

SECTION 9

Community Facilities

9.0. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

9.1. INTRODUCTION

9.1.1. This section deals with health and other community services in the Plan Area and has been considered under seven headings as follows:-

- i) Education
- ii) Health and Social Services
- iii) Police
- iv) Courts
- v) Fire
- vi) Ambulance
- vii) Library Services
- viii) Churches, Church Halls and other community buildings
- ix) Access for disabled persons

9.1.2. Whilst the importance of these services is recognised by the District Planning Authority, there is no direct control over their provision. However, policies and proposals have been formulated to take account of any future needs of these services.

9.2. EDUCATION

9.2.1. Nursery Education

The Social Services Department are responsible for this service and a need has been identified for 20 to 30 pre-school playgroup places each morning.

Policy CF 1 - "The provision of additional pre-school playgroup facilities will be encouraged as far as possible."

9.2.2. Primary, Secondary and Further Education

The Local Consultative Committee for Education consider that children from the proposed town development could be accommodated in the existing primary and secondary schools. The only major need that has been identified is in respect of a need for additional playing fields following the concentration of the two present departments of the John Kyrle High School on the Overross site. The Department of Education and Science are reviewing the schools needs in the light of falling roles and the opportunities to provide for community use of the schools premises. Local Plan Policy RL 4, in fact, proposes that the feasibility of increasing the joint use of school facilities, particularly for outdoor athletics, be investigated.

Proposal CF 2 - "INVESTIGATE SITES IN THE OVERROSS AREA FOR PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED JOHN KYRLE HIGH SCHOOL AT OVERROSS."

9.3. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

9.3.1. Ross-on-Wye is an important centre for health and social services facilities for the immediate town and the surrounding rural area. Consultations with the Hereford Health District Authority has revealed that the policy of the District Management Team, which is responsible for providing community and institutional services in the Plan area and throughout the Health District is as follows:-

- i) To increase the number of community staff - in particular district nurses and health visitors.
- ii) To develop probably on the Ross Cottage Hospital site a community hospital providing out-patient facilities, minor accident department, physiotherapy department and in-patient facilities for patients admitted under the care of a Geriatrician.
- iii) To expand the provision in Ross, other than in hospital, for the mentally handicapped.
- iv) In the long-term to replace Dean Hill Hospital with smaller community units.

9.3.2. Similarly the Social Services Department have revealed that their needs in the Plan area are as follows:-

Provision of 20-30 pre-school playgroup places each morning.

More suitable provision for voluntary day centres for handicapped people.

Opening of 'Woodside' nine bed home for the elderly.

Location of Social Work team in the Old Magistrates Court.

9.3.3. Item i) has already been dealt with under the heading of Education in paragraph 9.2.

9.3.4. Finally the Probation Service consider that there may be a need for a Local Office to be established in Ross-on-Wye.

Policy CF 3 - "The District Planning Authority recognises the need for new and improved facilities for health and social services and will seek to encourage the development of these services on suitable sites."

9.4. PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICES

9.4.1. Consultation with the Police Authority has not revealed any specific requirements to continue the adequate policing of the area.

9.4.2. Again, consultations with the Chief Fire Officer has not identified a need for any significant changes in standards for fire cover in the Plan area. The only problem related to a deficiency in retained personnel.

9.4.3. A need has been shown for a new ambulance station and a site has been reserved on District Council owned land at Woodside adjoining the Fire Station.

Proposal CF 4 - "LAND AT WOODSIDE ADJOINING THE FIRE STATION WILL BE RESERVED TO ACCOMMODATE A NEW 6 BAY AMBULANCE STATION."

9.5. LIBRARY SERVICES

9.5.1. The existing Library in the Market Hall is unsuitable for a number of reasons and it is therefore a top priority of the County Council to build a library on the Cantilupe Road site already acquired for

this purpose. Most recently a scheme is being investigated for the development of this site to include the provision of a library, car parking and supermarket.

Proposal CF 5 - "THE SITE OF THE FORMER COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CANTILUPE ROAD IS RESERVED FOR THE PROPOSED COUNTY LIBRARY TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER ACCEPTABLE USES."

9.6. COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

9.6.1. Section 10.8.3. - Report of Survey identifies a need to construct a new community hall.

Policy CF 6 - "Land or buildings be reserved for a new community hall."

9.7. ACCESS FOR DISABLED PERSONS

9.7.1. Local Planning Authorities are required when granting planning permission for certain buildings (as described in Section 29A and B of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, but generally relating to those buildings to which the public are to be admitted including shops, offices, factories and educational establishments) to draw the attention of developers to the relevant provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970 and the Code of Practice for Access for the Disabled to Buildings (BS 5810 :1979).

Policy CF 7 - "The District Planning Authority recognises the need for improved facilities for the disabled to gain access to buildings and will encourage improvements to existing buildings and their inclusion in new buildings when and wherever possible."

9.7.2. The inclusion of such provision in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 (as amended by the Disabled Persons Act, 1981) brings such consideration into the orbit of "material considerations" (Section 29(1) Town and Country Planning Act, 1971) and local planning authorities may also impose conditions when granting planning permissions or refusing planning consent for reasons relating to these facilities.

Proposal CF 8 - "WHERE APPROPRIATE THE DISTRICT PLANNING AUTHORITY WILL IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON THE GRANT OF OUTLINE PERMISSIONS REQUIRING ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED TO BUILDINGS (BS 5810 : 1979)."

Proposal CF 9 - "DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR NEW BUILDINGS (TO WHICH SECTIONS 29A & B OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1971 REFER) WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE ADEQUATE ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED, BUT COULD REASONABLY DO SO, WILL NOT BE GRANTED CONSENTS."

