a SkatePark but lies beyond easy walking distance of two substantial recent housing developments at Brenda Gautrey Way and Tenison Manor which should each ideally have a basic Local Equipped Area for Play within 400 metres.

**Question AF/1 – Do you agree that a small child-friendly play area is installed somewhere on Brenda Gautrey Way and Tenison Manor?**

### Safe Off-road Links - Informal Open Space / Local Green Space

Cottenham’s substantial quantity of **Local Green Spaces**, characteristic trees and the linking footpaths or pavements and occasional benches are a key part of the Plan.

**Question AF/2 – Which green spaces should be linked if possible by off-road pathways?**

### Accessible walks

Rural Cottenham is defined by its waterway borders surrounding undeveloped fenland. Many of these waterways have footpaths alongside but more could be done to make these paths accessible from parish-edge roadside lay-bys or small car parks so they can be enjoyed safely.

**Question AF/3 – Which waterside walks should be made more accessible first?**

### Amenities & Facilities policies

To meet the above needs, a number of policies have been identified:

#### Policy Table AF: Amenities & Facilities

Ref	Policy	Objective				
		1 amenities and facilities	2 affordable housing	3 employment	4 impact of traffic	5 character
AF/1	Development of a modern Medical Centre (with Day Centre, Pharmacy etc?) and larger Co-op store will be supported in the area, provided these create safer traffic movements by including appropriate parking and delivery facilities	Y		Y	Y	
AF/2	Development of a modern multi-purpose Village Hall (with Nursery, Parish Council Office etc?) will be supported on the Recreation ground, provided these create safer traffic movements by including appropriate parking facilities	Y		Y	Y	
AF/3	Provision of additional land for sport, including a floodlit 3-court MUGA, will be supported on the Recreation Ground, provided these create safer traffic movements by including appropriate parking facilities	Y			Y	
AF/4	Provision of additional NEAP Play Areas will be supported near Brenda Gautrey way and Tenison Manor	Y				
AF/5	Provision of safe footpath links between key village locations will be supported where necessary throughout the village	Y			Y	Y
AF/6	Provision of roadside lay-bys or small car parks at the parish boundary on each arterial road to facilitate access to the waterside footpaths around the village.	Y				Y